Welcome to this month’s National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Southeast Region board newsletter, delivering announcements and news to NACD board members and state and territory association and agency leadership across the Southeast.

Frank Williams, Southeast Executive Board Member, N.C.  
Steven Meeks, Southeast Region Chair, Va.  
Kenny Mullis, Southeast Region Vice Chair, S.C.  
Candice Abinanti, Southeast Region Representative, N.C.

Please reach out to Candice with questions and newsletter content ideas.

Check out NACD’s Southeast Region Webpage for continuing updates.

September 14 is the next monthly Southeast Region Call

Join us Tuesday, September 14 at 6 p.m. CDT and 7 p.m. EDT and AST

Board members, association executive directors and state contacts, please check your email for details on how to join this call.

Contact Candice if you would like call text message reminders.

Announcements & Updates

Leaders Inducted into Southeast Conservation Hall of Fame
On **Monday, Aug. 9**, during the 2021 Southeast Region Meeting held in Gulf Shores, Ala., nine conservation leaders were honored at the 2021 **Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame** Luncheon and Induction Ceremony.

Presided over by NACD Southeast Region Chair **Steven Meeks** of Virginia, and NACD board member **Dr. Carol Knight** of Alabama, the ceremony honored the following inductees: **Frank Trione** (Ala.), **Burlin Findley** (Fla.), **Roger Bowman, Jr.** (Ga.), **David Rowlett** (Ky.), **Gary A. Blair** (Miss.), **Bill Yarborough** (N.C.), **Anastacio Morales Jiménez** (P.R.), **Sterling W. Sadler** (S.C.) and **Donna Kitts** (Tenn.). Congratulations to all!

View more photos from the 2021 **Southeast Region Meeting** and **Alabama Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting** [here](#)!

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**Last Call for 2022 NGLI Cohort Applications!**
Applications are being accepted through September 24, 2021 for the National Conservation Foundation’s (NCF) 2022 Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI) cohort.

District officials interested in this leadership development program are encouraged to visit this web page for more information and to apply.

Please help us recruit some great candidates for this program!

Seeking Breakout Session Proposals for Annual Meeting

NACD is seeking proposals for breakout sessions for the 76th Annual Meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida, February 12-16, 2022.

NACD offers informational breakout sessions during the annual meeting that focus on the work of conservation districts and their partners across the country. Sessions typically run 60-90 minutes long and often showcase several speakers at 20-30 minutes each.

This year, NACD is seeking proposals that fit into one of four themes:
- Natural Resources Policy & Protection
- District Operations & Partnerships
- Stewardship & Outreach
- Conservation Innovation

Use this online form to submit a proposal by Friday, Sept. 24, 2021.

Free Video Webinar Series Begins Soon

NACD is offering a free, two-part skills development webinar series to guide conservation district staff and members on how to create compelling videos and tell your story effectively using the equipment you already have: a mobile phone, webcam or camcorder.

Travel challenges like COVID-19 have increasingly made it necessary to conduct outreach virtually. Learn key video production best practices and troubleshooting tips from a video professional. This two-part series will include:
• Presentation of best practices for remote, independent video recording for non-professionals, including examples and situations specific to NACD members and audiences
• A “cheat sheet” of important video recording reminders and suggestions
• Live Q&A

The first webinar will be held Thursday, September 30 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern; register here for free.

The second webinar will be held Thursday, October 28 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern; register here for free.

Both webinars will be recorded and archived online at a later date.

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**Proposals Sought for 2022 U&C Webinars**

NACD’s Urban and Community (U&C) Resource Policy Group (RPG) is seeking ideas for the monthly urban and community conservation webinar series! Presentation proposals for Fiscal Year 2022 on urban and community resource conservation issues, like soil health, water quantity/quality, pollinators, forestry, community-focused initiatives and outreach to underrepresented clients in conservation are encouraged.

Submit your webinar idea online and share the web link with others who may be interested. NACD is proud to offer this program in collaboration with the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation.

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**NFWF Awards $5.3 Million in Grants to Restore and Improve Longleaf Pine Habitat and Wildlife**

Last month, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the award of 21 grants totaling $5.3 million to restore, enhance and protect longleaf pine forests in nine southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Awarded through the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund, the grants are expected to establish more than 15,000 new acres of longleaf pine and will enhance an additional 400,000 acres of habitat through prescribed burning, invasive species removal and other forest management practices.

The full slate of 2021 grantees can be accessed here.
This summer, the U.S. Department of Defense’s (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program announced the 2021 REPI Challenge funding recipients.

