

# Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

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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

## Arkansans for Clean Water

On November 4, the people of Arkansas will be asked to consider Referred Question 1 which will give the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) the authority to issue up to \$300 million in water and wastewater bonds. The ANRC has successfully used these types of bonds to complete a variety of water, sewer, and waste disposal projects in counties, cities and towns all across Arkansas. Question 1 will allow us to build on the ANRC’s legacy of success by extending their bond authority by another ten years.

Question 1 will save Arkansans millions of dollars by allowing the ANRC to award grants and loans to local municipalities at a much lower rate than they would have to pay if they were forced to go to a bank or other private financial institution. The lower rates they’ve paid have saved taxpayers all across Arkansas thousands, if not millions, of dollars in additional interest charges.

If we fail to pass Question 1 Arkansans would lose roughly \$14-\$20 million per year in federal matching dollars from the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds. The ANRC would also no longer be able to provide below market rate loans for water and sewage expansion projects so counties, cities and towns would have to scale back on planned developments so we’d all pay more for expensive water and sewage projects.

Question 1 has been endorsed by a wide array of constituent groups—from the Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation to the Farm Bureau—and nearly all Arkansas state legislators. All Arkansans deserve equal access to safe, clean drinking water and passage of Question 1 is the only way to ensure they get it.

**Please cast your vote for a better Arkansas on November 4 by voting “YES” on Question 1.**

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Roy Mahler

Secretary/Treasurer

## Meet your AACD Secretary/Treasurer—Roy Mahler

Roy has served as a District Director in Madison County since 1991. During that time he served as Chairman of the district, and NW Area President. He helped develop the plans and funding for the Madison County's first Solid Waste and Recycling Center. He also served on a committee to look at the feasibility for a landfill location and solid waste needs of Northwest Arkansas.

Roy worked at the Chrysler Corporation in Illinois in middle management prior to coming to Arkansas and starting a cattle and poultry operation. He raised cattle for 20 years and poultry for 35 years during which he raised approximately 5 million+ boiler chickens.

Currently, Roy serves as Secretary/Treasurer for AACD. He has been recognized for numerous awards. He also serves as chairman of the Youth Conservation Workshop and is an active participant at the workshop each year.

He and his wife, LaVergne, have been married since 1960 and have three children, Dwayne, Debra and Douglas.

## Area Meetings, Activities and Events Calendar



### AACD

#### 71st Annual Meeting

Dec. 9—10, 2008

Wyndham Hotel

North Little Rock

Registration packets will be sent to districts no later than Oct. 1st.

Conference and Awards nomination information will be posted on our website [www.aracd.org](http://www.aracd.org) as well.

Hotel arrangements can be made by calling the Wyndham Hotel at (501) 371-9000

September 24, 25 & 26, 2008—AACDE District Employee Training Workshop at the Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View, AR. For info: [Ruth.Cunningham@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:Ruth.Cunningham@ar.nacdnet.net)

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October 21, 2008—Wildlife & Chainsaw Safety Workshop—Madison County  
For info: Steve Ford, DC at Huntsville (479) 738-6321 ext 107

October 22, 2008—Wildlife & Chainsaw Safety Workshop—Van Buren County  
For info: Neal Martin, DC at Fort Smith (479) 646-8300 ext 111

October 24, 2008—Wildlife & Chainsaw Safety Workshop—Garland County  
For info: Alicia Bishop at [Alicia.Bishop@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:Alicia.Bishop@ar.nacdnet.net)

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December 8, 2008—AARC&D Annual Meeting will be held at the Wyndham Hotel, North Little Rock. For info: Charles Gangluff at [aarcd@ipa.net](mailto:aarcd@ipa.net)

December 9—10, 2008—AACD 71st Annual Meeting at the Wyndham Hotel, North Little Rock. For info: Debbie Moreland at [debbiepinreal@aol.com](mailto:debbiepinreal@aol.com)

## Arkansas Watershed Coalition Watershed Coordinators

AACD has hired Joyce Carson as Watershed Coordinator for west Arkansas. As most of you know Joyce has worked at Johnson County CD for many years and is well known for doing an outstanding job working with the local community on a variety of projects. Districts interested in seeking 319 funding should contact Joyce or Pat for assistance.

Contact info: Joyce Carson— [jacarson1@yahoo.com](mailto:jacarson1@yahoo.com)

Pat Perry—[patperryawc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patperryawc@sbcglobal.net)

## Resources & Funding Opportunities

Rural Information Center—National Agricultural Library <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/>

RIC provides information and referral services to local, State and Federal Government officials; community organizations; health professionals and organizations; rural electric and telephone cooperatives; libraries; businesses; and rural citizens working to maintain the vitality of America's rural areas. It offers a board array of information and funding opportunities. Go to their website and browse by one of the following subjects:

- Community Development Resources
- Funding Resources
- USDA Rural Programs

## Desk Guides for Conservation Districts being Developed

Beginning in March, work began on three new desk guides to serve as how-to-do references for districts and their partners. All work is being conducted under a NACD/DOI/USFS Cooperative Agreement, and the desk guides are slated for completion by March, 2009.

