

CORRESPONDENCE

Voting receipt - CSDA 2021 Bylaw Vote

Receipt code: **2XSP**

Time of vote: **2021-10-22 12:03:57 America/Los_Angeles**

IP address: **47.181.43.218**

CSDA Bylaws Updates: **Yes**

Subject **CSDA 2021 Bylaw Vote**
From CSDA <vote@simplyvoting.com>
Sender <vote@simplyvoting.com>
To Rose Corona <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <amberp@csda.net>
Date 2021-10-22 12:03



Hello Rose Corona,

You have voted in CSDA 2021 Bylaw Vote.

To view your receipt, please visit: <https://CSDA.simplyvoting.com/en/>

Regards,
CSDA

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 From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdnet.org>
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 Date 2021-10-26 11:24



CARIBE SWCD DELIVERS CUSTOMER-FOCUSED CONSERVATION WITH HELP OF TA GRANT FUNDING

October 26, 2021



The [Caribe Soil and Water Conservation District's \(SWCD\)](#) diverse clients face some common challenges. As **Gelyan Reyes**, former district Soil Conservation Technician recently hired by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) explains, "soils in this region tend to be overworked, and chemical fertilizers overused, impacting water quality. Storms, like Hurricanes Irma and Maria, further contribute to soil erosion and landslides."

With the help of Technical Assistance (TA) grant funding from NACD, the Caribe SWCD provides conservation technical assistance and planning support to producers. The Caribe SWCD also helps producers access funding and implement conservation best management practices through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and

NACD Welcomes New Director of Membership



On Monday, Oct. 24, NACD welcomed **Terrence Curtiss** as the new Director of Membership.

Curtiss comes to NACD from the Association of Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), where he has served as Director of Membership and Communications since 2017. While at ASIS&T, Curtiss designed segmented messages for email marketing campaigns and successfully launched and maintained a new membership database for the association. He also

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

A free membership program the Caribe SWCD launched in 2020 is one creative way the district is further helping to meet the needs of their producers. The program, now 200 members strong, acknowledges producers' commitment to conservation with a certificate, and offers members a variety of benefits, like training opportunities, technical assistance and access to a network of peers for sharing information and addressing issues.



The Caribe SWCD has also attracted new partners and volunteers to their conservation mission. As part of an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, the Caribe SWCD completed 18 forest management plans for landowners in less than a year, helping to raise the conservation awareness of farmers and landowners and the need for more funding to meet their goals.

Learn more about the Caribe SWCD's efforts in this [blog post](#) and recognize the contributions to conservation made by Hispanic Americans during Hispanic Heritage Month.

spearheaded the launch of their Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) task force. Prior to his position with ASIS&T, Curtiss was Assistant Office Manager with the New York Department of Social Services.

Curtiss holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Communication with a minor in Political Science from SUNY, The College at Brockport.

Curtiss is based in the Washington, D.C. office and can be contacted at terrence-curtiss@nacdnet.org.

NACD Hiring for Multiple Roles

South Central Region Representative: NACD is seeking a full-time South Central Region Representative that will be responsible for providing assistance to NACD members and board of directors to advance conservation and resource development, and assist in the implementation of NACD's policies related to the South Central Region (AR, LA, OK, TX). This is a service-oriented position with a focus on creating and maintaining relationships and increasing the effectiveness of NACD in supporting conservation districts and their state associations.

This position is located in the South Central Region and reports to the Director of Education. Apply by **Friday, Nov. 12** for priority interview consideration.

Stewardship and Education Coordinator: NACD is seeking a full-time Stewardship and Education Coordinator to assist with the



ICYMI: NACD'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER



OHIO DISTRICTS HOST MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR WATER CONSERVATION



As NACD celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year, we are releasing a special monthly newsletter highlighting conservation districts' successes over the years.

Entitled "**Diamonds Out of the Dust: 75 Years of Conservation District Success Stories**," this monthly newsletter features stories submitted by conservation districts and state/territory associations across the nation.

In the [October edition](#), we highlighted Pickin' at the Park, a bluegrass music festival for conservation hosted by **Warren, Greene and Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)** in Ohio, **Taos SWCD's** efforts battling noxious weeds, Congress's recognition of NACD's anniversary and more.

You'll also hear from **John Redding**, an NACD Past President. He shares his journey with conservation and his thoughts on the legacy of NACD.

Learn more about our 75th Anniversary campaign and view all past newsletters [here](#). To be featured in the newsletter, share your district's success story by submitting [this online form](#).

NACD ACCEPTING PHOTO CONTEST ENTRIES

Have you submitted your state winning posters and photos yet? You still have time before the **Dec. 1, 2021** deadline to give your students the chance to compete in NACD's National Photo and Poster Contest and have their

management of a national outreach program and online marketplace in support of NACD's national conservation education objectives. This position also supports a growing portfolio of conservation education resources as well as other duties that accomplish NACD's goals.

This position is located at NACD's headquarters office in Washington, D.C., and reports to the Director of Education. Apply by **Friday, Nov. 12** for priority interview consideration.

Learn more about these and all open positions and how to apply [here](#).

Last Chance to Register for Video Workshop Webinar Series

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

The first webinar was held previously and the recording can be found [here](#).

