

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) has a multidisciplinary membership of more than 7,000 individuals and business leaders throughout the world. Members of SWCS are educated and trained natural resource conservationists, practicing primarily in the United States and Canada.

The SWCS annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, along with a broad cross-section of other interest groups, to explore current issues in natural resource management and planning.

The 2004 Annual Conference will take place in the heart of downtown St. Paul—part of the "twin cities" of Minnesota. A modern metro area of more than one million people, St. Paul is the capital city of Minnesota. It is the commercial, cultural and educational hub of the upper Midwest. In addition to cultural activities, the area offers an abundance of outdoor activities for all ages and interests.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, AND SYMPOSIA

You are invited to submit proposals for oral and poster presentations or to organize a symposium session for the Soil and Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) annual conference July 24–28, 2004, Radisson Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The conference will focus on four key topics of concern for professionals working to conserve natural resources locally and globally:

- Soil and Environmental Quality
- Agricultural Management and Environmental Quality
- Assessing the Effectiveness of Conservation and Environmental Programs
- Geo-spatial Technology for Conservation—Soil, Water, and Land

PROGRAM TOPICS AREAS & SUB-TOPICS

SOIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

This theme will focus on how to move soil conservation beyond the traditional emphasis on measuring and controlling soil erosion to sustain agricultural productivity. Papers addressing soil erosion and innovative best management practices for its control are welcome. Papers emphasizing approaches to developing, evaluating, and implementing science-based conservation tools and technologies that seek to conserve all of the functions soils perform in agricultural and other ecosystems are strongly encouraged.

Sub-topics:

- Beyond T—what performance standards are needed to promote conservation?
- Is soil quality assessment scientifically and technically feasible?
- Are assessment tools worth the investment?
- Without assessments, how do producers and consumers know if soil resources are functioning properly?
- Strategies for identifying and prioritizing soil functions needed to increase productivity, protect air and water quality, or enhance biodiversity.
- How should soil and environmental quality indicators be selected and interpreted?
- What are the potential economic and social impacts of balancing soil and environmental quality?
- Alternative strategies for encouraging environmental conservation.
- Other

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Environmental performance is an increasingly important determinant of the commercial viability of agriculture. Designing policies, programs, and practices to manage agriculture's impact on the environment in rural, suburban, and urban settings is one of the most important and difficult challenges facing policymakers, scientists, educators, providers of technical assistance, and producers. Papers presented in this theme area will help us understand how this challenge can be met for both crop and animal production systems.

The program committee will carefully review all submissions for their contribution to the four topics. The time available for oral and poster presentations is expanded in response to a growing interest to participate in the program. Depending on the quality of proposals, the intent is to accommodate many more papers in 2004 than in past years.

Please review the details of the submission process and take part in the 2004 SWCS Annual Conference. It is recommended that submissions be provided through the SWCS website

www.swcs.org/t_what_callforpapers04.htm.

OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

There are three ways you can propose to be part of the 2004 conference program.

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

Oral Concurrent Presentations

Oral concurrent sessions 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, programs, and technologies. Oral concurrent sessions are 90 minutes in length and include reports from four presenters. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes—15 minutes to make the presentation and 5 minutes for questions. An additional 10 minutes will be available at the end of each session for general questions for the group as a whole.

Please Note: To the extent possible, submissions not selected for oral presentations will be reviewed for presentation as posters.

Sub-topics:

- Management practices, technologies, and decision tools for water quality protection.
- Quantifying the environmental benefits of management practices and technologies for water quality protection.
- Management practices, technologies, and decision tools for air quality protection.
- Quantifying the environmental benefits of management practices and technologies for air quality protection.
- Predicting the environmental benefits of management practices and technologies for air and water quality protection.
- Environmental performance standards for agricultural production systems.
- Successful application of Environmental Management Systems to agriculture.
- Strengths and weaknesses of voluntary and regulatory programs for environmental management.
- Market-based approaches to environmental management.
- Other

ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Since the passage of the 1985 Farm Bill, conservation and environmental policy has gradually increased in scope and scale at all levels of government. Both rural and urban America are embracing the need to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner while protecting the environment. As funding levels for conservation and environmental programs continues to grow, a question emerges from policymakers, agencies, interest groups, and the public: How do we measure success?

Sub-topics:

- Monitoring vs. modeling: case studies and practical solutions.
- Measuring economic and social benefits.
- Scales of effective measurement: field, watershed, eco-region, etc.

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display Sunday evening through Tuesday. Presenters will be asked to be at their boards at specific times (to be determined) during which presenters will 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 poster board. Audiovisual equipment is not permitted and tabletop or freestanding displays are not considered posters.

