



SWCS
VIRTUAL
STUDENT
EVENT

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 | 4 to 5 p.m. CT

Today's Agenda



1. Who we are
2. What we do
3. SWCS student and early career professional resources & opportunities
4. Top 10 Tricks to Ace Your Interview!
5. Question and answer

Our mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation.

When you join SWCS, you join a community of conservation professionals who care about the future of natural resources. Our members engage in important conversations about soil and water, support the sustainability of our working landscapes, and serve as conservation leaders.



**SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

Professional Societies

- Connect members with resources and opportunities
- Career support and professional development
- Bring like-minded people together
- Promote our industry's mission
- Build your resume and LinkedIn profile



About Me



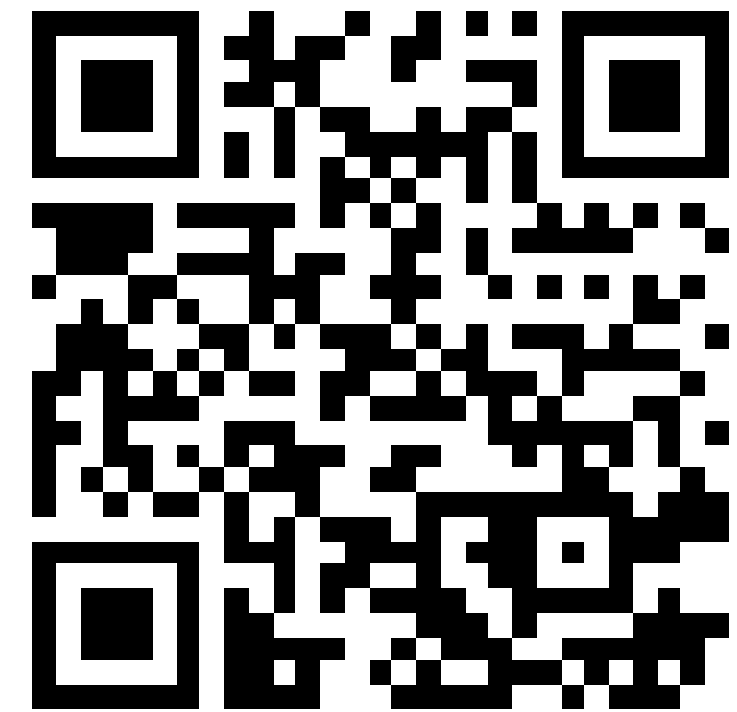
University of
Massachusetts
Amherst **BE REVOLUTIONARY™**



Tell Us About You!

1. Where are you from? State?
2. If you're a student, what's your major?
3. What's your dream job?

slido



Who We Are

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is the premier international organization for **professionals who practice and advance the science and art of natural resource conservation.**

Our members include:

- SWCD Employees
- Researchers
- Administrators
- Extension Workers
- Students
- Producers
- Policymakers
- USDA Employees
- Educators
- Consultants
- Retirees

... and more!



www.swcs.org

Join SWCS!

When you join SWCS, you join a community of conservationists who care about the future of natural resources.