The second installment of this series will be held **Thursday, October 28 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern**; [register here](#) for free.

[Register Here](#)

**South Central
Regional Auxiliary
Scholarship Winner
Selected**

art recognized and displayed at NACD's Annual Meeting.

The annual poster contest is open to students K-12 and celebrates the 2021 Stewardship theme "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities"

The national photo contest is open to all amateur photographers who reside in the U.S. or its territories. Submissions for both contests are due **Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021**.

To learn more and submit your entry, visit [NACD's website](#).



Jared Stone was selected as the South Central Regional Auxiliary's \$350.00 scholarship winner. Stone is a graduate of Chandler High School in Oklahoma. He is currently a freshman at Oklahoma State University (OSU) majoring in animal science biotechnology with plans to attend veterinary school. He is active in the OSU Quarter Scale Tractor Team and Freshman Transition Leadership Program. In high school, Stone was active with the National Honor Society, Academic Team, Archery Team, BancFirst Student Board of Directors, 4-H and FFA.

Congratulations!



MAINE SWCD CONTRIBUTES TO AMERICAN CHESNUT RESEARCH

Maine's **Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** has partnered with the Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, conducting research to bring back forest chestnut trees.

"We have a huge bear population and a growing wild turkey population that rely heavily on nut bearing trees to get through the winter," Central Aroostook SWCD Executive Director **Randy Martin said**. "They are forced to look for sustenance in areas they would not otherwise."

Residential areas have been hit with wildlife tearing down feeders and storming through landscapes in search of food. "As the wildlife goes into winter with inadequate fat reserves, some have not made it through to the following spring," **Martin said**.

| October 2021 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Meeting for Board of Directors and Staff | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | | | | | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Meeting for Board of Directors and Staff | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Meeting for Board of Directors and Staff | |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | | | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Meeting for Board of Directors and Staff | |

Promote your conservation district or state association's tree sale, annual meeting, webinar, field day or more on NACD's [Calendar of Events!](#)

[Submit an event](#)



The district teamed up with The American Chestnut Foundation to combat *Cryphonectria parasitica*, the blight disease that attacks and kills the trees. Armed with about 30 chestnut seedlings, the district began working on the seedlings to clone for blight resistance. The district's efforts have prompted the Maine Chapter of the Foundation to donate another 300 seedlings.

"We're really very excited," **Martin said**. "The American chestnut has been almost obliterated. If we can pull these trees through, then after this winter we'll have enough clones that we can partner with other districts and other states to distribute the resistant clones."

Martin and Maine Forester **Ethan Hill** are using explants from nut-bearing native trees and four hybrid clones that were developed by crossing the American chestnut and the Chinese chestnut, which is resistant to the blight.

Like the district's [Neonectria-resistant American beech tree project](#), Martin is working on establishing a basal medium so that he can determine the optimum growth regulators for the best results. Tissue collections will be cultured and grown in the lab. When the clones reach six-feet tall, they will be planted in trials and monitored. Martin and Hill hope to be able to plant chestnuts in the spring of 2023, some in a six-acre wildlife habitat demonstration.

Read the full story on [NACD's blog](#). To learn more about this project, please contact Martin at centralaroostookswcd@gmail.com.

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www.nacdnet.org

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD LAUNCHES 2022 FRIENDS OF NACD DISTRICT GRANTS PROGRAM

October 19, 2021



Friends of NACD **2022 DISTRICT GRANTS PROGRAM**

GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO CONDUCT NEW ACTIVITIES OR TEST NOVEL APPROACHES TO THEIR OPERATIONS.

EIGHT GRANTS AVAILABLE, UP TO \$2,500 EACH

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH

NOV. 30, 2021 11:59 P.M. LOCAL TIME

NACD Announces New Director of Education



NACD is pleased to announce **Keith Owen** as its new Director of Education.

Owen has been with NACD since December 2017, serving as South Central Region Representative and has also supported NACD education programs. He has served as staff lead for the NACD Conservation Careers Workshop and is guiding development of that program in partnership with Agriculture Future of America into the AFA + NACD Sustainability Institute. He has also supported NACD's Stewardship and

The [Friends of NACD District Grants Program](#) is now accepting applications for grants up to \$2,500! Now in its third round of funding, the 2022 program will award eight grants, up to \$2,500 each, to conservation districts to conduct new activities or test novel approaches to their operations. Awards will be announced at the 2022 NACD Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Conservation districts may view the complete request for proposals (RFP), including eligibility criteria and application instructions on the [Friends of NACD District Grants webpage](#). Applications must be received by no later than **Nov. 30, 2021, 11:59 p.m. local time**, through the online application form. Visit [this page](#) to learn more about how past grantees, with the support of a Friends of NACD District Grant, have implemented projects that have helped enhance their visibility in their communities, reach new customers, and grow their partnerships and volunteers.

The Friends of NACD District Grant program is made possible by donations individuals and organizations make to the [Friends of NACD program](#).

Questions about the program and application process may be directed to NACD Southeast Region Representative **Candice Abinanti** at candice-abinanti@nacdnet.org.

