



Georgia Association of Conservation Districts

P. O. Box 1134
Ringgold, Georgia 30736
www.GACD.us

DATE: October 19, 2016

TO: District Supervisors, Conservation Partners and Guests

FROM: Dan Bennett, GACD President

RE: **2017 GACD Annual Meeting, February 9th-12th**
Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands
7000 Lanier Islands Parkway, Buford, GA 30518

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the 2017 GACD Annual Meeting on February 9-12, 2017 at Lake Lanier Islands.

We have an exciting agenda planned including special invited guest speakers for the Hall of Fame Awards Dinner, General Session and Breakout Sessions all centered on this year's theme of *Navigating Georgia's Water Resources*. In addition, we will be celebrating 80 Years of Conservation Districts in Georgia. So please make plans to attend this very special GACD Annual Meeting.

The conference will be held at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands in Buford, Georgia. Hotel rooms at Legacy Lodge may be reserved at special GACD rate of \$109 per room per night. You can make your hotel room reservations by phone, by email or by online link.

- Phone by calling 1-800-840-5252 or 770-945-8787 or 678-318-2018.
- Email Reservations Request to reservations@lanierislands.com
- Or access the Online Link (see attached additional instructions):

<https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=10192&Chain=15467&arrive=2/9/2017&depart=2/12/2017&adult=1&child=0&group=170210GSWC>

The Registration Form and Draft Agenda for the 2017 Annual Meeting are enclosed. Pre-registration ends December 15th. Please return your form and payment to: GACD, P.O. Box 1134, Ringgold, GA 30736. You may also find the form online at www.GACD.us.

We look forward to seeing you at Lake Lanier

Dan Bennett, GACD President



Dan Bennett, President
Woody Snell, Vice President
Roger Bowman, Secretary
Marty McLendon, Treasurer
Dennis Brown, NACD Representative

Danny Hogan, Past President
Davis Nelson, Group I VP
Denney Rogers, Group I Alternate VP
Clay Wilson, Group II VP
Gene Anderson, Group II Alternate VP

Larry Eley, Group III Alternate VP
Hal Simpson, Group IV Alternate VP
Jerry Holcomb, Group V VP
Travis Cook, Group V Alternate VP



REGISTRATION FORM
2017 GACD ANNUAL MEETING
February 9th-12th, 2017
Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands
7000 Lanier Islands Parkway, Buford, GA 30518

Name: _____ District/Agency: _____

Street Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Spouse Name (if attending): _____

Check One: () District Official () State Agency () NACD () District Employee () Auxiliary () NRCS () Guest

# of Tickets	Type of Tickets	Price	Amount
_____	Optional Dinner at Legacy Lodge for Early Check In - Thursday, February 9, 2017	\$25.00	_____
_____	Pre-Registration - If Pre-Registration received prior to December 15, 2016 Includes: Friday Breakfast, Friday Lunch and Hall Of Fame Awards Dinner Saturday Breakfast, Lunch and Sunday Breakfast	\$275.00	_____
_____	Complimentary Spouse Registration: Includes Friday Breakfast, Friday Lunch and the Hall of Fame Awards Dinner, Saturday Breakfast, Lunch and Sunday Breakfast	\$0.00	Free
_____	Late Registration - If Registration received after December 15, 2016	\$350.00	_____

TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT AMOUNT: _____

GACD MEETING REGISTRATION

Make Checks payable to GACD and Mail Checks & This Form to: GACD, P.O. Box 1134, Ringgold, GA 30736.

For Additional Information: www.GACDS.us
 or Contact: Alan Toney, mudflat@comcast.net, 770-456-1446
 Davis Nelson, angusfarms1@yahoo.com, 404-213-3840
 Denney Rogers, denneyrogers@aol.com, 770-301-1290
 Woody Snell, woody@GACD.us, 404-512-4583
 Roger Bowman, rbowman@catt.com, 706-935-5572

TOUR PREFERENCE

Self	Spouse	Preliminary List of Tours - Please Recommend 3 Tours You and Your Spouse would prefer (1-1st choice, 2-2nd choice, 3-3rd choice)
		Lake Lanier Dam Tour
		Mountain Fresh Creamery and Jaemor Farms www.mountainfreshcreamery.com www.mountainfreshcreamery.com
		Buford Trout Hatchery www.georgiawildlife.com/Hatcheries/Buford
		Lake Lanier Boat Cruise
		Lake Lanier Islands Water Treatment Plant Tour
		Georgia Poultry Laboratory www.gapoultrylab.org
		Lake Lanier Islands Activities (Golf, Hiking, Zip line, Tennis, Spa, Bike Ride, Horse Rides, Boat Rides) www.lanierislands.com

