



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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SWCS and COVID-19

As COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives, at work and at home, we want to let you know your professional society is thinking of you and your families. As staff are working remotely, please use email to connect with SWCS at this time.

Annual Giving Campaign

As we enter the season of giving, we are asking our members to support **conservation now** with a gift during our annual giving campaign. The efforts of SWCS, our members, and our partners enable those working on the ground to prioritize conservation now. We need your help to continue our work to protect soil and water resources around the world.

Your contribution will help us develop new initiatives and educational opportunities, like our pilot [Conservation at the Co-op program](#), which aims to increase producer knowledge and adoption of conservation practices, and our 2021 [Conservation Practitioner Poll](#), a survey designed to collect information on the needs and recommendations of boots-on-the-ground conservationists.

Donations can be made online at www.swcs.org/give, and for federal employees, through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) with the code #11797.

Thank you for your support.



November/December Issue of the Journal



Don't miss the latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. In the A Section, find an update from [Lal](#) on the role of soils as discussed during the September of 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and the resulting formation of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health. Additionally, a feature by [Prescott et al.](#) considers recent research that suggests plant surplus

carbon may be managed to most effectively regenerate soil organic matter. The authors then connect these findings to principles of regenerative agriculture.

Articles in the Research Section cover a range of topics, including the following studies related to conservation practice adoption:

- [Wang et al.](#) explore Great Plains farmer perspectives on cover crop and buffer strip adoption
- [Tellez et al.](#) identify barriers to conservation program participation for Great Lakes farmers
- [Wade et al.](#) investigate Midwest stakeholder conceptualizations of soil health

Additionally, work by [Johnson et al.](#) compares Indigenous agricultural knowledge and techniques to current USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standard practices and calls for improved recognition and integration of Indigenous practices in NRCS conservation programs.

View the full table of contents and find many more articles in the [online journal](#).



SWCS Welcomes New Staff

In October SWCS hired two new staff to support our goals of connecting conservation professionals and partners in a welcoming community, and sharing important conservation news and research and empowering conservation professionals to lead the discussion of natural resource conservation.



Renee Bouldin has joined the SWCS team in the newly created Chapter and Community Builder position. She is responsible for chapter outreach and support and will also assist with event planning and execution. Renee is working remotely from western Massachusetts.

She graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2018 with a degree in Natural Resources Conservation and a Public Policy Certificate. Renee started her work with SWCS as the Executive Director of the Southern New England Chapter (SNEC) in 2019. In this role she managed all communications, created monthly newsletters, developed an outreach strategy to grow SNEC, implemented a student internship program, and organized all chapter events. In spite of the challenges of the past couple of years, SNEC has grown and adapted—developing connections and strengthening their community. She is grateful to have worked with this organization and their partners and knows that the collaboration will continue as she steps into her new role with SWCS national.



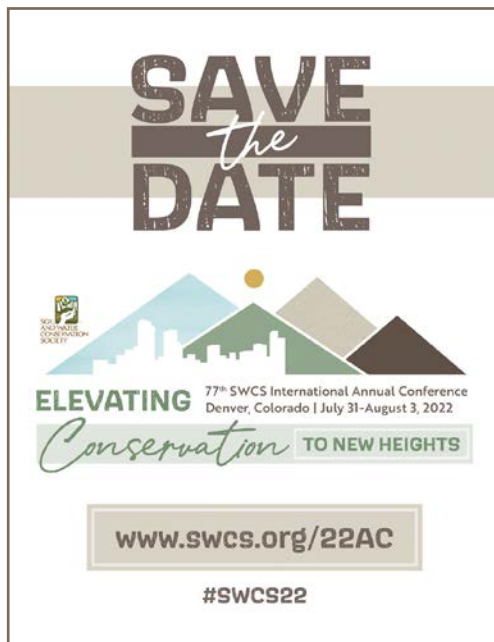
Emily Yaddof has joined the SWCS team in the newly created position of Communications Coordinator. She will manage the Society's communications and marketing efforts including website updates, social media posts, press releases and other general communications. She will also oversee SWCS's annual giving campaign.

Emily spent her childhood playing in the woods along the banks of one of the best cold water trout streams in northeast Iowa's driftless region where her parents instilled in her a deep appreciation for the natural world. She graduated from Iowa State University with degrees in marketing and technical communication, and has spent more than a decade working in the nonprofit sector. She brings with her a variety of experience in community building, marketing and communications, event planning, and fundraising. Emily is delighted to have an opportunity to use her skillset to convey and promote the importance of conserving our natural resources.

Save the Date for the SWCS 2022 Annual Conference!

The 77th SWCS International Annual Conference will be held in **Denver, Colorado, July 31-August 3, 2022**. The conference theme, "Elevating Conservation to New Heights," embraces the mountainous region of the location while emphasizing the shared vision held by conservationists around the world to scale our work, repair ecosystems, and create resilient working lands.

To learn more about the event and view the draft Agenda-at-a-Glance, visit www.swcs.org/22AC.



Upcoming Events

[Virginia Chapter Fall Meeting](#)

Petersburg, Virginia
November 16, 2021

[New York-Empire Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Virtual Event
November 16, 2021

[Oregon Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Virtual Event
November 17, 2021

[Colorado Chapter Virtual Workshop](#)

Virtual Event
December 3, 2021

[Michigan Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Virtual Event
December 3, 2021

From the Leadership: Membership Message from the Chair

Courtesy of SWCS Chair Dale Threatt-Taylor



“When was the last time, you did something for the first time?”

