

NACD



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 To Rose Corona <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
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Dear Rose

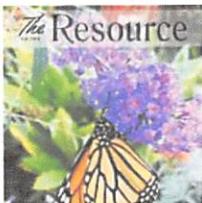
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As a valued member of our network, you are enrolled to receive the following publications:



eResource

eResource is an electronic collection of weekly news briefs sent to our members and partners every Tuesday. You can read eResource online by [clicking here](#). Archived "Did You Know?" content can be found on the [eResource page](#).



The Resource

NACD's quarterly print and electronic publication - The Resource - provides in-depth coverage of the association's recent activities and features columns from NACD's CEO, president, and closest partners. [Click here](#) to view the most recent issue and subscription information.

Subject **eResource - This Week's NACD News Briefs**
 From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
 Sender NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
 To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
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 Date 2018-02-06 14:09



The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

2018 ANNUAL MEETING RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE!

NACD's 72nd Annual Meeting in Nashville last week was incredibly successful, with over 1,000 conservation leaders in attendance. Thank you to all our meeting attendees, exhibitors, speakers, donors and sponsors for their generous contributions to make this meeting possible.



If you're looking for resources from our 2018 Annual Meeting, visit our [2018 Annual Meeting resource page](#). There you'll find links to our press releases – including a template press release – as well as promotional videos and our Annual Meeting photo gallery. This page will continue to be updated with

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NACD Spring Fly-In approaches

NACD's Spring Fly-In is only six weeks away! If you plan on attending, please prepare to arrive in Washington, D.C., on Monday, March 19 to be ready for Tuesday morning's activities. Please email NACD Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison with any questions, and stay tuned to future editions of eResource for more information.

Federal funding set to expire

Following Jan. 22's vote to end the federal government shutdown, Congress passed a stopgap funding bill to finance the federal government at current operating levels. This Continuing Resolution (CR) funds the government through this Thursday, Feb. 8., at which point Congress will face the possibility of another shutdown.

A set of recommendations has been created by the National

breakout session presentations and other materials as we receive them.

NACD's photo galleries are hosted on [Flickr](#), a website that allows you to view and download copies of the images at your preferred dimensions without a login. On our Flickr page, you'll find albums for each of the major events at the 2018 Annual Meeting, as well as links to the 2017 NACD and NACD Auxiliary photo and poster contests' winning submissions.

If you attended our 72nd Annual Meeting, please fill out this brief, [10-question meeting evaluation](#). Your feedback helps us ensure our 73rd Annual Meeting in San Antonio will be a success!

GUIDANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS

Environmental markets have emerged as another opportunity for conservation districts to promote good conservation on the land. A new tool, "Handbook for Conservation Districts on Environmental Markets," provides guidance and lessons learned from the real-world experiences of conservation districts across the country.

The handbook – a collaboration between NACD and American Farmland Trust – is a detailed look at how conservation districts and their partners are engaged in water quality trading and payments for ecosystem services programs. Included are key findings and recommendations, nine case studies from across the country, and a checklist for districts interested in water quality trading and other environmental markets.

The report and its key components can be reviewed on [NACD's website](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: URBAN AND COMMUNITY CONSERVATION WEBINAR NEXT WEEK

The next NACD Urban and Community Conservation

Conservation Districts Employees Association (NCDEA) for conservation districts anticipating disruption in operations due to a federal shutdown.

NACD will continue to communication to state leaders as the funding deadline approaches.

Joint Forestry Team meets in Nashville

The national Joint Forestry Team met in Nashville last week as part of the 2018 NACD Annual Meeting. Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, NRCS, National Association of State Foresters and NACD reviewed the group's five-year work plan and set priorities for 2018. The Joint Forestry Team's mission is to make recommendations that result in coordinated interagency delivery of forestry and conservation assistance for working forests, farms and ranches. To learn more, visit <http://www.jointforestryteam.org>.

Job opening: CARCD Revenue Specialist

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is currently seeking candidates for a revenue specialist. The position is responsible for supporting CARCD in developing and implementing a foundation plan for CARCD and pass through funding for districts. For a full position description and application details, [click here](#). Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Save the date: Webinar on RC&D councils

webinar is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST on Feb. 15. The topic is The George Barley Water Prize.

Scotts Miracle-Gro will share about its commitment to solving the problem of harmful algal blooms (HABs) that are driven by excess nutrients and affecting fresh waterbodies in all 50 U.S. states. The webinar will focus on Scotts' sustainability commitments, partnerships with local groups around the country, and its sponsorship of the \$10M [George Barley Water Prize competition](#), a global race for a lasting solution to excess phosphorus in freshwater. Participants will have access to resources and case studies of how to address HABs in their districts and opportunities to ask questions of the presenters.

These popular webinars, held on the third Thursday of each month, are sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company in partnership with the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, email Debra Bogar at deb-bogar@nacdnet.org WITH your name, title, district or business name, state and email address. Information to access the webinar will be sent by email.



CHAMPION OF THE MONTH

DORN COX OF LEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

At the 2018 NACD Annual Meeting held in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 27 - 31, **Soil Health Champion Dorn Cox** of New Hampshire was recognized as the inaugural recipient of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Excellence in Conservation Award.

Join the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) on March 7 at 10 a.m. for a webinar on partnering with Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) councils.

Learn about RC&D partnering successes, including examples throughout the country demonstrating the importance and effectiveness of RC&D councils as non-profit, non-government organizations working with a wide range of private and government partners to deliver conservation and economic development programs.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Confused about WOTUS?

Over the past two weeks, the Supreme Court released an opinion regarding which courts can hear challenges for Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) and the EPA moved forward with a stay of the 2015 Clean Water Rule. Check out this [blog](#), penned by NACD Government Affairs Associate Chris Heck, for a more detailed rundown and what this means going forward.

Contact Us

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NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#).



- NACD Spring Fly-In - March 19 - 20
 - Stewardship Week - April 29 - May 5
 - NACD Summer Meeting - August 2 - 8
-

Farming 250 acres with his wife and two sons, Dorn focuses on cutting edge technologies, techniques and research in his operation to improve his soil health as well as his production. Dorn has developed and shared systems for small-scale grain and oil seeds processing, biofuel production and no-till and low-till equipment and cover crop systems to increase carbon capture and soil health.

For his extraordinary achievements in and contributions to the soil and water conservation movement, Dorn was the inevitable choice for the first recipient of the Hugh Hammond Bennett in Excellence in Conservation Award. For more information on this award and its criteria, please be sure to visit the [awards page on the NACD website](#), and consider your nomination for next year!

To read more about Dorn Cox and all his soil health outreach efforts, be sure to visit [his profile](#) at the NACD website along with many other Soil Health Champions. If you or someone you know is interested in soil health and would like to become a member of this growing, progressive network, please contact NACD North Central Region Representative Beth Mason at beth-mason@nacdnet.org or 317-946-4463 for more information.

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NACD CHOOSES NEXT PRESIDENT-ELECT



Last week, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) swore in **First Vice President Tim Palmer** as the next president-elect at the member organization's 72nd Annual Meeting Appreciation Banquet in Nashville, Tenn.

The NACD Board of Directors elected Palmer of Truro, Iowa, to serve as the organization's next president-elect where he will serve a one-year term alongside President Brent Van Dyke. Prior to serving as an officer for NACD, Palmer was elected to represent the North Central Region on NACD's executive board where he served for four years.

"I am honored to continue serving NACD in this new capacity," said **President-elect Tim Palmer**. "As a farmer, I recognize the value conservation has to not only the American economy, but to people around the world. Those who make their living off the land understand better than anyone the significant role locally-led conservation plays in preserving our nation's natural resources. I am passionate about this field, and I am both honored and excited to continue being a national voice for local conservation districts."

[View the full text of the press release here.](#)

Silver Level



Bronze Level



NACD ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

Last week, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) honored conservation leaders from across the country during the organization's 72nd Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

- Hugh Hammond Bennett Excellence in Conservation Award: **Dorn Cox, Lee, N.H.**
- Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award: **Kris Swartz, Perrysburg, Ohio**
- Friend of Conservation Award: **Case IH and Patricia Lardie, Poynette, Wis.**
- Distinguished Service Award: **Ken Leiting, Rio Ranch, N.M.**
- President's Award: **Debbie Hughes, Carlsbad, N.M.**
- Earth Team Award: **Monroe County SWCD, Ind.**

For more information on NACD's annual awards, visit the NACD Awards webpage. View the full text of the press release [here](#).

NACD ATTENDEES ENJOY LINEUP OF TALENTED SPEAKERS

Last month, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) kicked off its 2018 Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Monday's Opening General Session featured a Tennessee welcome address from **Davidson County Soil Conservation District Board Member Bob Strasser, Jr.** and **Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Jai Templeton** as well as an inspirational keynote address by country singer **Shea Fisher** and her husband, rodeo champion **Tyson Durfey**.

"As a rancher and rodeo athlete, I learned the value of taking care of our land to feed our family



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as well as the nation,” **said Tyson Durfey.** “Farmers and ranchers are the original conservationists of this great country, and if we prioritize taking proper care of the land, it will continue to be the backbone of the American economy.”

Later that afternoon, CNN's 2013 Hero of the Year and the founder and president of Living Lands and Waters **Chad Pregracke** provided the keynote address at the Leadership Luncheon.

“Growing up on the Mississippi River and playing in its backwaters is where my passion for conservation began,” **said Chad Pregracke.** “I experienced firsthand how poorly our greatest river was being treated, and the effects the pollution was having on the environment. That’s why I dedicated my life to cleaning up the Mississippi River. It’s my mission to help others understand how important it is to preserve our natural resources for generations to come.”

Tuesday's General Session featured a welcome address from **Tennessee State FFA President Julia Knaggs.** Knaggs attended Station Camp High School in Gallatin, Tenn., and is a freshman at University of Tennessee at Martin.

View the full text of the press release here.

NACD ANNOUNCES 2017 POSTER, PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Last week, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) announced the 2017 poster and photo contests winners at the organization's 72nd Annual Meeting. Each year, the NACD and NACD Auxiliary photo and poster contests give students and adults the opportunity to display their artistic talents on a national stage.

Winning photos and posters for 2017 can be found on Flickr: NACD's 2017 national photo contest and 2017 NACD poster contest.



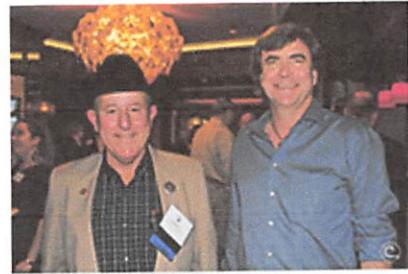
To access 2018 Annual Meeting photos, please visit our Flickr page.

View the full text of the press release here.

NACD RELEASES PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS

NACD has created a series of videos to showcase all the resources conservation districts provide to people across the country.

In these videos, we hear from NACD leadership and membership on the impacts conservation districts have in their communities. NACD's mission is to serve conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation and sustainability. Our districts work with millions of cooperating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on all private lands and many public lands in the United States.





