

# Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

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Desha County

2nd Vice President.....Troy Odom  
Lafayette County

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Madison County

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ANRC

Southeast Area President.....Eddie Scherm  
Ashley County

East Central Area Pres.....David Hillman  
Arkansas County

Northeast Area Pres.....Charles Glover  
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Central Area Pres.....Rocky Harrell  
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West Central Area Pres.....Mike Jacobs  
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Northwest Area Pres.....James Widner  
Boone County

Southwest Area Pres.....Nedra Turney  
Miller County

Auxiliary President.....Cliftena Williams  
Franklin County

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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts is to support the conservation districts of the state of Arkansas in their mandate to address the natural resource conservation objectives of the people of Arkansas

## Cooperative Conservation Award

### Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne Presents South Arkansas Sparta Aquifer Recovery Partnership with Cooperative Conservation Award for Earth Day.

South Arkansas Sparta Aquifer Recovery Partnership was one of the 21 recipients nationwide of the Department of Interior's Cooperative Conservation Award. The award recognizes the partnership's outstanding contributions to the recovery of the Sparta aquifer water-levels in five counties in Arkansas and several parishes in Louisiana in order to conserve valuable water resources. In Union County, use of the Sparta Aquifer has been increasing since the early 1920s, resulting in water level declines of more than 360 feet near El Dorado. As a result, the ANRC designated a "Critical Ground Water Area" in five southern Arkansas counties in 1996. To conserve Sparta Aquifer water and to induce water level rebound, the Board and stakeholders in Union County initiated ground-water reuse programs and tapped a surface-water supply as an alternative source for Union County's three largest industrial users.

The DOI's Cooperative Conservation Award recognizes conservation achievements resulting from the cooperation and participation of individual landowners, citizen groups, private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and Federal, state, local governments.

"This is a fitting start to a week of Earth Day activities," the Secretary told the crowd at the main Interior auditorium. "If anyone were to ask me why America is the world leader in conservation of natural resources, I would simply point to the people in this auditorium. You are the spirit and you are the hands of cooperative conservation."

The South Arkansas Sparta Aquifer Recovery Partnership was nominated by the U.S. Geological Survey. The partnership included Union County Conservation District, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Union County Farm Bureau, Union County Water Conservation Board, U.S. EPA, U.S.G.S., private individuals and industry.

Our congratulations to these folks for an outstanding partnership which will improve and enhance the quality of life, economic stability and the natural resources for future generations.

## Mine Creek District Honors 121 Years of Service

The Mine Creek Conservation District honored four veteran members of its board. From left, J.F. Bell of Mineral Springs, 47 years; Lecil Jamison of Nashville, 36 years; Williams Bradshaw of Dierks, 20 years; F.D. Gibson of Dierks, 18 years. Current board members include Chairman Mark Millwood, Joe Martin, and Larry Teague, all of Nashville, Cotton Cothren of Dierks and Kirk Bell of Mineral Springs.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to this group of dedicated individuals for their faithful commitment to their community.





Troy Odom, Jr.  
2nd Vice President



### Dave Ferguson

#### Scholarships

Three scholarships are awarded

1st Place—\$1,000

2nd Place—\$750

3rd Place—\$500

Top 3 scoring students are required to make an oral presentation to members of the AACD Executive Board at their July Board Meeting

This are one time scholarships paid directly to the university chosen by the student for books, tuition, room & board.

For more information on this scholarship go to [www.aracd.org](http://www.aracd.org)

## Meet your AACD 2nd Vice President— Troy S. Odom, Jr.

Troy has a long history of working in conservation, beginning with his early years working for the Louisiana Game and Fish as a research biologist and U.S. Forest Service, USDA Soil Conservation Service and Georgia Pacific as a forester. He is self employed as a registered forester in forest management with Odom Forestry Wildlife Consultants. He manages 18,000 acres of timberlands and wetlands for private landowners in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. He also acts as agent for private landowners in leasing lands for hunting clubs. Other positions held by Troy include:

- 25 years as a Lafayette County Conservation District Director
- Chairman of the AACD Forestry Wildlife Committee
- Chairman of the Monroe Samuel Forestry Clinic Committee
- Previously awarded the AACD Director of the Year
- Caddo Council Executive Board member and Scout Master

Troy is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church Lewisville. He is married to Suzanne, has one daughter, Stephanie, but is especially proud of his new granddaughter, Brenna Callie Phillips (Pictures available upon request).

