



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

The Countdown is On!

The **June 20** early bird registration deadline is quickly approaching, and we don't want you to miss out on a \$100 discount on your full conference registration! Visit www.swcs.org/18AC to register today. Once your registration is confirmed, be sure to make your hotel reservation before the discounted room block ends **July 5**.

Don't Miss the Regional Forum and Flavor Reception

This year's conference reception, organized by the SWCS New Mexico Chapter, will include a selection of themed dishes/appetizers highlighting the local flavor of Albuquerque, along with a cash bar.

Begin your conference experience by spending time networking with colleagues prior to presentations from Sky City-Acoma Pueblo Governor Kurt Riley and New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts President Kenny Salazar, who will explain how their organizations are addressing changes in cultural traditions, highlight progressive conservation programs and practices, and discuss what adaptation measures may be taken to meet societal resource needs.

View the [preliminary program](http://www.swcs.org/18AC) at www.swcs.org/18AC to read full details on this panel presentation and more.



Chapter Spotlight: New Mexico

Chapter location: New Mexico

Current chapter president: Wayne Robbie

History of the chapter: The current SWCS New Mexico Chapter was originally founded as the Rio Grande Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America in 1962. The chapter name was changed when the Soil Conservation Society of America was changed to the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The chapter membership peaked in the mid-1990s at about 60 members. Historically, the chapter has been instrumental in providing multi-agency riparian area training for inventory, assessments, and monitoring. The chapter has also supported the [Envirothon](#) for many years.

Please describe your most successful chapter event in the last year. What did members gain from this experience?

The chapter spent considerable time last year enhancing communications between chapter members and recruiting new members. By enhancing communications through regularly scheduled conference calls, chapter members became more strongly networked in sharing their research related to conservation practices and agency policies for supporting conservation and restoration programs throughout the state of New Mexico.

What other activities has your chapter been involved in this past year?

Preparing and planning for the SWCS Annual Conference has been a significant, ongoing activity this past year. New Mexico Chapter members have risen to the responsibilities and challenges related to hosting the Annual Conference. The chapter is also working toward awarding a scholarship to an undergraduate student majoring in an agriculture or natural resources conservation curriculum at one of the state universities.

What is your membership's preferred method of communication? The chapter holds monthly conference calls and emails, which are the dominant forms of communication. Occasionally the chapter will publish a newsletter whenever an editor volunteers.

What would you say are the most important current conservation concerns for your region? New Mexico is inherently an arid state. Therefore, educating people regarding water conservation practices for producers in the agriculture sector and municipal communities is essential for the sustainability of this precious resource.

What is your favorite part of membership in SWCS? The exposure to a large diversity of dedicated professionals who share the common goal of conservation and sustainable land stewardship is our favorite part of belonging to SWCS. The [Journal of Soil and Water Conservation](#) and annual conferences are important avenues to continue to learn and share information to help one another.

What advice would you give to a new chapter? Maintain frequent communication and find those opportunities where all members can get involved. Build a business plan that is focused on short- and long-term chapter goals that are attainable. Communicate with the public often and find opportunities to collaborate.

Is there any other information you'd like to share about your chapter? Although the New Mexico Chapter has a small membership base, the dedication of our members is incredible. Our members are willing to share and communicate the great work they are doing toward conserving soil and water resources throughout the state. The diversity of our chapter unites the multiple cultures of New Mexico and promotes the theme of soil and water conservation.

If you have questions about the SWCS New Mexico Chapter, feel free to contact Steve Kadas at steve.kadas@nm.usda.gov or 505-401-6252.



Left to right: New Mexico Chapter Regional Representative Dr. John Idowu and Chapter Treasurer Matt Wiseman present the John Werner scholarship to Treva Henio. Also represented are faculty from New Mexico State University.

Upcoming Events

[Nebraska Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Gering, Nebraska
June 21-23, 2018

[CTIC Conservation in Action Tour](#)

Annapolis, Maryland
July 10-11, 2018

[SWCS 73rd International Annual Conference](#)

Albuquerque, New Mexico
July 29-August 1, 2018

Welcome Newly Elected SWCS North Central Region Director, Rebecca Power



Rebecca Power is director of the 12-state North Central Region Water Network and leads a range of other water outreach programs at the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Rebecca works with natural resource leaders locally, across the Upper Midwest, and nationally to identify strategic opportunities and develop

teams and programs to address those opportunities. She has a BS in Wildlife from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and an MS in Environment and Resources from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Rebecca has been a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for over 10 years, has served on the SWCS Annual Conference Planning Committee for 6 years, chaired the Committee for 3 years, and supported local conference planning for the 2017 annual conference held in Madison, Wisconsin. She has also served on the SWCS Science and Policy Committee. Rebecca's term will officially begin at the end of the SWCS International Annual Conference on August 1.

Meet Megan, SWCS's Summer Intern



In June, Megan Koppenhafer of Iowa City, Iowa, joined the SWCS staff at headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, for a summer internship. Megan will be focused on developing a new leadership program for students interested in careers in conservation-related fields. At the conclusion of her internship, Megan will travel

with SWCS staff to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to present the inaugural Student Leadership Development Program at the 2018 SWCS International Annual Conference.

Megan grew up on a cattle and sheep farm where she learned about water conservation from her dad. She became passionate about the environment during high school and decided to pursue that in college. Megan graduated from Iowa State University with degrees in Environmental Science and Community and Regional Planning. She is excited to have the opportunity to work with such a reputable, international organization such as the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and we're excited to have her!

Career Profile: Clare Lindahl

We sat down with our own Clare Lindahl to hear about how she became interested in natural resources work, as well as advice on how to get started in a conservation-minded career. View the full profile [online](#).