NACD, P2 RECOGNIZE OREGON BROTHERS AS POLLINATOR CONSERVATION ADVOCATES

Today, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Pollinator Partnership (P2) announced Dan and Michael O'Loughlin of O'Loughlin Farms as the winners of the 2021 U.S. Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award.

The award, which recognizes individuals and families in the farm and ranch community who contribute significantly to pollinator species protection and conservation, was awarded by **NACD CEO Jeremy Peters** during the 2021 North American Pollinator Protection Campaign International Conference.

"Dan and Michael partner with their local district, **Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)**, on a number of endeavors, including establishing a 1/3-mile-long beetle bank and testing seed mixes," **Peters said**. "Their commitment to pollinators through establishing habitat and conducting natural pest control is a commitment to enhanced biodiversity and, ultimately, better ecosystems within their fields."

O'Loughlin Farms is a 200-acre operation that primarily grows tall fescue seed. In addition to their considerable pollinator-related activities, the brothers conduct community outreach in a barn on their property, which they converted into a classroom that can fit up to 100 people.

"Dan and Michael are committed not only to establishing pollinator habitat, but to conducting pollinator education and outreach," **P2 Executive Director Kelly Rourke said**. "From youth to gardeners, SWCDs to growers, the O'Loughlin brothers work to amplify the importance of pollinator conservation."

The O'Loughlins have participated in the Oregon Bee Atlas, created pollinator habitat at schools through the State School Garden Network, and serve as leaders in the State Pollinator Protection Initiative, the Oregon Bee Project.

Read the full press release from NACD [here](#). For information on how to nominate a pollinator conservation-minded farmer or rancher for the 2022 award, visit www.pollinator.org/awards.

SPACE AVAILABLE TO REGISTER FOR OCT U&C WEBINAR

Education Committee and the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Live Auction at NACD's Annual Meeting.

Before coming to NACD, Owen served as Group Sales Manager with Bass Pro Shops, Park Manager with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and as District Manager with the **Rogers County Conservation District**. He has a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology from Oklahoma State University.

Owen is based in Norman, Okla. and can be contacted at keith-owen@nacdnet.org.

New Fall Items Listed on NACD's Marketplace



Fall is here and it's time to dig out the warmer clothes. Check out our new fall must-have apparel items. Whether casual or corporate, these items are essential for everyone's fall wardrobe. Shop now for a variety of caps, shirts, vests and jackets that can be customized with the logo of your choice.

Platinum, diamond and gold level NACD members making a single purchase of \$100 or more from the Marketplace can benefit from 20 percent, 15 percent and 10 percent discounts respectively. To learn more about NACD's membership incentives and levels of discounts,

please visit [NACD's Membership page](#) or [email us](#).

Shop the Marketplace

Donate to NCF's 2022 Auction

The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Auction is a great opportunity to support conservation, and we are accepting donations for the 2022 event now!

During the 2022 NACD Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fla., NCF will host their auction to support Envirothon, the Next Generation Leadership Institute and conservation education programs. The auction will be held **Monday, Feb. 14**.

The 2022 NCF Auction is a great opportunity to support NCF and conservation. The deadline for donations is **January 7, 2022**.

To learn more about donating to the auction, [see this webpage](#) or email NACD Director of Education **Keith Owen** at keith-owen@nacdnet.org.

NRCS Launches Innovation Portal

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Employee Innovation Portal was designed to empower employees to share innovative processes with leadership and colleagues across the nation. Through the sharing of innovations, NRCS hopes hope to build a culture of innovation within both NRCS and the broader

During the October Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation webinar, scheduled for **Thursday, Oct. 21, at 4 p.m. Eastern, Joe Heller**, partnership liaison for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, will highlight successes from the first two years of the office's activities.

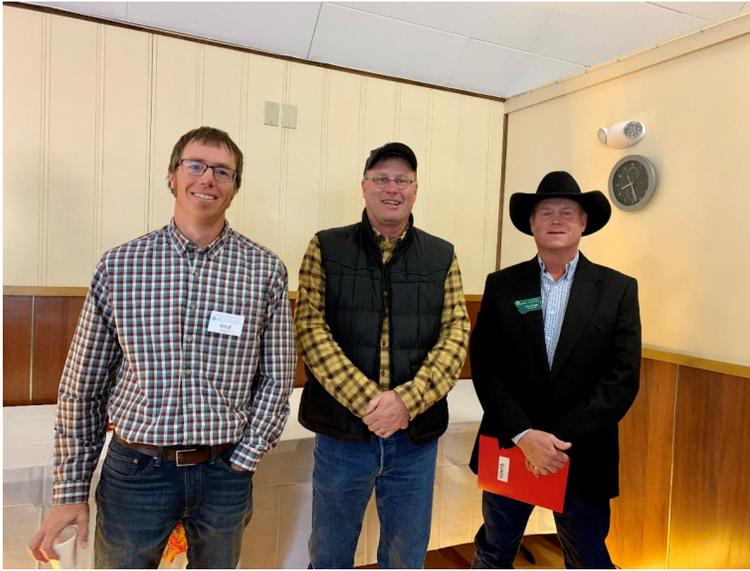
In addition to providing technical resources for urban agriculturalists, the office also supports two grant programs: the Urban Agriculture Planning and Implementation grants and the Compost and Food Waste Reduction grants. Heller will discuss early successes from these programs, and also provide information about the new federal Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee and the new FSA Urban and Suburban Pilot County Committees.

