



June 9, 2023

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

[Frank Williams](#), Southeast Executive Board Member, NC
[Steven Meeks](#), Southeast Region Chair, VA
[Kenny Mullis](#), Southeast Region Vice Chair, SC

[Candice Abinanti](#), Southeast Region Representative, NC
Please reach out to Candice with questions and newsletter content ideas.



Thank you Southeast Region for the opportunity to be your NACD Southeast Region Representative for the past four years!

I have learned so much from you, and look forward to serving you and our nation's conservation districts in a new role as NACD's Director of Communications! ~ Candice

Pictured: Pete Hunter, Candice Abinanti, and Gary Blair at the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in January 2023

June 13: Next Monthly Southeast Region Call

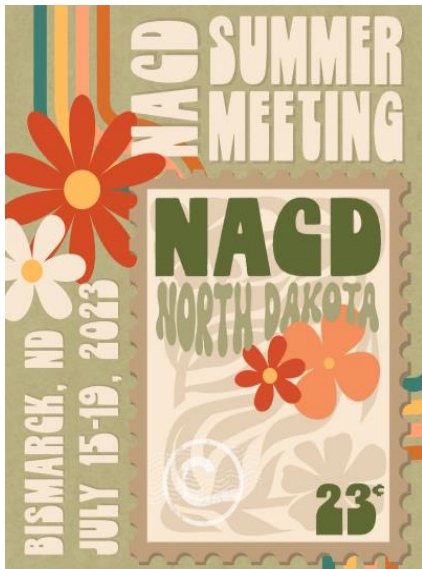
Join us **Tuesday, June 13** at
6:00 p.m. Central
7:00 p.m. Eastern and Atlantic

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

There will be no Southeast Region calls in July or August.

Announcements + Updates

Register by June 23 for NACD's Summer Meeting in Bismarck



NACD's **2023 Summer Conservation Forum and Tours** will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota this year on **July 15-19, 2023!**

If you haven't yet registered and plan to attend, register by **June 23** for the early bird rate of \$375. Learn more about the meeting [here](#).

Hosted in partnership with the **North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts**, the meeting will convene NACD's Board of Directors, Standing Committees, and region board members for meetings on Saturday and Sunday.

On Monday and Tuesday, the spotlight will be on North Dakota with sessions showcasing conservation in the state, and tours to local farms and ranches.



One of the Summer Meeting farm visits will be to **Menoken Farm**, which together with the **Burleigh County Soil Conservation District** produced a documentary titled "[Future of Food](#)" that looks at the future of food production and how it can be supported with good soil health practices.

Watch the video before you go!

[Register for the 2023 NACD Summer Meeting in Bismarck](#)

Register by July 14 for the NACD Southeast Region Meeting and GACD Annual Meeting

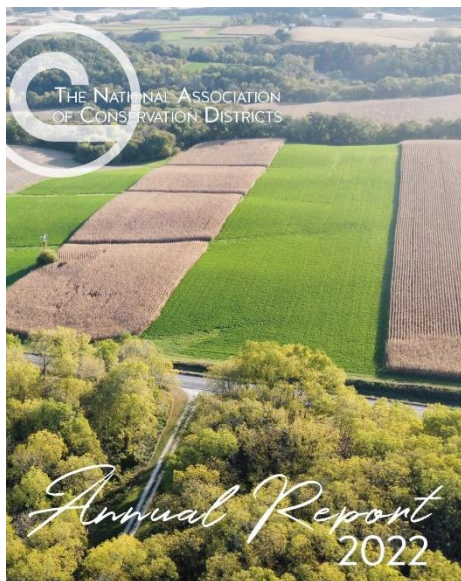


NACD's **Southeast Region Meeting** will be combined this year with the **Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD) Annual Meeting** for one great event! The meeting will be held on **August 6-8, 2023** in Savannah, Georgia.

If you plan to attend, and have not yet registered, register now through **July 14, 2023** for the discounted price of \$385, and help spread the word about this gathering!

Register, book lodging, and preview the agenda [here](#).

[Register for the 2023 NACD Southeast Region Meeting](#)



Read NACD's recently published [2022 Annual Report](#) featuring messages from leadership, a financial report, and stories about members from across the country.



NACD affiliate, the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) has released its [2022 Annual Report](#).

Inside you'll find updates on NCF's 2022 finances, the NCF-Envirothon program, the Next Generation

Check out pages 36-37 for a Southeast Region Spotlight on **Mobile County Conservation District** and **Horry Soil and Water Conservation District's** work to improve water quality in their communities.

Leadership Institute (NGLI), and more!

Apply by August 18 for \$500 million in RCPP funding

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) recently announced the availability of \$500 million for the **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**.

After working with many partners, including NACD, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implemented improvements to help streamline and simplify administration of the program.

NRCS will accept RCPP applications through **August 18, 2023**, via the [RCPP portal](#).

Two webinars to provide additional information about the RCPP funding announcement will be held on **May 24 and June 7**, from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern. Join via this [link](#).

South Atlantic Salt Marsh Conservation Plan Launched



Photo: Mark Bias

Last month, the [South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative \(SASMI\)](#) released a plan to help conserve a million-acre expanse of salt marsh spanning the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida.

The voluntary plan calls for local engagement in salt marsh conservation projects. Learn more about the plan on [SASMI's web page](#).

Did you know?