Clare Lindahl, SWCS CEO
Career Sector: Nonprofit
Degrees: BA in Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University, post-bachelors certificate in Environmental Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from Western Illinois University

Briefly describe your career path from college until today. I started college in social work and was inspired by a video I saw on Chad Pregracke during a required environmental studies class. Chad is a Moline, Illinois, native (like me) who at the age of 23 founded Living Lands and Waters, a nonprofit dedicated to cleaning up the Mississippi River. It really connected with me because I grew up along the river in Moline and felt it had helped to raise me. It inspired me to do something for the environment and to be a voice for something that doesn't have a voice.

I eventually went to Iowa State University (ISU) for Landscape Architecture, and it was a beautiful major that really set me up perfectly for my work in conservation. It was centered on people and the land, and balancing the needs of both. It focused on creating plans for the land that best suits human needs but also protects those services—like wildlife and recreation—that the land provides.

After ISU I went back to my home town of Moline and approached two organizations about internships. I offered to do the work for free, but both organizations agreed to take me on as a paid intern. One of the organizations was a landscape architecture firm, and the other was River Action, a nonprofit dedicated to fostering the environmental, economic, and recreational aspects of the Mississippi River. After the internships, I got job offers from both. I was looking at my college loans, and the landscape firm was going to pay me much more than the nonprofit so I took the landscape job... for two weeks. After two weeks I missed the nonprofit work and I missed working for the river. So I gave the landscape firm the money they had paid for my business cards, asked River Action if their job was still on the table (it was), and that's how I began my career in natural resources.

What changes in required skill sets do you anticipate? Understanding your strengths and weaknesses. I struggled in a classroom environment, but I was always very intrigued by complex concepts. I was able to find a complex concept and break it down into smaller more digestible pieces. I think there's really a need—and it's something they don't teach you in school—to just figure it out and be resourceful. Figure out who to call, what to look up, model off the bright spots and the things that are working. I

think that's a skill that's really important in this position and in leadership in particular. There's not always going to be someone to go to; you've got to find your own way.

What advice do you have for college students or early career professionals who might want to work in this field/job? Becoming a member of the Society is a good place to start. Then, find someone you want to emulate. If you see a position that you want, reach out to that person and find out how they got into that position and what they see as the future of that position. Join a professional network and then have a vision for what you want to accomplish. It was my vision to be an executive director by the time I was thirty, and I did that. I've had the vision, I know I can do it, and others can too. Believe in yourself, believe you deserve it. And just work, work, work for it.

Who are some of your professional mentors? My first executive director, Kathy Wine at River Action, had a huge impact on me. As well as Jane Weber, who was Chair of the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District, where I worked as a coordinator for three years. First, they were women, and it's just cool to see a leader that looks like you. I could also connect with them and learn how they carry themselves and accomplish their goals. Second, they were tough. They demanded greatness because that is what our natural resources deserve. And they made me rise to that greatness. Third, neither of them were ever afraid to fail. They would throw out ideas, and sometimes they wouldn't stick or sometimes they wouldn't go as planned, but they never gave up. I carry those lessons with me every day.

Rex Martin, the current president of the SWCS, has also been great. Even in this short time since I started as CEO he has proven to be an amazing mentor by just listening and really hearing what I have to say, being positive, being a dreamer, and then sharing his experiences with me and being so dedicated to the Society's work.

You can read Clare's full interview [here](#).

Be Part of the Science and Policy Committee

Calling all SWCS members interested in science policy! All are welcome to attend the Science and Policy Committee meeting on Monday, July 30, from 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm in the Sandia Room at the SWCS Annual Conference in Albuquerque. Contact catherine.delong@swcs.org for more information.



News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- The farm bill [passed](#) the Senate Ag Committee and now heads to the Senate Floor. Some conservation highlights include:
 - Increases Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to 25 million acres from its current 24 million acres
 - Doubles the amount of funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Doubles the mandatory funding the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to \$200 million
 - Clarifies the language that conservation practices are included in the "good farming practices" that are needed to receive crop insurance payments
 - Reduces premium subsidies for farmers who break up native sod in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota
- A federal judge on Tuesday [rejected](#) California's last-ditch effort to force agricultural company Monsanto to place warning labels on its Roundup products.
- A new [report](#) from the National Wildlife Federation and Izaak Walton League of America highlights how the Swampbuster provisions have protected wetlands.
- The hiring freeze on the NRCS has been lifted!
- Puerto Rico lost [80%](#) of its crop value due to Hurricane Maria, but the island's farmers are helping their communities rebuild while steering Puerto Rico toward sustainability through agro-ecology.



SWCS is on Instagram!
Follow SWCSNews for inspirational quotes and photos, and feel free to tag us in your conservation shots!



@swcsnews

New Members

Welcome members who joined in May!

Alabama

Garrett Lloyd

California/Nevada

Melissa Matlock

DC—National Capital Chapter

Keira Franz

Iowa

Leah Ellensohn

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Chris Morris

Illinois

Jeff Boeckler

Indiana—Hoosier

Jennifer Chen

Michigan

Mark Kieser

Minnesota

William Nelson

David Wall

Missouri—Show Me

Kathleen Hatch

Mississippi—Mississippi State University

Student Chapter

Alexandra Firth

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett

Mike Doxey

Abigail Haselton

Kurt Smith

New Hampshire/Vermont

Marli Rupe

New Mexico

Sherri Buerdell

Rebecca Healy

New Mexico—New Mexico State University

Student Chapter

Paramveer Singh

New York—Empire State

Nicolette Fruehan

Ohio—All Ohio

Tvisha Martin

Judy Smith

Oklahoma

Russell Edwards

Allison Thompson

Washington—Olympic View

Leslie Michel

Corporate Members

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

Gold



Silver



Bronze