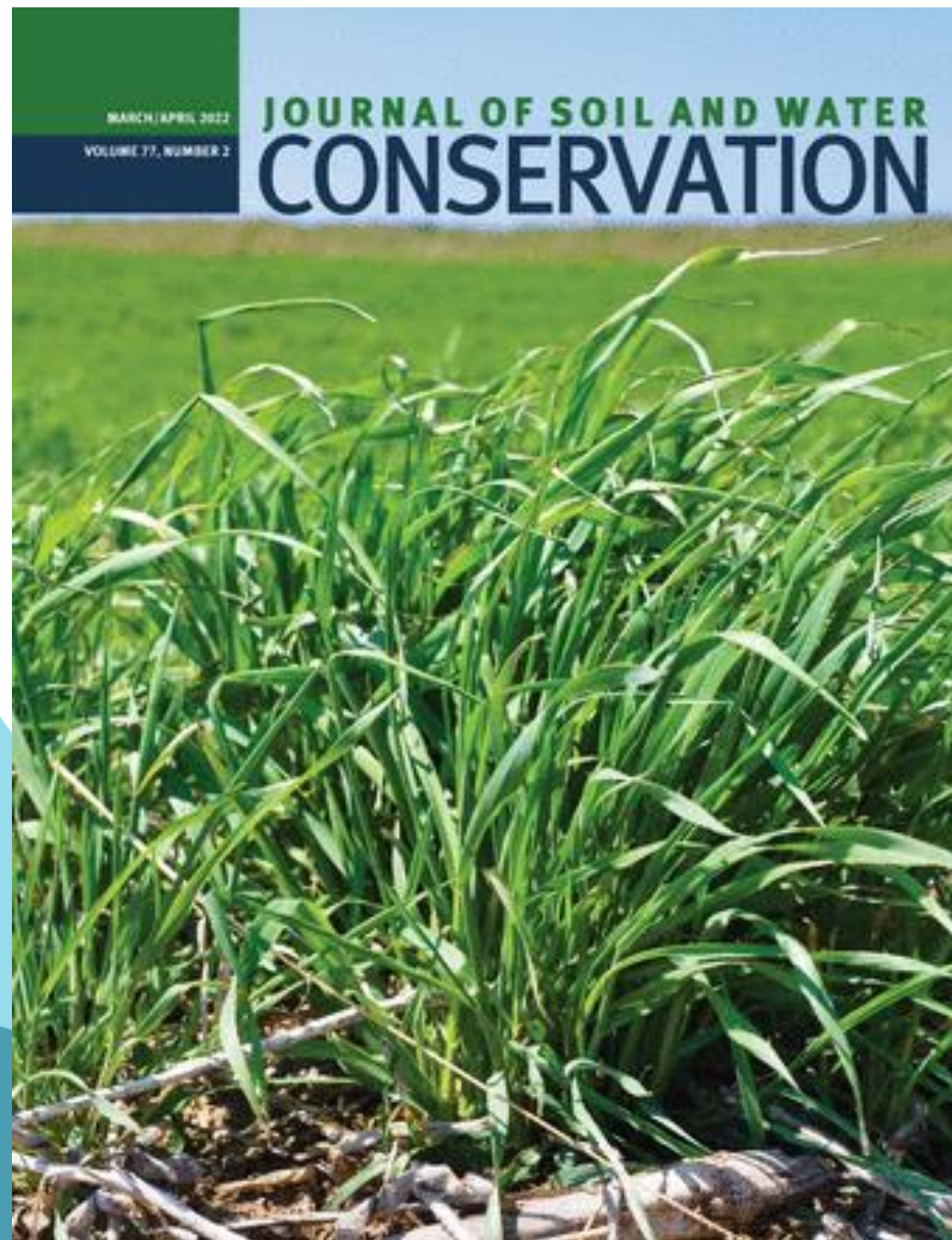
What We Do

Advance knowledge
Support learning
Foster communication
Advocate
Build community

Why Join?

-  Grow your professional network
-  Increase your visibility within the conservation profession
-  Unlock access to high-quality educational opportunities, training, and technical resources
-  Connect with members of your local chapter
-  Gain access to the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*
-  Receive discounts on publications, event registrations, and more

Advance Knowledge



- *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*
 - Multidisciplinary journal of natural resource conservation research, practice, policy, and perspectives. Free for members!
- Special projects
 - Conservation Practitioner Poll
 - Edge of Field Roadmap & Implementation
 - Blue Ribbon Panels on Conservation Technology
 - Conservation at the Co-op
 - More upcoming!
- Programs
 - Events and training

Support Learning



- International Annual Conference
 - Convergence of research, science, policy, and practice
- Special events
 - Student Virtual Events
- Chapter events and training
 - Professional Development and CEUs
 - Student and Envirothon Support
- Awards and scholarships



ELEVATING

77th SWCS International Annual Conference
Denver, Colorado | July 31-August 3, 2022

