2014 Soil and Water Conservation Society Award Winners

Through the Awards and Scholarships Program, SWCS honors individuals, organizations, and chapters who have exhibited exemplary service to the conservation community. This year’s award and scholarship 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 and scholarships will be presented at an awards luncheon on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, at noon during the 69th International Annual Conference in Lombard, Illinois. Please join us in congratulating those being honored by purchasing your ticket to attend the Annual Awards Luncheon. Details on registration can be found at www.swcs.org/14ac.

Individual Awards

Hugh Hammond Bennett Award
Mark Nearing is the recipient of the 2014 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award, the Society’s most prestigious award, which recognizes extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Nearing is a 25-year member of SWCS and was directly involved in the development of the Water Erosion Prediction Model (WEPP), a major international tool in erosion prediction. His career has also contributed substantially to the development of new interrill erosion and hydraulic relationships that have improved WEPP. His work at multiple scales, from rill networks to basin scale systems, has contributed significantly to understanding the erosion process. Under his technical leadership, WEPP is being extended to rangelands through the Rangeland Hydrology and Erosion Model (RHEM).
Fellow Award
Alan Franzluebbers
Peter Kleinman

Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award
Abbey Wick

Conservation Research Award
Veronica Acosta-Martinez
Jeffrey S. Strock

Merit Award
*Getting Into Soil and Water*, a publication of the
Iowa Water Center and the Iowa State Soil and Water
Conservation Club
Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative
Ducks Unlimited
Cargill—Blair, Nebraska, facility
Cargill Corn Milling Business Unit
*Nebraska Farmer*, a Penton/Farm Progress Publication
Texas Water Development Board
Ward Laboratories, Inc.

Honor Award
Andrew Wargo III

Outstanding Service Award
Susan Samson-Liebig

Commendation Award
Doug Garrison
Kristin Graham-Chavez
Cody Hartzenbuhler
Veronica “Roni” Schadegg

Scholarships

Donald A. Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship
Jodie M. Reisner - University of Missouri

Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship
Patrick Bell - Ohio State University

Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship
Colin Brown – Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Awards

Editor’s Choice Award
Mahdi M. Al-Kaisi, Roger W. Elmore, Jose G. Guzman,
H. Mark Hanna, Chad E. Hart, Matthew J. Helmers, Erin
W. Hodgson, Andrew W. Lenssen, Antonio P. Mallarino,
Alison E. Robertson, and John E. Sawyer. 2013. Drought
impact on crop production and the soil environment: 2012 experiences from Iowa. Journal of Soil and Water
Conservation 68(1):19A-24A.

Editor’s Choice Honorable Mention
Tomer, Mark D., Sarah A. Porter, David E. James, Kathleen
Combining precision conservation technologies into a
flexible framework to facilitate agricultural watershed
planning. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation
68(5):113A-120A.

2014 Best Research Paper Award
Nitrate-nitrogen patterns in the Raccoon River Basin
related to agricultural practices. Journal of Soil and Water
Conservation 64(3):190-199.

2014 Best Research Paper Honorable Mention
2009. Nitrogen and phosphorus runoff from cropland and
pasture fields fertilized with poultry litter. Journal of Soil
and Water Conservation 64(6):400-412.

Upcoming Events

California/Nevada Chapter Annual Conference
Video Teleconference
June 17-18, 2014

Iowa Chapter Summer Meeting
Lake Panorama, Iowa
June 20, 2014

2014 SWCS International Annual Conference
Lombard, Illinois
July 27-30, 2014

21st Century Watershed Technology Conference
and Workshop—Improving Water Quality
and the Environment
The University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand
November 1-7, 2014
Annual Conference News
The 2014 SWCS International Annual Conference will be held from July 27–30, 2014, at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. To keep up to date on all annual conference news, visit our website.

Last Notice for Early Registration Deadline
The early registration deadline for the SWCS International Annual Conference is Tuesday, June 17. After this date, conference fees will increase by up to $100.

2014 Pritchard Lecturer Announced
The 2014 Pritchard Lecture, “Is Soil and Water Degradation Inevitable? Don’t Bet Your Life on it!” presented by Richard Cruse, Iowa State University, will focus on major soil and water challenges facing future food, feed, fiber, and fuel production. Cruse contends, based on recent research, that soil erosion is considerably worse than our best estimates suggest. He will challenge the status quo relative to attempts to improve soil and water resources and has said of current efforts, “Soil conservation and water quality can be improved, but to continue approaches that have been only marginally successful, or not successful at all, and believing we will have a different outcome borders on wishful thinking.”

Cruse is a professor in the Department of Agronomy at Iowa State University and Director of the Iowa Water Center. He is also an adjunct professor of the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Northeast Forest University (both in Harbin, China). Cruse received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota working under the direction of W.E. Larson, one of the true “giants” in the field of soil and water conservation. He was awarded distinguished professor at the Karoly Robert College of Economics and Environmental Sciences in Gyongyos, Hungary, and received the President’s Leadership Award from Soil and Water Conservation Society in 2011. He has served on the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, in an advisory capacity to the US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator from 2007-2009. He is currently president elect of the US National Institutes of Water Resources.

Cruse’s current work was recently featured in the Des Moines Register. Find an article about the costs of erosion here and an interview with Cruse here.

