



Healthy Land  
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# CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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## Annual Conference News

**70th SWCS International Annual Conference**  
Greensboro Sheraton at Four Seasons  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
July 26-29, 2015  
[www.swcs.org/15ac](http://www.swcs.org/15ac)

### Early Registration Deadline—Last Call!

The early registration deadline for the SWCS International Annual Conference is **Wednesday, June 17**. After this date, conference fees will increase by up to \$100.

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Join Give Journal



## 2015 Pritchard Lecturer Announced!

### Soil: The Forgotten Piece of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus

Jerry Hatfield, USDA Agricultural Research Service



Soil is often overlooked as a critical part of the foundation for providing the food, feed, fiber, and water resources for humankind. Soil degradation continues to be an unspoken problem because current agricultural systems often don't address the long-term implications of the increasingly reduced capacity of our soils to function. Improving soils will not solve all of our global issues, but it will

lessen the instability in food production, improve our environmental resilience in a changing climate, and increase diversity across the landscape. In 2015, the International Year of the Soils, these challenges provide an incentive for us to understand the true value of soil and promote soils as a critical natural resource.

Jerry L. Hatfield is the laboratory director of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment and director of the Midwest Climate Hub in Ames, Iowa. His personal research focuses on quantifying the interactions among the components of the soil-plant-atmosphere system to quantify resilience of cropping systems to climate change. He represents agriculture on the National Climate Assessment, as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) process that received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, and on an IPCC Special Report on the Effects of Climate Extremes. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America. He is also Past-President of the American Society of Agronomy and member of the American Meteorological Society, American Geophysical Union, and Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is the recipient of numerous awards and was elected to the ARS Hall of Fame in 2014 for his research contributions to agriculture and environment quality. He is the author or co-author of 417 refereed publications and the editor of 16 monographs.

## House of Delegates and Leadership Development Training

Sunday, July 26, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The annual SWCS meeting will include President Mark Berkland's State of the Society address, the Annual Report from Executive Director Jim Gulliford, and the House of Delegates session. Immediately following the House of Delegates, the Leadership Development Committee would like to invite all guests to participate in an interactive leadership training:

### Leadership Development Training: Discover the Branding Power of ONE—Ron Nichols, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Learn how personal branding power can be put to use at home, on the job, in the community, and more importantly for SWCS chapters! In this fun, interactive workshop you'll discover the amazing power of a single voice; how to assess personal brand attributes; how to define and live personal brand legacy; and how to become a "brand warrior" (for any cause). Participants will learn why every person in the organization is a reflection of their brand and how to ensure each team member's projects deliver the organization's brand value. Recruiting new members to the Society and potential board members to the local chapter are just two of the many tools participants will gain from this training.

Following the leadership training, chapters will have the opportunity to discuss information within small groups.

## Silent Auction

The SWCS North Carolina Chapter (HHB) Silent Auction Committee is requesting silent auction items in preparation for the 70th SWCS International Annual Conference. Each state chapter is asked to send at least one item to donate to this event. Have fun and be creative! The state or territory that sends the most creative item, the greatest number of items, and the most beautiful item will be recognized by the HHB Chapter.

Please contact Teresa Hice ([teresa.hice@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.hice@gmail.com)) to coordinate delivery. Your donation is tax deductible and we will be happy to provide our Tax ID number upon your request.

## Don't Miss the Exhibitor and Poster Reception!

All conference attendees are invited to join us Monday evening, July 27, 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 [sponsors and exhibitors](#) will attend:

Presenting Sponsor:



Elite Environmentalist:



Soil Sustainer:



Water Warrior:



Exhibitors:

- AgriDrain
- American Farmland Trust
- AMS Inc.
- Crop Health Labs
- EnviroCert International, Inc.
- Great Plains Mfg. Inc.
- La Crosse Seed
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
- Soil Health Partnership
- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- Syngenta
- Truax Company, Inc.
- USDA National Ag Statistic Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- USDA NRCS: Celebrating the International Year of Soils
- USDA NRCS Central National Technology Support Center (CNTSC)
- US Geological Survey
- Voss Signs
- Ward Laboratories Inc.
- XYLEM/YSI

Looking to join this list and have your company or organization represented in front of hundreds of conservation professionals? Contact Chrissy Rhodes at [christine.rhodes@swcs.org](mailto:christine.rhodes@swcs.org) or at 515-289-2331 ext. 114 for details. Register your booth or sponsorship by **June 18th** to ensure you are in the final program!

## Annual Conference Sponsor Spotlight

By Nicholas Goeser, manager of Soil Health and Sustainability, National Corn Growers Association

The Soil Health Partnership (SHP) is excited to join Monsanto again as cosponsors for the Soil and Water Conservation Society's 70th International Annual Conference. SHP will host an educational morning coffee session on Monday to support this year's SWCS Annual Conference theme, "Putting Science into Practice." This session will feature SHP Demonstration Farm Network updates and three SHP Demonstration Network Farmers to discuss how they are evaluating and adopting the latest conservation technologies on their farms.



