



CONSERVOGRAM

> The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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SWCS Advocates for Increased Funding of EPA 319 Grant Program

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is recruiting partner organizations to join them in urging US Congress to allocate at least \$175.5 million for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. This crucial funding supports conservation efforts and conservation practitioners nationwide to protect and improve water quality.

The 319 Grant Program has a proven track record of success, funding projects that have restored impaired streams, reduced heavy metal contamination, and improved agricultural runoff management. These initiatives have led to measurable reductions in pollutants like *E. coli*, lead, and cadmium, enhancing both ecosystem health and public safety.

Key points from the letter to Congress include:

- The importance of timely funding approval to support effective project planning and execution
- Highlighting the program's success in fostering collaboration among local communities, government agencies, and stakeholders
- Emphasizing the need for stable and predictable funding to build upon past achievements
- Noting recent EPA guideline updates that enhance the program's effectiveness, including increased tribal funding and consideration of climate change impacts

SWCS believes that this increased funding will empower conservation workers and lead to even greater environmental improvements across the United States. Read more about this letter and add your organization to the list here:

[Learn More](#)

Emerging Leaders Program Update

Congratulations 2024 Emerging Leaders Program Graduates!



We are thrilled to congratulate the graduates of the inaugural 2024 SWCS Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) class! They have set a remarkable standard for future conservation professionals.

Here are some highlights:

- Of the graduates, **95** earned their Certified Conservation Event Planner credentials.
- They hosted **94** events across **30** states, regions, and territories.
- These events drew a total of **7,036** attendees and involved **244** partner organizations.

Throughout the year, participants honed essential skills in event planning, networking, leadership, communications, and more! These efforts have not only strengthened the participants' professional capabilities but also the SWCS community as a whole.

[View the 2024 Graduates](#)

Alumni Leadership and Impact

The 2024 ELP Alumni have already begun to make significant contributions within SWCS. Two graduates will serve as Ex-Officio SWCS Board Members, while others have joined committees, including the Science & Policy Committee and the Awards & Scholarships Committee. There were 45 participants who attended the 79th SWCS International Annual Conference, with 25 serving as volunteers, presenters, roundtable participants, and/or moderators.

Additionally, ELP graduates are influencing the program by offering enhancement recommendations, such as more frequent and shorter webinars, additional sessions on time management and communications, and earlier networking opportunities. Many of this year's graduates are eager to stay involved, mentoring and networking with the new class and continuing to lead within SWCS. Participants from the 2024 class have already recommended 38 applicants for the 2025 program, and we look forward to seeing their legacy continue as the new class of conservation leaders begins the program this month!

"My biggest takeaway..."



Kaitlin Little

"My biggest takeaway is that there are so many people who are early on in their conservation careers who are eager to connect and make things happen. I think sometimes we can become a bit siloed working within our own department or organization, and it's good to know that there are individuals out there who are looking to work across sectors and disciplines to further conservation. This program helped me make many new connections that will help me do just that."



Hannah Hudson-Stacey

"My biggest takeaway from the program was building my network to include conservation professionals across diverse backgrounds... I met so many amazing professionals at the conference, and I learned a lot from my fellow ELP participants. I went into the program just hoping to build some leadership skills and get help planning my conservation event, but I'm leaving with a renewed sense of confidence and inspiration from the connections I've made throughout the program."

Looking Ahead to the 2025 Class

We are thrilled to welcome the next cohort of emerging leaders into the 2025 SWCS ELP Class! With the 2024 class setting such a high standard, we look forward to seeing their legacy continue as the new class of conservation leaders begins the program this month!

2025 SWCS ELP Class

Keep an eye out for more updates as we prepare to welcome the 2025 class and work together to support the future of conservation!

SWCS Student Opportunities

2024-2025 SWCS Student Chapter and Affiliate Organization Guide

This guide provides students and advisors with the tools, tips, and insights needed to establish, run, and grow SWCS-affiliated student chapters and organizations! Engage your campus community in conservation.