HOTEL RESERVATION - LEGACY LODGE AT LANIER ISLANDS

7000 Lanier Islands Parkway, Buford, GA 30518

GACD Group Room Rate \$109.00 per room per night

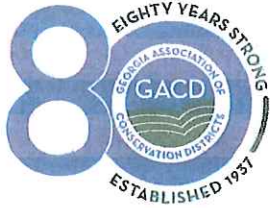
Must Reserve Room Before December 15th

Phone Reservations By Calling: 1-800-840-5252 or 770-945-8787 or 678-318-2018

Email Reservations Request To: reservations@lanierislands.com

Or access the Online Link (see attached additional instructions):

<https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=10192&Chain=15467&arrive=2/9/2017&depart=2/12/2017&adult=1&child=0&group=170210GSWC>



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HOTEL RESERVATIONS

2017 GACD ANNUAL MEETING



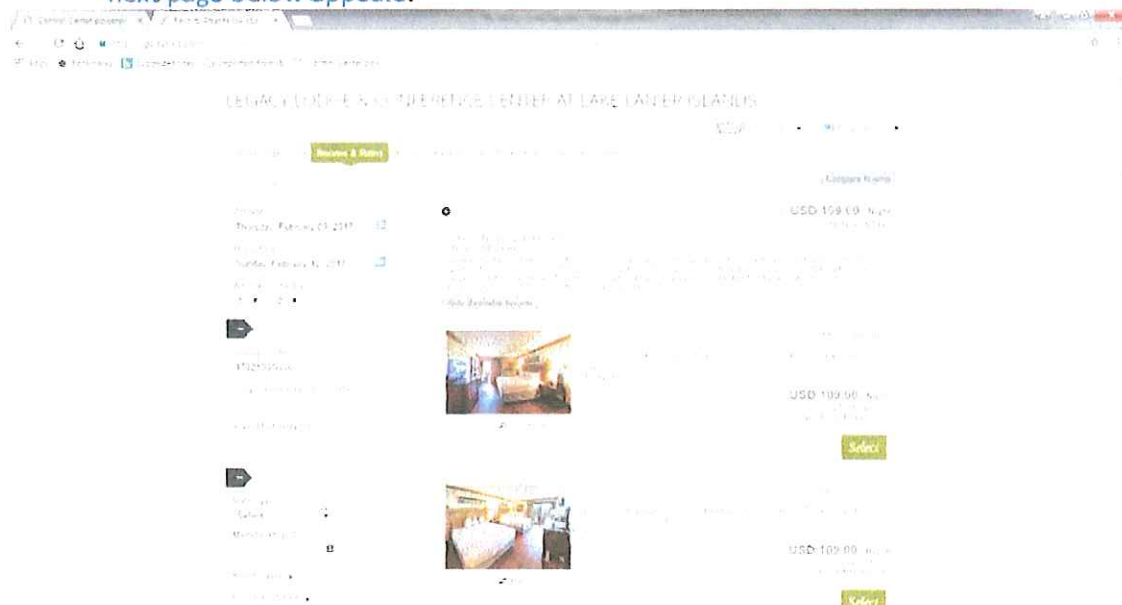
GACD Annual Meeting February 9th-12th, 2017 Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands 7000 Lanier Islands Parkway, Buford, GA 30518

The conference will be held at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands in Buford, Georgia. Hotel rooms at Legacy Lodge have been reserved at a GACD Group rate of \$109. Hotel reservations may be made by:

- Phone by calling 1-800-840-5252 or 770-945-8787 or 678-318-2018.
- Email Reservations Request to reservations@lanierislands.com
- Or access the Online Link (see attached additional instructions):

<https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=10192&Chain=15467&arrive=2/9/2017&depart=2/12/2017&adult=1&child=0&group=170210GSWC>

1. Please let your guests know that once they click on the above link, on the next page that opens, they must:
 - a. Select their "dates of stay"
 - b. Then click on the **GREEN** box that says "Check Availability"
2. When the next page appears, click on the **GREY** box "View Available rooms" –and the next page below appears:



Lori Austin
Group Rooms Coordinator
Phone: 678-318-2064
Fax: 770-932-5471
Email: laustin@lanierislands.com
www.lanierislands.com



