

## Welcome to North Carolina!

On behalf of the entire North Carolina Conservation Partnership, welcome to the 2016 SE NACD regional meeting! It is our honor to host you for the next few days. We hope your stay in Cherokee and participation in the meeting meets all of your expectations. Our goal is to make your stay both enjoyable and educational. If at any time we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to stop by the registration desk or reach out to someone from the North Carolina partnership who has a red "North Carolina" ribbon attached to the bottom of their name tag.

We have a great meeting planned with excellent concurrent sessions, motivational speakers, and informative field trips as well as a number of fun activities to perk your enthusiasm and enjoyment. Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort is an ideal venue for this meeting as it offers a relaxed atmosphere, wonderful meeting facilities, and cultural activities that you will enjoy.

The theme for this 2016 meeting is **"Visit The Past...Imagine The Future."** As the home of Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett and the first conservation district in the nation, North Carolina has a rich heritage in soil and water conservation and during the welcome reception you will enjoy some of the relics from the early days of the modern conservation movement. The Cherokee Indians also have a storied past, and opportunities to learn about their heritage and culture will be provided throughout the conference. It is always enjoyable to visit and learn from the past but we must have a vision for the future.

During this meeting ask yourself: "What is my vision for my local soil and water conservation district, for my state association, the southeast region, and the national organization?" The program is designed to stimulate your thoughts, challenge you to think outside the box, and offer ideas that you can take home to help build the capacity of the conservation program in your area.

We know attendees at this year's meeting are exceptionally passionate about soil and water conservation. Let's learn from each other and together we can do even more great things for the future of soil and water conservation. Let's make this one of our best meetings yet!



(left to right: Ben Knox, NCASWCD President; Franklin Williams, NC NACD Board Member; Jeff Harris, NC NACD Alt. Board Member)

## Guest Speakers

### Jones Loflin



Jones Loflin has made it his life's work to deliver powerful ideas and practical solutions to individuals around the world so they can achieve more of what is most important to them. His books are described as "illuminating" and his presentations as "unforgettable."

In his 20 years as a speaker and trainer he has helped countless people regain confidence in their ability to achieve greater success in work and life. Jones' "3P Approach" of **Powerful Ideas** connected to **Practical Solutions** delivered with a **Personal Approach** has attracted the attention of organizations around the world. His client list includes Federal Express, Wal-Mart, Choice Hotels, Volkswagen, Bridgestone, Saudi Aramco and State Farm as well as the United States Navy and Air Force.

Prior to becoming an internationally-recognized speaker, Jones was an educator. Jones holds a BS and M.Ed. from North Carolina State University and is currently pursuing his MBA. He is a member of the National Speaker's Association as well as the Association for Training Development.

Jones believes the key to success is being passionate about certain things in life, including family, spiritual beliefs, career and relationships. He is active in his community and because of his commitment to improving the lives of others, Jones has been presented the Distinguished Service Award by the Charlotte Jaycees. When not working with some amazing individuals and organizations seeking better results, Jones resides in North Carolina with his wonderful wife, Lisa, and their two daughters.

### Steve Troxler



N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler was raised in the Guilford County community of Browns Summit and has spent his entire career in agriculture as founder, owner and operator of Troxler Farms. Over the years, the family-owned farm has produced tobacco, wheat, vegetables and soybeans.

Since taking office in 2005, Troxler has focused on developing new markets for N.C. farm products, preserving working farms and protecting the state's food supply.

Troxler is a past president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He also is a former chairman of NASDA's Food Regulation and Nutrition

Committee and was honored with a 2015 NASDA award for his commitment to food safety. He served as president of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture in 2010-2011.

He also serves on the boards of the N.C. Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, the Rural Economic Development Center and the N.C. Biotechnology Center. He is a member of numerous organizations, including the N.C. Tobacco Research Commission and the Southern United States Trade Association.

Troxler was recognized with a 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from the N.C. State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and a Friend of the River Award from the Land of Sky Regional Council. His support of agritourism and several major tourism projects in the state earned him the 2014 Public Service Award from the N.C. Travel Industry Association. Other recent awards include the 2013 Forest Conservationist of the Year Award from the N.C. Wildlife Federation, the 2012 Meritorious Service Award from the N.C. Soybean Producers Association, the 2011 Elliot O. Grosvenor Food Safety Award from the Association of Food and Drug Officials, the Distinguished Service Award from the N.C. Agricultural Foundation, and a leadership award from the Western North Carolina Livestock Center and WNC Communities.

