



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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74th SWCS International Annual Conference

Wyndham Grand Downtown
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 28–31, 2019

www.swcs.org/19AC

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, July 17

Online registration will remain open for the SWCS International Annual Conference through Wednesday, July 17. After this date, participants are encouraged to download the paper registration form found at www.swcs.org/19AC, complete the information, and bring it to the conference registration desk for onsite registration. We look forward to seeing you there!

Be sure to check out the [events happening](#) during your stay in Pittsburgh!

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 29, beginning at 7:00 AM. Submit your delegate's name to memberservices@swcs.org by Wednesday, July 17. These individuals will receive a delegate card in their name badge to bring with them to the session.

Don't Miss the Regional Forum and Flavor Reception!

Join us for this year's Regional Forum and Flavor Reception organized by the SWCS Keystone Chapter on Sunday, July 28, at 5:00 PM. The event will include a selection of themed dishes/appetizers highlighting the local flavor of Pittsburgh, along with a cash bar.

Spend time networking with colleagues while enjoying steel drum musical entertainment from special guest Hilary Borneo prior to presentations from Matt Royer, Penn State University; Jim Hershey, Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance; and Jonathan Burgess, Allegheny County Conservation District.

Visit www.swcs.org/19AC to view full details on this panel presentation and more.



2019 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 30, 2019, during the International Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 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 Leonard J. Lane.



Leonard J. Lane, a scientist and engineer who has advanced conservation science by improving the representation of physical and chemical processes in simulation models and applying the improved quantification of those processes in decision support for soil and water conservation. Lane has had a

varied career, which began in 1965 with a position as a hydrologic technician for the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Tucson, Arizona. After earning his PhD and returning to Tucson, he moved to New Mexico and worked for the Los Alamos National Laboratory where the problems associated with hydrology and sediment contaminated with radioactive waste became a research interest for the rest of his career. In 1984, Lane returned to Tucson to work for the USDA ARS until his retirement in 2002. For 10 years following his retirement, he worked as principal of L.J. Lane Consulting. Lane has made many notable contributions to science, including developing a method to estimate transmission losses (streamflow losses due to infiltration in channel bed and banks) in ephemeral stream channels and developing several procedures to route flood hydrographs in ephemeral streams. He also worked diligently to develop procedures to relate statistics for geometric correspondence of simulation model watershed topography to the resulting hydrograph goodness-of-fit-statistics for simulated runoff, cooperated in the development of advanced overland flow and upland erosion models, and led efforts to develop efficient methods of parameter estimation for coupled runoff-erosion models. Additionally, Lane helped develop time series techniques to analyze historical global change

data to separate anthropogenic variations in temperature, precipitation, etc. from natural fluctuation and variability; added to the knowledge of floods and flood frequency in the southwestern United States through long-term studies; and contributed to the development or improvement of the following models: CREAMS (Chemicals, Runoff, and Erosions from Agricultural Management Systems), SPUR Basin Scale Model, HEM (Hillside Erosion Model), and WEPP (Water Erosion Prediction Project). Lane also fostered the science of natural resource conservation for sustainability by supervising a cadre of PhD scientists in watershed hydrology and erosion prediction that have gone on to influential careers, in universities and agencies, both in the United States and abroad.

Fellow Award

The Fellow Award recognizes SWCS members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. This award is given for professional excellence, first and foremost.

Linda Prokopy
Susan Meadows

Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

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

Darrell Oswald

Honor Award

The Honor Award recognizes individuals for outstanding accomplishments compatible with the mission of the Society.

Lena Bohm

Merit Award

The Merit Award recognizes 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.

Braaten Law Firm
Integrated Crop-Grazing Research Team

Outstanding Service Award

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

Amanda Brandt

Commendation Award

The Commendation Award recognizes SWCS members for service to their chapter or council of chapters.

Hanna Bates
Don Knezick
Tania Nanna

Conservation Research Award

The Conservation Research Award recognizes SWCS members or teams of members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research.

Maysoon Mikha

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.

New Mexico Chapter
John Peterson

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.

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award

Dunn, M., J.D. Ulrich-Schad, L.S. Prokopy, R.L. Myers, C.R. Watts, and K. Scanlon. 2016. Perceptions and use of cover crops among early adopters: Findings from a national survey. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 71(1):29-40.