NACD's Urban and Community Conservation webinar series, sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation, highlights programs related to urban and community conservation, outreach to underrepresented clients, small-scale natural resource concerns, stormwater management and other related themes.

Learn more about this webinar, view recordings of past U&C webinars, and submit a webinar proposal [on our website](#).

[Register Here for the Webinar](#)

NACD JOINS MONTANA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS FOR AREA MEETINGS



The **Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)** hosted their area meetings **September 27- October 5, 2021**. Five hybrid gatherings were held across the state with representatives from MACD, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and NACD in attendance at each.

The meetings were well-attended both in-person and online, allowing many innovative ideas to be brought forth and discussed, with several resolutions passed that will be brought to the state convention this November.

*Pictured above is **Kyle Tackett** from NRCS ASTC Partnerships, NRCS State Conservationist **Tom Watson** and incoming MACD President **Dean Rogge**. Pictured below is NACD Northern Plains Representative **Aubrey Evans**, Bureau Chief for DNRC District Operations **Steph Criswell**, Administrator for Montana DNRC Conservation Resource and Development Division **Mark Bostrom** and MACD Executive Director **Becca Boslough**.*

"For a very large and diverse state, it was highly encouraging to see the sense of community in the conservation partnership and the strong desire to make what is already good even better than ever," **said Aubrey Evans**, Northern Plains Region Representative.



Though this year has been extremely difficult for many in the state, with severe drought and wildfires plaguing the operations of most of the membership, the hardships only fueled the passion and drive of the conservation districts. It is an exciting time for conservation in Montana and the partnership amongst districts couldn't be stronger.

To learn more, visit [MACD's website](#).

conservation planning partnership.

This innovation portal is currently being pilot tested in Vermont, Tennessee, Oregon, Wisconsin, Arkansas and Pacific Islands Area. Staff and partners in the pilot areas are encouraged to visit the portal, submit an innovation if they have one ready to share, and complete an online survey (which can be accessed through the portal) before the end of the pilot phase on **October 20**.

The portal is open to all NRCS employees and partner employees with access to NRCS eAuthentication.

[Visit the Portal](#)

NCPP Meets in Wash. to Discuss Ongoing Projects

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) Leadership Team met **Oct. 7** in Spokane, Wash. following the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) meeting.

The NCPP is working on projects including providing more flexibility with conservation planner certification, a monthly national message on conservation planning, work underway on helping make local work groups more successful, continuing to manage and improve the NCPP website, and advancing the Hugh Hammond Bennett conservation planner and producer awards.

For more info on the group's activities visit [the NCPP website](#).

LOCAL DISTRICTS JOIN ILLINOIS STATEWIDE TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

The Illinois Extension 4-H and the **Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD)** Forestry Committee are teaming up on a statewide tree planting initiative for 2022. This effort will utilize the strengths of the statewide network of Illinois soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) and the educational and youth development of the University of Illinois Extension programs to create an oak recovery and tree planting educational program.

Starting with a \$5,000 small project grant from Illinois Forestry Development Council, the Illinois 4-H alumni database of 10,000 individuals will be solicited to raise matching funds and pair 4-H alumni with existing local 4-H members to plant trees together. For its first year, the goal is to plant 650 container trees throughout Illinois communities.

The purpose of this year's project is to educate students and their communities on:

- The value of native oak forests and trees in Illinois' natural history
- Oaks as a keystone species in Illinois forests
- Raise awareness of Illinois' diminishing Oak forests
- Tree planting techniques
- Oak tree identification

This program will provide each project area with 20-30, four-foot-tall Root Protection Method (RPM) Oak trees. The RPM-production method yields twice the results in half the time. Studies show that RPM-produced trees grow flower and fruit two times faster, so students should expect better planting success and development of their trees. Project areas should be sustainable and in public locations such as parks, schools and nature centers.

Surveys have been distributed to Illinois SWCD's and Extension offices to solicit interested participants throughout the state. Eventually the goal is to reach every SWCD in the state over the next four or five years.

To learn more, visit the [Pulaski-Alexander SWCD website](#).



Promote your conservation district or state association's tree sale, annual meeting, webinar, field day or more on NACD's [Calendar of Events!](#)

[Submit an event](#)

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NGLI COHORT MEETS WITH THE NOBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN OKLAHOMA

November 2, 2021



Friends of NACD District Grant Applications Open



The National Conservation Foundation's (NCF) Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI) 2020 cohort, made up of seven district board members from across the nation, came together on **November 1-3, 2021**, in Ardmore, Okla. The cohort met with the [Noble Research Institute \(NRI\)](#) to discuss the Theory of Change/Theory of Action, leadership and soil health. NRI focuses on soil health with a primary goal to regenerate millions of acres of degraded grazing lands across the United States through direct work with farmers and ranchers across the nation.

Conservation district leaders are faced with transitioning their work to the next generation and managing the shifting needs of local conservation priorities. NGLI is helping districts overcome these challenges through support in identifying and training those who will champion this work for decades to come. The participants represent the future of conservation leadership.



