

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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SWCS is Celebrating 75 Years!

Courtesy of CEO Clare Lindahl

The year 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The Society began as, and remains today, an interdisciplinary professional association with the important mission of fostering the science and art of natural resource conservation.



As we enter the Society's 75th year, I look forward to the opportunities that this milestone will provide to raise the visibility of conservation professions, to engage both long-time leaders and new voices in discussion on the future of conservation, and to further the mission of natural resource protection. Our

organization's chapters across the United States and Canada will celebrate locally, while conservation professionals will gather in Des Moines, Iowa, in July for the [SWCS 75th Annual Conference](#), Expanding Horizons: Where Conservation Meets Innovation.

I invite you to [join us](#) as we look back at the soil and water conservation movement's incredible past, share conservation stories, and generate solutions around current and future challenges. It's going to be a memorable year!



75th SWCS International Annual Conference

Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center
Des Moines, Iowa
July 26-29, 2020
www.swcs.org/20AC



SWCS 75TH INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 26-29, 2020 | DES MOINES, IOWA

Don't miss out, submit your abstract by January 17!

The submission deadline for oral presentations, symposia, and workshops for the 75th SWCS International Annual Conference closes this coming Friday, January 17. **Please note that due to increased participation there will be no extension this year.**

This year's conference features five submission tracks:

- Applied Data in Agriculture
- Back to the Future
- Edge-of-Field Practices and Monitoring
- The Producer and the Plot
- 2020 General Conference Theme Submissions – Expanding Horizons: Where Conservation Meets Innovation
 - o Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts
 - o Conservation Economics and Policy
 - o Conservation Models, Tools, and Technologies
 - o Conservation in Organic, Specialty, Small-Scale, or Urban Agriculture
 - o Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement
 - o Social Sciences Informing Conservation
 - o Soil Health Resources, Indicators, Assessment, and Management
 - o Water Resource Assessment and Management

The submission deadline for poster presentations is March 6. Note that poster submissions received after January 17 will not appear in the Preliminary Program

Visit www.swcs.org/20AC for more information and to submit your proposal by January 17.

Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities

Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are now available for the 75th SWCS International Annual Conference, "Expanding Horizons: Where Conservation Meets Innovation." The conference will pay tribute to the rich history of the soil and water conservation movement while providing insight into the future of the profession.

This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, farmers, and students from around the world. Becoming a sponsor or exhibitor gives you an affordable opportunity to market your products and services to a key audience and maximize your organization's exposure.

Put your brand in front of those who are directly involved in the decision-making process of purchasing products or those who influence prospective buyers and conservationists. Allow us to help connect your organization with our audience of more than 500 conservation professionals!

Become an exhibitor or sponsor today! View the [Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide](#) for more information.



SWCS Special Projects Director Catherine DeLong visiting with attendees at the SWCS exhibitor booth at the 2019 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Upcoming Events

[Southern New England Chapter
2020 Winter Conference](#)
Amherst, Massachusetts
March 20, 2020

Annual Giving Campaign: Thank you!

SWCS is grateful to all who have donated during our annual giving campaign. Your generous gifts make it possible for SWCS to further its mission and support professionals who practice and advance the science and art of natural resource conservation. Visit [SWCS.org/give](https://www.swcs.org/give) to learn more about how you can donate to the Society.



With each new donation we've added a flower to our giving prairie at headquarters. Thank you for your contributions!

January/February Issue of the Journal

Special Section: Soil Vulnerability Index



The [January/February issue](#) of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is now available online and will be arriving in mailboxes soon!

The issue kicks off volume 75 with a special section focused on the development and use of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Soil Vulnerability Index (SVI), a tool that can be used to rank a soil's vulnerability to loss of sediment and/or

nutrients from agricultural use. The SVI was created to serve as an interpretive tool for conservation planners and land managers to more efficiently identify priority areas and target conservation practice implementation. In a short introduction to the section, [Baffaut et al.](#) provide a helpful overview of tool goals, development, and review. Additionally, [Thompson et al.](#) evaluate the index's performance in 13 watersheds of varied climates, soils, cropping systems, and management. The basis for Thompson et al.'s comprehensive evaluation can be found in the remaining special section research articles.

Also in this issue, don't miss a feature by [Sanderson et al.](#) exploring the potential for US Great Plains rangelands to store carbon while conserving natural habitat, producing cattle, and providing environmental benefits. Additional research highlights include an article by [Wiener et al.](#) analyzing the role that USDA field staff play (or don't play) in serving as climate advisors and assisting land managers in climate-related decision-making, as well as an article by [Anderson et al.](#) evaluating yield variation in response to no-till and cover crop conservation practices. Find these and many more articles in the [online journal](#).

