

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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September/October Issue of the Journal

The September/October issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is in the mail and now available online. Research articles include work by Svoma and Gantzer to identify regional optimal timing for cover crop termination to conserve water; a study by Tyler et al. that compares soil microbial activity in row crops, vegetated buffers, and Conservation Reserve Program land; and an analysis of precipitation trends in the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed by Gordji et al. A feature article by Williams et al. describes successful efforts by Trout Unlimited and partner organizations to initiate citizen science programs and engage the angling community in water quality monitoring to protect streams. This issue also contains SWCS Executive Director Jim Gulliford's reflections on the 2016 SWCS Annual Conference. One of the winning photos from the 2016 Conference Photo Contest, a sunset over the Alabama River captured by Ray R. Weil, is featured on the cover. View the cover photo and issue contents in the [online journal](#).



Combined Federal Campaign

SWCS Charity Code: 11797

This year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) theme is "Show Some Love." For over 70 years, the Soil and Water Conservation Society 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!

2015-2016 Annual Report Available

The [2015-2016 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 SWCS Past-President Mark Berkland writes in his letter to the membership, "the participation of the Society's membership and leaders remains the organization's best asset." We look forward to working together on new conservation initiatives in 2017 and beyond.



SWCS Welcomes New Program Coordinator



Jamie Nieman came to SWCS in May of 2016 as a temporary employee and has become a permanent staff member as of September. Jamie grew up in northeastern Iowa and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa. She has spent the last seven years living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the marketing and events world. She is very happy to return to the Hawkeye State (Go Hawks!) and currently resides in West

Des Moines. Her favorite time of year is fall—the crisp air, colors, and of course football season! Jamie's focus will be working with the SWCS board of directors, corporate members, sponsorship, and SWCS fundraising efforts.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from August



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:

- [The next agriculture revolution is under our feet](#) (The Huffington Post)
- [Soil has a microbiome, too](#) (Smithsonian)
- [What's good for crops not always good for the environment](#) (Corn+Soybean Digest)
- [Small Vermont farmers wrestle with new water quality rules](#) (Valley News)

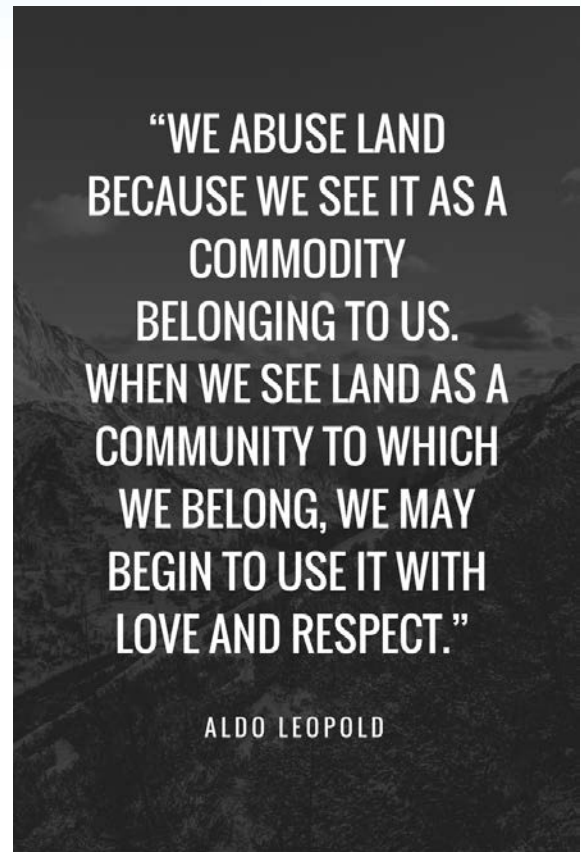
[Click here](#) to sign up and start receiving your weekly *Conservation NewsBriefs* today!

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News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- There was a lunch and learn discussion on drought, climate change, and food security co-hosted by the USDA Drought and Water Team and SWCS on August 16. For more information, [click here](#).
- The National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship and Education Committee has announced the Stewardship Theme for 2017: "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life."
- Maine is home to America's newest national monument. The president established the [Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument](#) on more than 87,500 acres of mountains, forest, and pristine lakes and streams east of Baxter State Park.
- The [Wild Ones](#), a nonprofit organization that promotes the benefits of native plantings and landscapes, is offering micro grants (\$500 and under) through its Seeds for Education Grant Program (SFE). Schools, nature centers, and nonprofit "places of learning" for elementary through high school age students are eligible for the awards.
- The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation launched a new app called "Ag Tools," a series of calculators that agricultural producers can use to crunch numbers and make more informed management decisions. The calculators can gauge changes in beef cattle's body condition scores, wildlife and fishery populations, and fertilizer applications among other topics. The app is available for free download for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) phones, as well as in an [online desktop version](#).
- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced improvements to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), making the program more accessible and more transparent for customers and partners. To read NRCS's press release, [click here](#).
- Last week, US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a partnership with CoalitionWILD to prepare the next generation of conservation leaders with valuable skills, professional mentorship, and networking opportunities. To read the press release about this partnership, [click here](#).
- An opportunity to learn, collaborate, and network is at the Partners in Community Forestry Conference, which will be held November 16-17 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Learn more about this year's conference, partnering events, hotel details, and registration at www.arborday.org/programs/pcf/.



