



CONSERVOGRAM

} The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

In This Issue

2017 National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health	1
73rd SWCS International Annual Conference	2
SWCS Participation at the 10th Upper Mississippi River Conference	3
SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl Featured on Conservation Chat Podcast	3
Conservation Matters Video Series	4
November/December Issue of the Journal	4
Annual Giving Campaign	4
California/Nevada Chapter Holds "Preparing for Extreme Water Conditions" Conference	5
SWCS Grounds Cleanup	6
National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention	6
Call for Career Profile Submissions	6
Upcoming Events	6
News from DC	7
Membership Account Updates	7
Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from October	7
New Members	8
Corporate Members	8

2017 National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health

**Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel at Keystone Crossing
Indianapolis, Indiana
December 7-8, 2017**
www.swcs.org/17CCSH

Farmers Advising Farmers

Dan DeSutter (Indiana Farmer), Trey Hill (Maryland Farmer), and Jimmy Emmons (Oklahoma Farmer) are three of the leading innovators in their respective regions on the use of cover crops and soil health practices. These farmers have been using cover crops and no-till for many years, and they, along with a dozen other farmers, will be sharing some of their experiences in trying new approaches to improving soil health, and the impact these practices have had on their soil and their overall farm goals. Emmons and DeSutter will also discuss integration of cattle into their operations.

Farmer Early Registration Extended

Due to this year's late harvest, the early registration deadline for farmer registration has been extended to November 21, 2017. Help us spread the word by sharing this message when working with farmers!

Free Guest Activity Offered at Conference

SWCS will also be offering a guest/spouse activity on Thursday, December 7, at the Keystone Fashion Mall. If your guest would like to attend, register [here](#) for this free activity!

For complete conference details as well as a link to register, please visit www.swcs.org/17CCSH.



73rd SWCS International Annual Conference

Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico
July 29 – August 1, 2018
www.swcs.org/18AC

Conference Theme Announced – Culture, Climate, and Conservation

New Mexico's rich culture and diverse landscape makes it the prime location to celebrate the 73rd SWCS International Annual Conference theme: **Culture, Climate, and Conservation**. Bordered on the east by the Sandia Mountains, to the west by Petroglyph National Monument, and with the Rio Grande flowing through its center, Albuquerque possesses many of the natural features characteristic of New Mexico, a state of mountains and mesas, deserts and forested wildernesses. Whether you're exploring the downtown Convention Center site, venturing into Spanish-influenced Old Town Albuquerque, or learning about local pueblos and native traditions, the blend of cultures and lifestyles serves as a reminder of the many stakeholders that are part of and affected by land management decisions.

The research to be shared and stories to be told from across the nation will fit right into this location where conservation spans resource concerns, cultures, and landscapes. In addition to learning about some of the management challenges and partnership opportunities that face ecosystems worldwide, participants will experience the vibrant culture of New Mexico through the local Forum and Flavor event, witness conservation efforts first-hand through tours, and will hear from lead-

ing speakers in the conservation field. Specialty tracks that focus on rangeland and forest restoration as well as the use of technology to advance conservation will also be offered at this year's conference. Collectively, all of these areas of focus will provide a forum for conservation professionals from around the world to come together to discuss successes and challenges, combat shared obstacles, and accelerate conservation efforts.

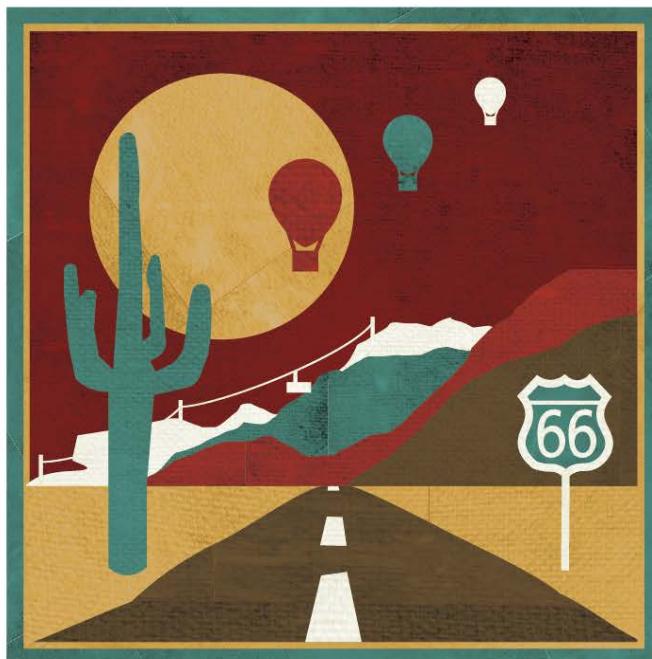
Call for Presentations Now Open

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

This year, the Program Planning Committee has identified three special interest areas based on the conference location. These specialty tracks are open for submission as well as the General Conference track. Special consideration will be given to presentations that cater to the conference theme.

