17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



May 3-6, 2023 Springfield, Massachusetts

E-zine 6, February 23, 2023

Welcome to NERGC 2023! The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) invites you to join us at our seventeenth conference, "Missing Branches Are Not the End of the Line," May 3–6, 2023 *live and in-person* ONLY at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. We look forward to connecting with you—our fellow genealogists and family historians—and sharing our stories, triumphs, challenges, methods, and resources.

A PDF version of the conference brochure is available <u>here</u>. It contains the full conference schedule, summaries of lectures, speaker biographies, and information on available luncheons, banquets, Wednesday activities, and more. Register online <u>here</u>. To register by mail, see the last page of the brochure.

At NERGC 2023 you'll find:

- Featured Speakers: Rich Venezia and Dr. Michael D. Lacopo
- Over 100 lectures to choose from, with levels ranging from beginner to expert
- Seven workshops
- Four optional Special Research Tracks on Wednesday
- The Exhibit Hall

- Society Fair
- Libraries, Archives, and Museums Showcase
- Special Workshops
- Special Interest Groups
- The Ancestors Road Show
- Socializing and Networking
- And much, much more!

HOW TO REGISTER FOR NERGC 2023

The cost of Full Registration is \$210. Single day registration for Thursday, Friday, or Saturday is available for \$85.

Conference Brochure

Prior to registering, you can download the conference brochure, which includes the full program of the conference, at https://nergc.org/brochure/. You may want to print it out and circle the sessions you want to attend and the events you want to participate in. With eight concurrent tracks of sessions, you may have some tough choices to make! Speakers were asked to state the audience level they associate with the proposed presentation. You'll find these in the upper right corner of the boxes in the schedule section of the conference brochure. We defined the levels as:

- (N) Novice Someone new to this topic, ethnicity, or record type
- Intermediate Someone with some experience in this topic, ethnicity, or record type
- Advanced Someone with general experience in this topic, ethnicity, or record type
- (E) Experienced Someone with widespread experience in this topic, ethnicity, or record type
- (G) General Interest –Informational and not related to research experience

To Register

Online

You can register and pay by credit card at https://nergc.org/registration.

OR

By Mail

When you are ready to register, you can fill out and mail the last page of the brochure, along with your check, to the address given.

Note: Those entitled to free admission, such as speakers, exhibitors, and award winners, will be emailed a discount code to be used during online registration to deduct the cost of their ticket. Those in these categories know who they are and should wait for that code before registering.

HOTEL INFORMATION

NERGC has reserved blocks of rooms at two hotels in Springfield, walkable to the conference, a Sheraton and a Marriott.

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel (\$179/night, last day to book is April 11) One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144. Reservations can be made at this link or by calling 1-800-325-3535 or (413) 781-1010. Mention that you are booking for the "New England Regional Genealogical Consortium" to get the negotiated conference rate.

Marriott Springfield Downtown (\$169/night, last day to book is April 2), 2 Boland Way, Springfield, MA 01115. Reservations can be made <u>at this link</u> or by calling the hotel at 413-781-7111. Mention our group code, "NE1625," to get the negotiated conference rate.

Note on availability: This information may change from day to day as reservations are made or canceled, but as of February 7, 2023, it looks like this:

- The Sheraton has rooms available all nights.
- The Marriott is sold out Thursday and Friday nights but has availability Tuesday night and Saturday night.

Contact accessibility@nergc.org for details about the accessible rooms available upon request.

DEADLINES TO REMEMBER:

- Coming soon—the last day to purchase booth space in the Exhibit Hall.
- March 26—the last day to order a printed syllabus or a syllabus on a USB flash drive.
- April 12—the last day to request personal access equipment rentals.
- April 14—the last day to cancel registrations for a refund (minus \$20).
- April 15—the last day to order meals.
- April 28—the last day to register online. If you miss this date, just arrive and register onsite.
- April 29—link to digital syllabus distributed via email.

If you have any questions regarding the registration specifically, please send an email to: registration@nergc.org.

If you have a more general question about the conference, you can send an email to: nergc-help@nergc.org.

