



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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SWCS Receives \$1.5 Million for Wetlands Project

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Water Quality Initiative has awarded SWCS, in partnership with Iowa State University and the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, a grant to implement a project that pairs wetlands and in-field nutrient management practices to reduce nutrient losses. The project approach is based on the findings of the Science Assessment completed for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Over the next three years, project partners will build wetlands, provide increased information and outreach services through agricultural retailers and Certified Crop Advisors to producers in drainage districts and watersheds above the wetlands (including one-on-one meetings and field days), and monitor the nutrient reduction effectiveness of the paired in-field and edge-of-field approach. Additional project goals are to reduce wetland implementation costs, to identify and make available smaller scale wetland options, and to broaden the availability of technology beyond the Des Moines lobe region of Iowa.

Awards and Scholarships Deadline: February 29, 2016

Recognize your colleagues by nominating them for an award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society. It is simple, easy, and shows someone they are honored for their commitment to conservation. Log onto www.swcs.org/awards for details.

Looking for funds to help support your education in conservation? Check out scholarships through SWCS. There are three national scholarships for SWCS student members. Log onto www.swcs.org/scholarships for details.

The SWCS Chapter Awards Are Now Open!

Show off your chapter's achievements and conservation efforts through an SWCS Chapter Award. Our new, streamlined chapter awards nomination form is now combined with the chapter activity report. This will allow chapter to simply apply for an award while filling out the mandatory chapter report! This report can be filled out, saved, and continued at a later time as well.

Click [here](#) for further details on the 2015 Chapter Activity Report and Awards Nomination Form. The deadline is March 16, 2016. Questions? Contact your chapter leader or awards@swcs.org.



SWCS Welcomes New Membership Service Coordinator

Welcome Trisha Dougall! Trisha is the new member service coordinator at SWCS headquarters in Iowa. Trisha began her new role on January 5, 2016.

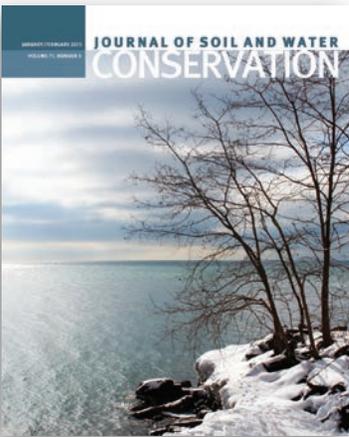


Trisha received her BS degree in business administration from the University of Arizona. She lives in Ankeny, Iowa, with her husband, Kirk, and their three children. Jacob is 16, and her twins, Cole and Karina, are 11. At SWCS, Trisha will work with Jody Ogg, comptroller, to assist with membership and accounting.

Trisha looks forward to working with the great staff and members of SWCS! You can reach Trisha at 515-289-2331 x 118 or memberservices@swcs.org.

January/February Journal Highlights

The first issue of volume 71 of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* includes a special section of research articles related to cover crops. In this continuation of the work presented in the 2015 November/December issue, "Advances in Cover Crops," Aronsson et al. evaluate the role



of cover crops in reducing nitrogen and phosphorus losses in southern Scandinavia and Finland, and Rimski-Korsakov et al. examine the fate of nitrogen fertilizer in corn and ryegrass systems in the Argentinian Pampas. Also in the research section, an editorial by Manale et al. identifies opportunities for agriculture to reduce contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate through

conservation. Features in this issue address a range of topics, including edge-of-field water quality monitoring, soil carbon sequestration as a solution to climate change, grazinglands research, and river management. Read these and many more articles in the [online journal](#).

Annual Conference News

The 2016 SWCS International Annual Conference will be held July 24-27, 2016, at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. To keep up to date on all annual conference news, visit our website at www.swcs.org/16AC.

How Can Sponsoring and Exhibiting Benefit You?

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are now available for the 71st SWCS International Annual Conference, "Managing Great River Landscapes." By becoming a sponsor or an exhibitor, you receive an affordable opportunity to reach your target audience, expand your outreach, and maximize your company's positive exposure.



The 71st International Annual Conference brings together over 400 environmental and conservation professionals. Representation at the event allows you to take part in discussions with leaders in conservation policy, natural resource research scientists and partners, agency employees, and educators. It also provides the exclusive opportunity to promote products and services to this uniquely targeted audience from across the globe.