DRAFT AGENDA - 2017 GACD ANNUAL MEETING

Navigating Georgia's Water Resources

February 9th – 12th, 2017

7000 Lanier Islands Parkway, Buford, GA 30518

Updated: October 18, 2017

Thursday, February 9th:

After 4 pm Early Check In
6:00 pm OPTIONAL - Dinner at Legacy Lodge for Early Check In

Friday, Friday February 10th:

7:30 am – 9 am Continental Breakfast provided by Hotel
8:00 am – 10 am GSWCC Board Meeting
8:00 am – 12 pm NRCS Employee Meeting
9:00 am – 5 pm Registration and Exhibit Showcase
9:00 am – 10 am How to Set Up a District Website & Email
10:00 am – 11:45 am GACDS Board Meeting
10:00 am – 11 am How to Set Up a District Website & Email
11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch provided by Hotel
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Business Session**
Welcome
GACD Update
GSWCC Update
NRCS Update
RC&D Update
NACD Update
2017 Budget
2017 Plan of Work
Election of Officers
Other Business

3:00 pm Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
3:30 pm Coffee Break and Exhibit Showcase
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm Group Meetings
5:30pm- 6:30 pm Social Reception, Silent & Live Auction

6:30 pm **GACD Annual Awards & Hall of Fame Dinner**
 Welcome
 Recognition of Hosts/Exhibitors/Speakers
 GACDS Poster Contest Award
 GACDS Scholarship
 GACDS Auxiliary Scholarship
 Partners for Wildlife Cooperator Award

Year GACDS Superior Professional Support
 GACDS Supervisor of the
 GACDS District of the Year
 Length of Service Awards
 Induction of 2017 GACDS Hall of Fame Recipient

8:30 pm – 11 pm Social After Awards Dinner

Saturday, February 11th:

7:30 am Continental Breakfast provided by Hotel

8:30 am **General Session**
 Welcome and Opening Remarks
 Invocation
 Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance
 National Anthem
 Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Keynote Address

8:30 am Ladies Auxiliary Country Store

9:45 am Coffee Break and Exhibit Showcase

10 am – 12:00 pm ***Breakout Sessions - Navigating Georgia's Water Resources***

Session 1 10 am – 10:45

Session 2 11 am - 11:45 am

Noon – 3 pm ***Tours with Box Lunch***

Preliminary List of Tours to be reduced to 3 or 4 tours

1. Lake Lanier Dam
2. Mountain Fresh Creamery & Jaemor Farms www.mountainfreshcreamery.comwww.jaemorfarms.com
3. Buford Trout Hatchery www.georgiawildlife.com/Hatcheries/Buford
4. Lake Lanier Boat Cruise
5. Lake Lanier Islands Water Treatment Plant Tour
6. Georgia Poultry Laboratory www.gapoultrylab.org
7. Lake Lanier Islands (Golf, Hiking, Zip Line, Tennis, Spa, Bike & Horse Rides, Boat Rides) www.lanierislands.com

Dinner on Your Own

Sunday, February 12th:

7:30 am – 9 am Continental Breakfast provided by Hotel Breakfast on Your Own

9:00 am Worship and Memorial Service

GACD SCHOLARSHIP

The Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD) is a nonprofit that works statewide to promote the conservation of natural resources. GACD, in partnership with other organizations and agencies, conducts training for the state's soil and water conservation district supervisors and educates the public on natural resources issues. Information on GACD's programs may be found at www.gacd.us.

GACD awards an annual scholarship of \$1000 to encourage study and careers in soil and water conservation related fields. Awards will be given to students majoring in, or intending to major in, a soil and water conservation related area. Acceptable areas of study include, but are not limited to, agricultural education, agronomy, horticulture, plant pathology, and agricultural communications.

The applicant may be a graduate student, senior, junior, sophomore or freshman from Georgia at any accredited college, school, or university in the United States. Students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.75 and be financially needy. There will be no discrimination on basis of race, sex, or religion.

The Scholarship Committee will determine the recipient of the annual scholarship. The scholarship winner will be recognized at the GACD Annual Meeting in January. Disbursements will be made in two payments of \$500 paid to the student upon receipt of proof of satisfactory completion of each of two semesters of full-time academic work.

GACD AUXILIARY

The GACD Auxiliary will award an annual scholarship of \$500, which will be disbursed in one installment of \$500 upon satisfactory completion of a semester of full-time academic work. The scholarship winner will be recognized at the GACD Annual Meeting in January.