ATTENTION POTENTIAL ANCESTORS ROAD SHOW CONSULTANTS



The Ancestors Road Show is the place for giving or getting help. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to have a free 20-minute consultation with a professional genealogist. We hope that many of the great professional genealogist/speakers attending the Conference will participate as consultants. The link to sign up as a consultant

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949a9a82aa6fd0-nergc#/NERGC Ancestors Roadshow Committee nergc@ctprofgen.org.

FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

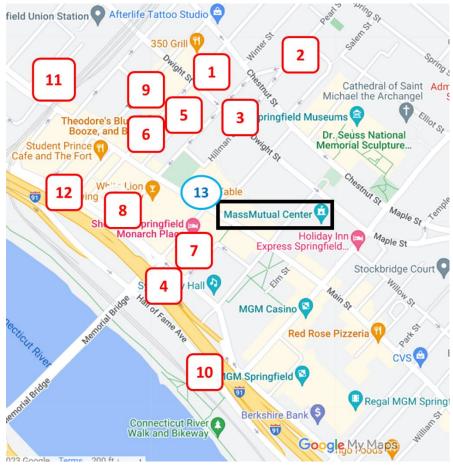
Oh where, oh where can I park my car?

If you are staying at one of the conference hotels, both offer parking for an extra daily fee.

If you are a daily commuter, you can park in any of the parking lots shown on the map. All of these lots are less than a mile from the MassMutual Center. The I-91 South Garage (#4), located at 1870 E. Columbus Ave., is probably the most convenient place to park--easy on/off for I-91, 2-3 blocks away. Anyone physically able would get in a few daily steps and thus save closer spaces for others.

NOTE that, unfortunately, the multi-level garage, located close to the MassMutual Center and available at previous conferences, has been dismantled and will **NOT** be rebuilt in time for our conference.

Accessible parking is available directly across Bruce Landon Way from the MassMutual Center. For more details about handicapped parking and drop off spots contact Pam Roberts by email at Accessibility@nergc.org. The MassMutual Center also offers convenient drop-off and pick-up areas for guests, taxis and limousines located along Bruce Landon Way.



Map ID	Parking Lot	Address	Walking Distance	Comments
1	Dwight St Lot	339 Worthington St.	0.2 mi (5 min)	
2	Apremont Triangle Lot	33Pearl St.	0.3 mi (6 min)	
3	Hillman Lot	292 Hillman St	0.3 mi (6 min)	
4	I-91 South Garage	1870 E. Columbus Ave.	0.3 mi (6 min)	
5	Worthington St. Lot (Propark)	215 Worthington St.	0.3 mi (7 min)	
6	Taylor Street Garage	33 Taylor St	0.4 mi (7 min)	

Map ID	Parking Lot	Address	Walking Distance	Comments
7	Tower Square Garage /	1739-1765 E. Columbus Ave	0.4 mi (8 min)	\$20 if staying at the hotel;
	Marriott Hotel			hourly rates up to \$40/day
8	Sheraton Hotel Garage	99-1 Columbus Center	0.4 mi (8 min)	\$19.99 if staying at the
	aka Columbus Center			hotel
	Garage			
9	Morgan Square Lot	12-22 Taylor St.	0.5 mi (9 min)	
10	Riverfront Lot	1557 West Columbus Avenue	0.5 mi (9 min)	
11	Union Station Garage	1755 Main Street	0.6 mi (11 min)	
12	I-91 North Garage	1870 E. Columbus Ave.	0.9 mi (9 min)	
13	East Court Lot	22 Bruce Landon Way	344 ft (1 min)	Accessible Parking ONLY
				Contact Pam Roberts at
				accessibility@nergc.org for
				details.

An interactive map of downtown Springfield with the parking lots managed by the Springfield Parking Authority can be found at: https://springfieldparkingauthority.com/maps/.

Please note, this information is current as of December 2022 and availability may change at any time.

WORKSHOPS AT NERGC 2023

Workshops at NERGC are longer sessions with smaller audiences. They offer the attendee a chance to delve into a subject with an expert instructor for a full two hours! This year we're offering two types of workshops—pre-conference and conference.

