

# GARLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## NEWS AND VIEWS

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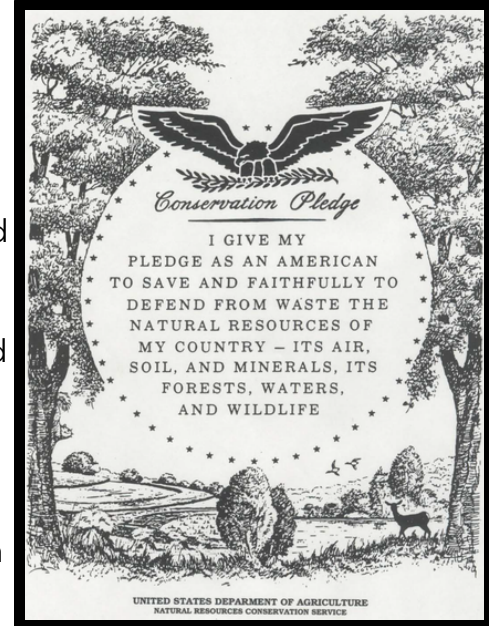
www.garlandcountycd.org

Board of Directors: Tommy Sorrells Doug Meredith Melvin Daniel David Parker Davin Anderson

## WHAT IS A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

In the 1930's, the ecology and agriculture of the American prairies were greatly damaged by severe dust storms and drought. This period of time, ranging from 1934-1939, is referred to as the Dust Bowl. Insufficient understanding of the ecology of the plains, led to deep-plowing of topsoil, displacing the native deep-rooted grasses. Normally, these grasses trapped soil and moisture even during periods of high winds and drought. Following the devastation of the Dust Bowl, President Roosevelt recommended the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act be signed into law by all state governors. This act provided a step-by-step guide to create conservation districts along with listing their powers and responsibilities. The first conservation district, Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District, was organized in North Carolina on August 4, 1937. Arkansas became the first state to enact legislation regarding conservation districts. By July 1, 1945, all 48 states had passed district-enabling acts. Conservation districts are political subdivisions of the State of Arkansas.

They are a creation of popular vote of resident landowners for the purpose of conserving our land and water resources as authorized by Act No. 197 of the Arkansas General Assembly of 1937; the Nation's first conservation district law. Conservation districts are local governments at work. The purpose of this district is to plan and carry out programs for the conservation and efficient use of the land, water and related natural resources of Garland County. In doing so, it serves as the medium through which all individuals, agencies, organizations and institutions with conservation interest can efficiently work together to solve local natural resource concerns and help forecast future needs. The idea behind the formation is to keep decision making on soil and water conservation matters at the local level.



***The Lake Hamilton Soil and Water Commission was organized on***

***June 10, 1941. On October 15, 1971, the name was changed to Garland County Conservation District. The district has and will continue to assist local landowners with natural resource conservation issues.***

## 2023 Garland County Farm Family of the Year



Congratulations! The Britt Family of Royal were recently named as Farm Family of the Year for Garland County.

The Britts own 40 acres where they farm hay, cattle, and horses. Since 1947, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program has recognized and encouraged local families who are doing an outstanding job on their farm and in their community.

## 2023 GCCD Academic Scholarship Recipient



Hot Springs World Class High School graduate Cooper Jack Bull was chosen as the recipient of the 2023 GCCD Academic Scholarship. Cooper will attend the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville this fall. He plans to obtain his Bachelor's degree in Horticulture. After completing his studies, Cooper's ultimate goal is to establish his own farm and laboratory where he will experiment with innovative farming techniques that are both environmentally friendly and economically viable.



## unlock the SECRETS IN THE SOIL

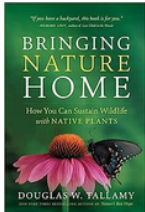
- THE TIPS OF SMALL PLANT ROOTS MOVE THROUGH THE SOIL WITH A TWISTING SCREW-LIKE MOTION. MATURE TREES CAN HAVE AS MANY AS 5 MILLION ACTIVE ROOT TIPS.
- A SINGLE SPADE FULL OF RICH GARDEN SOIL CONTAINS MORE SPECIES OF ORGANISMS THAN CAN BE FOUND ABOVE GROUND IN THE ENTIRE AMAZON RAIN FOREST.
- ONE CUP OF SOIL MAY HOLD AS MANY BACTERIA AS THERE ARE PEOPLE ON EARTH.
- THE WEIGHT OF ALL THE BACTERIA IN ONE ACRE OF SOIL CAN EQUAL THE WEIGHT OF A COW OR TWO.
- THE PLANTS GROWING IN A 2-ACRE WHEAT FIELD CAN HAVE MORE THAN 30,000 MILES OF ROOTS, GREATER THAN THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE EARTH.



## Recommended Reading List

### Bringing Nature Home - Dr. Douglas Tallamy

Tallamy reveals the unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. He shows how a small patch of earth can contribute to sustaining biodiversity.



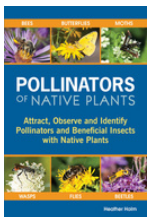
### Nature's Best Hope - Dr. Douglas Tallamy

Nature writing at its best - rooted in history, progressive in advocacy, and above all, actionable and hopeful. It gives us reason to believe our planet can be saved for future generations.