Use [the guide](#) to

- structure your organization's year,
- connect with resources to help your organization be successful, and
- take advantage of SWCS opportunities and support.

Learn more at www.swcs.org/studentchapters.

Student T-shirt Contest

Get ready for the 2024 Student T-shirt Contest! Students create and submit designs that speak to the hearts of conservationists, and you vote for your favorite design on Facebook and Instagram. The winner's design will be included in the SWCS store, and they will receive three free shirts!

- **Submissions accepted: September 16-October 9**
- **Online voting: October 21-25**



Arjun Kafle, 2023 Student T-shirt Contest Winner, wearing his winning design shirt!

Submit Today!

Professional Development Webinar Series



SWCS is back with [MANRRS](#) and the [National Association of Conservation Districts](#) to host a third season of our virtual Student Professional Development Series! Register today to get a leg up in your conservation career.

All webinars are hosted Thursdays at 1 p.m. EST

- **Session 9: The Impact of Mentorship: Building Future Leaders** | [October 10, 2024](#)
- **Session 10: Mastering the Art of Building Good Habits** | [November 14, 2024](#)
- **Session 11: Crafting a Standout Resume: Your Path to Success** | [January 9, 2025](#)
- **Session 12: Job Search Strategies: Finding Your Perfect Fit** | [February 13, 2025](#)

Learn More & Register!

Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Updates

Be JSWC's Next Physical Sciences Research Editor

The *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* (JSWC) seeks a dynamic individual specializing in conservation physical sciences to serve as its next Research Co-Editor. This position 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. Ar buckle (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 voluntary position with a three-year term and the possibility of renewal.

Are you or someone you know passionate about scientific research and publication? A great communicator? Have editorial and peer-reviewing experience? Learn more about the [Research Editor's role](#) and apply or nominate a colleague by **January 15, 2025**.

Final Call to Submit to Special Issue on Soil Health



The deadline for submitting to JSWC's special issue on soil health is **September 30, 2024**. This issue aims to reflect a holistic understanding of the soil's role in supporting not only agricultural productivity but also environmental quality, ecosystem functions, and societal benefits. Organized by Jerry L. Hatfield (retired USDA ARS), Humberto Blanco (University of Nebraska), Adam Reimer (National Wildlife Federation), and Cristine Morgan (Soil Health Institute) in collaboration with JSWC Editors Gretchen Sassenrath and J. Arbuckle, the issue will synthesize our current knowledge of soil health effects on the multifunctionality of the landscape and the farm. Read the [call for papers](#) and submit!

[Submit](#)

A Peek into the Next Issue of JSWC



The September/October *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* will be out soon, featuring the latest in natural resource conservation research and practice—and Laura Bates's winning photo from the People's Choice Photo Contest, held at SWCS's 79th annual conference, on the cover!

In this issue's A Section, James et al. explore how data from the Agricultural

Conservation Planning Framework can assist in identifying and ranking potential locations for watershed- and farm-scale conservation efforts, and Andrew Waters gives an overview of a government-sponsored farmland preservation program in Chatham County, North Carolina.

In the Research Section, Wells et al. examine two USDA water erosion prediction technologies currently being used to prescribe conservation management plans (RUSLE2 and WEPP); Baffaut et al. evaluate how precipitation characteristics may influence classifications in the Soil Vulnerability Index for Cultivated Cropland, Version 3.0; Elliot S. Anderson and Keith E. Schilling study chemical species of nitrogen and phosphorous in Iowa watersheds to determine which nutrient forms are

most prevalent, which may inform remediation efforts; and Joshi et al. discuss the impact of a dormant seeded rye cover crop on temporal changes in soil inorganic nitrogen, soil organic carbon, microbial biomass, and community structure.

Read these forthcoming articles in the [online journal](#) (print copies to follow in mailboxes).

Note: Beginning in January 2025, SWCS will be partnering with global academic publisher Taylor & Francis to publish the journal. SWCS members will continue to have full online access to the journal and its back issues, which will migrate to Taylor & Francis's online platform. Read the [press release](#) and stay tuned for more information!

