



CONSERVOGRAM

 > The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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78th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

Des Moines, Iowa
August 6-9, 2023
www.swcs.org/23AC

Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor by March 31

Exhibitor and sponsor recognition will be included in the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference preliminary program if the exhibitor and sponsor contract, payment, and logo are received by **March 31, 2023!**

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!



Special Journal Issue: Climate Change Impacts on Soil and Water Conservation



The March/April issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* (JSWC) is a special collection of work that serves to synthesize our knowledge of the state of soil and water conservation and advance understanding of the soil-water-climate system, emerging technologies, and climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and practices to foster resilient agricultural and forest

systems that can support the people dependent on them.

For an overview of the research presented, be sure to read the [introductory article](#) written by the special issue organizers, Jean Steiner, Xiaomao Lin, Nancy Cavallaro, Georgia Basso, and Gretchen Sassenrath. Also in the A Section, features include an argument for [regenerative agriculture](#) to address climate change, a summary of US policy on climate change and [environmental justice](#), and a review of [climate-pest interactions](#) and conservation management. Two viewpoint articles provide perspectives on [research progress](#) and the [international implications](#) of climate change. In the Research Section, articles cover diverse topics, including climate resilience of [rangelands](#), cropping systems that minimize [nitrate leaching](#) under precipitation, [perennial crops](#), [soil organic carbon storage](#), and [a framework](#) for estimating potential greenhouse gas emission reductions from conservation adoption.

View the full special issue table of contents in the [online journal](#).

Journal Research Editor Search

The JSWC is accepting applications for a new role: Research Co-Editor with a social sciences specialization. All are invited to view the position qualifications and apply.

This addition to the Editorial Board addresses the growing number of social science manuscript submissions and ensures the journal will continue to serve as a high quality, *multidisciplinary* conservation publication that informs members and readers working in a range of disciplines and roles. The two Research Co-Editors will be responsible for overseeing the peer-review of manuscripts within their topic areas, will invite new associate editors to join the Editorial Board, and will serve as Editorial Board Co-Chairs. Editors serve for three-year terms with the possibility of renewal.

Applications are due **May 31, 2023**. Learn more on the [journal website](#) and contact annie.binder@swcs.org with any questions.

Submit your SWCS Award Nomination or Scholarship Application by March 31

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 an individual today! SWCS also has three [scholarship opportunities](#) for all members. Take advantage today and apply!

The awards and scholarships application deadline is **March 31, 2023**. Visit [our website](#) for additional details on how to apply.



Enter Free Conservation Photo Contest

Enter our free photo contest by May 31 for a chance to win a \$50 e-gift card from Amazon, be selected for display during the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference 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/23PC.



Highlights of the Student Professional Development Series

SWCS partnered with [MANRRS](#) and the [Soil Health Institute](#) to put together a webinar series for students and early career professionals looking to enter the conservation field. The goal of this webinar series is to provide professionals with ongoing and accessible development training to prepare them for positions of leadership and ultimately increase the diversity of leadership in agriculture and natural resource conservation and applied sciences. This four-part series covers finding the career for you, financial literacy, thriving at work and school, and personal branding.

Below are some of the major takeaways from each session.

[Finding the Career for You](#)—*Ms. Beatrice Faulkner and Dr. LaKisha Odom*

- Don't worry about what you don't have, such as years of experience or a certain skill set. Focus on what you do bring to the table. The other skills can be learned and developed over time.
- Establish and embrace your unique "secret sauce" that makes you a valuable asset to the organization. Present your value with confidence.
- You are not static in your skill set. You will learn and amass new skills throughout your career, so don't shy away from positions that have tasks you are unfamiliar with.
- Manage your energy, not your time. If you gauge your productivity on the amount of time you work, the quality of your work will eventually suffer.

[Financial Literacy](#)—*Ms. Penny Gomez*

- People fail at their finances due to a lack of education, planning, and/or guidance.
- You can start an investment account with as little as \$25. You don't have to have a lot of money to start investing—just start! The longer you wait, the less you will accumulate.
- As you begin to plan out your finances, you need to set up three essential accounts: Emergency, Short-term, and Wealth Building.

[Thriving at Work and School](#)—*Dr. Fátima Sancheznieto*

- Career trajectories are messy and rarely linear, so it is important to have a mentor to guide and support you through the twists and turns.
- Mentorship takes work and commitment from both the mentor and the mentee. The relationship should be mutually beneficial and provide both career and psychosocial support.

- It is good to establish multiple formal and informal mentors that can advise on different aspects of your career and life. The most important aspect is to be clear about the type of support you seek when approaching a new potential mentor.

