



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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2018 International Annual Conference

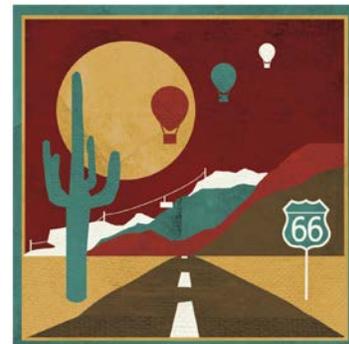
Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico
July 29 to August 1, 2018
www.swcs.org/18AC

There Is Still Time to Register!

Online registration will remain open for the SWCS International Annual Conference through **Wednesday, July 18**. After this date, participants are encouraged to download the paper registration form found at www.swcs.org/18AC, complete the information, and bring it to the conference registration desk for onsite registration. We look forward to seeing you there!

Chapters, Send Your Delegates

Make sure your state is represented at the State of the Society Address, Regional Roundtables, and the House of Delegates, Monday, July 30, beginning at 7:30 am. Submit your state representative name to memberservices@swcs.org by Friday, July 13. When you check in at registration, indicate to staff that you are representing your state as a delegate and you will receive a delegate card.



**CULTURE, CLIMATE,
AND CONSERVATION**
**73RD SWCS INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
JULY 29 – AUGUST 1, 2018



Pritchard Lecture Announced

Building a Culture of Conservation

Monday, July 30
9:00 am - 10:00 am

Presenter: Jacqueline Comito, Anthropologist, Iowa State University, and Director of Water Rocks! and Iowa Learning Farms

How do we build a culture of conservation? Through engaging examples and stories, Jacqueline Comito will demonstrate ways to build an inclusive culture of conservation that strengthens our commitment to value natural resources in our lives. She asserts that this commitment will lead to a more sensitive stewardship of our cultural history and natural environment that will be transmitted from generation to generation. Comito will demonstrate that the most powerful tools in our outreach toolkit are our humor, caring, creativity, and curiosity.



A 2015 recipient of the Environmental Law Institute's National Wetlands Award for Outreach and Education, Jacqueline Comito is actively involved in research, extension, and outreach activities in the areas of water, watershed-based community activities, and environmental attitudes.

Comito, an anthropologist, is the director of two highly successful outreach and education programs at Iowa State University: Water Rocks! and Iowa Learning Farms. Her creativity and vision have propelled these programs to become highly successful and often requested across Iowa and the Midwest. Iowa Learning Farms, now in its 14th year, is the catalyst that has brought farmers and Iowans together to learn from one another to adopt conservation practices on the land, including wetlands. Water Rocks! has reached over 100,000 people across the Midwest—many of them youth! Comito interacts with a variety of stakeholders, including farmers, interested citizens, teachers, youth, environmental groups, and agency personnel. Along with anthropological work, Comito serves as a video writer, director, and producer as well as a music lyricist, producer, and musician and will be featured in the upcoming Rutgers University Press book, *Anthropological Lives: An Introduction to the Profession*. Comito (along with two other colleagues) won a 2018 American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers Blue Ribbon Award for Educational Aids for Water Rocks! "Rock Your Watershed! A Game of Choice and Chance."

Tuesday Plenary Sessions Announced

Valuing Our Land: Where Agriculture, Environment, and Ethics Connect

Tuesday, July 31
8:00 am - 9:15 am

Panel Presentation: Farms Under Threat—The State of America's Farmland

Presenter: Ann Sorensen, Research Director, American Farmland Trust

Last year, American Farmland Trust (AFT) provided a sneak peak of its ambitious effort to quantify 30 years of farmland conversion. However, the 30-year retrospective was too variable to be useful at finer resolutions. Now, AFT has released its national report, *Farms Under Threat*, analyzing agricultural land in the continental United States lost to farmland conversion between 1992 and 2012. It improves our national inventory of agricultural lands by mapping (1) a new class of agricultural lands that estimates woodlands associated with farm enterprise; (2) grazing on federal lands; (3) low-density residential development on agricultural lands; (4) spatial patterns of agricultural land uses and conversion to development in a consistent way over time so that people can see the patterns of change; and (5) agricultural lands based on their productivity, versatility, and resiliency to support intensive food and crop production.