Subject **NACD 2018 Annual Meeting Recap**
 From NACD <nacdnews@nacdnet.org>
 Sender NACD <nacdnews@nacdnet.org>
 To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
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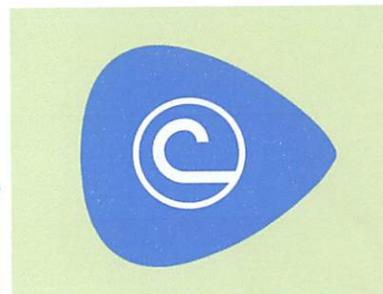
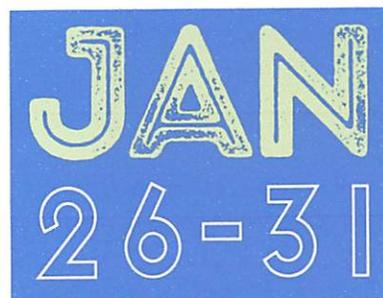


72 NACD ANNUAL MEETING

CONSERVATION

takes center stage in

MUSIC CITY



2018 Annual Meeting Resources Now Available!

NACD's 72nd Annual Meeting in Nashville was a huge success thanks to the more than 1,000 conservation leaders in attendance. If you attended our meeting in Music City, please fill out this brief 10-question evaluation.

For meeting recaps, materials and resources, visit our **2018 Annual Meeting resources webpage**. There you'll find links to our photo gallery, press releases, promotional videos and PowerPoint presentations. You can also search #NACDinNashville2018 on NACD's social channels for additional photos and stories.

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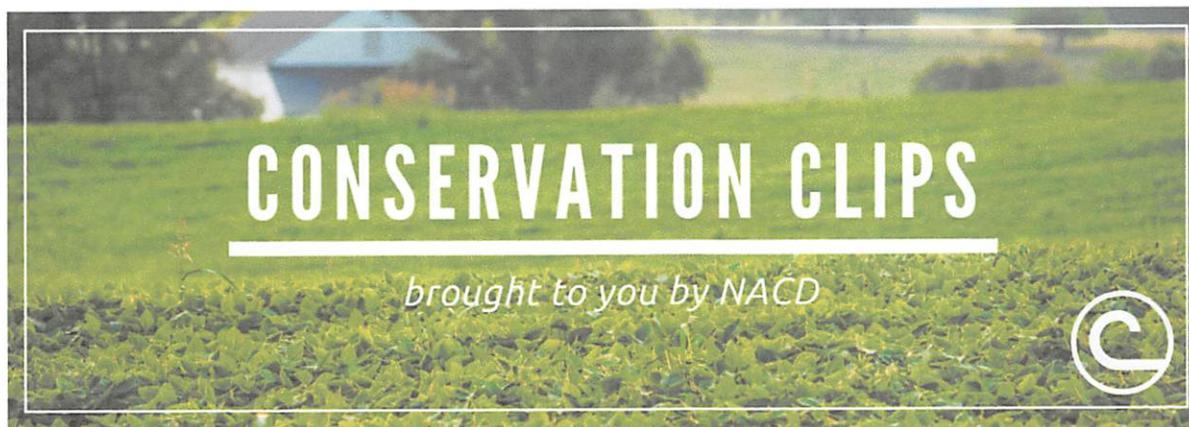




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Conservation Clips are a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your NACD Communications Team.

NACD Blog: Waters of the United States and the 2015 Clean Water Rule
By Chris Heck
02/06/18

Discussion on the Clean Water Rule has been going on for years, with debate starting long before the 2015 Clean Water Rule was finalized. Over the past several weeks, we've seen a flurry of activity related to the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

ABC News: Drought-stricken Texans turn to cows to save their farms
By Ginger Zee, David Miller, Kelly Harold, Olivia Smith and Andrea Miller
02/06/18

That diversity of grass has kept Taggart's soil healthy even as Texas faces droughts. The grasses' ability to hold on to water when it rains has helped keep his farm healthy. Soil health is crucial to a successful farm, no matter if the cattle is grain-fed or grass-fed.

Des Moines Register: Key achievement or drop in bucket? What \$282

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S FY19 BUDGET

Following the release of President Trump's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget yesterday, NACD responded to the slashing of conservation program funding with a statement by **President Brent Van Dyke**.

"Once again, this administration is calling on American producers to do more with less," **Van Dyke said**. "The president's budget proposes cuts to almost every area of USDA's discretionary and mandatory budgets, including nearly **\$15 billion** in cuts to farm bill conservation programs and over a 20 percent reduction to Conservation Operations."

The budget includes a legislative proposal to eliminate the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and funding for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). In addition to eliminating these USDA programs, the budget requests to completely eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Section 319 nonpoint source grant program, which helps address nonpoint pollution from agricultural as well as non-agricultural sources. The budget also proposes cutting private and state forestry funding by over 40 percent.

To read NACD's full statement, [click here](#).

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NACD offices closed Monday

NACD's offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 19 in honor of Presidents Day. Make sure to follow NACD on social media channels for graphics that your district or state association can utilize on holidays like this!



Become a Friend of NACD!



Welcome to one of the latest Friends of NACD, **Beverly Dometrorch** with the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Interested in adding your name to the list of supporters? [Sign up online!](#)

SHOWCASING CONSERVATION AT THE COMMODITY CLASSIC

This Feb. 28 – March 1, **NACD Second Vice President Michael Crowder** and **CEO Jeremy Peters** will exhibit on behalf of NACD at the [2018 Commodity Classic](#) in Anaheim, Calif. – the largest farmer-led, farmer-focused tradeshow and convention in the nation.

NACD's message to attendees is that you can farm with a conservation focus and still be profitable. This year, Crowder and Peters will showcase the four NACD and Datu case studies of on-the-farm soil health practices, which proves this message to be true.

For more information on these case studies, visit [our website](#) and download the reports or stop by booth #974 at the Commodity Classic and visit with Crowder and Peters!

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The project also realized a long-term goal – planting a native hedgerow to create habitat for pollinators. The 165 plants were selected for their suitability in the garden's microclimate and cascading bloom times to provide a year-round nectar source.

The district secured additional funds to support this project, including a large grant from the County Board of Supervisors for needed infrastructure and a mini-grant from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to offer conservation-themed trainings for gardeners.

In addition, the RCD conducted workshops about practices that conserve natural resources and help make the best use of plots and produce. Topics included garden design, irrigation, composting, edible garden weeds, cover cropping and soil building practices.

To learn more about the project, [click here](#).

giveaway items to help your district promote Stewardship Week to raise awareness about natural resource conservation among kids of all ages.

For additional information, please email stewardship@nacdnet.org.

Submit your events!

On Pasture is a free, weekly online grazing magazine that publishes research and articles to help improve your practices - check out their recent article "Conservation Districts Are Here to Help" by [clicking here](#). On Pasture also has a free calendar where you can submit grazing-related events for readers who raise livestock on pasture. [Click here](#) to add an event.

Contact Us

509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547 6223

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NACD Events Calendar

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- NACD Spring Fly-In -
March 19 - 20
- Stewardship Week - April
29 - May 5
- NACD Summer Meeting -
Aug. 2 - 8



RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF GREATER SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Thanks to funding from the 2016 NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative, the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Greater San Diego County in California was able to expand their Tijuana River Valley Community Garden.

Through planning and coordination with San Diego Parks, the community garden expansion included 72 new garden plots, bringing the total to 210 30 x 30 plots, plus seven quarter-acre plots to support urban agriculture on a larger scale.

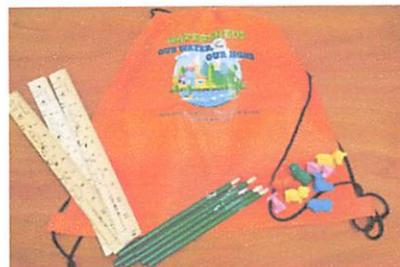
Job opening: Suffolk County SWCD Agronomist

Suffolk County SWCD in New York is seeking an agricultural specialist to perform technical work and studies to ensure the long-term viability of the area's prime agricultural soils. This position will develop and certify integrated pest management plans and nutrient management plans for Suffolk County agricultural producers, and will provide training to district staff on the preparation of nutrient management plans. For more information on the position and how to apply, [click here](#).

Save the date: Northeast Region meeting

This year's Northeast Region Meeting will be held in Lancaster, Pa., from July 15-18. For more information, contact NACD Northeast Region Representative and Policy Specialist Eric Hansen at eric-hansen@nacdnet.org.

Check out our new arrivals!



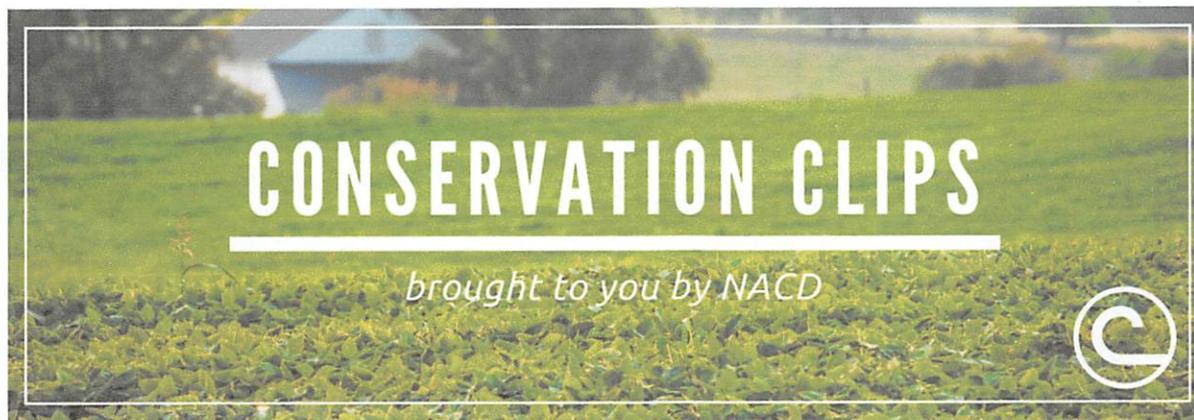
You asked, we listened: [NACD's Marketplace](#) now has student items in stock! Visit our online store today to shop for farm animal erasers and rulers, conservation C pencils and string bags featuring the 2018 Stewardship Week theme, Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home. These are perfect



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Hoosier Ag Today: Much Concern about President Trump's Proposed Ag Cuts

By Andy Eubank
02/14/18

The National Association of Conservation Districts also expressed concern. "Once again, this administration is calling on American producers to do more with less," NACD President Brent Van Dyke said. "The President's budget proposes cuts to almost every area of USDA's discretionary and mandatory budgets, including nearly \$15 billion in cuts to farm bill conservation programs and over a 20 percent reduction to Conservation Operations."

Bangor Daily News: Maine's economy and land conservation are deeply intertwined

By Andy Beahm
02/12/18

(Opinion) Critiques of land conservation that don't account for these

benefits simply aren't telling the whole story. More importantly, they misunderstand the special relationship Maine's economy and ecology have always enjoyed, working not in opposition but in concert, each relying on and benefiting from the vitality of the other. Maine's unique "eco/eco" partnership is rare, and it is something to treasure.

Civil Eats: No-Till Farmers' Push for Healthy Soils Ignites a Movement in the Plains

By Twilight Greenaway

02/13/18

Jimmy Emmons isn't the kind of farmer you might expect to talk for over an hour about rebuilding an ecosystem. And yet, on a recent Wednesday in January, before a group of around 800 farmers, that's exactly what he did.

Corn and Soybean Digest: Rye cover crop impact on nitrogen leaching and corn yield

By Natalie Ricks and Fabián Fernández

02/12/18

A recent study from University of Minnesota, with support from Pope County SWCD and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, evaluated the use of winter rye as a cover crop in corn production. Early results show that a rye cover crop can help reduce nitrogen leaching in a corn after soybean rotation by 45 percent.

The Eagle: Texas A&M experts say extended drought could bring fire risk, agricultural impact

By Rebecca Fiedler

02/11/18

The drought that has plagued Texas since Hurricane Harvey drenched most of the state has raised fire risks and could eventually cause agriculture to take a hard hit. About 65 percent of the state is experiencing a drought.