What would your conservation district do with a Friends of NACD District Grant? Learn more [here](#) about past grantees and their projects, like the wildfire preparedness block party Oklahoma's **Beaver County Conservation District** held this year.

You still have time to propose your creative new project and apply for a \$2,500 Friends of NACD District Grant before the **Nov. 30, 2021** deadline. Review the full RFP and eligibility criteria on the [Friends of NACD District Grant](#) webpage. Contact NACD Southeast Region Representative

To learn more about NGLI, [visit here](#). The selection process for the 2022 NGLI cohort is complete and will have its first session at NACD's 2022 Annual Meeting.

Candice Abinanti at candice-abinanti@nacdnet.org with any questions.

NOV. U&C WEBINAR ADDRESSES COASTAL CONSERVATION

NACD Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation Webinars

Restore America's Estuaries

WHAT

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is a national alliance of 10 coastal conservation groups dedicated to restoring and preserving America's estuaries and coasts, and also one of NACD's partners through the Scott's MiracleGro Foundation National Partner Network. During this webinar learn from Daniel Hayden about the diversity of projects and activities that RAE conducts on behalf of their members and coastal conservation. In addition to contributing to local projects that restore coastal wetlands, open fish passages, and restore shellfish habitat, RAE also works on advocacy and policy issues that affect coastal communities. Additionally, RAE promotes equity within conservation through campaigns like their Inclusive Coasts Initiative. Come learn more about the great work of RAE and their members!

Daniel Hayden
President and CEO,
Restore America's Estuaries

PRESENTER

WHEN
Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021 from 4:00-5:00p.m. Eastern

REGISTRATION IS FREE!

Learn more and register at nacdnet.org/webinars

Restore Americas Estuaries (RAE) is a national alliance of 10 coastal conservation groups dedicated to restoring and preserving America's estuaries and coasts, and also one of NACD's partners through the Scott's MiracleGro Foundation National Partner Network.

During the November Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation webinar, scheduled for **Thursday, Nov. 18, at 4 p.m. Eastern, Daniel Hayden**, RAE's President and CEO, will discuss the diversity of projects and activities that RAE conducts on behalf of their members and coastal conservation. In addition to contributing to local projects that restore coastal wetlands, open fish passages, and restore shellfish habitat, RAE also works on advocacy and policy issues that affect coastal communities. Additionally, RAE promotes equity within conservation through campaigns like their Inclusive Coasts Initiative.

NACD's Urban and Community Conservation webinar series, sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation, highlights programs related to urban and community conservation, outreach to underrepresented clients, small-scale natural resource concerns, stormwater management and other related themes.

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[Register Here](#)

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Stewardship and Education Coordinator: NACD is seeking a full-time Stewardship and Education Coordinator to assist with the management of a national outreach program and online marketplace in support of NACD's national conservation education objectives. This position also supports a growing portfolio of conservation education resources as well as other duties that accomplish NACD's goals.

This position is located at NACD's headquarters office in Washington, D.C., and reports to the Director of Education. Apply by **Friday, Nov. 12**



NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND CD COMPLETES SECOND YEAR OF URBAN GROWERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2020, together with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), NACD awarded funding through the Urban Agriculture Conservation (UAC) Grant Initiative to the **Northern Rhode Island Conservation District (NRICD)** in Rhode Island.

NRICD serves Providence County, R.I., an area where interest in urban growing and gardening is on the rise. Urban growing is one technique used to address the significant problem of food deserts in urban areas.



The district recently celebrated the completion of year two of the Urban Growers Leadership Program (UGLP), a workshop and mentorship program that provides leading urban growers and gardeners with the skills they need to take food production to the next level.

“Funding from the UAC Grant Program allowed us to begin a beautiful program,” **said Molly Allard**, NRICD Outreach and Education Program Manager.

The UGLP seeks to reduce barriers to participation in an agricultural education program by scheduling all events around growers' schedules, providing growers with information targeted to their specific needs, and providing participants with a stipend to support their time away from family and work commitments to learn.

Beginning in year two, the UGLP began also serving non-English speaking participants. This year, all program elements were offered in both English and Kinyarwanda, a language commonly spoken in Rwanda that is also used by a large population of refugees residing in Providence County. Future years of the program will be offered in additional languages to increase its accessibility to other non-English speaking communities.

The UGLP had nine program participants in year one, and 10 in year two. Participants take part in six workshops as well as an optional skill-sharing program with a community partner. Multiple community

for priority interview consideration.

Learn more about these and all open positions and how to apply [here](#).

Donate to NCF's 2022 Auction

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The 2022 NCF Auction is a great opportunity to support NCF and conservation. The deadline for donations is **January 7, 2022**.

To learn more about donating to the auction, [see this webpage](#) or email NACD Director of Education **Keith Owen** at keith-owen@nacdnet.org.

NACD Video Workshop Webinar Recordings Now Available

This fall, NACD hosted a two-part skills webinar series to guide conservation district staff and members on how to create compelling videos.

The first webinar, which focused on the recording process, can be found [here](#).

partners work with NRICD to implement the UGLP, including Southside Community Land Trust, Groundwork RI, Community Health Innovations of RI, the African Alliance of RI, the City of Providence and independent urban growers and gardeners. Recently secured funding for 2021-2024 will allow the program to expand in future years, serving multiple cohorts of ten each year and serving speakers of additional languages.