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Honorable Mention

King, K.W., M.R. Williams, and N.R. Fausey. 2016. Effect of crop type and season on nutrient leaching to tile drainage under a corn-soybean rotation. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 71(1):56-68.

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.

Editor's Choice Award

Olson, K.R., and L.W. Morton. 2018. Water rights and fights: Lao dams on the Mekong River. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 73(2):35A-41A.

Editor's Choice Honorable Mention

A. Ward, A. Sharpley, K. Miller, W. Dick, J. Hoorman, J. Fulton, and G.A. LaBarge. 2018. An assessment of in-field nutrient best management practices for agricultural crop systems with subsurface drainage. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 73(1):5A.

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*.

Karl Auerswald
Mark Nearing
MS Srinivasan

Chapter Awards

Chapter Achievement Award

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

Michigan Chapter (North Central Region)
North Dakota Chapter (Northwest Region)
Southern New England Chapter (Northeast Region)
Colorado Chapter (Southwest Region)

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.

Arizona Chapter (Southwest Region)
Michigan Chapter (North Central Region)
Nebraska Chapter (Northwest Region)
New Jersey Firman E. Bear Chapter (Northeast Region)

Melville H. Cohee Scholarship

The Melville H. Cohee Scholarship provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are in their junior or senior year of fulltime undergraduate study or pursuing graduate level studies, with a natural resource conservation orientation at an accredited college or university.

Jacob Wright

Sponsor Spotlight: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Courtesy of Dan Dostie, NRCS

NRCS and Partner Projects Help Farmers in Rural and Urban Communities Build Resilient Landscapes in Pennsylvania

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field staff and partners help farmers conserve natural resources and build resilient landscapes no matter if the farm is in a rural or urban community.

The makeup of local partnerships delivering assistance may look different from place to place, but they all have mutual interests in achieving multiple outcomes. Conservation practices improve natural resources on each farm as well as provide clean water and wildlife habitat for communities near and far.

Throughout Pennsylvania, farmers along the rural urban interface have adapted their operations to changing population dynamics, economic upswings and downturns, and changing land uses of forestry, agriculture, coal and natural gas extractions, post-industrialism, and ex-urban development.

Conservation programs have also adapted to meet new needs. With fewer farmers each census, educating the next generation is often the most important local priority. During the 2019 SWCS Annual Conference, NRCS and partner projects will be featured on two tours: a full-day Agriculture in an Ever-Changing World tour and a half-day Growing Urban Agriculture in Post-Industrial Communities tour.

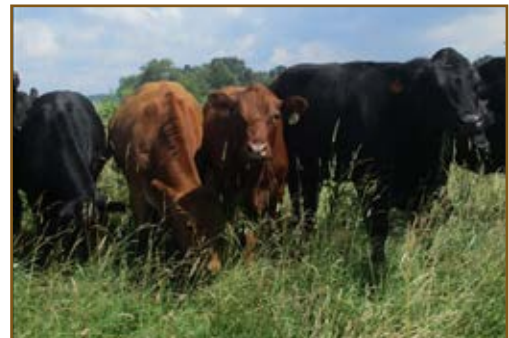
Attendees of the full-day rural tour will visit a multi-generational dairy continuously adapting their conservation system and now preparing to supply electricity to the local community through a methane digester, a mead wine producer educating the public about the value of pollinators, and an organic farm direct-marketing nutritious grass-fed beef to customers and restaurants in Pittsburgh. Additionally, the tour will feature the Amish village of Volant, and a review of scientific studies (based on research conducted at Gargasz's farm) that examine why grass-fed beef is considered healthier due to varying ratios of fatty acids.

During the half-day urban tour, attendees will visit projects funded by a NRCS and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) grant to the Allegheny County Conservation District including a one-acre farm in the shadow of an active steel mill growing produce and educating youth, the Homewood Historical Urban Farm where the Black Urban Gardeners and Farmers Co-Op (BUG_FPC) installed a high tunnel and efficient irrigation to fight food apartheid, and Hilltop Urban Farm where a season of soil remediation and cover cropping have been piloted.

