



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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72nd SWCS International Annual Conference

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

Conference Theme Announced

This year's conference theme, **Conservation Connections: Creating Pathways to Sustainability**, focuses on an important trait that sets the SWCS annual conference apart from others: the number of disciplines who come together to share information, network, and form connections to forge best practices in soil and water conservation. The conference provides a forum for interdisciplinary discussions that are essential to the success of conservation, a field that depends upon understanding relationships and interconnectedness.

Soil, water, and humans are inextricably linked. As the global population grows, human influences on soil and water resources are expected to intensify, working land sustainability will become increasingly necessary, and environmental preservation will remain a challenge. At the same time, extreme weather events will have impacts on human safety and livelihood. Increasing resource demands and changing weather patterns may necessitate adaptive approaches for conservation strategies, but one thing is certain, and that is the need for people to work together to conserve soil and protect water quality.

In conservation, some professionals focus on the field level, researching or extending information on the effects of management. Other conservationists work at the edge of field, some at the small watershed level, and still others do modeling work on very large watershed scales. Avenues for information exchange must be established so various projects may better inform one another. Whether in a technical, regulatory, research, outreach, or volunteer organization capacity, efforts can be multiplied when we connect and work together. This year's conference will celebrate these points of intersection and will seek to identify new opportunities for continued collaboration and partnership.



Call for Presentations – Now Open

The SWCS Call for Presentations is now open, and abstracts are being accepted for oral presentations, posters, symposia, and workshops.

This year's conference will feature three special interest areas of focus as well as the eight traditional/general topic areas. Special consideration will be given to presentations that cater to the conference theme.

- Benefits and Challenges of Public and Private Conservation Partnerships
- Extreme Weather and Its Impact on Conservation
- Field to Watershed: Connecting Local Scale Influence to Larger Scale Significance
- 2015 General Conference Submissions – Conservation Connections
 - Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts
 - Conservation Economics and Policy
 - Conservation Models, Tools, and Technologies
 - Conservation in Organic, Specialty, and Small-Scale Agriculture
 - Conservation Policy and Program Design
 - Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement
 - Social Sciences Informing Conservation
 - Soil Health Resources, Indicators, Assessment, and Management
 - Water Resource Assessment and Management

Detailed information regarding the Call for Presentations may be found at www.swcs.org/17ac.



SWCS Annual Giving Campaign

As 2016 comes to an end, please consider donating to the Society's Annual Giving Campaign.

For over 70 years, the Soil and Water Conservation Society has been working to educate land managers and promote natural resources conservation practices. Support from you helps write a conservation story of stewardship and sustainability.

Your donations supported our efforts in 2016, including the 71st International Annual Conference, the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, and our Watershed Academy education project. With your help we will continue to develop new initiatives to advance the conservation story!

There are MANY ways to give.

GIVE ONLINE

www.swcs.org/give

In addition to a one-time gift, you can choose to spread out your gift over 12 months by selecting the monthly giving option.

MAIL

Soil and Water Conservation Society
945 SW Ankeny Road
Ankeny, IA, 50023

CALL

1-515-289-2331 ext. 118

SHOW SOME LOVE – Combined Federal Campaign

Are you a federal employee? Then "Show Some Love" and participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)! SWCS Charity Code: 11797.



NEW FOR 2016

The holiday shopping season is just around the corner; how great would it be to know you're gifting both the Society and your loved ones by shopping online? Go to smile.amazon.org and select "Soil and Water Conservation Society, Ankeny, IA" as your charity.

Amazon gives the Society 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Bookmark smile.amazon.org and make sure to use it every time you shop!



**BE A PART OF THE
STORY**

**Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life**

SWCS Iowa Chapter Fall Annual Meeting Recap

SWCS Iowa Chapter uses its annual meeting to share the chapter's accomplishments, increase memberships, and provide high quality content and interactions for members.

In November, the Iowa Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society held its 2016 Fall Annual Meeting. Incoming Iowa Chapter President Clare Lindahl led the organization of the event and chaired the business meeting, which included highlights of the Chapter's annual activities.

Over the last year the Iowa Chapter has grown Iowa's conservation professionals through meetings, career development scholarships, and awards that acknowledge staff for hard work and dedication. The Chapter also grows Iowa's future conservationists through a scholarship program, support of the Iowa Envirothon (the largest environmental competition for high school students in the nation) and involvement with the Iowa Student Chapter. Mark Tomer, outgoing Iowa Chapter President, recruited seven new student members during his term through his dedication to increasing connections with the Iowa Student Chapter.

