

2024

**86TH ANNUAL
OACD STATE
MEETING**

**Creating Legacy Through
Stewardship**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

FEBRUARY 25, 26, & 27TH



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

Hello, on behalf of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to our 86th annual State Meeting.

This conference offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow experts, researchers, policymakers, and advocates who share a common dedication to conservation stewardship.

Through knowledge sharing and collaboration, we can amplify our impact and drive positive change.

I encourage each of you to actively participate in the diverse array of presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities available throughout the conference.

Your insights, expertise, and passion are invaluable contributions to our shared mission of conserving and protecting our soil and water.

In closing, I extend my sincere gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and organizers for their commitment to advancing the cause of natural resources conservation.

Sincerely,
Joe Caughlin
OACD Board President

2024 OACD Board of Directors

Joe Caughlin, Board President, Kay County Conservation District
Bill Jordan, Immediate Past President, Garvin Conservation District
Ed Casey, Vice-President, Nowata County Conservation District
Lyle Blakely, Vice-President, Rogers County Conservation District
Phil Campbell, Vice-President, Oklahoma County Conservation District
Dr. Katie Blunk, Area I Director, Woods County Conservation District
Seth Coffey, Area II Director, Arbuckle Conservation District
James Allred, Area III Director, Muskogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District
Oscar Nelson, Area IV Director, Grady County Conservation District
Dr. Donnie Nero, Area V Director, Okfuskee County Conservation District

Sarah Blaney, Executive Director



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

Sunday February 25, 2024

1:00 p.m. - Registration Opens for Attendees & Vendors

1:00 p.m. - OK Conservation Historical Society Annual Meeting | *Scissortail Room, 2nd Floor*

1:00 p.m. - OACDE Executive Board Meeting | *Oklahoma Room, 2nd Floor*

1:00 p.m. - OACDE & OACD State Speech Contest Sign In Opens | *Salon C*

1:30 p.m. - OACDE & OACD State Speech Contest Begins | *Division I Salon A & Division I Salon B*

2:00 p.m. - OACD Resolutions Committee, *Chair Joe Caughlin* | *Boardroom, 2nd Floor*

3:00 p.m. - OACD Nominations Meeting, *Chair Scotty Herriman* | *Boardroom, 2nd Floor*

4:00 p.m. - Youth Awards & Auxiliary Scholarship Program, *Lyle Blakely, Presiding* | *Salon D&E*
Winners of the poster, essay, and speech youth contests will be announced. The Auxiliary will present their scholarship award to one high school senior

7:00 p.m. - OACDE Games for Guns | *Salon D&E*

Purchase tickets and play a variety of games to win guns and gun related items.
All proceeds benefit the Employees Association



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

Monday February 26, 2024

7:00 a.m. - Registration Opens

7:00 a.m. - OACDE Breakfast and Program, Belinda Dimitratos, *OACDE President, Presiding private dining section of main dining room of the hotel*

9:00 a.m. - Opening Session, Joe Caughlin, *OACD President, Presiding | Salon D&E*
"Rainmaker Farm: Combating Climate Change through Regenerative Agriculture"
Angel Lance & Dr. Aviva Rossi, The Gulch Foundation

10:30 a.m. - Networking Break | Pre-function Area

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday

11:00 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. Conservation Planning | Salon A & B

Why conservation planning is still important and how it works today
Trey Lam, OCC & Jeanne Hamilton, NRCS

2. Estate Planning for Success | Salon C

Essential information for ensuring your legacy is preserved
Dr. Shannon Ferrell & JC Hobbs, Oklahoma State University

3. Districts and the Open Meeting/Open Records Acts | Salon F & G

Districts must adhere to Oklahoma's Open Meeting/Open Records Acts; come hear direct examples of how these acts apply to districts and learn best practices for following the letter of the law. *OCC District Services Team*

4. Watershed Dam Operation & Maintenance/Sponsor Responsibilities 101 | Salon H

Information about the importance of watershed O&M as a critical priority for conservation districts and NRCS partners. *Tammy Sawatzky, OCC & Roderick Dukes, NRCS & Dianna Perry, NRCS*

5. Social Media 101 | Oklahoma Room, 2nd Floor

This session will equip attendees with a general understanding of social media, covering platform fundamentals, content creation for organizations, adapting to future advancements, and accessing support and resources for growing an organization's following
Jake Searock, OCC



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

Monday February 26, 2024 (*continued*)

11:45 a.m. - Networking Break | *Pre-function Area*

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday

12:00 p.m. - Partnership Awards Luncheon, *Ed Casey, OACD Vice-President, Presiding*

Salon D&E Oklahoma Speaker of the House, Representative Charles McCall
NRCS Partnership Awards; Director & Employee Service Awards

1:30 p.m. - Networking Break | *Pre-function Area*

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday

1:45 p.m. - OACD Auxiliary Board Meeting | *Boardroom, 2nd Floor*

1:45 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. Youth Contest Listening Session | *Salon H*

Interactive session with OACD's new Youth Contest Coordinator & the OACDE State Youth Contest Coordinator. An opportunity to solicit feedback, brainstorm, and engage with district employees to improve, revitalize, and grow OACD & OACDE youth contests
Amanda Fitzgerald, OACD & Patty Underhill, OACDE

2. Minutes, Why They Matter | *Salon F & G*

Minutes are one of the most important documents in your district office – are you creating a quality record? *OCC District Services Team*

