

CONSERVOGRAM

 > The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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SWCS Goes to Washington

SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl will be working in Washington, DC, to expand our presence and elevate SWCS among national circles for the next few months. While there, she has promised to [keep members apprised](#) of her adventures!

In the last few weeks, Clare has met with staff at the Nature Conservancy and the Meridian Institute, our partners in the Edge of Field Roadmap. She also met with staff at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) to discuss our shared interests around advocating for conservation. NSAC is an alliance of grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities. ([Take this quick poll](#) to rank what issues are important to you!)

While in DC, Clare has connected with the SWCS National Capital Chapter, and had an opportunity to view some rare books at the Library of Congress, arranged by the chapter president, Shelby Callaway.



Left to right: Mary Pfaffko, Valerie Leung, Shelby Callaway, Stephanie Stillo, and Clare Lindahl

77th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

Denver, Colorado

July 31–August 3, 2022

www.swcs.org/22AC

Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor by April 1



BECOME AN EXHIBITOR OR SPONSOR



Exhibitor and sponsor recognition will be included in the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference preliminary program if the exhibitor and sponsor contract, payment, and logo are received by **April 1, 2022!**

Be a part of this one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of conservation and environmental professionals. Becoming an exhibitor or sponsor gives you an affordable opportunity to market your products and services to a key audience and maximize your organization's exposure. Put your brand in front of those who are directly involved in the decision-making process of purchasing products or those who influence prospective buyers and conservationists.

Download and review the [Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide](#) for full details and to become an exhibitor or sponsor today!

Award Nomination and Scholarship Applications Now Available

Individual Awards

The SWCS awards program is designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in advocating the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. Nominate a deserving individual by **April 14, 2022.**

View the [awards flyer](#) and visit www.swcs.org/awards for additional information and to submit your nomination.

Scholarships

SWCS has three scholarship opportunities for all members. Submit your application by **Thursday, April 14!**

View the [scholarship flyer](#) and visit www.swcs.org/scholarships for additional information and to complete your application.

Conservation Photo Contest

Enter our free photo contest by June 1 for a chance to win a \$50 e-gift card from Amazon, be selected for display during the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference, July 31–August 3, 2022, in Denver, Colorado, and on the virtual resources platform following the event, and see your photo on the cover of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation!*

We want to see photos that display soil and water conservation and people in action, showcase the beauty of the world's natural resources, and/or inspire conservation professionals working to ensure the future of our natural resources on both private and public lands.

View the photo contest information at www.swcs.org/22PC.



Upcoming Events

[Southern New England Chapter Annual Winter Conference](#)

Virtual Event
March 25, 2022

March/April Issue of the Journal



The latest issue of the journal is available online and will be delivered to mailboxes soon! In this issue, an A Section article by Clayton Ogg considers how past USDA conservation cost share program successes can serve as models for [programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions](#). In the Research Section, Tamene et al. review and analyze current knowledge of [erosion](#)

[in Ethiopia](#) to identify critical degradation hotspots, and Shi et al. examine the [headcut erosion process](#) in the gully region of the Loess Plateau in China. Additionally, Freidenreich et al. present the results of a [survey of Florida tropical fruit growers](#) to learn about their adoption of cover crops, and Das et al. discuss results of a [survey of Nebraska farmer perspectives](#) on cover crops, soil use, and fertility management. Read these and more articles in the [online journal](#).

Chapter Leadership Training: Recording Available

Thank you very much to those who joined us on February 24 for the SWCS Chapter Leadership Training. We had great conversations about member recruitment, the recent organizational development project, and what those survey results mean for our chapters.

Want to see how we're planning to reach our goal of DOUBLING membership in the next two years? If you didn't get a chance to join us live, or would like to rewatch, the recording is now available on our website: www.swcs.org/chaptertools.

Join the Facebook Chapter Leadership Forum

In February, SWCS created an online forum for members. This Facebook group will be a space for SWCS chapter leaders to network and share advice, events, and tools for chapter management. The group is for SWCS members only. [Join today!](#)

11th International Drainage Symposium

Des Moines, Iowa

August 30–September 3, 2022

www.swcs.org/22IDS

Final Day to Submit International Drainage Symposium Presentation

SWCS, in partnership with the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), invites your participation and presentations for the 11th International Drainage Symposium, August 30–September 2, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa. Presenting at the International Drainage Symposium is an opportunity to share your work with drainage researchers, professionals, and practitioners from around the world.

Today is the FINAL DAY to submit your presentation. Visit www.swcs.org/22IDS for more information.

FINAL DAY



AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2022



Des Moines, Iowa

www.swcs.org/22IDS



NRCS/SWCS photo by Lynn Betts

Conservation at the Co-op: March Update

In November of 2019, our partnership with Truterra was awarded over \$1.5 million in funding by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Through the project, SWCS and Truterra aim to accelerate the adoption of precision nutrient management and soil health practices in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Once a year the co-op conservationists come together as a community to discuss the last year's work—identify what went well, what needs adjustment, and provide a general outlook heading into the coming crop year. SWCS convened two such meetings in the last month where our partners agreed that NRCS technical assistance provided through the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) On-Farm Trials is supporting the creation of new, innovative conservation service offerings for their grower clients. They also identified barriers to retailer-led conservation adoption, one of which is the lack of qualified personnel available in rural agricultural communities to carry out this necessary work. Another barrier is that co-op clients are generally less familiar with private-sector conservation services than they are with the existing suite of products and services offered to them by co-ops. A key component of SWCS's Conservation at the Co-op program is to de-risk the investment needed by co-ops to create permanent conservation services that are tailored to the business needs of their clients. With the growing season on the horizon, the co-op conservationists are learning, gaining experience, making adjustments, and heading into 2022 with optimism.

Science and Policy News

Below you will find a list of some of the latest conservation science and policy news. Links to full articles on the different subjects are included.

- Russian halt to [fertilizer exports](#) expected to boost prices, spur shortfalls
- County by county, [solar panels](#) face pushback
- Are high-rise [urban forests](#) possible?
- Utah ready to commit \$250 million to [water conservation](#) through secondary meters
- Climate change will mean more expensive grocery bills for everyone, according to new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)) [report](#)
- [Urban farmers](#) are revitalizing neighborhoods in Chicago, Philadelphia, and beyond
- These solar panels pull in [water vapor](#) to grow crops in the desert
- Farms following [soil-friendly practices](#) grow healthier food, study suggests
- Humanity has a “brief and rapidly closing window” to avoid a hotter, deadly future, [United Nations climate report](#) says
- Prioritize soil health to [restore profitability](#) and open new doors
- Engineered [bacterial strains](#) could fertilize crops, reduce waterways pollution
- Soil [conservation stories](#) in state ag media outlets generally positive
- [Computer models](#) show how crop production increases soil nitrous oxide emissions
- USDA unveils [Pandemic Cover Crop Program](#) for 2022

The opinions expressed in these articles are meant to keep SWCS members informed of current conservation conversations and do not necessarily represent the views of SWCS.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in February!

Illinois

Jeremiah Bowers
Elias Getahun

Kansas

Gary Bolt

Louisiana

Peters Egbedi

Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts-Amherst Student Chapter

Michael Cherkasky
Jennifer Griffin
Trista Dearstyne
Rob Moir

Michigan

John Doudna
Kyle Hildebrandt

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett

Joseph Trimnal

Texas—North Texas

Johanna Pate

Corporate Partners

Please visit www.swcs.org/corporatepartner for more information on how to become a corporate partner.

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