Lindahl also shared the ways the Iowa Chapter spread the conservation message over the past year. The Chapter hosted daily tents along RAGBRAI, a weeklong bicycle route across Iowa with partners; leading the planning process, serving as the fiscal agent for the group, and volunteering during the weeklong event. It takes over 50 volunteers to make this event happen. While taking a break at the conservation tent, riders read about conserving soil, the value of wetlands, water quality, conservation systems, grasslands, woodlands, and wildlife. Riders also mail over 7,500 conservation-themed postcards out to their friends and family, further spreading the conservation outreach and message. The Chapter also hosted the Farm Progress Show's Conservation Central with partners, leading the planning process, serving as the fiscal agent for the group, and volunteering during the three-day event. Visitors weaved through exhibits and demonstrations, and visited with experts in water quality, wildlife, soil health, and cover crops. The Chapter is connected online with an up-to-date website, Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr.

The annual meeting was organized to overlap one day of the Iowa Watershed Academy, which provides information, education, and networking to Iowa's Watershed Project Coordinators. Knowing the needs and value of the state's watershed coordinators, the Iowa Chapter gifted the 18 attendees SWCS memberships.

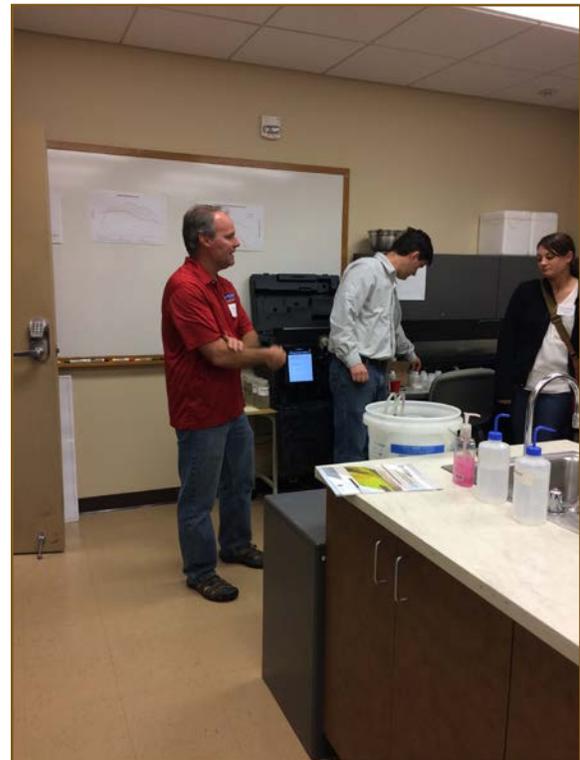
The meeting had a dynamic agenda with a diverse set of speakers and information—everything from science to sociology and soils to sales! There was built-in time for networking and collaboration and a tour of the Iowa Soybean Association water testing lab.

The Chapter utilized the event to provide existing members with high quality content and interactions and generate new memberships. A discounted rate was provided to existing members in appreciation of their involvement. The Chapter subsidized the increased rate of new, nonmember registrants to provide a free yearlong membership with the meeting registration.

With the 18 watershed coordinators, a total of 36 new memberships were generated through the Fall Annual Meeting! The Chapter also offered a free SWCS cooler as gift to all who registered. The total attendance at the meeting was 85.

The Iowa Soybean Association Environmental Programs and Services and Matt Carstens, Senior Vice President of SUSTAIN—Land O'Lakes, received Friends of Conservation Awards. Sarah Ham and Kaitlin Schott received awards from 2016 Chapter President Mark Tomer. Rebecca Clay and Gretchen Webster were this year's 2016 scholarship winners, and their applications made the future of conservation look bright!

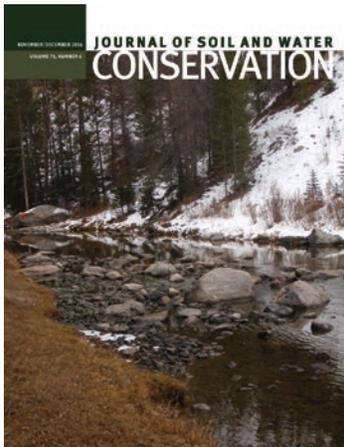
To try something the Iowa Chapter is doing in your state, contact Chapter President Clare Lindahl at clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org.



