



# Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors

November 2011

## *2012 Annual Meeting:*

Plans are being made for the GACDS Annual Meeting, which will be held January 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at the Chateau Elan in Braselton. Reservations can be made now until December 12<sup>th</sup> online at [Chateau Elan](#) or by calling 1-800-233-9463, make sure that you tell them that you are with GACDS to get the room rate of \$119.00 a night. Each year our fundraisers help us to pay down the property loan for the education center. Please consider what you and your district can contribute to this year's auction at the Annual Meeting. You may contact Larry Dillard at 706-989-1059 or by email at [larryd@hughes.net](mailto:larryd@hughes.net) regarding this year's auction.

## *Putting Your Per Diem to Work:*

Thank you to all who have mailed in donations for the Conservation Education Center. Please note that donors will need to send a personal check to GACDS (P.O. Box 111, Athens, GA 30603); we are not able to deduct the contribution from your state per diem checks. Thanks again for your continued support of conservation education!

## *Networking:*

NACD is offering a new service to all conservation districts...the ability to network with each other on urban and community conservation activities and issues via Facebook. Almost 70% of the nation's conservation/natural resource districts are involved in some aspect of urban and community conservation according to a 2007 NACD survey. The Network is provided through Facebook, where it will be easy for you to post information and photos. All you have to do is establish your own Facebook page, if you don't have one already, and then 'like' NACD's U&CN page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NACD-Urban-and-Community-Conservation-Network/140037709403716?sk=info>. NACD encourages you to sign up today, and start sharing your district's work and interest in urban and community conservation. The Network is a communications tool for you all, and NACD hopes you'll make it as dynamic as your district programs! If you have questions about the Network or signing up, please contact Debra Bogar at [deb-bogar@nacdnet.org](mailto:deb-bogar@nacdnet.org).

## **NOV. 30 IS DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR MONSANTO CHARITY PROGRAM**

Farmers in 31 Georgia counties have until Nov. 30 to register to win \$2,500 for the nonprofit community charity of their choice in the 2nd Annual America's Farmers Grow Communities program sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. No purchase is necessary to participate. Eligible counties are: Appling, Baker, Berrien, Bleckley, Brooks, Bulloch, Burke, Calhoun, Coffee, Cook, Colquitt, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Early, Grady, Irwin, Jefferson, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Screven, Seminole, Sumter, Tattall, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Wilcox and Worth. The Monsanto program is open to farmers, age 21 and over, who are actively farming a minimum of 250 acres of corn, soybeans and/or cotton or 40 acres of open field vegetables or at least 10 acres of tomatoes, peppers and/or cucumbers grown in protected culture in an eligible county. Farmers who were eligible and/or participated in the program in 2010 may also apply this year if they meet the eligibility requirements. One \$2,500 winner will be drawn from each of the 31 eligible counties in Georgia. Monsanto will also donate \$1 to the local United Way chapter of each farmer who applies. The Monsanto Fund will announce winning farmers and their recipient organizations in January 2012. Visit <http://www.growcommunities.com> or call 1-877-267-3332 to apply. Eligible counties meet the following criteria: a total of either 30,000 acres of corn, soybeans and/or cotton or 30,000 acres of vegetables (peppers; tomatoes, onions, broccoli, cucumber, melons, watermelons, spinach, squash, pumpkins, sweet corn, lettuce, peas or garden beans) are planted per calendar year based on January 2011 USDA data or the county was eligible to participate in prior Grow Communities programs.

## **Land Loan Balance: \$66,500**

\*\* The loan has been refinanced instead of 5% interest we are now paying 3%.

## **Deadlines and Events:** (See more event details at [www.gacds.org](http://www.gacds.org))

December 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Farm Bureau Conference at Jekyll Island

January 6-8, 2012 GACDS Annual Meeting at Chateau Elan, Braselton