



PO Box 1134, Ringgold, GA 30736 ● 1-833-411-GACD ● info@GACD.us ● www.GACD.us

Woody Snell
President

Dear Resource Steward,

Marty McLendon
Vice President

I am writing to inquire whether you would be interested in supporting Georgia Association of Conservation District's initiatives that promote natural resource stewardship throughout the state of Georgia. In lieu of our request for Annual Meeting sponsorships, we are requesting a general Friend of Conservation donation to our 501(C)3.

Roger Bowman
Vice President

Jake Ford
Secretary

As a public supporter of natural resource conservation and sustainability efforts, we invite you to play a part in our numerous programs and events that bolster local Conservation Districts and benefit citizens across the state. In addition to providing every county with conservation support and outreach, we are currently leading efforts in the state for feral swine reduction through our outreach events and program that equips Districts with traps which are made available to landowners to remove hogs from their property. Just this year, we launched a new program for urban conservation which will make funding available through Districts to homeowners for green infrastructure improvements that will reduce stormwater runoff and address nonpoint source pollution. We also have created a new statewide pollinator initiative that will provide pollinator demonstration gardens, habitat sites, and educational curriculum to all Districts in the state. Additionally we provide regional and statewide training opportunities for District Supervisors where we supply continuing education which is essential to ensuring Supervisors are performing as effectively as possible in their role of addressing and voicing local conservation concerns. Any support you contribute will go directly to these efforts.

Vikki Consiglio
Treasurer

Danny Hogan
NACD Representative

Dan Bennett
Past President

Larry Williams
Group I VP

Sidney Beach
Group I Alternate VP

Ted Hughes
Group II VP

Sonny Turner
Group II Alternate VP

Georgia Farm Bureau President, Gerald Long, is a proud partner of GACD. "The responsible management of Georgia's soil and water is critical for a successful agricultural industry and to thriving communities. Our Districts promote conservation stewardship programs that conserve our natural resources and reflect the needs of our farmers and local communities. GACD represents these Districts and helps each District grow and flourish in their local communities. Georgia Farm Bureau enjoys the partnership we share with GACD, improving the lives of Georgia Farmers."

Brian Ponder
Group III VP

Tom Summers
Group III Alternate VP

Jerry Holcomb
Group IV VP

Please find attached our program information and detailed request. We thank you for your consideration and encourage you to reach out with any questions.

Tabatha Wooten
Group IV Alternate VP

Regards,

Katie Sponberger

Katie Sponberger
Executive Director, Georgia Association of Conservation Districts
katie@gacd.us 770-547-5981



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2020 Friend of Conservation Opportunity

GACD's mission is to advocate for the conservation of Georgia's natural resources by providing organization, leadership and a unified strategic direction to the Conservation Districts of the State.

About GACD: The Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD) is a grassroots non-profit organization representing all 40 of Georgia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Conservation Districts are units of State Government and were formed across the country in the 1930's in the aftermath of the Dust Bowl to ensure continued protection of natural resources through local leadership. Conservation District Supervisors are volunteers who use their time to promote soil and water conservation, educate citizens about the importance of conservation, and inform policy makers about natural resource issues.

Current Partners: 370 volunteer District Supervisors in Georgia who dedicate their time to natural resources conservation, United States Department of Agriculture, Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Farm Bureau, University of Georgia

Background & Purpose: Natural resources like water and soil, are essential for the function and structure of agricultural production systems and for overall environmental sustainability.

Georgia's farmers are great stewards of the land and take pride in their work as they go to great lengths to protect the land and surrounding environments through modern conservation practices. The conservation practices GACD promotes through our partner agency at USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) help producers prepare for what's ahead. From systems that help improve the health of the soil and water to restoring wetlands and wildlife populations, GACD and Conservation Districts work to ensure the health of our state's natural resources and the long-term sustainability of Georgia agriculture.

Conservation practices should also be applied to urban landscapes. Green infrastructure improvements such as green roofs, permeable pavement, rain gardens and other landscaping decrease surface runoff that delivers sediment and pollutants to bodies of water. Conservation Districts monitor the erosion and sediment control of local development activity to make sure proper measures are being taken to reduce runoff.