Tony Seeman with the Iowa Soybean Association Environmental Program and Services gives the Iowa Chapter a tour of their water monitoring lab. The Iowa Soybean Association Environmental Program and Services were recipients of the Iowa Chapter's 2016 Friends of Conservation Award.

November/December Journal Highlights

The current issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* features an article by Blanco-Canqui and Francis that suggests strategies to improve agricultural system resilience under climatic fluctuations. Also in the front section, an Ideas and Innovations article by Delgado et al. describes USDA Agricultural Research Service efforts to create NUOnet, a database to compile and connect nutrient management research. In the Research Section, Yue et al. report on the effect of biochar amendment in saline soils and Mohammadshirazi et al. assess the impacts of tillage and compost addition on infiltration in soils compacted by construction activities. Also in this issue, a pair of articles by Johnson et al. describe results of a GPS study to track cattle use of perennial streams and off-stream water developments. Find these and more articles in the [online journal](#) or in your mailed issue.



Upcoming Events

[Arkansas Razorback Chapter Fall Meeting](#)

Little Rock, Arkansas
November 17, 2016

[Oregon Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Corvallis, Oregon
November 21, 2016

[North Dakota Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Bismarck, North Dakota
November 28-29, 2016

[Missouri Natural Resources Conference and Show-Me Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Osage Beach, Missouri
February 1-3, 2017

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service released the final rule for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) in October. The rule is available [here](#).
- Before Congress left Washington for a seven-week recess, the House passed the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies spending bill. The bill increased FY 2017 funding for the National Park Service (NPS) and NPS Centennial events. However, the legislation made significant cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), among other environmental programs. The allotment for LWCF is \$145.8 million for federal land acquisition (\$88.4 million less than FY 2016) and \$80 million for state assistance (\$30 million less than FY 2016).
- [The Hill](#) reports, "Groups opposing the Obama administration's Clean Water Rule are charging in court briefs that the regulation is a massive and illegal power grab by the federal government to claim states' authority."
- The next administration at USDA will face budget, staffing, and technology challenges and will need to gear up unusually quickly to assist Congress in writing a new farm bill.
- With the new administration transition we are starting to learn of possible candidates to be nominated as the Secretary of Agriculture. Two names that have been mentioned are Bruce Rastetter—a big name in pork, ethanol, and ag real estate—and Chuck Conner, president of National Council of Farm Cooperatives. Others suggested are Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and former Texas Governor Rick Perry.
- Some farm and agribusiness sectors are concerned that USDA is moving forward with a plan to overhaul its rules for regulating genetically engineered crops separately from a broader, government-wide review of biotech regulations. The concerns came up in comments from those representing seed companies, grain processors, and the fruit and vegetable sector.
- Monday, November 14, the National Pesticide Information Center held a webinar on the new web-based [Herbicide Properties Tool](#). Find archived webinars [here](#).
- On Wednesday, November 16, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm EST, the [Joint Forestry Team](#) will be hosting a webinar on state forest action plans. This webinar will discuss the plans in-depth and provide interested parties with information they can use to provide input on these plans.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in October!

International

Diogenes Antille
Fernando Luna

California/Nevada

Julie Etra
Amy Rocha

Canada—Ontario

Meaghan Mechler

Connecticut—University of Connecticut

Student Chapter
Maddie Hoopes

Florida

Ryan Mahatme

Iowa

Brett Shelton
Joshua Thompson

Iowa—Iowa State University

Student Chapter

Catherine Behme
Lindsay Brown
Daniel Brummel
Jordan Cooper
Anne Dinges
Geunhu Kim
Bailey Kirchhoff
Zachary Klimesh
Riley Madole
Brad Roling
Nathan Ruba
Kelsi Sieren
Sterling Wickham

Idaho

Kent Whittig

Illinois

Darian Landolt

Indiana—Hoosier Chapter

Deb Lane

Michigan

Linda Ortiz-Gonzalez

Missouri—Show Me Chapter

Rebecca North

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond

Bennett Chapter

Dave Clapp

New Jersey—Firman E. Bear

Pankaj Lal
Clare Liptak

South Carolina

Fernando Vazquez

Texas—North Texas

Patricia Maekopo

Virginia

Kristen Saacke Blunk

Corporate Members

Please contact corporate.info@swcs.org for more details.

Gold




Silver





Bronze