Ann Sorensen provides academic research that underlies the policy work of American Farmland Trust. Since joining the staff in 1992, the research she oversees has guided work on four farm bills and supported numerous other legislative efforts. She previously directed American Farmland Trust's

Center for Agriculture in the Environment.

She has managed a series of assistance agreements with the Environmental Protection Agency to promote adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and contributed to Farming on the Edge mapping projects that used geographic information systems analysis to document developmental sprawl. Sorensen is a member of the team that is designing and implementing a first-of-its-kind interstate water quality trading program aimed at protecting and improving water quality in the Ohio River basin. She has also conducted numerous listening sessions to collect farmers' viewpoints for use in improving agricultural policies. She was recently appointed to the US Environmental Protection Agency's Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee.

Panel Presentation: Measuring Soil Health for Environmental, Economic, and Human Well-Being

Presenter: Wayne Honeycutt, President and CEO, Soil Health Institute

With a mission to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soil through scientific research and advancement, the Soil Health Institute (SHI) has undertaken several conservation initiatives. Since the last SWCS annual conference, SHI unveiled tier one and tier two indicators of soil health, and a round table of experts have come to a consensus on how to measure them. The Institute also secured an investment of nearly \$20 million from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research and partnering organizations to help the industry adopt standard soil health measurements and enhance economic and environmental benefits for farmers. Additionally, SHI has brought together a diverse community to kick off a discussion about the connections of soil health and human health. Wayne Honeycutt will speak about measuring soil health for the wellbeing of our environment, economy, and ourselves.



Wayne Honeycutt leads the Soil Health Institute's programs to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soils. He previously served for 5 years as the Deputy Chief for Science and Technology with USDA-NRCS in Washington, DC, where he led programs in technology acquisition, development, and transfer to ensure NRCS conservation practices reflect the latest scientific advances for conserving our nation's soil, water,

air, plant, animal, and energy resources. He served as a Research Soil Scientist for 14 years and a Research Leader for 10 years with the USDA-ARS New England Plant, Soil, and Water Laboratory, where he led and conducted interdisciplinary research on carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus cycling and sustainable cropping systems development. In those roles he led national research teams for predicting nutrient availability, developed procedures adopted by ARS for enhancing national research coordination, and received regional and national awards for technology transfer.

He is a graduate of the "Mastering the Art of Public Leadership" executive development program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, and USDA's "Performance Excellence and Knowledge" executive development program. He has served on assignments to the US Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, USDA-ARS National Program Staff, and USDA-ARS Area Office Staff.

Panel Presentation: Enhancing Value-Based Adoption of Soil and Water Conservation Practices

Presenter: Tom Sauer, Supervisory Soil Scientist, USDA

Adoption of soil conservation practices is often considered to be dominated by economic factors. Sauer will present an alternate view that non-economic considerations are an important factor in conservation decisions. His presentation will explore the role of personal values and their development on an individual's commitment to soil and water conservation.



Tom Sauer was raised on a diversified crop and livestock farm in southwestern Minnesota. After obtaining three degrees in soil science from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and University of Wisconsin-Madison, he joined the Agricultural Research Service as a Research Soil Scientist. He currently serves as Research Leader of the Soil, Water and Air Resources Research

Unit at the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa. Sauer is a longtime member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Regional Approaches to Climate Adaption in a Research Context

Tuesday, July 31, 2018
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM

Presenter: Emile Elias, Acting Director, USDA Southwest Climate Hub, and Research Hydrologist, USDA-ARS

As the Acting Director of the Southwest Climate Hub, Emile Elias has been part of the Climate Hubs since they began in 2014. The hubs deliver science-based knowledge, practical information, and program support to farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and resource managers to support climate-informed decision making in light of the increased risks and vulnerabilities associated with a changing climate. Elias will share with the audience the latest research and resources available through the hubs nationally and regionally to support conservation professionals and those they serve to connect conservation and climate.



Emile Elias is the Acting Director at the USDA Southwest Climate Hub and a Research Hydrologist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. She holds a MS in watershed science from Colorado State University and a PhD in hydrology from Auburn University. Her research

interests include land use and climate change impacts on hydrology, water quality, and agricultural communities in the southwestern United States. Emile collaborates with partners to study and report on the impacts of regional changes on water resources, agriculture, and interconnected communities reliant on these resources to support both resilient landscapes and resilient communities. This includes publishing in traditional peer-reviewed scientific journals, developing tools for informed decision-making, and managing science synthesis projects and stakeholder outreach. She has reported on the cumulative impacts of climate change on snowmelt runoff in western streams and is serving on the Southwestern Chapter of the 4th National Climate Assessment.