Don’t Miss the Exhibitor and Poster Reception!
All conference attendees are invited to join us Monday evening, July 28, 2014, for refreshments and networking during the Exhibitor and Poster Reception. Socialize with fellow attendees, connect with exhibitors, and learn about the newest developments, programs, tools, and ideas for conservation. This is also a great opportunity to visit with authors of poster presentations. The following exhibitors and sponsors will attend:

- USDA-National Ag Statistics Service
- Illinois Stewardship Alliance
- USDA-NRCS Unlock the Secrets in the Soil
- Iowa Soybean Association
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Voss Signs
- EnviroCert International, Inc.
- Gypsoil
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Agren, Inc.
- Truax Company, Inc.
- Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
- The Fertilizer Institute
- USDA Climate Hubs
- Agri Drain Corporation
- USDA-NRCS Central National Technology Support Center
- Soil and Water Conservation Society
- American Farmland Trust
- La Crosse Seed
- US Forest Service
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs
- DuPont Pioneer (sponsor)
- Cover Crop Solutions (sponsor)
- Hickenbottom (sponsor)
- American Farmland Trust (sponsor)
- Cargill (sponsor)

SWCS appreciates all of our current and future exhibitors and sponsors. There is still time to become an exhibitor or sponsor at the 69th International Annual Conference, and SWCS is willing to work with exhibitors or sponsors to create a custom package that works for everyone. Please contact Chrissy Rhodes at 515-289-2331 ext. 114 or at Christine.rhodes@swcs.org for details.
New Members
Welcome members who joined in May!

Alabama
Talbert Essary
Gerald Hoggle
William Sims

Connecticut—University of Connecticut
Eric Mckean

District of Columbia—National Capital Chapter
Kathryn Zook

Iowa
Tomothy Sklenar

Iowa—Iowa State University
Deborah Aller
Juan Carlos Quezada
Hanna Rosman

Indiana—Hoosier
Mike Dunn
Lauren Lindemann
Aaron Pape
Andrew Pursifull
Jessica Ulrich-Schad

International
Bahaa-Eldin Elwai Abdelrahim

Louisiana
Andrew Speroterra

Missouri—Show Me
Pradip Adhikari
Nayereh Ghasanfarpoor
Stephanie Gott
Ranjith Udawatta

Missouri—University of Missouri
Janith Chandrasoma
Samuel Haruna
Langston Simmons

Montana
Rocky Schwagler

North Dakota
David Toledo

Nebraska
Angela Tran

Nebraska—University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Hannah Birge
Kent Fricke

New York—Cornell University
William Pluer

Oklahoma
Derek Kelso

Texas—North Texas
Jennifer Moore-Kucera

Virginia
Coriolanus Hoar

Wisconsin
Ed Boswell
Andrew Cartmill
Jason Firster

Wyoming
Roger Stockton

Current Corporate Members
For more information about corporate membership, please contact Chrissy Rhodes, 515-289-2331 x 114, corporate.info@swcs.org.

Gold
Agri Drain Corporation
DuPont Pioneer
Hickenbottom Inc.

Silver
Agren Inc.
The Fertilizer Institute

Bronze
Conservation Technology Information Center
Ecosystem Services Exchange
Forrest Keeling Nursery
The Nature Conservancy
White River Irrigation District
From the Leadership

Annual Conference 2014: A Preview

By Tommy Bass, Program Planning Committee Chair

As we approach the 69th Annual International Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, I am once again humbled by the quality of submissions, and by the hard work of the many member volunteers, SWCS staff, and sponsors who make this event possible. SWCS continues to represent the best of multidisciplinary conservation practice and inquiry.

This year’s theme, “Making Waves in Conservation: Our Life on Land and Its Impact on Water,” is meant to take us back to the basics in conservation and provide time to reflect on the status of our craft: where we are with conservation, what the successes and challenges are for conservation, and where we see the future of conservation going. Selecting the conference theme is always difficult because SWCS’s membership and expertise is very diverse, and we want to make sure we represent that accordingly. The theme is intended to stimulate discussion about strategic ways to improve conservation in the future. “Making Waves in Conservation” also pays tribute to our host location on the shores of Lake Michigan. Major subtopics addressed, such as hypoxia and a regression in water quality gains for some Great Lakes, will lend themselves to this reflection and to developing an outlook for the future.

This year SWCS introduced several new conference tracks, one of which is social sciences. Within conservation academia, social sciences are playing a larger role in how we study conservation and the potential to effect change. Solid natural resource science has been integral to our conference for years, but it is time to also tackle questions about how landowners and managers make decisions and how professionals can deliver and implement conservation more effectively based on human behavior. We wanted to test the waters with the SWCS conference through the special Informing Conservation through Social Sciences Symposium to see if the topic resonates with our membership for more focus in the future. A new topic area has also been added to the concurrent sessions: Conservation in Nontraditional Agriculture (Organic and Specialty Markets). The USDA and nonprofits around the United States and Canada are focusing more and more on niche agriculture. The conference committee felt that addressing conservation needs in nontraditional agriculture and land use was due. We hope that these additions to the conference will enhance our standing topics of interest and concern and assist in assessing future needs and opportunities to improve water and soil quality into the future.

SWCS is wonderfully diverse in its membership from the technical and practical perspectives. This conference remains the premier forum for a multitude of conservation professionals to interact in a multidisciplinary atmosphere. I’m looking forward to yet another year of high-quality presentations and the opportunity to learn. I still see enthusiasm in the ranks and am looking forward to another inspiring and professionally beneficial SWCS Annual Conference.