Greenwire: Farmers 'extremely nervous' about Trump cuts

By Marc Heller

02/14/18

(Subscriber only) Once an idea of cutting farm programs is suggested or enters the public realm, it can sow fear among farmers, said Coleman Garrison, director of government affairs at the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Western FarmPress: Cover crops nutritious forage for bees

By Cecilia Parsons

02/14/18

Billy Synk at Seeds for Bees says planting cover crops in or near almond orchards to provide supplemental forage for bees is a growing trend. Depending on the year and the location, around 6,000 acres are planted annually with cover crop seeds provided at no charge to growers.

The Sacramento Bee: Why California is freaking out over this invasive giant swamp rodent

By Ryan Sabalow

02/09/18

A giant invasive swamp rodent known for destroying wetland habitats and damaging levees has invaded the West Coast's largest estuary that sits on Sacramento's doorstep. The fear is that if the voracious, burrowing plant eaters set up a sustaining population it could mean bad news for the fragile Delta ecosystem and its network of levees, which are vital to flood control and delivering water to farms and cities across the southern half of the state.

IndyStar: Indiana's forests are in danger, and the threat: You

By Sarah Howman

02/12/18

It's the private forests at stake. Considering that nearly 85 percent — or 4.1 million acres — of Indiana's forests are privately owned, that's worrisome. As invasive species run rampant and hundreds of thousands of acres are expected to transfer hands in the coming years, experts fear for the future of Indiana's forests.

KCTS: Once Again, Congress Fails to Close Deal on Wildfire Legislation

By Jeff Mapes

02/13/18

Exasperated members of Congress say they came close last week to ending the longtime stalemate over legislation aimed at reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfires. But they say last-minute roadblocks kept a tentative deal from being included in the budget bill Congress passed last week to keep the federal government open.

High Plains Journal: Patience, belief and passion needed for soil health journey

By Doug Rich

02/12/18

Panel members said their soil health journey has been as much about a state of mind as it has been about farming practices. It is a belief that they

can do better with the resources they have been given and that they can improve soil health on their farms.

Capital Press: Interior to implement massive overhaul despite criticism

By Dan Elliott

02/15/18

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is pressing ahead with a massive overhaul of his department, despite growing opposition to his proposal to move hundreds of public employees out of Washington and create a new organizational map that largely ignores state boundaries. Zinke wants to divide most of the department's 70,000 employees and their responsibilities into 13 regions based on rivers and ecosystems, instead of the current map based mostly on state lines.

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NACD RELEASES PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS

During the 2018 Annual Meeting in Nashville, NACD debuted a [series of three promotional videos](#) to highlight what conservation districts and the national association do on a daily basis to protect our nation's natural resources.



On NACD's YouTube channel, you can find an RFD-TV profile of the McGavock High School FFA program and NACD service project. RFD-TV visited McGavock High School in the heart of Nashville on January 26 for a day of service, where FFA students and NACD leadership installed raised beds for vegetable production and horticulture study.

President Brent Van Dyke says work like this is part

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Become a Friend of NACD today!

NACD recently welcomed another Friend of NACD, **Tom Wehri** of Placer Resource Conservation District in California. Interested in adding your name to the list of supporters? [Sign up online today!](#)

NACD seeking summer intern

NACD is currently accepting applications for a summer intern.

NACD interns typically work with NACD's government affairs and communications staff to advance the association's legislative agenda. They are given hands-on learning experiences that enhance their understanding of Congress and the legislative process; the work of federal natural resources and environmental agencies; and the roles conservation districts and state conservation agencies play in the development of natural resources, agricultural and

of his organization's mission. "As an organization that reaches across America—3,000+ conservation districts nationwide, every county, parish in America has a conservation district—we're about sustainable agriculture and making sure that we can produce the food and fiber to feed those who cannot feed themselves. Being able to come to this high school and work with these students, it's just a wonderful opportunity. We're so impressed with the skillset that the FFA students here bring to this project."

[Click here](#) to be redirected to NACD's YouTube channel.

NOMINATION DEADLINE APPROACHING: 2018 FARMER SPOTLIGHT

Field to Market's [Farmer Spotlight series](#) showcases farmers who are committed to stewardship and conservation efforts on their land.

To recognize deserving farmers for their commitment to stewardship, conservation and continuous improvement, [click here](#). To be eligible, farmers must utilize the Fieldprint Platform to measure and evaluate continuous improvement of their farm's sustainability performance.

You can also access the nomination form through the [Member Portal Dashboard](#) under the Nominate a Farmer for Recognition link on the lower right-hand side under Explore the Portal. If you have any questions, please contact Lexi Clark at (202) 800-2695 or lclark@fieldtomarket.org. Nominations are due next Wednesday, Feb. 28.

CSP SIGN-UP CLOSES SOON

2018 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications are due Friday, March 2. CSP is the largest conservation program in the United States, with more than 70 million acres of land enrolled. [Click here](#) for more information and [click here](#) to find out how to apply.

environmental policies.

Interns are typically college juniors or seniors who are interested in natural resources policy, environmental science or agricultural fields. [Click here](#) for more information and application details; **applications are due Friday, March 30.**

Follow us!



Reminder: CIG applications due Monday

Applications for USDA Conservation Innovation Grants (CIGs) must be submitted by next Monday, Feb. 26. Helpful sample application documents, a recording of the prospective applicant webinar and a FAQ are [available online here](#).

Water quality webinar recording now available

The Western Governors' Association hosted a webinar last week entitled "[Water Quality Concerns in Western Forests and Rangelands](#)," part of their National Forest and Rangeland Management initiative webinar series.

The webinar examined aspects of water quality and land management practices on western forests and rangelands in the wake of wildfires. These included pre- and post-wildfire practices that reduce impacts on water quality and ecosystem health and models for addressing forest health and water quality issues

NACD SPRING FLY-IN ONE MONTH AWAY



One month from today, NACD will be hosting its annual Spring Fly-In! If you plan on attending, please prepare to arrive in Washington, D.C., on Monday, March 19 and please RSVP by email to NACD Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison at coleman-garrison@nacdnet.org. Visit our [Fly-In web page](#) for more information on hotels and to review our 2018 issue papers.

through public-private partnerships.

To watch the recording, [click here](#).

Contact Us

509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547 6223

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#).

- NACD Spring Fly-In - March 19 - 20
- Stewardship Week - April 29 - May 5
- NACD Summer Meeting - Aug. 2 - 8

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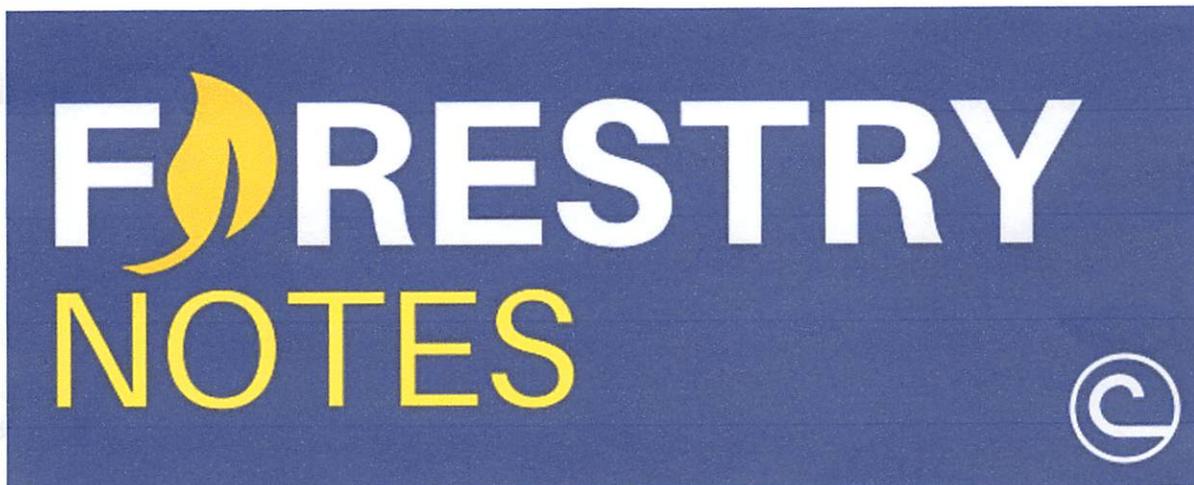
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Subject **NACD Forestry Notes: JFT Sets Priorities for 2018**
From NACD Forestry Notes <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
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To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
<rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date 2018-02-22 07:36



Joint Forestry Team sets priorities for 2018

Last month, the Joint Forestry Team (JFT) held its 2018 in-person meeting in Nashville, Tenn., as part of NACD's 72nd Annual Meeting.



The JFT consists of the U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and NACD. Its mission is to make recommendations that result in coordinated interagency delivery of forestry and conservation assistance for working forests, farms and ranches. Team participants seek to improve the sustainability of the nation's forests in order to provide optimum levels of public benefits and ecosystem services.

NACD's representatives include Tom Crowe of Indiana, Steve Hedstrom of Montana and John

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Forestry Briefs

Kansas - District launches inaugural Forestry Stewardship Award



For the first time in its 77 years, the Franklin Conservation District in Kansas has recognized outstanding forest stewardship as part of its annual meeting. Perry Madl completed a forest stewardship plan in 2009 and has been implementing practices over the past decade on his 360-acre property. The family performed timber stand improvement (TSI) utilizing EQIP dollars and has planted more than 3,000 trees to

McAlpine of Arkansas. All three also serve on NACD's Forestry Resource Policy Group.

Crowe has served on the JFT since 2012 and is confident in the mission of this team. "The Joint Forestry Team is a great vehicle to explore some of the common forestry issues our groups face and find ways we can work together to solve those issues," **Crowe said.**

In Nashville, the JFT reviewed its current five-year work plan and selected three priorities for 2018. [Read more>>>](#)

Forestry highlights from Nashville - 2018 NACD Annual Meeting

Last month, the Forestry Resource Policy Group (RPG) met in Nashville to finalize its annual list of priorities and note 2017 accomplishments from their three-year strategic plan.



The group welcomed new National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) Representative Garrett Stephens of Colorado's Jefferson Conservation District. The group also discussed initial planning for the summer forestry meeting to be held in conjunction with the NACD Summer Board Meeting in Williamsburg, Va.

The Forestry RPG engaged in discussion throughout the week with several partners representing the U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Association of State Foresters, National Agroforestry Center, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ground Water Protection Council and the Keeping Forests as Forests collaboration.

"We had a good meeting, with great attendance," **Forestry RPG Pacific Region Representative Doug Rushton said.** "I'm always impressed by the dedication and thoughtfulness of our RPG members who contribute year after year. We're grateful to our

enhance deer and quail habitat. [Read more>>>](#)

Washington - District assists small forest landowner program

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is accepting applications for its small forest program. The program provides technical forestry assistance, education programs and help with development of forest stewardship plans for family forests with the goal of promoting working forests and improving overall watershed health. Officially known as the Chehalis Basin Landscape Scale Restoration Project, the program is funded by the U.S. Forest Service and runs in a joint effort between the Washington State DNR, Washington State University Extension and the Grays Harbor Conservation District. [Read more>>>](#)



Indiana - SWCD makes pollinator habitat a priority

The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) presented on its pollinator habitat work during the SWCD's Annual Meeting in early February. The group has worked with partners such as Farm Service Agency and Clean Water Indiana to offer cost-share and has organized field days to educate local



partners for joining the discussion and sharing updates about the forestry programs and opportunities relevant to our districts.”

The Forestry RPG also heard details about two new tools planned for 2018 including a “Forestry Notes” YouTube channel and a LinkedIn group catered to the interests of conservation district forestry professionals.

