

GARLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

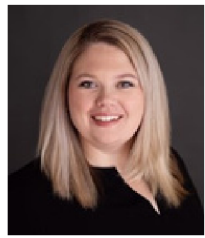
NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.garlandcountycd.org

Board of Directors: Tommy Sorrells Doug Meredith David Parker Davin Anderson Kayla Hardage

Welcome-Kayla Hardage Board Director



Kayla is the Executive Director at Camp Tanako on the beautiful shores of Lake Catherine. She grew up in Jefferson County and attended college at Henderson State University. While in college, she worked at DeGray Lake Resort

State Park and the Captain Henderson House Bed and Breakfast, where she fell in love with hospitality. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences, she went to work for Dillard's. Quickly she knew she wanted to work outside and in hospitality again, and a position came available in group sales at DeGray Lake Resort State Park. She worked in the park for a couple of years until moving to Little Rock where she began her time with Arkansas Tourism. As the Welcome Center Administrator, she oversaw the operation of Arkansas's 14 Welcome Centers and assisted in the marketing efforts for the State Tourism office. Kayla and her two sons, Henry and Harry, love the outdoors and are excited to be the stewards of Camp Tanako!

NACD Stewardship Week April 28-May 5, 2024



The National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week, celebrated annually since 1955, stands as one of the nation's largest initiatives dedicated to promoting the conservation of natural resources. Occurring between the last

Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May, this week-long event serves as a powerful reminder of our personal responsibilities to protect our invaluable natural resources. This year's theme, "May the Forest Be With You Always", focuses on how forest health intertwines with soil and water conservation. Forests function as steadfast protectors of soil and water resources by preventing erosion, purifying contaminants, and nurturing healthy watersheds. Stewardship calls upon every individual to help conserve our precious natural resources to ensure their prosperity for future generations.

Welcome- Kristin Kalaja Soil Conservationist



Kristen Kalaja is currently serving as the acting District Conservationist at the Garland County Field Office on a 120-day detail. Kristen, originally from Mena, AR, graduated from Arkansas Tech University in 2019, where she earned her bachelor's

degree in Agriculture Education. Her prior experience working for NRCS includes interning in the Russellville Field Office and serving as a Soil Conservationist in the Malvern, Fort Smith, and Mena Field Offices. In her free time, Kristen enjoys gardening, cooking, and fishing.

GCCD 2024 Academic Scholarship



Local high school students who are planning to study a conservation related field are encouraged to apply for a \$500 scholarship sponsored by

the Garland County Conservation District. Agriculture, plant science, agronomy, environmental science, wildlife biology, and soil science are just a few conservation related fields. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2024. Applications are available in our office, online at www.garlandcountycd.org, or check with your high school guidance counselor.

AACD Outstanding Conservation District



The Garland County Conservation District was recently named 2nd place winner for Outstanding Conservation District at the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts' Annual Meeting held February 29th. This award recognizes districts that demonstrate success through teamwork, dedication to their landowners and a commitment to the promotion of stewardship at all levels. Pictured are AACD President John McAlpine and GCCD District Manager Hesper Hortman.

AGFC Conservation Education Grant Centerfork Bird Busters

Through the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s (AGFC) Wildlife Education Grant program, fine monies collected by AGFC officers in Garland County are converted into grant funds for programs supporting conservation education. These funds are only available through the county conservation district or a local school district. Garland County Conservation District was awarded \$ 1,162.61 in grant funds to be utilized to purchase clays and ammunition for a local Arkansas Youth Shooting Sports Program (AYSSP), known as the Centerfork Bird Busters. AYSSP is dedicated to educating young Arkansans on the importance of safe shooting practices along with wildlife conservation. In order for programs like this to be available to future generations, we must teach youth that conservation is key.



Happy Retirement - Bob Scott Farm Bill Biologist, Quail Forever



With a hometown population of 76, it’s safe to say that Bob grew up in very rural Arkansas. His fascination with wildlife and their habitat started at an early age since most of his time was spent outdoors doing activities like hunting and fishing. Looking to make a career in what he loved most, Bob graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management in May of 1985. A trip to the post office in March of 1986 would change his life forever. Bob received a letter stating he had been accepted into the Wildlife Law Enforcement Training Center and thus began his life journey in conservation as an Arkansas Wildlife Officer. In 1991, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) began a new program that would hire biologists to work directly with private land owners with the goal of improving wildlife habitat on their property. In 2017, Bob joined Quail Forever where he has continued to assist landowners in making the beneficial changes to their property through the best management practices available. As his retirement draws near, Bob is able to reflect on his career in conservation with pride. He has gained experiences that have enriched his personal and professional growth, while also leaving a positive impact on the environment he so deeply loves. Good luck and congratulations! We sure will miss you!