Conservation

TO NEW HEIGHTS

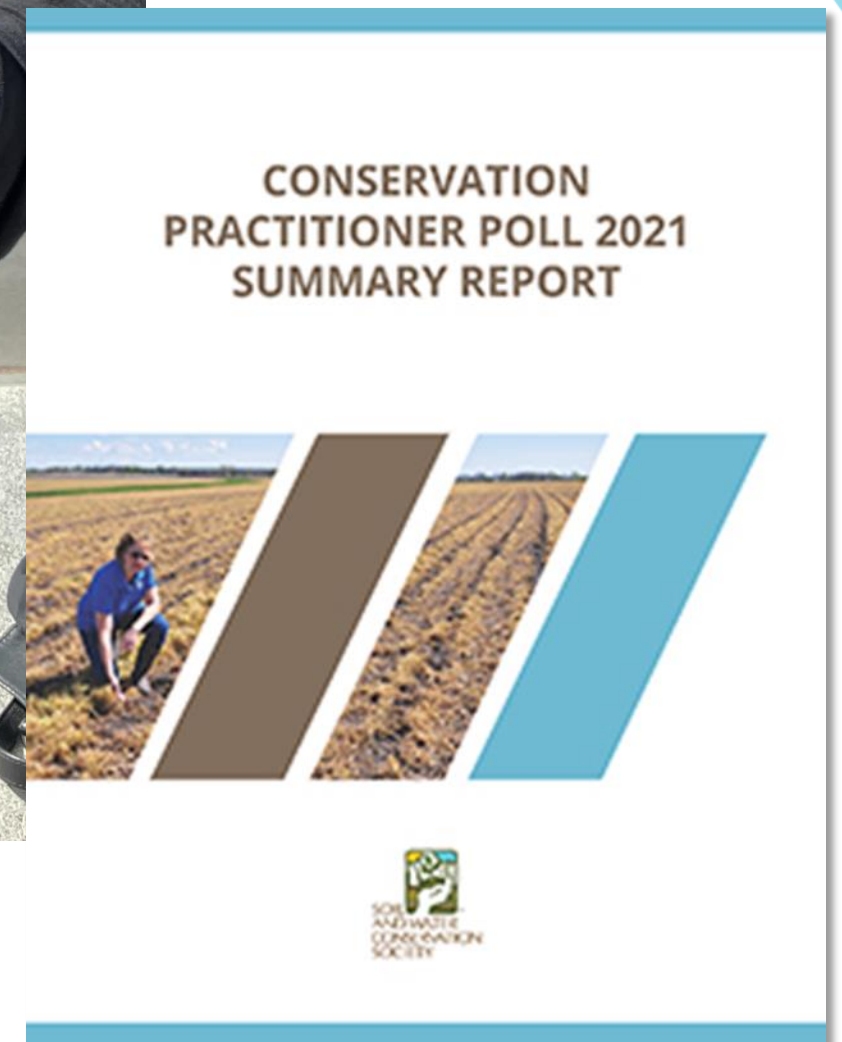
Foster Communication

- **Conservation Media Library**
 - Multimedia storing house for conservation photos, graphics, informational videos, factsheets, PowerPoints, and other resources
- **Weekly Conservation Newsbriefs**
 - A weekly compilation of the latest media coverage of soil and water conservation research and policy
- **Monthly Member Newsletters**



Advocate

- Science and Policy Committee
 - Meets monthly to discuss the latest in conservation science and policy news
- Advisory sessions
- Conservation Practitioner Poll
- SWCS CEO in DC!



