

GARLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWS AND VIEWS

600 Main St. Suite Q Hot Springs, AR 71913 501.545.4016
www.garlandcountycd.org

Board of Directors: Tommy Sorrells David Parker Davin Anderson Kayla Hardage Brad Phillips

In Loving Memory



William "David" Parker

May 19, 1963 - April 1, 2025

David served on the Garland County Conservation District board of directors since 2018, most recently as chairman. His leadership, guidance, and friendship will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with David's family and friends during this time.

EARTH DAY - 55th Anniversary April 22, 2025



On April 22, we celebrate the 55th anniversary of Earth Day, a global reminder of our shared responsibility to protect and preserve our environment. First observed in 1970, Earth Day has since grown into a worldwide movement advocating for a healthier planet. For some, the environment means the natural world—mountains, forests, rivers, oceans, wildlife, and the air we breathe. For others, it represents the green movement and the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle. In truth, the environment encompasses everything around us, from the air and water we rely on to the safety of our communities and overall quality of life.

Simple Ways to Be Earth-Friendly:

- ✓ Walk, Bike, or Carpool
- ✓ Conserve Energy
- ✓ Save Water
- ✓ Plant Pollinator Friendly Gardens
- ✓ Buy Secondhand
- ✓ Recycle Thoughtfully
- ✓ Reduce Food Waste
- ✓ Use Reusable Shopping Bags and Containers

GCCD 2025 Academic Scholarship

Local high school students who plan to study a conservation related field are encouraged to apply for a \$500 scholarship sponsored by the Garland County Conservation District. Related field examples are:

- Agriculture
- Plant science
- Agronomy
- Conservation biology
- Environmental science
- Wildlife biology
- Ecology
- Forestry
- Engineering
- GIS
- Soil science
- Sustainability

Applications are available at garlandcountycd.org.

Deadline to apply is April 30, 2025

NACD Stewardship Week April 27 - May 4, 2025



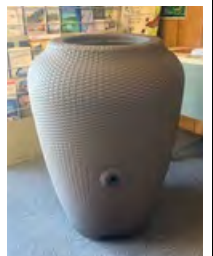
The 2025 NACD Stewardship Week theme, *Home is Where the Habitat Is*, highlights the essential role that both natural and managed habitats play in supporting biodiversity along with maintaining ecological balance. Held annually since 1955 from the last Sunday in April through the first Sunday in May, Stewardship Week brings communities together to celebrate and protect our natural resources.

Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale April 26, 2025

The Garland County Master Gardeners will host their annual Plant Sale and Garden Show at the Garland County Fairgrounds on April 26th from 9:00-5:00.

Join the Master Gardeners, along with speakers, exhibitors, and vendors for educational demonstrations, presentations and more. Bring your soil samples and sick plants for free testing!

STOP BY OUR
TABLE AND
ENTER TO WIN A
50 GALLON RAIN
BARREL!



Pollinator Week June 16-22, 2025



Pollinator Week is an annual celebration of the role that pollinators play in our ecosystems, economies, and agriculture. This year's theme, "Pollinator Cultural Connections," urges us to appreciate the essential role pollinators play in creating and expressing human culture, in all of its forms. 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. As we reflect on the interconnectedness of our world, let's unite in a collective effort to protect and preserve these crucial pollinators.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS.



Water from roofs, streets, driveways, and other impervious surfaces runoff directly into storm drains - straight into our waterways - picking up all kinds of contaminants along the way!



Leaf litter accounts for **56%** of phosphorus in urban stormwater? High levels of phosphorus cause rapid algae growth. Leaf litter also clogs storm drains which can lead to flooding.



When you wash your car in the driveway, you're washing around **120** gallons of grime-filled water downstream? The soapy water picks up other pollutants along the way.



Pet waste contains bacteria, parasites, and viruses, along with nitrogen and phosphorus? When left on surfaces where runoff can pick it up, it goes directly into our lakes and streams.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Dispose Properly

- Compost or bag your leaves and lawn clippings
- Don't blow leaves or lawn clippings into the street
- Pick up after your pets

Be Car Smart

- Use commercial car washes if available
- Wash your car on the lawn or gravel
- Use biodegradeable soaps

Did you know that morning affirmations can help you start your day with a positive mindset, boost self-esteem, and encourage positive changes by reinforcing positive thoughts and beliefs, which can lead to improved well-being and motivation. With so much uncertainty going on in the world, it is important to take a deep breath, breathe and protect our energy. This morning take 10 mins, close your eyes, & use the law of attraction and remind yourself that good things are happening to you. These morning affirmations will boost your mood and attract positive thinking.