NACD also continues to add to its national forestry network. Currently the Forestry RPG has identified state forestry contacts in 29 states. Ideal contacts are engaged in conservation district forestry activity and are willing to help their Forestry RPG region representative distribute forestry program information to conservation district professionals throughout their state.

Conservation districts are encouraged to email videos to NACD Forestry Specialist Mike Beacom (mike-beacom@nacdnet.org) to share on the channel. The LinkedIn group is expected to launch later this year.

Forestry Notes Q&A: Will Novy-Hildesley

Executive Director, North American Forest Partnership

Will Novy-Hildesley has extensive experience with the forest sector, developing new initiatives, and leading multi-stakeholder brand initiatives that bridge for-profit/non-profit and government. He joined the [North American Forest Partnership](#) (NAFP) recognizing a tremendous opportunity to bring together many diverse interests with a fresh and compelling story to help shape the future of forests. Recently he shared some time with NACD to discuss NAFP’s mission and its national conference last fall. [Read more>>>](#)



landowners. Local districts also use annual seedling sales to promote pollinators. The multi-year effort has made an impact throughout southeast Indiana. Selmier State Forest now has a habitat, Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge boasts 2,500 acres, and Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge added 48 acres to its 100-plus acres for pollinators.

[Read more>>>](#)

Forestry News

Agroforestry systems may play vital role in mitigating climate change [\[link\]](#)

Purchasing these carbon offsets also helps to reforest cities [\[link\]](#)

Perdue announces emergency funding for spotted lanternfly in Pennsylvania [\[link\]](#)

Webinar: Engaging managers in forest adaptation science and application in the northern forest region [\[link\]](#)

Calendar

March 7

[Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition \(SUFC\) Annual Meeting](#)

Washington, D.C.

March 20

[NACD Spring Fly-In](#)

Washington, D.C.

March 20-22

International Mass Timber
Conference

Portland, Ore.

August 6 -8

NACD Forestry RPG Summer
Meeting

Williamsburg, Va.

Send news items by the 15th day of the
preceding month to: Managing Editor at [mike-
beacom@nacdnet.org](mailto:mike-beacom@nacdnet.org)

NACD Address:
509 Capitol Court,
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(202) 547-6223



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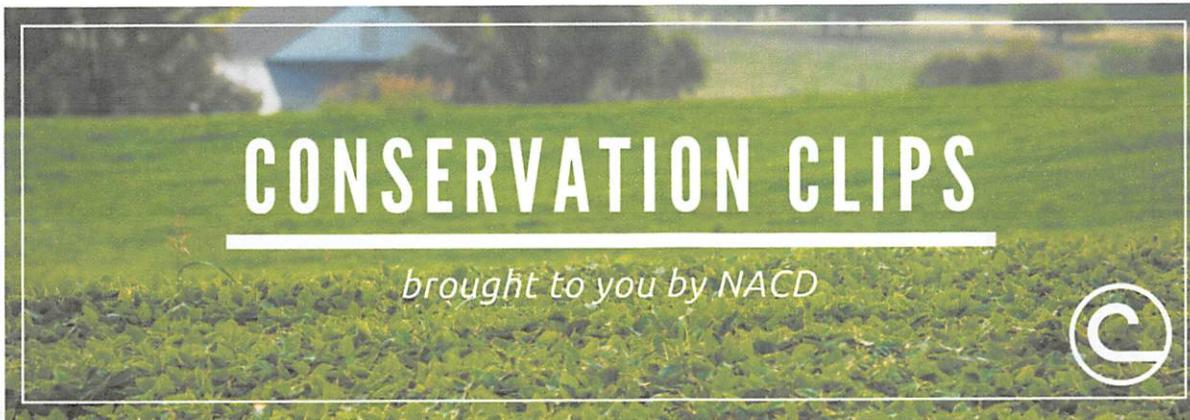


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Date 2018-02-23 05:03



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Conservation Clips are a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your NACD Communications Team.

NACD Blog: Forestry Notes Q&A: Will Novy-Hildesley

By Mike Beacom
02/21/18

Will Novy-Hildesley has extensive experience with the forest sector, developing new initiatives and leading multi-stakeholder brand initiatives that bridge for-profit/non-profit and government. Recently he shared some time with NACD to discuss North American Forest Partnership (NAFP)'s mission and its national conference last fall.

NACD Blog: Department of Interior Reorganization

By Chris Heck
02/22/18

This blog covers the timeline of Department of Interior reorganization since President Trump issued Executive Order 13781 in March of 2017.

Noble Research Institute: Farmers, ranchers set to gain new market opportunities for improving soil health

02/21/18

A national coalition convened by the Noble Research Institute announced its intent to create a new voluntary environmental services market that benefits agricultural producers and improves the environment for society at large. This program aims to incentivize farmers and ranchers to improve soil health on working agriculture lands through the development of a market-based platform.

DTN/The Progressive Farmer: Kansas Projects Tackle Pesticide, Sediment in Cooperative Effort With Farmers

By Chris Clayton

02/16/18

Wichita, with the help of Kansas State University Extension, uses a couple of payment and trading programs to help reduce atrazine and sediment issues in the Little Arkansas River watershed. Ecosystem service trading programs, as they are called, are becoming more popular. American Farmland Trust and the National Association of Conservation Districts released a white paper last month on environmental markets.

Civil Eats: Trump Budget Would Undo Conservation Gains on Farms and Ranches

By Ashley Dayer and Seth Lutter

02/16/18

Most observers associate the farm bill with food policy, but its conservation section is the single largest source of funding for soil, water and wildlife conservation on private land in the United States.

The Sacramento Bee: Facing specter of drought, California farmers are told to expect little water

By Dale Kasler

02/20/18

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that most farmers south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta who get water from the federal Central Valley Project will receive just 20 percent of their requested allocation this year. Although the numbers could change and the allocations could increase this spring, the initial figures reflect the abysmal precipitation California has received so far this winter.

Popular Science: You might be inhaling bits of toxic algae

By Kate Baggaley

02/20/18

When waves out on the Great Lakes churn up water during a bloom, they

could be sending pieces of algae and their toxins flying. These particles can float off on the wind for miles.

Huffington Post: [Trump's Budget Would End Grant Funding For State Endangered Species Projects](#)

By Chris D'Angelo

02/15/18

The Trump administration is looking to zero out grant funding for state efforts to recover endangered species — even as it has stressed cooperating with states on conservation efforts.

High Plains Journal: [USDA secretary announces infrastructure improvements for forest system trails](#)

02/20/18

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently announced the selection of 15 priority areas to help address the more than \$300 million trail maintenance backlog on national forests and grasslands.

Des Moines Register: [Iowans deserve healthy working lands programs](#)

By Anna Johnson

02/21/18

(Opinion) Last week, our federal government made a sobering statement: It proposed to eliminate the nation's largest working lands conservation program, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

KTIC: [Legislation designed to save pollinators introduced in House](#)

By Chad Moyer

02/18/18

Representatives Earl Blumenauer of Oregon and Jim McGovern of Massachusetts introduced the Saving America's Pollinators Act. The legislation is designed to protect the health of honey bees and other critical pollinators.

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Subject **CSDA e-News: New Legislative Days Format, 2018
Statewide Propositions Affecting Revenue**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <cassandras@csda.net>

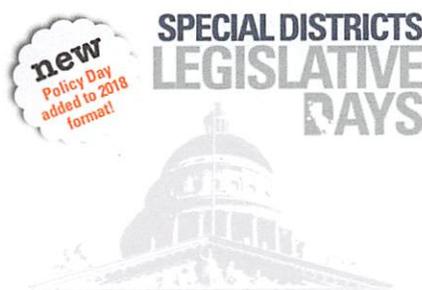
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February 27, 2018



New Special Districts Legislative Days Format Announced

Special Districts Legislative Days returns to the State Capitol May 22-23 with a new format that is sure to deliver more direct advocacy to State Legislators and more critical information to local leaders. The 2018 Legislative Days, taking place at the Sacramento Convention Center, now consists of Advocacy Day on day one and Policy Day on day two. Learn more and [register here!](#)

Day one of Legislative Days will be all about advocacy. Attendees will receive a briefing from CSDA's lobbyists before heading into the Capitol for two sessions of pre-arranged meetings with State Legislators and Capitol Staff. In between visits to Capitol offices, attendees will enjoy lunch and a keynote speaker on a major issue facing the local government community. Following the second session of Capitol office visits, we will adjourn the day's work at a hosted reception for attendees, Legislators, and Capitol staff.

Day two will drill down into policy, allowing attendees to gain the latest insights from expert attorneys and legislative advocates. This Policy Day will be packed with both high-level and detailed information regarding court cases and legislation impacting all types of special districts. And, included in day two for the first time will be opportunities for MCLE credits.

Keep an eye out for announcements regarding speakers and breakout sessions, but be sure to [register online](#) by April 20 to receive the Early Bird Discount.



EDUCATION CALENDAR

February 28
*[The Public Records Act and
Records Retention
Workshop](#)*

March 6
*[Webinar: The Critical Nature
of Communications
Webinar](#)*

2018 Statewide Propositions Could Decrease...or Increase Revenue

CSDA is tracking several November statewide ballot initiatives dealing with special district revenue. While these proposals have yet to garner enough signatures to qualify as propositions, CSDA is already meeting with stakeholders and analyzing the potential impacts. Some of the most significant initiative proposals currently in circulation include:

- Residential Property Tax Base Transfer
- Local Revenue Restrictions and Supermajority Vote
- Commercial Property Tax Reform

[Read More...](#)

CSDA Joins Crucial Prop 218 Case

On February 16th, CSDA joined the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, California State Association of Counties, and the League of California Cities in filing an [amicus brief](#) to the Supreme Court of California in support of Ramona Municipal Water District ("RMWD"). In *Plantier v. Ramona Municipal Water District* [S243360], the primary issue before the court is whether Proposition 218's protest procedure provides an administrative remedy that must be exhausted by a ratepayers before they can bring a class action lawsuit challenging the district's method of calculating fees under Proposition 218's substantive requirements. The requirement to exhaust administrative remedies by potential plaintiffs is justified by the separation of powers between the judiciary and other branches of government; in addition, it promotes efficiency by the government and judiciary, as well as an orderly procedure for the review of governmental decisions. [Read more...](#)

MEMBER SERVICES

Spread the Word: Free Trial Membership

Our membership is stronger than ever, and that's thanks to you! You know how valuable CSDA resources are to your district, so why not spread the word? We are offering a FREE Trial Membership for 90 days to districts new to CSDA. Please [share this online application](#) with a district you know could benefit from our resources. Make sure they mention your name in how they heard of the opportunity so we can be sure to send a thank you!

Direct all inquiries to member services or email annap@csda.net.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Upcoming FREE Workshop!

March 7

[Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training Workshop](#)

March 13

[Proposition 26, Proposition 218 and Rate Setting Workshop](#)

March 13

[Webinar: Required Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training Webinar](#)

[Webinar](#)

Join us in Apple Valley on Wednesday, March 28, for "Fraud Detection and Prevention for Local Government Agencies." This workshop will cover how to assess risk in your organization and how to develop effective internal controls that will mitigate risk and minimize any fraud. Thanks to a partnership between CSDA and the LAFCO for San Bernardino County, this workshop is free to all. [Click here](#) to register!

Register Now for March Webinars

We have some exciting webinars coming up for you in March! Be sure to register early:



March 6 - [The Critical Nature of Communications in the Public Agency](#)

March 13 - [Required Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training](#)

March 15 - [Legislative Round-Up](#)

To browse all upcoming events, be sure to check out the CSDA [Education Calendar](#).

