

NEWSLETTER

July, August, September, 2021

GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

125 S. OAK STREET

SHERIDAN, AR 72150

www.grantccd.com

870-942-2826



After 11 dedicated years as the Grant County Conservation District office manager, Luann Howard is retiring to spend quality time quilting, creating, and catching up with her grandchildren.

I'd like to take just a moment to introduce myself as I'll be taking over for her in August. My name is Melissa Shaw. My husband, Jason, and I moved here with our two boys, Callen (14) and Truitt (9), eight years ago. The Department of Defense brought us here when my husband took a job as a fire fighter at the Pine Bluff Arsenal (where he is now a Captain). We had every intention to return to Texas after two years, but fell in love with Arkansas and the people who live here.

I graduated from Louisiana State University with a BS in Education and a focus in Biology. I taught high school biology in Texas for a few years before we were called to homeschool our children. We are active in Grant County 4H, Sheridan soccer (where you'll often find me assistant coaching), and at Junet Pentecostal Church.

Science has always been my passion, and after a particularly fascinating Conservation Biology class at LSU, my heart has been with conservation. I was thrilled when the opportunity arose to help with conservation efforts on a local level. I look forward to serving the community on behalf of Grant County Conservation District. Please feel free to contact our office with any needs or ques



District Directors

John Mitchell – Chairman

Peggy Thomas – Vice Chairman

Annette Swain – Sec./Treas.

Troy Wood – Member

Hunter Phelps – Member

Office Manager

Melissa Shaw

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday – 8:00 to 3:00

Thursday – 8:00 to 2:30

Closed for lunch – 12:00 – 12:30

THE MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:00 P.M. AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATED AT

125 S. OAK ST. SHERIDAN, AR. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

**GRANT COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

An equal opportunity
employer.

GOOD EATS FROM THE GARDEN

This is one of my favorite ways to eat fresh tomatoes from the garden. It's a quick and tasty way to please picky palates with that bumper crop of summer tomatoes.

Gratinéed Tomatoes with Asiago and Fresh Herbs

By [Melissa Pellegrino Fine Cooking Issue 112](#)



Scott Phillips

Servings: 6

Slices of ripe tomato are sprinkled with cheesy, herb-flecked breadcrumbs and then quickly run them under the broiler until the crumbs are browned and crisp. They make a great pairing with grilled or broiled steak or chicken.

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Ingredients

- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 medium beefsteak tomatoes, (about 6 oz. each), sliced 1/4-inch thick
 - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - 1/4 cup coarse fresh breadcrumbs
 - 1/4 cup finely grated Asiago cheese
 - 1 Tbs. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
 - 1 tsp. coarsely chopped fresh thyme

Nutritional Information

Preparation

- Position a rack 6 inches from the broiler element and heat the broiler on high. Lightly oil a 10×12-inch (or similar size) broiler-safe baking dish. Arrange the tomato slices in the baking dish in a single, slightly overlapping layer. Sprinkle with 1/4 tsp salt.
- In a small bowl, mix together the breadcrumbs, Asiago, parsley, thyme, 2 tsp. olive oil, a pinch of salt, and 1/8 tsp. pepper. Sprinkle the breadcrumb mixture evenly over the tomatoes.
- Broil until the breadcrumbs are a deep golden-brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Drizzle with more olive oil and serve immediately.

Grub War Collateral Damage

When grub killing chemicals are used, ripples spread and often have a negative effect on soil and many non-grub lives. As a grub eater, this sandhill crane is in the first ripple, affected by grub scarcity, grub purity, pesticide residue, etc.

When we set out to kill grubs:

- Most users don't know the risk or the extent of the impact.
- Most grub killer is [applied where it is not needed](#).
- [Be sure that grubs really are the problem](#) before you go to war. Then, weigh the risks of the control measures you plan.

Beneficial insects are victims

All the grubs in an area come under fire when we target grubs, no matter what tactic we use. Even the [good-guy beetle species](#) suffer. Probably hundreds of beetle species dwell in the average, healthy North American garden and the great majority of these are beneficial or benign.

Other ground-dwelling predators of insects, slugs and snails are at risk when insecticides enter the soil. For instance:

- Have you seen a firefly? You probably didn't realize that many glowworms and fireflies (161 North American species) live in the soil as youngsters, where they are voracious insect eaters... unless they are killed off by pesticides in the soil.



- Earwigs, too, are soil-dwellers that hunt slugs and other undesirables.