Symposia Sessions

Symposia sessions generally take place on Monday and Tuesday simultaneously with oral concurrent sessions. In some cases, organizers may be asked to consider offering their symposia on Sunday or Wednesday. 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/presenters. A total of 90 minutes is allotted for each session. Proposals to organize symposia sessions that require two 90-minute sessions may be submitted. Organizers should include as much information as possible on the areas to be covered as well as a tentative list of presenters. Sessions integrating research with practice and allowing for interaction among presenters and the audience are strongly encouraged.

Please Note: SWCS cannot reimburse travel or any other expenses for symposia organizers or presenters. Organizers and presenters will be expected to register for the conference at the appropriate fee.

TIMELINE

December 12, 2003 Deadline for submittal of all abstracts.

January 30, 2004 Final decisions made on acceptance of abstracts and letters of notification to be sent

February 13, 2004 Deadline for presenters in all categories to indicate intent to participate in the annual conference program.

For questions about the call for papers, contact Nancy Herselius, SWCS meetings coordinator, at 515-289-2331, extension 17, or via email, nancy.herselius@swcs.org.

- Research: status, gaps, new technologies and methods.
- Adoption of conservation and environmental programs: success and failure.
- Measuring success: what measures or indicators should be used?
- Future conservation and environmental policy: an historical assessment.
- Other

GEO-SPATIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR CONSERVATION—SOIL, WATER, AND LAND

Geo-spatial technology offers great promise of increasing the efficiency of inputs and effectiveness of conservation programs and practices. Optimizing conservation resource inputs to accurately manage land reduces the cost and increases the effectiveness of conservation programs. Geo-spatial technology has enabled land managers and producers to increase their ability to adjust management of their production systems while enhancing environmental quality. It has increased the ability of conservationists to adapt conservation systems in real-time to diverse landscapes and production systems. We are seeking papers that will explore the full potential of geo-spatial technology when applied to conservation on working land, agricultural production systems, and beyond.

Sub-topics:

- Geo-spatial technology for monitoring and evaluation of conservation programs.
- Geo-spatial technology for priority setting and fund allocation in conservation programs.
- Site-specific agriculture – does it improve efficiency and environmental performance?
- Methods of evaluating the conservation and environmental impact of site-specific agriculture.
- Geo-spatial technology to improve surface water quality.
- New tools for the practicing conservationist.
- Economic performance of site-specific agriculture.
- Barriers to achieving the full potential of geo-spatial technology in conservation.
- Other

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

Use of our website for submission of proposals is encouraged. This form can be found at www.swcs.org/t_what_callforpapers04.htm.

Proposals may also be submitted by email to nancy.herselius@swcs.org; by faxing the proposal form to 515-289-1227, attention Nancy Herselius; or by mailing the proposal to the Soil and Water Conservation Society, 945 SW Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50021, attention Nancy Herselius.

Please submit no more than three proposals per author.

Information required for oral concurrent sessions and poster presentations include:

- Title of presentation
- Contact person with affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email
- Indication of the program topic and sub-topic the presentation addresses
- Presenter and affiliation
- Other author(s) and affiliation(s)
- Abstract of 250 words or less

Information required for proposals to organize a symposium session include:

- Title of session
- Contact person with affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email
- Indication of the program topic the presentation addresses (sub-topic not mandatory for symposia sessions)
- Description of topic to be covered (250 words or less)
- Target audience
- Format of session and tentative presenters

Proposals with international experience addressing the program topics areas are encouraged. Proposals from all professional sectors and students are encouraged.

Proposals will be transmitted to reviewers for consideration. All abstracts are reviewed anonymously and are rated individually for content and applicability to the topic under which they are submitted.

SWCS does not reimburse authors for expenses incurred for travel to the conference. Authors 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.

NEW FOR 2004

The conference agenda has changed for 2004. Plenary, concurrent sessions and symposia will be held on Monday and Tuesday. Tours and workshops will be offered on Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday. Posters and exhibits will be displayed on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. This new format substantially increases the time available for oral and poster presentations and for symposia.

Saturday, July 24 Workshops

Sunday, July 25 Workshops
Business and
Committee Meetings
Welcome Reception
Exhibits
Poster Displays

Monday, July 26 Plenary Session
Oral Concurrent Sessions
Symposia
Exhibits
Poster Displays
Social Night

Tuesday, July 27 Plenary Session
Oral Concurrent Sessions
Symposia
Exhibits
Poster Displays
Awards Luncheon

Wednesday, July 28 Technical Tours
Workshops

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY
945 SW ANKENY ROAD
ANKENY, IOWA 50021



WWW.SWCS.ORG

Headwaters of Conservation



SWCS St. Paul, Minnesota 2004

County Line Printing
to place their
Bulk Mail Indicia
here

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

CALL FOR PAPERS

HEADWATERS OF CONSERVATION

2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE | RADISSON RIVERFRONT HOTEL | ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

2004
JULY 24-28

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NOT A MEMBER OF SWCS?
Contact memberservices@swcs.org or call 515-289-2331 for information.