



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

In This Issue

72nd SWCS International Annual Conference	1
Upcoming Events	2
News from DC	2
New Members	3
Corporate Members	3
From the Leadership: A Grateful Farewell <i>Jon Scholl, SWCS Board of Directors President</i>	4

72nd SWCS International Annual Conference

Monona Terrace Convention Center
Madison, Wisconsin
July 30 to August 2, 2017
www.swcs.org/17AC

The Countdown Is On!

Tick tock, tick tock. Do you hear that? It's the sound of the time running out on discounted conference registration! The June 20 deadline is quickly approaching, and we don't want you to miss out on a \$100 discount on full conference registration. Hop on over to the conference website and click on the [registration link](#) today. Once you've crossed that task off your list, be sure to make your [hotel reservation](#). The discounted room block cut-off is July 1.

What's Your Conservation Inspiration?

We want to see the landscapes and natural resources that matter most to you! Submit a photo by June 20 for a chance to be selected for display at the annual conference and to compete for the People's Choice and Conservation Connections awards. It's free to submit: simply email a photo along with your name and the photo location to pubs@swcs.org. Your winning photo could be featured on a cover of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*! Full contest guidelines and prize details are available on the [conference website](#).



945 SW Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50023

P: 515-289-2331 | F: 515-289-1227 | pubs@swcs.org

Join Give Journal



The New Face of the SWCS Conference Kickoff Event – Regional Forum and Flavor

The Sunday night conference kickoff event has evolved over the years, and this year, we decided it was time to freshen up the name of this event as well as the format to more accurately reflect what is being presented. When SWCS partners with a local chapter for the annual conference, one of their charges is to plan a panel discussion to kick off the event. This panel typically focuses on initiatives, projects, or challenges that are geographically specific to the conference location. We wanted a title for this event that more accurately reflected the focus. Thus the **Regional Forum and Flavor** was born.

The Regional Forum and Flavor will kick off the 72nd SWCS International Annual Conference on Sunday, July 30, at 6:00 p.m. This event will begin with an informal networking reception, complete with Wisconsin cuisine, and at 6:45 p.m. the program will begin. *Conservation Connections within the Yahara Watershed* will feature local presenters who will discuss the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network, a partnership created with the shared goal of cost-effective phosphorus pollution reduction. You will find a complete description of this panel presentation on page 13 of our [Preliminary Program](#).



Upcoming Events

[First World Conference on Soil and Water Conservation under Global Change](#)

Lleida, Spain
June 12-16, 2017

[Nebraska Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Beatrice, Nebraska
June 21-23, 2017

[Oklahoma Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Woodward, Oklahoma
July 20-21, 2017

[72nd SWCS International Annual Conference](#)

Madison, Wisconsin
July 30-August 2, 2017

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- President Trump's budget proposes more than \$5 billion in cuts over 10 years to farm bill conservation programs. For Fiscal Year 2018 specifically, the president's request includes a substantial \$350 million cut to mandatory funding for the popular Environmental Quality Incentives Program and a \$91 million cut to USDA's Conservation Technical Assistance program.
- [Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue](#) backed away from some of President Trump's proposed cuts, affirming that crop insurance and other farm programs are "extremely important."
- On May 11, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue [announced a planned reorganization](#) of USDA's mission areas that would put the Natural Resources Conservation Service under the same mission area as the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency.
- American Farmland Trust and the World Resources Institute released a new report, "[Water Quality Targeting Success Stories](#)." This report examines six targeted, watershed-scale projects in which conservation practices were used to successfully improve water quality. The report finds that relying on local conservation districts, among other factors, is key to project success.
- To populate its Soil Health Research Landscape Tool, the [Soil Health Institute is granting awards](#) for the compilation and review of soil health literature. The deadline for application submission is June 23.
- Agri-Pulse published "[Collaborative conservation produces the best results](#)," written by National Association of Conservation Districts CEO Jeremy Peters and Land O'Lakes senior director of sustainability Jason Weller.
- Speaking on the banks of the Ohio River, President Trump promoted his coming infrastructure initiative by emphasizing the need to improve the inland waterways. American Rivers [makes recommendations](#).
- The Minnesota Agriculture Department is seeking public comment on a [proposal](#) to regulate nitrogen applications.
- Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is ordering a 60-day review of plans produced during the Obama administration for protecting the greater sage grouse across millions of acres in 10 states in the US West.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in May!