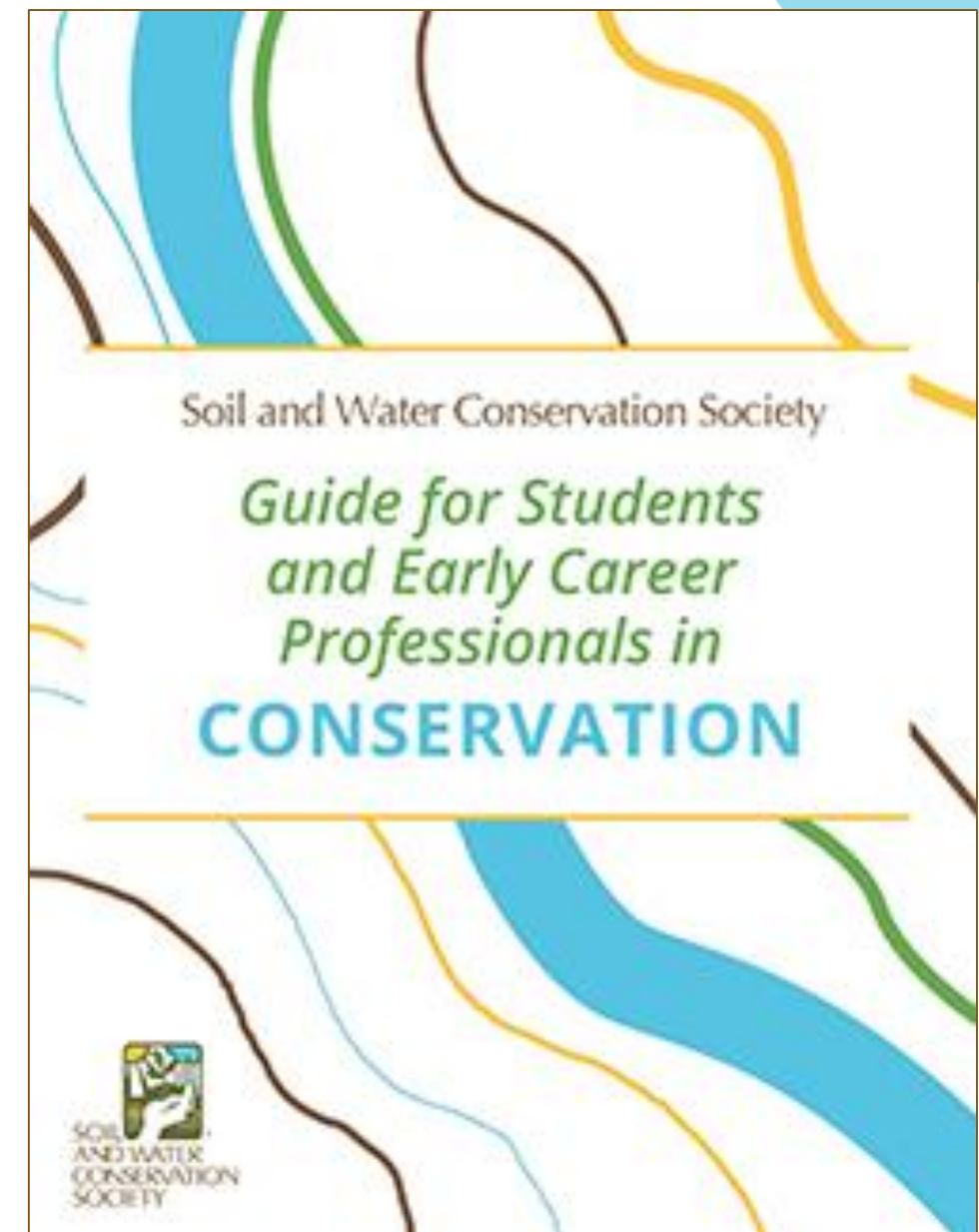
Build Community



- Chapters and members nationwide
 - Chapters provide a space where a diverse group of conservation-minded members meet to discuss and address the environmental challenges facing their particular landscapes and communities.
- Networking opportunities
- Student support

Student Resources

- *The SWCS Guide for Students and Early Career Professionals in Conservation*
 - Tips for getting into grad school and starting a career in conservation
 - How to make and maintain professional connections through networking
 - Early career advice from SWCS members
 - Conservation career tracks
- Access to *The Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*
- Career center and resources for resume building
- Scholarships and awards
- Internship and leadership opportunities



visit www.swcs.org/students

Scholarships



- **SWCS Scholarships: *Due April 14, 2022***
 - Donald A. Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship (\$1000)
 - Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship (\$500)
 - Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship (\$500)
- **New Jersey Firman E. Bear SWCS Chapter Scholarship: *Due April 30, 2022***
 - Edward R. Hall/Robert R. Hanna Scholarship (\$1000)
- **Oklahoma SWCS Chapter Scholarship: *Due April 30, 2022***
 - The Oklahoma SWCS Academic Scholarship (\$1500)

Student Moderator Program

*Assist with breakout session moderation and room support.
Free conference registration and three hotel room nights.*



Top **10** Tricks to Ace Your Interview!