Presenting Sponsor Spotlight: Syngenta

By Caydee Savinelli, Syngenta Pollinator and IPM Stewardship Lead

Summer Greetings from Syngenta

Few pastimes connote summer as much as a good, old-fashioned road trip. At Syngenta, we recently embarked on a very special road trip of our own. In commemoration of National Pollinator Week (June 18-24) and to highlight our commitment to enhancing biodiversity, we travelled up the Monarch Highway (Interstate 35), driving a total of 1,716 miles between Austin and Minneapolis. Along the way, we met with a diverse group of researchers, conservationists, and landowners who are helping protect pollinators and improve their health. From highway vegetation management specialists and golf course superintendents, to entomologists and agronomists, the experts we visited—and the unique contributions they are making—were truly inspiring. We hope you enjoy the photos below, which capture some of our road trip highlights.

We are proud to again be the Presenting Sponsor for the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference, and we look forward to connecting with you later this month as we explore the many opportunities that reside at the nexus of culture, climate, and conservation. I invite you to stop by the Syngenta booth (#5 and #6) during exhibit hours. My colleagues and I are eager to hear about your soil and water conservation efforts, and we value the opportunity to share with you information about some of our ongoing initiatives—from food waste reduction, to software that is helping farmers grow crops more efficiently, while protecting the environment.



Mayetta, Kansas: General Grant, the resident turf dog at Firekeeper Golf Course, enjoys the wildflowers almost as much as the pollinators do.



Olathe, Kansas: Bumblebees forage at the Pollinator Prairie, a former Superfund site that was converted to pollinator habitat.



Austin, Texas: Monarch butterflies feed on wildflower nectar at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.



Stanton, Minnesota: Our commitment to pollinator stewardship is evident both inside and outside the Syngenta Seedcare Institute.

2018 Awards Program

Through the Awards Program, SWCS honors individuals, organizations, and chapters who have exhibited exemplary service to the conservation community. This year's award recipients join us in our mission to advance soil, water, and natural resource conservation efforts to achieve sustainability. Nominees and applicants competed on an international and national level against others who demonstrated leadership, creativity, and dedication in conservation efforts by delivering assistance to landowners, communities, or local governments. Awards will be presented during the awards luncheon at noon on Tuesday, July 31, 2018, during the International Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. All conference attendees are invited to attend.



Hugh Hammond Bennett Award

The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award recognizes extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

This year's Hugh Hammond Bennett Award recipient is Wayne Honeycutt.



Wayne Honeycutt has been an extremely effective conservationist and scientist-leader who has advocated effectively for soil and water protection and improvement at every level, from state to national to international. Currently, Honeycutt is President and CEO for the Soil Health Institute, but his most widely known accomplishment was perhaps the creation of the NRCS Soil Health Division. Earlier in his career, with

the Agriculture Research Service (ARS), Honeycutt led efforts to develop crop and soil management approaches that could improve water quality and improve the efficiency of nitrogen and manure management for northeast cropping systems. At the international level, he initiated and led development of decision support tools that involved communication efforts with scientists from 28 countries, leading to presentations at meetings and an award for Excellence in Technology Transfer. A testament to Honeycutt's ability to engage a wide cross-section of people is the development of the Soil Health Action Plan by the Institute that involved input from over 100 people

from academia, agencies, agribusiness, conservation organizations, and perhaps most importantly, from farmers. He has further sought the successful engagement of over 150 volunteers to work with action teams on advancing soil health through improved soil health measurement, research, education, and policy change. For these and many more reasons, Wayne Honeycutt is highly deserving of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award.

Fellow Award

The designation of Fellow is conferred on Society members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Rebecca Fletcher
William Hargove
Mahdi Al-Kaisi
Daniel Moriasi
Susan Samson-Liebig

Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

The Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award recognizes individuals who provide technical assistance and demonstrate effectiveness and creativity in conservation planning and plan application.

Paul Jasa

Merit Award

The Merit Award is given in recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business firm, corporation, or organization that promotes the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Green Cover Seed

Outstanding Service Award

The Outstanding Service Award is given to Society members in recognition of distinguished service in helping the society develop and carry out its program over a long and sustained period of time.