Upcoming Events

[Missouri Show-Me Chapter Fall Forum](#)

Jefferson City, Missouri
September 22, 2016

[California-Nevada Chapter: Building Resilience and Healthy Ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada Watershed](#)

Jackson, California
September 27-28, 2016

[Wyoming Chapter Annual Technical Workshop](#)

Riverton, Wyoming
September 28, 2016

[North Dakota Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Bismarck, North Dakota
November 28-29, 2016

New Members

Welcome members who joined in August!

International

Xiao Wang

Arkansas—Razorback

Cody Harrington
W. Stuart Towns

California/Nevada

Pamela Hertzler

Illinois

Rayhan Shaheb

Indiana—Hoosier

Martha Miller

Kansas

Bryce Haverkamp

Louisiana—University of Louisiana-Lafayette

Student Chapter
Carson Allen

Missouri—Show-Me

Patricia Chapman

Mississippi—Mississippi State University

Student Chapter
Eliza Bigham
Job Rivera

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett

Henry Outz
Brenda Williams

Corporate Members

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

Gold



Silver



Bronze



From the Leadership: Time to Reboot

By Dale Threatt-Taylor, SWCS Southeast Region Director



Stop. Take a moment to breathe! Soil health is important. Cover crop research and best management practices are crucial. Just conceiving the concepts of climate change is exhausting! Breathe. It will still be important tomorrow.

Just for a moment, think of yourself. Not about soils, water quality, agroforestry, local foods, watersheds, or anything else you often ponder during your professional workday. I want you to focus on you and your influence on your local SWCS chapter, company, or organization for just a few minutes. Consider this a reboot! If you are like me, you eat, sleep, and drink soil and water conservation work. And we love it! But stop, just for a moment, and refresh yourself. Are you impacting your organization with renewed commitment? Are you seeking new innovations, new partnerships in conservation, new projects, new funding sources, and adding new members/staff to the organizations? Or maybe you've slipped into a rut that has transformed your "sheet and rill" routine into an eroded gully of status quo habits. Perhaps you need a quick reboot!

I've been through several leadership trainings throughout my career, and I have come to this conclusion: no matter what skills we have developed to effectively lead in this conservation movement, we must stop and reboot before resuming our quest to make a difference in our world. Why am I, a cheerleader of protecting natural resources (a.k.a. an obsessive-compulsive geek who actually has "Soil&H2O" as a vanity license plate), trying to get you to think about something other than soil conservation? The answer is simply because a pause is crucial if we are to remain passionate about our

work. We will expire—simply run out of fuel—if we don't reboot. So here are my instructions:

1. Get up and get out! Exercise, walk, eat healthy, have happy thoughts... come on! You know the deal: reboot and do it. Make it a habit. As leaders, we often do not move as much as we did earlier in our careers. Commit to adding a healthy activity to your life for 30 consecutive days! (And don't eat at your desk!) Reboot.
2. Don't give up. Whatever is looming over you, which may seem unbearable right now, unplug it! Just stop and be still for a moment. Reboot your thoughts: create new positive and productive thoughts. Sometimes a fresh perspective is all that's needed. Sometimes a good cry, sometimes a belly laugh at the illogical ridiculousness of the situation will help. It will pass. Time weathers down even the most formidable mountain.
3. Begin again. You have conservation partners, staff, and chapter members all depending on your leadership. Pull them into your newly renewed positive attitude. Encourage and remind them of the importance of their work. Go grab a healthy lunch and help them reboot. Food always helps!

Here is my last request. After you have rebooted and have helped others reboot, before you leap back into this endless journey of conservation work, grab a pen and paper and write down your most inspiring thoughts. Capture them! It is so easy to put this article down and say "maybe later." But we all know that once we resume the work glaring at us from our desktop, we may soon forget our inspiration. Reflect on your new thoughts from time to time. Remind yourself to contact other conservationists often. Strive to work together to make a difference in your organization, your chapter, and our environment.