- Forest Restoration: Research, Policy, and Applied Science of Ecological Restoration across Landscapes and Watersheds
- Rangeland Restoration, Health, and Grazing Management: Adapting Conservation Planning for a Changing Climate
- Using Technology to Advance Conservation
- 2018 General Conference Submissions – Culture, Climate, and Conservation

Detailed information regarding the Call for Presentations may be found at www.swcs.org/18ac.



73RD SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**CULTURE, CLIMATE,
AND CONSERVATION**
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
JULY 29 – AUGUST 1, 2018



SWCS Participation at the 10th Upper Mississippi River Conference

By Clare Lindahl, SWCS CEO

I was thrilled to have the opportunity to represent SWCS at the 10th Annual Upper Mississippi River Conference in early October. I have a long history with the event; it is held in Moline, Illinois, my hometown, and I was on the planning committee of the very first conference while I was employed with River Action, the nonprofit that hosts the conference.

Just over 100 Mississippi River stakeholders, including elected officials, planners, educators, engineers, architects, landscape architects, economists, environmentalists, floodplain managers, and those in public works and the transportation industry, were in attendance. SWCS published author Ken Olson and I delivered presentations. SWCS also had a booth at the event selling books and promoting membership.

The presentation I gave to the river stakeholder audience focused on soil conservation and water quality. I discussed motivations for soil conservation and nutrient reduction work including the Dust Bowl, Hugh Hammond Bennett, the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone, and state nutrient reduction strategies. I also provided highlights of the work being done in the Upper Mississippi River Basin by SWCS, our members, and our partners, including planning, outreach and education, advocacy, on the ground conservation practices, market driven and private sector projects and programs, research, and monitoring.



Mississippi River.



SWCS Illinois Chapter members at the Upper Mississippi River Conference.

Also well attended was SWCS member Ken Olson's presentation, "Writing a Comprehensive Plan with Multi-State Cooperation," in which he shared his extensive knowledge and experience on river systems. Ken's years of research and travel to document river systems have resulted in a popular series of *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* articles and the SWCS-published book [Managing Mississippi and Ohio River Landscapes](#). A Society Fellow, Ken is a researcher, author, educator, and first and foremost, a conservationist!

I look forward to serving as the voice of SWCS and advocate for soil and water resource conservation at many more regional and national conferences and meetings in the coming year.



Upper Mississippi River Conference Green Valley wetland tour.

SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl Featured on Conservation Chat Podcast

Have a long car ride in your future? Check out Episode 35 of the Conservation Chat podcast, in which new SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl is interviewed about her passion for the conservation movement and for building diverse partnerships that result in concrete actions and solutions.

Conservation Chat, produced by Iowa Learning Farms, is a podcast series that explores the relationship between conservation, soil, water, agriculture, and people through interviews with farmers and rural and urban residents about conservation and water quality. While the podcast is based in Iowa and focuses on issues within the state, many of the speakers and topics have a reach beyond political boundaries. [You may listen to the podcast](#) on your mobile device, [stream it](#) from your computer, or read a summary of the conversation on the [Iowa Learning Farms blog](#).



Conservation Matters Video Series

In late October, SWCS debuted a new communications project, the “Conservation Matters” video series. A product of SWCS Science and Policy Committee efforts to increase conservation visibility and education, this series challenges researchers and conservation project managers to describe their work in just a few minutes for a general public audience. Our first presenters were filmed at the 2017 SWCS International Annual Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, and we think they did a fantastic job! Watch SWCS social media accounts for weekly installments or view the full collection as they are published on the [SWCS Vimeo page](#).