“We worked with our partners to identify a need we could fill and provided a space for local growers to learn and network,” **says Allard.** “We are thrilled that UAC helped us to get our program off the ground, and are so excited for the next steps of continuing to watch it grow.”

Read more about all grantees through NACD's Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative [online in our ArcGIS Story Map.](#)

The second webinar, held last week, focused on the editing components of videomaking. The recording of that session is now available to view [here.](#)

Guidelines on the Use of Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management Available



Michael Heller grew up in Pennsylvania, where he tended his garden and worked on the farm next door. In 1982, he began farming the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) 285-acre livestock and vegetable operation in Upper Marlboro, Md. Additionally, Heller runs the CBF on-site education program and writes grants. While he's been with CBF for almost 40 years, Heller feels as if he's just getting started.



Last month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and international partners published *International Guidelines on the Use of Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management*. The publication is the culmination of a five-year collaboration and provides information on using natural and nature-based features (NNBF) to reduce flood and storm risks and improve coastal resilience while conserving coastal and marine ecosystems and the jobs, commerce and recreation that depend on them.

Learn more and access the link to the Guidelines [here.](#)



From the beginning, Heller was determined to use sustainable farming methods and has never used pesticides in the operation. Instead, his pastures grow orchard grass, timothy, clover and other species that soak up the nutrients, build the soil, are very nutritious for the cattle, do not require tilling, and also improve water quality. The farm used to be continuous tobacco and corn production which has depleted the soil of organic matter and promoted soil erosion. So, while his focus is building the quality of his soil, Heller says it is also the single most important thing he can do to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay area.

Additional practices Heller has incorporated into the operation include using cover crops throughout the year with summer and winter annuals, composting, and strip cropping, which consists of growing vegetable crops in alternate strips of uniform width on the same field. His use of mulch helps to conserve moisture in the soil, assists with

pest control, and helps build organic matter in his soil. Heller also practices management-intensive grazing – a system that divides large fields into smaller paddocks, moving the livestock frequently at high stocking rates, providing the highest forage production and use per acre while allowing paddocks to rest and regrow completely.

Heller's operation with CBF has a local focus with its production. The organic vegetables are marketed through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program that he established. The grass-fed beef and lamb are sold direct to the local community. The CFB native tree and shrub nursery raises 10,000 trees for CBF to utilize in riparian plantings which are designed to protect water quality.



To learn more about Heller and his operation with CBF, visit his [NACD profile](#) online and view [this video](#) where Heller shares his view of "Sustainable Agriculture." If you or someone you know would like to become a member of the [NACD Soil Health Champions Network](#), please visit the NACD website for more information or contact **Beth Mason**, NACD North Central Region Representative, at beth-mason@nacdnet.org with your questions.

| November 2021 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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Introducing River Network's State Policy Hub!

STATE POLICY HUB

WELCOME TO RIVER NETWORK'S STATE POLICY HUB!
This online database supports our members in advocating for clean, safe, and affordable water by providing a central location to find state policy language and examples of effective advocacy efforts at the state level.

The graphic features a map of the United States with various states shaded in different shades of blue. Several states are marked with a white water drop icon. Below the map is a blue wave graphic. The text "STATE POLICY HUB" is written in large, bold, dark blue letters at the top. Below the map, the text "WELCOME TO RIVER NETWORK'S STATE POLICY HUB!" is written in bold, green letters, followed by a paragraph in blue text.

Which states have passed laws regulating the pervasive PFAS that contaminate our drinking water? What does a human right to water resolution include? How are states advancing the removal of lead service lines and reducing the risks of lead exposure from the water coming out of our taps?

With support from the Water Foundation, River Network addresses these questions and more with **the launch of our NEW State Policy Hub!** Use it to search for state policy language across every drinking water-related state policy in the United States, supporting advocacy efforts in your state.

Drinking water is just the beginning! Look for the addition of topics such as climate adaptation, flooding, and agriculture - coming soon!

Explore the State Policy Hub

Read the blog to learn more

What's in the Hub?

More than just a database of state policies, the **State Policy Hub** provides helpful synopses of each issue area (**lead**, **PFAS**, **affordability**, and more), lessons from the network, and deep dives highlighting policy language and providing context for how organizations across the network strategize and advocate for policy change and ensure implementation is a success.



SERGIO CAHUEQUE

Lessons from the Network

Read our full interview with Sergio Cahueque of Defend Our Health on PFAS policy in Maine.



Deep Dive: Affordability

Learn from California's affordability policies, from early advocacy efforts to ongoing implementation.



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 Date 2021-11-03 04:15



Help shape River Rally 2022 by taking [this 3-minute survey](#).

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RIVER VOICES

NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE



How can trash collection and clean up lead to change in a community's policies or practices? For decades, we have supported community engagement through **litter collection** and trash clean-ups, and more recently, we've helped groups install **in-stream litter collection devices**. But are these practices affecting behavior or policy change? And how are the data collected by in-

stream litter devices being used? As part of our intern Aaron Dickinson's summer research, he dove into just these questions. Read about what he found and how it might be applicable in other communities.

