

64th International Annual Conference



DELIVERING Conservation Today and Tomorrow

July 11-15, 2009 • Dearborn, Michigan

Special Emphasis for 2009

Each year SWCS identifies topics or a theme for special attention at the annual conference. This year the overarching theme of the conference is:

Delivering Conservation, Today and Tomorrow

This emphasis will apply to ALL of the general topic areas for the conference and we encourage you to tailor your presentation to include the conference theme.

At the 2009 SWCS Annual Conference, we would like to explore the challenges facing the delivery of conservation planning, policy, and practices today and the issues that must be resolved in order to deliver sustainable soil and water conservation tomorrow and into the future. We hope that your abstracts for oral presentations, posters, and symposia will address the technical, educational, and informational needs of conservationists as we work together to overcome these challenges.

We will only accept submissions made through the SWCS website at www.swcs.org.

Please Note: SWCS does not reimburse presenters for expenses incurred for travel to the annual conference. This includes authors, symposia organizers, and individuals invited to present as part of a symposium.

All presenters and/or organizers (oral, poster, or symposia) who indicate intent to participate in the annual conference imply agreement to register for the conference at the appropriate fee, attend the conference, and make the presentation in person.

SWCS Annual Conference CALL FOR PAPERS

The Soil and Water Conservation Society's 2009 Annual Conference will be held July 11-15 in Dearborn, Michigan. The conference includes workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions, and technical tours designed to raise the awareness of conference participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management on working land—the largely privately-owned land comprising working farms, ranches, forests, and rural and urban communities.

ABSTRACT DEADLINE:

Abstracts must be received by December 15, 2008

Guidance from the Program Committee:

Ongoing changes in agriculture and agricultural policy and new scientific advances and insight have led to a need to redefine conservation program delivery and implementation. In the face of pressures from a highly dynamic climate, changing markets, evolving environmental conditions, and National Security (e.g., need for energy independence, labor supply in the face of immigration reform) agriculture must produce more than just food, feed, and fiber but also fuel and a broader array of landscape or ecosystem services.

Conservation professionals need to adapt to new resource demands and changes in our client base and needs. This implies that conservation professionals need to do things differently as our client base changes and we reexamine our clients changing needs. Conservation planning needs to be put into a different context. Conservation must deal with larger spatial-temporal scales of soil and water management and conservation, such as landscape and watershed scales, and planning for extreme events occurring over multiple years.

To achieve these changes will require improved collaborations with different agencies and research institutions to plan and apply on the ground conservation. It may also require returning to our conservation roots to invigorate local coalitions to prioritize and plan conservation needs and programs.

Program Topics and Areas of Emphasis

SWCS welcomes papers, posters, and symposia reporting the results of research, testing, monitoring, and evaluation/demonstration projects, and/or lessons learned from professional experience working with conservation and environmental management systems, technologies, programs, and policies.

Our primary focus is on the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management, but we welcome and encourage reports of knowledge gained from management of parks, wildlife refuges, and other land uses. Proposals will be transmitted to reviewers for consideration. All proposals are reviewed anonymously and are rated individually.

Proposals from students and from all professional sectors and students addressing the program topics areas are encouraged. Reports of conservation in developing countries are particularly encouraged.

General Topic Areas

We welcome proposals for presentations that address one or more of the ongoing areas of emphasis outlined below. These ongoing areas of emphasis comprise the core work of SWCS: to foster the science and art of conservation. Please choose one of these areas when submitting an abstract. Special consideration will be given to new insights, techniques, or approaches in addressing each of these general topics.

Detailed descriptions and guidance for each of the following topic areas is available at www.swcs.org/O9ac

- *Soil Resources and Management*
 - *Soil Resource Assessment*
 - *Soil Resource Management and Conservation*
- *Water Resources and Management*
- *Conservation and Environmental Policy and Program Design*
- *Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts*
- *Conservation in Urban Settings*
- *Conservation Tools and Technologies*

Submittal Instructions

Information required for oral presentations and poster presentations include:

- * Title of presentation
- * Complete contact information
- * Presenting author and affiliation
- * Other author(s) and affiliation(s)
- * Selected topic area
- * Abstract of 250 words or less

Information required for a symposium includes:

- * Title of session
- * Format of session
- * Description of session (250 words or less)
- * Selected topic area
- * Names and affiliations of intended presenters
- * Contact person and complete contact information
- * Number of 90-minute sessions requested

An abstract is indicative of final paper quality; therefore, authors are urged to prepare quality abstracts. The abstract should emphasize objectives and results. Inclusion of tentative or final conclusions will greatly strengthen paper proposals and abstracts.

We will only accept submissions made through the SWCS website at www.swcs.org.

Options For Participation

There are three ways you can propose to be part of the 2009 conference program.

1. **Symposia Session:** Organize a symposium session that provides more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a specific topic.
2. **Oral Presentation:** Present a paper reporting the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.
3. **Poster Presentation:** Present a poster reporting the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.

Symposia Sessions

Symposia sessions take place on Monday and Tuesday simultaneously with concurrent sessions for oral presentations. The purpose of symposia sessions is to provide a more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a specific topic. They are organized by an individual(s) and incorporate multiple speakers or presenters, panel discussions or other formats as determined by the organizer. A total of 90 minutes is allotted for each session. Proposals to organize symposia sessions that require two or more 90-minute sessions may be submitted. Organizers should include a tentative list of presenters and the individual topics presenters will cover. Sessions integrating research with practice and allowing for interaction with the audience are strongly encouraged.