Your Support Will Supplement the Funding of GACDs 2020 Objectives for Natural Resources Conservation in Georgia

- **Feral Swine Control via Conservation Districts:** Feral swine are a serious threat to Georgia's natural resources as they pollute waters and destroy agricultural crops and land
 - 8 workshops and trapping demonstrations held in partnership with Conservation Districts, UGA, GDA, GA DNR, USDA to educate on the issue and demonstrate effective control techniques.
 - Equip additional Conservation Districts with trapping systems to provide control services to their constituents. GACD has equipped 6 Districts (out of 40) with equipment thus far.

- **Georgia Conservation Assistance Program (GCAP):** Expand program for urban Conservation Districts to offer additional green infrastructure improvements to reduce stormwater runoff on residential land. Currently operating through Cobb and Fulton County Conservation Districts.
- **Pollinator Initiatives:** All citizens of Georgia will benefit from an increased awareness of the importance of pollinators. Pollinators ensure full harvests and seed production from agricultural crops and provides for healthy plants grown in backyards, community gardens, and other urban areas.
 - GACD will install 40 pollinator demonstration gardens and 30 habitat sites throughout Georgia and work with partners to develop educational curriculum for schools and community groups.
- **Continuing Education:** GACD hosts one Multi-day Annual Meeting and four Group Trainings every year. These events bring Conservation District Supervisors and partners together to update on natural resource issues in the state.
- **Direct District Support:** Continuation of the Georgia Conservation District Initiative which provides every District with a District Program Assistant who is integral in supporting the District’s objectives for natural resource stewardship through outreach and administrative assistance.

BUDGET TO ACCOMPLISH 2020 OBJECTIVES:

OBJECTIVE	COST PER OBJECTIVE	TOTAL COST PER YEAR	NOTES
Feral Swine Control			
Host 8 Feral Swine Control Workshops	\$1,500/ workshop	\$12,000	Training materials and supplies
Equip 5 additional Conservation Districts with Feral Swine Traps	\$9,000/ trap	\$45,000	Purchase of corral style traps with necessary accessories for operation
GCAP: Expand current program for urban Conservation Districts to offer additional green infrastructure improvements	\$80,000/ Conservation District	\$160,000	Would fund at least 16 additional improvements on residential property based on project type and size
Pollinator Initiatives		\$40,000	Administration of program and additional marketing/outreach supplies
Continuing Education		\$133,000	Training materials and supplies
Direct District Support		\$205,000	Administration of program
TOTAL		\$595,000	



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2020 Friend of Conservation Visibility and Recognition (check which level you would like to support):

Hugh Hammond Bennett Founding Level: Contributions of \$50,000 and Above

- Donor recognition press event
- Corporate Name / Logo listed on GACD website
- Use of GACD logo on Corporate website
- Corporate Name / Logo on all promotional print and web publications
- Public recognition at statewide partnership events
- Ongoing Social Media acknowledgements
- Coordinated press release: USDA & Georgia Farm Bureau
- 10 tickets and recognition at Hall of Fame Dinner at GACD Annual Meeting

Sustainers Level: Contributions of \$25,000

- Corporate Name / Logo listed on GACD website
- Use of GACD logo on Corporate website
- Corporate Name / Logo on select publications and communications
- Ongoing Social Media acknowledgements
- 5 tickets and recognition at Hall of Fame Dinner at GACD Annual Meeting

Trustees: Contributions of \$10,000

- Corporate Name / Logo listed on GACD website
- Use of GACD logo on Corporate website
- Corporate Name / Logo on select publications and communications
- Ongoing Social Media acknowledgements
- 2 tickets to Hall of Fame Dinner at GACD Annual Meeting

Gold level: Contributions of \$5,000

- Corporate Name / Logo listed on GACD website throughout 2020
- Corporate Name / Logo on select publications and communications throughout 2020
- Invitation to attend GACD's 2020 Annual Meeting (to be held April 5-7, 2020 at Callaway Gardens)
- Invitation to exhibit at GACD's 2020 Annual Meeting

Additional Information: For more information about becoming a Friend of Conservation, please email info@gacd.us or call 1-833-411-GACD.