This line, from Darius Rucker’s hit song “For the First Time,” struck a chord with me. I answered, “It was last night!” I stood 10 feet

from him as he sang his popular hit songs during a special event in Charleston, South Carolina. Having never been to a concert in my life, standing near, or even being in the same room, with a famous recording artist was a first for me. We all have had several “firsts” over the last 12 months. Not all good, but not all bad either. “Firsts” can be quite exciting.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society has been INTENTIONALLY experiencing some “firsts.” Following the completion of our organization-wide survey in early 2021 and the first Conservation Practitioner Poll (funded with a grant from the Walton Family Foundation), we are working to address the needs voiced by our members, chapters, and the conservation community. Your responses were incredibly helpful in guiding the organization’s plans for the future.

As part of our resulting strategy, SWCS has set new goals for membership, chapter, and communication development. To help achieve these goals, we’ve added two first-time roles to the staff:

- SWCS now has a dedicated Chapter and Community Builder, Renee Bouldin, who joins the national staff after serving as Executive Director of the Southern New England Chapter. Renee will work closely with and serve chapter leaders, while developing a vision and strategy for a new chapter structure that will encourage engagement and support growth at the local level. We believe this added assistance for chapters will reinvigorate our regional groups, especially as we are able to return to in-person meetings.
- After hearing that many survey respondents were unaware of some SWCS benefits, projects, and news, we have also created a new position to “spread the word” about SWCS’s many opportunities and offerings. As SWCS continues to provide resources and events for conservation professionals, Communications Coordinator Emily

Yaddof will use her experience in marketing and public relations to ensure that the value of SWCS membership and our support of conservationists and the profession is no secret.

So, I want to challenge you to experience a few “firsts” in your work as well. Ask yourself if you are processing the same conservation plans, on the same parcels, with the same landowners or same conservation partners as you always have. Or are there new projects and partners that you can—and should—work with? Are you working in the same locations? With the same research? Applying for the same grants? Or are there new professionals inspiring you in our work ahead. Let’s all answer the question “When was the last time you did something for the first time?” with a resounding—TODAY!

Conservation at the Co-op: November 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.

Harvest is underway at the co-op! Not just the grain harvest, but also the “digital harvest” of data about yield, soil health, and the ROI of seeding cover crops and using zone nutrient management on trial plots in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. As our retailer-conservationists communicate with their grower-clients, a key message is the value of field-level data to inform management decisions in real time. Soil tests taken after harvest will inform nutrient prescriptions written for next year’s crop, which impacts fertilizer quantities applied and ultimately a grower’s bottom line, and the final action in the field for many will be seeding covers after harvest to hold the soil in place over the winter and into spring.

Our retailers are also leading new outreach initiatives with aspiring, young conservationists. At our Nebraska co-op, staff are working with local FFA chapters to demonstrate erosion via a rainfall simulator, and to educate on the dangers of grain entrapment at large storage facilities. These efforts are supported in-part by the USDA NRCS via its Conservation Innovation Grant On-Farm Trials program in partnership with SWCS, Land O’Lakes, and Truterra, Inc.

Do you want to learn more about our co-op conservationists and their strategies to offer conservation services and products to growers? For more information, contact Joe Otto, SWCS Special Projects & Partnerships Director, at joe.otto@swcs.org.

SWCS Fall Swag is Here!

For a limited time only we’ve brought back our classic SWCS swag, as well as some new designs, in a variety of colors and styles. Shop our [merch store](#) and be sure to order your swag by November 21!



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.

- What's needed in USDA's [climate-smart](#) ag program
- Canada: Agriculture ministers agree on a "shared vision" for next [agricultural policy framework](#)
- What's in the [Build Back Better Act](#) for ag?
- Amid disasters, Iowa farmers tap a record \$83 million in [conservation assistance](#)
- Information revolution needed to [promote no-till](#) worldwide
- [Muddier rivers](#) are jeopardizing dams and water quality for millions
- Could conservation plan prompt [tougher grazing](#) oversight?
- J-WAFS launches [Food and Climate](#) Systems Transformation Alliance
- Soil study shows why [nitrous oxide](#) emissions should factor into climate change mitigation
- Midwest governors explore avenues for [year-round E15](#)
- Farmers take on "[post-apocalyptic](#)" food crisis
- Food companies aren't moving quickly enough to fend off [global water crisis](#), new benchmark report finds
- Study explores how [climate change](#) may affect rain in US Corn Belt
- Analysis: The key ingredients of [modern farming](#)—soil, rain, and broadband
- USDA supports [drought resilience](#) with \$21M
- Report: Fertilizer responsible for more than 20 percent of [total agricultural emissions](#)
- China calls for overhaul of [farm subsidy rules](#) under World Trade Organization
- South East Market, West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) receive federal grant to build [equitable community agriculture](#) program

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.



We are not going to return, I sincerely hope and believe, to the original way of doing things to our land.

HUGH
HAMMOND
BENNETT



SAVE *the* DATE



AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2022



Des Moines, Iowa

www.swcs.org/22IDS



New Members

Welcome members who joined in October!

Canada—Alberta

Cindy Prescott

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Raina Volovski

Iowa

Ethan Thies

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Duffy Goodall

Kansas

Hannah Moshay

Michigan

Emma Fitzgerald

Nebraska

Adam Rupe

South Dakota

Jed Fathke

Wisconsin

Rachel Cramer

New Conservation Community Members

Welcome community members who joined in October! Learn how to become a Conservation Community Member [here](#).

North Central Conservation District

City of Sioux Falls

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

