

# Iowa Chapter Newsletter

Soil & Water Conservation Society

March 2017



**SOIL  
AND WATER  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY**

## Message from Clare Lindahl: 2017 Iowa SWCS President

Hello Members! Your Iowa Chapter Board met in December and established our goals for the coming year! Moving forward, our focus for the coming year will be growing and diversifying our membership and adding value to our members.

### **Grow and diversify our membership:**

Our membership deal at the Annual Meeting in the fall added 39 new members. We are looking into offering a similar opportunity for attendees and first time members at the 2017 Summer Meeting & Tour, Friday, June 9, 2017. Our past president Mark Tomer started a great relationship with the Iowa Student Chapter at ISU and since then has become their liaison. He has recruited 9 new student members! At our board meeting in April we will be developing membership outreach to a diverse set of conservation and agricultural professionals. The Iowa Chapter remains #1 with 306 members! We welcomed 4 new members to the board this year! Welcome Anna, Josh, Lee and Larry!

**Add value to our members:** We want to ensure we are providing our Iowa members value! We are inviting any members interested to serve on board committees for sharing information, planning meetings and growing membership, advocating, promoting awards and scholarship programs, engaging students and reviewing

bylaws and financials. Let me know if you are interested in participating in any of

these committees and tasks. We are also asking members to let us know if they are interested in attending the SWCS Annual Conference in Madison, WI, July 30 - Aug. 2, so we can make a plan to support member's trips. Lastly, we are coming up with a plan to meet the advocacy priorities of our members.

I have so much respect and admiration for the conservation professionals of this state and it is an honor and a privilege to serve the Iowa Chapter as president.

Hugh Hammond Bennett encapsulated the importance of conservation professionals best when he said, "Many farmers - most farmers, and that means millions - need some technical help in making the change to this more efficient, easier, and more productive type of farming, and they need also moral support and encouragement."

Thank you for providing that day in and day out.

Respectfully,

Clare Lindahl, [clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org](mailto:clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org)



## Iowa SWCS Board Members

### **PRESIDENT**

Clare Lindahl  
[clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org](mailto:clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org)

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Mark Tomer  
[mark.tomer@gmail.com](mailto:mark.tomer@gmail.com)

### **PRESIDENT ELECT**

Anna MacDonald  
[anna.macdonald@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:anna.macdonald@ia.nacdnet.net)

### **TREASURER**

Alan Lauer  
[alan.lauer@ia.usda.gov](mailto:alan.lauer@ia.usda.gov)

### **SECRETARY**

Holly Giombi  
[holly.giombi@ia.usda.gov](mailto:holly.giombi@ia.usda.gov)

### **MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Dave Beck  
[dave.beck@windstream.net](mailto:dave.beck@windstream.net)

### **CENTRAL AREA CHAIR**

Larry Beeler  
[lbbeeler1@gmail.com](mailto:lbbeeler1@gmail.com)

### **SOUTHWEST AREA CHAIR**

Kaitlin Schott  
[kaitlin.m.schott@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlin.m.schott@gmail.com)

### **NORTHEAST AREA CHAIR**

Josh Balk  
[joshua.balk@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:joshua.balk@ia.nacdnet.net)

### **NORTHWEST AREA CHAIR**

Lee Gravel  
[lee.gravel@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:lee.gravel@ia.nacdnet.net)

### **SOUTHEAST AREA CHAIR**

Sarah Ham  
[sarah.ham@ia.usda.gov](mailto:sarah.ham@ia.usda.gov)

## Upcoming Events

### April 2017

- » 7: Indicate your interest to attend the the 72<sup>nd</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference, Conservation Connections: Creating Pathways to Sustainability, Madison, Wisconsin, July 30 – August 2 to Holly.Giombi@ia.usda.gov.
- » 18: Iowa SWCS Board Conference Call
- » 24: Iowa Envirothon, an environmental education competition for high school students the Iowa Chapter SWCS sponsors
- » 28: Iowa/Student chapter and friends SWCS Iowa Cubs Game Outing

### June 2017

- » 9: Iowa Chapter SWCS Summer Annual Meeting, Northeast Iowa
- » 20: Iowa SWCS Board Conference Call
- » 30: Iowa Chapter SWCS Scholarships Due

### July 2017

- » 17-18: NACD Summer Forum and Tour
- » 23-29: Iowa Chapter SWCS promotes conservation with partners during RAGBRAI
- » 30-August 2: 72<sup>nd</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference, Conservation Connections: Creating Pathways to Sustainability, Madison, Wisconsin

### August 2017

- » 1: Friend of Conservation Nominations Due
- » 15: Iowa SWCS Board Conference Call

### September/October 2017

- » Iowa SWCS Fall Annual Meeting, Central Iowa
- » Chapter Newsletter

## SAVE THE DATE

**Friday, June 9, 2017**

**Iowa Chapter SWCS Summer Meeting & Tour  
University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls  
Hosted by Josh Balk,  
SWCS Northeast Representative  
Registration coming soon!**

- » Chapter announcements and updates
- » Tour of rural and urban conservation practices
- » Local lunch
- » After meeting social at local brewery
- » AND MORE!

## Annual Conference - Madison, WI

Let us know if you are interested in attending this year's SWCS Annual Conference!



The 72<sup>nd</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference, Conservation Connections: Creating Pathways to Sustainability, Madison, Wisconsin, July 30 - August 2.

Let Holly Giombi know by April 7 by emailing [holly.giombi@ia.usda.gov](mailto:holly.giombi@ia.usda.gov). The board will be generating a plan for offering interested members support once we are aware of your interests!



**Are you one of the 400 people following the Iowa SWCS on Facebook?  
If not, like us today!**

## Letter to Legislators?

Should the Iowa Chapter send a letter to legislators?  
What should be in the letter?

Let us know what you think!

The Iowa Chapter SWCS Handbook identifies policy as a key duty of the Society.

Through the survey link below, we are asking members to weigh in on sending a letter to our national and state legislators from the Iowa Chapter SWCS.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/l2/iowa-chapter-swcs-policy-outreach>

With respect to the many government employees who make up our membership, this is an optional survey for federal and state employees to fill out personally if they like.

## RAGBRAI 2017

Volunteers will be needed to continue the Iowa Conservation Team tradition! This year's event runs July 23-29. The route goes through northern Iowa. It begins in Orange City, then heads to Spencer, Algona, Clear Lake, Charles City, and Cresco, before finishing in Lansing. Watch for information about the Iowa Conservation Team at [www.iaswcs.org](http://www.iaswcs.org).



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Iowa/Student Chapter and Friends SWCS I-Cubs Game Outing

The Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society is sponsoring an outing to an Iowa Cubs baseball game. The game is Friday, April 28 at 7pm. Chapter members, student members, family and friends are all welcome. Information on obtaining discounted tickets to this fun activity will be forthcoming. Join your colleagues and friends for a great evening!