Pests may increase

Harmful insects of many kinds can get out of hand when good-guy beetles, glowworms, firefly larvae and others are not around to hunt them.



- One ladybug or ladybug larva removed from the picture can mean a lot more aphids, scale, corn borers or the like will live to breed and multiply -- since a ladybug can eat 30 to 60 of those pests per day.
- Consider earwigs, again. Many people know earwigs after suffering an infestation of pesty, non-native earwig species. In a pesticide free, balanced environment such infestations are rare, while beneficial earwig species are present and active but low-key.

- Some pests survive pesticide application and pass on resistance. Conditions or the pest's position or stage of growth may result in a sub-lethal dosage or the pest may have inherited resistance from a survivor in a previous generation. Numerous chemicals have become ineffective in this way, especially when used continually. That's one reason pest management strategies developed through university research teach us to apply pesticides only when pest numbers are actually high enough to cause trouble.

Soil condition is degraded

So much of [what makes a soil "good" is the life in it](#). We should think twice before trying to reduce a soil animal population.

When grub killers put a dent in the soil animal population (not only grubs but critters such as underground insects and worms):

- Natural aeration slows or stops. Water does not penetrate well. Lawn roots and other roots struggle or die in dry, airless soil.
- Fertility declines, as fewer decomposers are there to release nutrients.

Larger animals that eat insects are affected



Birds are often victims of grub killer when it contaminates the insects they eat. Grubs are important bird food -- nutritious, easy-pickins for a robin. Even seed- and fruit-eating birds switch to collecting insects during nesting season in order to provide higher protein to their young. Nestlings die when adult birds bring them pesticide-laden grubs.

Scientists are registering [connections between neonicotinoids](#) (such as imidacloprid, one of the most widely-used soil-applied pesticides) and [declines in frogs, toads, bats and other helpful animals](#).

Human lives are also affected by grub killer.

- The effects touch not only those who apply the chemical or live in that garden but those who handle it all along the way from factory to garden center to gardener.
- The most risk of acute symptoms come to those who handle the chemical in concentrated form, as in the package prior to spreading or dilution. The warnings are there on the package label.
- Chronic exposure, synergy (combinations of chemicals) and local accumulation in soil and water occur, too. Some of these risks are known, others are suspected.

Source: <https://www.gardenatoz.com/what's-up!/main-features-this-season/stop-blaming-grubs/grub-war-collateral-damage/>

CAMPING CORNER

It's summertime and that means many folks are headed out to the lakes and forests to camp with their families. As tempting as it may be to bring firewood from home or from a downed tree on the way, it can allow invasive species to gain a stronger foothold in our forests. The emerald ash borer, Asian Longhorned beetle, the Sirex woodwasp, and the fire ant can all be dispersed long distances and cause outbreaks in previously unaffected areas. Once they become established, they can be difficult-if not impossible-to control or eradicate. Support a local family and buy bundles of firewood near your campground to help keep our forests healthy.

<https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/forestry/arkansas-forestry-health/>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ouachita/home/?cid=STELPRDB5308210>



The Pecan Sale is Approaching!

We will resume our annual pecan fundraiser this fall! Watch for the order form in your email inbox this September. If you have any questions send us an email or give our office a call.

Products available from your Grant County Conservation District



For Rent: 315 gallon trailer mounted pull type pasture sprayer. It is equipped with a cluster nozzle and a hand spray wand for fence row spraying.

For Sale:

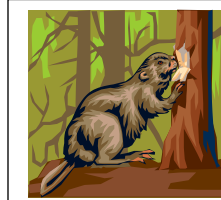
2016 Grant County Plat Books - \$50.00 each.

2009 Grant County Plat Books - \$25.00 each.

Free of Charge: Grant County Soil Surveys

Soil Surveys from the Natural Resources Conservation Service are intended for many different users. They can help a developer determine the suitability of areas for housing or onsite sewage disposal systems. They can help farmers estimate the potential crop or forage production of their land. They can be used to determine the suitability and limitations of soils for pipelines, buildings, landfills, recreation areas, and many other uses.

GOT BEAVER PROBLEMS?



Grant County Conservation District sponsors a beaver control program and pays a bounty of \$15.00 per beaver. Funding for this program is provided by the Grant County Quorum Court, and state funds. To be eligible for the bounty, the trapper must have a valid hunting/trapping license, be registered with the conservation district, and the beaver must be trapped in Grant County.

For a copy of the rules and regulations and to register, contact the conservation district.