[Read more.](#)



Announcing Our Third Year of WSR Funding

We're thrilled to announce the awardees for our third year of Wild & Scenic Partnership Stewardship Funding, supported by the US Forest Service! Read all about the projects that, through this program, will promote equitable access to the enjoyment of these incredible natural resources.

This year's awardees are California Wilderness Coalition, Love in Motion, Salmon Valley Stewardship, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Umpqua Watersheds, and Wild Alabama.

[Read more.](#)



Meet Your Network: Caroline Koch

"There was a lot of distrust between the water utility and the community, but they were able to turn it around... I'm excited to share this partnership in particular because it's a fantastic example of this collaboration. They started from a place of distrust but had the foresight to pause the project and come up with new solutions."

Caroline is Water Policy Director at WaterNow Alliance, and worked with us on our forthcoming "Building Blocks of Trust" report, detailing best practices for how community groups and water utilities can work together.

[Meet Caroline.](#)

Help Shape River Rally 2022

River Rally 2022 will be a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and an opportunity for the network to come together after two years of virtual Rally.

The River Network team feels that feedback and recommendations from the network of water protectors would greatly benefit this event. Our ultimate goal is to create a space that honors the challenges that we are currently facing in our communities.

Please complete this survey and be entered to win a Patagonia jacket!

[Take the 3-minute survey.](#)

How 90 High Schoolers Removed Over 1 Ton of Community Litter



Earlier this year, in collaboration with River Network, Findlay, Ohio's **Blanchard River Watershed Partnership** (BRWP) and the local United Way organized an Earth Week clean-up event opportunity for 90 National Honors Society (NHS) students to collaborate with their community, gain valuable leadership skills, and foster a commitment to the environment. Learn how this group of

passionate students removed over one ton of litter, preventing it from reaching local waters, and find valuable lessons you can apply to clean-ups in your own community.

[Read more.](#)

Upcoming Webinars & Events

Join us for these and more! [See Events & Learning opportunities on our website.](#)

Communications for Coalitions Learning Series

Nov. 4, Nov. 18

Join the Urban Waters Learning Network for parts 2 and 3 of this Learning Series, led by Brandon Hayes of Bold Bison Communications Consulting, and designed to enhance the skills and capacities of coalitions and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Each session will focus on the particular opportunities and challenges inherent in communicating the work of coalitions.

[Learn more and register.](#)

Policy Opportunities at the Intersection of Community Dev. and Urban Waters

Dec. 9, 1p ET / 10a PT

This Urban Waters Learning Network Peer Exchange will share emerging policy opportunities at the federal level to promote affordable housing, economic development, and workforce development. The UWLN Equitable Development Collaborative has been engaged in meaningful conversations about anti-displacement strategies and invites you to join the conversation!

[Register.](#)

Science Corner: Quality Assurance & Making Your Community Science Data Count

The latest from our science team.

How do you make your community science data count? The Association of Public Health Laboratories recently launched a [video series](#) that helps to break down key steps in creating a quality assurance plan and how to leverage the resources available to successfully launch a community science project to produce sound, useable data. One major resource to utilize is the Environmental Protection Agency's [Quality Assurance and Documentation](#)

Handbook as well as supplemental templates and example documents to guide your project plan development. It's important to know how you want to use and disseminate your data so you can tailor your plan for the end goal. Do you want to share your data to inform decisions at the federal, state, or local level? Do you want to include it in regional or national databases? Do you want create data visualizations to highlight issues in your community? No matter the use, it's important to have a plan and these resources offer important guidance to tailor your plans for your goals. Data sharing can go a long way... make it count!

Read the full issue of River Voices on our website.



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In this issue:

- Introducing River Network's **State Policy Hub!**
- **Upcoming learning opportunities** from River Network & the community.
- **Steven Schauer** discusses a project-based community engagement model that improved 13 miles in the urban core of the San Antonio River.
- **River Rally deadline extended!** Submit your workshop proposals and River Hero nominations by October 29.
- The latest from the **online community**.

CONNECT & LEARN

Communications for Coalitions Learning Series

Oct 21, Nov 4, Nov 18. This fall, the Urban Waters Learning Network is sponsoring the 3-part "Communications for Coalitions Learning Series," led by **Brandon Hayes** of Bold Bison Communications Consulting. This virtual learning series is designed to enhance the skills and capacities of coalitions and multi-stakeholder partnerships, including the Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations and others. Each of these 90-minute, highly interactive sessions will focus on the particular opportunities and challenges inherent in communicating the work of coalitions. We encourage participants to attend all three sessions, if possible. **Register.**

Executive Order 13985: Public

Exploring State and Local

Comment and Listening Sessions

Multiple Dates. As part of implementing ***Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government***, the Department of the Interior is hosting listening sessions regarding barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face in participating in outdoor recreation opportunities on DOI-managed public lands and waters. **Register.**