1

Research!

Research the organization and the position online.



2

Study the Job Description

Be prepared to address each requirement with concrete examples.

- Take brief notes of numbers and experiences you can reference in an interview
- Don't have experience with a tool or skill?
 - Research it ahead of time to better answer questions
 - Connect it to other skills you have or tools you've used
 - Try out the tool, if possible!



Don't have experience with a skill listed as a requirement?

The Skill: “Be able to work independently”

Your Response: “I would be able to work independently because I have experience creating my own school work schedule. I use Google calendars to organize my assignment deadlines. I then breakdown tasks and set a timeline to accomplish those goals.”

Don't have experience with a tool listed as a requirement?



The Tool: “Experience with WordPress”

Your Response: I haven't used WordPress to design website before, but I looked it up and created a basic template last night. I found the platform to be user friendly. There are resources online if I don't know how to do something. And I believe my experience creating social media content will directly transfer to creating website content.

3

Prepare for “Traditional” Interview Questions

Many interviewers ask similar questions; have basic responses prepared.



“Tell me about yourself.”

“Where do you see yourself in five years?”

“What do you know about this organization?”

“Why do you want this job?”

“What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?”

“Do you have any questions for us?”

4

Look Professional and Neat

Meeting virtually or in person, put forward a professional image.





Use Concrete Examples

Introduce yourself and use clear examples from your resume and life experience to answer questions.



The Question: “In this role you will work with our staff, partners, and members. Do you have teamwork experience?”

Your Experience: You worked in your school’s office.

Your Response: “I worked with a team of five people with diverse backgrounds. We collaborated to host a new student orientation event. We communicated often to stay on track through Microsoft Teams and in weekly meetings. The event was successful and we met our goal of hosting 20% more students than the previous year.”

6

Answer the Full Question

Make sure to answer each part of the question individually.



The Question: “One of the major focuses of this internship will be assisting with the logistics of our annual event and hosting a career professional development session during the event. Describe your experience with planning an event or activity, creating resources, and communicating with attendees.”

7

Be Authentic

*Employers are looking for individuals to join their team.
Let your personality shine through.*





Tell a Story

Answer questions descriptively, with details and personality.



The Question: “Describe a time you had to work with a difficult person and how you resolved your differences.”

~~**Initial Thought:** “I listened to their needs.”~~

The Story: “I worked with a farmer who was hesitant to try conservation practices. I visited them in person and listened to their concerns. I revisited their farm a few times to establish a relationship. I then invited them to an event with other farmers interested in conservation. Through this persistence and gentle encouragement, I was able to engage them and show them the benefits of these practices. They adopted the conservation practice we recommended and I’m still in contact with them today!”



9

Thank the Interviewer

Send a follow up email within a day of the interview, thanking them for their time and reiterating why you think you'd be a good fit for the role.

Thank You



10

Follow Instructions

Read all correspondence carefully and be sure to follow directions exactly.



- Schedule follow-ups
- Send additional information or documents
- Confirm reference checks
- Respond in a timely manner (monitor your email and phone while in the hiring process)



Get the job!

Conservation Partner



SOIL HEALTH
— INSTITUTE —

Enriching Soil, Enhancing Life

Dr. Loutrina Staley

Student Internship Program Director,

SWCS Member

Questions?

Upcoming Dates - 2022



April 14

Awards and Scholarship Applications Due

May 20

Student Moderator Program Applications Due

July 31 -
August 3

77th SWCS International Annual Conference
Denver, Colorado

August 30 -
September 2

International Drainage Symposium
Des Moines, Iowa



ELEVATING

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Denver, Colorado | July 31-August 3, 2022

Conservation

TO NEW HEIGHTS

Please take the post-event survey!

Thank you for joining us!