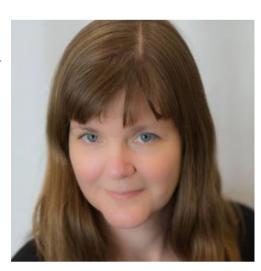
Wednesday's pre-conference workshops run from 4:30-6:30 at a cost of \$30. These are set up for those who can attend other pre-conference activities, those who can come after work, and those who arrive early for the conference. The four topics are Proof Arguments, New England Land Records, Solving Photo Mysteries, and Clues from the Census.

One conference workshop is offered each day for those who register for the full or one-day conference. These come with an added cost of \$25. Thursday's option is from 8:00-10:00 in the morning for "Getting Into Genealogy," a great way for a beginner to get started before enjoying the remainder of the conference! Friday's workshop is "Principals of Source Documentation Made Easy" from 8:30-10:30 in the morning. On Saturday, the workshop option is from 1:45-3:45 in the afternoon—"U.S. Catholic Records."

Digital materials for each workshop will be distributed at the end of April to those who register for the workshop. We certainly hope one of these will be of interest to you, but there are also 100 sessions to choose from as part of the conference. Join us for Genealogy Fun in Springfield, Massachusetts!

GETTING INTO GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Are you or a friend new to genealogy? The *Getting Into Genealogy Workshop* (T-101) on Thursday morning. is available as a starting point and geared toward beginning your genealogy research. This is offered from 8:00-10:00 a.m. on Thursday morning to conference attendees as a \$25 add-on to their registration. The Massachusetts Society of Genealogists (MSOG) is sponsoring this workshop, created by their former president for use at libraries. Denise Cross, member of MSOG and professional genealogist, will guide you through the basic steps and forms for genealogical research and introduce you to the types of research and resources you'll need to get started or to continue your Family History journey.



NEW! A TOPICAL INDEX TO NERGC 2023 PRESENTATIONS

The NERGC 2023 Brochure is a great resource for getting a compact, day-by-day, hour-by-hour view of the conference. But what if you want to find all the sessions related to DNA? Or all of them about Irish ancestry? Or are all of them about Vermont? You need to do quite a bit of hunting to track that information down.

Until now...

Introducing the New Topic Index of NERGC 2023 sessions, the fastest way to track down which sessions are in your area(s) of interest. A listing of sessions relating to researching the New England states is provided below. For more entries, see https://nergc.org/topical-index/

States:

Connecticut:

Strategies for Connecticut Research - Optimize Your Opportunities (Merrick) Fri. 1:45pm Researching in 17th Century Connecticut (Lawthers) Fri. 1:45pm New Connecticut Records Online at FamilySearch (Raymond) Sat. 10:00am

Maine:

Creating Maine Towns: The Process and the Records (McCoy) Sat. 1:45pm

Massachusetts:

Digging Up Colonial New England Ancestor Records (McCarthy) Fri. 8:30am Massachusetts Privateers: Revolutionary War &War of 1812 (Kaldis) Fri. 10:00am The "Bootleg Queen" of Springfield's Little Italy (Cascio) Fri. 4:45pm

New Hampshire:

Roots in Granite: Finding Your New Hampshire Ancestors (Gravel) Th. 4:30pm Untangling New Hampshire Manuscripts (Richardson) Fr. 10:00am

New York:

NY to New England: A Case Study (Miller) Fri. 3:15pm

Rhode Island:

Rhode Island: What's New Online (Boumenot) Sat. 8:30am

Vermont:

Major Valentine's Swedes (Searls) Sat. 3:15pm Case Study of Lucy Prince of Sunderland Vermont (Hayden) Sat. 4:45pm

SPONSORED PRESENTATIONS AT NERGC 2023

We so appreciate companies that sponsor their employees making presentations at NERGC 2023. This year's participating companies include NEHGS, ArkivDigital, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage as well as NYG&B and FamilyTree DNA. By pure coincidence, many of these lectures are on the Saturday schedule of presentations. In addition, most of these companies will also be present in our Exhibit Hall, which is open to the public at no charge. So, if you can't make the full conference, consider a one-day admission for Saturday for five presentations, time in the Exhibit Hall, meal options, and fun with other genealogists!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Our pre-conference activities on Wednesday include four special research tracks—Revolutionary War, French-Canadian Research, Advanced DNA, and Jumpstart Your Research. Each track costs \$50, does not require conference registration, and will include four sessions and a lunch break with an optional on-site meal available. These sessions often appeal to a smaller audience and thus might not otherwise be included in a large conference.