Science and Policy News

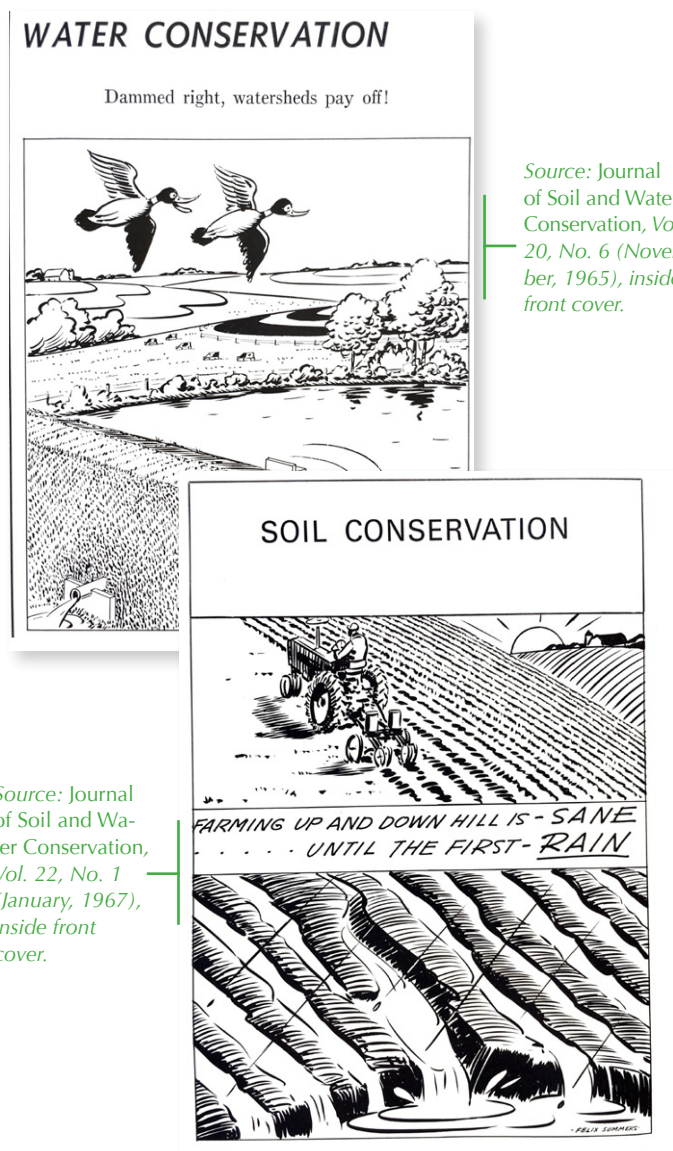
Below you will find a list of some of the latest conservation science and policy news. Links to full articles on the different subjects are included.

- Lawmakers unveil \$10M plan to clean up water in [Wisconsin](#)
- Corps trying to make space for [Missouri River](#) runoff
- As White House plans [US-China](#) Phase 1 ceremony, still no final deal text
- USDA approves state [hemp](#) production plans
- [Dairy Margin Coverage](#): Safety net or stumbling block for struggling farmers
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) official's comments stir fear, confusion over future of [Chesapeake Bay](#) cleanup efforts
- Greater [sage grouse](#) could be declared endangered
- [Farmers](#) optimistic about the future, even as their perception of current economic conditions drops
- US Supreme Court to take up legal battle over water between [Florida and Georgia](#)
- California eases way for land clearing to prevent [wildfires](#)
- Five things to know about [Australia's](#) devastating wildfires
- US [farmers](#) see another bleak year despite Phase 1 trade deal
- New wave of water rules for ranchers in northwest [Colorado](#)
- USEPA scientists slam Trump Administration's [WOTUS](#) rewrite
- Bunge sells stake in US [ethanol](#) plant as biofuels industry struggles
- [Vertical farming](#) takes off in aging Japan
- Comment: Drink more recycled [wastewater](#)
- The [tobacco](#) farmers chasing a sweeter crop
- How [16 initiatives](#) are changing urban agriculture through tech and innovation
- The number of US acres devoted to [hemp](#) is 100 times greater than five years ago
- Triazine network likes USEPA interim [atrazine](#) decision
- USDA tariff tracker removes [Wakanda](#), fictional home of Black Panther, as free trade partner

The opinions expressed in these articles are meant to keep SWCS members informed of current conservation conversations and do not necessarily represent the views of SWCS.

From the SWCS Archives

"Soil Conversation" is a comic strip that ran in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* between 1955 and 1967. The creator was USDA artist Felix Summers, whose one-panel strip often showed two crows commenting on a farmer's conservation practices, or lack thereof, and how they impacted the community. In honor of the SWCS 75th anniversary we are publishing classic "Soil Conversation" strips on social media throughout the year! To see more like these, follow SWCS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Source: *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, Vol. 20, No. 6 (November, 1965), inside front cover.

Source: *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (January, 1967), inside front cover.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from December

CONSERVATION NEWSBRIEFS

Are you up-to-date with news about soil and water conservation research and policy? *Conservation NewsBriefs* is a highly informative e-news brief that delivers the most relevant content to your inbox each and every Thursday. Below are links to some of the most read articles from the past month:

- [Using mobile technology to understand the impact potential of agricultural interventions](#) (Precision Agriculture for Development via Phys.org)
- [How a closed-door meeting shows farmers are waking up on climate change](#) (Politico)
- [What's driving erosion worldwide?](#) (Phys.org)

[Click here](#) to sign up and start receiving your weekly *Conservation NewsBriefs* today!



Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation



SWCS is on Instagram!
Follow @SWCSnews for inspirational quotes and photos, and feel free to tag us in your conservation shots!



@SWCSnews

New Members

Welcome members who joined in December!

Illinois

Jean Brokish

Indiana—Hoosier

Robert Brown

Andres Pagan

Iowa

Tyler Dursky

Kelly Knapp

Caleb Rasmussen

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Tyler Meyer

Julia Schneller

Mississippi—Mississippi State University Student Chapter

David Lang

North Dakota

Greg Sandness

New Jersey—Firman E. Bear

Timothy Thomas

Ohio—All Ohio

Patricia Marie Cordero-Irizarry

Mike Dailey

Oklahoma

Jennifer Bryant

Chaylum Hogue

South Carolina

Bonnie Wines

South Dakota

Jashanjeet Kaur Dhaliwal

Rachel Frei

Udayakumar Sekaran

Jasdeep Singh

Wisconsin

Matt Krueger

Corporate Partners

Please contact memberservices@swcs.org or visit swcs.org/corporatepartner for more details.

Gold



Silver