Lance Loken
Krista Reed

Commendation Award

The Commendation Award gives international recognition to Society members for service to their chapter or council of chapters.

Elizabeth Burdolski
Suzy Campbell
Scott Bohaty

Conservation Research Award

The Conservation Research Award is conferred on Society members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research.

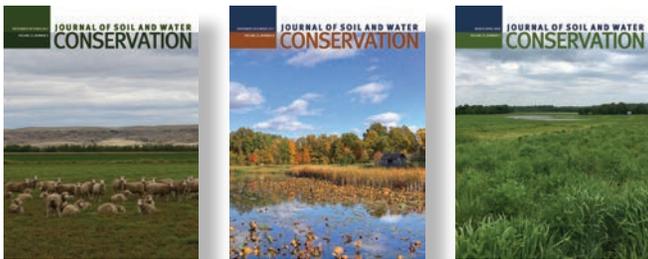
Gretchen Sassenrath
Stephen Merrill

Chair's Leadership Award

The SWCS Chair's Leadership Award is given at the discretion of the SWCS Chair in recognition of exemplary assistance in helping to carry out the goals and objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Wisconsin Chapter
Rob Myers
Birl Lowery

Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Awards



Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award

The Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award recognized the impact and quality of a research paper published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation in the previous five years, as well as an Honorable Mention.

2018 Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award

Arbuckle, J.G., Jr., J. Hobbs, A. Loy, L.W. Morton, L.S. Prokopy, and J. Tyndall. 2014. Understanding Corn Belt farmer perspectives on climate change to inform engagement strategies for adaptation and mitigation. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 69(6):505-516.

2018 Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Honorable Mention

Zhou, X., M.J. Helmers, H. Asbjornsen, R. Kolka, M.D. Tomer, and R.M. Cruse. 2014. Nutrient removal by prairie filter strips in agricultural landscapes. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 69(1):54-64.

2018 Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Honorable Mention

Kladivko, E.J., T.C. Kaspar, D.B. Jaynes, R.W. Malone, J. Singer, X.K. Morin, and T. Searchinger. 2014. Cover crops in the upper midwestern United States: Potential adoption and reduction of nitrate leaching in the Mississippi River Basin. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 69(4):279-291.

Editor's Choice Award

The Editor's Choice Award recognizes articles of excellence appearing in the "A" Section of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation in the previous year.

2018 Editor's Choice Award

Laws, L. 2017. Agricultural sustainability: Five midwestern row crop farmers share their views. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 72(3):53A-58A.

2018 Editor's Choice Honorable Mention

Stewart, B.A., and R. Lal. 2017. The nitrogen dilemma: Food or the environment. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 72(6):124A-128A.

Associate Editor Excellence Award

The Associate Editor Excellence Award recognizes associate editors for their contributions to the success and development of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation.

Claire Baffaut
Scott Van Pelt
John Williams

Chapter Awards

Chapter Achievement Award

The Chapter Achievement Award recognizes chapters for significant achievements through a single activity conducted during the year.

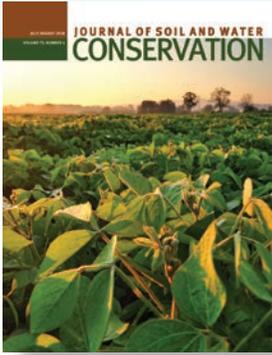
Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter
Kansas Chapter
National Capital Chapter
North Dakota Chapter
Hoosier Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Award

The Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes one chapter from each region for its success in carrying out its overall program during the past year.

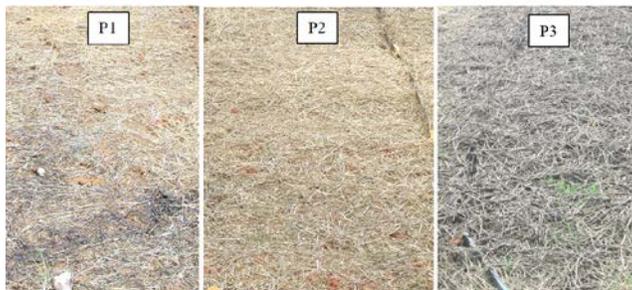
Razorback Chapter
Kansas Chapter
Firman E. Bear Chapter
North Dakota Chapter
Wisconsin Chapter

July/August Issue of the Journal



The latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is now available online and will be in mailboxes soon! This issue includes “Principles and policies for soil and water conservation,” a Viewpoint article by members of the SWCS Science and Policy Committee. The eight principles are intended to inform future science-based policy decisions that will protect soil, water, and related natural resources.