- The Woody Biomass Utilization Desk Guide is intended for use by conservation districts, RC&Ds, and county officials in providing leadership to communities in the utilization of woody biomass for energy and other purposes. An initial scoping meeting was held in Atlanta, Ga. in April. Participants included the University of Georgia, Debbie Moreland with the Arkansas Assoc of Conservation Districts, Ron Bell representing the Arkansas RC&Ds, and two Georgia county agents. A work agreement with the University of Georgia was signed in early July.
- The Disaster Debris Desk Guide is intended for use by conservation districts, RC&Ds, and local officials so they are better prepared to address the removal and use of woody debris resulting from major wind disasters. A contract and work agreement with the Lower Coastal Mississippi RC&D was initiated in April to begin work on the desk guide.

The Community Wildfire Desk Guide and Toolkit are for use by conservation districts, RC&Ds, and county officials so they can provide leadership at the local level on community wildfire planning, protection, and recovery work. An advisory team meeting was held in Denver in July to develop a work implementation plan.

## AFC seedlings now available for order

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Forestry Commission is now accepting orders for pine and hardwood seedlings for reforestation projects in the state. New for the 2009 planting season, a purchasing option has been created for individuals interested in planting trees for smaller projects, such as fence rows. These individuals can now purchase hardwood and improved loblolly pine seedlings in bundles of 25 for \$20.

For those interested in ordering larger quantities, pine species are \$30 per 500 and \$40 per 1,000, and hardwood species are \$30 per 100 and \$200 per 1,000. AFC seedlings are grown at Baucum Nursery for one growing season – except for 25 pack Loblolly pine, which are 2 years old. When the seedlings become dormant in the fall, they are lifted and packed “bare root” (no dirt on the roots) for shipment to designated cooler locations.

To learn more about AFC seedlings or to place your order online, visit [www.forestry.state.ar.us](http://www.forestry.state.ar.us) or call Baucum Nursery toll-free at 1-888-457-4221.

Contact: Christina Fowler, (501) 296-1937, [christina.fowler@arkansas.gov](mailto:christina.fowler@arkansas.gov).

## 2nd Annual District Employee Training Workshop

Sponsored by the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts Employees

September 24—26, 2008

AACDE will be hosting it's 2nd Annual District Employee Training Workshop at the Ozark Folk Center State Park in Mountain View, AR. The workshop will start at 11:00am on Sept. 24, 2008 and include a variety of activities and presentations. Funding is provided in part by an ANRC/AACD 319 Grant.

Some of the training opportunities include:

- Livestock Nutrient Management—Dr. Ron Morrow, NRCS
- “The Little Thing Called Thinking Outside the Box” - Irene Moore & Wendee Zadanski
- Water Quality Tech Training—Adrian Baber & Ken Housh, ANRC
- 319 Grant Writing & Watersheds—Tony Ramick, ANRC & Pat Perry, AWC Watershed Coordinator
- How to Get into Your Schools—Melissa Johnson & Marion Sherrod, Sebastian Co CD
- Disaster's: What Role will Conservation Districts Play—Martha Blackwell, Stone Co CD
- New Employees Orientation and Training—Gina Wilson, Cynthia Bearden & Carolyn Manning, ANRC
- Wednesday night featured speaker is Randy Young, Exec. Director of AR Natural Resources Commission

Training will be suitable for all employees regardless of length of employment. The workshop is open to anyone interested in participating including Water Quality Technicians. Registration fee is \$25 per person.

For more information email Ruth Cunningham at [Ruth.Cunningham@ar.nacdnet.net](mailto:Ruth.Cunningham@ar.nacdnet.net)

## Global ReLeaf \$100,000 Grant Awarded to AACD

AACD received notification that it has been awarded a Global ReLeaf Grant for \$100,000 by American Forest for assistance with the Cache River/Bayou DeView CREP Project.

Conservation partners in this project include:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| • USDA-Farm Service Agency        | AR Natural Resources Commission        |
| • Arkansas Forestry Commission    | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| • Arkansas Game & Fish Commission | Arkansas Stream Teams                  |
| • AR Natural Heritage Commission  | U of A Cooperative Extension Service   |

Our partners will be contributing \$700,000+ in funding and in-kind activities for implementation of this project. This will be the first of a three phase project to restore up to 6,250 acres of bottomland hardwood forested wetlands and riparian edges on agricultural croplands in portions of Monroe, Woodruff and Prairie Counties.