In addition, we're offering four workshops late Wednesday afternoon (4:30-6:30) for those who can arrive on Wednesday or come after work. The topics include writing, land records, census reports, and working with photographs. Attending a workshop on Wednesday gives you more opportunity to enjoy as many as 19 sessions during the three-day conference! The cost of the workshops is \$30 and does not require conference registration.

DON'T MISS THE LUNCHEONS AND BANQUETS!

Meal selection is still open! Meals at the NERGC 2023 Conference are open to everyone. Exhibitors, volunteers, friends, relatives are all welcome to participate. You can add meals or make changes to meal selection up to the Meals Deadline of April 15. All luncheons and banquets offer a choice of entrees; see the last page of the brochure for menu options, and then purchase your meals when you register online or use the paper registration form on the back page of the brochure. To add a meal to an existing registration, simply go back to the registration form and enter a new order, using the same email as your original order, and just add a meal.

Ordering meals through NERGC is important because the MassMutual Center prohibits bringing outside food or drink into the building. They will enforce this rule. Our meals provide vegetarian selections. In addition, we will try to accommodate special dietary needs. Just note your dietary need on the registration form. If you have specific questions, you may email a member of the Meals Committee at meals@nergc.org.

MEALS FOR WEDNESDAY PRE-CONFERENCE

The Meals Committee worked with the MassMutual Center to provide box lunches for the pre-conference on Wednesday. The box lunch will contain a sandwich, chips, salad, cookie, and a bottle of water. The choices of sandwiches are:

Godfather—Italian Combo: Smoked salami, capicola, smoked provolone cheese, roasted peppers, pickled red onions, red wine aioli served on ciabatta.

Fat Bird—Turkey & cheese: Shaved turkey, Swiss cheese, baby greens with sweet grain mustard aioli, caramelized onions served on marble rye.

Santorini—Vegetarian: Asparagus, artichokes, red peppers, olives, sautéed couscous with red onion and hummus in flour tortilla wrap.

Purchasing the box lunch for \$33.00 and staying in the MMC will allow time for a relaxing lunch plus the opportunity to talk with colleagues who attended the pre-conference workshop.

TABLE TOPICS LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY NEAPG

The popular Table Topics Luncheon will be back again this year on Friday, May 5. The event, sponsored by the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, features informal discussions on particular genealogical topics, each led by a member of NEAPG.

Some of the planned discussion will include DNA, Research in New England States, Ethnic Research, Writing, French-Canadian Genealogy, and Brick Walls.

To participate, please register for the Table Topics Luncheon on the NERGC registration page, and plan to visit NEAPG's booth at the exhibit hall before Friday, May 5 to sign up for the topic of your choice. If you have already completed your NERGC registration, it's not too late to add the luncheon. Simply enter a new order, using the same email as your original order, and add the luncheon.

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL DIETARY NEED?

The MassMutual Center assures us that they will provide for special dietary needs. Gluten-free bread is available. For non-dairy guests, they can prepare sandwiches without cheese. For those attending the Friday luncheon with Table Topics, the chicken salad will be grilled sliced chicken and the protein on the vegetarian salad will be quinoa and chickpeas. They will serve a vegetarian and gluten-free soup of fresh greens and legumes.

The online registration process and the paper form both provide an opportunity to describe specific dietary needs. Complete the registration form, select the meals, and we will contact you to determine the best way to accommodate your request. Remember, if you have questions relating to special meal requests, please email meals@nergc.org.

SYLLABUS REMINDER

A link to an electronic version of the syllabus, which will include conference information as well as handouts for the general conference sessions, will be sent to all registrants approximately one week prior to the conference. Optionally available are a printed syllabus (\$20.00) or a PDF file on a flash drive (\$9.00), either of which must be ordered by March 26, 2023. Please note that the conference syllabus will not include any handouts for the optional workshops or Wednesday pre-conference activities. Any handouts related to those activities will be distributed separately to those who registered for those activities.

The printed syllabus and flash drive will not be available for sale at the Conference. A printed NERGC syllabus is a genealogical resource you will consult many times over the years. Don't forget to include a printed syllabus in your registration order. To add a printed syllabus to an existing registration, simply go back to the registration form and enter a new order, using the same email as your original order, and just add a printed syllabus.

