

Garland County Conservation District Annual Report 2019



Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land

ALDO LEOPOLD

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Office Personnel

Hesper Hortman
District Manager
 Terry Hunter
Retiree Technician
 Derrek Nokes
USDA-NRCS District Conservationist
 Larry Gray
USDA-NRCS MLRA Office Leader
 Elizabeth Gray
USDA-NRCS MLRA Soil Scientist
 Matt Bruce
USDA-NRCS Project Engineer
 Tracy Phillips
USDA-NRCS Project Engineer
 Kelly Bufkin
Farm Bill Biologist, Quail Forever

District Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00-3:30

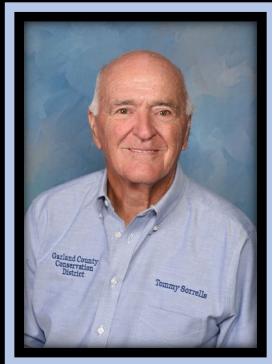
Board Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Garland County Conservation District to plan and carry out programs to protect, maintain and enhance the soil, water and other related natural resources for now and the future. We strive to guide all residents of Garland County in the efficient and wise use of our natural resources.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Tommy Sorrells
 Chairman



Doug Meredith
 Vice Chairman



Melvin Daniel
 Secretary/Treasurer

David Parker
 Member

Rick Davis
 Member



WHAT IS A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

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 conservation and help forecast future needs.

The idea behind their formation is to keep decision making on soil and water conservation matters at the local level. The District is governed by five local land owners known as the Board of Directors, three of whom are elected by the landowners of the district and two who are appointed by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. Directors serve three-year terms and meet at least once per month

Technical assistance is provided to the District through an agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Garland County Conservation District. NRCS is partnered with the District office to provide conservation related services. The District's missions are met with many thanks to the financial support from and coordination with the Garland County Quorum Court and Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

The Lake Hamilton Soil and Water Commission was organized on June 10, 1941

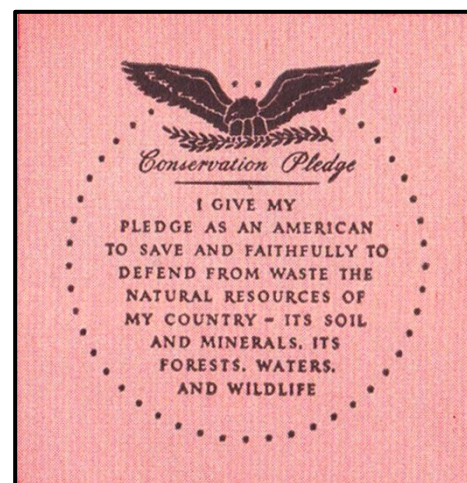
On October 15, 1971, the name was changed to Garland County Conservation District

The district has since and will continue to assist local land users with natural resource conservation issues

Working together, the Garland County Conservation District and the USDA-NRCS, provide technical assistance to landowners and administer programs that provide financial assistance for implementing conservation practices.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for FY 2019

- 35 applications for EQIP were completed
- 11 EQIP applications were funded
- Federal cost share dollars for EQIP was approximately \$130,249
- Resource concerns were addressed for approximately 718.7 acres in Garland County



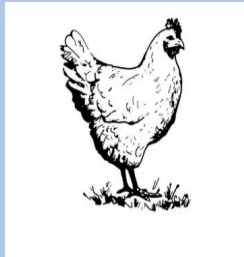
HOW DO WE HELP GARLAND COUNTY LANDOWNERS?

Beaver Eradication Program



The beaver control program is administered through the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission and Arkansas conservation districts. ANRC along with the Garland County Quorum Court provide funding for the program. Only beavers trapped in Garland County are eligible for the Garland County Conservation District's \$15 per tail bounty. The district paid trappers for the eradication of 80 nuisance beavers this year.

Poultry Registration



In 2003 the 84th General Assembly passed nutrient management legislation to address water quality, with ANRC as administrator and conservation districts responsible for registering operators and producers. The district collects a \$10 annual fee from each poultry operation in the county. Technical assistance is also provided to help producers utilize poultry litter and commercial fertilizers effectively without jeopardizing water quality. The district had a total of 11 poultry registrations in 2019.

Thistle Awareness Program



The district continues to monitor the problem of thistle in this county. Along with the local University of Arkansas Extension Service, we educate the landowners of the seriousness of the problem. We provide an annual report to the State of Arkansas listing specific species and control measures used to control and or eradicate thistle.

Assessments and Proposals

Having a conservation district in the county helps to facilitate water and sewer grants to be awarded to the city and county. The ANRC can use the district as a contact for gathering information from the Quorum Court as well as the County Judge. The district uses local connections and resources to prepare proposals for grants and assessments for other projects that benefit the county.

