2026 Annual Conference

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Alabama Association of RC&D Councils

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Exhibitor Set-up
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Conference Registration and Check-in
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Silent Auction Open
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	**Welcome Party** ❖ Dr. Nick Williams, Chairman, Alabama Association of RC&D Councils

Monday, September 28, 2026

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
7:30 am to 9:00 am	Silent Auction Open
8:00 am to 9:00 am	Conference Registration and Check-in
9:00 am to 9:30 am	**Opening Ceremonies and Welcome:** ❖ Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Nick Williams, Chairman, Alabama Association of RC&D Councils ❖ Invocation: Chris Langley, Vice Chairman, Alabama Association of RC&D Councils ❖ Presentation of Colors: Gulf Shores High School Color Guard ❖ Pledge of Allegiance: Gulf Shores High School Color Guard ❖ Craig Sizemore, President, Southeastern Association of RC&D Councils ❖ William A. Hodge, President, National Association of RC&D Councils ❖ Ken White, Assistant Chief – South Region, Office of the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service
9:30 am to 10:30 am	**Keynote** ❖ **Stronger Together: The Past, Present, and Future of Alabama RC&D**, Katie Conner, Executive Director, Alabama Association of RC&D Councils
10:30 am to 10:45 am	Break and Silent Auction Open
10:45 am to 11:30 am	**Partner and Council Highlights:** ❖ Partner Spotlight: **Yellowhammer Outdoor Development: Investing in Alabama's Trails,** Jared Carter, Executive Director, Yellowhammer Outdoor Development ❖ Council Project Highlight: **"Cool Green Trees,"** Grace Dugger, Program Director, Cool Green Trees (Cawaco RC&D Council) ❖ Partner Spotlight: Erin Hackenmueller, Program Director, Your Town Alabama

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11:30 am to 1:30 pm **Legislative Luncheon**

- Legislative Award Presentations, Noopie Cosby, The Cosby Company
  - RC&D House Leader of the Year
  - RC&D Senate Leader of the Year
- **Legislative Roundtable Discussion**, Moderator: Drayton Cosby, The Cosby Company
- Closing Remarks, Noopie Cosby, The Cosby Company

1:30 pm to 1:45 pm Break and Silent Auction Open

1:45 pm to 3:00 pm **General Session:**

- Council Project Highlight: **"Autauga County Technology Center's First Responder Initiative,"** Pamela Hughes, Executive Director, and Krystal Ward, Programs Manager, Mid-South RC&D Council
- **Beyond the Board Meeting: Governance, Oversight & Accountability** Kyle Simpler, CPA, Partner, CRI Advisors, LLC, Partner, Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

3:00 pm to 3:15 pm Break and Silent Auction Open

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm **General Session:**

- ***Sprout* Book Debut and Activity Session**, Ella Parris, Author and Illustrator, and Anna Cornelius, CEO and Executive Director, National Association of RC&D Councils

Dinner Off Campus on Your Own

Silent Auction Closes

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Tuesday, September 29, 2026

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
7:30 am to 9:00 am	Silent Auction Open
9:00 am to 10:15 am	**General Session** ❖ Council Project Highlight: **"Supplies for Success,"** Nneka Williams, Executive Director, and Kawonja Herrod, Programs Manager, Tombigbee RC&D Council ❖ **Conserving What Matters: Protecting Your People and Organization**, Rebecca Tipton SHRM-SCP, Senior Manager, BMSS Advisors and CPAs
10:15 am to 10:30 am	Break and Silent Auction Open
10:30 am to 12:00 pm	**Alabama Association of RC&D Councils Business Meeting** ❖ State Partner: Bob Plaster, Assistant Commissioner, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries ❖ State Partner: Ashley Henderson, Executive Director, Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee ❖ State Partner: Vickie Watkins, Executive Director, Alabama Association of Conservation Districts ❖ State Partner: Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, State Director of Alabama, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture ❖ Officer Elections
12:00 pm to 12:15 pm	Break and Silent Auction Open
12:15 pm to 3:30 pm	**Staff Only: Quickbooks Online Training (Lunch Provided)**
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Time on Your Own to Explore, Eat, and Relax
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	**Cocktail Hour/Hospitality**
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	**Robert Harbison Awards Banquet** ❖ Award Presentations ❖ Grand Door Prize Drawing
8:00 pm	Silent Auction Last Call
8:30 pm	**Gather Silent Auction Items and Pay**

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 am to 12:00 am	**Staff Only: Quickbooks Online Training**