



# Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association

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FNHA

NEWSLETTER

## THE FNHA

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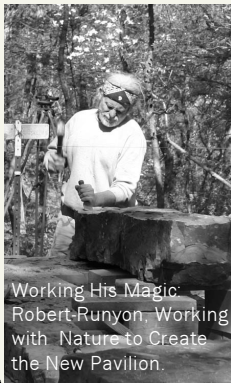
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Working His Magic:  
Robert Runyon, Working  
with Nature to Create  
the New Pavilion.

## SHARPS WELL DESERVING OF 2007 ACORN AWARD

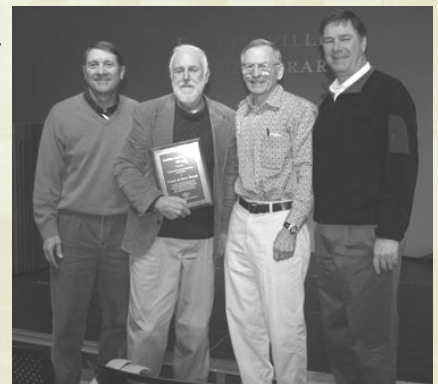
At the FNHA's annual meeting, Frank and Sara Sharp were presented with the Golden Acorn Award for 2007 for their work to preserve natural areas in and around Fayetteville.

As most people know, Frank is the former owner and manager of the Ozark Mountain Smokehouse. He has lived on Kessler Mountain west of town since 1942 when his family moved from Texas to farm and have a place in the woods. Frank has walked these woods and learned to enjoy and appreciate the rich web of life there ever since.

Frank and Sara were married while they attended the University of Arkansas,

Frank graduating with a chemical engineering degree and Sara (a national merit scholar) with a masters in history.

Frank has been active in city affairs serving on the City Board for five years and more recently giving input on the City's 2025 plan that helped establish the concept of an "Enduring Green Network" as a goal for Fayetteville. Most recently he worked out a new arrangement with the City to place a conservation easement on part of his land which will be maintained by the City in perpetuity in exchange for



Frank Sharp, second from left, is congratulated by Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association Chairman Pete Heinzelmann, Duane Woltjen and Fayetteville Mayor Dan Coody

allowing a public trail to go through the property. Frank is a forward looking conservationist with a strong commitment and original ideas that are benefiting our community.

Article by: Pete Heinzelmann

## YOU HELPED SAVE ANOTHER ONE!!

### Brooks Hummel Nature Reserve Purchase Approved

On Tuesday June 5, the Fayetteville City Council approved purchasing nearly 14 acres of land for a city park to be named the Brooks-Hummel Nature Reserve. Contributions from over 160 families, individuals and organizations will cover the \$167,000 down payment and balance of the purchase price of \$495,000 will be paid over five years.

The purchase is expected to be completed in June. The project began when we found out that the top ranked (Urban Forest Conservation Assessment) property in Ward 2 was for sale and a group of neighbors was interested in leading an effort to conserve the property as a public natural area. Hugh Kincaid, who led the neighbors fund-raising effort, stressed that it was a community effort that made

success possible. Local businesses helped with publicity and contributions, media coverage was fantastic, our elected officials supported the vision of the 2025 plan, and once again the citizens stepped up to provide incredible financial support.

Thanks to all for making this investment in Fayetteville!

Article by Pete Heinzelmann & Bob Caulk

## COMING SOON TO A COMPUTER SCREEN NEAR YOU

It may be a few more weeks before the new FNHA website is up and online.

It took several false starts, each of which relied on volunteers. But this time FNHA will end up with a website, thanks to FNHA board member Dennis Petersen, who suggested and implemented a different strategy: He checked out offers from several website

designers and persuaded the board to approve his plan to pay for a website design. In December, the board signed a contract with Amanda Shertzer owner of website design company Code Poetry, Inc. to design the FNHA website.

When it came time to say what the website would like and what would be on it, Sara Caulk took the lead.

She designed several flip-charts showing how the pages would interact and made sure that items on the site would change as needed and often enough to encourage repeat visits. For example, she plans to run photo contests on natural subjects from around Fayetteville.

The design stage is just about completed. The

FNHA board recently approved a home page designed by Shertzer's New York associate and Shertzer is putting the finishing touches on the underlying pages.

[fayettevillenatural.org](http://fayettevillenatural.org) should be up and going soon. Go there to check it out!

Article by Nancy Varvil

A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR  
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

The three major accomplishments of Fayetteville Natural Heritage since 2003... securing Mount Sequoyah Woods, creating a Conservation Priority Ranking Model, and protecting the Brooks-Hummel property are extremely impressive. However, everyone who has worked so hard on these large achievements knows it is the tip of the iceberg regarding the amount of protection needed and the dollars required to make it happen. It is unrealistic to think these efforts can be increased or perpetually sustained with the current membership and funding sources. What is needed to move to the next level of protection is:

- a. broad education of Arkansas's landowners about what is being done in other states,
- b. political action to develop Arkansas state tax credit incentives supporting conservation easements with an

on-going revenue source, and

- c. creation of an infrastructure of government (preferably counties), state agencies, non-profit land trusts, and professionals (attorneys, CPA's, and appraisers) to guide and service the legal transfer and protection of property in compliance with IRS requirements.