Thinking About Planting Wildflowers On Your Land?

Plan ahead before buying any flower seeds for your land. Most box store flower seed mixes contain numerous non-native varieties. Although these varieties may be showy, they do not benefit many of the native wildlife species in your area. What you need is a diverse seed mix that contains a combination of wildflower species native to the specific area you are planting. You can reach out to your local Quail Forever or Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Biologist who can recommend a seed mix that is specifically developed for your area. You can then submit this mix to most any native seed vendor for fulfillment. These species evolved over time to thrive in your area and with proper management, will greatly benefit many species of pollinators, birds, and other wildlife on your land.



Purple Coneflower



Butterfly Milkweed



Wild Bergamot



Black-eyed Susan



Foxglove beardtongue



Tickseed Coreopsis

Food is a basic human need, and without pollinators, humans would go hungry! Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, and small animals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. Somewhere between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on the earth require animal pollination - they need pollinators. Here are a couple recipes that honor pollinators and the work that they do. While choosing your ingredients, we encourage you to support local farmers that practice pollinator-friendly practices.

TOMATO AND AVOCADO BRUSCHETTA *By The Modern Proper*

Ingredients

- 1 baguette, 1-inch slices at an extreme angle
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 (10 oz) containers cherry tomatoes, halved and seeded
- 1 tbsp white balsamic vinegar
- 3 small (or 1 lrg) clove of garlic, minced, divided
- 2 avocados
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1/3 cup basil, minced, divided
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper

Directions

1. Turn oven to broil
2. Using a pastry brush, dab the bread slices with olive oil and sprinkle with garlic powder. Broil the bread slices for 4-5 minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven and set aside.
3. In a small bowl, mix the remaining olive oil (about ¼ cup) with the seeded tomatoes, balsamic vinegar and half of the garlic. Set aside to let flavors mingle together.
4. In a separate bowl, mash the avocado. Mix in the remaining garlic, lemon juice, half of the basil, salt and pepper.
5. Spread each baguette slice with 1-2 tablespoons of avocado mixture. Evenly divide the tomatoes among the avocado toasts. Sprinkle with remaining basil and additional flake salt if desired.

CHOCOLATE-DIPPED COCONUT MACAROONS *By Jennifer Fishkind*

Ingredients

- 1 14 oz. bag sweetened coconut
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 14 oz. can condensed sweetened milk
- 1-2 cups chocolate chips
- melting chocolate (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line cookie sheet with a silicon baking mat or parchment paper.
2. Mix coconut, vanilla, condensed milk together in large mixing bowl. Add in the chocolate chips.
3. Take a tablespoon size of the mixture (a cookie scooper works great for this) and roll it in a ball with your hands. You want the balls to be really tight, so squeeze the mixture in your hands!
4. Place each on the cookie sheet spacing well apart (they will spread a bit)
5. Bake about 15-20 minutes or until golden brown (the baking time really depends on your oven, you don't want them to burn, so watch them carefully)
6. Cool on a wire rack
7. When totally cool - melt candy chocolate in a double boiler (follow your chocolates instructions) and dip the bottom and roll the bottom sides in the chocolate. Let cool for about 15 minutes in the refrigerator



Pollinator Week is an annual celebration in support of pollinator health that was initiated 14 years ago and is managed by Pollinator Partnership. Pollinator Week 2024 is a celebration of the vital role that pollinators play in our ecosystems, economies, and agriculture. These essential

creatures, including bees, butterflies, moths, bats, beetles, and hummingbirds, are the unsung heroes behind the food we enjoy and the beauty that surrounds us. It is vital that we begin to acknowledge the importance of our actions on the habitats of pollinators and adopt sustainable practices. By raising awareness for pollinators, we can contribute to a future where pollinators not only survive but thrive!

Garland County Master Gardener PLANT SALE & GARDEN SHOW

April 19th 9 - 5 pm

April 20th 9 - 5 pm

**Garland County Fairgrounds
4831 Malvern Ave. Hot Springs, AR**