### Pollinators of Native Plants - Heather Holm

An important read for farmers, small fruit and vegetable growers, native plant enthusiasts, gardeners, and conservationists who want to attract and support pollinators.



### Arkansas Wildflowers - Don Kurz

Kurz's extensive knowledge and brilliant photographs fill the pages of this user-friendly guidebook. More than 400 species, grouped by color and blooming season.



## Riparian Forest Buffers

A riparian forest buffer is an area adjacent to a stream, lake, or wetland that contains a combination of trees, shrubs, and/or other perennial plants and is managed primarily to provide conservation benefits. Riparian forest buffers can deliver a number of benefits including filtering nutrients, pesticides, and animal waste from agricultural land runoff; stabilizing eroding banks; filtering sediment from runoff; providing shade, shelter, and food for fish and other aquatic organisms; providing wildlife habitat and corridors for terrestrial organisms; protecting cropland and downstream communities from flood damage; producing income from farmland that is frequently flooded or has poor yields; providing space for recreation; and diversifying landowner income. A number of factors can impact the effectiveness of riparian forest buffers in meeting these objectives. These include site conditions such as adjacent agricultural practices and crop types, stream size, topography, and soils; landscape conditions such as position in the watershed, adjacent land use, and buffer continuity; and other conditions such as markets and public interest. Riparian forest buffer planning and design is important for enhancing the effectiveness of riparian buffers. For more information on riparian forest buffers and the availability of programs that support their installation contact your local district conservationist.

"No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem."

*Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), American author, educator and civil rights leader*



## Tipsy Peach Bread

~AACD Simply Sweets Cookbook

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 cups fresh peaches        | 1/4 tsp ground allspice  |
| 1/2 cup rum                 | 1/8 tsp ground cloves    |
| 1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour | 1 large egg, beaten      |
| 1 cup sugar                 | 3 tbsp butter, melted    |
| 1 tsp baking powder         | 1 tsp vanilla extract    |
| 1 tsp baking soda           | 3/4 cup almonds, chopped |
| 1 tsp salt                  | (optional)               |
| 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon     |                          |

In a large saucepan, over medium-high heat, add peaches and rum; cook, stirring often, for 15 minutes or until peaches are tender. Pour peach mixture into the container of a blender; process until smooth. In a large bowl, mix together flour and next 7 ingredients. Add in peach mixture, egg, melted butter, and vanilla; mix well. Add almonds if desired and stir to combine. Pour batter into a greased and floured 8 1/2 x 4 1/2 loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 30 mins; cover with foil to prevent browning and bake 15 mins or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack for 15 mins; remove loaf from pan to wire rack to cool completely.

Summertime in Arkansas is guaranteed to bring two things ... heat and humidity. Although these two things may not be something to look forward to, what comes along with them is...fresh fruit! The summer months in Arkansas provide ideal growing conditions for a variety of fruit. Apples, blueberries, cantaloupe, grapes, peaches, pears, raspberries, and of course watermelon thrive in the warm and humid climate. So take a little time to enjoy our state's fruitful summertime bounty!

## Peach-Tripleberry Pie

~AACD Simply Sweets Cookbook

|   |
|---|
| 1 double pie crust (mix or frozen)                                  |
| 2 cups ripe peaches, sliced   |
| 1 1/2 cup mixed berries<br>(blackberries, blueberries, raspberries) |
| 1 tsp lemon juice   |
| 3 tbsp cornstarch   |
| 1 cup sugar   |
| 1/2 tsp cinnamon  |
| 1 tbsp butter, cut into pieces                                      |

Preheat oven to 400°. Place pie pan with bottom pie crust on baking sheet. Combine peaches, lemon juice, berries, sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and toss to coat. Pour into crust and dot with butter. Cover with top crust and crimp edges. Cut small slits in top crust to vent. Bake pie for 25 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° and continue to bake for 15 minutes or till crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool on a wire rack.

## USDA People's Garden Initiative

**USDA**  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service



**THE PEOPLE'S  
GARDEN**

The simple act of planting a garden can have big impacts - from building a more diverse and efficient local food system to empowering communities to address issues like nutrition access and climate change. Originally launched in 2009, the People's Garden Initiative is named for the "People's Department", former President Abraham Lincoln's nickname for USDA, which was established during his presidency. People's Gardens grow fresh, healthy food and support resilient local food systems; teach people how to garden using conservation practices; nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife and create greenspace for neighbors. School gardens, community gardens, urban farms, and small-scale agriculture projects in rural, suburban and urban areas can be recognized as a "People's Garden" if they register on the USDA website and meet criteria including benefitting the community, working collaboratively, incorporating conservation practices and educating the public. Affiliate People's Garden locations will be indicated on a map on the USDA website, featured in USDA communications, and provided with a People's Garden sign. The People's Garden Initiative is part of USDA's broader efforts to advance equity, support local and regional food systems and access to food, and encourage use of conservation and climate-smart practices. To learn more about People's Gardens or to register one, visit the People's Garden webpage at [usda.gov/Peoples-Garden](https://usda.gov/Peoples-Garden).