



National Association of Conservation Districts

Sunday and Monday Recap: NACD 2017 Annual Meeting

Denver Colorado | January 29-30, 2017

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) hosted over 800 people in Denver today for its 71st Annual Meeting. This year's meeting featured a long list of VIP speakers. Just in Monday's general session alone, attendees heard from Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, Agriculture Commissioner Don Brown, and Olympian Jenny Simpson.

In keeping with the 2017 Annual Meeting theme "Conservation: Our Water, Our Land, Our People," Monday's speakers spoke on a crucial component of successful voluntary conservation: partnerships. Governor Hickenlooper credited conservation collaboration with the recovery of the greater sage grouse and improved water management in the Colorado, while Commissioner Brown stressed the importance of telling a cohesive agriculture and conservation story. Ms. Simpson, in addition to recounting her early experiences in 4-H, said relationships have been crucial to her athletic achievements. Archived video from Monday's general session is [available here](#).

At lunch, attendees heard from documentarian Ben Masters – a young man with a profound talent for telling conservation stories. In addition to taking questions from the audience, Mr. Masters showed one of seven new short films he's released on pointed conservation topics. To rewatch "Selah: Water from Stone," or to send it along to your friends, colleagues, and family, [follow this link](#).

In the afternoon, more than 16 districts and conservation partners gave presentations from the Expo Stage or as part of nine breakout sessions. Farm broadcaster Brian Allmer of The BARN also interviewed this year's NACD officer candidates from the Expo Stage. You can access the [archived footage of those interviews](#) here.

On Sunday before the meeting's kick-off, NACD put on an inspirational session where the 2016 NACD poster and photo contest winners were announced.

Over 250 kindergarten through 12th grade students from more than 30 states submitted "We All Need Trees"-themed posters for the 2016 contest. First place prizes went to:

Ciara Waltenberg of Portage County Land and Water Conservation District in Wisconsin

Tanvi Reddy of Freehold Soil Conservation District in New Jersey

Eason Li of New Castle Conservation District in Delaware

Kaitlyn Couchman of Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District in Iowa

Alice Fang of Freehold Soil Conservation District in New Jersey

NACD's photo contest is open to adults and students. The winning photos for 2016 in the Close-Up Conservation category were taken by **Dawn Martin** of Mercer County Soil Conservation District in North Dakota, and **Emma Lee** of Vernon County Land and Water Conservation District in Wisconsin.

First place prizes in the Agriculture and Conservation Across America category went to **Troy Bishopp** of Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District in New York, and **Riley Shaw** of Niobrara Conservation District in Wyoming.

The winners of the Conservation in Action category were **Kristi Hill** of Deer Creek Conservation District in Oklahoma, and **Jason Walker** of Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District in Indiana.

In the Conservation Practices category, the winners were **Troy Bishopp** of Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District in New York, and **Adeline Peters** of Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District in Minnesota.

You can access all the winning 2016 photos and posters on Flickr: [NACD's 2016 national photo contest](#) and [2016 NACD poster contest](#). To learn more about NACD's stewardship efforts, [visit our Stewardship and Education webpage](#).

For updates throughout the meeting, follow NACD on [Facebook](#).

The 2017 NACD Annual Meeting is sponsored at the premier level by Case IH, John Deere, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, and The BARN; at the title level by Warner Ranch, NRCS, BoarBuster, Prince George's Soil Conservation District, Agri Drain, U.S Forest Service, U.S. Sugar, and Envirocert; and at the host level by Agrium, Syngenta, Datu Research, Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Employees Association, and Rice Agrimarketing.