



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

In This Issue

| | |
|--|---|
| SWCS Store Is Open! | 1 |
| Rooted in Conservation: Growing Strong Communities | 2 |
| Election Results: Implications for Conservation Policy and Programs | 3 |
| Share Your Feedback on SWCS Advocacy Priorities! | 3 |
| Save the Date for the 80th SWCS International Annual Conference | 3 |
| Retail Conservation Panel at Sustainable Ag Summit | 3 |
| November/December Issue of the Journal | 4 |
| Seeking Physical Sciences Research Editor | 4 |
| New Resource for Farmers and Conservation Professionals: Compare Conservation Incentives with ISAP's FIND Tool | 4 |
| New Members | 5 |
| Upcoming Events | 6 |
| Corporate Partners | 6 |

SWCS Store Is Open!



The SWCS Bonfire store is back open, featuring new designs, including the 2024 Student T-shirt Contest winner!

With the holidays quickly approaching, take the opportunity to order SWCS gear for your family, your friends, or yourself! Orders are expected to arrive by December 13.

View all styles and order by **November 24**.

As an SWCS member, you receive a **10% discount** on our new line of shirts when you use the promo code: **FALL4SWCS**



Order Today!

Rooted in Conservation: Growing Strong Communities



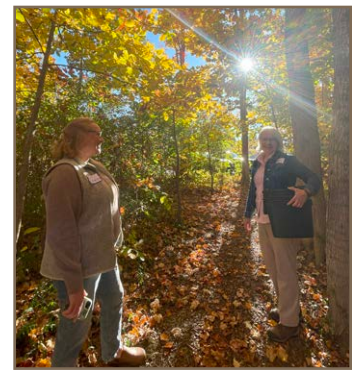
Growing up, Perry Thomas was captivated by nature. “The first 12 years of my life, I would walk to school through the woods in the early morning and walk home in the evening, and I still have these vivid memories of observations I made along the trail,” Perry recalls.

Now the program director at the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education, Perry has dedicated her life to preserving natural resources in her community. Her passion for conservation began young: she remembers rafting as a child and noticing how a river near a paint company would change colors. In college, she tested the water herself. “While the stream appeared healthy—good riparian habitat, no sediment buildup—the invertebrates told a different story. There were only midges,” Perry explains. She and her father reported the issue, helping to stop pollution in their local river.

With a long career spanning science, practice, and education, Perry saw the need for a support system for collaborating across sectors, which she found in SWCS’s Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). Through ELP, she had the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse group of conservation professionals to host a local event.

When asked to share a memory of a great day working in conservation, she recalled an event from about a month ago. She partnered with a fellow ELP graduate to host two workshops: Project WET for Educators and the Watershed Management for Wildlife and Water Quality.

“The combination [of workshops] attracted a good cross-section of the community and gave people a chance to talk with each other and think about opportunities for implementing nature-based solutions across a local watershed as well as across more regional communities. We just had a wonderful feeling of community and optimism for the future of our waterways.”



Perry leading a debrief on a watershed simulation at the morning Project WET for Educators workshop



Perry presenting the Planting Hope Demonstration



The evening Watershed Management for Wildlife and Water Quality workshop

We’re thrilled to connect SWCS members like Perry with the people and resources they need to make a difference. Thanks to the support of donors and members like you, we can offer programs like the Emerging Leaders Program, which fosters collaboration, leadership, and impactful change across communities nationwide.

With your help, we can continue to improve and expand these critical resources. A donation of just \$25 creates a ripple effect, strengthening conservation efforts in local communities.

Thank you for your dedication to a sustainable future!

Donate

Election Results: Implications for Conservation Policy and Programs

The 2024 US elections have brought notable shifts that could impact agriculture policy and conservation initiatives. With Republicans securing the Senate majority, Senator John Boozman (R-AR) is expected to take over as chair of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. Meanwhile, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) is presumed to become the top Democrat on the committee, following Senator Debbie Stabenow's (D-MI) retirement. Republicans also retained control of the House, with both Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA) winning reelection.

As Congress shifts, it seems more likely that lawmakers will opt for an extension of the current Farm Bill rather than passing a new five-year bill during the lame-duck session. This could delay critical updates and funding boosts for conservation programs. The extension will likely also include an ad hoc financial assistance package to aid farmers impacted by natural disasters and address downward trends in farm income.

We may see a shift in USDA priorities; however, funding secured by the Inflation Reduction Act remains protected, preserving resources for conservation, albeit with some potential reprioritization. It remains to be seen how these changes might affect ongoing conservation efforts and programs.

SWCS will continue monitoring the impacts of the election, sharing key outcomes with SWCS members, and serving as the voice of conservation professionals in Washington, DC.

Share Your Feedback on SWCS Advocacy Priorities!

