



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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The Soil and Water Conservation Society 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.

76th SWCS International Annual Conference

Virtual Event
July 26–28, 2021
www.swcs.org/21AC

FINAL Chance to Register for the Virtual 76th SWCS International Annual Conference!

1 DAY LEFT!



Register for the
conference by

JULY 16

(There will be no extensions.)

Registration for the 76th SWCS International Annual Conference, to be held virtually July 26-28, 2021, will close July 16, 2021. In order to prepare speakers and attendees for the best event possible, no registrations will be accepted after the July 16 deadline.

Registrants will receive *exclusive access* to all presentation recordings concluding the event. Continuing education units will be available for certified crop advisors, professional agronomists, professionals in erosion and sediment control, and others.

For more information and to register, visit www.swcs.org/21AC.



Thank You to Our 76th SWCS International Annual Conference Sponsors



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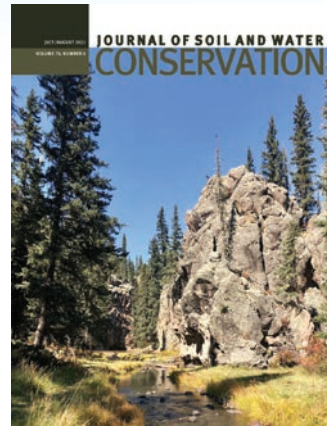
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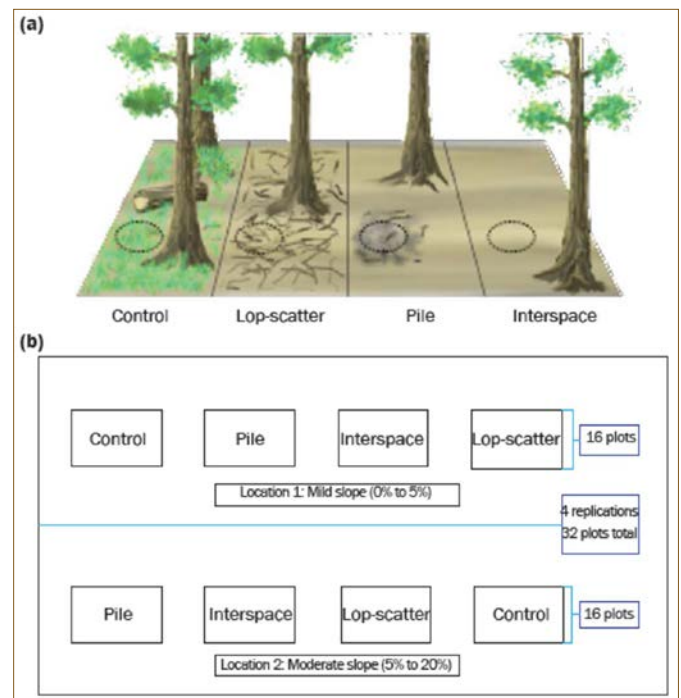
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July/August Issue of the Journal



The [July/August issue](#) of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is here! In this issue, a feature article by Roesch-McNally et al. reviews current literature to create a framework of best practices for the [development of decision support tools](#) to assist agriculture and forestry practitioners. Also in the A Section, Lal argues that by implementing regenerative agriculture worldwide and improving access to food,

the world's growing population can be fed while some current [agricultural land is returned to nature](#). Research articles in the issue include a study by Atalar et al. to determine the [impacts of forest thinning](#) on runoff and sediment yield from New Mexico's forests and work by Kokulan et al. to better understand [seasonal variations in tile flow](#) and nutrient concentrations and loads from a farm in southern Manitoba, Canada. Additionally, Xiao et al. compare [bacterial communities and functional structures in soils](#) under different cropping systems in the Loess Plateau of China. Read these and more articles in the [online journal](#).



Description of treatments with (a) associated ring locations and (b) the sampling design for the treatments across the two slope locations. Figure 2 from Atalar et al.

Congratulations to the 2021 SWCS Award Winners!

Through the Awards Program, SWCS honors individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in advocating and advancing the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. All award winners will be showcased within the 76th SWCS International Annual Conference virtual platform during the July 26-28, 2021, event. Additional information about each recognition can also be found at www.swcs.org/awards.