Troxler graduated from N.C. State University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in conservation, with a concentration in environmental studies. He and his wife, Sharon, have two grown sons, two daughters-in-law and five grandchildren. In his spare time, Troxler enjoys restoring antique farm equipment and playing with his dog, Kate, a Labrador/golden retriever mix.

**2016 NCASWCD Officers**

President – J. Ben Knox  
Rowan SWCD

First Vice President – Chris Hogan  
Orange SWCD

Second Vice President – Dietrich Kilpatrick  
Craven SWCD

Secretary – Nancy Carter  
Mecklenburg SWCD

Treasurer – Bruce Whitfield  
Person SWCD

Assistant Treasurer – Charles Hughes  
Lenoir SWCD

NACD Board Member – Franklin Williams  
Duplin SWCD

Alt. NACD Board Member – Jeff Harris  
Martin SWCD

Chaplain – Willis Overby  
Stokes SWCD

Asst. Chaplain – Marvin Cavanaugh  
Stokes SWCD

A special thank you to the following companies, groups and organizations for their support of the 2016 Southeast National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting:

United States Department of Agriculture -- Natural Resources Conservation Service

NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

NC Farm Bureau Federation

ASC Agri Supply

Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District

Cherokee Soil and Water Conservation District

Duplin Soil and Water Conservation District

**2016 Southeast Annual Meeting  
National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**July 31 – August 2, 2016  
Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort  
Cherokee, NC**

**SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2016**

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration	<i>Ball Room Pre-function</i>
1:00 – 3:00 PM	SE Region Board Meeting <i>Kevin Jeffries, Presiding</i>	<i>Hickory</i>
1:00-3:00 PM	NASCA Meeting <i>Mark Gilbert, SE Director, Presiding</i>	<i>Oak</i>
3:15-5:00 PM	Conservation Partnership Round Table <i>Kevin Jeffries, Facilitator</i>	<i>Ash/Beech</i>
6:30 – 8:30 PM	Welcome Reception and Social	<i>Event Center</i>

*Please join us for a casual evening of fellowship to mingle with meeting attendees! Enjoy a variety of hors d'oeuvres and beverages while you visit the "Got To Be NC" agriculture display provided by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. You can also explore the early days of the conservation movement at the Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett booth and visit with local Cherokee artisans to learn more about the culture of the local area.*

*And, if it is music you like, you will enjoy the toe-tapping sounds of Carolina "beach music" provided by Jeff Harris, North Carolina's NACD alternate board member. In his spare time, Jeff is an active member of The Association of Beach & Shag Club D.J.'s, where he enjoys playing classic beach music at public venues across the state. Beach music is one of North Carolina's popular music genres, and Jeff will have you shagging before the night is over!*

**MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016**

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM REGISTRATION OPEN *Ball Room Pre-function*

8:30 – 5:00 PM RESOURCE POLICY GROUP (RPG) MEETING *Ash/Beech*  
*Mike Beacom, Presiding*

8:30 AM GENERAL SESSION *Ballroom*  
*Franklin Williams, NC NACD Board Member, Presiding*

Invocation: Manly West, Immediate Past President, NCASWCD

Presentation of Colors: American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post 143, Cherokee, NC

National Anthem: Taran Swimmer, Miss Cherokee 2016

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Franklin Williams

Welcome: Patrick Lambert, Chief, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Opening Remarks: Steve Troxler, Commissioner, NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Parade of States

Keynote Address: *“The Future Starts Today”*  
Jones Loflin, HOPE, Inc.

10:00 – 10:30AM BREAK

10:30 – 11:30 AM GENERAL SESSION (con’t)  
*Jeff Harris, Alternate NC NACD Board Member, Presiding*

NACD Update: Dick Went, Second Vice President, NACD

Keynote Address: *“How Foundations Can Build SWCD Capacity”*

Overview: Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director

Success Story: Don Butler, Board Member

Panel Discussion: Jimmy Gentry, Foundation President;  
Manly Wilder, Board Member; Don Butler, Board Member

*Panel Moderator: Julie Groce, Executive Director,  
NCASWCD*

11:30 – 11:45AM GEORGIA DISTRICT SHOWCASE

*“Advancing Conservation through Innovation and Partnership”*

Casey Cox, Executive Director, Flint River Soil and Water  
Conservation District

12 NOON – 2:00 PM HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON

*Event Center*

*Franklin Williams, NC NACD Board Member, Presiding*

2:30 – 4:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**SESSION #1 Trends in Agriculture**