Water Innovations

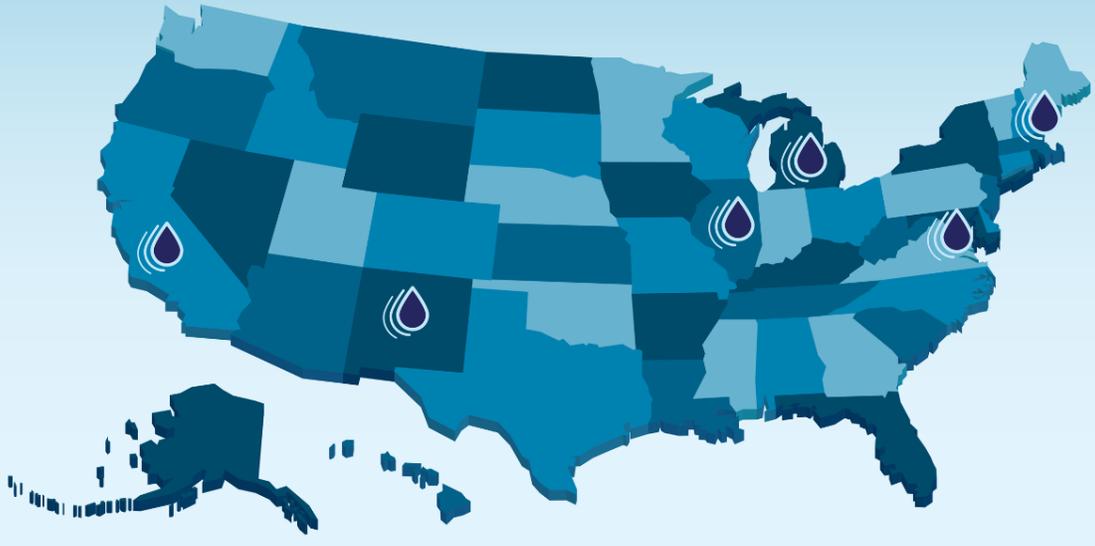
Oct. 21, 2p ET / 11a PT. During the seventh-annual Imagine a Day Without Water, the US Water Alliance is hosting a One Water Webinar on state and local policies and programs that water leaders across the country report are making a difference in their communities. Join speakers Paul Hunt and Joone Lopez to celebrate Imagine a Day Without Water and to learn more about what projects are driving change in your state or region! **Register.**

Find upcoming learning opportunities and events any time [on our website](#).

Check out open career opportunities across the network on our [careers page](#).

Search the online [Resource Library](#) for publications, newsletters, tools, templates, and recorded webinars.

STATE POLICY HUB



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[Explore the State Policy Hub!](#)

MEET YOUR NETWORK

Steven Schauer

"We've learned over the years that

when developing these impactful ecosystem restoration projects in lower-income communities, we should also concurrently address issues such as workforce development, small business enterprises, and affordable housing."

Steven is Director of External Communications at the **San Antonio River Authority**, working with River Network on IWRM.



Meet Steven.

RIVER RALLY 2022



Deadline Extended!

The River Rally workshop and field trip proposal deadlines, as well as the River Hero nomination deadline, have been extended by two weeks! Review **this year's River Rally tracks** and submit your proposals or nominations by **Friday, October 29**.

Submit your proposals.

COVID-19 Update: *At this stage, we are planning for an in-person River Rally event in Washington, DC. At this point in time, we expect to require vaccinations for all attendees (or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours) as well as masking when indoors. Throughout the planning process, we will continue to monitor public health guidelines and best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect our community, making additional adjustments as necessary.*

*Visit our website for the latest **River Rally** news, updates, and deadlines.*

WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE ONLINE

COMMUNITY

What's going on in the Online Community? [Sign in](#) or [register](#) to join the conversation!

EdgeEffects - Nayaano-nibiimaang

Gichigamiin: Ashley Mocerro Powell shares a call to unsettle the power structures upholding mainstream conversations about the Great Lakes.

New Tool to Build Farmer Leadership in

Watershed Management: Jennie Seifert shares a training curriculum to grow farmer leadership in watershed management.

Free 2-day Training: Build Infrastructure that Builds

Community: Ethan Brown (Willamette Partnership) announces a free 2-day infrastructure planning training for those in the Great Lakes region and the Pacific Northwest.

Share your news, updates and successes with the River Network communications team!



Questions about your membership? [Contact us.](#)

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For the latest information regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Riverside County, please click here



Bringing Riverside County residents watershed news and updates!

Be Thankful for Our Planet!
Vol. 5 No. 11 - November 2021

Go Green on Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a day we get together with our loved ones to give thanks for our blessings and maybe eat a little too much turkey. While most people probably don't think about the environmental impacts of a Thanksgiving feast, we want to share a few helpful tips on going green this Thanksgiving!

[Read More](#)



America Recycles Day!

We all know the importance of recycling and how it makes a positive impact on our environment including our watersheds. November 15th has been deemed America Recycles Day which promotes the importance of recycling!

[Read More](#)



Hidden Valley Wildlife Area

Fall is the perfect time to get outdoors and explore areas along the Santa Ana River. One such spot is the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area in Riverside. As part of the Santa Ana River Watershed - which connects the mountains of San Bernardino to the Pacific Ocean - the sprawling park is brimming with wonderful things to see and do.



[Read More](#)



Riverside County Watershed Protection is a division of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. It is their mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Riverside County watersheds by fostering a community-wide commitment to clean water.

Riverside County Flood Control District | 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501

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