

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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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

Did Someone Say Farm Tour?

The National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health is only a few short months away. If you haven't completed your registration yet, you can take care of that [online right now](#). As you complete your registration, don't forget to add one of the farm tours the SWCS Indiana Chapter has helped to organize. Seating is limited for these tours, and we expect a sell out, so early registration is key to securing your spot!

A box lunch is available as an add-on item, and we highly encourage you to utilize this convenient and reasonably priced option. Participants will only have approximately 15 minutes between the end of the conference and tour departures.

Friday, December 8, 2017 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Tour 1: Measuring Water Quality Benefits of Soil Health Management Systems

Little Ireland Farms and M & J Starkey Farms, Brownsburg, Indiana

Attendees of this tour will see and hear from researchers and conservation professionals comparing the impacts of conventionally tilled farming systems, no-till/cover-crop farming systems, and urban-residential area on water quality in a nine square mile watershed. For over five years, Little Ireland Farms and M & J Starkey Farms have been the sites of extensive water quality research in the School Branch watershed. Nested in the Eagle Creek watershed, School Branch eventually drains into Eagle Creek Reservoir, a primary drinking water source for Indianapolis. The tour will highlight monitoring installations including edge-of-field monitoring, bioreactors, stream gauges, monitoring wells, soil moisture probes, and weather stations—the combination of which allows for in-depth research on the impacts of soil health practices.



Friday, December 8, 2017
12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Tour 2: Economic Opportunities of Soil Health Management Systems

Rulon Enterprises, Arcadia, Indiana

Participants of this tour will have the opportunity to hear more from Ken and Rodney Rulon on the economic returns of cover crops and their overall strategy to implement a highly sustainable production system that provides excellent yields, minimal environmental impact, and improved resilience in their soils. Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour research plots and hear results of long-term cover crop research on the Rulon farm. Rodney, Ken, and Roy Rulon own the fourth-generation family farming operation. The operation includes more than 6,000 acres of no-till corn and soybeans, a farrow-to-finish hog operation, seed dealership, a subscription-based agriculture discussion group, and a custom drainage design and installation business.

Press Release

The press release for the conference has been finalized and is available for download at swcs.org/17CCSH. We are asking all of our members to help spread the word by forwarding the press release along to your contacts who may find value in attending the conference and/or to include information in your monthly chapter newsletter.

Time to Update Your Information

Have you moved recently? Has your email address changed? Here at SWCS we are doing a bit of “house cleaning” and need your help! Please take a moment to review and update your account and contact information so you can be sure to stay up to date with all of the news and events happening at SWCS. Please log on to swcs.org/members to access your membership account and update your information. Thank you for your help!

WWW.SWCS.ORG/MEMBERS



2016-2017 Annual Report Now Available



The 2016-2017 SWCS Annual Report is now [available online](#). Please note that the report will not be mailed in order to conserve resources and is only available as a PDF download from the SWCS website. We encourage you to take a look at our accomplishments over the past year, and we thank you for your involvement and support. As CEO Clare Lindahl writes, the Society's membership

and leadership are our greatest assets. “We are well positioned for the future, and remain committed to engaging our membership, serving as reliable a source of conservation information, and growing and diversifying the SWCS mission.”

Find us on Facebook
facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation

REGISTER NOW!

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
COVER CROPS & SOIL HEALTH
HARVESTING THE POTENTIAL

DECEMBER
7»8
2017

SHERATON
 INDIANAPOLIS HOTEL
 AT KEYSTONE CROSSING

**INDIANAPOLIS,
 INDIANA**

Curious about the growing interest in cover crops, no-till, and soil health? Join the conversation on December 7-8, 2017, and hear from farmers and conservationists as they discuss what works and how it can work for you.

WWW.SWCS.ORG/17CCSH

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SWCS Razorback Fall Meeting Recap

The SWCS Razorback (Arkansas) Chapter hosted their fall meeting at the PMC/Dale Bumpers Agriculture Research Station in Booneville, Arkansas, on Thursday, October 5. Approximately 60 attendees participated, including student chapter members from University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University, as well as SWCS Board of Directors Chairman Rex Martin. The meeting included a tour of innovative research in water runoff from pastures, equipment spreading of chicken litter, and new varieties of Indiangrass.