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.

The **Hugh Hammond Bennett Award**, the Society's most prestigious award, recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

The 2021 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award is presented to Michael Kucera, Nebraska, for his widely recognized major contributions to the conservation of natural resources. Professionally, Kucera has served in various capacities with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) since 1981, rising the ranks to serve as the Nebraska State Resource Conservationist, and the Nebraska State Agronomist and State Water Quality specialist. He is currently supporting national erosion prediction technology at the National Soil Survey Center as the National Erosion Database Steward. Beyond his primary work duties, Kucera is recognized for his development of Soil Health Buckets as an educational tool to teach high school agricultural science students the importance of soil health and natural resource conservation. This effort earned him an Honorary State FFA Degree, the highest award a state FFA organization can bestow. He has been recognized for his role in international efforts to bring soil health and watershed planning education to Pakistan, as he was awarded the Abraham Lincoln Honor Award by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture. Through his tenure with USDA, Kucera has been the consummate professional whose career has wholeheartedly supported the goals and objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. For these efforts, SWCS is proud to present Kucera with the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award.

Three Society **Fellow Awards** are given this year, in recognition of SWCS members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Fellowship is an honor bestowed upon the best in the conservation profession. This year's Fellow awardees include

- Craig Derickson, Nebraska
- Don Wysocki, Oregon
- Lynn Betts, Iowa

Additional Awards Presented in 2021

Conservation Innovation Award

In recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business, firm, corporation, or organization that promotes natural resource conservation.

- Area IV Cooperative Research Farm, North Dakota
- Conservation Station Mobile Education Trailer Program, Iowa

Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

In recognition of individuals who work on the ground to provide direct and personal delivery or conservation planning and technical assistance.

- Jon Stika, North Dakota

Conservation Professional of the Year Award

In recognition of outstanding accomplishments in practicing and advancing the science and art of natural resource conservation.

- Jean Eells, Iowa

Society Service Award

In recognition of Society members for service to their chapter or to the Society.

- Duane Friend, Illinois
- Kelly Wolff, Arizona
- Leah Duzy, Alabama

Chair's Leadership Award

In recognition of exemplary assistance in helping to carry out the goals and objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

- Andrew Sharpley, Arkansas
- Catherine DeLong, Iowa
- Iowa Chapter SWCS
- Jorge Delgado, Colorado
- Kris Johnson, Minnesota
- Rex Martin, Missouri

Conservation Research Award

In recognition of Society members or teams of members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research.

- Marisol Berti, North Dakota
- David Lobb, Manitoba, Canada

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award

In recognition for the impact and quality of a research paper published in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* in the previous five years.

Finney, D.M., J.S. Buyer, and J.P. Kaye. 2017. Living cover crops have immediate impacts on soil microbial community structure and function. *Journal of Soil*

and Water Conservation 72(4):361-373. <https://doi.org/10.2489/jswc.72.4.361>.

- Denise M. Finney, Pennsylvania
- Jeffrey S. Buyer, Maryland
- Jason P. Kaye, Pennsylvania

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Honorable Mention

In recognition for the impact and quality of a research paper published in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* in the previous five years.

Teague, W.R., S. Apfelbaum, R. Lal, U.P. Kreuter, J. Rowntree, C.A. Davies, R. Conser, M. Rasmussen, J. Hatfield, T. Wang, F. Wang, and P. Byck. 2016. The role of ruminants in reducing agriculture's carbon footprint in North America, *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 71(2):156-164. <https://doi.org/10.2489/jswc.71.2.156>.

- W.R. Teague, Texas
- Steven I. Apfelbaum, Wisconsin
- Rattan Lal, Ohio
- Urs Kreuter, Texas
- Jason Rowntree, Michigan
- Christian Davies, Texas
- Russ Conser, Texas
- Mark Rasmussen, Iowa
- Jerry Hatfield, Iowa
- Tong Wang, South Dakota
- Fugui Wang, Wisconsin
- Peter Byck, Arizona

Editor's Choice Award Winner

In recognition of the following article of excellence appearing in the "A" Section of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* in the previous year.