The SHP was launched early in 2014 and has been working toward conservation goals through farmer-led research, demonstrations, and outreach efforts. SHP Demonstration Network farmers evaluate advanced agronomic systems techniques to improve soil health and economic profitability; serve as peer-to-peer farmer mentors for those interested in adopting sustainable cropping system practices; and host hands-on communication events and field days to highlight the latest integrated agronomic technologies, such as cover cropping, no-till, crop rotation, nutrient management, and precision agriculture technology.

SHP has worked with state organizations to identify priority areas for SHP Demonstration Farm Network expansion and has enrolled an additional 20 farms in 2015 to bring the total number of sites up to 40. SHP now has demonstration locations across Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin—with Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa hosting the greatest number of sites (36 locations across the 3 states).

Three new SHP Field Managers have been working with SHP Demonstration Network farmers and agronomists to start collection of all baseline soil samples, documentation of economic information, collection of yield data, and enrollment of SHP Demonstration Network farmers in the Field to Market FieldPrint Calculator. The data collected across the network will serve as a baseline to evaluate changes from the adaptive management treatments and update site-specific recommendations and decision tools for farmers.

SHP is excited to participate in the SWCS Annual Conference and looks forward to the discussions surrounding conservation agricultural practices.

## News From DC

*Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson*

- On Monday, May 18th, the Senate passed a bipartisan, concurrent resolution recognizing the value of locally led soil and water conservation and the role of conservation districts within those efforts across the nation.
- SWCS joined with a variety of farm and conservation groups in May opposing cuts to Farm Bill conservation programs in Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations. The letter was sent to leaders of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.
- The rollout of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Client Gateway is underway. For more information, visit: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway).
- The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) released the final Clean Water Rule: Definition of "Waters of the United States." The rule will become effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. [Information on the final rule](#) is available on the EPA website.
- USDA NRCS released a national bulletin on the Conservation Planning and Application (CPS) Customer Service Toolkit (CST) 8.0 Training Sessions. The National Employee Development Center (NEDC) will provide instruction and guidance on how to establish State-specific CST 8.0 training for employees through September 30, 2015.
- In May the Senate passed a bipartisan, concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 10) recognizing 2015 as the International Year of Soils. A companion resolution is awaiting action in the House.
- Thomas Vilsack, US Secretary of Agriculture, announced the addition of 800,000 acres of highly environmentally sensitive land to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). USDA will accept new offers to participate in CRP under a general signup to be held Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016. For more information visit the [USDA website](#).
- USDA recently announced the agency will be restarting the Biomass crop Assistance Program (BCAP). To learn more about the Biomass Crop Assistance Program [click here](#).

## June Reader Question:

### What tools and technology show the most promise for addressing soil erosion problems?

We ask that our readers answer the question via email (to [pubs@swcs.org](mailto:pubs@swcs.org)) or respond through social media. We hope that this will provide a discussion forum for our readers and us!

## Upcoming Events

Northwest Region Technical Meeting  
Pierre, South Dakota  
June 16-18, 2015

Oklahoma Chapter Annual Conference  
Medicine Park and Wichita Mountains  
Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma  
June 18-19, 2015

Alabama Chapter Annual Meeting  
Spanish Fort, Alabama  
June 22-24, 2015

Colorado Chapter Summer Tour—Flood Recovery in Northern Colorado  
Loveland, Colorado  
June 26, 2015

California-Nevada Chapter Annual Conference and Workshop  
Reno, Nevada  
July 22-23, 2015

70th International Annual Conference  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
July 26-29, 2015

Southern New England Chapter 2015 Summer Meeting  
Gillette Stadium, Massachusetts  
August 6, 2015

## New Members

Welcome members who joined in May!

### International

Matilde Somarriba

### California/Nevada

Bianca Alexandru

### Canada—Alberta

Eric Bremer

### Iowa

Peter Moore

### Iowa—Iowa State University

#### Student Chapter

Ryan Goodrich

Hanna Poffenbarger

### Illinois—Southern Illinois University

#### Student Chapter

Amanda Marshall

### Louisiana

Morgan Bennetts

Syam Dodla

Changyoon Jeong

### Louisiana—University of Louisiana Lafayette

#### Student Chapter

Mary Dupree

### Missouri—Show Me

Vicky Fieth

Kara Powelson

### Missouri—University of Missouri

#### Student Chapter

Evren Cetin

### North Carolina—HH Bennett

Michael Vepraskas

### North Carolina—North Carolina

#### State University

Shelby Rajkovich

Wayne Roper

### New Jersey—Firman E. Bear

Subhasis Giri

### New York—Empire State

Mike Brenner

Beth Magee

### South Dakota

Jessica Dowler

Roger Gates

### Texas—North Texas

Donald McGahan

### West Virginia

Louis McDonald

## Corporate Members

Please contact [corporate.info@swcs.org](mailto:corporate.info@swcs.org) for more details.

### Gold .....



### Silver .....



### Bronze .....



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