

# CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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## Nutrient Management and Edge of Field Monitoring Conference

*In Collaboration with Healthy Soils for Healthy Waters*

**December 1-3, 2015**

**Sheraton Memphis Downtown Hotel—Memphis, Tennessee**

### Registration Now Open

Registration for the Nutrient Management and Edge of Field Monitoring Conference is open! Click [here](#) to register for the conference and receive up to \$100 in cost savings for registering on or before October 22, 2015.



Join us on December 1-3, 2015, in Memphis, Tennessee, for the opportunity to engage with fellow researchers, conservation professionals, and farmers from across the nation to discuss edge of field monitoring research, nutrient reduction strategies and activities, and conservation

programs that have been successful and innovative.

### Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor

Would your organization benefit from networking with researchers, conservation professionals, and farmers from across the nation? If so join us in Memphis, Tennessee, December 1-3, 2015, for the Nutrient Management and Edge of Field Monitoring Conference Exhibition! There is still time to become an exhibitor or a sponsor, giving your organization the opportunity to influence these decision-makers. Space is limited, so reserve your exhibit table early! Visit [www.swcs.org/nutrientmanagement](http://www.swcs.org/nutrientmanagement) for additional details.

This event is a collaborative effort made possible by the Soil and Water Conservation Society; the University of Arkansas; the Healthy Soils for Healthy Waters Initiative, The Ohio State University; and GreenLeaf Advisors.



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## Contribute to the Next 70 Years of Soil and Water Conservation

Since 1945, SWCS has worked to create a sustainable future for our soil and water resources. This wouldn't be possible without the support of our generous donors! As 2015 comes to an end, please donate \$25, \$50, \$100, or more during the Society's Annual Giving Campaign, and support our efforts to educate practitioners, improve conservation policy, and facilitate science-based discussions.

Your donations have helped support many of our efforts in 2015, and we are continuing to develop new initiatives for the coming year.

- We organized a cover crops conference where 360 farmers, industry leaders, and agribusiness professionals discussed practices and challenges related to cover crops.
- We celebrated our 70th International Annual Conference, which featured over 150 presentations on topics including conservation policy, precision conservation, and watershed management.
- We published more than 60 articles in volume 70 of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* and will release a special issue of cover crops research this fall.
- We are excited to begin working with conservation partners to develop a watershed management training program, a multimedia library of water quality protection practices, and a wetlands and nutrient runoff project.

Your generosity makes these efforts possible. [Click here](#) to make a donation today. You can also send your donation by mail to SWCS, 945 SW Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA, 50023, or call 1-515-289-2331 ext. 118.

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2015

## News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- On September 15, 2015, the USDA announced awards for 45 projects under the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. More information can be found [here](#).
- More than 100 organizations, including SWCS, have signed onto a letter urging House and Senate head appropriators to maintain mandatory conservation funding set aside in the 2014 Farm Bill.
- The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) released a chart showing the adoption of conservation practices by producers of major field crops in the United States. The details can be found [here](#). Data for the chart was based on the Agricultural Resources Management Survey Farm Financial and Crop Production Practices.
- A federal judge temporarily blocked the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) new rule on hydraulic fracturing on September 30th, suggesting the agency attempted an "end run" around Congress by imposing a layer of regulation in violation of federal law.
- The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting proposals from eligible applicants for projects that will advance EPA's water quality and environmental justice goals. Visit the [Urban Waters Small Grants](#) website to learn more about the program and how to submit a proposal.
- The EPA is releasing a new web-based tool that helps local officials and other community members consider the benefits and uses of green infrastructure. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The USDA announced that \$4 million will be available to states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Delaware, New York, Virginia, and West Virginia will each receive an additional \$1 million from the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The funds will be used to increase or maintain acres enrolled in Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer conservation.

## Iowa Chapter Annual Meeting Recap

This past September, the SWCS Iowa Chapter gathered at the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center (NSWRVC) in Prairie City, Iowa, for their Annual Summer Meeting. They visited with colleagues, explored the refuge, met new people, and learned about new conservation programs and partnerships. Some of these programs include the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Program, the Fishers and Farmers Partnership, and the STRIPS project—Incorporating Native Prairie Strips into Row Crops.

Attendees were invited to return to NSWRVC the following day for a volunteer opportunity focused on collecting milkweed seed for monarch butterfly habitat. The meeting was a great success. Way to go, Iowa Chapter!



Lisa Schulte-Moore from Iowa State University led a field tour of the STRIPS Research Site at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge at the 2015 SWCS Iowa Chapter Annual Meeting.



Iowa SWCS members and presenters stop to pose for a picture during a field tour at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City, during the 2015 SWCS Iowa Chapter Annual Meeting.

## Upcoming Events

### [Michigan Chapter Annual Meeting and Field Tour](#)

Bellaire, Michigan  
October 26, 2015

### [Hoosier Chapter Fall Meeting](#)

Angel Mounds, Indiana  
November 20, 2015

### [Nutrient Management and Edge of Field Monitoring Conference: From Great Lakes to the Gulf](#)

Memphis, Tennessee  
December 1-3, 2015

### [71st SWCS International Annual Conference: Managing Great River Landscapes](#)

Louisville, Kentucky  
July 24-27, 2016

## October Reader Question:

**What cost-effective practices should be implemented to increase water use efficiency in agriculture?**

We ask that our readers answer the question via email (to [pubs@swcs.org](mailto:pubs@swcs.org)) or respond through social media, and we will highlight some of the responses. We hope that this will provide a discussion forum for our readers and us!

#SWCSconversation



## New Members

Welcome members who joined in September!

### International

Biruk Bogale  
Hezhong Yuan

### Florida

Nicole Jeter

### Iowa

Chris Blythe  
Diane Ercse

### Illinois

Kristina Hartley  
Caroline Wade

Louisiana—University of Louisiana Lafayette

#### Student Chapter

Bryce Landreneau

Mississippi—Mississippi State University

#### Student Chapter

Juan Perez-Gutierrez

### Montana

Pamela Linker

## Corporate Members

Please contact [corporate.info@swcs.org](mailto:corporate.info@swcs.org) for more details.

### Gold



### Silver



VERDESIAN



The Fertilizer Institute

Nourish, Replenish, Grow

### Bronze