DISTRICT PRESS

2019-2021 CSDA Board of Directors - Call for Nominations

Represent Your Network and Join the CSDA Board of Directors!

It's time to nominate your candidate! Board nomination information was mailed to every CSDA voting member agency. Candidates must be affiliated with an independent special district that is a CSDA Regular Member in good standing located within the [geographic network](#) they seek to represent. The leadership of CSDA is elected from its six geographical networks. Each of the six networks have three seats on the board with staggered three-year terms.

The CSDA Board of Directors is the governing body responsible for all policy decisions related to CSDA's member services, legislative advocacy, education and resources. The Board of Directors is crucial to the operation of the association and to the representation of the common interests of all California's special districts before the Legislature and the state administration.

Deadline for receiving nomination applications is [April 18, 2018](#).

[Click here](#) for full information on the nomination procedures, commitment and expectations for board members and the new electronic voting this year! If you have any questions, please contact Beth Hummel at 877-924-2732 or bethh@csda.net.

Special Screening of "Beyond the Brink" Documentary to be Held March 14 in Sacramento

In a new documentary by The Chronicles Group, Inc., Filmmaker and Producer Jim Thebaut explores society's future in a world where water, food, and natural resources teeter on the edge of



sustainability and how the scarcity of these resources pose a threat to national security.

The film, titled "Beyond the Brink," focuses on California's San Joaquin Valley and the difficulties faced by farmers due to water scarcity and drought. The film also provides a vision for a path forward, exploring efforts already underway to shift our course.

A special screening of the film is being sponsored by Clean Water and Jobs for California and presented in partnership with the Association of California Water Agencies on March 14 in Sacramento. The 90-minute film screening will take place at the Crest Theatre at 1013 K Street from 4-5:30 p.m., immediately followed by a 45-minute panel discussion. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

There is no charge to attend the event, but registration is required. Please register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SpecialScreening>. For more information, [click here](#).

Recognitions in Special District Governance

Steve M. Roberts with [Bear Valley Community Services District](#), Joe Barget, SDA and Cynthia Allen with [Vandenberg Village Community Services District](#) have received the Special District Leadership Foundation Recognition in Special District Governance certificate. Recognition in Special District Governance was designed to honor special district board members, trustees and staff. It is comprised of two distinct parts: 1) the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy and 2) elective courses.

In addition to individual recognitions, there are also district recognitions. Districts that have a majority of their governing board holding recognitions will receive a Silver Recognition, and districts with their entire board holding recognition will receive a Gold Recognition.

Submit your application to become recognized in special district governance by [clicking here](#) for the application. Or contact [Beth Hummel](#), program assistant, at (916) 231-2939.

Special District Administrator Re-Certification

Joe Barget, SDA with [Vandenberg Village Community Services District](#) has earned the special district administrator re-certification.

Transparency Certificate of Excellence Approvals

Congratulations to new SDLF program recipients for the Transparency Certificate of Excellence: [Castro Valley Sanitation District](#) and [Crestline Sanitation District](#). These approved certificates are through the [Special District Leadership Foundation](#) (SDLF). This

Connect with CSDA on Facebook and Twitter!

Are you connecting on Facebook and Twitter? If so, connect with CSDA! Get important updates on legislative issues, professional development offerings, and member services by liking [California Special Districts Association](#) on Facebook and following [@specialdistrict](#) on Twitter!



program promotes transparency in the operations and governance of special districts and provides them with an opportunity to showcase their efforts in transparency. This is an SDFL sponsored program so it is FREE for districts to participate and receive recognition in.

Get started on your Transparency Certificate of Excellence by clicking [here](#) for the application. Or contact [Beth Hummel](#), program assistant, at (916) 231-2939.



Subject **eResource - This Week's NACD News Briefs**
From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD APPLAUDS SENATE'S CONFIRMATION OF BILL NORTHEY

This afternoon, after months of delay, the U.S. Senate confirmed Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey as USDA's Under Secretary for the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service (FFAS). Under USDA's proposed reorganization, Northey's role would ultimately transition to become Under Secretary of the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area.

"Today's vote was long overdue," **NACD President Brent Van Dyke said.** "Throughout his career, Mr. Northey has proven his commitment to agriculture and conservation by working alongside landowners to implement the conservation programs most vital to our nation's producers. His extensive leadership experience in conservation and production agriculture has more than prepared him to lead this new mission area for the USDA."

Northey is a fourth-generation farmer and former commissioner for the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District. He has managed and directed natural resource management programs, set conservation priorities, and coordinated conservation efforts with other local units of government, state agencies and agricultural organizations.

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NACD Spring Fly-In issue papers available

NACD's Spring Fly-In is quickly approaching! As you prepare to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with your members of Congress on the significance of voluntary, locally-led conservation, please consult our [Spring Fly-In webpage](#). There you'll find information on hotels and newly-updated issue papers. If you plan on attending the Fly-In, please RSVP by email to **NACD Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison**.

Last week, NACD issued a grassroots alert on the NRCS hiring freeze. To view our hiring freeze issue paper, [click here](#). Not signed up to receive grassroots alerts? [Click here](#) and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

NACD attends MGA forestry meeting

Read NACD's full press release on the confirmation by [clicking here](#).

NACD ATTENDS ARKANSAS, OKLAHOMA ANNUAL MEETINGS

In February, NACD's South Central Region Representative **Keith Owen** attended annual meetings for Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) Annual Meeting, held mid-February, celebrated the theme "Remembering Our Roots for a Brighter Future." The North Little Rock meeting featured sessions on source water protection, grazing management, water conservation and irrigation.

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge spoke at the Conservation Awards Luncheon, and AACD screened the "Hugh Hammond Bennett: The Story of America's Private Lands Conservation Movement" documentary.



The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City kicked off Saturday, celebrating the 80th anniversary of OACD and conservation districts in Oklahoma. Pictured from left to right: **Jimmy Emmons, OACD president; Congressman Frank Lucas; Gary O'Neill, state conservationist; Trey Lam, executive director, Oklahoma Conservation Commission.**

NACD Second Vice President Michael Crowder provided an update on behalf of the national association, including the recently released



NACD Forestry Specialist Mike Beacom attended the Midwestern Governors Association's "Maximizing Forestry Resources in the Midwest" meeting last week in Madison, Wisconsin. The two-day meeting included opening comments from **MGA Chair and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker** (pictured), as well as several panels exploring emerging forest market opportunities and programs designed to assist management efforts. A state forestry panel discussed advancements through Good Neighbor Authority and how state agencies are working with partners to reach objectives. The group also toured the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory.

Stop by booth 974!



This week, **NACD CEO Jeremy Peters** and **NACD Second Vice President Michael Crowder** are in Anaheim, Calif., for Commodity Classic. Visit booth 974 to hear updates on NACD's programs and upcoming events!

[promotional videos](#). OACD's meeting featured sessions on conservation planning, tribal outreach and partnership, opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, innovations in conservation, holistic management, soil health and beneficial arthropods.

NOBLE RESEARCH INSTITUTE COALITION CREATING NEW VOLUNTARY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MARKET

Last week, [Noble Research Institute announced](#) its intention to create a voluntary environmental services market to support efforts by agricultural producers to improve soil health.

In 2018, the program will develop an ecosystem services protocol and go-to-market business strategy to assess the technical needs of the program, and pilots will be conducted in early 2019.

The steering committee that created the marketplace consists of Noble Research Institute, General Mills, Soil Health Institute, Newtrient, NACD, Gordian Knot Strategies, DRD Associates, Strategic Conservation Solutions and Oklahoma and Texas farming/ranching communities. **NACD President-elect Tim Palmer** and **NACD Soil Health Champion and Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts President Jimmy Emmons** both serve on the committee.

NCPP LISTENING SESSIONS START IN INDIANA

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) held its first of eight listening sessions on Friday, February 23 in Indianapolis, Ind., at the NRCS state office. Members of the NCPP leadership team gathered to hear how



Don't delay! Conservation Planning Boot Camp spaces are filling up

Are you a soil and water conservation district or tribal conservation district technician interested in sharpening your conservation planning and implementation knowledge and skills? Maybe you're looking for ways to advance your professional development and increase your worth and value to your district?

Achieve all of this and more by participating in the NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp! Held in Lincoln, Neb., each month, this three-week, hands-on, technical, conservation planning and implementation training is free for those who qualify.

Learn more about the program, including session dates, prerequisites and more by visiting [NACD's Conservation Planning Boot Camp webpage](#). Questions? Contact **NACD Southeast Region Representative Phylis Vandevere** at phylis-vandevere@nacdn.net.

Volunteer opportunity: NCF-Envirothon

This July, Pocatello, Idaho, will welcome student competitors from across North America for the international 2018 NCF-Envirothon competition – but the organizers need your help! The Idaho Envirothon Committee is seeking volunteers to support Envirothon youth, share their natural resources expertise, inspire and motivate others. Specific opportunities include preliminary presentation judges,

conservation planning and practice implementation have been promoted and implemented throughout the state, including the progress that has been made for cover crop adoption in recent years.

National representatives from the five conservation partnerships were in attendance – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA), National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils (NARCDC) and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). **North Central Region Representative Beth Mason** represented NACD and gave a presentation on the results from the NCPP Field Staff Survey conducted in 2016.

Participants had the opportunity to get an update on the NCPP initiative as well as ask questions and give comments to the national leadership as they move further in their efforts to reinvigorate and strengthen the conservation planning process. A list of questions, answers and comments will be made available to the partnership for participant distribution and review.

Future updates, information and opportunities to engage in the NCPP initiative can be found in upcoming issues of eResource as they become available.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: NACD MARCH 2018 U&C WEBINAR

The next NACD Urban and Community Conservation webinar, scheduled for 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST on March 15, will feature two green infrastructure management tools.

For the past two years, the Westmoreland Conservation District in Pennsylvania has been implementing a program to monitor locally-installed green infrastructure projects with "real-time" sensing technologies. The district currently has monitoring devices installed throughout the county in best management practices (BMPs) such as rain gardens, green roofs and permeable pavements. They are also

timers, hall monitors, team buddies and more. [Please fill out this sign-up form to register.](#)

Job posting: Sagebrush Landscape Restoration Specialist

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission office in Boise is seeking a sagebrush landscape restoration specialist. This grant-funded position will work with NRCS and other stakeholders to restore lost hydrology to wet meadow, mesic and wetland areas, as well as promote and implement landscape-scale improvements. For a full, detailed position description, [click here](#). Applications are due by Friday, March 2.

2018 Farmer Spotlight nominations due tomorrow

Field to Market's [Farmer Spotlight series](#) showcases farmers who are committed to stewardship and conservation efforts on their land.

To recognize deserving farmers for their commitment to stewardship, conservation and continuous improvement, [click here](#). To be eligible, farmers must utilize the Fieldprint Platform to measure and evaluate continuous improvement of their farm's sustainability performance.

You can also access the nomination form through the [Member Portal Dashboard](#) under the Nominate a Farmer for Recognition link on the lower right-hand side under Explore the Portal. If you have any questions, please contact Lexi Clark at (202)800-2695 or

currently developing an online-based dashboard to analyze and visualize the performance information for the various monitored BMPs.

The West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) created Rainwater Rewards, an online and mobile friendly stormwater calculator that shows the value of green infrastructure investments. The calculator helps municipalities, planners, developers and homeowners understand the investment value of green infrastructure beyond dollars and cents by looking at the value of reducing flood risk, water and air pollution reduction, increasing property value, CO2 storage and energy savings.

These popular webinars, held on the third Thursday of each month, are sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company in partnership with the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, email Debra Bogar at deb-bogar@nacdnet.org with your name, title, district or business name, state and email address. Information to access the webinar will be sent by email.

lclark@fieldtomarket.org.
Nominations are due tomorrow,
Feb. 28.