We need your input to shape our advocacy efforts! Please take a moment to complete our survey, which will help determine our federal funding and advocacy priorities. Your responses will guide our staff, Board of Directors, and Science & Policy Committee in identifying top issues, understanding communication preferences, and planning future workshops and webinars.

Your voice is crucial in strengthening our impact on soil and water conservation. Please complete the survey by Friday, December 6 to ensure your perspective is heard. Together, we can make a difference!

[Share Your Feedback](#)

Save the Date for the 80th SWCS International Annual Conference



80th SWCS International
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Conservation Coast to Coast
August 3–6, 2025 | Costa Mesa, California



Save the date for the 80th SWCS International Annual Conference, August 3-6, 2025, in Costa Mesa, California! This year's conference theme is "Conservation Coast to Coast."

Call for presentation submissions and more details regarding the event will be posted in the coming months at www.swcs.org/25AC.

Retail Conservation Panel at Sustainable Ag Summit



On November 20, 2024, SWCS Senior Advisor Rachel Owen will be sharing valuable insights on the panel "A Decade Working with Ag Retail to Scale Conservation: What's Worked and What's Still Needed" at the Sustainable Ag Summit. Owen will present results from SWCS's collaborative work on retail

conservation over the past few years.

This engaging session will explore the emerging field of conservation agronomy and its potential to transform our food system. Owen, alongside other experts from NGOs, industry groups, ag retail, and farmers, will discuss innovative approaches to scaling the adoption of key conservation practices. Attendees can expect to gain practical insights into successful service-based models for conservation delivery and learn how trusted ag retail advisors can play a crucial role in supporting this transition.

[Learn More](#)

November/December Issue of the Journal



The most recent *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* (JSWC) is here, and this issue is packed with the latest in natural resource conservation research and practice. In the journal's A Section, renowned soil scientist [Rattan Lal](#) provides a summary of the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit, held in Nairobi, Kenya, this past May. He also considers the steps

required to turn the Summit discussions into concrete action plans and create a roadmap for transforming African agriculture to ensure both food security and climate resilience. Additionally, [Steiner et al.](#) discuss pathways to sustaining agriculture and communities in the Ogallala region.

Research articles include work by [Irvine et al.](#) to study agricultural stakeholders' perspectives on crop insurance discount programs, cover crops, and risk management; [Westhoff et al.](#) to investigate how combining gypsum with establishment of perennial vegetation improved the restoration of a salt-affected soil in the Northern Great Plains; and [Horák et al.](#) to explore the influence of forest structure and soil chemistry on species richness and habitat preferences in Balkan floodplain forests. Learn more about this research in the [online journal](#).

Note: Beginning in January 2025, SWCS will partner with global academic publisher Taylor & Francis to publish the journal. SWCS members will have complimentary online access to the journal via [Taylor & Francis Online](#); print subscriptions will be available for purchase with SWCS membership. Read the [press release](#) and stay tuned for more information!

Seeking Physical Sciences Research Editor

Are you or someone you know passionate about scientific research and publication? A great communicator? Have editorial and peer-reviewing experience? Be JSWC's next Research Co-Editor!

This position, specializing in conservation physical sciences, will review submissions on the physical sciences, oversee the work of Associate Editors, and make final manuscript decisions. In addition, this position will join Research Co-Editor J. Arbuckle (social sciences) in chairing the Editorial Board, developing opportunities to attract high-quality submissions, and setting a vision for

the direction of the journal that increases its impact and reputation.

This is a three-year term with the possibility of renewal. Co-Editors receive an annual honorarium of **\$4,000** with complimentary SWCS conference registration.

Learn more about the [Research Editor's role](#) and apply or nominate a colleague by **January 15, 2025**.

New Resource for Farmers and Conservation Professionals: Compare Conservation Incentives with ISAP's FIND Tool



The Financial Incentives Database (FIND) Tool was developed by the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP) to share financial payment opportunities that are available for adopting conservation practices such as cover crops,

saturated buffers, and constructed wetlands. This tool is a great resource for conservation professionals who advise and encourage farmers to implement these practices on their farms. The tool includes information for over 60 financial incentive programs available to farmers who want to implement conservation practices.

Users can filter the list based on location, production type, and conservation practice they are interested in adopting. Detailed information for each program includes farm eligibility, payment estimations, contracting details, and technical requirements. By listing program information side-by-side, the [FIND Tool](#) allows farmers to compare programs and select the best option for their operation.

Program representatives who would like to include program information in the FIND Tool should use this [submission form](#) to list a new program. Program representatives are highly encouraged to provide relevant information for each question on this form. Any unanswered categories will display "Information not provided" on the FIND Tool.

Farmers and their advisors can access the FIND Tool and find the program that's best for them by visiting www.ilsustainableag.org/findtool.

