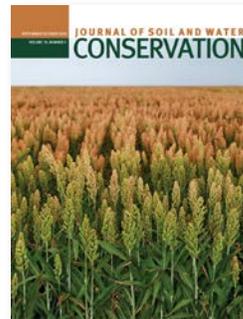


CONSERVOGRAM › The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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September/October Issue of the Journal



In the latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, Reicosky draws attention to the varied terminology for tillage operations and the value of implementing no-tillage within a conservation agriculture system. Also in the A Section, Kambauwa et al. address the issue of climate change in Malawi and make recommendations for adaptations to increase maize yields and contribute to food security. In the Research Section, Karlen et al. discuss the challenge of harvesting crop residues for cellulosic biofuel while also protecting soil health, and Petrzelka and Armstrong examine influences that affect land management decisions of absentee landowners and make suggestions for delivery of conservation messages to these owners. Read these and many more articles in the [online journal](#).

Combined Federal Campaign

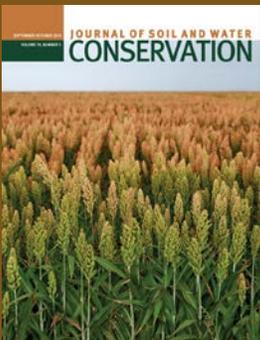
This year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) theme is, **"Make It Possible."** Over the past 70 years, the Soil and Water Conservation Society has worked to educate land managers and promote natural resources conservation practices. These efforts were made possible through contributions from supporters like you.

Payroll deductions are an easy way to have a valuable impact on the Society's work. As you consider your personal participation in the campaign, we ask that you support 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!



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

The Nutrient Management and Edge of Field Monitoring Conference in conjunction with Healthy Soils for Healthy Waters will provide an opportunity for 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. The conference will place an emphasis on identifying and developing methods to document progress and milestones of conservation efforts in meeting Mississippi River Basin nutrient reduction goals as well as Great Lakes Basin nutrient reduction goals.



The conference will have three key breakout tracks focusing on research and monitoring results, the implication of those results for reducing nutrient loads in the basin, and watershed project implementation to achieve nutrient reduction strategy goals. In addition to researchers and field specialists,

keynote conference presenters include Ann Bartuska, Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, US Department of Agriculture; Ellen Gilinsky, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection Agency; and Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

The conference will also include an agricultural symposium of the Healthy Soils for Healthy Waters initiative examining four important conservation practices: nutrient management and soil amendments, conservation tillage, cover crops, and water management. Producers and crop consultants will share their expertise and experiences with support from research, industry, outreach, and policy participants.

Please visit www.swcs.org/nutrientmanagement for complete details on this event and watch for registration to open in mid-September.

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, Ohio State University, and GreenLeaf Advisors.

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- Tuesday, August 25th, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the first-ever federal regulations to cut methane emissions from the nation's oil and natural-gas industries.
- The Department of Interior announced the release of a National Seed Strategy for rehabilitation and restoration to help foster resilient and healthy landscapes, to address the threat of wildfires that are damaging landscapes across the West. The science-based strategy will guide ecological restoration across major landscapes.
- At the August 26, 2015, Conservation Coalition meeting, the group discussed the status of appropriations and plan to send letters to the House and the Senate supporting larger funding for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) operations and opposing changes to the conservation compliance requirement in the Farm Bill.
- Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, announced the Sage Grouse Initiative 2.0. The plan will invest \$211 million through 2018 to assist ranchers making habitat improvements on their land. [Click here](#) for additional information.
- Beginning September 1, farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for help conserving working grasslands, rangeland, and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp for more information.
- The Gold King Mine Spill occurred, in which actions by the EPA endangered people's health, threatened massive pollution, and caused the environmental agency to take numerous steps to prevent further damage. EPA is taking the lead on efforts to contain the leak, and flow from the mine is now controlled. Efforts included building treatment ponds and diversion channels, stabilizing the road to the mine, and ongoing monitoring of river water to assure water quality is remaining at pre-event levels.

Chapter Spotlight: Nebraska Chapter

Chapter location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Current chapter president: Scott Bohaty

Please describe any recent major member or chapter achievements. Recently the new office and laboratory building at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln High Plains Agricultural Laboratory near Sidney, Nebraska, was named in recognition of long-time SWCS member and professor emeritus at the University of Nebraska, Charles R. Fenster. Fenster is notable for his research into dryland cropping systems and minimum tillage. More information can be found by clicking the link below.

http://cropwatch.unl.edu/archive/-/asset_publisher/VHeSpfv0Agju/content/high-plains-ag-lab-building-to-be-named-for-fenster

What was the most successful chapter event in the last year? Our most successful event is the golf tournament. We gain valuable networking opportunities and long lasting friendships. Along with participant entry fees, several sponsorships help raise funds that go toward scholarships that are awarded annually. This is our biggest money making event that helps fund the five scholarships awarded this past year by the Chapter and the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation.

What other activities has your chapter been involved in this year? Our chapter helps sponsor the Nebraska Association of Natural Resourced Districts' Fall Conference. Individual members also attend in their professional capacity. The Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Board, which is comprised of chapter members, meets annually with chapter members to set a budget to determine scholarship funding available. Each fall, the Board meets to review scholarship applications and then meets again over lunch to personally award the scholarships to the recipients.

