

National Association of Conservation Districts

Northeast Region Meeting

August 13-15, 2017 • Burlington, VT

*Feeding the World
Nurturing Our Communities*

Welcome to Vermont!

How should we manage our food production and land use to ensure healthy and affordable food for all?

How do we sustain land-based employment and enterprises, protect and improve natural resources for future generations, and nurture the communities we cherish?

We are food producers and food consumers—land owners and land users—policy makers and rule enforcers—educators—technical service providers—project creators and funders—and human beings who long for a fulfilling life. What can we do at the local, state, regional and national levels to protect what we value and realize our vision for the future, in harmony with the natural world around us?

We will explore these and other questions through presentations, dialogue, celebrations and tours at the Northeast NACD Region Meeting.

www.vacd.org/2017-nacd-northeast-region-meeting/

- Learn about program innovations to promote conservation, support the working landscape, and protect water quality.
- Discuss key policies and programs at the state, regional, and national levels that impact our conservation mission.
- Hear from NACD and NRCS leadership and others about national trends, issues and activities and how they relate to the Northeast.
- Share experiences with colleagues from throughout the Northeast.
- Tour innovative conservation projects on Vermont farms, green stormwater infrastructure projects, and meet participants in Vermont's vibrant agricultural economy while enjoying the beautiful landscape!

Sheraton Hotel, Burlington, Vermont

9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sheraton Hotel Lobby

Registration

11:30 am – 5:00 pm
Tour departs from the Conference Center parking lot

National Conservation District Employees Association Tour *(box lunch provided)*

Visit natural, historic and fun sites along Lake Champlain starting with Bread and Butter Farm, where a young farm family is making a living and caring for this conserved farm through a variety of community-oriented enterprises. Then, you can sample and purchase a variety of Vermont made products at the Dakin Farm store in Ferrisburgh. The tour will wrap up at Magic Hat Brewery, one of Vermont's famous local brew houses.



5:30 – 6:30 pm
G's Restaurant, located in the Sheraton Summerhouse

Welcome Reception (light hors d'oevres and cash bar)

Dinner on your own at the Sheraton or in lovely downtown Burlington

(There will be a continuously running free hotel shuttle to/from downtown from 6 to 9 pm. departing from the hotel lobby)



Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands, and Communities: *A Conservation Vision for New England*



Brian Donahue, PhD
Keynote Speaker

We live in one of the most densely populated *and* one of the most densely forested parts of the world. Can New England – or the Northeast – reasonably feed itself? Well, no – there are too many people; there’s not enough farmland; and the forest is too valuable. But we could grow more of our food within the region and realize significant social and environmental benefits. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Brian Donahue of Brandeis University, will discuss how we might balance the values of wild forest, sustainable wood production, local food, and thriving communities.

Brian Donahue is an associate professor of American Environmental Studies at Brandeis University and the director of the Brandeis Environmental Studies Program. He was the lead co-author of *A New England Food Vision* (2014) which examines the ability of New England to produce 50% of its own food by the year 2060, in order to support healthy food for all, viable farming and fishing, protected soils, forests and waterways, and thriving communities. He is also co-author of *Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape* (2010), which calls for a deliberate, long-term conservation effort to retain at least 70% of the region in forestland, which would nurture a vibrant forest economy, support continued recreational uses, help ensure clean and abundant water, furnish a continental-scale wildlife habitat corridor, and provide a globally important source of renewable energy and carbon sequestration – key factors in slowing the rate of climate change.

Donahue teaches courses on sustainable farming and forestry, early American culture, environmental issues and environmental history. His main research interests are the history and prospects of human engagement with the land, especially in New England. His publications have received acclamation and many awards, especially his books, *Reclaiming the Commons: Community Farms and Forests in a New England Town* (1999) and *The Great Meadow: Farmers and the Land in Colonial Concord* (2004).

Donahue co-founded, and for twelve years directed, *Land’s Sake*, a community farm in Weston, Massachusetts, and was director of education at The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas. He and his family co-own and operate Bascom Hollow Farm in Gill, MA, which raises pastured beef and pork, pumpkins, timber, and bobolinks.