Contact Us

509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547 6223

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#).

- NACD Spring Fly-In -
March 19 - 20
- Stewardship Week - April
29 - May 5
- NACD Summer Meeting -
Aug. 2 - 8

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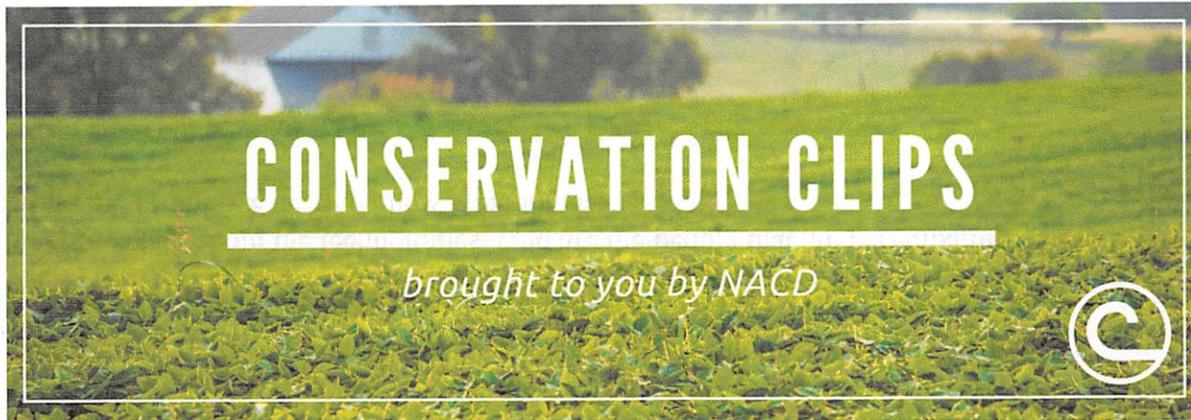
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Conservation Clips are a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your NACD Communications Team.

Agri-Pulse: Senate confirms Northey for top USDA post, ending 4-month delay

By Philip Brasher
02/27/18

The Senate confirmed Bill Northey as USDA's undersecretary for farm programs after Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, dropped a hold he had kept on the nomination for four months.

The Olympian: US lands agency makeover would diminish Washington's power

By Matthew Brown and Dan Elliott
02/24/18

U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke disclosed that he's revamping a sweeping overhaul of his department that's supposed to speed up permitting for development on public lands.

Agri-Pulse: Opinion: What's the Future for CSP?

By Bruce Knight

02/23/18

(Opinion) I think the future of CSP is a bit unclear as we move toward the next farm bill. And I have mixed feelings about that. But one thing I am certain of. Now is the time for anyone who's been seriously thinking about applying for the current Conservation Stewardship Program to sign up.

The Washington Post: Maryland is bracing for an invasion of lanternflies, and racing to slow their spread

By Jonathan M. Pitts

02/28/18

But Malinoski has never seen anything like the spotted lanternfly, a leaf-hopping pest that recently overran southeastern Pennsylvania and is poised to invade Maryland for the first time this spring.

Pacific Daily News: Our View: U.S. must bolster, not reduce, invasive species funding

02/24/18

(Opinion) The federal government needs to increase funding to efforts to fight invasive species on Guam to better protect our environment and native plants and animals. These invaders threaten not only our environment, but our economy as well.

High Plains Journal: Biological inputs assist in farm health

By Larry Dreiling

02/26/18

Third-generation potato farmer Brendon Rockey is showing producers across the globe how to improve farm health with biotic methods.

The Tribune: Beech booming as climate changes, and that's bad for forests

By Patrick Whittle

02/25/18

Beech trees are dominating the woodlands of the northeastern United States as the climate changes, and that could be bad news for the forests and people who work in them.

The Washington Post: Spring is running 20 days early. It's exactly what we expect, but it's not good.

By Angela Fritz

02/27/18

For the second year in a row, spring has sprung early. Spring is running 20 days or more ahead of schedule in parts of the Ohio River Valley and the

Mid-Atlantic. That will soon be the case in the Midwest and the Northeast.

Santa Fe New Mexican: Drought forces painful choices for New Mexico ranchers

By Susan Montoya Bryan

02/22/18

Some stretches of New Mexico have gone months without meaningful moisture, leaving farmers and ranchers to make difficult decisions as long-term forecasts call for drought to intensify across the already arid state.

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD PROMOTES SOIL HEALTH ECONOMIC BENEFITS AT COMMODITY CLASSIC

NACD Second Vice President **Michael Crowder** and CEO **Jeremy Peters** participated in the [Commodity Classic](#) Feb. 27 - March 1 in Anaheim, Calif. The annual event draws thousands of corn, soybean, wheat and sorghum farmers from across the nation to hear the latest updates on issues ranging from commodity prices and international trade to new technologies and soil health.

Crowder and Peters conducted outreach on soil health, distributing and discussing the set of [soil health case studies](#) recently published by NACD and Datu Research on the economic benefits of soil health practices. Attendees also received information on conservation districts and conservation planning, as well as information on NACD's Soil Health Champions Network.

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NACD Spring Fly-In nears

NACD's Spring Fly-In is only two weeks away! As you prepare to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with your members of Congress on the significance of voluntary, locally-led conservation, please consult our [Spring Fly-In webpage](#). There you'll find information on hotels and newly-updated issue papers. If you plan on attending the Fly-In, please RSVP to **NACD Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison** at coleman-garrison@nacdn.net.org.

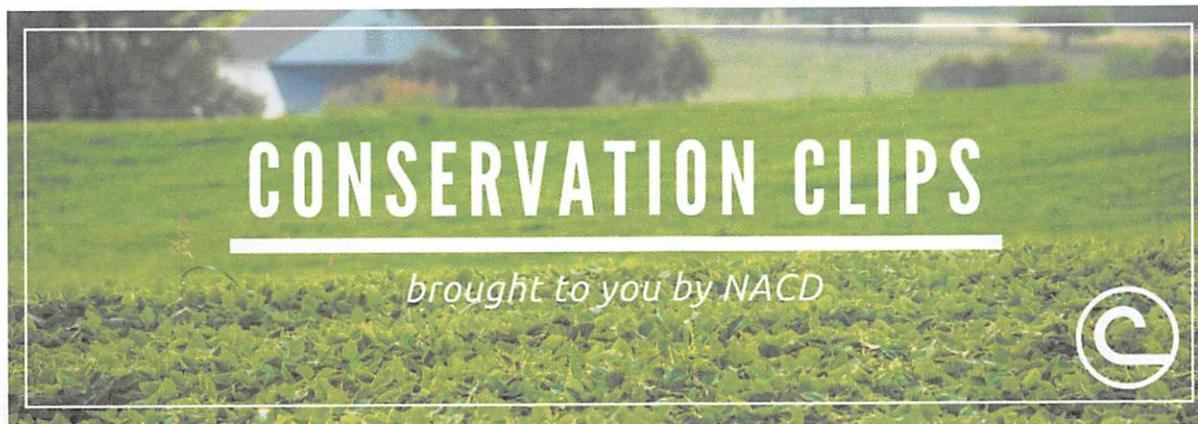
Northey to be sworn in

This evening at 9 p.m. EST, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue will swear in Bill Northey as the under secretary for domestic farm programs. Northey resigned as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture yesterday and will begin his role as the third-highest ranking official at USDA tomorrow, March 7, in Washington, D.C. Following USDA's proposed reorganization

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Oklahoma Farm Report: Conservation Districts Take Firm Stand Against Cuts to Farm Bill Programs Proposed by White House

By Carson Horn
03/06/18

Aside from other issues that have cropped up during the early stages of the 2018 Farm Bill's drafting, one certainly struck a chord with the members and leadership of the NACD. That, of course, being the significant cuts to conservation programs proposed by President Trump in his budget outline.

Agri-Pulse: Farm bill proposal would use USDA data to assess farm practices

By Philip Brasher
03/06/18

A new farm bill proposal could make it possible for farmers to know with some precision what impact cover crops, no-till farming and other conservation practices could have on their crop yields.

NPR: Grass Is Back In The Chesapeake, And Crabs Will Follow

By Dan Charles
03/05/18

This week, Orth and a dozen other scientists published results from years of monitoring seagrass in the Chesapeake. And the news is good. The area covered by beds of seagrass has expanded dramatically over the past 30 years.

Agri-Pulse: Perdue: Thrilled to finally have Bill Northey on board

By Delaney Howell
03/07/18

The Spirit Lake, Iowa, farmer heads to Washington this week to begin his role as the USDA's Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service. But there will be some uncertainty about his title and responsibilities for a while.

Montrose Press: Shorter winter may impact Minn. fisheries, bring more toxic algae

By Cody Nelson
03/06/18

While shorter winters sparking earlier algae production could mean more nutrients cycling up the food chain to sport fish, it could also mean more of the toxic blue-green algae that has grown in prevalence across Minnesota.

The Fence Post: Roberts says he wants to mark up farm bill in April, doesn't like tariffs

By Jerry Hagstrom
03/07/18

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said today he wants to mark up the next farm bill in April and that his staff and the staff of Senate Agriculture Committee ranking member Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., are already sending bill language back and forth.

ABC News: EPA plan seeks cuts in pollution that causes Lake Erie algae

By John Flesher
03/07/18

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency called for stepped-up efforts to reduce nutrient pollution that contributes to algae blooms in Lake Erie but recommended no new federal regulations to accomplish the task.

Agri-Pulse: CRP expansion set for fight in farm bill

By Philip Brasher
03/07/18

A battle is brewing over a proposed expansion of the Conservation Reserve Program as the House Agriculture Committee prepares to move its version of a new farm bill. The draft legislation would increase the limit on CRP enrollments from 24 million to 30 million acres, paid for in part by a new cap on payment rates.

NPR: Widespread Drought Across U.S. Stokes Fears About A Repeat Of 2012's Wrath

By Madelyn Beck
03/01/18

The worry also is widespread, considering the reach of this winter's drought is even worse than in 2012, a year that brought the worst drought in the U.S. since the Dust Bowl in the 1930s and cost farmers, ranchers and governments an estimated \$30 billion.

The Fence Post: Heitkamp introduces legislation to include Native Americans in farm bill

By Jerry Hagstrom
03/05/18

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., introduced legislation to improve assistance for Native American communities. The Native Farm Bill Coalition, a group that has been advocating for inclusion of Native Americans in the farm bill for some time, has endorsed Heitkamp's legislation.

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March 8, 2018

We hope you enjoy the March Jeffries Journal E-Newsletter, featuring Kevin's Corner, Supervisor Success Stories, Board and Commissions Spotlight, our Non-Profit Spotlight and Upcoming events in our District.

Pasted immediately below is this issue's Kevin's Corner, but the newsletter is attached and available at this link:

http://www.supervisorjeffries.org/opencms/galleries/PressNews/2018newsletters/March_2018_newsletter.pdf

Kevin's Corner

Lots of ground to cover this month, so here goes...

