



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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North Central Region One Water Action Forum



Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel at Keystone Crossing
Indianapolis, Indiana
December 11-13, 2018
www.onewaternc.org

There Is Still Time to Register!

Online registration will remain open for the North Central Region One Water Action Forum through **Wednesday, November 28**. After this date, participants are encouraged to download the paper registration form found at www.onewaternc.org, complete the information, and bring it to the forum registration desk for onsite registration. We look forward to seeing you there!

Plenary Sessions Announced

Forum Kickoff: One Water in Action

Wednesday, December 12
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Speakers: Joe Hoggset, Indianapolis Mayor (Invited); Michael Carlin, US Water Alliance Board President; Mark Kesling, The daVinci Pursuit; Trisha Moore, Kansas State University; Ron Graber, Kansas State University Research and Extension; Dawn White, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

This plenary will introduce the One Water concept and feature a panel discussing different perspectives on One Water, examples of One Water at work across the region, and opportunities and challenges to using the One Water approach.

One Water Community Conversation

Wednesday, December 12
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

In this session, participants will have the opportunity to learn about each other and the experiences and perspectives we bring to the One Water conversation. We will explore what drives our commitment to land and water stewardship, the successes we can build on, and what we're



hoping to come away with to strengthen our individual work and the One Water movement across the Midwest. Plenary panelists will share their reflections on the conversation to wrap up the session.

Reconnecting the Dots: New Strategies for One Water

Thursday, December 13

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Speakers: Ellen Gilinsky, Ellen Gilinsky, LLC; Tracy Mehan, AWWA Government Affairs; Roger Wolf, Iowa Soybean Association; Alyssa Charney, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

This plenary will focus on new connections and new ways of doing business across nonprofit, for-profit, and government sectors that are leading to more sustainable, inclusive, integrated approaches to water management.

Concluding Plenary Session and Lunch

Thursday, December 13

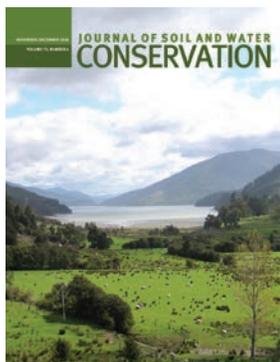
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Working session leaders will share highlights from their respective conversations. Discussion will focus on commonalities between different conversations, goals for the future, and the One Water agenda for the North Central Region moving forward.

To view the full forum agenda, visit www.onewaternc.org.

November/December Issue of the Journal

The latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is here! In the features section, you will find a review of knowledge surrounding cover crop use in the North Central United States by Cates et al. as well as a discussion by Delgado et al. of the potential research impacts of the new Agricultural Collaborative Research Outcomes System (AgCROS) network of databases. Research published in this issue includes a pair of articles by Sharma et al. regarding the effects of cover crops on various soil quality indicators and a study by Stewart et al. addressing the impact of climate change and rising temperatures on Great Plains wheat production. Another highlight is work by Obrycki and Karlen that compares historical (1930s) land-improvement recommendations and farmer perceptions to those of today. View the full issue table of contents and access articles in the [online journal](#).



74th SWCS International Annual Conference

Wyndham Grand Downtown

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

July 28–31, 2019

www.swcs.org/19AC

Conference Theme and Logo Announced!

The 74th SWCS International Annual Conference theme will be “Bridging the Divide: United Rural and Urban Landscapes for Conservation.” In the northeastern United States, food production has taken different forms over time, and management of soil and water has been accelerated by agricultural and urban dynamics. This rich and varied land use history makes the region a prime location to unite conservation experts to preserve our natural resources.

The conference location is the Wyndham Grand in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, just feet from the point where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio. The hotel sits at the pinnacle of the Golden Triangle, the city’s revitalized urban center. Whether you’re exploring Point Park, a 36 acre state park that pays homage to the many generations of communities that have occupied the site; seeing one of the nation’s first green buildings; or learning about partnerships to scale up conservation on the local level and beyond, the city of Pittsburgh is a perfect setting for new conservation connections and perspectives.

Home to three rivers and 446 bridges, Pittsburgh is known as “The City of Bridges.” These bridges play an important role in connecting the valleys, hillsides, river



Uniting Rural and Urban
Landscapes for Conservation

74th SWCS International Annual Conference
July 28-31, 2019 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

plains, and communities. This city of linkages sets the stage for connections around eight general conservation research and practice topics. Specialty tracks will foster dialogue surrounding unique partnerships in watershed planning and implementation, engagement of the private sector in conservation, and the challenges of adapting the landscape to a changing climate.

Paths to meet current soil and water conservation needs look very different from the solutions that galvanized action after the Dust Bowl, and they will continue to evolve. Come to Pittsburgh and be part of that shared conservation future.

Call for Presentations

The annual conference call for presentations is now open, and abstracts are being accepted for oral presentations, poster presentations, symposia, and workshops.

The Annual Conference Program Planning Committee has identified three special topic areas based on this year's 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.

- Adapting Landscapes to Climate Change
- Engaging the Private Sector in Conservation
- Watershed Conservation to Unify Urban and Rural Communities
- 2019 General Conference Theme Submissions – Bridging the Divide: Uniting Rural and Urban Landscapes for Conservation

Detailed information regarding the call for presentations can be found at www.swcs.org/19AC.