Sanderson, J.S., C. Beutler, J.R. Brown, I. Burke, T. Chapman, R.T. Conant, J.D. Derner, M. Easter, S.D. Fuhlendorf, G. Grissom, J.E. Herrick, D. Liptzin, J.A. Morgan, R. Murph, C. Pague, I. Rangwala, D. Ray, R. Rondeau, T. Schulz, and T. Sullivan. 2020. Cattle, conservation, and carbon in the western Great Plains. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 75(1):5A-12A. <https://doi.org/10.2489/jswc.75.1.5A>.

- John Sanderson, Colorado
- Curtis Beutler, Colorado
- Joel Brown, New Mexico
- Ingrid C. Burke, Connecticut
- Teresa Chapman, Colorado
- Richard Conant, Colorado
- Justin Derner, Wyoming

- Mark Easter, Colorado
- Samuel D. Fuhlendorf, Oklahoma
- Grady Grissom, Colorado
- Jeffrey Herrick, New Mexico
- Daniel Liptzin, Colorado
- Jack Morgan, Colorado
- Rachel Murph, Colorado
- Chris Pague, Colorado
- Imtiaz Rangwala, Colorado
- David Ray, South Carolina
- Renee Rondeau, Colorado
- Terri Schulz, Colorado
- Tim Sullivan, Colorado

Editor's Choice Honorable Mention

In recognition of the following article of excellence appearing in the "A" Section of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* in the previous year.

Lal, R. 2020. Soil organic matter content and crop yield. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 75(2):27A-32A. <https://doi.org/10.2489/jswc.75.2.27A>.

- Rattan Lal, Ohio

Editor's Choice Honorable Mention

In recognition of the following article of excellence appearing in the "A" Section of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* in the previous year:

Moriasi, D.N., L.F. Duriancik, E.J. Sadler, T. Tsegaye, J.L. Steiner, M.A. Locke, T.C. Strickland, and D.L. Osmond. 2020. Quantifying the impacts of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project watershed assessments: The first fifteen years. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 75(3):57A-74A. <https://doi.org/10.2489/jswc.75.3.57A>.

- Daniel Moriasi, Oklahoma
- Lisa Duriancik, Virginia
- John Sadler, North Carolina
- Teferi Tsegaye, Kentucky
- Jean Steiner, Kansas
- Martin Locke, Mississippi
- Timothy Strickland, Georgia
- Deanna Osmond, North Carolina

Associate Editor Excellence Award

In recognition of associate editors for their contributions to the success and development of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*.

- Clark Gantzer, Missouri
- J. Arbuckle, Iowa
- Jane Johnson, Minnesota

Chapter Achievement Award

In recognition of chapters for significant achievements through a single activity conducted during the year.

- California Nevada Chapter
- Michigan Chapter
- North Dakota Chapter
- South Dakota Chapter
- Wisconsin Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Award

In recognition for the chapter's success in carrying out its overall program during the past year.

- California/Nevada Chapter
- Iowa Chapter
- Michigan Chapter
- National Capital Chapter
- Nebraska Chapter
- South Dakota Chapter
- Southern New England Chapter
- Wisconsin Chapter

Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship

The Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are in their junior or senior year of full-time undergraduate study or are pursuing graduate level studies with a natural resources conservation orientation at a properly accredited college or university.

- Christopher Burch, Pennsylvania

Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship

The Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship provides financial aid to members of SWCS for interdisciplinary graduate-level research on a conservation topic that will extend the SWCS mission of fostering the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management research.

- Lijing Gao, Iowa

WiN Conservationist of the Year Award

The Conservationist of the Year Award is designed to recognize an outstanding woman farmer/producer/conservationist and demonstrates a vital role in supporting women in agriculture and conservation.

- Jean Eells, Iowa

WiN Individual Award of Excellence Recipient

The Individual Award of Excellence is designed to recognize an individual who, over a period of-time, has contributed substantially and creatively to our Natural Resources Conservation profession. The recipient should

exemplify excellence in a particular discipline and, possibly, multi-discipline efforts that promote excellence and creativity. The recipient should also demonstrate involvement in WiN.

