



# CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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## 79th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

### Award and Scholarship Applications Due March 27

The SWCS awards program recognizes the individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in advocating for the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. We also offer three scholarship opportunities for all members. Take advantage today and apply or submit a nomination!

The award and scholarship application deadline is **March 27, 2024**. Winners will be celebrated through SWCS media platforms and during the Awards Luncheon at the 79th SWCS International Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

#### SWCS Awards

##### Members Only

- [Conservation Research Award](#)
- [Fellow Award](#)
- [Society Service Award](#)

##### Members and Nonmembers

- [Conservation Innovation Award](#)
- [Conservation Professional of the Year](#)
- [Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award](#)
- [Hugh Hammond Bennett Award](#)

#### SWCS Scholarships

##### [Donald A. Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship](#)

- One \$1,000 scholarship
- Professional Level

##### [Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship](#)

- One \$500 scholarship
- Graduate Level

##### [Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship](#)

- Two \$1,000 scholarships
- Undergraduate and Graduate Level

## Seeking Applications for the Student Moderator Program



**APPLY NOW TO BE  
A STUDENT  
MODERATOR!**

View all student opportunities  
at [www.swcs.org/24ACstudents](http://www.swcs.org/24ACstudents)

79TH SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We are now accepting applications for the 79th SWCS International Annual Conference Student Moderator Program! This year's event will be held July 21-24, 2024, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

If you've ever dreamt of an immersive, behind-the-scenes conference experience, the Student Moderator Program is calling your name! We're looking for 10 passionate, full-time student members with a major in conservation and/or environmental affairs to support our team at the conference. As a chosen participant, you'll be right in the action, moderating breakout sessions and providing essential room support.

And here's the cherry on top—**your conference registration is on us**, and we'll cover three nights of your hotel stay! Plus, when you're not rocking the moderator role, you'll have an all-access pass to soak in the conference buzz.

Seize this incredible opportunity! The application deadline is **May 1**.

**Apply Today!**

## Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor by March 18

Exhibitor and sponsor recognition will be included in the 79th SWCS International Annual Conference preliminary program if the exhibitor and sponsor contract, payment, and logo are received by **March 18!**

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!

## Enter the Free SWCS Photo Contest

Gear up for the ultimate conservation showdown! Enter our photo contest by May 1 and you could snag a \$50 Amazon e-gift card. But the excitement doesn't stop



2023 "Healthy Land, Clean Water"  
Winner by DeAnn Presley

there—your winning shot might headline the 79th SWCS International Annual Conference and even grace the cover of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*! Submit your entry at [www.swcs.org/24PC](http://www.swcs.org/24PC) now!

## Seeking a SWCS Science and Policy Student Representative

Attention undergraduate and graduate students!

Interested in conservation science policy? Looking for a leadership opportunity that will grow your professional network globally? Apply to be our Science and Policy Committee Student Representative by **April 30, 2024**.

**Apply Today!**

## Conservation Practitioners Poll

The second Conservation Practitioner Poll is officially underway. Check your inboxes (and spam folders) to see if you've received an email from [swcs@qualtrics-survey.com](mailto:swcs@qualtrics-survey.com). If you have, please take 15 minutes to complete the survey so your voice can be heard and shared to enact positive change in the conservation profession.

The Conservation Practitioners Poll is a survey that regularly collects data on the needs and recommendations of conservation practitioners. Conservation practitioners work hand-in-hand with farmers to implement conservation practices: they are the delivery system for conservation across the nation. Yet, their voices are largely absent. Through this poll, we are changing that. We are eager to hear conservation practitioners' current needs and share your collective voice with industry leaders at the national level.

**2021 Conservation Practitioners Poll Results**

## New Podcast Connects Nature, Culture, and Wonder

Curious Planet is a new podcast that explores how our experiences in nature connect us to our own stories, emotions, sense of place, and desire to belong—and how this captivating kinship might invigorate us to save the home we live and rely on. Moments of wonder in nature have inspired poets and writers, inventors and scientists, and artists and adventurers throughout history. Exploring wonderment to heal and protect the earth, Curious Planet is hosted by Jacqueline Comito, known to many SWCS members from her previous presentations, including “The Art of Conservation” (2023 Annual Conference Local Forum and Flavor Reception) and “Building a Culture of Conservation” (2018 Annual Conference Pritchard Keynote Lecture).

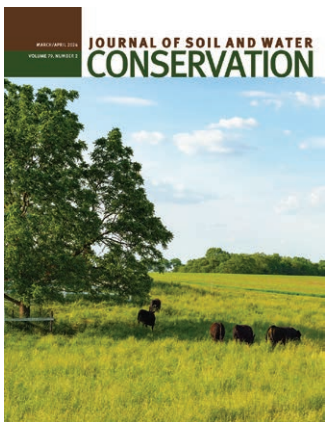
Subscribe to [Curious Planet](#) on your favorite streaming platform. **Season One drops on March 19!**



## Journal of Soil and Water Conservation

### New Issue Available Now

The most recent *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* issue is here and is packed with the latest in natural resource conservation research and practice. In the journal's A Section, [William Hargrove and Josiah Heyman](#)



use “borders” as a metaphor in implementing largescale, holistic water sustainability research. Additionally, [Jonathan Winsten](#) puts forth the idea of how low-overhead dairy grazing can improve an operation's profitability, productivity, and environmental health and sustainability. Research articles include work by [Stephensen et al.](#) to investigate the influence of

prairie strips sown in midwestern corn and soybean fields on sediment discharge throughout the year, [Cabello-Leiva et al.](#) on whether nitrogen in fall-planted legume cover crops can be credited to maize, and [Kulesza et al.](#) on the variability of critical shear stress in claypan soils. Find these and articles on more topics in the [online journal](#).

