

Winter-Spring 2017

2016 Northeast Regional Conference

The National Association of Conservation Districts held the 2016 Northeast Regional Conference at the Stockton Seaview Hotel in Galloway, NJ. The conference ran from Sunday, August 14th through Tuesday, August 16th and gave participants the opportunity to explore South Jersey and hear from various speakers. The Cape Atlantic Conservation District co-hosted the event, along with Ocean County Soil Conservation District and Burlington County Soil Conservation District. The theme of the conference was *Recipes for Success: Adapting to a Changing Environment*. On Monday, the conference kicked off with conservation tours to Sahl's Father and Son Farm, Jakes Branch State Park, Tuckerton Seaport, and the WalMart Mitigation Project.

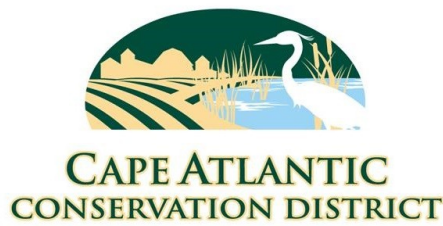
On Tuesday, attendees heard from Dough Tallamy, keynote speaker and noted author of "Bringing Nature Home". Dough Tallamy shared a "recipe" for successful habitat conservation and a sustainable future. Breakout sessions were held giving



Jeremy Sahl, left, of Sahl's Father and Son Farms describes his farming techniques as Nicholas Saumweber (center), NRCS District Conservationist, and District supervisor Rick Dovey look on

participants the opportunity to choose between varying topics. The breakout sessions included *Going with the Flow: The Jersey Way*, *The Garden State: Growing and Harvesting*, *Soil Health: At the Root of Everything*, and *Explore to Restore the Coastal Environment*. The conference culminated with the option to take the Coastal Conservation Tour or the Pine Barrens Conservation Tour. We hope that everyone who participated enjoyed the diverse conservation opportunities here in New Jersey and gathered new ideas, resources, and connections to create a "cookbook of conservation recipes"!

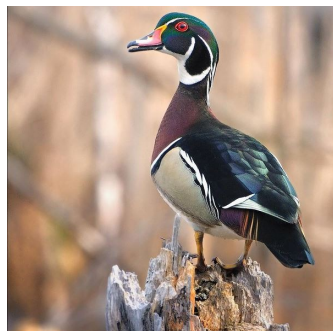
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Resource News

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Wood Duck

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Many thanks to Brittany Moore and Lori Gorczynski whose contribution made this issue of *Resource News* possible.

The Annual New Jersey Flower and Garden Show

American Consumer Shows (ACS) is proud to present the 15th Annual New Jersey Flower & Garden Show on February 23-26, 2017, at the New Jersey Convention Center in Edison, N.J. This year's show is full of firsts with new owner, ACS, new show director, Maria Palumbo, and the first volunteer committee of show ambassadors. The theme of the upcoming show is "Color Your World", with hopes to draw in colorful, exciting, and

educational garden displays. The event is designed for all levels of flower and garden enthusiasts with a multitude of seminars, hands-on demonstrations, horticultural and artistic floral arrangement competitions, garden displays, and



a grand indoor Marketplace. The NJ Flower & Garden Show is the largest in the state and is expected to have over 20,000 attendees. The NJ Conservation Partnership will have a display at the event, so make sure you stop by! The show is something you won't want to miss!

Earth Day Celebrations



Earth Day is a celebrated time in Cape May and Atlantic County. Earth Day focuses on the appreciation of the planet and raising awareness and consciousness of people in their environment. This

year, [ACUA](#) will be celebrating on April 23rd and [Cape May County](#) on a Saturday in late April. Both events will be offering a 5K run, live music, hayrides, interactive activities and exhibits, and food vendors. The Cape Atlantic Conservation

District will be taking part at both events, so come on out and bring the family to this kid friendly event!



Your Conservation Tip of the Season



Composting

Composting is a great way to enrich the soils in your backyard while recycling unwanted household waste. Composting speeds up the process of breaking down organic matter by providing an ideal environment for decomposing bacteria and micro-organisms. The final product is nutrient-

rich humus that acts as a natural fertilizer for gardens.

There are two options for composting, depending on how involved you want to be. Cold composting is low maintenance and only requires the piling of grass clippings and dry leaves. This method takes several months to a year to develop finished compost. Hot composting

involves more work but quicker results. With only a few minutes

a day, you can have finished compost in a few weeks. This method requires a level site and daily till of a 4- to 5- foot cube of organic material. Finished compost should smell sweet and cool and crumbly to the touch. For more information on composting visit the [Districts website](#).



Envirothon 2017

The Envirothon is a hands on competition where high school students can pursue knowledge about New Jersey's natural resources and can gain skills in navigating environmental issues. Students are tested in five areas of study: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, Team Presentation, and a Current Issue. The 2017 current issue is: **Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship.**

This year the competition will be held at Schooley's Mountain County Park in Washington Township on May 13th, 2017. Tent camping will be available the night before, on May 12th.

The **National Conservation Foundation Envirothon** will be held at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland from July 23 to July 29, 2017.

As in past years, the district is offering 5 mini-grants of \$100 to help schools with teams in Atlantic or Cape May counties. The first five teams to register



for the competition will be eligible for the grant. More information on applying for a mini-grant can be [found here](#). Three training sessions for interested schools will also be held throughout the state, one in Northern, one in Central, and one in Southern New Jersey. The Cape Atlantic Conservation District will be hosting the southern training session on March 31st from 9:00 am-3:00 pm in the Atlantic County Office Building. More information on the training session can be [found here](#). Registration is required for both the mini grant and the training session.

