



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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March/April Issue Highlights of the JSWC

The March/April issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is in the mail and now available online. Research articles include work by Kovacs and Mancini examining the economic effectiveness of conjunctive water management with on-farm reservoirs and tail-water recovery to address groundwater scarcity; a study by Ale et al. that uses the Soil and Water Assessment Tool to assess the impacts of alternate grazing management practices on hydrological processes at ranch and watershed scales; and an editorial by Swanson et al. reviewing the proper functioning condition (PFC) assessment for lotic riparian ecosystems and its relationship to different water quality attributes.

The March/April issue also features an article by Karlen et al. that reviews the work the Soil Health Partnership (SHP) has done over the past three years to answer questions such as “Can soil health be measured at the field scale?” Also keep an eye out for SWCS Executive Director Jim Gulliford’s review of saturated buffers as an effective edge-of-field practice to reduce nitrate levels in our waterways. View these articles and more in the [online Journal](#) or your print copy.



72nd SWCS International Annual Conference

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

Conference Accommodations

SWCS is not the only group who is excited about Madison. The 2017 Reebok Crossfit Fit Games will also be taking place in Madison over the same dates as our conference. This means the city is going to be busy, and hotels will sell out quickly! Because SWCS only has a limited number of rooms reserved, we highly recommend that you make your hotel reservations now. Once these blocks are sold out, overflow options will likely be 15-20 minutes outside of the city. If you want to ensure convenience, now is the time to make your reservation! **To see all of the accommodation options at the discounted conference rate, click [here](#).**

Student Moderator Program Now Accepting Applications

The Student Moderator Program is an opportunity for full-time student members of SWCS with a major in conservation and/or environmental affairs to experience the SWCS Annual Conference in a hands-on learning capacity. SWCS will cover conference registration and three hotel room nights for up to 10 student members. These students will spend a day and a half assisting conference organizers with tasks such as AV technical support, note-taking, and session facilitation. In exchange for volunteering their time, students will be granted admission to attend educational sessions on their free day.

Students are responsible for covering the cost of their own transportation and meals, as well as any workshop or tour fees, should they choose to attend. Full details along with a link to the application may be found [here](#).

Preliminary Program and Conference Registration

Be sure to watch your email in the upcoming weeks for the announcement that conference registration is open and the Preliminary Program is available to download.

Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

Do you have an organization or a business or know of one that could benefit from increased exposure to over 400 conservation professionals? If so, please visit www.swcs.org/17ac for details on becoming an exhibitor or sponsor of the 72nd SWCS International Annual Conference.

You may also contact Jamie Nieman at corporate.info@swcs.org or call 515-289-2331 ext. 114 to receive further details or to discuss a customized sponsorship package. Exhibitor and sponsor referrals are also greatly appreciated!



Exhibitors visit with the attendees of the 2016 Annual Conference.

Upcoming Events

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

Lleida, Spain
June 12-16, 2017

[72nd SWCS International Annual Conference](#)

Madison, Wisconsin
July 30-August 2, 2017

Awards and Scholarships

There is still time for your SWCS chapter to apply for a Chapter Award! The deadline to submit your application is March 31, 2017. To learn more about how your chapter can be recognized with an award, visit www.swcs.org/chapterawards.

April 17, 2017, is the last day for individual award nominations and scholarship applications. Log onto www.swcs.org/awards or www.swcs.org/scholarships for details.

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- An updated federal interagency report on freshwater resources in a changing climate addresses ways to build resilience to climate change for water resources. It updates a 2011 National Action Plan that outlines priority actions to make progress in three key areas. You can access the report [here](#).
- The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a final rule approving additional analytical methods or test procedures to be used to measure pollutants in wastewater. Regulated and regulatory entities use these methods to determine compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits or other Clean Water Act monitoring requirements. [Click here](#) for more information.
- A House bill has been introduced to cut red tape on USDA conservation programs. Arkansas Rep. Rick Crawford and New Hampshire Rep. Ann McLane Kuster say they want to make it easier for some farms to participate in government conservation programs. The two lawmakers introduced a red tape-cutting [bill](#) last week called the Improving Access to Farm Conservation Act.
- As reported by [Politico](#), in his first speech as administrator of the USEPA, Scott Pruitt stressed a dramatic change of priorities at the agency, stating the importance of the agency's communication and relationship with the business community. Additionally, in a recent interview with the Wall Street Journal, Pruitt announced his plan to end the "sue and settle" process, where advocacy groups sue federal agencies seeking to compel them to immediately settle behind closed doors, within the agency.
- US farmers will harvest 14.065 billion bushels of corn this year, down 7% from a record 15.148 bushels estimated for the 2016 crop, USDA projected at its annual Outlook Forum. Soybean and wheat output is also expected to fall. Read more [here](#).
- The Senate Agriculture Committee launched its hearings on the new farm bill, hearing from farmers in Kansas who appealed for changes to some commodity programs, new support for cotton growers and continued funding for conservation. For more, [click here](#).
- President Donald Trump has issued an executive order directing the USEPA and Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider their controversial Waters of the U.S. rule and narrowly interpret their jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.
- The Senate confirmed Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke as Interior Secretary, putting him in charge of managing 400 million acres of Western lands, much of that critical to ranchers and energy interests, and enforcing the Endangered Species Act.
- Last week, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) hosted a webinar to discuss revisions to the Conservation Planning Policy and policy implementation steps for the Transition Plan. [Click here](#) to scroll through the webinar's slide deck, [here](#) for the recording, and [here](#) to download relevant documents.
- The Soil Health Partnership plans to add 35 farms this year to its research effort to show US farmers how sustainability through soil health can lead to increased profitability. The expansion would bring the number of farms in the initiative to 100, a full year ahead of schedule. The Partnership, soon to begin its fourth year, is an initiative of the National Corn Growers Association. The aim is to identify, test, and measure farm management practices that improve sustainability through soil health.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from February



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 over the past month:

- [New law would reduce reporting requirements for conservation programs](#) (Delta Farm Press)
- [Restoring soil health takes time](#) (Ag Web)
- [New life for saline soil](#) (Agriculture.com)
- [Farmers will not have to pay damages in Des Moines Water Works case](#) (AgriPulse)

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

New Members

Welcome members who joined in February!

Arkansas—Razorback

Valerie Love
Marla Moland

Arizona

Amber Riordan

California/Nevada

Liberty Galvin

Colorado

Cindy Lair

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—

Southern New England Chapter

Christopher McGinness

Illinois

Janette Porter

Indiana—Hoosier

Troye Hook

Michigan

Kirke Elsass

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett

Janet Macfall

New Jersey—Firman E. Bear

Freddie Patino-Rodriguez

South Carolina

Louis Jackson

Texas—Heart of Texas

Matt Stellbauer

Washington—Olympic View

Dan Nessly

Wisconsin—University of Wisconsin-Stevens

Point Student Chapter

Joel Ebert
Erik Halverson
Wednesday Jorden
Zachery Leitner
Trevor Martinsen
Luke Peterson
Derek Potratz
Kaleb Wolf

Wisconsin

John White

Wyoming

Gary Blazejewski

Wyoming—University of Wyoming

Student Chapter

Zoe Ash-Kropf
Emily Bean
Samuel Singleton

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