3. What Makes a Strong Conservation District? | *Salon C*

Conservation Districts have a unique and critical role in protecting the land, water, and wildlife in Oklahoma. Is your district the first stop on your constituents' journey to being stewards of our natural resources? It can be!
Trey Lam, OCC & Cheryl Cheadle, OCC & Sarah Blaney, OACD

4. Archiving Photos & Historical Conservation Documents | *Oklahoma Room, 2nd Floor*

Learn how to preserve local conservation history
Chad Williams, Oklahoma Historical Society & Jim Meeks, Oklahoma Historical Society

5. Why Isn't Everyone Doing This? | *Salon A & B*

Overcoming the emotional barriers to adoption of regenerative agriculture. Learn how to encourage adoption of conservation practices.
Dr. Elizabeth Heilman, Ecologist at Regenerative Wisdom



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

Monday February 26, 2024 (*continued*)

2:45 p.m. - Networking Break | *Pre-function Area*

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday

3:00 p.m. - NRCS Business Meeting | *Salon A & B*

This meeting is for NRCS employees

3:00 p.m. - OACDE Business Meeting | *Salon F & G*

This meeting is for district employees and OCC employees

3:00 p.m. - OACD Business Meeting | *Salon C*

This meeting is for district directors

6:00 p.m. - Legislative Reception | *pre-function Area*

7:00 p.m. - Legislative Banquet & Awards | *Salons A-E*

Announcement of OACD Board

Legislator of the Year

Employee of the Year

The Elmer Maddux Award for Advocacy

Conservation Hall of Fame Awards

The Leopold Conservation Award



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

Tuesday February 27, 2024

7:00 a.m. - Registration Opens

7:00 a.m. - OACD Past Presidents Breakfast | *Private dining room off of main breakfast area*
This is an informal event for former state association presidents

8:30 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. Working with Microbes | *Salon D&E*

When placed under a microscope, what is the soil telling us? How do we respond? In this session, we will consider how soil biology informs us and how we can better participate in the soil ecosystem that supports above ground vegetation
Andie Marsh, Founder of Rhizos LLC

2. Teaching Climate Science - 2 hour session | *Salon F & G*

Conservation districts are uniquely positioned to share climate science with producers, urban residents and K-12 students. This session will give participants a solid foundation in climate science & offer suggestions for teaching climate science in informal settings through hands-on activities.
Rebecca Bond, OCC

3. Long Range Planning | *Salon A & B*

Bring your questions, ideas, and Long Range Plan drafts for a group working session
OCC District Services Team

9:30 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. The Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan | *Salon D & E*

The OCWP provides invaluable information for water planning, including current water supply, 50-year projected demands, projected surface water gaps and groundwater depletions, assessments of infrastructure needs, and analyses of local issues
Owen Mills, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

2. Teaching Climate Science (continuation from 8:30 a.m.) | *Salon F & G*

3. Regenerative Media : 2024 Marketing + Telling Your Story | *Salon A & B*

A living systems approach to sharing your story with tools to expand your market or organization through storytelling, social media, newsletters and artificial intelligence
Nicol Ragland, OACD Creative Director / Ragland Photo + Films, LLC



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

Tuesday February 27, 2024 (continued)

9:30 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions Cont.

4. Urban Ag Roundtable: Challenges & Successes | Oklahoma Room, 2nd Floor

Explore the dynamic landscape of urban agriculture, where experts will delve into the challenges and successes shaping sustainable food cultivation in urban environments
Marcus Long, Oklahoma County Conservation Districts & Mary Fisher, NRCS

10:30 a.m. - Networking Break | Pre-function Area

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10:45 a.m. - Concurrent Session

1. "That will never work here! Cover Crops in Drought Country" | Salon D & E

Completely changing the way we view cropping in the semi-arid regions of the High Plains by creating drought resilient soils
Dale Strickler, Regenerative Wisdom

2. Public Meetings | Salon A & B

Conservation District meetings are public meetings – is your district prepared for the public to attend? | *OCC District Services Team*

3. Watershed Dam Operation & Maintenance/Sponsor Responsibilities 101 | Salon F & G

Information about the importance of watershed O&M as a critical priority for conservation districts and NRCS partners | *Tammy Sawatzky, OCC & Roderick Dukes, NRCS & Dianna Perry, NRCS*

4. District Employees Networking Session | Oklahoma Room, 2nd Floor

This is a closed session for district employees only
Belinda Dimitratos, OACDE

11:45 a.m. - Networking Break | Pre-function Area

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

Climate, Justice, and Regenerative Agriculture | Salon D&E

Dr. Liz Carlisle, University of California & Author of "Healing Grounds" & Latrice Tatsey (In-niisk-ka-mah-kii), ecologist & American Indian Tribal Liaison for NRCS in Montana



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

Tuesday February 27, 2024 (*continued*)

1:15 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. Pasture Revitalization | *Salon D & E*

Conversation between OCC Soil Health team and Dale Strickler on accelerating drought stricken pasture recovery troubleshooting Oklahoma specific scenarios by providing tangible management, stewardship, and soil health tips

Dale Strickler, Regenerative Wisdom & Meg Greski, OCC

2. Cost Share Year 26, Kick off & Training | *Salon A & B*

Introduction of Cost-Share Program Year 26 guidelines and training on program rules, policies and administration | *Tammy Sawatzky, OCC*

2:15 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. Lay of the Land: Observations on Regenerative Ag | *Salon D&E*

A national perspective on current developments, opportunities, and definitions of regenerative ag | *Jimmy Emmons, Trust in Food*

2. Cost Share Year 26, Kick off & Training (continuation) | *Salon A & B*

Tammy Sawatzky, OCC



OACD'S 86th Annual State Meeting

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