Oral Presentations

Concurrent sessions for oral presentations will take place on Monday and Tuesday during the annual conference. Oral sessions are opportunities to share the results of conservation research projects and/or lessons learned through professional experience with conservation projects, systems, programs, and technologies. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes - 15 minutes to make the presentation and five minutes for questions. To the extent possible, submissions not selected for oral presentations will be reviewed for presentation as posters. Please submit no more than three proposals per author.

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display Sunday and Monday. Presenters are expected to be present at their boards during the Sunday evening welcome reception in the exhibit hall to answer questions and explain their experiences and results to conference attendees. A poster presentation entails affixing printed materials (typed information, photos, graphs, etc.) on a specific topic to a four-foot high by eight-foot wide (4'x8') poster board.

General Topic Area Descriptions

Soil Resources and Management

The use of soil resources is required to provide the food, fiber, and energy needs of a growing world population. Problems of soil and environmental degradation have made the development of technologies and practices for sustainable soil management a high priority. Papers are invited that present research results, experiences, demonstration projects, simulation models, or other knowledge and information regarding soil resource management that enhance production while protecting our soil, water and air resources. Topics may include but are not limited to: soil conservation and management; soil quality; soil survey, assessment, and analysis; soil quality assessment and management; cover crops; water and wind erosion prediction and management; carbon sequestration; implications of climate change for soil conservation and management. Authors submitting in this area should choose from one of the following soil-related categories:

Soil Resource Assessment: resource assessment, including presentations dealing with spatial/temporal variability of soil properties and processes, soil survey and analysis, and soil quality.

Soil Resource Management and Conservation: resource management impacts on carbon sequestration, erosion processes, and the implications of climate and land-use changes on soil resources.

Water Resources and Management

This area addresses the social, economic, environmental, and technical dimensions of water resources management. Presentations in this area should serve to disseminate results, information, lessons learned, and/or shared experiences of research, testing, monitoring, and/or evaluation/demonstration projects on water resources issues. Topics may include but are not limited to: watershed management and restoration; integrated watershed management; water quantity; water quality; irrigation and drainage; water management; water conservation; watershed-scale research methods and tools; watershed- scale planning methods and tools; development and implementation of TMDLs; targeting water management interventions; risk management in water resource management; implications of climate change for water resource conservation and management.

Conservation and Environmental Policy and Program Design

Conservation and environmental policies determine many land management decisions. Policy and decision makers, planners and land owners rely upon evaluation of programs and policies to provide valuable information to stimulate change and reform of existing conservation and environmental policies. Topics may include but are not limited to: policy evaluation and reform of voluntary, regulatory, and market-based approaches; program evaluation and reform; use and effectiveness of international conventions and agreements; conservation implications of trade agreements and dispute resolution processes; quantifying benefits of policies and programs; implications of 2007 farm bill; monitoring and assessment of conservation needs and benefits; accountability and performance measurement.

Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

In adaptive management, means are adjusted in response to measures of the end-conditions sought. Adaptive management for soil and water conservation means finding indicators of changes in the conditions of the soil, water, and biodiversity, and relating them back to natural resource management practices. Papers are sought on projects that have utilized adaptive management strategies to improve soil and water quality, techniques for measuring changes in soil and water quality in response to management actions, and how traditional measures have changed in the light of climate change and the presence of more extreme weather events. Topics may include but are not limited to: scientific and technical advances in targeting conservation and in precision conservation; building the human

dimension into conservation; environmental risk assessment and management; development and use of indicators of change in resource/ecological condition including biodiversity conservation and management; effective and feasible methods monitoring change in indicators.

Conservation Education

Conservation education is the study and delivery of the intelligent use of our natural environment. This includes outreach and education regarding the development, management, preservation, and renewal of natural resources to benefit present and future generations. Papers should address programs and practices for engaging farmers, educators, students, and/or the general public. Topics may include but are not limited to: programs and practices for engaging the public, students, teachers, and/or general public; connecting people with the land; outreach and education efforts; sociologic studies and social marketing.

Conservation in Urban Settings

The majority of our population lives in urban and suburban areas, which are growing at a rapid pace worldwide. Conservation practices in these settings are primarily designed to reduce erosion, create and conserve green spaces, and preserve or improve habitat and water quality. Presentations in this topic area may describe research and demonstration projects, new designs and methodology, new programs for enforcement and education, and similar subjects of interest in urban settings. Topics may include but are not limited to: Land use and community planning and zoning, farmland and open-space protection; integrated urban watershed management and planning; urban storm water management and planning; erosion and sediment control systems; systems to improve water quality; innovations in conservation designs and education; low impact development.

Conservation Tools and Technologies

In the implementation, planning, management, and development of conservation practices, we rely on tools that provide decision support through analysis, visualization, and evaluation. Development of new tools and technologies, evaluation results, and application experiences all can provide information of value to share. Topics may include but are not limited to: development and testing of conservation practices and systems; quantification of the environmental and conservation effects of best management practices (BMPs) and systems; advances in science and technology for predicting and/or evaluating environmental and conservation effects of alternative resource management practices and systems (soil, water, nutrient, grazing, manure, pest, plant and landscape management); decision support tools for conservation planning and implementation; geographic information systems.

Call for Workshops

If you are interested in working with the SWCS Professional Development Committee to deliver a ½ day workshop in conjunction with the 2009 Annual Conference, please contact Shelly Lassiter, SWCS Professional Development Committee Chairperson, at shelly.lassiter@wa.usda.gov or Dewayne Johnson, SWCS Professional Development Director, at dewayne.johnson@swcs.org.

Workshops provide direct training and learning experiences for participants on key techniques, tools, models, approaches, or other subjects of interest to participants. Instructions for submitting a proposal are available online at www.swcs.org/08AC. Workshops will be held on Sunday afternoon of the conference from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

The deadline for proposal submission is December 15, 2008.