[Impact of Extreme Precipitation Events on Edge-of-Field Surfaces](#)
© SWCS Events



[Farmer Decision Making around Nutrient Loss and Water Quality...](#)
© SWCS Events

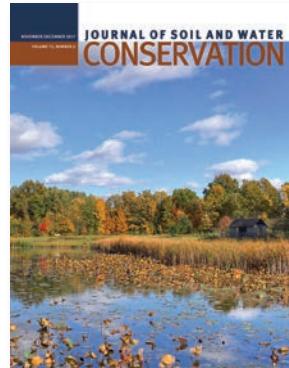


[Managing Levee Breaches on the Mississippi River | Conservati...](#)
© SWCS Events



[Growing Shrub Willow as Bioenergy Buffer on Corn Production ...](#)
© SWCS Events

November/December Issue of the Journal



The November/December issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is available [online](#) and will arrive in mailboxes soon! The A Section features articles by Stewart and Lal on the social/environmental dilemma caused by dependence on nitrogen fertilizer for food production and by Hay and Keegan on the effectiveness of bioreactors as an edge-of-field

water quality protection practice. In the Research Section, Schott et al. evaluate the effect of drainage water management on corn planting date in Iowa, Lang et al. compare effectiveness and quantify the costs of forestry best management practices for ditch erosion control, and Larney et al. present the results of a 12-year study in Alberta comparing residue cover in irrigated row-crop systems under conservation and conventional management. Also in the Research Section, a Research Editorial by Boyd reviews the history, successes, and limitations of the 2008 Farm Bill and the 2012 Forest Planning Rule. Find these and many more articles in the [online Journal](#).

Annual Giving Campaign

As 2017 comes to an end, please consider a donation to the Society's annual giving campaign: **Honoring our past. Working in the present to shape our future.**

Your continued support allows us to take crucial steps to modernize our Society and increase our impact. In the coming months we will be launching a new website and will be taking on additional special projects that can help you do your work and improve the way in which we communicate with you through our journal, events, publications, and other outreach efforts.

“As I look ahead, my reverence for the past is matched by hope and eagerness for the future. As the conservation world evolves, so must the Society, and we can't do that without you.” – Clare Lindahl, SWCS CEO

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

SHOP FOR THE SOCIETY

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!



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.



Find us on
Facebook
[facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation](#)

California/Nevada Chapter Holds "Preparing for Extreme Water Conditions" Conference

By John McCann, California/Nevada Chapter President

After several years of drought throughout California and Nevada, the 2016-2017 winter brought enough precipitation to effectively end the drought and cause flooding. This set the tone for the "Preparing for Extreme Water Conditions" conference held by the California-Nevada Chapter in Reno, Nevada, on October 19 and 20.

Prior to the conference, the Chapter's Executive Council held their annual business meeting at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Nevada State Office. The Council discussed finalizing its strategic plan, developing a new student chapter at the University of Nevada Reno, and confirming John McCann as chapter president.

A one-day tour traced story the Truckee River from the Sierras to the Nevada desert. To start, the group met Chad Blanchard, US Water Master's Office, at Lake Tahoe to discuss managing outflows to meet dozens of interests at the lake and downstream. Garth Oksol, Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, then discussed mercury containment and wetland mitigation related to the construction of a new highway segment. Next, Mickey Hazelwood, The Nature Conservancy, showcased large stream restoration projects along the Truckee. Moving downstream, Montgomery Brewer, Bureau of Reclamation, discussed Derby Dam and how water diversions have supported the town of Fallon, altered fish habitat, and impacted Pyramid Lake levels. Finally, Allan Perazzo, Perazzo Brothers Dairy, and Bill Lawry, Churchill County, discussed how water is used and conserved in the desert as well as how decisive action and clear thinking can help prevent flood-related catastrophes.

Additionally, a speaker series was held at the Renaissance Hotel on the banks of the Truckee River in Reno and provided a historical, infrastructural, and ecological context for water management. Speakers presented recent precipitation data as well as wet and dry period evidence from the last 5,000 years and drought and precipitation monitoring and visualization technologies. Presenters from the Truckee Meadows Water Authority described how local water supplies are managed during drought and how related infrastructure is protected against flooding, and Randy Fessler, California Department of Water Resources, discussed the recent emergency response and recovery at Oroville Dam. Finally, Sherman Swanson, University of Nevada Reno, discussed the downfalls of relying on serial engineering to manage streams during high and low flows when management of functional riparian habitat and floodplain compatible land uses could be more effective.

The Executive Council would like to thank all the presenters, attendees, and local sponsors (Full Circle Compost, Cabela's, Patagonia, and the Terry Lee Wells Discovery Museum) of the 2017 California/Nevada Chapter Annual Conference.



Field tour participants on the Southeast Connector during construction.



Mickey Hazelwood, The Nature Conservancy, discussing floodplain restoration at McCarran Ranch on the Truckee River.