[Branding U](#)—*Ms. Yai Vargas*

- Develop your unique value proposition and share it with people. Don't assume people know your value based on your degree or certification. Many people have the same credentials, but no one has the exact same accomplishments, experience, and skill set.
- "Add to the culture, don't fit into the culture."
- Ensure you are consistent with who you are and what interests you across all social media profiles and posts. This will help you establish an easily recognizable, authentic brand.
- "People do not care about your fancy title. They care about what you do, how you do it, and what impact you have."

The full series is posted [online](#), along with some additional tools and resources provided by the speakers. Thank you to the speakers and everyone who participated in the webinar series.

In August, we plan to pick up this series to cover new topics such as public speaking, time management, burnout, and imposter syndrome. **We are in the process of looking for speakers—if you know of anyone who would be interested in presenting, please contact Renee Bouldin at renee.bouldin@swcs.org.**

Upcoming Events

[Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the Adoption of Conservation Drainage](#)

Virtual Event
March 22, 2023

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

Amherst, MA
March 30, 2023

[SWCS Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold](#)

Virtual Event
March 31, 2023

Upcoming Webinar Series

SWCS hosts several educational webinar series, all of which are free or exclusive to members. Learn more at www.swcs.org/events/webinars.

Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the Adoption of Conservation Drainage [webinar series](#) was created to provide a platform for conservation practitioners and producers across disciplines to connect with and learn from leading stakeholders about opportunities and challenges in advancing conservation drainage adoption. The third session titled "Farmer Perspectives" is March 22, from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. CT.

Conservation Matters is a new webinar series brought to you by the SWCS Science and Policy Committee. The next session is Thursday, April 27, at 12 p.m. CT. This series is for SWCS members only, and registration details will be sent directly to your inbox.

The next session of the **SWCS Members Only Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold** is March 31, at 12 p.m. CT. Our monthly sessions have been a great success as participants discuss *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. [Registration details](#) will be sent directly to active members.

Science and Policy Committee Update: February Meeting


Courtesy of Gretchen Sassenrath

Joe Otto, SWCS special projects and partnerships director/historian, opened the February Science and Policy Committee meeting by welcoming the new student liaison, Raji Neelipally, to the group. The committee discussed potential topics for a Science and Policy symposium at the 2023 SWCS International Annual Conference, and decided to focus on climate-smart agriculture. A diverse platform of speakers was proposed that will help explore the different aspects of climate-smart agriculture and how projects can address climate-smart agriculture. The proposed speakers for the symposium are Dennis Today, Andy Manale, Deanna Osmond, and Dana Ashford-Kornburger. Details on the symposium will be announced when the Annual Conference is finalized. Members of the committee volunteered to invite symposium speakers.

Joe described the [SWCS book club](#) that meets virtually the last Friday of each month to discuss *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. The book club is open to all members. Each month, one chapter of the book is discussed. This is an informal and fun way to interact with other members in a discussion of conservation. Members need to register to receive the link to join the meeting (check your inbox and contact Joe Otto with questions at joe.otto@swcs.org). The next meeting will be on March 31, 2023.

The Science and Policy webinar series, "Conservation Matters," is a series of presentations given on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12 p.m. CT. The last presentation was on February 23, given by Brian Rast and Scott Satterthwaite, who talked about the flood resiliency to combat water issues. The series will take a break in March and return on April 27. Jean Steiner will be discussing climate change and the special issue on climate change recently published in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. All members are welcome to join (registration details will be sent directly to your inbox).

The Science and Policy Committee is open to any members of the Society. For information on joining the committee, please contact Joe Otto at joe.otto@swcs.org.

“Soil conservation districts represent democracy at its best.”

Hugh Hammond Bennett”



THE OBJECTIONS ARE BEING MET, THE FEARS ARE FADING OUT, AND CONSERVATION IS SPREADING.

—
Hugh Hammond Bennett

New Members

Welcome members who joined in February!

California/Nevada

Whendee Silver
Ben Wiercinski

DC—National Capital Chapter

Candiss Williams Anthony

Iowa

Imani Cornelius

Idaho/Washington—Inland Empire

Brad Riehle

Illinois

Gabriella Burkett

Indiana—Hoosier

Sheila Schroeder
Danielle Waldschmidt

Kansas

Allison Sowards

Kansas—Kansas State University

Cesar Guareschi
Isaac Nelson

Kentucky—Bluegrass

Sadie Collins
Jennifer Harris

Louisiana

Caroline Akinrinwoye

Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts- Amherst Student Chapter

Hazel Ortiz

Michigan

Ames Fowler

Minnesota

Karl Hakanson

Missouri—Show Me

Logan Derifield
Joseph Ward

Mississippi—Mississippi State University Student Chapter

James Callicutt
Erin Oliver

North Carolina—North Carolina State University Student Chapter

Fabian Horton

North Dakota

Brian Darby
Dana Whippo

South Carolina

Jennifer Lore
Christianah Oladoye

Texas—Heart of Texas

Scott Longing

Texas—North Texas

Sam Gonzalez

Wisconsin

Celia Puleo

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