Other Viewpoint articles include a discussion by Lal on opportunities for increasing efficiency and sustainability of productive lands while reducing the area under agriculture and observations by Sela and van Es on the use of a dynamic model, the Adapt-N tool, to better integrate and apply 4R+ nutrient management. In the Research Section, Campbell and Morris investigate agricultural legacy impacts on soils in Georgia, and Benavides et al. study the influence land cover changes have on the water-rich soils of Andean Paramos. Also in the issue, Lee et al. report on the effectiveness of seven mulch treatments for controlling erosion and encouraging grass establishment on steep slopes of construction sites. Read these and many more articles in the [online journal](#).



Examples of straw cover at sites P1 (low straw application), P2 (good straw application), and P3 (over-application of tackifier), from Lee et al.’s article, “Evaluation of Seven Mulch Treatments for Erosion Control and Vegetation Establishment on Steep Slopes.”

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News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- The House and Senate farm bills passed over a span of two weeks. The bills will now go to a conference committee to have their differences reconciled.
- A new national effort, the Governors’ Partnership on Carbon Capture, has been formed to provide state executive leadership on carbon capture policy and technology deployment. The effort will start in the Rockies, Midwest, and Northern Plains regions.
- The White House aims to move and consolidate major environmental and energy programs under a [federal reorganization plan](#). The Army Corps of Engineers’ water management and navigation work would be moved to the departments of Interior and Transportation.
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee [marked-up](#) several water-related bills, including the Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act. The committee approved a [revised version of H.R. 3906](#) that establishes a stormwater infrastructure funding task force comprised of representatives at the federal, state, and local government levels, as well as private entities, to study and develop recommendations for ways to improve stormwater infrastructure systems.
- The Senate has unanimously passed a bill to reauthorize the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act, which allows the Environmental Protection Agency to charge fees for pesticide registration that fund about one-third of the operations of the Office of Pesticide Programs.
- US farmers are planting fewer acres with corn and soybeans this year, while sowing more wheat, cotton, and sorghum, USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service said in an [annual report](#).

Upcoming Events

[SWCS 73rd International Annual Conference](#)
Albuquerque, New Mexico
July 29-August 1, 2018

[Southern New England Chapter Summer Meeting](#)
Wakefield, Rhode Island
August 10, 2018

[California/Nevada Chapter Annual Meeting:
Soil Health in Northern California](#)
Susan City, California
October 18-19, 2018

New Members

Welcome members who joined in June!

Alabama

Mark Gresham
Joshua Mangrum
Suzanne Sweetser

Arkansas—Razorback

Kelsey Hoegenauer

Colorado

Dan Manter
Meagan Schipanski

Connecticut/Massachusetts/ Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Justin Chase

Delaware/Maryland—Pokomoke

Teferi Tsegaye

Florida

William Bliss

Georgia

Subash Dahal
Kishan Mahmud
Laura Ney

Iowa

Megan Koppenhafer
Lissa Tschirgi

Indiana—Hoosier

Stacy Zuber

Kansas

Bonnie McGill

Kentucky—Bluegrass

Aman Bhatta

Michigan

John Switzer

Missouri—Show Me

Austin Davis

North Dakota

Rashad Alghamdi

Nebraska

Todd Kellerman

New Mexico

Sam Allen
Furkan Atalar
Alonso Garcia
Bilgi Sarihan
Jeremy Schallner
Megan Stovall

New Mexico—New Mexico State University Student Chapter

Emily Creegan
Gaurav Jha
Mohammed Omer

Ohio—All Ohio

Nate Manning

Oklahoma

Chad Ellis

Pennsylvania—Keystone

Jonathan Burgess

Tennessee

Dwight Dickson
Henrique Momm

Texas—Heart of Texas

Kelli McClelland
Rewati Niraula

Utah

Jessica Rosado

Washington—Olympic View

Kedija Awole
Chad Kruger

Corporate Members

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

Gold



Silver



Bronze