New developments: For those of you who live in an unincorporated (non-city) community in the First District, our office is working on posting information about all medium to large development applications that have been formally submitted to the County. We hope to soon include information on all previously approved residential tracts from the last 20 years as well. A link to our First District Development Projects List can be found on the front page of my website: www.SupervisorJeffries.org

New Warehouses: As most of you know, I'm not a big fan of mega-warehouses mostly because of the negative impacts these facilities can have on neighbors and our freeways. I generally have no problems with the "business park" concept that provides a variety of building sizes that cater to small and medium-sized businesses (the backbone of communities and local job creation), but putting all our eggs into one basket of mega-warehouses seems very shortsighted. With more and more households ordering products from online websites (thereby decreasing shopping at traditional retail centers) and with our location along nationally important trade corridors, I understand that a county of our size (2.3 million+) has to host its "fair share" of large facilities, BUT, we can and should set and enforce higher development standards that will protect nearby residents and address their traffic and congestion impacts. Our office has been working with county planning staff to propose a new set of "Good Neighbor" guidelines that will address minimum setback standards from adjacent residences, reduce impacts from facility & truck

lighting and truck backup alarm noise, encourage the use of electric forklifts & onsite vehicles, increase landscaping/screening standards, and look for other mitigation efforts that would protect and benefit nearby residential areas. The first draft of this proposal will likely daylight within a few months. Your input will be welcomed. Stay tuned.

Recreational Marijuana: With the voters of California and Riverside County having spoken and cast votes in favor of legalizing cannabis-related businesses (leaving it up to each city & county to decide how they wish to proceed), the Board of Supervisors will hold a special meeting on Tuesday March 20th, at 1:30pm, to discuss the future of cannabis legalization and regulation in the unincorporated (non-city) communities. Regulations within city boundaries are solely determined by the local city council, and will not be discussed at this meeting.

Homeless Solutions: The Board of Supervisors recently adopted a comprehensive plan to coordinate a variety of services and providers in their efforts to assist the homeless (who want help). This should ultimately lead to a single point of contact to report and address specific homeless camps and individuals, improve coordination with partnering cities and assist with access to health providers and housing. Of course, some of the hardcore homeless individuals who prefer to "live off the grid" will decline assistance and will continue to cause challenges for neighborhoods and business districts, but helping the needy ones will make it easier to focus alternative enforcement strategies on the shady ones.

County Budget: As you may have read, our county is facing an onslaught of dramatically increasing costs. These new costs include: pension increases, staffing of the new Indio jail, ongoing wage & benefit increases, transfer of In-Home Supportive Service costs from the State to counties, enhanced healthcare services for inmates (lawsuit settlement), and a host of other new costs and mandates that will ultimately add \$200 million in new expenses. Starting this July 1st and continuing for 4 or 5 years these new and increasing costs could have very significant impacts to all county services. I believe that spending corrections need to start now in order to reduce the likely magnitude of cuts that will be required down the road. More to follow.

Rural Roads: Over the past five years, our office has focused efforts to start paving unincorporated roads that have been left behind as our county has grown. We look for funding everywhere we can to pave roads that will serve the most homes and help emergency vehicles get in and out during bad weather. Unfortunately, the new gas tax monies (SB-1) cannot legally be used to pay for the first time paving of these roads. Since I took office, over 30 neighborhood roads in the 1st District have been paved for the first time, totaling just under 8 miles. We know that many unincorporated neighborhoods have roads they would like to see paved, and we will keep chipping away as long as we can find the funds. If you live on a dirt road with lots of homes on it (both sides). Please feel free to drop us note, and we will have the county traffic engineers come out and evaluate it.

As always, I look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Respectfully,

Kevin Jeffries

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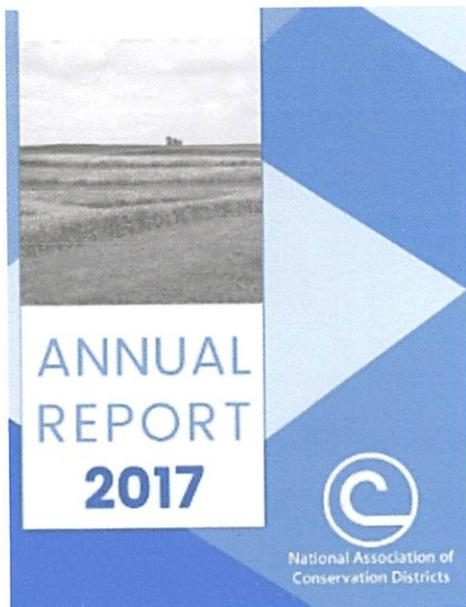
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Good afternoon NACD members and partners,

NACD is excited to announce the release of the 2017 Annual Report and the 2018 winter edition of *The Resource*.



This rebranded edition of the annual report includes letters from President Brent Van Dyke and CEO Jeremy Peters, financial activity and a recap of all the achievements NACD has experienced this year. You will also find information about the four case studies NACD and Datu Research, LLC conducted last year, a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to fund technical assistance grants, and the continued developments of NACD's involvement with the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP).

From Seattle to the Chesapeake Bay and everywhere in between, conservation districts have been hard at work in 2017. The winter edition of *The Resource* features the inspiring work these folks have done and the impact their efforts are having within local communities.

You can read the latest edition by [clicking here](#), or you can [browse past editions here](#) on our website. If you have any questions or comments about this issue, or ideas for the next edition, please [let us know](#). A hard copy of this edition will be mailed to every conservation district, state association and Friend of NACD. If you need help printing this issue, please contact sara-kangas@nadcnet.org.

Lastly, be sure to [subscribe to all of our other publications](#) and follow us on social media to stay up to date on all the latest happenings with NACD.

Sincerely,

Your NACD Team



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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

NACD RELEASES 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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hard at work in 2017. The winter edition of *The Resource* features the inspiring work these folks have done and the impact their efforts are having within local communities.

Two hard copies of the Annual Report and winter edition of *The Resource* will be sent to every conservation district and state association, and all Friends of NACD will receive a copy as well. [Click here](#) to read the latest edition online.

CHRISTIANSEN NAMED INTERIM

-->

NACD Spring Fly-In agenda now available



NACD's Spring Fly-In begins next week! While you plan your trip to Washington, D.C., make sure to consult our [Spring Fly-In webpage](#), which has newly updated times and locations, as well as a tentative agenda.

Save the date:

Urban forestry webinar

Join Smart Growth March 27 at 1:00 p.m. EDT for a live webinar entitled "Teaming Up for Urban Forestry: New Tools to Build and Energize Local Sustainability Efforts." The webinar features speakers from American Forest Foundation, American Forests, and the U.S. Forest Service. [Click here for more information.](#)

CHIEF OF FOREST SERVICE

Vicki Christiansen has been named interim Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, replacing Tony Tooke, who resigned from the post in early March. Christiansen served as the Forest Service's Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry prior to the announcement.



She served as the State Forester in both Washington and Arizona before joining the Forest Service in 2012 as Associate Chief of State and Private Forestry.

“As a former wildland firefighter and fire manager, (Christiansen) knows first-hand that failure to properly maintain forests leads to longer and more severe fire seasons,” **Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said.** “And as a former State Forester, she knows the benefits of Good Neighbor Authority and how best to partner with our state and local colleagues.”

“Interim Chief Christiansen brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in natural resource management on our public and private forestlands,” **said NACD CEO Jeremy Peters.** “NACD congratulates Christiansen on her new role and we look forward to working with her as we continue to seek locally-led solutions to manage our nation's forests.”

NACD ATTENDS SUFC ANNUAL MEETING

Last week, NACD staff attended the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC)'s 13th Annual Meeting. **NACD Government Affairs Associate Chris Heck** participated in SUFC's Hill Day on Tuesday, and **NACD Forestry Specialist Mike Beacom** attended Wednesday's annual meeting.

Presentations included a city trees carbon credit program, the EPA's Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Job posting: IASWCD Executive Director

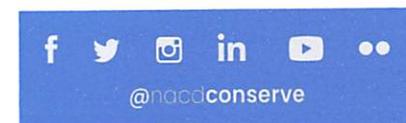
The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) is seeking an executive director to serve as IASWCD's chief administrative officer and manage the organization's day-to-day operations. The position will coordinate IASWCD's legislative efforts, assist with event planning, supervise staff, and monitor and pursue grant development and opportunities. Interested candidates should submit their applications by Friday, April 6. Application details and a full position description are [available here](#).

NCF-Envirothon registration open

Registration is now open for the 2018 NCF-Envirothon!

Visit www.envirothon.org to review the registration guide and complete your team's registration forms. A travel itinerary is also available online, as well as the volunteer sign-up form.

Follow us!



EPA environmental education grant deadline extended

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking grant proposals for their Environmental Education Grants Program. Projects should promote environmental awareness and

and a program that tracks the relationship between urban tree loss and stormwater management.

NACD is one of more than 30 SUFC members. Beacom is a member of the SUFC Steering Committee and co-chairs the Strategic Engagement and Outreach Working Group. To learn more, visit <http://www.urbanforestcoalition.org>.



NEW YORK CITY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, NEW YORK



The New York City SWCD's urban agriculture conservation project, funded through [NACD's urban agriculture conservation grants program](#), has united individuals knowledgeable in working with urban soils for growing food in low-income communities in the city. The project consisted of four components: 1) outreach, 2) workshops, 3) technical and educational resources and 4) field visits.

The project team consisted of the district, NYC Urban Soils Institute (USI), the Horticultural Society of NY

stewardship as well as environmental education practices, methods or techniques. The proposal deadline has been extended to Wednesday, April 11. For more information, [click here](#).

DOI publishes sage grouse scoping report

The Department of Interior (DOI) recently published its [sage grouse scoping report](#). The 40-page report summarizes the scoping process, the 15 open houses held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and public comments.

NACD participated in the public comment period, and [our comments can be found here](#). Using these comments, the BLM now will determine if any amendments to the greater sage-grouse plans are needed. The BLM will also review to see if any of the issues can be resolved through policy guidance or plan maintenance.

National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board to meet March 27-28

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced yesterday that the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 27 and 28. The public will have the opportunity to address the advisory board on March 27 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. MDT.

Those unable to attend in person may submit a written statement by March 20 via email to whbadvisoryboard@blm.gov; please include "Advisory Board Comment" in the subject line of the email. For more information

(the Hort), GrowNYC and Greenthumb. The team developed the outreach and workshop series on urban soils and growing food in the city. GrowNYC and Greenthumb led the outreach efforts because of their existing relationships with gardeners in low-income communities.

Workshops were held on soil health basics and soil interpretation, covering the fundamentals in detail, and on growing food in the city. On-site technical assistance was provided to gardens in Brooklyn and the Bronx including soil testing, interpreting soil tests, selecting and applying best management practices and soil health building techniques, and growing and harvesting edibles. The garden plots were screened by the XRF analyzer for heavy metals.

Moving forward, the USI website includes links to technical services, research and direct communication with soil scientists. Online services also include a soils FAQ and forum in which soil scientists and practitioners can exchange ideas and information and answer questions. Interns from Brooklyn College are trained by USI staff to provide field visits, the most powerful tool for connecting with communities and individuals.

on the meeting, [click here](#).

Contact Us

509 Capitol Court NE
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(202) 547 6223

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

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March 19 - 20
- Stewardship Week - April
29 - May 5
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Aug. 2 - 8

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Urban Tree Program Helps Improve Washington Communities

A grant from the Puyallup Watershed Initiative is allowing Washington's Pierce Conservation District (PCD) to strengthen its jurisdictional partnerships and add canopy coverage in some of Pierce County's most urban areas.



Over the past three years, the PCD has received \$45,000 for its urban tree sale, which offers discounted trees to city and county residents to plant trees on their property and along streets. The sale also provides planting resources, education and ongoing support.

