



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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SWCS and COVID-19

As COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives, at work and at home, we want to let you know your professional society is thinking of you and your families. As staff are working remotely, please use email to connect with SWCS at this time.

77th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

Denver, Colorado
July 31 - August 3, 2022
www.swcs.org/22AC

Call for Presentations is Open

SWCS invites the submission of workshops, oral presentations, symposia, and posters for the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place July 31-August 3, 2022, at the Hilton Denver City Center in Denver, Colorado.

Submissions are being accepted for three special and eight general topic areas. General submissions should speak to the overall conference theme, "Elevating Conservation to New Heights."

The submission deadline is February 16, 2022. Download the full [Call for Presentations](#) for more information.



Become a Conference Exhibitor or Sponsor

The 77th SWCS International Annual Conference is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of conservation and environmental professionals. Becoming an exhibitor or sponsor 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.

Download and review the [Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide](#) for full details and to become an exhibitor or sponsor today!

Annual Giving Campaign

Thank you to all who donated during our 2021 giving campaign! Through your contributions, SWCS will continue to be a voice for the protection, restoration, and conservation of life-giving natural resources for generations to come.

Save the Date: Chapter Leadership Training Webinar

On February 24, join SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl and Chapter and Community Builder Renee Bouldin for a webinar for our current and future chapter leaders. We will share strategies on membership recruitment and connect chapter leaders across the country. This is the first of a new series of webinars releasing resources to our conservation leaders.

Current and future chapter development tools are available on the [SWCS website](#).



Chapter Reports and Awards

The mandatory [chapter activity report](#) is now available online. This report is combined with the chapter awards nomination form, allowing chapters to easily apply for two annual awards when filling out the report. Reports must be completed by **March 4, 2022**. Questions? Contact your chapter leader or memberservices@swcs.org.

New Issue of the Journal Available Now



The first issue of 2022 is now available online! In the A Section, a review by [Udawatta and Gantzer](#) explores the current research related to ecosystem services of agroforestry practices, and recent work by [Myers and LaRose](#) describes survey findings on the use of cover crops by horticultural producers compared to commodity crop producers. Also in the issue, research

articles include a modeling effort by [Roland et al.](#) to quantify regional effects of best management practices (BMPs) on nutrient loss and a study by [Leslie et al.](#) of groundwater trends in the Cache River Critical Groundwater Area to understand the status of the Mississippi River Valley alluvial aquifer. Additionally, a Research Editorial by [Yoder et al.](#) takes a deeper look at the definition and meaning of soil health through a critical zone perspective.

Find these and more articles in the [online journal](#).

11th International Drainage Symposium

We invite your participation and presentations for the 11th International Drainage Symposium, August 30-September 2, 2022, at Marriott Des Moines Downtown in Des Moines, Iowa. Presenting at the International Drainage Symposium is an opportunity to share your work with drainage researchers, professionals, and practitioners from around the world. **The deadline for submission is March 15.** Visit [our website](#) for updates.



AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2022



Des Moines, Iowa
www.swcs.org/22IDS



2021: The Year in Review

The Soil and Water Conservation Society has had many accomplishments in the last year—here are just a few from headquarters!

1. In February Dr. Gretchen F. Sassenrath was selected to fill the position of Research Editor for the [Journal of Soil and Water Conservation](#). Additionally, seven new Associate Editors joined the Editorial Board, and we held the first virtual meeting of the Board, with editors joining from over a dozen countries. A total of 65 articles were published in the journal in 2021.
2. We expanded the [Conservation Media Library](#) to include bioreactors and wetlands. We look forward to growing the library further in the coming years.
3. We completed the inaugural [Conservation Practitioner Poll](#) and released a [report](#) on conservation practitioner perspectives.



4. In April, Jordyn Rodriguez joined the SWCS staff virtually as the Student Leader Project Intern. Thank you to [ARCSE](#) for sponsoring our internship program!
5. In October SWCS created two new positions to support our goals of connecting conservation professionals and partners in a welcoming community, and sharing important conservation news and research and empowering conservation professionals to lead the discussion of natural resource conservation. Renee Bouldin joined the team as our Chapter and Community Builder, and Emily Yaddof joined as our new Communications Coordinator.



Renee Bouldin



Emily Yaddof

6. The [76th SWCS International Annual Conference](#) was held virtually in July. The event assembled a diverse, multigenerational conservation community of over 700 researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, farmers, and students from around the world to discuss advancements in soil and water research.



