



CONSERVOGRAM

 > The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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78th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

Des Moines, Iowa
August 6-9, 2023
www.swcs.org/23AC

Submit a Presentation for the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference

SWCS invites the submission of oral presentations, posters, symposia, professional development sessions, and workshops for the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place in Des Moines, Iowa, August 6-9, 2023.

Submissions are being accepted for three special and eight general topic areas. General submissions should speak to the overall conference theme, "Healthy Land, Clean Water: Cultivating a Legacy of Conservation."

The submission deadline is **February 15, 2023**. Download the [Call for Presentations](#) for more information. Visit www.swcs.org/23AC for additional information on this year's event.

[View Exhibitor and Sponsor Opportunities](#)



Message from the Leadership: SWCS Chair Rebecca Power



Growing up in the prairies and savannas of southeastern Wisconsin, I remember seeing my first bobolink. Actually, I probably heard it before I saw it, that boisterous warble skipping over the tops of the prairie grasses and smooth brome of an old pasture near our house. He was so dapper in his reverse tuxedo, jauntily perched on a mullein stalk overlooking his domain. He

was the reason the bobolink became one of the first birds I ever knew by name.

Neither of my parents were naturalists, so they did not know the bobolink next door. My mom loved to garden for both utilitarian reasons (feeding our family) and because she loved to be outside. She showed me how to shuck corn and can tomatoes. However, her sharing stopped where the garden rows tapered into the surrounding grasses. It was here, on this edge, that the history of our family blended with the deep Mollisols of the prairie and bur oak savanna and blended with the stories of the Sauk, Fox, and Potawatomi that were there before us.

These are stories that I will never fully understand because they are only in very small part mine. The losses my ancestors experienced when they migrated from Ireland where they had been making a living with the land and sea for over 500 years were re-created and amplified when they arrived here and displaced the people who knew this land best. These losses—losses of ancient stories that connect people to place—are losses that cannot be healed in a single lifetime or even several generations. However, it is important that we start.

This is why this year's Soil and Water Conservation Society 78th International Annual Conference theme, "Healthy Land, Clean Water: Cultivating a Legacy of Conservation," is particularly resonant for me and why I see it as an opportunity to deepen our collective understanding of the past and create fertile ground for our shared future. At this year's conference, we will take a generational perspective, looking back at conservation in the traditions of Hugh Hammond Bennett, Aldo Leopold, and others, and acknowledging how this branch of conservation was often disconnected from people with deep and extensive roots and rights on this continent. We will have conversations about how we can bridge the many different cultures of

conservation alive today and bridge generations to create a more resilient and abundant future.

The SWCS Annual Conference is the reason I became a member. It was the place I met so many colleagues and friends and the place I continue to go stay in touch with the future of conservation. I hope you will put this year's conference in your calendar. More importantly, I hope you will find ways to blend generational conservation conversations in with your day-to-day work. Fostering healthy land, clean water, and healthy communities is both urgent and the work of several lifetimes. We hope that SWCS will support your conservation work now and for many years to come.

Upcoming Events

[SWCS Empire State Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Virtual Event/Auburn, New York
January 24, 2023

[Student Professional Development Session 3: Thriving at Work & School](#)

Virtual Event
January 26, 2023

[Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the Adoption of Conservation Drainage Webinar Series](#)

Virtual Event
January 26, 2023

[SWCS Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold](#)

Virtual Event
January 27, 2023

[SWCS Nebraska Chapter 40th Annual Legislative/ Informational Breakfast](#)

Lincoln, Nebraska
January 31, 2023

[Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the Adoption of Conservation Drainage Webinar Series](#)

Virtual Event
February 22, 2023

[Student Professional Development Session 4: Branding U](#)

Virtual Event
February 23, 2023

[SWCS Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold](#)

Virtual Event
February 24, 2023

Submit SWCS Award Nomination or Scholarship Application

The SWCS awards program is designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Nominate an individual today! View the 2023 SWCS award opportunities at www.swcs.org/awards and submit your nomination by **March 31, 2023**.

SWCS has three scholarship opportunities for all members. Take advantage today and apply! Visit www.swcs.org/scholarships for additional information and to fill out your application by **March 31, 2023**.



Save the Date for the First New Members Welcome!

If you're a new member, join SWCS staff virtually for a brief New Members Welcome on Wednesday, February 1 (12 p.m. CT). More details coming soon to your inbox!

Chapter Reports and Awards Released

The annual [Chapter Activity Report](#) is available for our leaders to complete with updates and information on their year's work in 2022. The information provided is used to submit charitable applications and will be used by the national organization to ensure we are providing chapters with the best support possible. This report is combined with the chapter awards nomination form, allowing chapters to easily apply for two annual awards when filling out the report. Information regarding Chapter Activity Reports has been sent to chapter leaders.

All reports are to be submitted through the online form by **February 24, 2023**. Please contact memberservices@swcs.org with any questions.