Keep Arkansas Beautiful Cleanup May 17th, 2025



GCCD is partnering with Hot Springs Parks & Trails and the Arkansas Master Naturalists-Diamond Lakes Chapter to host a 2025 Keep Arkansas Beautiful Cleanup event along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail.

WHEN: Saturday May 17th, 2025

**WHERE: Rotary Centennial Trailhead
411 Bayard St**

TIME: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Grabbers, bags, gloves, and other goodies available at check in.

Please wear walking or water shoes.

Letters will be made available for youth as proof of volunteer service.



Creek Hopping Hot Springs



A 3 PART SERIES,
LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
FROM 10 AM - NOON

Friendship Trail along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail

Come dip net with Trails Coordinator, Hannah to find out what critters live in the creek!

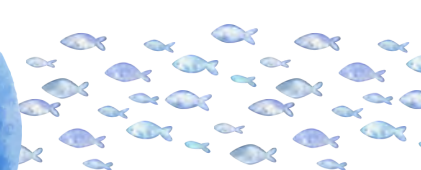
May 31 – Hot Springs Creek

June 28 – Hot Springs Creek

July 26 – Hot Springs Creek

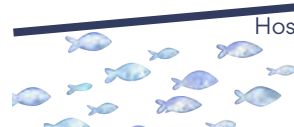
DID YOU KNOW

Fish, amphibians, and reptiles tell us a lot about how healthy our water is? Some species are even considered Biological Indicators of healthy waterways.



Parking is accessible at the corner of Shady Grove Road and Scott Street.

Hosted by:





Happy National Egg Day!

baked avocado eggs

-Kristen Coffield

- 2 avocados
- 4 eggs
- ½ lime
- ½ tsp Kosher salt
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ tsp red pepper flakes
- ¼ cup of water
- chopped parsley, cilantro, sliced scallions or chives for garnishing (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Place oven rack to middle position.
2. Cut each avocado in half and remove the pit. Using a spoon, scrape out the center of each halved avocado so that it is large enough to accommodate an egg. Squeeze lime juice over the avocados and season with salt, then place in a baking dish with a cover or rimmed dish sitting on a piece of foil large enough to wrap around dish and form a folded seal.
3. Break an egg into the center of each avocado being careful to keep the yolks intact, sprinkle with salt, pepper and chili flakes. Add 1/4 cup of water to the dish.
4. Cover or foil wrap eggs.
5. Bake until whites are set and yolk is runny, about 20 to 25 minutes. Remove from oven; if eggs are not set to your liking, pop under the broiler for a minute. Garnish with scallions, parsley, cilantro or chives.

Recognized on June 3rd each year, National Egg Day is dedicated to one of nature's most versatile and nutritious foods. Eggs are packed with protein and essential vitamins, making them a great addition to any meal. They can be fried, poached, scrambled, boiled, and of course used in baking. To help you celebrate the versatility of the egg this year, we have added a couple of our favorite egg recipes!

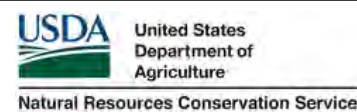
jalapeno popper deviled eggs

-Janell Poulette

- 12 hard boiled eggs, peeled
- 4 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- 6 slices of bacon, cooked and chopped
- ¼ cup chopped jalapenos (from a jar)
- 2 fresh jalapenos sliced thin

1. Cut the eggs in half. Place the yolks into a large bowl and set aside the white parts for later.
2. Add the cream cheese, mayonnaise and spices to the bowl with the yolks and use a potato masher to combine the ingredients until smooth.
3. Fold in the jalapenos and bacon - reserve some bacon for garnish.
4. Use a piping bag to add the egg yolk mixture into the eggs, be generous.
5. Top with a fresh sliced jalapeno and bacon.

EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection Program



The EWP Program offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural disasters that impair a watershed. EWP does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state government officials for program assistance to begin. The NRCS State Conservationist can declare a local watershed emergency and initiate EWP program assistance in cooperation with an eligible sponsor.

NRCS offers financial and technical assistance for various activities under the EWP Program, including:

- Remove debris from stream channels, road culverts and bridges;
- reshape and protect eroded streambanks;
- correct damaged or destroyed drainage facilities;
- establish vegetative cover on critically eroding lands;
- repair levees and structures;
- repair certain conservation practices, and
- purchase of EWP Buyouts.

For more information on EWP contact your local NRCS Field Office to speak with Garrielle Stephens, District Conservationist at 501-545-4017 or garrielle.stephens@usda.gov