International

Sara Acevedo
Owolabi Rasheed Dolapo
Lisa Lobry de Bruyn

Alabama

Brandon McCray

Arkansas—Razorback

Doug McClellan
Brittany Singleton

California/Nevada

Karen Lowell

DC—National Capital Chapter

Maria Bowman

Iowa

Xuewen Chen
Clare Lindahl
Jevonnah Prashaw
James VeVerka
Changhong Yu

Iowa—Iowa State University

Student Chapter
Maggie Norton

Illinois

Michelle Blackburn
Adrienne Marino
Colleen Novander

Indiana—Hoosier

Jennifer Domenech
Leslie Fisher

Kentucky—Bluegrass

Rachel Martin

Minnesota

Jodi DeJong Hughes
Lori Krider

Missouri—Show Me

Rachel Owen
Nancy Walker

Missouri—University of Missouri

Student Chapter
Sydney Bailey
Taryn Bradley
Lalith Rankoth
Andrew Williams

North Dakota

Naeem Obaidullah Kalwar

Nebraska

Arlis Plummer

New Hampshire/Vermont

Tim McCoy
Rachel Schattman

New Mexico

Troy Thompson

New York—Empire State

Cynthia Casey
Eric Renfer

Oregon

Ben Howell

Washington—Olympic View

Lovina Englund

Wisconsin—University of

Wisconsin-Platteville

Student Chapter
Donita Cartmill

Wisconsin

Angela Doucette
Heidi Keuler
Amber Saylor Mase
Marissa Miller
Melissa Motew
John Panuska

Corporate Members

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

Gold




Hickenbottom Inc.

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

Silver



The
Fertilizer Institute



DAIRY MANAGEMENT INC.™

Bronze



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH



From the Leadership: A Grateful Farewell

By Jon Scholl, SWCS Board of Directors President



Jon Scholl

I feel fortunate to know and work with a lot of terrific people in conservation. I've concluded you don't commit yourself to this work without a sincere desire to help others and to leave things better than you found them. These are great qualities for people to have, and it's a common characteristic of conservationists.

One such person I have been privileged to work with is Jim Gulliford. You have likely heard that Jim is stepping down from his position as SWCS Executive Director at the end of this summer's annual conference. His knowledge, experience, and demeanor have served the organization well. He has committed over seven years of his professional life to this organization, and because of that, we are better off.

Jim leaves with a great record of accomplishment. During his tenure, he saw the Society through a significant transition in who and how it serves. He navigated a realignment of the Society's relationship with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He diversified the Board of Directors and extended outreach to new people who could benefit from involvement in a professional conservation society. The organization became a recognized leader in educational conferences on issues like cover crops and soil health. He kept the organization focused on putting sound science into practice—a role more valuable now than ever with the constantly evolving demands placed on agriculture.

Those who know Jim also know that he is very modest. He would be quick to say he didn't do it alone. Therein lies another of Jim's admirable qualities. He recognizes strength comes from collaboration. He sought to make collaborative efforts a hallmark of SWCS programs. Notable among them were a series of water quality projects, some still ongoing, including work with the US

Environmental Protection Agency Hypoxia Task Force, the NRCS/University of Arkansas Nutrient Management and Edge-of-Field Monitoring conference, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship wetlands project, and the NRCS Watershed Academy and water quality practice library, to mention a few. Through such partnerships, he set up SWCS to be a strong voice of soil and water conservation in the larger science, agriculture, and policy arenas.

What many of you may not have seen is the selfless care and compassion Jim has always shown for SWCS and its people. There was the time he passed on a salary adjustment the Board approved because he wasn't convinced the organization was clear of the effects of the big recession. You probably don't know about all the "Tuesday take-out tacos" Jim has bought for his staff at a local establishment. I have personally seen in numerous settings the priority Jim places and allows his staff to place on tending to family, friends, and those in need.

I started this article with a reference to "leaving it better than you found it." Jim has done that for the Soil and Water Conservation Society. For that, we will always be very grateful.

Thank you and best wishes, Jim Gulliford!