Upcoming Events

[North Central Region One Water Action Forum](#)
Indianapolis, Indiana
December 11-13, 2018

 Find us on
Facebook
facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation

Be a Superhero and Give Today

The SWCS annual giving campaign theme for 2018 is “Save the World.” As members of this conservation community, you understand that protecting our soil and water



resources is essential to achieving global sustainability. The Society's desire to help conservationists and land managers identify and implement best conservation systems is supported by our members who help make our common goals a reality. We

believe that our natural resources and the people like you, who dedicate time and efforts to saving them, are the real superheroes of this world.

We need your support to advance a greater understanding of the science of saving our soil, water, and other natural resources through our journal, reports, trainings, conferences, advocacy, communications, and on-the-ground projects. Below are a few simple ways you can send donations.



Also, with a donation of \$50 or more made by January 1, you will receive a complimentary SWCS notebook to record all your ideas for saving the world!

GIVE ONLINE

www.swcs.org/give

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**.



Career Profile: Doug Smith

We had the pleasure of talking with Doug Smith of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) about how his interest in natural resources started and what it really means to be a research soil scientist. View the full profile [online](#).



Doug Smith, Research Soil Scientist, USDA-ARS, Grasslands Soil and Water Research Laboratory

Career Sector: Research

Degrees: BS in Animal Science from Texas A&M University–Commerce, MS in Agriculture from Texas A&M University–Commerce, PhD in Soil Science from University of Arkansas

Briefly describe your career path from college to today.

Coming out of high school, I wanted to work with animals and majored in animal science for my bachelor's. My master's project was focused on composting manures and food waste and using the compost as a soil amendment. As I worked on that, I became increasingly interested in soil science and working to minimize the environmental impact of agriculture. I went straight through from my bachelor's to a PhD. My advisor worked for the USDA ARS, so I was aware of the great work they do and was very interested in a career in research. I was fortunate that my first job after completing my PhD was in research, when I was hired by USDA ARS to work on source water (drinking water) protection at the National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory in West Lafayette, Indiana. After about 12 years in Indiana, I moved to the Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory in Temple, Texas, where I work today.

How has SWCS impacted your career or contributed to your continued education and/or professional development?

My research program is very applied, so going to the SWCS meetings where there are so many practitioners and people that work in the policy arena has been worthwhile. Quite a few of my publications are in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, and the reason I tend to publish there is because it is a great way to speak directly to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other action agencies. If I would like to get my research into the hands of the NRCS, then I publish in the Journal.

What advice do you have for college students or early career professionals who might want to work in a job similar to the one you have right now? Publish, publish, publish. Opportunities are certainly out there, but you have to be open to the opportunities as they come along. I think there is an increasing need for GIS as farmers are getting more interested in precision agriculture. We need people with the skill sets to marry all the geospatial information—the massive amounts of data—that are coming in and to make the assessments from that.

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) says farmers can keep using the weedkiller [dicamba](#), which has been blamed for vast crop damage.
- Arkansas Plant Board votes to grant in-crop [dicamba](#) use.
- The Environmental Defense Fund and pork producer Smithfield Foods are restoring [monarch butterfly](#) habitats on farm properties in central Texas, northern Missouri, and the Central Valley of California.
- The biggest market for US [soybeans](#) is all but closed, and that's causing problems for American farmers.
- The median [household income](#) for farm owner-operators will fall for the fourth consecutive year in 2018, according to USDA data. That's partly a result of weak prices for agricultural commodities. The majority of such farms lose money on their produce and only make it up thanks to income from off-farm work, investments, and government benefits.
- Environmental regulation and investment has improved the [Chicago River](#). The cleanup was instrumental in making the neighborhood blossom and the economy boom.
- A proposed revision to the Pennsylvania [Phosphorus](#) Index would better target practices to reduce phosphorus loss.
- Food Vs. Fuel: What Trump's [ethanol policy](#) means for the food system.
- Could [Kernza](#) become a perennial alternative?
- [Montana](#) Governor Steve Bullock sued Attorney General Tim Fox in the state Supreme Court, asking justices to overturn Fox's opinion on the closure of pending conservation easement projects with Montana landowners.
- [Smithfield Foods](#), the world's biggest pork producer, pledges to cover manure ponds.
- Can pot save the [pumpkin](#) farm? A multimillion dollar offer to grow marijuana is tearing the "World Pumpkin Capital" apart.
- According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, [women farmers](#), ranchers, and agricultural managers outearned their male counterparts in 2017.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in October!

Arkansas—Razorback

Erica Kriner

California/Nevada

Lauren Bolotin
Trevor Carter
Olivia Fox
Anna Miller

Florida

Sanjay Shukla

Georgia

Uttam Saha

Iowa

Nick Allen
Kayla Bergman
Carol Brown
Stacie Buhr
Rob Davis
Mario Fenu
Steve Konrady
Melissa Miller
Cara Morgan
Elena Polush
Zita Quade

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Sean Vellinga

Indiana—Hoosier

Seth Harden
Trisha McClain

Indiana—Purdue University Student Chapter

Shalamar Armstrong

Michigan

Douglas McLaughlin

Montana

James Cave
Bruce Sims

North Dakota

Aaron Daigh

All Ohio

David Dixon

Oregon

Bob Hansen

Wisconsin

Zoe Sherman

Corporate Members

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

Gold



Silver



Bronze

