

CONSERVOGRAM

 > The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

In This Issue

SWCS Goes to Washington	1
77th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates	2
Final Chance to Enter Conservation Photo Contest	2
Welcome SWCS Intern Kailey Thompson	2
Chapter Leader Power Hour	3
Upcoming Events	3
May/June Issue of the Journal Available Now	3
11th International Drainage Symposium	3
Conservation at the Co-op: May Update	4
Science and Policy News	4
New Members	5
Corporate Partners	5

SWCS Goes to Washington

SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl continues to work from Washington, DC, this month. In the last few weeks she has spent time with the local SWCS National Capital Chapter, has attended a variety of conservation events, and continues to advocate for conservation professionals with every networking opportunity. Some of her highlights include the following:

- presented results from the Conservation Practitioner Poll during American Farmland Trust Barn-Raising Seminar and Workshopping Series
- participated in the 2022 National Water Policy Fly-In
- hosted an SWCS evening conservation networking event with the SWCS National Capital Chapter
- sat front row at the USDA Soil Health Workshop, which included presentations from Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture; Terry Cosby, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Chovanda Jacobs-Young, Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service

Read all about Clare’s activities in her own words through her **exclusive, members-only briefing**. Also, be sure to keep up with her on Twitter at [@Clare4soilnH2O](https://twitter.com/Clare4soilnH2O).



Chapter and Community Builder Renee Bouldin and CEO Clare Lindahl with attendees at the SWCS National Capital Chapter networking event.

77th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

Denver, Colorado
 July 31–August 3, 2022
www.swcs.org/22AC

Registration is Now Open for the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference

Join us at the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference, July 31-August 3, 2022, in Denver, Colorado. After two years of virtual conferences, this stunning conference location offers an opportunity for the global conservation community to come together and collectively share solutions, combat obstacles, and accelerate conservation efforts. This year's conference will feature the latest ideas, technologies, and practices and foster a dialogue around their scaling. Through workshops, sessions, symposia, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations, cutting-edge research and practice developments in soil health, water quality, and resource management will be shared.

For complete conference details and to register, visit www.swcs.org/22AC. The early registration cutoff is June 22, 2022, and the online registration cutoff is July 20, 2022.

Don't Miss Out on Exhibitor and Sponsor Opportunities—June 1 Deadline

DON'T MISS OUT!

Become an exhibitor or sponsor by June 1.

The 77th SWCS International Annual Conference is a 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 by **June 1, 2022**.

Final Chance to Enter 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 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.



Welcome SWCS Intern Kailey Thompson



In May, Kailey Thompson joined the SWCS staff virtually as the Student Leader Project Intern. Her focus during the internship will be developing a student session and assisting in the operations and logistics of the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference as well as assisting the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE), the intern sponsor, on website and communication development. Kailey is a senior at the University of Kentucky studying Agricultural Education and Agricultural Economics, with an emphasis in animal science. She has been involved in nonprofit, youth, and professional organization work in multiple facets, including interning for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Welcome, Kailey—we are so excited to have you!

Chapter Leader Power Hour

Have you been meaning to set aside time to do some chapter work but can't seem to make it a priority? Join SWCS Headquarters for our Chapter Leader Power Hour! Save the date for Wednesday, June 1 (12:00-1:00 p.m. CT). This Power Hour is part informational, part social, part shared work, and all productive and fun!

It will

- give space and time for chapter leaders to use tools and resources provided by headquarters;
- provide opportunities for relationship building and dialogue between headquarters and chapter leaders; and
- encourage community development between chapter leaders.

During this first Chapter Leader Power Hour we will focus on member recruitment tools and strategies discussed in the most recent [Chapter Leadership Webinar](#). Register [here](#).



Upcoming Events

[SWCS Chapter Leader Power Hour](#)

Virtual Event
June 1, 2022

[Nebraska Chapter Annual Tours and Meeting](#)

Norfolk, Nebraska
June 23-25, 2022

[77th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)

Denver, Colorado
July 31-August 3, 2022

May/June Issue of the Journal Available Now



The latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is now available online. In the A Section, a viewpoint article by Lal explores the [role that soil plays in maintaining world peace](#) in a time of climate change and environmental degradation. Also in this issue is a celebration of the [Nebraska Natural Resource Districts' 50 years](#) of statewide

natural resource management. Research article topics include best management practice effectiveness in reducing [erosion in forestry stream crossings](#), trials of [cover crop use in a southern Texas sorghum farm](#), and use of [runoff water for corn irrigation](#) in Illinois to improve nutrient utilization. Additionally, White et al. explore Vermont [farmer willingness to participate in a payment for ecosystems services program](#) and identify the factors beyond compensation that may influence farmers' decisions. Access these articles and view the full issue table of contents in the [online journal](#).

