



National Association of Conservation Districts

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www.nacdnet.org



National Association of
Conservation Districts

History

It all started with the Dust Bowl



1933: Soil Erosion Service (later NRCS) is created and housed within the Interior Department

1935: Soil Conservation Act passed; Soil Erosion Service moved to USDA

1936: Congress enacts Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act authorizing USDA to fund conservation

1937: First conservation district created in North Carolina

1937: Model conservation district law developed for state consideration; 22 states pass enabling legislation the same year



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Structure

NACD is a grassroots organization, member-driven by local conservation district boards and governed through a system of graduated representation.

2,900+ Conservation Districts

through

**58 State and Territory
Associations**

select

**116 NACD Board of
Directors Members and
Alternates**



The NACD Board of Directors sets policy and elects region chairs (one per region), the NACD executive board and officers, who execute policy and manage the association.



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Mission

- Established July 25, 1946, NACD serves as the unified, national voice for the nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the United States
- NACD's member-driven board of directors selects conservation policy priorities, which are used to develop and review environmental and natural resources legislation
- NACD works to secure adequate federal funding for natural resources conservation programs

Mission

To promote responsible management and conservation of natural resources on all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships.



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Structure



President Michael Crowder
West Richland, Washington



**First Vice President
Kim LaFleur**
Plympton, Massachusetts



**Second Vice President
Ian Cunningham**
Pipestone, Minnesota



**Secretary-Treasurer Gary
Blair**
Starkville, Miss.



**Immediate Past President
Tim Palmer**
Truro, Iowa



**Chief Executive Officer
Jeremy Peters**
Washington, D.C.



What We Do

- Provide **one voice** for conservation
- **Advocate** for programs, policy and funding for conservation on Capitol Hill and throughout the country
- **Communicate** through publications, blogs and social media
- Provide **direct services** to districts
- **Develop conservation leaders**



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Advocate

NACD advocates for the interests of the nation's nearly 3,000 conservation districts and their state/territory associations on Capitol Hill year-round.

- NACD's government affairs team engages our membership each spring during **NACD's annual fly-in**
- Serves as an opportunity for conservation districts to **advocate** for policies that benefit them directly and **educate** lawmakers on the work districts do





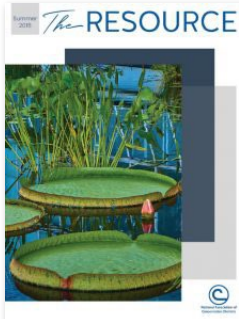
Publications

National Association of Conservation Districts



eResource

Weekly collaborative newsletter delivered every Tuesday; **18,000+ subscribers**



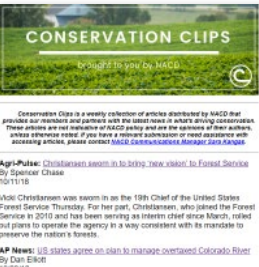
The Resource

Electronic and print; quarterly publication delivered electronically and one printed version to 3,000+ districts



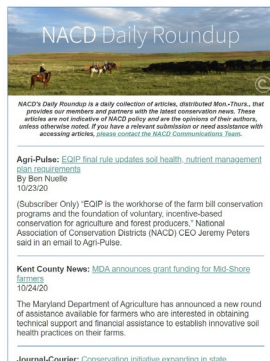
Forestry Notes

Monthly publication with **16,000+ subscribers**



Conservation Clips

Weekly conservation news round-up distributed on Friday morning with **15,800+ subscribers**



Daily Roundup

Daily (Monday-Thursday) conservation news round-up distributed to **100+ subscribers**





National Association of
Conservation Districts



Download the
NACD APP

★ *NACD APP* enables users to keep up with all things NACD. From press releases and blogs to important legislative actions, the app provides users with the ability to access resources from the website on the go. Be sure to enable push notifications for real time updates!

 Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
 **Google Play**





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Direct Services

NACD hosts a **national directory**, produces **technical reports and guides** for districts to utilize, runs a number of **programs** that provide education, resources and networking opportunities

To name just a few, **NACD** offers:

- Webinars
- Special Projects like the Soil Health Case Studies
- The Soil Health Champions Network
- Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative
- Conservation Planning Boot Camp
- Resource Policy Groups
- Stewardship and Education Materials



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Soil Health Champions

Who are soil health champions?

- A network of over 300 farmers, ranchers and forestland owners from across the nation who practice and promote the use of soil health management
- Likeminded soil health advocates who can dialogue with each other as they work to build better soil health practices

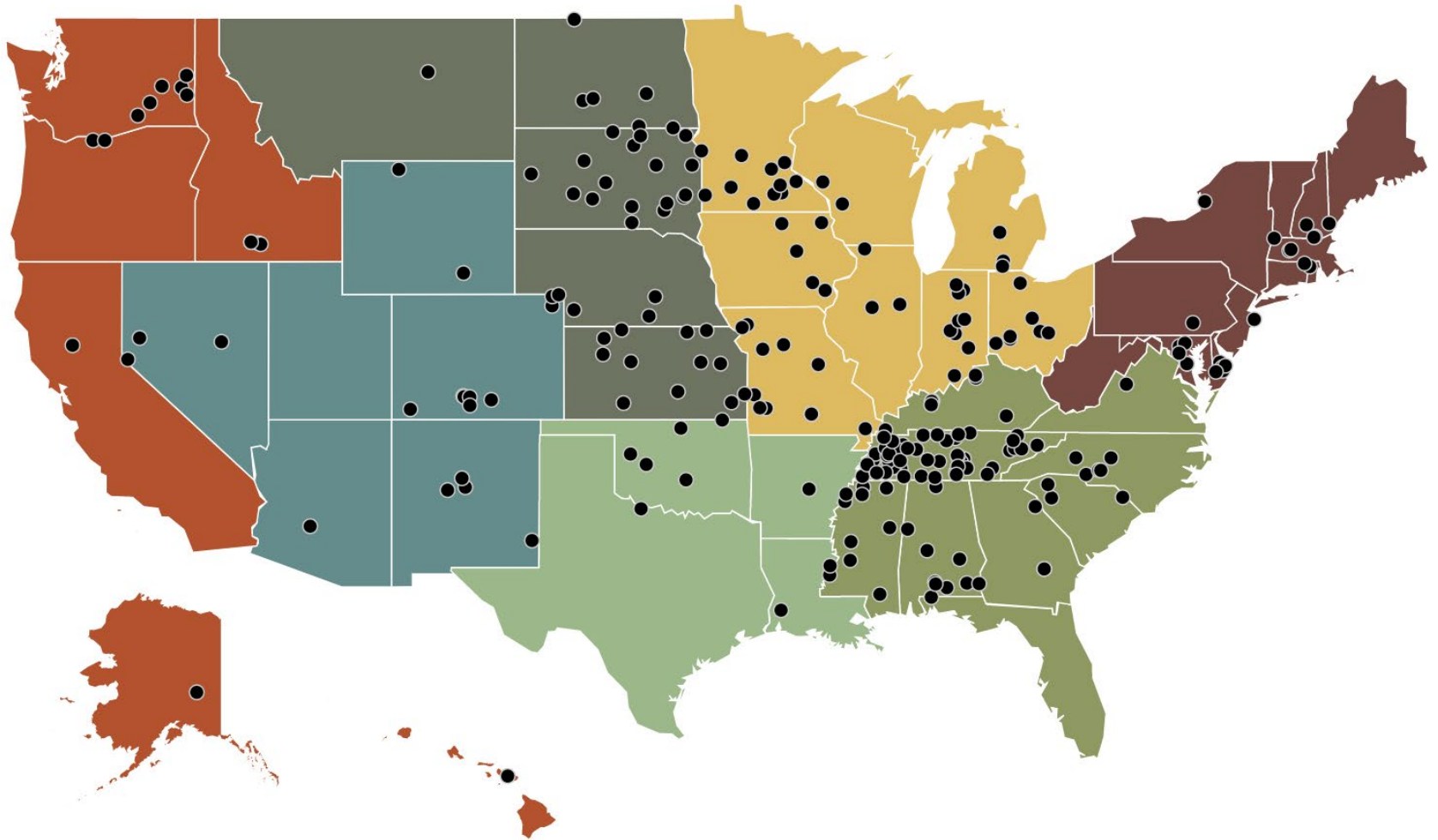
What role does NACD play?

- Provides exclusive access to offers, technologies and information specific to soil health and conservation, including a quarterly bulletin, engage Champions in research, outreach opportunities



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Soil Health Champions





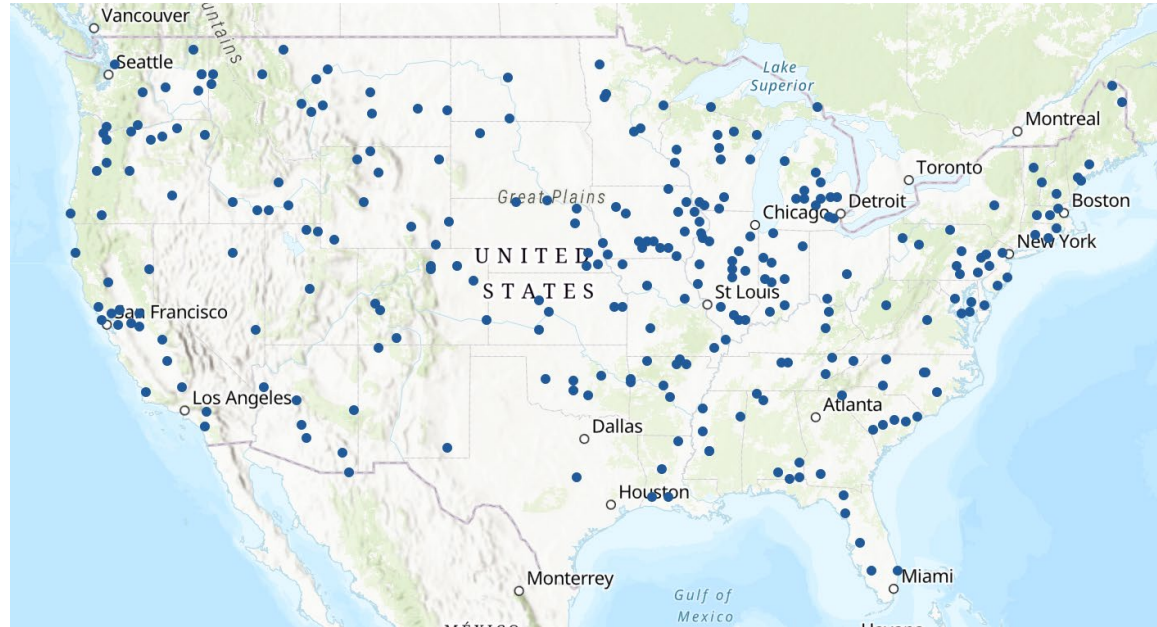
Technical Assistance Grants

- In 2018, 210 positions placed in conservation districts (180 full-time equivalents)
- In 2019, NACD and NRCS put nearly **\$10 million** in the hands of conservation districts, approving funding for positions in 47 states and two territories
- In 2020, NACD and NRCS awarded **\$15 million** to nearly 400 conservation districts in 36 states and territories
- In 2021, NACD and NRCS awarded **\$13 million** to over 400 conservation districts in 48 states and territories.
- To date, NACD and NRCS have funded TA grants in all 50 states and three U.S. territories



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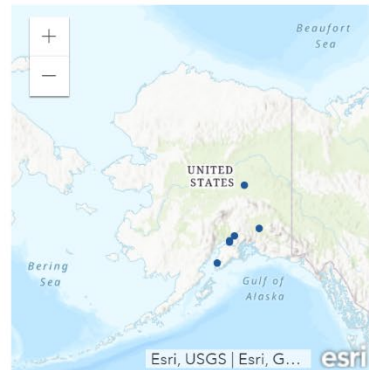
Technical Assistance Grants



GUAM



ALASKA



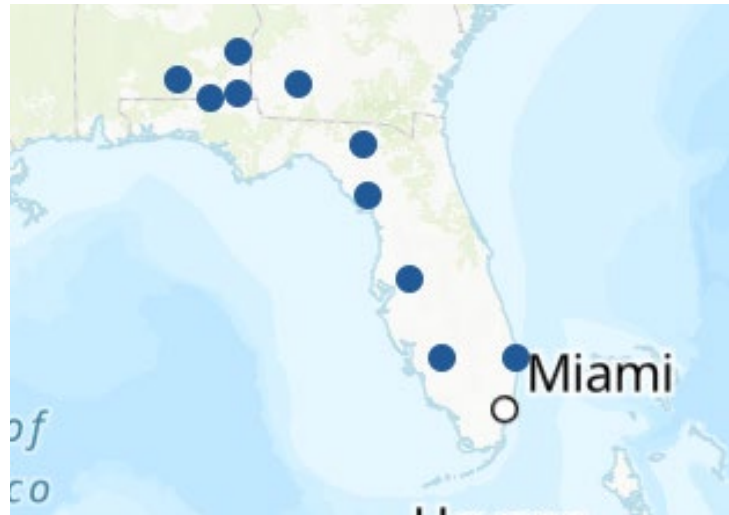
HAWAII





National Association of Conservation Districts

Technical Assistance Grants



Districts At Work

IN SOUTH FLORIDA, A HIGH-TECH SOLUTION HELPS THE HENDRY SWCD WITH LOW-LYING CHALLENGES



In South Florida, just southwest of Lake Okeechobee and north of the Big Cypress National Preserve, the topography of the land is flat and the elevation is low. Very low. LaBelle, FLA, home of the Hendry Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), rises just 13 feet above sea level. This "presents considerable challenges during the summer rainy season," says Noreen Berden, Hendry SWCD's program manager.

"Many of the pastures we work with are underwater during these months, and access is limited, except for elevated farm roads and dikes," she explains. Access is also limited by heavy vegetation, a lack of roads, and the landscape's many canals, creeks and wetlands.

This limited access is an issue for the Hendry SWCD. During wet months, district activities like working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to inventory on-site conditions and natural resource concerns for conservation planning can be difficult, time-consuming and not without risk to staff venturing into flooded fields. To address this low-lying challenge,

the Hendry SWCD has implemented a high-tech solution. In 2019, the district purchased an Unmanned Aircraft System: a drone to use in Hendry and Glades Counties. With the help of an NACD Technical Assistance Grant, the district also hired a licensed and experienced pilot with local agricultural knowledge to operate the drone.

The drone's first flight was in January 2020, and already it has exceeded expectations. With the drone, staff can take high-resolution photos from the air of hard-to-reach places, making the time staff spend in the field safer and more efficient.

It is proving helpful for the control of invasive species. As rancher Dwayne House, owner of Goodno Ranch in Glades and Hendry counties shares, the drone "allowed me to check my contractor's work on aerial spraying of Brazilian pepper tree and identify targets for re-treatment."



Districts At Work



The Hendry SWCD has also continued to operate the drone during the COVID-19 response. "Utilization of the drone to collect information in the field has allowed most other field office employees to continue to work from home, avoiding potential exposure" to the virus, explains Bob Beck, Hendry SWCD's drone program coordinator.

The drone does have some limitations. Its flight time is limited by its battery capacity: about 15 minutes. Strong winds, rain and fog also limit the drone's use. Getting the drone in the air took planning and perseverance. Before purchase, the drone's camera specifications "had

to be carefully analyzed to assure that accuracy and photo clarity were adequate to meet NRCS standards and specifications," explains Beck, a former NRCS district conservationist. The Hendry SWCD had to obtain approval by the NRCS state conservationist in Florida to operate the drone, and landowners are required to sign property release forms before the drone can be flown over their land. For conservation districts interested in getting started with a drone, Beck also underscores the importance of working with a licensed drone pilot and obtaining insurance to cover liability and drone damage or loss.

The results are worth the effort, though. Agricultural producers in the community see the Hendry SWCD and NRCS working together, Beck comments, "to employ the latest technologies to benefit them."

TA Grant Projects happening in Florida



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Urban Grants

- Since 2016, **\$5.6 million to 122 conservation districts across 35 states.**





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Urban Grants

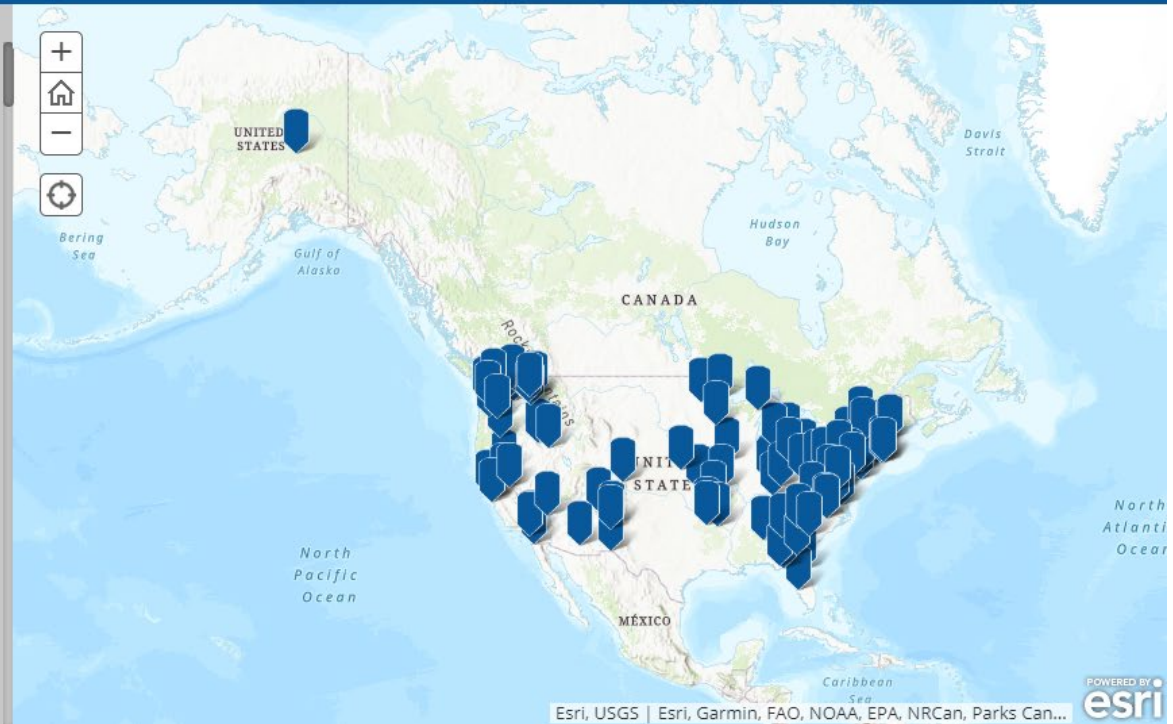
NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants

NACD Urban Grants

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are proud partners in support of the Urban Agriculture Conservation (UAC) Grant Initiative.



AL - Jefferson County Conservation District	AK - Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District	AZ - Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation...
AR - Crawford County Conservation District	AR - Perry County Conservation District	AR - Sebastian County Conservation District
CA - Alameda County Resource Conservation...	CA - Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	CA - Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District





National Association of Conservation Districts

Urban Grants



FL - Duval Soil and Water Conservation District



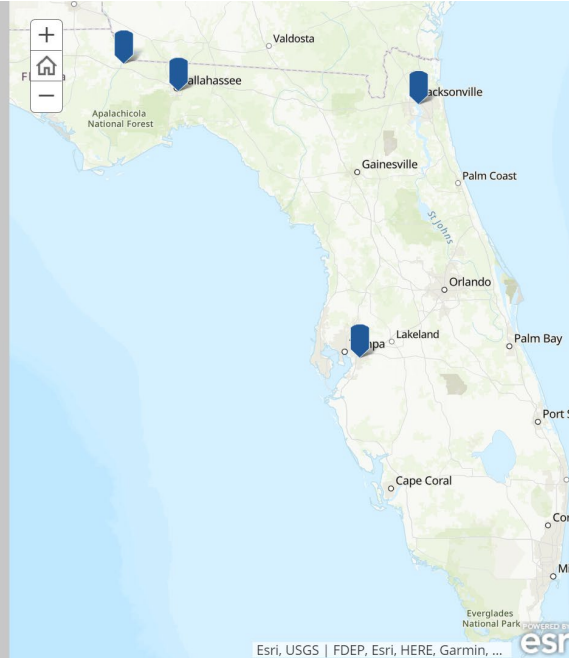
FL - Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District



FL - Leon Soil and Water Conservation District



GA - Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District



Urban Grant Projects happening in Florida



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Grants

- Submit an Urban & Community Resource Policy Group webinar proposal for FY 2022
- Topics can include:
 - soil health
 - water quantity/quality
 - Pollinators
 - Forestry
 - community-focused initiatives
 - outreach to underrepresented clients in conservation.

NACD Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation Webinars

Urban Canopy Cover

REGISTRATION IS FREE!

PRESENTERS

Jared Bartley
Senior Program Manager for Education and Watersheds, Cuyahoga SWCD

Cori Dolan
Program Manager for the Urban & Community Forestry, Invasive Plants and Forest Health programs, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

Ian Leahy
Vice President of Urban Forestry, American Forests

WHAT

Tree canopy cover within urban environments can provide several benefits for communities, not limited to buffering high temperatures, reducing air pollution, and increasing biodiversity while providing wildlife habitat and increasing property values.

In the August NACD urban and community conservation webinar, learn from three organizations who are working to enhance urban tree canopies at the county, state and national level.

WHEN

Thursday, August 19, 2021 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Learn more and register at nacdnet.org/webinars

Logos at the bottom include: Scotts Miracle-Gro, National Association of Conservation Districts, Cuyahoga SOIL & WATER, and ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT.