The keynote will be live-streamed via the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts Facebook page! Tell your friends!
www.facebook.com/vtconservation

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



6:45am-8:45 am	<i>Breakfast—Emerald Ballroom Promenade & Emerald III Ballroom</i>
7:00 am-8:45 am <i>Emerald I Ballroom</i>	NACD Northeast Region Board Meeting
8:00 am-1:30 pm <i>Diamond Ballroom Foyer</i>	Registration in the Hotel Conference Center (Last chance to sign up for the <i>Spirit of Ethan Allen</i> dinner cruise!)
9:00 am-10:30 am <i>Emerald III Ballroom</i>	OPENING GENERAL SESSION: Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem — Michelle Green, President Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) Welcome to Vermont — Vicky Drew, Vermont State Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Updates — - Kim LaFleur (MA), Secretary-Treasurer, NACD - Dan Farrand (NY), Chair, Northeast NACD - Michael Crowder (WA), 2nd Vice President, NACD NRCS Update —Keisha Tatem, Acting Northeast Regional Conservationist, USDA NRCS National Conservation Districts Employees Association (NCDEA) and Northeast Association of Conservation Districts Employees (NACDE) Updates — Jeff Parker (NY), President, NACDE President’s Association Update —Denise Savageau (CT) Northeast Region Representative Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Update —Kira Jacobs Environmental Protection Specialist, EPA Region 1 Meeting Logistics & Announcements —Jill Arace, Executive Director, VACD
10:30 am -11:00 am	<i>Coffee & Tea Break—Emerald Ballroom Promenade</i>
11 am - Noon <i>Emerald III Ballroom</i>	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: <i>Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands, and Communities: A Conservation Vision for New England</i> - Brian Donahue, PhD, Brandeis University
Noon – 1:15 pm	LUNCH—Emerald Ballroom Promenade & Emerald II Ballroom Opportunities and Challenges for US Agriculture, - Chuck Ross, Director of University of Vermont Extension former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets



1:30 pm-3:00 pm

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1:

***Emerald III
Ballroom***

Policy: The Stick and the Carrot - The Vermont Clean Water Act

- ◆ *Representative David Deen, Chair, Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee Vermont Legislature*
- ◆ *Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources*
- ◆ *Laura DiPietro, Deputy Director, Agricultural Resource Management Division Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets*
- ◆ *Hilary Solomon, Manager Poultney-Mettowee VT Natural Resources Conservation District*

Emerald I Ballroom

Program Innovations: Agricultural Soil and Water Quality

- ◆ *Gina DeMarco, Manager, Northern RI Conservation District Regional Compost Feasibility Study & Pilot Project in Scituate Reservoir, RI*
- ◆ *Mike Middleman, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Vermont Environmental Stewardship Program,*
- ◆ *Kip Potter, Water Quality Specialist, USDA-NRCS Vermont's Targeted Watershed Approach to Improving Water Quality*

3:00 pm-3:30 pm

Coffee & Tea Break - Emerald Ballroom Promenade

3:30 pm-4:45 pm

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2

***Emerald III
Ballroom***

Policy: Farm Bill and US Agriculture Budget 101 Why You Should Care

- ◆ *Eric Hansen, Northeast Region Representative and Policy Specialist, NACD*
- ◆ *Tom Berry, Field Representative for US Senator Patrick Leahy*

Emerald I Ballroom

Program Innovations: Green Stormwater Infrastructure

- ◆ *Matt Ward, Chair, Hudson, Essex and Passaic NJ Soil Conservation District Municipal Planning to Address Non-point Source Pollution*
- ◆ *Kerry O'Brien, Manager, Caledonia VT Natural Resources Conservation District Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation in Caledonia County*

5:30 pm

Board buses for the *Spirit of Ethan Allen Dinner Cruise* on Lake Champlain

- Bill Howland, former Director of the Lake Champlain Basin Program
A Brief History of Lake Champlain
- VACD Awards
- Envirothon 50/50 Fundraiser***

9:00 pm

Buses return to the Sheraton Hotel

6:45 am-8:45 am *Breakfast—Emerald Ballroom Promenade & Emerald III Ballroom*

7:00 am-8:45 am VACD Annual Board Meeting

Carleton Boardroom

7:00 am-8:45 am NACDE Annual Meeting

Emerald I Ballroom

7:45 am-8:45 am NRCS Leadership Meeting

Emerald II Ballroom

8:00 am-11:15 am Registration in the Hotel Conference Center

Emerald Ballroom Promenade
(Last chance to sign up for tours!)

