



Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association

JOIN TODAY

FAST FACTS ABOUT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

- There are 5.1 million acres protected by local and regional land trusts in the U.S., through conservation easements.
—Land Trust Alliance, 2003 census
- Between 1992 and 1997, more than 11 million acres of rural land in the United States were converted to developed use — an area five times the size of Yellowstone National Park.
—American Farmland Trust Farmland Information Center, May 2002
- You can learn more by visiting the Nature Conservancy web site www.nature.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lifelong Resident Receives Golden Acorn Award 2

GIS Grant Update 2

Chairman's Corner 4

Golden Acorn Awards 3

DEPALMA NATURE PARK ADDS TO MT. SEQUOYAH WOODS

On Thursday, April 27, 2006, the Barber Group and the DePalma family donated the 30-acre Anthony DePalma Nature Park of Mount Sequoyah Woods to the City of Fayetteville. The ceremony was attended by two of Dr. DePalma's sisters and his nephew, John Oates, who spoke for the family. In presenting the land to the mayor, Seth Kafka, president of the Barber Group, said "This is such beautiful land, and we want everyone to be able to enjoy it for years to come."

The FNHA presented Golden Acorn Awards to both the Barber Group and the DePalma heirs for their commitment to the continued preservation of this tract of Fayetteville's old growth urban forest. Dr. DePalma enjoyed and preserved this land during his many years of living in Fayetteville. FNHA

chairman, Pete Heinzelmann, said "This addition will make these woods a truly exceptional nature preserve of almost 100 acres for current and future residents to enjoy."



Pete Heinzelmann Presenting the Barber Group with the Golden Acorn Award

The new 30-acre addition to Fayetteville's parkland is located at the north end of Happy Hollow Road just west

of the Cliffs apartments. Its trails have many outstanding features and they connect to the trails in Mt. Sequoyah Woods. An easy way to "check it out" is to enter Mt. Sequoyah Woods at the Happy Hollow/Paddock Lane entrance. This trail has slight elevation changes, unlike the very steep trails near Skyline Drive, and traverses some of the best parts of Mt. Sequoyah Woods and the DePalma Nature Park. By always keeping to the right, you'll come to the Cliffs apartments' paved walking trail that will take you back to Happy Hollow Road.

Article by Bob & Sara Cauk

\$200,000 RAISED TO PRESERVE MOUNT SEQUOYAH WOODS



FNHA Treasurer Tom Lonon Presenting Mayor Coody with a Check for \$50,000

Recently, the FNHA was pleased to present a check for \$50,000 to Mayor Coody. We have now

raised and given \$200,000 to the City to help them pay for Mount Sequoyah Woods. When we complete our commitment of \$300,000, the City will give the FNHA a conservation easement on MSW which will ensure that it will be preserved as

a natural park for all future generations. The over 500 people and businesses that have contributed to the cause have given a significant gift to the people of Fayetteville.

Article by Pete Heinzelmann

UPDATE ON GIS STUDY OF HIGH PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS

The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association and the Ozark Highlands Office of The Nature Conservancy along with students from the Landscape Architecture Department of the University of Arkansas have continued to work on identifying properties that can be candidates for conservation in Fayetteville and its growth area.

Over 120 people ranked important characteristics of properties on a public questionnaire. The most important characteristic turned out to be the existence of walking and hiking trails on natural sites. There were approximately 30 specific sugges-

tions for conservation sites in and around Fayetteville. When these suggestions were compared to the sites recommended by the GIS study it was found that all but three were on both lists. Some individuals offered to assist the FNHA in working toward its conservation goals. Results of the questionnaire were returned to those who gave their e-mail address.

The Science Advisory Group met on March 2 to make final decisions for criteria for assessing the parcels for the GIS study. After studying the results of the questionnaire, they decided on rankings for

various characteristics. For example, the group discussed the need for large sites for conservation of ecological resources. It was decided that larger parcels should be more highly ranked. Also, aquatic ecology was given a high ranking due to the relative scarcity and unique ecology of streams and rivers in comparison to dry hilltops and slopes. The Science Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting after there has been ample opportunity to visit and report on highly ranked properties by both John Crone and his landscape architecture stu-

Continued on next page



Ethan Inlander, GIS specialist, and Property Owner Frank Sharp, During a Site Visit



John Crone Leads Landscape Architecture Students on a Site Visit

LIFELONG RESIDENT RECEIVES GOLDEN ACORN AWARD

"We had land in the perfect place for a city park and we wouldn't have saved it without Wade."

Sixteen years ago, lifelong Fayetteville resident Wade Colwell persuaded a Fayetteville landowner and city leaders to turn an east Fayetteville farm into a large public green-space - the green field with big sky now known as Gulley Park.

At a press conference earlier this month, the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association awarded Colwell its highest honor, the Golden Acorn award, for his vision in having the farmland set aside for public use.

"Wade set the example to get us creating a tradition of preserving land," FNHA chairman Pete Heinzelmann said, when presenting the award. "We had land in the perfect place for a city park and we wouldn't have saved it without Wade."

Colwell hastened to explain that he wasn't the one to start the trend here in preserving land for public use. He said

that when his great grandfather built houses around Wilson Park, he donated some of the land for that park. An earlier relative donated land for the city's airport, Drake Field. Colwell said that their foresight gave him the inspiration to look for similar opportunities. "Many people who came to Fayetteville from somewhere else don't have the heritage of seeing rock houses and trees that are there because your relatives put them there," he said. "But people are starting to get it - they are beginning to see the value in having their homes next to parks and green-spaces."