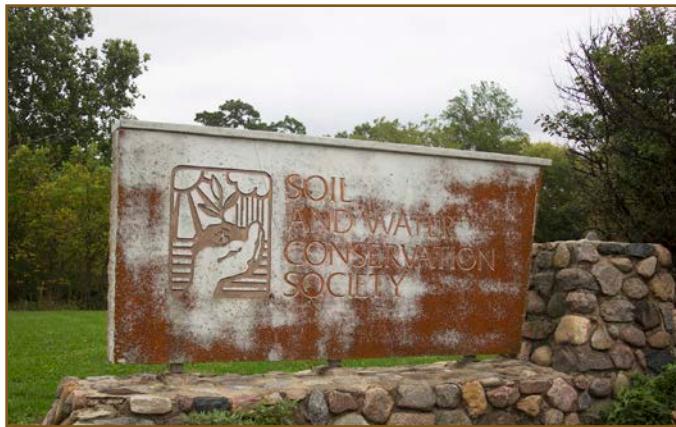
Passing the gavel from Joe Williams (right) to John McCann (left).

SWCS Grounds Cleanup

On October 26, SWCS and the Conservation Districts of Iowa partnered with the SWCS Iowa Chapter to do some grounds cleanup at the SWCS headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa. We cleared away brush, did some weeding, layed down new mulch, and repainted the SWCS sign. Thank you to all who helped out!



Volunteers put down new mulch.



Before (above) and after (below) a fresh coat of paint for our sign.

National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention

Earlier this month, SWCS was honored to be part of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) Convention in Kansas City. Every year the NAFB Convention brings together broadcast professionals, ag industry leaders, and students focused on the agriculture industry. SWCS spreads the message of soil and water conservation with the help of our nation's great farm broadcasters!



SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl speaking at the National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention.

Call for Career Profile Submissions

Share your career journey to inspire the next generation of conservationists! As part of our new website, we're building a career center with materials to provide information and guidance for students and young professionals. We'd like to provide them with profiles of SWCS members working in a variety of jobs to help them find a career that fits their interests. How can you help? Fill out and return a career profile questionnaire. The questionnaire can be completed through an [online form](#).

Upcoming Events

Hoosier Chapter Annual Meeting

Trafalgar, Indiana
November 16, 2017

North Dakota Chapter:

Farming for Sustainability
Bismarck, North Dakota
November 21, 2017

National Cover Crops Conference

Indianapolis, Indiana
December 7-8, 2017

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- Former SWCS Executive Director Jim Gulliford has been [appointed as Region 7 Administrator](#) for the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- The Trump administration ordered two big [corporations to pay \\$115 million](#) to clean up a Texas toxic waste site that may have spread dangerous levels of pollution during flooding from Hurricane Harvey.
- New data on nitrate contamination in rural water supplies make the case for using farm bill programs to curb fertilizer runoff, according to the [Environmental Working Group](#).
- Scott Pruitt suggests he will [restrict scientists](#) who get USEPA grants from advising the agency.
- The nomination of Bill Northey to one of USDA's undersecretary posts has passed the Senate Agriculture Committee and will be voted on by the full Senate in the coming weeks.
- The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently released a mini-documentary on Hugh Hammond Bennett and the origins of soil conservation in the United States. [Watch it online](#).
- The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition [outlines Farm Bill priorities](#).
- Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has [announced the appointment](#) of state directors for the Farm Service Agency and for USDA's Rural Development programs.

Membership Account Updates

Thank you to those of you who have kept your online SWCS membership account information up-to-date. To review and update your information, please visit www.swcs.org/members.



Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from October



Are you up-to-date with news about soil and water conservation research and policy? *Conservation NewsBriefs* is a highly informative e-news brief that delivers the most relevant content to your inbox each and every Thursday. Below are links to some of the most read articles from over the past month:

- [How much nitrate is in rural America's water?](#) (In These Times)
- [Adding organic matter to soil has a limited effect on water holding capacity](#) (University of Sydney via Phys.org)
- [Is tillage stealing your soil?](#) (Agriculture.com)
- [Strips of native prairie plants could reduce pollution runoff from farm fields](#) (Harvest Public Media)

[Click here](#) to sign up and start receiving your weekly *Conservation NewsBriefs* today!

New Members

Welcome members who joined in October!

International

George Puno

Alabama

Sutie Xu

Iowa

Nicole Kraft

Sam Van De Berg

Kathy Wine

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Josiah Ihnen

Illinois

Gary Kerofsky

Indiana—Hoosier

Emily Bruner

Kentucky—Bluegrass

Jerry Peery

Missouri—Show Me

Kristen Veum

Pennsylvania—Keystone

Charlie White

Corporate Members

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

Gold



Silver



Bronze