## Area Meetings, Activities and Events Calendar

Southeast Area Meeting—June 12, 2008 at the University of Arkansas at Monticello  
Contact: Ann Brooks, Ashley County CD at [ann.brooks@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:ann.brooks@ar.nacdnet.net)

West Central Area Meeting—June 25, 2008 at the College of the Ozarks at Clarksville  
Contact: Joyce Carson, Johnson County CD at [joyce.carson@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:joyce.carson@ar.nacdnet.net)

Southwest Area Meeting—July 10, 2008 at Cossatot College in Nashville  
Contact: Cody Burchfield, Miller County CD at [cody.burchfield@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:cody.burchfield@ar.nacdnet.net)

Northwest Area Meeting—July 15, 2008 at Cadron Creek Catfish House in Harrison  
Contact Gail Sparks, Benton County CD at [gail.sparks@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:gail.sparks@ar.nacdnet.net)

Northeast Area Meeting—July 31, 2008 at the Technical Center of the Delta in Wynne  
Contact: Brandy Gardner, Poinsett County CD at [brandy.gardner@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:brandy.gardner@ar.nacdnet.net)

East Central Area Meeting—August 7, 2008 at ASU-Beebe  
Contact: Chris.Alumbaugh@ar.nacdnet.net

Central Area Meeting—August 12, 2008 at the Faulkner Co. Natural Resources Center in Conway. Contact: Mandy Cates at [mandy.cates@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:mandy.cates@ar.nacdnet.net)

2008 AACD Annual Meeting—December 9–10, 2008 at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock, AR. Contact: Debbie Moreland, AACD at [debbie.moreland@arkansas.gov](mailto:debbie.moreland@arkansas.gov)

## Dave Ferguson Scholarship Area Winners

South East Area Winner—Jamie Meeks, Ashley County

North East Area Winner—Leah Jones, Poinsett County

South West Area Winner—Dena Teague, Lafayette County

North West Area Winner—Katelyn Good, Boone County

West Central Area Winner—Michael Bean, Yell County

East Central Area Winner—Sessely McCarty, Arkansas County

## In the News

### Project Wet

The Project WET training workshop was held on April 8, 2008 at the UAM Campus in Monticello, AR. The training was hosted by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in conjunction with Drew County Conservation District. The Project WET is an award-winning environmental education program designed for formal and non-formal educators working with students in pre-K through grade 12. The program is a source of interdisciplinary instructional activities that focus on the natural environment. It can help students gain an awareness and knowledge of the natural world around them as well as their place in it.

For more information contact: JoAnne Long, Drew County Conservation District at JoAnn.Long@ar.nacdnet.net



### Forestry Clinics

**Dallas County Conservation District** held their annual Forestry Contest on March 11, 2008 at Bradley Deer Camp with around 120 people in attendance. There were 12 schools that completed the contest. The District awards a \$4,000 scholarship to the winning senior. This year two scholarships were awarded. Their winners were Justin Foyil and Ethan Vickers of Hermitage. Both students will attend U.A. at Monticello and major in forestry.

**Mine Creek Conservation District** held their annual Forestry Contest on February 27, 2008 with over 200+ students in attendance.

**AACD Forestry Clinic** was held on April 22, 2008 at the U. of A at Monticello Demonstration Forest. Teams from 17 schools participated in the one day event. Prizes were awarded to the high scoring teams and the high scoring individuals. This year's winners were:

**High Scoring Teams—** 1st Place—Hermitage #1; 2nd Place—Mena; 3rd Place—Hermitage #2 (Prizes included hats, t-shirts, trophies and \$200 per team toward regional competition expenses)

**High Scoring Individuals—** 1st Place—Nathan Ledbetter, Hermitage(\$300)  
2nd Place—Nick Temple, Hermitage(\$200)  
3rd Place—Valari Sanders, Mena (\$100)

Our thanks to JoAnne Long & Drew County Conservation District, Troy Odom, Minnie Goldman and Gerald Trauger and NRCS staff and Arkansas Forestry Commission staff who did an outstanding job. It is always inspiring to see our district conservationists and county foresters working side by side to teach our youth about the wise use of our natural resources.