He learned much of his appreciation for natural surroundings from the very land that is now Gulley Park. While Fred and Floy Gulley owned one of the last remaining farms in east Fayetteville, Colwell and other neighborhood children were welcomed to swim and

fish in the pond and creek and to play in the hay barn. Many years later, when Floy was the remaining landowner and Colwell was on the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation board, Colwell pitched the idea of a park both to the board and to Mrs. Gulley. The result was that Mrs. Gulley agreed to sell the land at under its market value if she could stay in her house on the property. Since then, Gulley

Continued on next page



Golden Acorn Award Presented to Wade For His Years Of Dedication To The Parks And Natural Areas Of Fayetteville, Especially For His Vision And Work In The Creation Of Gulley Park

Continued from page 2

LIFELONG RESIDENT RECEIVES GOLDEN ACORN AWARD



Wade with wife, Shaune, daughter, Kayla, and his mother, Susie Colwell.

Park has evolved into a wide green park with trails around the perimeters. Only a gazebo and a volleyball field interrupt the flow of the land.

Now chairman of the parks board, Colwell says he is glad most of the wide open spaces at Gulley Park are uncluttered, but that he would like to see the land there left more natural than it is. "I really wish they would have left the row of blackberries. Kids could pick them and they would harbor wildlife. Now we have no turtles, no rabbits, no hawks."

More recently, Colwell has found another outlet for his greenspace preserving tendencies. He is enlisting the help of boy scouts, especially those working to become Eagle Scouts, to help him build a trail around another city-owned property, Lake Sequoyah.

"We're starting to see in Fayetteville an appreciation for trails that go by homes. People see that it creates a sense of community and they want that," he said.

Article by Nancy Varvil

Continued from page 2

UPDATE ON GIS STUDY OF HIGH PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS

deents and staff of The Nature Conservancy Ozark Highlands Office.

The final list of parcels planned for on site visits number approximately 50 sites inside the boundaries of the City of Fayetteville, 20 in the Fayetteville growth area, and an additional 30 sites in the larger study area. This adds up to 100 possible sites which will be on a short list of potential conservation sites out of a

total of over 5,500 parcels analyzed in the GIS study.

A site visit worksheet was developed for the landscape architecture students and the TNC staff for use in assessing parcels on the ground. Vegetation types were listed in relation to slopes and soil characteristics. Forest tree sizes were assessed in various parts of the site, along with characteristics of forest strata of primary, secondary and herb/

shrub layers. Other assessments included the diversity of natural features that might allow a glimpse of the unique qualities of regional ecosystems and the recreational possibilities of walking and hiking on the site.

The project will be completed by the end of June.

Article by Karen Rollet-Crocker

The most important characteristic turned out to be the existence of walking and hiking trails on natural sites

NOTES FROM THE EDGE (FROM THE EDITOR)

Wow, my first try at being a board member of the FHNA and the Newsletter editor to boot! I am happy to lend a hand and I hope I can help achieve the goals of this organization's wonderful mission.

Items of Note:

In April, FHNA has received a Certificate of Appreciation from

the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, and has been named the Outstanding Organization for 2006.

In May of 2004 FHNA received an Environmental Achievement Award from ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC

Please let me know of any story ideas or events you would

like The FHNA Newsletter to address and cover. You can reach me at Swimhat@aol.com Steve Hatfield



This Year's Award Recipients

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

TRADITIONS

Traditions are interesting things. They take a long time to develop, but once established they have a strong influence on what happens in the future. We have recently seen several examples of traditions which have led to preservation of natural areas in Fayetteville.

This spring the family of Dr. Anthony DePalma and the Barber Group gave thirty forested acres adjacent to Mount Sequoyah Woods to the City. Dr. DePalma who started this tradition by saving the land which will now become the "Anthony DePalma Nature Park" in his memory. The FNHA showed its apprecia-

tion for their vision and commitment to Fayetteville by giving a Golden Acorn award to each of them.

Wade Colwell is another part of this tradition. Wade's family, in years past, gave significant natural areas in town that we now enjoy—Wilson Park for one. Now Wade has carried on the tradition with his own efforts to create Gullely Park and his years of service on the Parks Board. He also received a Golden Acorn award.

Now we are seeing the tradition carried on by Frank Sharp and Barbara Moorman who have or are planning to place conservation easements on part of their land on the west side of town. The Fayetteville

Natural Heritage Association and all of you who have contributed in effort to save Mount Sequoyah Woods are also part of this important tradition.

As always, we must look to the future. We are getting close to completing our financial commitment to the City to help pay for the preservation of Mount Sequoyah Woods and will need to continue our fund raising campaign. Once we finish, we will have given a special gift to the people of Fayetteville for today and tomorrow.

Pete Heinzelmann

WE'RE WILL SOON
BE ON THE WEB!
FAYETTEVILLE.NATURAL.ORG



FNHA
PO Box 3635
Fayetteville, AR 72702-3635

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
PAID
Fayetteville, AR
Permit No. 1109

Bob & Sara Caulk
790 Missouri Way
Fayetteville, AR 72701