What is your membership's preferred method of communication? Teleconferences and email for business; newsletters/email for updates to all members. Most Board meetings are conducted via teleconference due to the large distances between districts.

What would you say are the most important current conservation concerns for your region? Soil health, promotion of cover crops, prevention of soil erosion, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)/pasture conversion.

What is your favorite part of membership in SWCS? Networking and building friendships.

What advice would you give to a new chapter? Create a strong student chapter. Promote the development of a separate, nonprofit foundation for sustainable support to the

chapter's mission. Have fun, interactive events and meetings. Also you need a clear idea of what your chapter does and why people interested in conservation should want to be a part of that.

Is there any other information you'd like to share about your chapter? Our chapter is going through a transition period, and needs the younger members to step up and take leadership roles and responsibilities. A strong chapter starts with its members and their ideas on how to promote healthy soils and clean water. We need to discover new ways to be involved within the community, which will help the longevity of our mission and chapter.

Contact names and email addresses for questions about the chapter/membership:

Scott Bohaty, President – scott.bohaty@ne.usda.gov

Tim Weltmer, Treasurer – tim.weltmer@ne.usda.gov

Sarah Gray, Newsletter Chairperson – sarah.gray@ne.usda.gov

Upcoming Events

[Wyoming Chapter Technical Workshop: Know Your Rights: Current Water Rights and Issues in the Region](#)

Cheyenne, Wyoming
October 1, 2015

[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

September Reader Question:

What steps need to be taken to encourage young people to study agricultural science and conservation?

We ask that our readers answer the question via email (to 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!

In Memoriam

We remember those friends who have passed on and keep their families in our thoughts.

Randall East was a member of the Alabama Chapter.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in August!

International

Michaela Hrabalikova

Kansas

Taylor Teel

Montana

Eric Watson

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett

Eric McDuffie

New Jersey—Firman E. Bear

Nicholas Saumweber

New York—Empire State

Rajini Ramakrishnan

Pennsylvania—Keystone

Tyson Myers

Virginia—Virginia Polytech University

Student Chapter

Alexandria Gruendl

Wisconsin—University of Wisconsin -

Stevens Point Student Chapter

Wednesday Jordan

Corporate Members

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

Gold



Silver



Bronze



From the Leadership: Every Member Is a Leader

By Mike Collins, Southwest Region Director

SWCS members come from all walks of life, have interests in different kinds of agricultural and natural sciences, occupy a variety of educational levels in and outside of academia, and live in different countries across the world. The one ingredient all members share is the ability to exhibit and promote leadership in the conservation community.



There are thousands of books available on the subject of leadership, and nearly everyone has an opinion on what it is and what it means. Leadership is a very important concept that touches all aspects of business, industry, government, education, and everyday life. That is quite a statement, isn't it?

I have been in the working world for over 40 years and these are the five key elements I've learned about leadership that have been applicable in my professional life as a conservationist as well as in my work with SWCS:

1. Treat everyone as people

- People want to be treated as unique individuals, not as a number or position.
- Listen, ask questions, and always recognize their accomplishments. This attention will result in a productive employee who will more likely give you their best.

2. Decisions

- Don't make decisions in a vacuum. We talk about diversity daily, but diversity involves more than gender, age, and ethnicity. Diversity also includes brain power and thought processes. Don't be afraid to ask for others' opinions. You won't learn if you don't ask. Two heads really are better than one!
- Don't take too long to make a decision. You'll never have 100% of the information you need to make a decision, so find the right balance between information requirements and timeliness.
- Avoid making decisions with adrenaline in your system. An adrenaline-driven decision is rarely sound.

3. Communication

- Communicate, communicate, and communicate again. Never assume you, or the other party, knows what is going on. Use oral, face-to-face communication as much as possible. Email is appropriate when the phone or in-person meetings are not possible, but avoid emailing someone you can see in person! Email is best for simple communication requirements, not complex issues.

4. Find a way to say "yes"

- Often times, saying "no" is the easy answer and masks underlying issues. "No" may reflect laziness, knowledge gaps, incomplete understanding, lack of attention to detail, or even envy (e.g., if it's not your idea it's easy to disagree).
- Don't let fear keep you from taking a risk or making a mistake.

5. Key differences between being a boss and a leader:

<u>Boss</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Drives you	Coaches you
Uses authority	Uses goodwill
It's about "me or I"	It's about "we"
Delegates	Empowers others
Leaves you in the dark	Explains the "why"
Goes with the crowd	Does what's right

As chapter members we must ask ourselves, "What have I been doing in the past 12 months as a leader in my chapter?" Have you brainstormed an idea or taken an assignment and moved forward to your chapter? Are you helping in any way? Perhaps you would like to seek a committee assignment or help at the regional level. How about leading the awards for your state chapter? Are you spreading the word and reaching out to new members? Helping with a workshop or annual meeting? How are you showing support? Remember it's easy to say "no," and no usually means you don't want to take the time to figure out how to do it. Saying "yes" means LEADERSHIP!

In closing, I want to share one of my favorite quotes from General George S. Patton Jr.: "If everyone is thinking alike then somebody isn't thinking."