2017 Poster Contest: “Healthy Soils are Full of Life!”

Each year, the Cape Atlantic Conservation District, in cooperation with New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts, sponsors an annual Poster Contest. The poster contest is sponsored to help promote a better



understanding of conservation issues in Atlantic and Cape May counties. The theme for the 2017 poster contest is “**Healthy Soils are Full of Life**”. The poster contest is open to all students in 2-12th grade and is judged according to grade level. Prizes are awarded for the first and second place winners in each category. All posters must be received by the Cape Atlantic Conservation District Office no

later than March 24th. Entry forms, rules, and resources can be found by [clicking here](#).



New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts Memorial Conservation Scholarship

The New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts (NJACD) Memorial Conservation Scholarship Fund establishes a continuing memorial to those recognized and honored through monetary contribution for their dedicated service to the



conservation of our natural resources. This scholarship is granted to encourage and support qualified students to pursue a career in a field related to the conservation and management of

natural resources. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund have been invested to produce a continuing source of income to support scholarships to qualifying students in the field of conservation. More information and applications can be found [here](#). Deadlines apply, so don't delay!

In Partnership

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Ultra-Niche Crop Sessions



By Jenny Carleo, Rutgers Agricultural and Resource Management Agent

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is offering a new series on “Ultra-Niche Crops”. The classes are offered in three locations in NJ and focus on exceptionally high value crops that can be grown on small acreage. Farmers will learn how to make more money

with less land and how to grow, market and sell crops such as high tunnel winter lettuce and specialty peppers. “Our goal for this project is to help the next generation of farmers achieve both crop and financial success and also assist existing farmers to maintain their operations,” said Jenny S. Carleo, Project Director and the Rutgers

Agricultural and Resource Management Agent for Cape May County. For more information including the videos and materials from the past strawberry and cut flower classes go to:

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/ultra-niche-crops>

Updated Conservation Stewardship Program

By Nicholas Saumweber, District Conservationist, NRCS Vineland Center

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) has announced the application period for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), updated for 2017. NRCS’s flagship program encourages farmers who are already excellent stewards of the environment to take that stewardship to the next level by implementing enhancements to practices they are already doing. State Conservationist Carrie Lindig said, “We believe the changes in CSP will make it easier than it



has been in the past for farmers in the Garden State to participate in this program.” New methods and software for evaluating applications will help producers see up front why they are or are not meeting stewardship thresholds, and allow them to pick practices and enhancements that work for their conservation objectives. These new tools also allow producers to see potential payment scenarios for

conservation early in the process. Application period for 2017 CSP will end February 3, 2017.

For further information about CSP visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp>.

Interested applicants should contact the NRCS office in Vineland at: (856) 205-1225 ext. 3.



This past year, New Jersey's agriculture experienced significant losses due to the combined factors of freeze, excessive heat, and drought. This has left eleven NJ counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Ocean, Salem, Somerset, and Union) listed as primary disaster

FSA-USDA Disaster Loans

counties and seven counties (Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Warren) listed as contiguous disaster counties by the USDA. Contiguous counties have also been found in the adjacent states of Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania. Farm operators in primary and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Agency Service (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans.

Eligible farmers have until June 5th, 2017 to apply for emergency loans.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance, visit :

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

For more information on FSA farm loans, visit :

www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

Local FSA offices can also provide affected farmers with further information.

To find your local FSA office, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/New-Jersey/index>

Soil Health Champions

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is building a vast network of soil health leaders to advance the adoption of soil conservation practices nationwide.



In March 2015, NACD launched the Soil Health Champions Network with help from a NRCS

Conservation Innovation Grant. This year's goal is to recruit 150 farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners who not only use soil health practices in their operations, but are also willing to share and promote their soil health stories within their communities.

NACD recognizes Soil Health Champions at the national level for their work to advance soil health in the first [eResource](#), a weekly electronic newsletter, of every month, and in every edition of [The Resource](#), NACD's quarterly publication.

The association also features [soil champs](#) on their website and showcases their achievements at NACD meetings and events.



For more information about the roles Soil Health Champions, NACD, state associations, and local districts play, [click here](#), or contact NACD North Central Representative [Beth Mason](#). Download and print the [Soil Health Champions Network brochure](#).

Welcome Our New Interns

Every semester the Cape Atlantic Conservation District takes on two new ospreys from Stockton University's School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics. The



District has an on-going internship allowing interested Stockton students to intern at the District.

The internship is a great opportunity for students to get hands on work experience as well as fulfills a requirement needed by the students before graduating.

Brittany is a senior in the environmental science program and



Brittany Moore

will be part of the 2017 graduating class, earning a BS in Environmental Science with a concentration in Soil Science and Hydrology. Brittany's plan after graduating is to find placement with a local environmental consulting firm.

Lori is a junior at Stockton University and will be



Lori Gorczynski

graduating in the spring of 2018 with a BS in Environmental Science and a concentration in Soil Science and Hydrology. Lori is a member of Water Watch, a student organization which works on environmental service projects and outreach programs.

Contact Us!

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***"Committed to the Conservation
of Our Natural Resources"***



Mr. Reitmeyer, an award winning duck decoy carver, proudly displays some of his ducks at the Tuckerton Seaport.



A cranberry plug produced at the Philip E. Marucci Center for blueberry and cranberry Research and Extension Center. A visit to the facility was part of the Pinebarrens conservation tour for the NACD Northeast Conference.



District Vice-Chairman, Joseph Lomax, leads attendees on the coastal conservation tour in Avalon as part of the NACD Northeast Regional Conference.