7. SWCS continued pursuing special projects in 2021. (1) “Advancing Precision Nutrient and Soil Health Management with Retailer Cooperatives” aims to accelerate the adoption of precision nutrient management and soil health practices in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska; (2) “Conservation Technology: Identifying, reviewing, and adopting solutions” convenes an agricultural and conservation technology Blue Ribbon Panel twice a year, seeking to enhance the ability of the USDA NRCS to efficiently adopt and disseminate technology; and (3) “Advancing Soil Health through Retailer Cooperatives” builds on our national CIG on-farm trials, and is focused on conservation tillage and cover crop adoption. We look forward to continuing these projects with our partners in the coming year!
8. We held a webinar and unveiled “[Leading at the Edge: A Roadmap to Advance Edge of Field Practices in Agriculture](#),” in which SWCS with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Meridian Institute convened 26 senior leaders from agriculture, the supply chain, civil organizations, and former government officials to develop a framework for action, including nine recommendations to accelerate the adoption of edge of field practices.
9. Clare Lindahl (SWCS CEO) and Dale Threatt-Taylor (SWCS Chair) moderated general session panels at the National Association of Conservation Districts’ virtual meeting, and Special Projects and Partnerships Director Joe Otto spoke at the event in person.
10. In August we welcomed Christopher Hartley to the [Board](#) as the SWCS Northeast Regional Director.
11. Throughout the year SWCS launched a series of new swag campaigns, selling merchandise for our community of conservation professionals to enjoy.

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.

- USDA invests \$50M in [partnerships](#) to expand access to conservation assistance
- Report shows commitment to [nutrient loss](#) efforts
- Off-season [cover crops](#) expand as US growers eye low-carbon future
- Tom Vilsack says farmers need to find new revenue in [climate-smart](#) ag
- Research shows value of [concentrated farming](#)
- Poll finds people are willing to pay to protect the [Great Lakes](#) amid rising water quality concerns
- Novel model can aid decisions in electricity generation, [stream water](#) quality
- Study: Nearly 400,000 [Californians](#) lack safe drinking water, often due to ag pollution
- Transforming [farming](#) with farmer led experimentation
- United States aims to [double cover crop](#) planting to address climate change

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.

Upcoming Events

[South Carolina Chapter Symposium](#)


Charleston, South Carolina
February 21, 2022

[SWCS Chapter Leadership Training Webinar](#)

Virtual Event
February 24, 2022

[Southern New England Chapter Annual Winter Conference](#)

Virtual Event
March 25, 2022



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”

If we are unable to find practical ways for irrigating sloping land, then such land, in the interest of the general welfare, the community, and the individual, should be left in grass.

HUGH HAMMOND BENNETT

“

Sometimes we get weighed down by the path of technology and forget that you must know the basics of how to grow a crop and grow it sustainably.

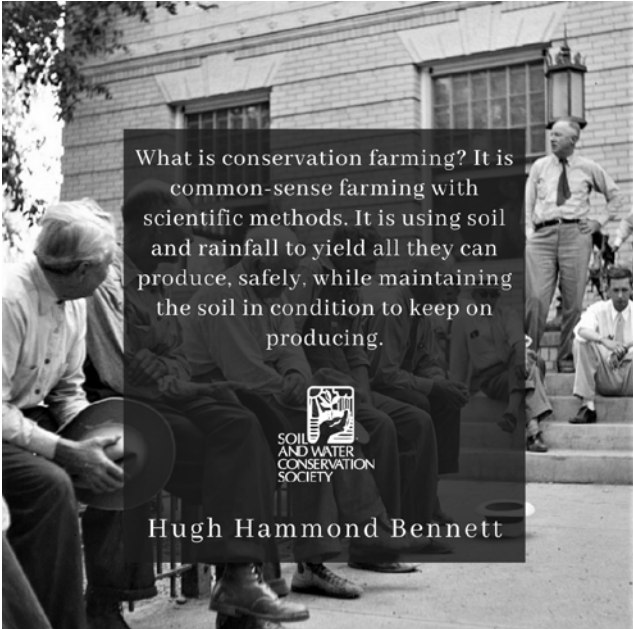
We have to be able to produce food, fuel, and fiber more quickly—and we have to do that without sacrificing our quality of life and our resources.



MARTHA ZWONITZER
Agronomic Research Specialist

WWW.SWCS.ORG

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What is conservation farming? It is common-sense farming with scientific methods. It is using soil and rainfall to yield all they can produce, safely, while maintaining the soil in condition to keep on producing.

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Hugh Hammond Bennett

New Members

Welcome members who joined in December!

Colorado

Ryan Slabaugh

Florida

Krish Jayachandran

Missouri—Show Me

Matthew Blansett

Corporate Partners

Please visit www.swcs.org/corporatepartner for more information on how to become a corporate partner.

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