*Hickory*

**Moderator:** *David Williams, deputy director, NC Division of Soil and Water  
Conservation*

**Speakers:** *Dr. Gary Roberson, associate professor and extension specialist,  
Biological and Agriculture Engineering, North Carolina State  
University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Raleigh, NC*

*Debbie Hamrick, director of specialty crops, NC Farm Bureau  
Federation, Raleigh, NC*

Unmanned aircraft systems (UASs, aka “drones”) offer tremendous opportunities to facilitate remote information gathering and small-scale aerial applications to benefit agriculture and conservation. **Dr. Gary Roberson** will discuss some of the groundbreaking research and opportunities involving UASs, and he will describe some specific applications of the technology for agriculture and conservation.

In the second part of the session, **Debbie Hamrick**, will share important information on drivers for change in agriculture. Ms. Hamrick’s very engaging presentation is sure to make you think about things you’ve likely not considered and cause you to evaluate how your district is aligned to serve clients in 2016 and beyond. She will also discuss specific opportunities for districts to assist producers to adapt to new requirements stemming from the Food Safety Modernization Act.

**SESSION # 2 Soil Health***Oak*

**Moderator:** *Alan Walker, assistant state conservationist for field operations, NRCS, Waynesville, NC*

**Speakers:** *Russell Hedrick, NC NACD Soil Health Champion and Cabarrus County (NC) farmer*

*Rachel Grantham, agronomist, Smithfield Foods, Inc., hog production division, Clinton, NC*

**Russell Hedrick**, a first generation farmer from Hickory, NC, will share what he has learned to produce an effective cover crop. Hedrick is one of North Carolina's NACD Soil Health Champions and is very passionate and knowledgeable about cover crop systems. He has assisted with numerous soil health workshops in the Carolinas. He will present the benefits of implementing conservation practices in no-till and cover cropping; regenerative farming with diverse rotations; the results of farm trial work on his operation; and how he plans to incorporate livestock back into his farming rotation to bring diversity into his pastures and soil profiles.

Joining Hedrick will be **Rachel Grantham**, an agronomist with Smithfield Foods' hog production division located in Clinton, NC. Grantham works with the company's MB Grain Agronomics (MBGro) program, which provides producers a way to effectively analyze the best practices to use for their grain operations. She will discuss different tools in the program that promote effective nutrient management systems, conservation tillage practices and cover cropping.

She'll also discuss how the company's initiatives are helping to advance food supply chain sustainability with large retail customers. The projects she is working on are helping Smithfield Foods to find innovative solutions that not only provide value in the food supply chain, but better the environment.

**SESSION #3 Community Conservation and Outreach***Locust*

**Moderator:** *Scott Sheffield, NC Moore Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor and NCASWCD Community Conservation Committee Chair*

**Speakers:** *Erin Lineberger, resource conservation coordinator, Cabarrus SWCD (NC); M.S. Environmental Education – Montreat College*

*Terry J. Cosby, Ohio State conservationist, NRCS, Columbus, OH*

**Erin Lineberger**, resource conservation coordinator for Cabarrus SWCD in North Carolina, will discuss how to effectively work and communicate with diverse communities and how this relates to meeting the needs of both urban and rural populations. You'll learn implications for practice from a research case study Lineberger conducted for her master's thesis, which was based on the environmental views of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

In the second part of the session, **Terry Cosby**, Ohio State conservationist for NRCS, will share how the forward-thinking leaders of Cleveland, OH, changed their zoning ordinance to promote urban agriculture before the current wide-spread urban agriculture movement took off. This opened the door for residents to have access to USDA programs never before provided in an urban setting. The Cleveland High Tunnel (CHT) project started in 2012 as a pilot to provide a way for city residents -- many living in "food deserts" -- to grow their own food in a sustainable manner for the most of the year. Learn how NRCS in Ohio started the CHT project that continues to grow in popularity every year.

#### **SESSION #4 The Benefits of Agricultural Water Management**

*Maple*

**Moderator:** *Natalie Woolard, technical services section chief, NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation*

**Speakers:** *Jeff Harris, NC Martin Soil & Water Conservation District supervisor, Agri Drain Corp. sales executive and National Drainage Alliance liaison*  
*Bryan Evans, NC Pitt Soil & Water Conservation district director and NCDEA 2011 District Professional of the Year*

Given the advancements in overall agricultural production, improved water management is the next frontier to conquer if we're to feed 9 billion people by the year 2050. This session will start with an introduction to North Carolina's water management challenges from the mountains to the coast, followed by a tag team presentation on the production and water quality benefits of improved agricultural water management.