For ten years, the REPI Challenge has funded innovative projects to protect the military mission by conserving land. Since 2012, more than $89 million in REPI Program funds have been leveraged with over $322 million in partner contributions to protect working lands, habitat and open spaces at 32 locations nationwide.

This year, the REPI Program awarded $15.6 million in program funds to be coupled with nearly $21.6 million in partner contributions to implement seven projects benefiting military installations and their communities across the country. Three of these locations are in the Southeast Region:

- **Seymour Johnson Air Force Base**, Cherry Point, N.C. | Protection of family farms and forests; $1.0 million (pictured)
- **Tyndall Air Force Base**, Fla. | Living shoreline construction and coastal restoration; $4.8 million
- **Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Va.** | Living shoreline construction and coastal restoration; $2.0 million

NACD has an agreement with the REPI Program to link conservation districts with these efforts around the country and support DoD’s ability to identify and build local capacity for working lands partnerships.

**Membership Update**

We’re down to the final month of NACD’s 2021 fiscal year, which closes **Sept. 30, 2021**!

Thanks to all districts and associations that have paid dues to NACD in FY21! As of the end of August, **63 percent** of Southeast Region conservation districts and associations have paid membership dues to NACD.
As outreach to unpaid districts is conducted, please share that districts that pay dues in FY21 at the $775 level or above will be eligible to access the health insurance program NACD anticipates rolling out this fall. This may provide some districts with the incentive to pay or increase their FY21 dues.

Alabama's dues are traditionally made in the fourth quarter.

**Pay Membership Dues Online**

**Southeast #DistrictsAtWork**

The Florida-based nonprofit organization **Tall Timbers**--one of the speakers at the 2021 Southeast Region Meeting--and Georgia’s **Chestatee-Chattahoochee Resource Conservation and Development Council** were recently quoted in a National Public Radio story titled, "Why The South Is Decades Ahead Of The West In Wildfire Prevention."

The story explores how some Western states are learning from Southeastern states, where policies like liability protection and training have supported a strong tradition of prescribed fire on private lands for years.

In North Carolina, the **Wayne County SWCD, North Carolina Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation** and **Cooperative Extension** formed a community landowner and land user group to gain input from the Eastern North Carolina
agricultural community on opportunities for conservation practices to be used as a flood mitigation tool.

These efforts are part of a larger project with multiple partners to explore agriculture resilience and flood mitigation through conservation. Learn more and read the Project Summary Report [here](#).

Virginia's [Colonial SWCD](#), a 2020 Urban Agriculture Conservation (UAC) Grantee, was recently featured in the Aug. 10 edition of NACD's [eResource](#).

With UAC grant funding, the district hired an urban agriculture technician and has identified several new revenue streams to continue the position. Read more about the district's accomplishments [here](#).

**Upcoming Events**

**Sept. 10-11, 2021** - [2021 Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Conference](#) | Lutheridge - Arden, N.C.

**Sept. 16, 2021** - [NACD Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation Webinar: Strategies for Marketing Your Conservation District](#) | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. EDT
Register for the U&C Webinar

Sept. 27-30, 2021 - State Association Executive Directors’ Conference | Asheville, N.C.

Oct. 4-6, 2021 - National Association of State Conservation Agencies’ (NASCA) 2021 Conservation Conference | Spokane, Wash.

Oct. 19-20, 2021 - 2021 Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop | Cape May, N.J.

Nov. 8-11, 2021 - Southeast Conservation District Employees Association Annual Conference | Pigeon Forge, Tenn.


Register for the 2022 Annual Meeting

April 22 - May 1, 2022 - 67th Annual Stewardship Week: "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life"

July 15-17, 2022 - 2022 NACD Summer Meeting | San Juan, P.R.

July 17-20, 2022 - 2022 NACD Southeast Region Meeting | San Juan, P.R.
July 24-30, 2022 - NCF - Envirothon / Oxford, Ohio

Upcoming Deadlines

Sept. 10, 2021 - Nomination deadline for NACD's Friend of Conservation and Distinguished Service Awards

Sept. 24, 2021 - Application deadline for 2022 NGLI Cohort

Sept. 24, 2021 - Last day to submit a breakout session proposal for the 2022 NACD Annual Meeting using this online form

Sept. 28, 2021 - Nomination deadline for the American Society of Agronomy’s Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Conservationist of the Year Award

Oct. 1, 2021 - Nomination deadline for the National Conservation Planning Partnership’s (NCPP) Hugh Hammond Bennett (HHB) Award for Conservation Excellence

Dec. 15, 2021 - Nomination deadline for the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) 2022 Smokey Bear Awards

Dec. 16, 2021 - Early bird registration for the 2022 NACD Annual Meeting ends

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