INTRODUCING THE CONFERENCE APP

Whova

Our official conference app, Whova, will help you improve your conference experience. With the app, you can:

- View the event **agenda** and plan your schedule
- Ask speakers questions in **Session Q&A**
- Plan in-person or virtual meetups with your fellow attendees
- Receive updates such as **last-minute schedule changes** from the organizers
- Ask the conference organizers questions

Download the app; then login with the same email address you used to register for the conference.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Enthusiasm is always high for these popular, informal mini gatherings, which will be held on Thursday evening, May 4 at 7:15pm, at the Mass Mutual Center. It's an opportunity to meet and share with conference participants and hosts on a wide range of topics. Popular past topics will be offered along with several new topics. The confirmed SIGS gatherings are listed below. Watch for other SIG topics to be confirmed.

DNA LGBTQ+

Moderator: Kelli Jo Bergheimer Moderator: Michael Leclerc

French-Canadian Research
Moderator: Johanne Gervais

Military Research
Moderator: Kathleen Kaldis

Irish Research Polish Research

Moderator: Pamela Holland Moderators: Aleksandra Kacprzak and Lucjan Cichocki

Jewish Research Writing

Moderator: Jessie Klein Moderator: William Cole

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Some sponsorship opportunities are still available. If you know of organizations that would like to participate, visit https://nergc.org/partners/ for more details and sponsorship@nergc.org with all questions.

SOCIETY FAIR

There continues to be interest in signing up for the Society Fair. Come one, come all. Don't be shy! There is plenty of room and there will be lots of interested attendees to look over each table during the evening stroll after sessions end on Thursday. We provide the table and two chairs, free signage and a captive audience. Don't wait, space is filling up fast. Contact SocietyFair@nergc.org for more information. For a complete list of participants please see nergc.org/society-fair/.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS SHOWCASE

The interest in our Libraries, Archives & Museums Showcase has been amazing. The Saturday Showcase is filling up, but there is lots of room for Friday's Showcase. NERGC continues to encourage libraries, archives, and museums with special collections of interest to genealogists and researchers to join us in Springfield. One table, two chairs, and signage are available at no cost for informational exhibits about special collections, Friday and Saturday, May 5th and 6th, from 10 a.m. to 3 pm. For more information, please email LAMShowcase@nergc.org.



All of the participants are excited and anxious to show off their collections. The Windsor (Connecticut) Historical Society is the cornerstone of the event, as this will be their fourth appearance. Windsor Historical Society's research library and archives house extensive historical resources relating to the town of Windsor and its people, as well as materials that explore topics of local and regional interest. Highlights include thousands of historic photographs, 17th- to 20th-century primary documents, (many indexed by date and family name), more than 350 published genealogies of Windsor-related families, copies of local cemetery records and vital records, regional and state histories, town reports, local newspapers, school yearbooks, city directories, and maps, among many other resources.

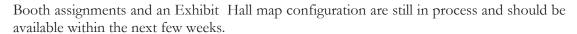
Watch this space for more information on each of the participants. For a complete list, please see <u>nergc.org/libraries-archives-museums-showcase/</u>.

EXHIBIT HALL UPDATE

There are still some exhibit booth spaces available, but **THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND PURCHASE IS COMING SOON!** Application and payment can be made at https://nergc.org/exhibit-hall/ Among this year's exhibitors are:

Gravestone Girls. They are a group that creates decorative artwork using the beautiful and primitive images carved on old New England gravestones. Their work can be viewed at https://www.gravestonegirls.com/#/

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). Located in Andover, MA, NEDCC is the first non-profit conservation center in the United States to specialize in the preservation of paper-based library and archival materials. It was founded in 1973. Details about NEDCC can be viewed at their website here https://www.nedcc.org/





CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the NERGC conference. That's one thing that helps keep our prices lower than so many other regional conferences. From Wednesday morning through Saturday's banquet there are opportunities for you to loan your time to the conference to keep things running smoothly!

We start on Wednesday with tasks for check-in at pre-conference events and the congenial task of helping to stuff envelopes and tote bags for conference registrations. Conference check-in will open on Wednesday afternoon and requires many volunteers from Wednesday through Saturday.