## Call for Papers: JSWC Special Issue on Soil Health and Conservation

The JSWC is [seeking submissions](#) to a special issue, “Soil Health and Conservation.”

The concept of “soil health” has evolved over time as a comprehensive measure of the soil's capacity to fulfill critical functions in agriculture and conservation. Historically, terms like “tilth” and “soil quality” were employed to describe the attributes of soil that contributed to successful crop production. These early terms, however, have not fully encompassed the broader ecological and societal implications associated with soil management.

The shift toward “soil health” reflects a more holistic understanding of the soil's role in supporting not only agricultural productivity but also environmental quality, ecosystem functions, and societal benefits. This transition has gained momentum as researchers recognize the interconnectedness of soil health with broader issues such as soil conservation, natural resource enhancement, food security, and the overall sustainability of the farm economy.

In the context of agriculture, soil health signifies more than just the ability to support crop growth. It encompasses the soil's resilience to stress, nutrient cycling capabilities, and overall vitality, all of which are pivotal for sustaining long-term agricultural productivity. Understanding and promoting soil health has become a central focus in modern agricultural practices, emphasizing sustainable approaches that optimize both productivity and conservation objectives.

The recognition that healthy soils contribute to the prevention of erosion, the retention of water, and the promotion of biodiversity underscore the critical link between soil health and conservation efforts. **This special issue will synthesize our current knowledge of soil health effects on the multifunctionality of the landscape and the farm and will be prepared by experts encompassing their specific area of research.**

To learn more about the scope of the issue and submission guidelines, visit the [journal website](#).

**Submission Deadline:** August 1, 2024

## Student Event Planning Resources

SWCS has released a toolkit of resources to assist students in planning conservation events such as professional development, speaker panels, networking events, office tours, site visits, cleanups, service events, workshops, and more! Tools include:

- Template Event Budget
- Event Flyer Template
- SWCS Branded Presentation
- Student and Early Career Opportunities Flyer

[View the resources.](#)

## Emerging Leaders Support Opportunities

We're about halfway through the Emerging Leaders Program, and it's safe to say we have organized



*J'Nay Domineck speaking at the USDA NRCS Annual Leadership Training, "Elevating the Next Generation of Agriculture Leaders"*

an amazing group of professionals! In the first two modules, the participants learned about their barriers to leadership, community-building, event planning, and more.

Module 3 asks these leaders to implement the knowledge they've gained and host an in-person, local conservation event. Keep an eye on our [events calendar](#) to find an event in your area.

Learn more about the program and opportunities to support these leaders through the latest [Program Update](#).

There are several opportunities to mentor and network with this next generation of conservation professionals, such as:

- Attend local [events](#) hosted by an emerging leader
- [Mentor](#) a leader near you
- [Donate](#) to keep this opportunity accessible
- Support an emerging leader event by partnering with them, sponsoring the event, speaking, contributing resources, and more!
- Network with program participants at the [79th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)
- Share this program with those in your network in the first five years of their career. Applications for the 2024-2025 program will open this summer!

## Upcoming Events

### [Pruning Workshop](#)

Frankenmuth, Michigan  
March 20 (1-3:30 p.m. EST)  
\*Emerging Leader Hosted Event

### [Emergency Planning for the Farm](#)

West Olive, Michigan  
April 4 (8:30-11:30 a.m. EST)  
\*Emerging Leader Hosted Event

### [Journey Through Watersheds: Family STEM Adventures](#)

Ocala, Florida  
April 13  
\*Emerging Leader Hosted Event

### [Earth Day Tree Giveaway and More!](#)

Versailles, Kentucky  
April 20 (10 a.m.-12 p.m. CT)  
\*Emerging Leader Hosted Event

### [Alabama Chapter SWCS Annual Conference 2024](#)

Foley, Alabama  
May 1-3

\*Our 2023-2024 Class of Emerging Leaders are planning and hosting their conservation events. View the [calendar](#) to search for an event near you!

## New Members

Welcome members who joined in February!

### International

David Yawson

### Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Claire Corcoran

Amber Hardy

Josh Wilson

### Georgia

Niki Crews

### Iowa

Reid Louwagie

### Kansas

Derek Haines

### Kansas—Kansas State University Student Chapter

Jovani de Oliveira Demarco

Ana Guanes Melgarejo

### Michigan

Jaclyn Hulst

### Missouri—Show Me Chapter

Angela Frederick

Emma Szachnieski

### Mississippi—Mississippi State University Student Chapter

Matt Moore

### North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett

Vincent Rivers

### North Dakota

Kevin Sedivec

### New Mexico

Nikoma Henkels

### Wisconsin

Kerri Helwig

## Corporate Partners

Please visit [www.swcs.org/corporatepartner](http://www.swcs.org/corporatepartner) for more information on how to become a corporate partner.

### Platinum

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### Gold

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### Silver

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We are actively looking for a Silver Level sponsor. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact [memberservices@swcs.org](mailto:memberservices@swcs.org).

### Bronze

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