



Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association

Fall/Winter 2004

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

And the FNHA Third Annual Golden Acorn Award Goes To . . .

The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association board announced in September that it would give this year's Golden Acorn award to members **Duane and Judy Woltjen**. Wherever the Woltjens have lived, they have led efforts to make the outdoors more accessible to more people.

FNHA president Pete Heinzelmann summarized some of their accomplishments when he presented them with the award at the October 5th City Council meeting. While living in their native Missouri, they worked to preserve the Merrimac River Valley near St. Louis, where thousands of acres were saved from flooding by their and others' efforts to prevent the damming of the river.

After moving to Fayetteville in 1987, they worked as a team on similar efforts. First it was Judy, with Duane's help, who organized volunteers to lay out and build the trails around Lake Wilson in south Fayetteville. Then it was Duane, with Judy's help, who advocated for, helped design and then led volunteers in building 30 more miles of the Ozark Highlands Trail at its eastern end near Mountain View. In addition, as members of the Ozark Society, they have contributed more than 200 hours toward maintaining existing trails.

Recently the Woltjens have diverted some of their energy and expertise toward local conservation goals as founding members of the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association. This year, Duane helped reroute and improve some of the trails in Mount Sequoyah Woods to protect the terrain and some of the natural features. He also wrote a grant

request that netted \$10,000 from Waste Management, furthering the group's immediate goal of paying for the **conservation easement** for the Woods. Now, they are focused on finding new FNHA preservation projects.

Match our enthusiasm for Fayetteville greenspace, Woltjens say

When Pete Heinzelmann introduced Duane and Judy Woltjen as the Golden Acorn recipients to the Fayetteville City Council, the Woltjens surprised those in attendance with the announcement that **they would match any**

new contributions toward the FNHA's purchase of the Mount Sequoyah Woods conservation easement, up to \$25,000. Their offer stands until the end of this year. The FNHA has pledged to raise \$300,000 to pay for the easement. So far the FNHA has paid \$75,000 toward the easement and has received additional pledges for about the same amount. If all of the \$25,000 is matched, the FNHA should reach about two-thirds of its goal.

As of late November, the FNHA has received \$11,000 in

contributions for the Woltjen challenge. One couple, Geoff and Leslie Olsner, who donated \$2,000, said they gave the money to help preserve "areas of essential refuge and renewal right here in town." They encourage others to join them in contributing toward this cause. To qualify for the matching, contributions must be made before December 31st to FNHA at P.O. Box 3635, Fayetteville, AR 72702-3635.



Duane and Judy Woltjen accept the Golden Acorn Award during a Fayetteville City Council meeting in October.

FNHA Supporters Dine at Mainview

The Second Annual Fall Fundraiser was a huge success due to the fantastic response to our invitation for a gourmet dinner cooked by **Bob Caulk** at Mainview, the gorgeous Mt. Sequoyah home of **Jay and Judy McDonald**. The evening introduced us to many "new" supporters. Those who attended had a wonderful time, and over \$10,000 was added to our short-term fundraising goal.



Guests at the Fall Fundraiser enjoy the company and the view from the upper deck of Jay and Judy McDonald's home.

Jay took responsibility for the weather and came up with a perfect October evening - mild and clear. Guests greeted old friends and met new ones or paused to watch the sun set over the Fayetteville skyline. Some took the opportunity to wander through and admire the interior features of the home or stroll through the gardens. Kudos to Judy and garden maestro **Melva Mellinger** who even forced some crocus to bloom for the occasion!

Those attending were treated to three appetizers including the recipe-requested Herb-Roasted Tomatoes; a buffet of Porc Louisanne and two other dishes; and four desserts including Lemon and Pistachio Praline Meringue Torte. The meal was accompanied by wines generously supplied by **Liquor Mart**. Most of the evening's fare was served on beautiful ceramic art platters, trays and bowls, offered for sale by artist **Beverly Norton Walker**, who donated twenty percent of the gross to FNHA.