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), **one acre of salt marsh can absorb up to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater**, which is equivalent to more than 2.25 Olympic-size swimming pools!



The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has produced a 17 minute film about the South Atlantic Salt Marsh.

View it on [YouTube](#).

NCPP seeking nominees for regional HHB Awards

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) has launched a new regional process for the Hugh Hammond Bennett (HHB) Awards, and seeks nominees from the Southeast Region for the following awards.

Southeast Region Producer Award

Any producer working with any of the NCPP partner organizations on conservation planning or implementation of a conservation plan is eligible for the producer award.

Southeast Region Conservation Planner Award

All NCPP partnership employees are eligible for the individual conservation planner award. Partner organizations are those recognized by NCPP at the national, state or local level.



NCPP will begin accepting nominations from **July 1 - September 1, 2023** for the 2023 HHB Awards cycle. Regional and national winners will be recognized at the **2024 NACD Annual Meeting** in San Diego, CA.

Stay tuned for more information this summer on how to nominate someone.

Government Affairs

Have you seen that NACD's Government Affairs Team is now sharing updates, called "What's up in Washington" in the weekly eResource newsletter? Check them out each week. Here are some recent excerpts.

- On Saturday, June 3, President Biden signed the *Fiscal Responsibility Act* into law, raising the federal debt limit and avoiding a default that was expected in early June. The bill was passed by the House and Senate earlier last week and includes provisions to increase the maximum age for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements, while adding exemptions for the homeless,

veterans, and individuals who left the foster care system. **These changes to SNAP are expected to make it easier for lawmakers to pass the 2023 Farm Bill.**

- The House and Senate agriculture committees are working to write the 2023 Farm Bill and are continuing to hold hearings to inform its development. **There are doubts that the legislation will be passed before the September 30 deadline, but lawmakers and stakeholders are pushing to pass a bill on time.** An extension could be passed in lieu of a new bill, which would fund expiring USDA programs at current levels.

Southeast #DistrictsAtWork

In North Carolina, following the loss of nearly 20% of its farm and forest land over the past nine years, the **Wake Soil and Water Conservation District** has launched the Wake County Farmland Preservation Program. The program adds two new conservation options for landowners looking to protect their land: the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) program and conservation easement programs.

Learn more in the [district's newsletter](#).



In South Carolina, the **Calhoun Soil and Water Conservation District** recently organized and sponsored an educational trip for local students to the Congaree Bluff Heritage Preserve.

The trip was featured on local [News19](#) and also on the [district's blog](#).

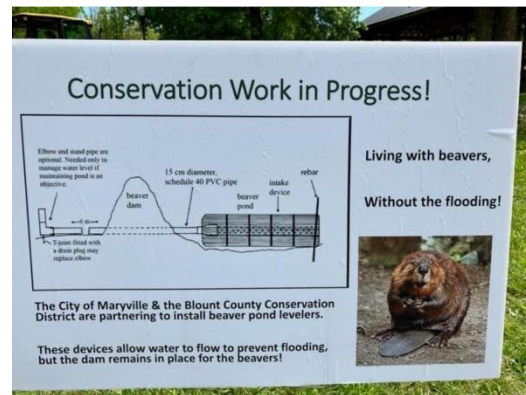


In Tennessee, the **Blount County Soil Conservation District's** work to install levelers in beaver dams was recently featured in their local newspaper.

The levelers allow beavers to stay in their homes while mitigating flood risks from the beaver dams.

Read the full story [here](#).

Photo: *The Daily Times*



Upcoming Events

July 9-11, 2023 - [2023 Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts \(KACD\) Annual Meeting](#) | *Bowling Green, KY*

July 15 - 18, 2023 - [2023 NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour](#) | *Bismarck, ND*

July 23 - 29, 2023 - [2023 NCF-Envirothon Competition](#) | *Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada*

August 6 - 8, 2023 - [2023 NACD Southeast Region Meeting and Georgia Association of Conservation Districts \(GACD\) Annual Meeting](#) | *Savannah, GA*

September 26-27, 2023 - [Association of Florida Conservation Districts \(AFCD\) Fall Partner Workshop](#) | *Gainesville, FL*

October 1 - 4, 2023 - 2023 [National Association of State Conservation Agencies \(NASCA\) Annual Meeting](#) | *Salt Lake City, UT*

November 7-8, 2023 - [Southeast Conservation District Employees Association Annual Conference](#) | *Pigeon Forge, TN*

November 15-17, 2023 - 2023 [Alabama Association of Conservation Districts \(AACD\) Annual Meeting](#) | *Orange Beach, AL*

December 3-5, 2023 - 2023 [Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts \(VASWCD\) Annual Meeting](#) | *Norfolk, VA*

February 10-14, 2024 - [2024 NACD Annual Meeting](#) | *San Diego, CA*

Upcoming Deadlines

June 15, 2023 - Applications due to USDA-NRCS for [Compost and Food Waste Reduction \(CFWR\)](#) pilot projects

June 23, 2023 - Final applications due to NACD for the [Historically Underserved Farmer to Farmer Outreach Grant Program](#)

June 26, 2023 - Summaries and photos due to [Candice](#) for [2023 Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame Inductees](#)

July 24, 2023 - Videos due to [Candice](#) for [2023 Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame Inductees](#)

August 18, 2023 - Deadline to [submit RCPP applications](#)

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