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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

# The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

January 22, 2014

## “Dig Deeper” Education Materials Available!



NACD's newest education materials for “Dig Deeper - Mysteries in the soil” are available for order online! Products include student booklets, bookmarks, activity sheets/placemats, and an outstanding poster with art work from National Geographic artist Ned M. Seidler.

Order \$150 or more by March 15 and receive a 10% discount on the “Dig Deeper” printed materials. Customers must enter code **soil2014** during the checkout process to receive the discount. Visit the [NACD Marketplace](#) to place your order.

Visit the “Dig Deeper” [education page](#) for a PDF copy of the educators guide filled with grade level correlated science standards, vocabulary words, activities, literature connections, worksheets and resources. Additional student worksheets are available along with a viewable sample product section of the page. View the community outreach section for program blanks, program inserts and litanies. If items are marked “available soon,” they should be delivered by the printer within a week.

Don't forget, NACD's Soil and Water Stewardship week is April 27 to May 4, 2014!

## 2014 NACD Annual Meeting Registration Update

**Pre-registration for the NACD Annual Meeting is now closed. Individuals who have not yet registered, but would like to do so, may register on site. Please do not mail or fax registration forms after January 22.**

For details and pricing, you can still visit the NACD Annual Meeting [registration page](#).

For more information about this year's Annual Meeting, including speakers, Disney Discounts, tours, and breakout sessions, [click here](#).

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Save the Date: 2014 NACD Events

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### Save the Date: 2014 NACD Events

The **NACD Spring Fly-In** will be held on March 25-26 in Washington, D.C. The 2014 Fly-In will feature a reception the evening of the 25th.

The **NACD Summer Board Meeting** will be held in Indianapolis, IN. The NACD Board of Directors will meet July 19-20, with panel discussions and tours taking place July 21-22. The meeting will be held in conjunction with partners NRCS and EPA and will be hosted by Dow AgroSciences. The meeting will take place at the Indianapolis Marriot Downtown. Stay tuned for more information!

### NACD Events Calendar

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

- **February 2-5, 2014** NACD Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA
- **March 24-26, 2014** NACD Spring Fly-In, Washington, DC



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## Congressional Update

While Congress is on recess this week, it is still possible we might see the release of the Farm Bill conference report by Friday. Congress returns to work on Monday, and pending the release of the Farm Bill report, they could hold a vote starting that day.

NACD remains optimistic that an agreement will be reached on the Farm Bill in the next few weeks; however, there are still several titles that could prevent its passage.

Watch NACD's email alerts and website for Farm Bill updates as the conference moves forward.

## NACD Visits with Maryland State Legislature



Last Thursday, NACD First Vice President Lee McDaniel joined the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) at the Maryland State Capitol in Annapolis.

MASCD's annual visit with state legislators included an issues briefing, luncheon with state senators and delegates, and a briefing by NRCS on the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Report on the Chesapeake Bay.

The active participation of legislators and conservation district representatives demonstrates the event's success and the close relationship between the state association and the legislature.

*Pictured (from left to right): Buddy Hance, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture; Lynne Hoot, Executive Director of MASCD; Lee McDaniel, NACD First Vice President; and Hans Schmidt, President of MASCD.*

## Conservation Funding Opportunities

Scotts Miracle-Gro is providing GRO1000 Grassroots Grants to help develop gardens and green spaces in communities and neighborhoods across the U.S. Grants of up to \$1,500 will be awarded to local communities. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and government agencies. For more information and to apply online, [click here](#). Applications are due February 17.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is administering the Sustain

Our Great Lakes Program, dedicated to sustaining, restoring, and protecting fish, wildlife, and habitat in the Great Lakes basin. The Program will award grants from \$25,000-\$1,500,000 for on-the-ground habitat restoration and enhancement in two categories: (1) Habitat Restoration and (2) Delisting of Beneficial Use Impairments within the Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations; state, tribal and local governments; and educational institutions. Online pre-proposals must be submitted by February 18, and invited full proposals will be due on April 28. For more information, [click here](#).

## Climate Action Plan Hearing

Last week, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing aimed to discuss environmental policy and President Obama's Climate Action Plan.

Four of President Obama's top climate change officials testified at the hearing, hoping to build momentum behind the President's use of federal agencies to cut greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for future climate change. The panel consisted of Gina McCarthy, Administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Dan Ashe, Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Nancy Sutley, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Dan Tangherlini, Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration.

Republicans voiced opposition to the President's plan, worried that new emission standards will hurt American jobs and raise the price of energy. Democrats outlined the impacts their states are facing due to a changing climate, including oceanic acidity levels, carbon pollution to waterways and fisheries, droughts, and wildfires.

NACD is continuing to track emerging issues and policies related to climate change.

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