9:00 am-10:30 am **GENERAL SESSION: Strategies for Accomplishing our Conservation**

Emerald III Ballroom

Mission on the Continuum between Regulatory and Non-Regulatory
- Cal Stuart, Chair, Prince George's Soil Conservation District, MD
- Robert Baldwin, Executive Director, DE Assoc. of Conservation Districts
- Matt Ward, Chair, Hudson, Essex, Passaic Soil Conservation District, NJ

9:00 am-10:30 am NACDE Leadership Meeting

Emerald I Ballroom

10:30 am -10:45 am

Emerald III Ballroom

CLOSING REMARKS:

- Keisha Tatem, Acting NE Regional Conservationist, USDA-NRCS
- Kim LaFleur, Secretary-Treasurer, NACD
- Dan Farrand, outgoing Chair, Northeast NACD Region
- Michelle Green, President VACD
- Jill Arace, Executive Director, VACD (Tours logistics)

10:30 am-11:15 am

Coffee & Tea Break - Emerald Ballroom Promenade

11:15 am-12:00 pm

Emerald III Ballroom

A Brief Natural History of Vermont

Rick Hopkins, Chair, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

12:00 noon

Departing from Conference Center parking lot

Board Buses for Conservation Tours

*(Vox lunch provided for tours 1 and 2 and catered lunch for tour 3.)
See following page for descriptions*

Tour #1: Agricultural Water Quality Tour

Led by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Tour #2: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Tour

Led by Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

Tour #3: Farm to Plate Tour

Led by Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

5:00 pm-5:30 pm

Buses return to Sheraton Hotel

6:00 pm

Dinner on your own at the Sheraton or downtown

(There will be a continuous free hotel shuttle to/from downtown Burlington 6-9 pm, departing from the hotel lobby)



Vermont Conservation Tours Overview

Vermont has taken an “All In” approach to nurturing its agricultural and forest economies, improving soil health, and addressing water quality concerns. Partnerships have

developed among farmers, foresters and landowners, state, federal and local government agencies, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, watershed groups and socially responsible businesses. Together they are making significant co-investments and coordinating efforts to support the

entrepreneurs who make their living from the land, while helping protect Vermont’s natural resources and working landscape for future generations. These collaborations include the Vermont Agricultural Water Quality Partnership, Farm to Plate, the Working Lands Enterprise Fund, and the Vermont Environmental Business Partnership. These three tours will highlight various aspects of these collaborative efforts.



Tour #1: Agricultural Water Quality Tour

Visit the Conant’s Riverside Farm, the Charlotte Grassed Waterway Monitoring Project, and Shelburne Farms to learn about a wide range of innovative conservation practices supported by NRCS and others to enhance soil health, protect water quality and improve natural habitats. Participants will also visit edge-of-field monitoring sites where research is being conducted to measure the effectiveness of specific conservation practices.

~ *Led by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Tour #2: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Tour

Burlington and its surrounding area is the most populated and developed region in Vermont. Impervious surfaces, such as rooftops and parking lots, dominate the landscape in cities, limiting opportunities for stormwater to soak into the ground. The investment and installation of Green Stormwater Infrastructure is the key to reducing the pollutant load and erosive power of stormwater runoff. Learn how communities, businesses, and landowners are working together to mitigate the negative impacts of stormwater runoff in the Greater Burlington area. The tour will include stops to local rain gardens, gravel wetlands, pervious pavers, green roofs, and more!

~ *Led by Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District*

Tour #3: Farm to Plate Tour

Learn how the Farm to Plate Network, the network of over 300+ farm and food organizations collectively implementing Vermont’s food system plan, is helping create agricultural jobs, improving access to healthy local food for all Vermonters, and protecting Vermont’s working landscape. The network is coordinating efforts to protect and expand affordable and environmentally sustainable farmland, improve the viability of farms and food businesses, increase local food availability and affordability in all market channels, increase consumer engagement and demand for local food, and meet food system employment needs in positive work environments.

~ *Led by Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund*

Tuesday Conservation Tours





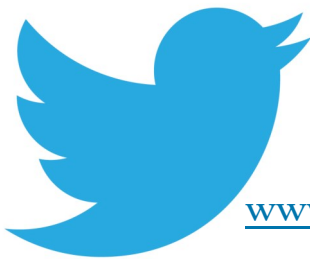
Thank you sponsors!

THANK YOU to our Northeast NACD Meeting Organizing Committee!

VACD: Joanne Dion, Luke Rackers, Carrie Youngblood, Judson Peck, Linda Corse, Jill Arace;
Winooski NRCD: Corrina Parnapy; **NRCS:** Amy Overstreet, Lorrie Doering, Vicky Drew; **and many others who made this meeting possible!**

Explore the brand new
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts
website!

www.vacd.org



VACD is Social!

Facebook

www.facebook.com/vtconservation

Twitter

@vtconservation

YouTube

http://bit.ly/VACD_YouTube

Instagram

vtconservation

Stay in touch!