According to Melissa Buckingham, Water Quality Program Director for Pierce Conservation District,

--> Forestry Briefs



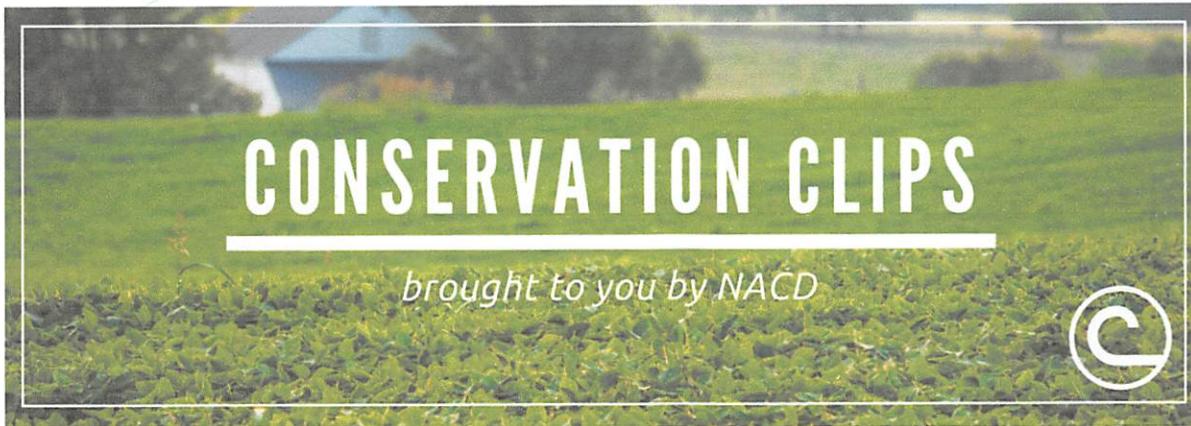
Maine - District sponsors small woodland owner management tour series

The Knox-Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the Maine Forest Service, offers a series of free small woodland owner management tours. A March tour highlighted a local landowner who works with

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NACD Blog: Urban tree program helps improve Washington communities
03/13/18

A grant from the Puyallup Watershed Initiative is allowing Washington's Pierce Conservation District (PCD) to strengthen its jurisdictional partnerships and add canopy coverage in some of Pierce County's most urban areas.

NACD Blog: Local Massachusetts district's fruit tree sale supports pollinators
03/13/18

Worcester County Conservation District (WCCD) sells a variety of fruit-bearing trees and other flowering plants to educate the public on the importance of having fruit-bearing trees in their landscaping.

Agri-Pulse: Bipartisan Senate bill refocuses conservation programs
By Philip Brasher
03/15/18

The bill would keep the Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program as separate programs and maintain CSP's annual enrollment targets and EQIP's funding.

Des Moines Register: Crop insurance rules for cover crops prevent good farming

By Don Elsbernd

03/08/18

(Opinion) To comply with crop insurance rules written by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), I have to terminate my cover crops no later than five days after planting my main crop in the spring. But the problem with terminating the cover crop on time is that I reduce the amount of benefit that I get from it, or I delay planting of the main crop, which can cause lower yields. Our goal is to get the maximum benefit without hurting the crop, and that should be RMA's goal, too.

The Fence Post: Walz introduces soil stewardship bill

By Jerry Hagstrom

03/13/18

Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., on Tuesday introduced a bill to enhance the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Agri-Pulse: Opinion: The next Farm Bill can have lasting influence, major impacts through soil health

By Wayne Honeycutt

03/13/18

(Opinion) We are fortunate that past farm bill support for research and adoption has provided the scientific basis and confidence for implementing soil health-promoting practices. However, it is equally clear that we simply cannot afford to be complacent, thinking that we have all the answers, because we do not.

KCRG: Planting a billion milkweeds for monarchs

By David Geiger

03/14/18

By 2038, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) want to have 480,000 to 830,000 acres of monarch butterfly habitat across the state or about 127 to 188 million new milkweed stems, which is the only plant monarch butterflies lay their eggs on. The goal is to plant about double the amount of milkweed that is estimated to exist in Iowa.

Fox News: Crew with seeds, corals restore environment in Puerto Rico

By Danica Coto

03/09/18

Environmental groups and volunteers are gathering native seeds to replant forests across the U.S. territory and grafting broken coral back onto shattered reefs to help repair damage in the largest-ever effort of its kind for Puerto Rico.

Corn and Soybean Digest: Note to USDA: The time for regenerative agriculture is now

By Ron Nichols

03/12/18

(Opinion) Healthy soil is the foundation of our nation, the production engine of American agriculture. With so many economic and environmental benefits at stake, now is the time for bold USDA leadership and courageous advocacy for soil health and regenerative agriculture.

My San Antonio: USDA designates 61 Arkansas counties as disaster areas

03/14/18

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 61 drought-stricken Arkansas counties as disaster areas, making farmers and ranchers in the counties eligible for natural disaster assistance.

Miami Herald: \$1.4 billion Everglades reservoir clears key hurdle. Is it enough to save the Glades?

By Jenny Staletovich

03/08/18

South Florida water managers signed off on a \$1.4 billion reservoir, approving one of the costliest projects yet in the decades-long effort to stop coastal pollution and send clean water to the Everglades' ailing marshes.

No-Till Farmer: Soil Health's Role in Mitigating Natural Disaster Effects

By Mark McNeely

03/09/18

FEMA and the NRCS believe that while we cannot prevent natural disasters, we do have the power to prepare for and potentially reduce their impacts through advanced planning. But beyond farmers, it will take everyone's participation to make a difference. Soil health management principles can apply in nearly all human-managed landscapes when properly adapted.

The Tribune-Review: Less mowing helps bees, study says

03/13/18

The study found that yards mowed every two weeks supported the highest number of bees by allowing those plants to bloom. “Given the pervasiveness of lawns coupled with habitat loss, our findings provide immediate solutions for individual households to contribute to urban conservation.”

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICIALS UNITE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

On National Ag Day, conservation leaders from across the nation assembled on Capitol Hill alongside NACD to advocate for locally-led conservation.

The 2018 Fly-In brought together 150 conservation district officials representing 27 states, who met with their representatives to communicate the value of conservation program funding.



At the morning's breakfast, NACD members heard from House Agriculture Committee Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry Chairman Representative

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New Conservation Planning Boot Camp prerequisites announced

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) hosts an intensive, three-week training course in Lincoln, Neb., called Conservation Planning Boot Camp (CPBC). CPBC provides conservation district employees the opportunity to be trained in conservation planning policy, procedures and guidelines alongside NRCS field staff. This week, NACD updated our CPBC webpage to reflect the updated mandatory and suggested prerequisites. To view these criteria, [click here](#), and view the section entitled "What is required of CPBC Training participants?"

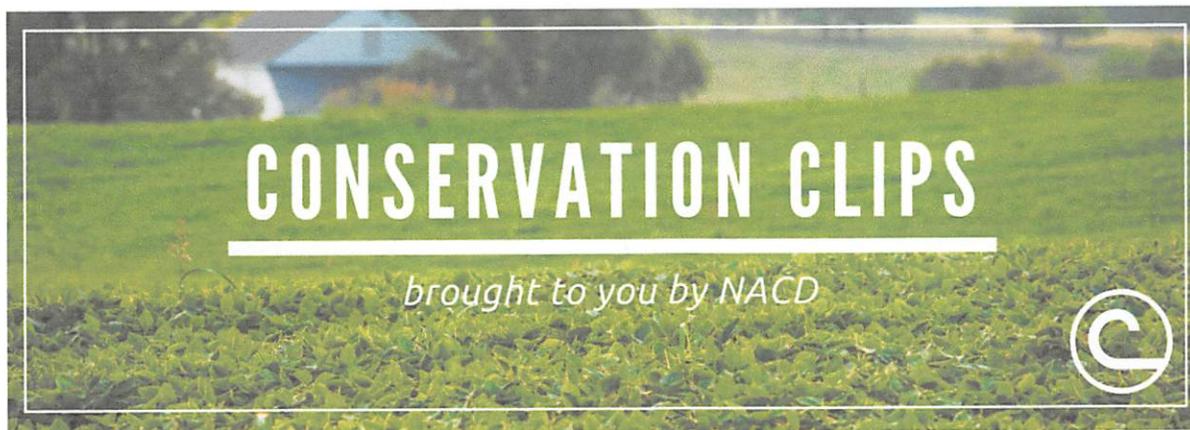
Save the date: 2018 CTIC tour

The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) will host its 11th annual Conservation in Action Tour July 10 – 11 in Annapolis, Md. The tour will give

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Conservation Clips are a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your NACD Communications Team.

NACD Blog: NACD Soil Health Champions Network Reaches 200 Members

By Beth Mason
03/16/18

This month, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Soil Health Champions Network surpassed 200 members across the United States and is still in the process of confirming more members every day.

NACD Blog: Conservation Districts Key in the Agricultural Sustainability Conversation

By Laura Demmel
03/19/18

From the farm level to the retailer, companies and organizations are assessing how to best measure the sustainability of food and agricultural products produced at every point in the supply chain. Conservation districts have the opportunity to enter into the conversation on the farm and ranch level.

The Washington Post: House spending bill would increase funding for national parks and wildfire suppression

By Darryl Fears and Dino Grandoni

03/22/18

The spending bill passed by the House of Representatives on Thursday would increase funding the National Park Service needs to address its nearly \$12 billion maintenance and repair backlog. In addition to more funding for the Park Service, the bill would provide new funding to the U.S. Forest Service and Interior Department to fight wildfires.

Agri-Pulse: Conaway ready to move farm bill without Democrats

By Philip Brasher

03/22/18

House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway said he is “going forward” with moving a new farm bill next month despite the refusal of Democrats to negotiate over provisions expanding work requirements and reworking eligibility rules for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

AL.com: Feral hogs are all over Alabama. How do we get rid of them?

03/18/18

Hogs are present in all 67 counties in Alabama. Adult wild hogs eat 3 to 5 percent of their body weight daily, so, 100 hogs can eat 600 pounds of food daily or 110 tons each year.

The Washington Post: Wyoming considers grizzly hunt after Trump team took bear off endangered list

By Dino Grandoni

03/20/18

In the wake of a Trump administration decision last summer to remove the bear from the endangered species list, Wyoming is considering allowing hunters to kill up to two dozen Yellowstone-area bears.

AZ Central: Department of Agriculture names 12 Arizona counties as natural disaster areas

03/18/18

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the re-designation of 12 Arizona counties as primary natural disaster areas due to losses and damages caused by recent drought.

The Washington Post: Taming the Mighty Mississippi

By Todd C. Frankel

03/14/18

The Mississippi runs the spine of America, touching 10 states and draining waters from 21 more, a vast waterway with a rich mythology, a sometimes powerful beauty and an always alarming propensity to flood. Now, with President Trump's push for a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan, there are hopes of billions to fix up the Mississippi.

U.S. News and World Report: Forecasters Warn of Fires, Crop Damage Across US High Plains

By Susan Montoya Bryan

03/16/18

The amount of moisture received across the United States' southern high plains since October has been ridiculously low, and forecasters warned that the intensifying drought has resulted in critical fire danger and some winter wheat crops being reduced to stubble across several states.

Phys.Org: Soil fungi may help determine the resilience of forests to environmental change

By Jennifer McNulty

03/16/18

A major new study reveals that soil fungi could play a significant role in the ability of forests to adapt to environmental change.

WZZM 13: Invasive species threatens native Michigan trees

By Nina DeSarro

03/16/18

Michigan has more than 170 million hemlock trees. They can live for more than 300 years and are found across the state. But because of an invasive species that was introduced to the U.S. more than 60 years ago, Michigan's Hemlocks are at risk.

Port Clinton News Herald: Lawmakers unveil \$500M plan for Lake Erie

By Jon Stinchcomb

03/20/18

State Sen. Randy Gardner, R-Bowling Green, and State Rep. Steve Arndt, R-Port Clinton, proposed a plan that would increase funding for efforts to reduce harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie by up to \$500 million over five years.

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