11th International Drainage Symposium

Des Moines, Iowa

August 30–September 3, 2022

www.swcs.org/22IDS

Registration Is Now Open for the 11th International Drainage Symposium

Join us at the 11th International Drainage Symposium, August 30–September 2, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa. Solutions to agricultural drainage challenges and opportunities will be the focus of this year's symposium. Two days of sessions will highlight drainage research, practice design, implementation, and policy. The third day of the symposium will feature field tours highlighting some of the innovative drainage work happening in the local area. The symposium will provide an opportunity for the research, agency, industry, and practitioner communities to interact, share experiences, and address emerging issues related to agricultural drainage.

Join us for this event and share your work with drainage researchers, professionals, and practitioners from around the world. We look forward to seeing you!

For complete conference details and to register, visit www.swcs.org/22IDS. The early registration cutoff is July 1, 2022, and the online registration cutoff is August 19, 2022.

Conservation at the Co-op: May 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.

A core component of the On-Farm Trials is strengthening the bond of trust between the farmer and the co-op conservationist. By keeping the farmer informed of trial activities and consulting with them throughout the year, the co-op creates an interest in conservation that can translate into new services to be bought and sold. One way SWCS supports the efforts of co-op conservationists is by providing them with Grower Protocols to follow—a to-do list for key trial actions and decision points—laid out chronologically throughout the year. The protocols help co-op staff keep records of their actions, good and bad, so they can learn from the trial experience and make adjustments. The protocols also function like a diary, holding observations and notes from each trial that can be compared and contrasted to one another.

Each of the 57 On-Farm Trials has its own Grower Protocol record that tells a story of collaboration and learning between one grower and their co-op conservation staff. With a full trial year completed, these stories are beginning to emerge. For instance, cover crop trials in Nebraska showed that the co-op staff struggled to show a positive return on investment (ROI) for the additional inputs of cereal rye seed and termination, despite stronger than average yields. This finding, however, led to a discussion about how to improve ROI in successive years. One co-op staff noted that if we could put a value on the many benefits of conservation, then adopting a complete and profitable cover crop program could be done. Tracking a positive ROI change in cover crops relies on demonstrating the beneficial results of reduced erosion and weed pressure, and increased soil organic matter and water infiltration—either through judicious record keeping, monetizing carbon credits, or both. In the coming years the key challenge for the co-ops will be demonstrating these benefits to clients and helping to access them.

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.

- UN report: [Land degradation](#) now affects half the world's population and economy
- [Senate confirms](#) Biden's Department of Energy's science office nominee
- Study looks at role [soil organic carbon](#) plays in improving soil health, reducing drought
- Ukraine's "[hero river](#)" helped save Kyiv. But what now for its newly restored wetlands?
- Efficient production technique for a novel [green fertilizer](#)
- Is that an outlaw lawn? Las Vegas has a new approach to [saving water](#)
- High commodity prices shift [conservation lands](#) to crop fields
- USDA invests \$22.5 million in water quality improvements in [Chesapeake Bay](#)
- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack predicts big demand for "[climate smart](#)" food projects
- [Wildfires](#) are changing our soil and ecosystems
- Managing UK agriculture with [rock dust](#) could absorb up to 45% the atmospheric carbon dioxide needed for net-zero
- The [black soil](#) that fed China is washing away
- California bill would [pay farmworkers](#) \$1,000 a month to help endure drought, climate crisis
- Iowa Secretary of Agriculture announces funding for [17 urban water quality](#) projects
- As [Lake Powell](#) dries up, the United States turns to creative accounting for a short-term fix

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 April!

International

Akwasi Opoku

California/Nevada

Nick Zanotti

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Joey Pellegrino

DC—National Capital Chapter

John Piotti

Amber Valdez

Delaware/Maryland—Pokomoke

Samuel Bamidele

Illinois

Helen VanBeck

Michigan

Katelyn Soule

Missouri—Show Me

Nathan Goodrich

Nebraska

Steve Tucker

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