Don't miss this opportunity! [Click here](#) for the 2016 Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide. If you would like to work on a custom package, or if you have an exhibitor or a sponsor referral, please contact Chrissy Rhodes at christine.rhodes@swcs.org or 1-515-289-2331 ext. 114.

Make sure to continue to watch the conference website, www.swcs.org/16ac, for developing conference details!

****The deadline to submit posters has been extended to February 29! [Click here](#) to submit your abstract.****

Upcoming Events

[Cover Crop and Soil Health Webinar](#)
Online
January 28, 2016

[Missouri Natural Resources Conference](#)
Osage Beach, Missouri
February 3-5, 2016

[Michigan Chapter ANR Week Seminar](#)
Location TBD
March 4, 2016

[SWAMP THINGS: Installation and Restoration of Temporary Wetland Crossings](#)
Sturbridge, Massachusetts
March 11, 2016

Board of Directors Regional Elections

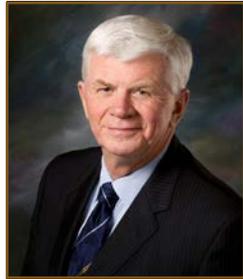
The 2016 SWCS regional elections for the North Central, Southeast, and Southwest Regions will be held this month. Members in these regions should watch their emails this month for the election ballot (mailed to members without an email address). The email will come from "electionbuddy" (remember to check your spam folder).

To find your region, [click here](#). Candidate bios and platforms can be found [here](#).

North Central Region Candidates



Susan Meadows



Doug Thompson

Southeast Region Candidates



Reed Cripps



Dale Threatt-Taylor

Southwest Region Candidate



Mike Collins

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- Government Accountability Office legal opinion concluded that the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) violated restrictions on using appropriations for grassroots lobbying when it employed social media to promote the Clean Water Rule.
- Sally Jewell, head of the Department of the Interior (DOI), announced that her team will create a Natural Resources Investment Center aimed at providing conservation resources and information to private, academic, federal, state, and other partners to help solve a host of environmental issues.
- During the final week of session for 2015, Congress passed, and the president signed, a Fiscal Year 2016 omnibus funding bill. The bill funds the government through September 30, 2016.
- American Farm Bureau Federation is conducting a survey to determine how well USDA programs serve farmers and ranchers. The survey is open to all farmers, ranchers, and producers nationwide. [Click here](#) to take the survey.
- The USEPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds has made an official award to the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities to expand the protection of healthy freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds. For updates [click here](#).
- The USDA recently released its top achievements for the year of 2015, highlighting the agency's impact to millions of rural families and businesses across the United States. Full details can be found [here](#).
- During the first full week of January, the House of Representatives considered HR712, aiming to limit sue-and-settle litigation by advocacy groups. The bill would require more notification and release of agreements to the public before being finalized.
- On January 5, 2016, the Center for Food Safety and the Center for Biological Diversity sent a letter to the US DOI indicating that more than 12 months have passed without the US Fish and Wildlife Service making a finding on its petition to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). [Click here](#) to review the letter.



“Like” the Soil and Water Conservation Society on Facebook to keep up with the latest Society news and conservation current events!

New Members

Welcome members who joined in December!

International

Kyle Martin

Alabama

William Bodiford

Arizona

John Cochran

Xiaobo Hou

Florida

Paul Rockhill

Iowa

Jacobine Aden

Dan Mahoney

Sabrina Pidgeon

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Zachary Dixson

Robert McDonald

Jessica Miell

Indiana—Hoosier

Lindsay Martinez Whalen

Michigan—Grand Valley State University

Student Chapter

Madeline Burns

Jessica Dake

Sarah Hauler

Michigan

Edward DeRosha

Benjamin Tirrell

North Dakota

Chris Kappes

New Jersey—Firman E. Bear

Helena DeMarco

New York—Empire State

Jason Schenck

Ohio—All Ohio

Carrie Huitger

Oregon

Paul DeMaggio

Pennsylvania—Keystone

John Berry

Corporate Members

Please contact corporate.info@swcs.org for more details.

Gold



Silver



Bronze