Upcoming Events

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

Westerly, Rhode Island
September 17

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

Vernon, Connecticut
September 18

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

North Grafton, Massachusetts
September 19

[Soil Health Workshop & North Dakota SWCS Annual Meeting](#)

Dickinson, North Dakota
September 18-19

[Iowa Chapter Social/Headquarters Cleanup](#)

Ankeny, Iowa
October 4

[2024 CA/NV SWCS Chapter Annual Conference](#)

Chico, California
October 9-10

[Professional Development Webinar Series Session 9 The Impact of Mentorship: Building Future Leaders](#)

Virtual Event
October 10

[Imagine a Day Without Water](#)

October 17

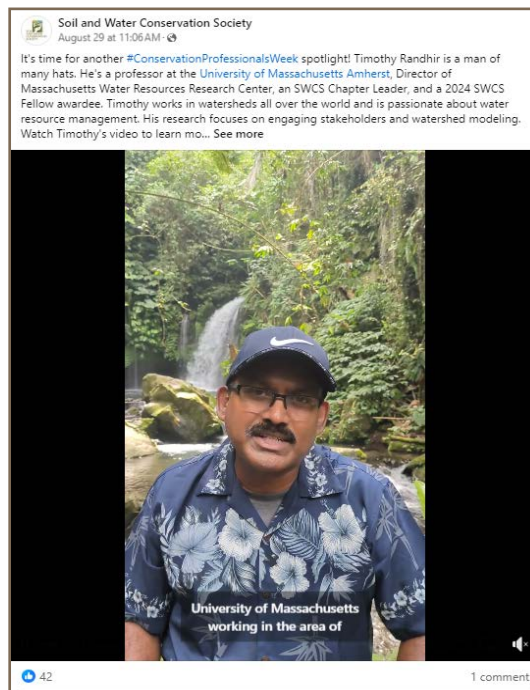
Conservation Professionals Week Recap

We wrapped up year two of Conservation Professionals Week, and WOW, was it a blast! The theme this year was “Faces of Conservation.” We featured eight SWCS members throughout the week and encouraged others to do the same. Thank you to everyone who participated and engaged on social media and attended the Conservation & Cocktails event. We thoroughly enjoyed reading everyone’s conservation stories and experiences. YOU, the conservation professionals, are so important, and we could not feel more lucky to support you and celebrate “Conservation Professionals Week” all year long!



“Working with other conservation professionals is equally important to working with our soil and water resources.” - Amanda Gumbert

Here are a few highlights from the week:



“My passion for conservation started as a child exploring the forests near my home. Over the years, I’ve had the privilege of working on farms around the world and providing educational outreach about conservation. The most rewarding part of my job is supporting farmers in their pursuit of successfully using regenerative agricultural practices.” - Olivia Caillouet

New Members

Welcome members who joined in August!

California/Nevada

Hector Ledesma
Hannah Mitchell

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Emily Bruce

DC—National Capital Chapter

Cynthia Curtis

Deleware/Maryland—Pokomoke Chapter

Emily Ball

Florida

Lindsey Ardmore
Simeon Chancha
AnnaMarie Hudson

Iowa

Peter Kyveryga

Idaho

Jemila Chellappa

Illinois

Rose Mumbi

Indiana—Hoosier Chapter

Ishraq Awashra
Carson Reeling

Kentucky—Bluegrass Chapter

Eli Ort

Michigan

Taylor Ulbrich

Minnesota

Timothy Gieseke
Jared Langer

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter

Ryan Miebach

South Carolina

Ricardo St Aime

Texas—Heart of Texas Chapter

Merilynn Schantz

Wisconsin

Sophie Diliberti
Yu Lu

West Virginia

Candace Butler

Wyoming

Jacqueline Byam

New Conservation Community Member

Illinois

City of Decatur

Learn how to become a Conservation Community Member [here](#).

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Bronze



OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE