



National Association of
Conservation Districts



National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Regional Meeting & Conference

Resilient Working Lands

Conservation Districts in a Changing Era

Portsmouth, NH, October 31 through November 3, 2021

At the Portsmouth Sheraton Harborside Hotel

A mask will be provided to each participant, and we ask that you please wear a mask indoors and follow social distancing recommendations.

Sunday, October 31st

12:00 PM Local Tour, hosted by the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees

Spend a late fall afternoon enjoying the harvest festival at Coppal House Farm in Lee, NH followed by a tour and wine tasting at the nearby Flag Hill Winery. Coppal House Farm will give a short talk about their farm and conservation practices including no-till agriculture. A corn maze and other activities will be available. Flag Hill Winery will give a presentation about their work with heritage grains and local fruits for use in the production of their wine and spirits. The visit will include a wine tasting session. This tour is the annual fundraiser for NACDE operations.

Monday, November 1st

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM **Registration**

7:00 AM **Breakfast**

8:00 AM **Welcome & Partner Updates:**

- National Association of Conservation Districts, Denise Savageau
- NACD Northeast Region Representative, Annica McGuirk
- New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, Dick Lutz
- NH Congresswoman Kuster

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency, New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, Resource Conservation & Development Council, National Wild Turkey Foundation, National Association of Conservation District Employees - Northeast Region

8:45 AM **Britt Lungren**, Stonyfield Organic

Organic farming, soil health, Climate Change and agricultural business in the Northeast

9:15 AM **Tom Casten**, Director of Economic Analysis for the International Biochar Initiative and Chair of Myno Carbon Corp.

Forestry's Role in Profitable Carbon Drawdown to Reduce Global Warming

10:00 AM Sea Level Rise and Climate Change's Effects on Coastal Communities

Kirsten Howard, CFM · Resilience Program Coordinator at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program

10:45 AM Networking and exhibits

11:15 AM **Breakout Sessions:**

- Eastern Coyotes: Wise stewardship of even the Wiley
Chris Schadler, NH and VT Representative for Project Coyote, co-founder of the NH Wildlife Coalition
- Soil Health Monitoring Tools and Technology
Leah Puro, OpenTEAM Lead for North East Healthy Soils Initiative and Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment Research Coordinator
- District Equipment Rentals Roundtable Discussion
- Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association Annual Meeting

12:30 PM **Lunch**

Kim LaFleur, First Vice President, National Association of Conservation Districts
NACD Updates

1:00 PM **Terry Cosby**, Chief, USDA NRCS, *NRCS Updates, News and Direction*

1:30 PM **Breakout Sessions:**

- “Making Hay While the Sun Shines: Sharing Northeast Success Stories for Protecting Drinking Water”
Kira Jacobs, Source Water Protection Coordinator, **EPA, Region I**
- Urban Forestry or Saving the Eastern Brook Trout: Wood in Streams
- Wildfire Management in the Northeast
Erin Lane, **USDA - US Forest Service**,
Northeast Climate Hub,
North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange
- RC&D Training Workshop with CT RC&D

2:45 PM Networking and exhibits

3:15 PM **Breakout Sessions:**

- Biochar Accessibility, Application & NRCS Soil Amendment Practices
Dr. Brandon Smith,
- The Growing Ecosystem Services Economy - A panel discussion
Dorn Cox, Research Director, Wolfe’s Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment
- Low Impact Landscaping, Lawn & Garden Care

4:30 PM **Networking, Exhibits and cocktail hour**

5:30 PM **Banquet dinner and awards**

6:00 PM **Dr. Tim Griffin**, Tufts University, Chair of Friedman School of Agriculture, Food and the Environment

New England Agriculture and the stewardship of environmental services to help create a resilient economy and adapt and mitigate disruptions such as the pandemic and a changing climate.

Breakfast, lunch and banquet dinner provided.

Tuesday, November 2nd

7:00 AM **Breakfast**

7:30 - 9:30 NACD Northeast Region Business Meeting, **Denise Savageau, Chair**

8:30 - 10:30 New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts Business Meeting, **Dick Lutz, President**

8:30 - 10:00 Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees Business Meeting, **Jeff Parker, President**

10:00 Networking & Exhibits

10:30 AM **Rose Arruda**, Coordinator of Urban Agriculture, Massachusetts Department of Agriculture

Eight Years of Urban Agriculture: Success and Challenges

11:15 AM **Breakout Sessions:**

- Urban Agriculture, Diving Deeper
Rose Arruda
- Conservation Practices for the Birds
Dr. Pam Hunt, NH Audubon Society
- Pollinator Conservation and Integrated Pest Management Projects
Jeremy Deslisle, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Tracy

Degnan, Rockingham County Conservation District

12:15 PM **Lunch & local conservation and agriculture tours:**

Tour A: Soil Health and Local Agriculture

It's hard to talk about local food production without also talking about soil health and economics. This tour will offer insights into a few of New Hampshire's local food partnerships and innovative conservation practices. First, visit the local brewery, hops yard and beer gardens at Throwback Brewery for lunch, and hear from the Northeast Grainshed Alliance about innovative local food economies, and exciting partnerships leading to revitalization and resilience. There will be a tour of the brewery and optional opportunity to try their beer (please bring cash). Then, visit Heron Pond Farm to see and discuss conservation practices in action including reduced tillage, experimental cover crops, integrated pest management, and irrigation. Heron Pond Farm is on the forefront of local food partnerships and conservation practices in New Hampshire. This tour will include about 75 minutes total time on the bus, and some walking on the farm.

Tour B: Coastal Resilience

Conservation work on the coastline is unique and challenging. Sea level rise, development, invasive species, and water quality issues must be addressed to protect coastal resources. First, visit Odiorne Point State Park for a boxed lunch, presentation and walking tour of a

spectacular coastline preservation area that hosts unique and sensitive habitats and learn about the local District's efforts to restore native species. Then, head to Wagon Hill, a historic farm that is now town conservation land adjacent to Great Bay estuary and the tidal Oyster River, to learn about a few exciting projects. First, the Living Shoreline project- an innovative restoration effort to reduce erosion, replace salt marsh habitat, and accommodate salt marsh migration resulting from sea-level rise. There will be presentations on creating habitat for the threatened New England cottontail, as well as other early successional species and native pollinators. This tour will include about 50 minutes total time on the bus, and walking a total of 1.5 miles on paths and varied terrain.

Breakfast and lunch provided, dinner on your own.

Wednesday, November 3

7:00 Breakfast

8:00-9:30 Workshop: Strengthening your Conservation District Community

Ian Hanley, New Hampshire State Conservation Committee Executive Director

9:30 - 10:00 Coffee break, networking, check out of hotel rooms

10:00 - 11:30 Continued: Strengthening your Conservation District Community

Moderated by **Denise Savageau, NACD Northeast Region Chair**

Lunch on your own. Meeting adjourned.