Tom and LaDawna Whiteside selflessly provided nearly all of the serving and cleanup help, making it possible to feed one hundred twenty diners! LaDawna also made the invitations that were largely responsible for the great turnout. A silent auction of mostly paintings, photographs and prints of natural areas was organized by Margo Heinzelmann. The FNHA thanks all those who donated the works and those who bid on them.

FNHA gives special thanks to our wonderful host and hostess, Jay and Judy McDonald, for sharing their lovely home with us for the evening. They really know how to throw a great party!

Membership Renewal

You won't want to miss getting the Spring edition of the newsletter. We will be publishing a complete list of FNHA's current members, providing a calendar of Spring/Summer activity plans, and giving the final tally for the Woltjen challenge. Your membership renewal date is on the address label of this newsletter, so if you are in arrears, please renew as soon as possible so that you can continue to be counted as a supporter of greenspace preservation in and around Fayetteville. With the rapid growth in NWA your continued support is vital to our goal of saving our natural areas and is needed now more than ever.

FNHA Annual Meeting

We are honored to have
Senator David Pryor as our guest speaker.

We will meet in the
Willard & Pat Walker Meeting Room
at the Blair Fayetteville Public Library

at 1:30 p.m.

on Sunday, January 9th, 2005.

Into the Woods and Why

by Rosean Krueger

We arrived in Fayetteville in 1953 and therefore were privileged to experience both the awesome beauty and the sad destruction of the towering trees that overhung College Avenue at that time. When we bought our house on Mount Sequoyah in 1955, we were also blessed with having the Methodist Assembly Woods adjoin the back edge of our property. Due to the efforts of Mayor Coody and the city council this wooded slope is now preserved and under conservancy of the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association.

As our four children grew up, they had the pleasure of having this great slice of nature as their back yard, and they ranged further and further, discovering the woods with all its mysteries and delights. I'm sure it was through these experiences that they developed a love and respect for the natural world and the plants and animals that share this temporal space with us.

My husband Lothar also started walking almost daily and maintained a narrow non-invasive trail which still exists today as part of the more extensive trail system developed by the Methodist Assembly.

On our walks we were often treated to the sight of deer and their fawns, an occasional startled fox, myriad squirrels and birds and box turtles in season. On one occasion, we were entertained by two grown raccoons raucously arguing over possession of a hollow tree, and on another, we were watched from a forked tree



Lothar and Rosean Krueger walk down a Mt. Sequoyah Woods trail one morning in late November.

branch by a solitary raccoon who somberly regarded us with his bandit-eyes. Bird song delights the ear along with the staccato beat of various woodpeckers and the unmistakable call of the pileated, the first sight of which is an awesome experience.

There is always a changing delight for the eyes, as the woods are a living entity – never static, never stagnant – always vital, always renewing itself.

Some days you are in communion with the woods when you start out on your walk. Other times,

depending on how much emotion or mental baggage you carry, it may take awhile to truly arrive there in that moment in time. Thus it is not only the woods that experiences growth and renewal; so also do those who spend time there.

Chairman's Corner

by Pete Heinzelmann

First of all, thank you all for joining in the important task of preserving Fayetteville's beautiful natural heritage. Mount Sequoyah Woods was the first area to save, but there are many others out there yet to be identified.

We are getting closer to completing our pledge to the City to raise \$300,000 to help pay for Mount Sequoyah Woods and secure a conservation easement on the woods which will keep it as a wilderness area within our city for all generations to enjoy. Recently, the FNHA presented another \$25,000 check to the City Council bringing the total contributed by all of you to \$75,000. Once our pledge is completed, all of us will have provided a significant gift to present and future generations of Fayetteville.

A special thanks goes to Duane and Judy Woltjen for this matching grant of \$25,000 and to Jay and Judy McDonald for hosting a wonderful fundraising dinner.

We are now moving toward another year—2005. Things will be changing rapidly in Fayetteville, but we hope that our valuable natural heritage, wherever it is, will not change and that it will remain for all of us to enjoy. Thankfully, all of you have made a commitment to make this happen.