## AACD Youth Conservation Workshop - June 8-13, 2008

The AACD 2008 Youth Conservation Workshop was held June 8–13, 2008 at Camp Clearfork near Mt. Ida. 26 students participated in this week long natural resources camp. Students had an opportunity to win one of three \$500 scholarships. Conservation Partners included:

- Madison County and Sebastian County Conservation Districts, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, U of A Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Rural Water Association, U of A at Monticello and the Arkansas Forestry Commission

AACD would like to thank Randy Young, Executive Director of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for his continued support of this activity. ANRC provides staff and \$5,000 in funding to help offset the costs of this activity. This allows AACD to keep the costs at \$75 per student for the district. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Kalven Trice, NRCS State Conservationist for allowing his staff to participate in this event. Kudos to Alice Weeks, Education Coordinator and Cindy Thornberry, Logistics Coordinator for a job well done. Finally, a big thank you to Roy Mahler, AACD Board Member for his passion and dedication to this effort.



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**The AACDE Executive Board met on April 16 & 17, 2008 at the Ferncliff Center at Ferndale to develop their plan of work for this upcoming year. Ruth Cunningham, AACDE President presided over the meeting with members present providing input and recommendations. Discussions included TSP, computer security issues, mentor program, AACDE Annual Meeting breakout sessions and business session, as well as other pertinent issues.**

**Plans include the 2nd Annual AACDE District Employees Workshop on Sept. 24 & 25, 2008 at Mt. View. They will offer workshops in a variety of areas designed to improve and enhance the skills and training of their members.**

**They also voted to create a new Dana Cherry Award to recognize district employees who demonstrate the same love of work, partners and conservation. This award will be presented at the AACD Annual Meeting in December of each year. Nomination forms were sent out to the districts in May.**

**For information on this award contact Ruth Cunningham at [Ruth.Cunningham@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:Ruth.Cunningham@ar.nacdnet.net) or Shella Stephens at [Shella.stephens@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:Shella.stephens@ar.nacdnet.net)**

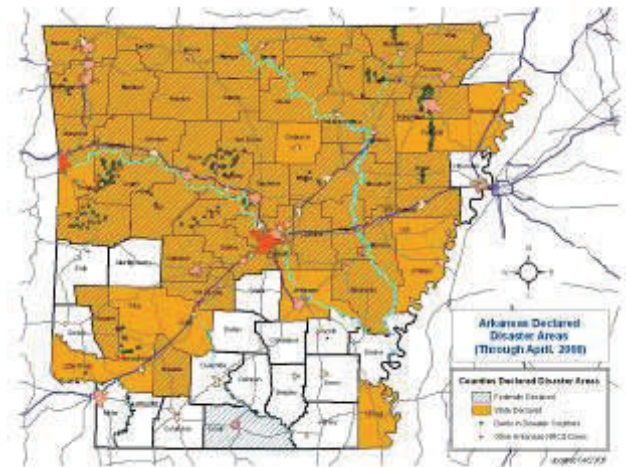
**The meeting was also attended by Gina Wilson, ANRC and Debbie Moreland, AACD Program Administrator.**

## AACD Releases News Article on Flooding

AACD will be sending out a series of articles on flooding, watershed rehabilitation, dam and levee maintenance and operations, etc. It is our desire to build public awareness regarding these issues. The first article will target some of the history of flooding in Arkansas and the role of districts and NRCS. We will be asking districts to encourage their local newspapers to run these articles whenever possible.

Recent flooding throughout much of the state has drawn attention to the fact that many of our watershed dams have or will soon be reaching their recommended life span. This situation will require an investment from local, state and federal agencies to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the people of Arkansas.

Overlooking Batesville, Arkansas during recent floods



Arkansas Declared Disaster Areas

April 2008