LLWG Meeting

The GCCD hosts a Locally Led Workgroup Meeting yearly. NRCS worked along with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Quail Forever and the Garland County Extension Office to identify local natural resource concerns. Soil erosion, inadequate wildlife habitat and water quality degradation were among the concerns addressed.

GCCD offers several services and products to local residents. Funds received from this are put back into the community through educational workshops, college scholarships and program outreach.

Technical Service Provider

Technical Service Providers (TSPs) offer services to agricultural producers such as farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners on behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). TSPs help these producers plan, design and implement conservation practices or develop conservation activity plans to improve agricultural operations. GCCD's District Manager participates in this program daily earning the district \$2670 in TSP funds for 2019.

License Plates

Specialty license plates promoting conservation are available at three Garland county revenue offices. The GCCD receives \$20 from each plate sold. In 2019, 52 plates were sold for a total of \$1040 in proceeds.

Plat Books and Maps

Garland County Conservation District is the exclusive seller of Plat Books and maps in Garland county. We also provide landowners and local businesses with flood plain information. This is needed for insurance and building developments. We also provide topographic and ariel photos when requested.

Annual Nut Sale

Assorted nuts from South Georgia Pecan Company are available for order during the month of October. Once delivered, the nuts are ready for pick up at the district office just in time for Thanksgiving.

Bulb Sale

During the nut sale pick up, the district sold various bulbs for fall planting as well as indoor Holiday bulb gift sets.

Product	Amount Sold
Assorted Nuts	1707 Pounds
Assorted Bulbs	106 Boxes
Total Sales:	\$19,066.95
Profit:	\$3,019.45

310.7 acres were seeded in pasture grasses this year by renters, totaling \$2,174 in proceeds.



NO-TILL SEED DRILL
7-foot with Hydraulic Remote Outlets



PASTURE SPRAYER
300-Gallon



LOG SPLITTER
35 Ton, Vertical or Horizontal



WORKING HAND IN HAND TO SAVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

AGFC Tackle Loaner Program

GCCD is a proud participant in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s Tackle Loaner Program. The district office has 16 rod and reel combos available for individuals to “check out” free of charge.

News and Views

Our quarterly newsletter, News and Views, is published and delivered via mail and email to over 100 subscribers. Through the publication we share information on programs, community involvement and current events. Anyone can sign up to receive their copy by contacting the district office.

GCCD Website

Making conservation information accessible to the public is essential to saving our natural resources. Through the district website www.garlandcountycd.org one is introduced to our staff, programs, services and products. A downloadable version of our annual report will be available soon along with an order form for our nut sale.

Facebook

In today’s world, social media gives us the ability to reach audiences that may not be familiar with who we are. The district’s Facebook page is updated frequently with news and events making interaction easy.

Farm Family of the Year

The district’s chairman, along with the board secretary, serve on the selection committee for the Farm Family of the Year. This is something the district is proud to participate in annually.

Earth Team-NRCS

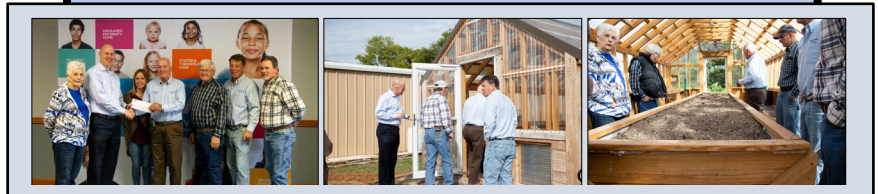
Earth Team volunteers help NRCS to accomplish its mission. Volunteer opportunities are available to anyone 14 years and older; students, retirees, individuals or groups. Two student volunteers assisted MLRA Soil Survey along with the district office in various tasks in 2019. We hope to see more volunteers in

2ND ANNUAL BUGS, BEES AND BUTTERFLIES



For the second time, the GCCD participated in the US Forest Service’s pollinator event. The free event was held on the Arlington lawn June 20th. Along with several other agencies, we helped to share the importance of the key role pollinators play in our ecosystem. Free native seeds, informational literature and pollinator themed activities for kids were provided.

Through a grant provided by ANRC, the GCCD was able to assist COMPACT Family Services in their garden project. A greenhouse, raised garden beds and a composting operation were constructed on the grounds of the facility.



Academic scholarships were awarded to two students in 2019. Students with plans to major in fields related to conservation, agriculture, natural resources or related fields were encouraged to apply. Mallorie Deitz from Mountain Pine and Colson Simpson from Fountain Lake each received a \$500 scholarship.

Deitz will be attending Arkansas Tech University in Russellville to pursue a degree in Biology. Simpson will attend the University of Central Arkansas in Conway with plans to study Environmental Science.



We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.
NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB

It is with our sincere gratitude that we say **Thank You** to the Garland County Judge and Quorum Court . Without their support, the Garland County Conservation District would not be able to provide as many services to the land users in our county.
~GCCD~