January/February Issue of the Journal



The first *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* of 2023 is [available online](#) and on its way to mailboxes now. In this issue, A Section article topics include cover crops in [almond orchard systems](#), 20-year findings of USDA research in the [St. Joseph River watershed](#), and the increasing problem of [flooding](#). Research articles include an interview-informed study by [Wardropper et al.](#) to

review a decade of work on nutrient reduction strategies by Mississippi River Basin states. Also in the issue, find research on the water conservation practice of tailwater recovery systems by [Nelson et al.](#), cover crop mixes in the Midwest by [Waring et al.](#), and groundwater recharge though repurposed borrow pits by [Leslie et al.](#) These and more articles are available in the [online journal](#).

Upcoming Webinars

Professional Development Session 3: Thriving at Work & School

Join SWCS, in partnership with MANRRS and the Soil Health Institute, for the third session of our professional development series. On Thursday, January 26 at 6 p.m. EST, speaker Dr. Fátima Sancheznieto will lead attendees through how to "Thrive at Work & School." Learn how to get the most out of these collaborative environments, without getting bogged down by stress and societal pressures.

[Register today](#). More information is available at www.swcs.org/studentevents.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES SESSION #3

Thriving at Work & School

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

HOSTED BY:



Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the Adoption of Conservation Drainage Webinar Series

This webinar series explores the adoption of conservation drainage across disciplines, regions, and landscapes. Through five, 75-minute sessions, leading stakeholders will share unique perspectives, engage in dialogue, and generate a set of recommendations to be used to advance conservation drainage adoption locally and nationally.

The series is intended for a broad audience of conservation professionals and the producers who implement conservation practices. Attendees will include researchers, drainage and land improvement contractors, technical service providers, local/state/federal agricultural and conservation agency technical and program staff, equipment manufacturers and distributors, agriculture industry, farmers, and others who share an interest in advancing conservation drainage across the nation for economic and environmental gain.

What to expect:

- Access to farmer adopters and leading influencers across sectors and states to gain an understanding of their perspectives and experiences, including exclusive Q&A sessions and the wrap-up virtual dialogue
- A broader understanding of the benefits of conservation drainage to various stakeholder audiences
- An opportunity to expand your network of contacts who are working to accelerate the adoption of conservation drainage
- The most up-to-date information, resources, and tools being used
- A set of recommendations for encouraging conservation drainage adoption locally and nationally
- Ability to earn Continuing Education Credits (CEUs)
- A series completion certificate upon request

The webinars are FREE to members of SWCS and Agriculture Drainage Management Coalition (ADMC), with support from the Conservation Drainage Network's Growth Committee (CDN).

The fee for nonmembers is \$10 per webinar or \$50 for the series.

Learn more about speaker details and register [here](#).

Webinar Dates:

- January 26, 2023, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. CT
- February 22, 2023, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. CT
- March 22, 2023, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. CT
- April 26, 2023, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. CT
- May 24, 2023, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. CT

SWCS Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold

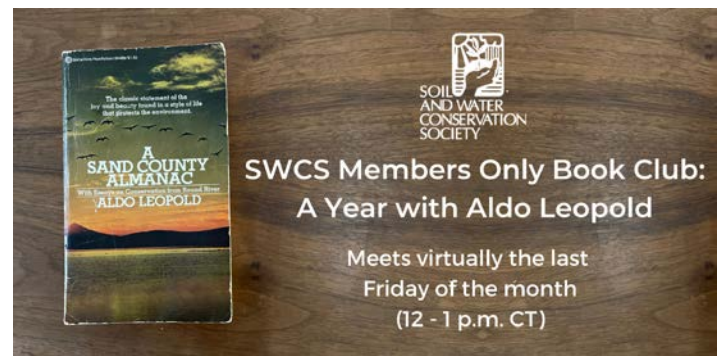
Join fellow SWCS members in 2023 as they read, or re-read, Leopold's classic work like an actual almanac—one chapter per month!

Each month, we will meet virtually for one hour with the following agenda:

- Recap the monthly reading and share reactions
- Explore Leopold's experiences at the Shack that shaped his writing
- Discuss what Leopold's work means for us today

This is a recurring meeting, on the last Friday of every month from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CT. The first meeting is January 27, 2023, and the last meeting is December 22, 2023.

These events are for SWCS members only. Check your [membership status](#) to ensure you're an active member. Active members will be emailed a link to register. Contact joe.otto@swcs.org with any questions or if you did not receive your registration link and would like to participate.



New Members

Welcome members who joined in December!

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Alexander Wojtkowiak

Iowa

Gabby Hackley

Missouri—Show Me

Brian McCarthy

Oregon

Andrew Donaldson

Virginia

Katelin Savage

Nick Thomas

Wisconsin—University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Chapter

Emily Gilbertson

Claire Jensen

Markie Verhasselt

Wisconsin

Casey Baye

Allison McCann

Gregor Willms

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