NRCS in Pennsylvania supports farmers and communities to improve soil, water, and wildlife resources on working lands at any scale from a quarter-acre urban agriculture plot to thousands of acres of rural dairy crop land. To learn more about the challenges of conservation along the rural urban interface and the work of NRCS, visit our website at www.nrcs.usda.gov.



Grassycrest Farm—A four-generation dairy milking around 350 cows. Photo courtesy of Geri Montgomery, NRCS.



Grass-fed cattle at Ronald Gargasz's Organic Beef Farm.



BUG_FPC members volunteer in early spring to begin managing high tunnels in an urban environment. Photo courtesy of Raqaueeb Bey.



Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD) staff test resident soil for lead and other heavy metals. Photo courtesy of ACCD.

New Issue of the Journal



The July/August issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is now available online and is arriving in mailboxes soon. In this issue, don't miss a feature article by Fleming et al. that explores the cost-effectiveness of targeted legacy sediment mitigation for water quality improvement. Also in the A Section, an editorial by Lal considers whether soils should be provided legal rights

for sustained protection. This issue's research includes several rangeland ecosystem studies: an article by Hendricks et al. investigates how strategic management decisions can influence soil carbon and bulk density within grazed pastures, Nouwakpo et al. evaluate the effect of invasive Kentucky bluegrass on the hydrology of Great Plains rangelands, and Edwards et al. review potential impacts of climate change on erosion controls in US rangelands. Find these and many more articles in the [online journal](#).

Upcoming Events

[Alabama Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Foley, Alabama
June 19-21, 2019

[North Dakota Chapter: Good Bugs II Workshop](#)

Bismark, North Dakota
June 26, 2019

[SWCS 74th International Annual Conference](#)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 28-31, 2019

[Southern New England Chapter Summer Meeting and Tour](#)

Stratford, Connecticut
August 8, 2019

[North Dakota Chapter Soil Summit](#)

Medora, North Dakota
September 18-19, 2019

[SWCS Razorback Chapter Fall Meeting](#)

Greenbrier, Arkansas
October 10, 2019

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.

- Republicans form [conservation caucus](#) to take on environment, climate change
- [USDA](#) takes on tougher than normal workload
- State's latest [Chesapeake Bay](#) cleanup plans found lacking by US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- Trump's [trade wars](#) thrust farmers into desperation loans
- USEPA to allow use of [pesticides](#) beekeepers say "decimate beneficial insects"
- White House to send United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement ([USMCA](#)) to Congress this fall
- Wall Street [banks](#) bailing on troubled US farm sector
- How are [small farms](#) surviving? Airbnb.
- Soil Health Institute releases progress report on adoption of [soil health](#) practices
- [Butterfly](#) numbers fell by one-third in the United States over past two decades
- [Soil health](#) importance highlighted in House hearing
- Opinion: This is not the way to move [USDA](#) agencies out of Washington
- Some big farms collect big checks from Trump [Aid](#) package
- Wet weather and [flooding](#) continues to impact agriculture
- A small percentage of farmers chose to plant more corn and soybeans in anticipation of government payments according to a [Purdue](#) survey
- USDA Adjusts [prevent plant](#) acres planted to cover crops
- Agriculture Department buries studies showing dangers of [climate change](#)
- Scientists develop climate-ready [wheat](#) that can survive drought conditions
- FEED Act would offer relief to [livestock](#) producers
- [Pennsylvania](#) Farm Bill to invest over \$25M in state's agriculture industry
- Colorado Agriculture Director has big plans for [hemp](#)
- [Virginia](#) announces record \$73 million in funding for improved agricultural best management practices

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.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in June!