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Next Generation Leadership Institute

National Conservation Foundation



Next Generation Leadership Institute

- The Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI) aims to take conservation leaders **to the next level** by training individuals **to rise to the challenge** of understanding and directing national, collaborative efforts in locally-led conservation.

**Currently
accepting
nominations
for the 2022
Cohort!**





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Stewardship & Education

NACD members can access **stewardship & education materials**
free of charge

“Healthy Soil, Healthy Life”
Apr 24 – May 1, 2022



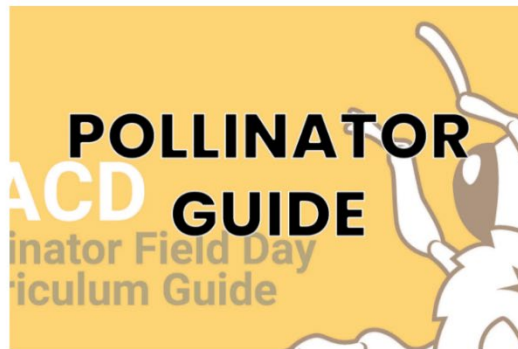
Free materials and print on demand services available at an affordable price!



National Association of
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NACD Conservation Education Hub

CONSERVATION EDUCATION HUB





National Association of
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NACD Marketplace

1 1234567890

Price:

\$

0

\$

209.99

Categories:



School Supplies (4)



Free Educational Materials (4)



Accessories (7)



Apparel (15)



Awards (36)

Sub-Categories:

Men's Apparel (7)

Women's Apparel (5)

Service Pins (11)

Ribbons (5)

Plaques (4)

Accessories



Cabela's Ripcord Duffel Bag

\$24.99 [Details](#)



Cabela's Washed Twill Cap

\$11.99 [Details](#)



Leatherman Sidekick Multi-tool

\$59.99 [Details](#)



Name Badge with Magnetic Back

\$7.50 [Details](#)



Smartknife Folding Knife

\$14.99 [Details](#)



Insulated Stainless Steel Tumbler

\$19.99 [Details](#)



Cabela's Polar Cap Cooler

\$209.99 [Details](#)

Apparel



NOW ON SALE!
Cabela's Men's Cotton-Piqué Polo

\$17.99 [Details](#)



NEW! Women's Dri-Duck Contour Jacket

\$82.00 [Details](#)



We All Need Trees T-shirt

\$15.00 [Details](#)



\$23.00 [Details](#)



2018 Annual Meeting T-Shirt

\$15.00 [Details](#)





National Association of
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National Conservation Planning Partnership



NACD is a member of the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA); National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA); and the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NARC&DC) to **promote and improve conservation planning.**



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD's Annual Meeting



**The 2022 NACD Annual Meeting
will be held next Feb. 12-16, 2022
in Orlando, Florida.**



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD's Summer Meeting



The 2022 NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour is scheduled to be held next July 16-20, 2022 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



National Association of
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Southeast Region Meeting



The 2022 Southeast Region Meeting will be held July 17-19, 2022 in San Juan, Puerto Rico jointly with NACD's 2022 Summer Meeting.



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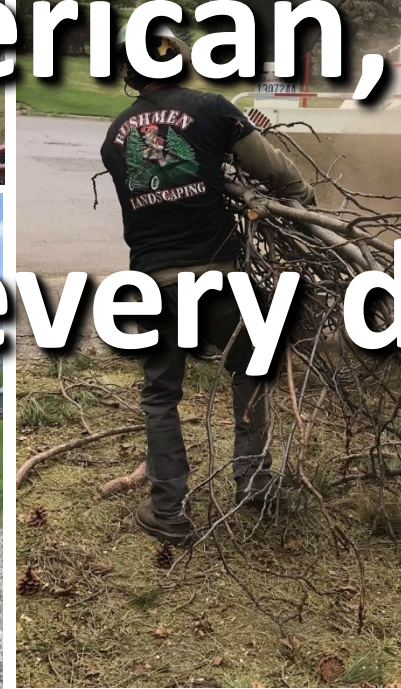
Membership Update

Number of Florida districts:	58
Districts that have paid dues in FY21:	28
Total dues paid to-date (Aug. 31, 2021) in FY21:	\$10,311
Total dues paid by Aug. 31, 2020:	\$11,487
Total dues paid in FY20:	\$11,537



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Learn more at www.nacdnet.org
and on social media @NACDconserve



Every acre,
every American,
every day.