Participants will learn about the latest research that reveals overall nitrogen reductions while increasing yields through surface and subsurface water management. Additionally, learn how one district is working with producers to retrofit tile systems with inline structures, better utilize water through agricultural water reuse/recapture systems, and implement other conservation best management practices for controlled drainage water management. A question and answer period will follow.

- 4:00 – 6:30 PM Free time for dinner on your own and exploring the area.
- 6:45 – 9:00 PM “Unto These Hills” off-site outdoor drama. Ticket required and included in registration packet. Buses depart from the hotel Motor Coach Lounge 6:45 p.m.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016**

- 7:30 - 11:00 AM REGISTRATION OPEN *Ball Room Pre-function*
- 7:30 - 8:30 AM Presidents’ Breakfast *Ash*  
Kevin Jeffries, Presiding
- 7:30 – 8:30 AM SE District Employees’ Breakfast *Beech*  
Rhonda Bryars, Presiding
- 9:00 – 10:15 AM GENERAL SESSION *Ballroom*
- Ben Knox, NCASWCD President, Presiding*
- Invocation: Manly West, Immediate Past President, NCASWCD
- VIRGINIA DISTRICT SHOWCASE  
*“Breaking through the Buzz: Building Virginia SWCD Capacity through Collaboration Research and Programming”*
- Dr. Kendall Tyree, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- TENNESSEE DISTRICT SHOWCASE  
*“A Partnership Approach to Permit Streamlining in Tennessee”*
- Danny Sells, Consultant/Executive Director, Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts
- Keynote Presentation: *“Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Plan Revisions”*
- Allen Nicholas, Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in North Carolina
- 10:15 – 10:45AM BREAK

10:45 – 11:30 AM GENERAL SESSION (con't)

Keynote: *“The Price of Greatness”*  
Mike Brown, Executive Director, NASCA

11:00 AM – 4:30 PM **Tour #1 Downtown Waynesville** – buses depart from the hotel Motor Coach Lounge promptly at 11:00 am. Enjoy an afternoon of shopping in historic downtown Waynesville. Visit unique shops and restaurants. Lunch on your own in Waynesville.

12 NOON – 4:30 PM Buses for tour numbers 2-5 depart from the hotel from the Motor Coach Lounge promptly at noon. Lunch will be provided in route to tour stops.

**Tour #2: Agriculture:**

**Drone Demonstration** -- Kyle Snyder, Director, NGAT Program at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at NC State University, will give a drone demonstration and discuss how unmanned aircraft systems are providing opportunities with today's agricultural practices.

<https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/aviation/uas/>

**Tour of Ag Feed Waste Facility** – local NRCS and District SWCD to provide educational discussion.

**Soil Quality and Rainfall Simulator Demonstration** –

Nathan Lowder, Regional Soil Health Specialist, National Soil Health Division, USDA-NRCS will provide the demonstration and educational discussion.

**Tour #3: Forestry and Aquaculture** – forestry practices (details are being finalized and will be added to this section soon)

**Tour #4: Community Conservation and Education:**

**Swain History Museum** – visit CCAP installed stormwater wetland and review the Swain SWCD Mobile Soils Exhibit (background information to be provided by Swain SWCD)

**Jackson County Green Energy Park (GEP)** – guided tour includes a glassblowing demonstration; a walking lecture on the GEP's renewable energy use and history; ceramic kiln visit; blacksmithing demonstration; and a greenhouse visit to look at the Jackson SWCD cistern CCAP project.

**Tour #5: Cherokee Cultural Tour** – visit the Cherokee village, pioneer farm and Mingo Falls

6:00- 9:00 PM            North Carolina Night and SECDEA Auction            *Event Center*

We can't end a meeting without going out in style – Bluegrass style, that is! Join us a final time in the Event Center for food, beverages and dancing to the Whitewater Bluegrass Company. Enjoy another one of North Carolina's famous musical genres with a band that celebrates the Appalachian mountain heritage with a blend of Bluegrass music, mountain swing, country ballads and humor. Some of the band's musicians have completed projects with Bluegrass greats, such as Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin and Ralph Stanley. Wear your cowboy boots because you'll get to enjoy "Uncle" Ted White, one of the premier square dance callers in the country!

In between jam sessions, the SECDEA will have its auction, so bring deep pockets in support of the organization. We look forward to seeing everyone there for a great time!

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016**

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM    RPG MEETING  
Mike Baucom, Presiding

*Ash/Beech*