

Interesting Facts & Anecdotes

from your District Operations and Member Services Committee

April 2015

Did you know?....

The content in the monthly "Did You Know" will now have additional contributors including each NACD Foundation Committee, Resource Policy Group and partnership members. The NACD District Operations and Member Services Committee will also continue to provide content as in the previous issues.

The Stewardship and Education Committee is pleased to be the first committee to assist in the new format of "Did You Know." In this edition, we'll be exploring the history of NACD's Stewardship Week.

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. In 2015 it is April 26 to May 3, 2015. Information can be found at <http://nacdnet.org/stewardship>.

The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. Districts provide conservation and stewardship field days, programs, workshops and additional outreach efforts throughout their community to educate citizens about the need to care for our resources. Many district activities extend beyond the one-week observance to include an entire year of outreach.

The Stewardship concept involves personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

One definition of Stewardship is *"the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others."* E. William Anderson suggests stewardship *"is essentially a synonym for conservation."*

Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows. We have seen these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts and the results are spectacular!

When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold

Upcoming Stewardship Topics

The Stewardship and Education Committee has developed a five-year rotation for stewardship topics. NACD's Stewardship and Education Committee determines the specific theme, based on that year's topic. The rotation of topics is as follows:

- 2015: Local Heroes-Your Hardworking Pollinators
- 2016: Forestry
- 2017: Topic of Interest or Current Topic (example of previous topics, Energy and where does your food come from in the Soil to Spoon project)
- 2018: Water
- 2019: Soil

There are a variety of resources available on NACD's website for use in promoting 2015 Stewardship Week at the local level. Visit www.nacdnet.org/stewardship for PSA's, a news release, a proclamation and more. Education materials are available at www.nacdnet.org/education/resources/local-heroes.

The NACD Stewardship and Education Committee consists of members who represent their state. You can find a complete list of committee members at: www.nacdnet.org/about/committees.

NACD conservation education materials are a perfect way to promote Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The materials developed each year have a shelf life of 4-5 years. You can order materials on topics your district does outreach on with local youth. Soil, water, forestry, habitat/pollinators and soil to spoon are available. Visit the NACD Marketplace at www.nacdstore.org for education material, service pins, plaques, ribbons and more.

NACD also has online sample packets available on the NACD education pages. Visit www.nacdnet.org/education to view the education pages by topic.

Please share your ideas and needs with us by emailing stewardship@nacdnet.org