GARLAND & ANITA THOMPSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The Garland & Anita Thompson Family Scholarship was established in 2009 in memory of Mrs. Anita Burton Thompson. Mr. Garland Thompson has promoted the conservation of natural resources throughout his agribusiness career and as Chairman of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Applicants may be graduate students, seniors, juniors, sophomores or freshmen from Georgia who are attending any accredited college, school, or university in the United States. One payment of \$1000 will be presented to the scholarship recipient at the GACD Annual Meeting held in January.

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- * Students may submit one application to be considered for the three scholarships; individuals may receive only one award.
 - * Applications and a current transcript must be received by October 15th.
 - * Please contact GACD with any questions: info@gacd.us

GACD CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

PURPOSE

To recognize outstanding and exemplary supervisor achievements and supervisor leadership in the protection and enhancement of Georgia's soil and water resources. Provide recognition for a District Supervisor's outstanding service to GACD, NACD, and their community.

ELIGIBILITY

Any District Supervisor serving on a Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Board is eligible for nomination.

JUDGING

The GACD President will appoint an independent panel of (3) three judges; familiar with duties and responsibilities of a Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor or request judging to be done by NACD.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- 1) Describe the nominee's outstanding achievements and leadership in the protection and enhancement of Georgia's Soil and Water Resources.
- 2) Provide evidence of the Supervisor's outstanding service to GACD, NACD, and their community.
- 3) Give examples of Supervisor's personal commitment to Soil and Water Conservation.

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of the Supervisor's achievements and leadership, following the awards criteria, should be submitted on no more than (8) eight pages (front and back), 12 pt or larger font style. A maximum of (3) three letters of recommendation may be attached to the entry.

Deadline for entries is: November 30th.

Submit Documents to:

GACD
P.O Box 1134
Ringgold, GA 30736
rbowman@catt.com

GACD CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE YEAR AWARD

PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY

The GACD Conservation District of the Year Award is hereby established to recognize the Conservation District in Georgia, who best plans and implements, a complete conservation program. All 40 Conservation Districts in Georgia are eligible to compete for the award.

JUDGING

The GACD President will appoint an independent panel of three (3) judges familiar with Conservation District operations to judge the entries or request judging be done by NACD.

CRITERIA

All entries will be judged using the following criteria:

- 1) District planning:** Each entry should submit a copy of the District's Annual Plan of work including the District budget. The District's Annual Report should also be submitted to allow judges an opportunity to evaluate the success of the District in implementing its Annual Plan of Work.
- 2) District Public Relations, Legislative, and Outreach Programs:** Each District entry should submit a collection of articles, photos, brochures, videos and other supporting data, which shows the success of the District's public relations, legislative, and outreach programs. Legislative contacts, soil stewardship activities, District demonstrations and field days, Conservationist of the Year programs, outreach programs, and radio and TV programs and other public relations efforts should be documented.
- 3) Conservation Education:** Each entry should submit documentation of the district's efforts toward a comprehensive conservation education program. Information concerning teacher workshops, student workshops, outdoor education facilities, conservation curriculum, and other conservation education activities should be well documented.
- 4) District's Assistance to Constituents:** District entries should document districts efforts in working with landowners and land users on Natural Resource issues. The District's efforts in assisting landowners and land users applying Best Management Practices in Agricultural and Urban lands should be documented.

Documentation

Documentation of the District's work, based on the judging criteria, should be placed in a three (3) ring binder; should be limited to 50 pages (front and back), divided into sections according to standard criteria.

The deadline for entries this year will be December 31st

Submit Entries to:

GACD
P.O Box 1134
Ringgold, GA 30736
rbowman@catt.com

**GACD HALL OF FAME
NOMINATING FORM**

Full Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, GA Zip: _____

Work/Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Nominated by: _____

Work/Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Signature of Supervisor making nomination

On no more than three (3) additional pages (8½ x 11, 12pt. font or larger) discuss the following:

- Give evidence of the nominee's leadership in the field of soil and water conservation.
- List any extraordinary achievements the nominee has accomplished in the field of soil and water conservation.
- List awards, commendations, and recognitions the nominee has received in the field of soil and water conservation.
- List accomplishments and recognitions of the nominee in fields outside conservation.
- Provide up to three (3) letters of recommendation supporting the nominee's application to the GACD Hall of Fame.

The nomination deadline for this year is November 30th. Applications may be mailed or e-mailed:

GACD, P.O Box 1134
Ringgold, GA 30736
rbowman@catt.com