These are giant issues to tackle. Some may be feeling a little battle and/or financial fatigue from the previous efforts. Introducing necessary legislation and educating the public may seem overwhelming. Good News: there are many others, beside FNHA, who share

all or part of these concerns. It will be a slow process. However, it is essential to begin now at the converging of a "perfect storm"... forest and working land conversion into urban sprawl, declining water quality and quantity, climate change, land prices, energy costs demanding tighter transportation corridors, and a rapidly growing population.

Consider all the additional groups who are making an effort to address land conservation issues. The Arkansas League of Women Voters has begun a two-year commitment to evaluate the benefits of conservation easements with supportive state tax credits. The Arkansas Farm Bureau will soon offer conservation easement workshops to leadership of each county organization. The Illinois River Watershed Partnership, West Fork Environmental Protection Association, and Beaver Lake Water District are actively working toward

riparian zone improvements. The Omni Center is committed to wetland preservation. These are just the local interests; statewide the concerns are similar with Ducks Unlimited, other watershed groups, land trusts, and various

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state agencies.

I have decided to try to act as a catalyst to bring all these interests into a conversation about the need to promote conser-

Continued on next page

### A Support System for Conservation Easements

vation easements in Arkansas. Over the next few months, I will work with organizations to find individuals willing to slice this huge task into bite-sized pieces. I hope that we can import experts to tell us how others have been successful. I invite interested persons to contact me for a strategy session in mid-July. At that time, I will spread out all my materials and share my vision of where I hope to end up. I see points A and Z in this

journey, but I need others to guide me through the rest of the alphabet. If you are interested to be a part of the conversation and possibly work with me, contact me at 527-2777 or joyhale43@sbcglobal.net.

Article by: Joyce Hale

### MOUNT SEQUOYAH WOODS PAVILION BECOMING A REALITY



Pictured are, from left Robert Runyon, Jim Millwee, Hasley Gilbert and Daryl the Dog

### A W A R D S & G O O D D E E D S

The FNHA received an "Organization Citation Award" from the Southwest Regional Council of National Recreation and Park Associations after Connie Edmonston and her Fayetteville Parks Department staff submitted an application for it. Thank you Connie and your staff

Duane Woltjen designed a wonderful brochure entitled "Conserving Natural Areas". It describes the results of the GIS study which identified high quality natural areas in and around Fayetteville as well as the natural and human history of our community. For a copy contact Duane at

[Ozarktraveler@ArkansasUSA.com](mailto:Ozarktraveler@ArkansasUSA.com)



Sketch of Proposed Pavilion  
By Karen Crocker

### P A V I L I O N T A K I N G S H A P E

Recently, Bill and Craig Underwood, and Jim Lindsey agreed to provide primary funding for a pavilion in Mount Sequoyah Woods. Plans are to construct a Civilian Conservation Corps style structure simi-

lar to those seen in our national and state parks. It will be located in the lower and flatter part of the woods with easy access from the Happy Hollow trailhead. If all goes well, it should be completed this summer.

The City Council has provided an additional benefit to the FNHA by allowing us to deduct the cost of the pavilion (up to \$80,000) from our remaining commitment to them. Of our original \$300,000 pledge to

help the City purchase Mount Sequoyah Woods, we have raised and given \$200,000.

Article by Pete Heinzelmenn

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Chairman's Corner:

### GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS LEAD TO GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

In the past few years we have seen some great accomplishments which will provide a good start in Fayetteville's effort to save its unique natural character. The first was the acquisition of Mount Sequoyah Woods and the DePalma Nature Reserve by the City. This was accomplished in part by the work of the FNHA to create public awareness and to raise \$300,000 to help purchase the land. This commitment will be completed later this year and will include a native stone and timber pavilion in the woods. The next accomplishment was the "Urban Forest Conservation Assessment for Fayetteville". It was completed under the

leadership of Karen Rollet-Crocker, project director and FNHA vice-chair along with the dedicated work of Bob Caulk, Ethan Inlander, Duane Woltjen, John Crone and others.

Then, Frank Sharp, wanting to preserve his beautiful woodland property, worked out a deal with the City that placed a conservation easement on part of his land that the City would oversee and that would provide a trail through his land for public use.

The next accomplishment was the City's recent acquisition of the 14 acre Brooks-Hummel homestead as a nature park. This was made possible through the leadership and work of Hugh Kincaid and Bob Caulk

(FNHA board member), the many concerned and generous citizens who contributed \$179,000 and our forward looking mayor and city council.

These accomplishments have raised the question: what is the best way for this community to provide funding to acquire these vital areas for Fayetteville? It is apparent that we need a sustainable funding mechanism that is part of the City's budget so that these special places that are part of our "Enduring Green Network" can be purchased in a thoughtful and preplanned manner and not in a last minute effort. That will create....great opportunities for this community.

Pete Heinzelmann

WE WILL SOON

BE ON THE WEB!

FAYETTEVILLENATURAL.ORG



**FNHA**  
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