ISAP and its members aim to provide farmers with transparent and practical information to increase their confidence in evaluating incentive payment opportunities. ISAP does not endorse any particular program or company included in the database.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in October!

Arkansas—Razorback Chapter

Gerson Drescher
Bronc Finch
Trevor Grubb
Shannon Speir

Arizona

Kelly Wolff

California/Nevada

Catherine de la Peña
August Frisk
Melissa Grim
Esther Lofton
Sarah McCann
Isabella Segarra
Jack Severson
Taylor Stubblefield

Colorado

Katie McGrath Novak
Rox Stricker

Connecticut/Massachusetts Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Sam Dixon
Mike Downey
Penelope Holland
Ashley Laveriano

DC—National Capital Chapter

Rose Keyathe
Whitney King
Tyler Stotland
Minna Wong

Florida

Stefani Duarte
Sheyla Ravelo Perez

Georgia

Jazmond Carter
Michelle Conner
Sarah Dixon
Jahnari Edwards
Christopher Epps
Zane Redman

Hawaii and Pacific Basin

Kevin Burke
Jenna Dunn
Johnathan Kelly
TK McKenzie

Abby O'Bryant
Sarah Ramirez

Iowa

Erica Carnes
Riley Christensen
Cassandra Druhl
Allisen Freihage
Rowan Kuechenmeister
Scott Lukan
Brooke Webb
Abbie Williams

Idaho

Julie Lakatos

Illinois

Alan Bailey
Carolina Diaz Garcia
Erica Hinz
Raquel Lechuga
Davonne Long
Briana Reagan
Chanise Wise

Indiana—Hoosier Chapter

Jude Addo-Chidie
Emma Bodnarick
Keegan Cougill
Jamie Davenport
Lindsey Donaldson
Hanna Garriott
Rachel Irvine
Jacob Luken
Danielle Randles
Camille Verendia

International

Zahoor Mujdded Choudary
Vincent Dzulani Banda
Babar Hussain
Ajar Khan
Lall Khan
Kelly Kosiarski

Kansas

Alex Clark
Kick Detter

Kansas—Kansas State University Chapter

Molly Kane

Kentucky—Bluegrass Chapter

Mallory Bowman

Brendan Campbell
Danielle Cottrell
Callie Dickman
Mary Dossett
Myranda Hentges
Noah Lane
Mason Quiram
Heather Silvanik

Louisiana

Arlene Culpepper
Dee McKenzie
Michael Polite
Leandro Vieira II

Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts-Amherst Chapter

Natalie Alonzo
Andrew Atallah
Keara McAuliffe
Meagan McKiernan

Michigan

Kate Chamberlin
Liv Killey
Emma Poellet
Zack Spiekerman
Etienne Sutton
Max Swiatowy

Minnesota

Willow Dean
Kelly Herfendal
Bailey Tangen

Missouri—Show Me Chapter

Sarah Higgins

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter

Ashley Grubb
Papa Gueye
Arin Hornung
Carly James
Amanda Kirby
Thomas Shea
Emmanuel Wallace
Halimah Wynn

North Dakota

Jordaan Thompson Larson

New Jersey—Firman E. Bear Chapter

Kasey Cummings

New Mexico

Alex Nelson
Cyd Schulte

Ohio—All Ohio Chapter

Julie Vredenburg
Jacari Washington

Oklahoma

Tammy Griffin
Susannah Harris
Jateya Jackson

Oregon

Emma Colburn
Liz Coll
Drew Donahue
Phillip Farris
Palmer Haffner
Ian Hunter
Nick Lake
Weston Lambert
Amanda Linville
David McNeer
Isa Rojas
Sima Seumalo
Makayla Simmer

Pennsylvania—Keystone Chapter

Amanda Bunn

South Carolina

Cy McRae
Grace Tiwari

SWCS

Kandrea Green
Alex Wilcher

Texas—North Texas Chapter

Bonny Amin
Nick Boogades
Anup Sharma
Susan Tallman

Virginia

Oleksandra Tryboi

Wisconsin

Keith Behling
Patrick Bula
Floreal Crubaugh

Virginia

Elise Rose

Upcoming Events

[SWCS Arizona Chapter Meeting](#)

Buckeye, Arizona (virtual option available)

November 15

[2025 ELP Community Building/Event Planning Webinar](#)

Virtual Event

November 20

[2025 ELP Effective Communication Webinar](#)

Virtual Event

December 12

[Professional Development Webinar Series Session 10](#)

Mastering the Art of Building Good Habits

Virtual Event

January 9

[2025 ELP Leading Others Webinar](#)

Virtual Event

January 15

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum

We are actively looking for a Platinum Level sponsor. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact memberservices@swcs.org.

Gold



Agri Drain

CORPORATION

Bronze