Other opportunities to volunteer include being the host or hostess for a session (introducing and working with the speaker), being the door monitor for a session (checking badges, collecting evaluations, and controlling lighting), answering questions in the hallway, helping with Exhibitor check in on Wednesday, and working at the Hospitality or Volunteer table.

Credit for your volunteer hours is given to one of the participating societies in fulfillment of their agreement to provide conference volunteers. Help the conference and help your society in one fell swoop!

You can sign up now for your desired volunteer opportunity from our website—www.nergc.org/volunteers.

NERGC ACCESSIBILITY TEAM REMINDERS AND UPDATES

Don't forget!

While registration will remain open through April 28th, potential attendees or those already registered with mobility, hearing, or visual concerns impacting access and participation at this conference should contact Pam Roberts, NERGC 2023 Accessibility Liaison (accessibility@nergc.org) at your earliest convenience.

Need a scooter rental? Deadline for requesting rental is April 3, 2023

A rental vendor for scooters and other equipment is ready to receive your personal orders should you wish to arrange a rental at a reasonable weekly rate with delivery to the venue or hotel for your convenience. **Equipment orders need to be reserved NO LATER THAN April 3, 2023.**

Interested in an assisted personal listening device?

We will be deciding on how many if any we request. We have a quote from a vendor and hope to firm that agreement up by mid-March. But I need to know and interview you if you and share details if you think a device might be helpful. Be sure to check your spam and junk mail as I have reached out to many, but only some have responded.

Need Sign Language or another form of interpreter help used by persons who are deaf?

Do you have access to a portable device (smart phone or tablet or laptop) you would like to use during the conference to access audio to text screen capabilities? Do you have headphones you could use during a session? To have your device turn text to audio or audio to text? Or by using headphones to hear the written word if you need spoken language access to written materials. Please be in touch by no later than March 31 as it takes up to six to eight weeks to request and receive a confirmation to secure a sign language interpreter. If you know of an "ASL sign language interpreter" available in the greater Springfield area, let me know. We will work toward meeting your needs.

The deadline for requesting listening equipment rental or ASL sign language interpreter is April 3.

It is possible that the vendor's inventory may be limited and confirmation and reservation for equipment will be on a first come, first served basis.

Hotel reservations must be begun by you by following the instructions given. But if you are having difficulty getting what you need, do contact me and I can help you advocate for what you need. Is accessible parking still a concern? Check out the Hospitality article in this E-zine, and watch for my specific updates and pictures from a Springfield visit I make before E-Zine 7 goes out.

Mobile App invitation to take advantage of setting your preferred itinerary (choosing the high priority Speaker Sessions across each day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. I can tell from your registration information shared with me what prepaid workshops you are attending, what meals you are attending etc. BUT if you need to have other supports, I will need your itinerary or "agenda" as Whova calls it. Please follow the instructions in your registration confirmation, sign into Whova, and fill out your AGENDA no later than April 2; earlier if possible. Let me know if you need help and we can do it together.

Stay connected and enjoy the conference. Stop by to check in at the Accessibility table near registration on arrival. We welcome your ideas and feedback. Pam Roberts (accessibility@nergc.org).

FOLLOW NERGC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

E-zine

Continue to follow our E-zines to keep up to date on the planning and the excitement of this conference. They are sent periodically to all those on our mailing list. If you're not already receiving them and would like to do so, go to https://nergc.org/e-zines/, enter your email address, last name, and first name in the form on the right side of the screen, and hit the "Sign Up" button. Back issues of the E-zine are also posted on the E-zine page.

CONFERENCE BLOG

Keep up to date with breaking news about the many special events and conference activities that are planned. Find out more information about the lectures, speakers, exhibitors, hotel, research facilities, and the City of Springfield. Check out the blog to get the most out of the conference: https://nergc.org/blog/.

FACEBOOK

Thinking about attending NERGC? Don't miss the excitement! Follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/NERGC to learn more about the conference, check out the photos from past Conferences, and write on the NERGC "wall."

TWITTER

Follow the #NERGC Conversation on Twitter, where we are @NERGC2023. Also follow #NERGC for other buzz about the conference.