International

Cyd Cherisse Gayonan

Alabama

Wade Burcham

California/Nevada

Paul Robins

Canada—Ontario

Shefaza Esmail

Connecticut/Massachusetts/ Rhode Island—Southern New

England Chapter

Emily Cole

DC—National Capital Chapter

Breanna Barlow

Lexi Clark

Thomas Wall

Hawaii—Hawaii and Pacific Basin

Carl Evensen

Iowa

Aaron Eggert

Michaelleen Golay

Autumn Mohler

Andy Robinson

Iowa—Iowa State University

Student Chapter

Stephen Potter

Mackenzie Waltz

Illinois

Sarah Blount

Maryland—Maryland Old Line

Louis Keddell

Minnesota

Lucia Levers

Missouri—Show Me

April Johnson

New Hampshire/Vermont

Thayer Tomlinson

New Mexico

Sultan Begna

Ohio—All Ohio

Elizabeth Callow

Jessica D'Ambrosio

Mary Doidge

Sydney Laubscher

Elizabeth Schwab

Stephanie Singer

Oregon

Dan Zinkand

Pennsylvania—Keystone

Gabriela Briceno

Dean Collamer

Kayla Conklin

Isabella Krusec

Anil Kumar Chaudhary

South Dakota

Sara Mardaninejad

Sadia Salam

Texas—North Texas

Paul DeLaune

Wisconsin

Kevan Klingberg

West Virginia

Katie Fitzsimmons

James Thompson

Corporate Partners

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

Gold



Agri Drain
CORPORATION



Hickenbottom Inc.
Look for the bright orange inlet - Hickenbottom's Trademark®

Silver



The
Fertilizer Institute

From the Leadership

74th SWCS International Annual Conference: A Preview

*Courtesy of Deanna Osmond, Program Planning
Committee Chair*

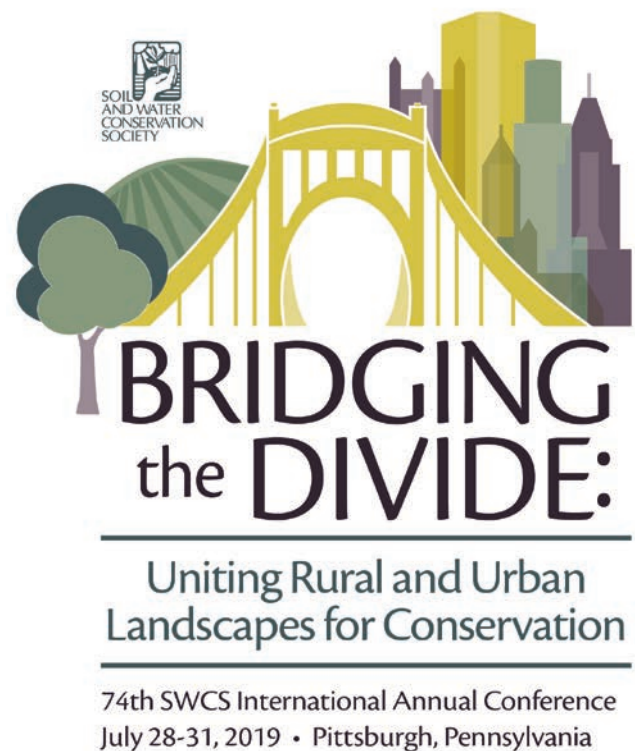


We hope you will be attending the 74th International Annual Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, July 28th through July 31st. With nearly 200 symposium, papers, and posters to choose from, this conference will provide something for everyone including water quality protection to maintaining and enhancing our soil resources.

The focus of this year's meeting, Bridging the Divide: Uniting Rural and Urban Landscapes for Conservation, melds urban, rural, and the spaces in between into a holistic conservation framework. "Bridging the Divide" is an appropriate metaphor as the conference location is Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, "City of Bridges," with its 446 bridges that span three great river systems—the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio.

Conservation is best when multidisciplinary approaches are used. Practitioners and scientists from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, will provide timely information on all aspects of conservation. During the meeting, symposium will explore Adapting Landscapes to Climate Change, Engaging the Private Sector in Conservation, and Watershed Conservation to Unify Urban and Rural Communities. Many ongoing topics will provide information including economics and policy, conservation practice effectiveness, conservation in organic, specialty, small-scale or urban agriculture, and soil health resources, assessment, and management and more. As always, the conference strives to provide its diverse membership a range of technical and practical sessions.

It is only through concerted conservation efforts that we will be able to protect our agricultural and urban resources in order to make them more resilient as climate changes over the next decades. The knowledge gained from this conference will help all of us protect our natural resources more effectively. Again, we hope you will join us and encourage you to connect with your old friends and colleagues to bridge divides at the 74th International Annual Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society!



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**BRIDGING
the DIVIDE:**

Uniting Rural and Urban
Landscapes for Conservation

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