- Julie MacSwain, Oregon

WiN Group Award of Excellence Recipient

The Group Award of Excellence is designed to recognize a group who, over a period of-time, has contributed substantially and creatively to our Natural Resources Conservation profession. The group should exemplify excellence in a particular discipline and, possibly, multi-discipline efforts that promote excellence and creativity.

- Powerhouse of Women - the FAB 5, Indiana

New Addition to the Conservation Media Library



In 2018 we unveiled a new multimedia resource on the SWCS website called the [Conservation Media Library](#). The Library showcases conservation happening on the ground and is currently focused on cover crops, drainage water management, saturated buffers, prairie strips, bioreactors, and most recently, [wetlands](#). By adding wetlands to the Library, we hope to provide more awareness of the conservation benefits of this practice, as well as provide resources for you to use when communicating about wetlands.



A CREP wetland in Palo Alto County, Iowa. CREP, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, is a major state/federal initiative to develop strategically located wetlands using advanced computer technology and designed to remove nitrate from tile-drainage water from cropland areas.

SWCS/IDALS photo by Lynn Betts.

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.

- Amid a [megadrought](#), federal water shortage limits loom for the Colorado River
- USDA provides more [flexibility](#) on cover crops
- Building [wetlands](#) along waterways best option to deter runoff from midwest crop fields
- Cover crops [adoption](#) remains low
- Draft United Nations [agreement on biodiversity](#) targets conservation, pollution, finance
- US Pacific Northwest [heat wave](#) bakes wheat, fruit crops
- Drought-stricken Western districts plan new ways to [store water](#)
- Court: DNR can impose [farm conditions](#), consider well impact
- USDA NRCS scientists work in partnership to save [Florida manatees](#)
- Three Bay watershed cities ask Virginia for \$1.4 billion in [wastewater fixes](#)
- New resource [aids farmers](#) with implementing conservation practices
- The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting conservation efforts in [Madagascar](#)

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

[76th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)
Virtual Event
July 26-28, 2021

Conservation at the Co-Op: July Update

Did you know that SWCS has two grants to work with agricultural retailers? In partnership with Truterra and select agricultural cooperatives, SWCS is conducting two On-Farm Trials in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska, supported by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and funded through its Conservation Innovation Grant program. More information can be found [here](#).

As part of summertime operations, the retailers are beginning to showcase the On-Farm Trials through the hosting of field days. One field day emphasizing the value of cover crops to soil health resulted in two growers seeking out more information about enrolling in NRCS EQIP programing through their local office. This event and another held a few weeks later also included retailers' demonstrating of a rainfall simulator test, which showed attendees the value of preserving soil structure to prevent erosion. These activities are promising reminders that retailer personnel are well-positioned to recommend conservation to their clients, connect them to available resources, and support them along the path to adoption.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from June



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:

- [Chesapeake Bay health edges up to C grade in report card](#) (The Associated Press via U.S. News & World Report)
- [Over half of the world's rivers cease to flow for at least one day a year on average](#) (McGill University via Phys.org)
- [New pandemic cover crop program to assist growers](#) (AgNet West)
- [Researchers study historic Mississippi flow and impacts of river regulation](#) (University of Arkansas via Phys.org)

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

New Members

Welcome members who joined in June

Alabama

Chris Mead

Canada—Quebec

Mary Doidge

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern

New England Chapter

Jessica Bryant

Tom Morgart

DC—National Capital Chapter

Scott Franklin

Georgia

Chandler Gruener

Iowa

Laura Frescoln

Wendong Zhang

Illinois

Max Potthoff

Indiana—Hoosier

Keith Williams

Kansas

Xiaomao Lin

Louisiana

William McQuaig

Minnesota

Brad Gordon

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter

Amanda Sand

North Carolina—North Carolina State University

Student Chapter

Steven Kroeger

New Mexico

Adrienne Rosenberg

New York—Empire State

Jessica Furlong

Oregon

Stephanie Wagner

Pennsylvania—Keystone

Mary Ann Bruns

Devyn McPheeters

Texas—Heart of Texas

Jim West

Wisconsin

Nick Goeser

Corporate Partners

Please contact memberservices@swcs.org or visit

swcs.org/corporatepartner for more details.

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Silver



Bronze