Incorporated into the meeting was a release ceremony of a newly developed Indiangrass named for the late Richard Wynia who helped in the beginning stages of the station and with the Indiangrass project. The SWCS Razorback Chapter presented Dr. Wynia's wife and daughters with a certificate and a state flag that was flown in Dr. Wynia's name above the Capitol.

The SWCS Razorback Chapter also presented Board Chairman Rex Martin with a genuine razorback belt buckle that was designed and developed by the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts and the SWCS Razorback Chapter in the 1980s. The buckle was part of a project at the time to raise funds for a new scholarship program for college students interested in studying the conservation of natural resources. The belt buckle project was a great success, and Arkansas native Rex Martin was delighted to receive this historical gift.



Razorback belt buckle designed by the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts and the SWCS Razorback Chapter in the 1980s.



Richard Wynia's wife and daughters are presented with a certificate and state flag.

Upcoming Events

[Virginia Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Ferrum, Virginia
October 17, 2017

[California-Nevada Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Reno, Nevada
October 19-20, 2017

[Southern New England Chapter Erosion and Sediment Control Field Day](#)

Kingston, Rhode Island
October 19-20, 2017

[Michigan Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Antrim County, Michigan
November 1, 2017

[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

Combined Federal Campaign

For over 70 years, SWCS has been working to educate land managers and promote natural resources conservation practices. These efforts are made possible through contributions from supporters like you. Payroll deductions are an easy way to have a valuable impact on the Society's work. Please show some love for the land during this campaign by supporting the Soil and Water Conservation Society.



The Charity Code for the Society is 11797. Thank you for supporting the future of soil and water conservation!

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- The recent introduction of the [Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Act of 2017](#) could mean big changes are ahead for the agriculture industry.
- The Trump administration is moving to fill key regulatory slots at several agencies—including the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the USDA, and [the US State Department](#)—with lawyers from Big Law and in-house legal departments.
- SWCS has joined 23 groups in signing onto the Farm Bill consensus recommendations.
- Although tax reform is taking center stage on the congressional agenda, nothing has changed about a timeframe for the Farm Bill. Chairman Conaway says he's still looking at the November-December or January-February time frames for moving a new Farm Bill.
- Three new species have been added to the endangered species list: Arizona's Sonoyta mud turtle, the Hawaiian bird 'i'iwi, and a fish called the pearl darter that's found in the southeastern United States.
- After 11 years, the USEPA has failed to come up with the tools needed to measure whether large animal-feeding operations are exceeding federal air pollution standards, according to a USEPA inspector general's report.
- The United States and Mexico unveiled an agreement to preserve the overtaxed Colorado River, including spending millions of dollars on conservation and environmental projects and drawing up plans to deal with any shortages amid drought and climate change.
- The Senate has confirmed the nominations of Steve Censky to become deputy agriculture secretary and Ted McKinney to be the Agriculture Department's first undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from September



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:

- [No till, no problem: Restoring soil health boosts profits, reduces pests](#) (Agweek)
- [Intensive modern farming, not organics, credited with reducing greenhouse gases](#) (Genetic Literacy Project)
- [Can American soil be brought back to life?](#) (Politico)
- [Digging in the dirt: Researchers develop new methods for assessing risk of subsurface phosphorus](#) (University of Delaware via ScienceDaily)

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

New Members

Welcome members who joined in September!

California/Nevada

Michael Damman

Iowa

Jordan Harms
Hylton Jackson

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Taylor Gordon
Ben Rooney
Jacob Wright

Idaho

Collin McGee

Kansas

Ryan Ferguson

Michigan

Katie Droscha

Missouri—Show Me

Darrick Steen

Montana

Kile Denny
Chris Edgington

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett

John Beck
Lindsey Carver
Bryan Evans
Kelly Hedgepeth
Brian Loadholt
Emily Nash
Jerry Raynor
Tonya Taylor

North Dakota

Jared Pokrzywinski

New Mexico

Samantha Gorbet

South Dakota

Matti Kuykendall

Corporate Members

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

Gold



Silver



Bronze

