



Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association

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the New Pavilion is complete,
—Pete Hienzelmann reports that
only the access path remains to be
installed

A WALK IN THE WOODS

Field Trip to Brooks-Hummel Property Teaches Students 'Principles of Biology'

In October, just before the leaves fell from the trees, Burnetta Hinterthuer, Biology Professor at Northwest Arkansas Community College, talked to FNHA about taking her students to either the Brooks Property or Mt. Sequoyah to study the biology and ecology of a natural area. Since the class had only about two hours, Karen Rollet-Crocker suggested a visit to the Brooks property. Professor Hinterthuer invited Joe Neal, curator of bird records for the Arkansas Audubon Society, and the co-author, with Douglas A. James, of Arkansas Birds. After the trip, Professor Hinterthuer and several students were interviewed about their experience.

Professor Hinterthuer was positive about the qualities of the property. She said "I

do consider this a great site to visit due to the large old pine trees and white oaks. It was interesting how the noise of the highways was muffled by the topography and the vegetation." There were "characteristics of older growth forests: old trees with 50' to 60' height,

possibly due to their shade properties. She also commented on the negative impact of introduced invasive species. As a follow-up about the ecology of the site, she planned to talk to her class about the old forest, the harmful effects of non-native species, and effect of



"Joe Neal and students from Professor Burnetta Hinterthuer's class"

downed wood on the ground with active decomposition, and large grape vines climbing on trees." She thought the area had been cut in the 1950's but some of the trees were spared,

the surrounding development. Two students, Elizabeth Rogers and Melissa Roach, were also interviewed about the field trip. Elizabeth expected to learn about

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FNHA ANNUAL MEETING 1.25.09 2:00PM-4:00PM

Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association will hold its annual meeting, on January 25th, 2009 at the Fayetteville Public Library. The meeting will include two wonder-

ful speakers, addressing water quality issues and election of officers. The meeting is scheduled from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. Scheduled to speak are Martin

Maner, formerly of the ADEQ, and now with Central Arkansas Water and Marty Matlock, a biological and agricultural engineer with the University of Arkansas.

WE DID IT !!

At the November 18, 2008 Fayetteville City Council meeting, the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association completed its commitments to the city on the purchases of Mt. Sequoyah Woods and the Brooks-Hummel Nature Reserve by presenting two checks totaling \$31,500 to the city. Bob Caulk, FNHA Chairman, noted that this is a proud moment for FNHA members and all citizens of Fayetteville, but it is only the beginning. With varied skills, perseverance and the desire to contribute to the community, FNHA members have contributed to the conservation of over 130 acres and pro-

vided over \$500,000 (including the Underwood-Lindsey Pavilion) to the city while positioning FNHA for continuing success.

Hugh Kincaid presented the final payment toward the commitment on the Brooks-Hummel Nature Reserve. This is a 13-acre tract in the center of the city that was highly ranked in our Urban Forest Conservation Assessment due to its diverse ecology. Hugh led the fundraising on the project and, in about six months, secured pledges from over 160 families, individuals and organizations. The Reserve was purchased by the city in June 2007. Hugh closed by

saying "we've saved a very special place".

Pete Heinzelmann, FNHA's founding Chairman, presented the final payment to



the city toward our commitment on the purchase of Mt. Sequoyah Woods. FNHA was formed to save this 67-acre tract and completing our pledge was essential. Pete thanked the Mayor and City Council by saying "you've saved it and passed it on....for our children and their chil-

dren". Part of the commitment was a CCC style stone and timber pavilion that was recently completed in the south-east corner of the park. Pete described the pavilion's construction, and introduced designer/builder Robert Runyon and major donor Bill Underwood. The city purchased Mt. Sequoyah Woods in January 2003 and a contiguous 30-acre tract was donated to the city in April 2006.

Mayor Dan Coody thanked FNHA for its work to preserve the city's natural areas saying, "There are lots of good gifts that are given to the city, but this is going to rank among the best".

Bob

IN ORDER TO REMAIN SUCCESSFUL IN SAVING OUR IRREPLACEABLE
NATURAL HERITAGE, FNHA NEEDS YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

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A Walk in the Woods Continued from Page 1

deciduous forests as well as the various plants and animals that inhabit the area. Before going, she didn't expect to gain much information, but was very surprised to see all the various trees and birds that actually live at the property. Melissa, on the other hand, expected to learn about the concept of biodiversity as it

applies to Northwest Arkansas natural sites.

Professor Hinterthuer and Joe Neal helped identify plants by describing the stems and leaves and pointed out the groupings growing together.

The students' lists of trees, shrubs and forbs included Shagbark hickory, Red oak, Shortleaf pine, Sycamore, and Post oaks. Ac-

cording to Melissa, Joe Neal "told our class how Post oaks were old growth trees, meaning that they were rarely cut and were native to the Ozarks". This was because the short trunk of a Post oak cannot be used for lumber. The 'Post oak' name indicates that the wood was used primarily for fence posts. Shrubs and forbs included

thistles, Buck brush and Virginia wild rye. Melissa commented on Joe Neal's knowledge of birds and other wildlife. She said "we heard and saw so many different birds thanks to Mr. Neal. It was amazing to me that a person could distinguish the types of birds that were in the area by their calls. Some of those were

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A Walk in the Woods Continued from Page 2

Downy woodpeckers, Carolina wrens, Robins, and Golden-crowned kinglets." Students discovered deer tracks and a den that Joe Neal thought belonged to foxes. In Melissa's imagination, before Fayetteville was so developed, the Brooks property had coyotes, bear, deer, and many other animals.

Lists of invertebrates included mosquitoes, ants, crickets, spiders, butterflies and snails. Other forest growth included puffball mushrooms growing on a log, other logs growing shelf fungus, and mushrooms scattered along the path. Tree trunks hosted Lichen and Woodland moss. Evidence of bacteria was found in dead and decaying trees and shrubs.

The students were asked if they were sur-

prised to find this area hidden a block away from Highway 71. Elizabeth was "very surprised to know this place existed." She continued, "this goes to show that the sanctuaries and habitats for animals and forests are becoming slim to none, and that is a shame because we are losing the natural beauty of Arkansas, and we are "The Natural State"—we should do everything possible to keep it that way." She added, "I think that the efforts in saving the property were a good decision—there are not many places locally that you can go and feel like you are in another world, and feel surrounded by the signs and sounds of nature." Melissa noted



Students from Professor
Burnetta Hinterthuer's class

the importance of nature for people who live in an urbanized environment by saying, "Too many children in the world today do not know what a forest looks like or what a prairie looks like." The Brooks property can be a learning experience for these people who live in a highly developed world where man destroys nature for the sake of progress. Luckily there are

people who realize this and who want to save land such as the Brooks property."

Although neither student was headed toward a science career, they

appreciated the class and the passion of their teacher. Both had lived in Arkansas for most of their lives. Elizabeth grew up

in Jonesboro, AR, and graduated with a degree in Marketing Management from ASU. After four years, she decided to enroll in NWACC to obtain an Associate Degree in Nursing. 'Principles of Biology' is a prerequisite for her Anatomy and Physiology class. Melissa might also go into the medical field leading to a graduate degree in Speech Therapy. Her other option is a history major leading to Historical Preservation. She was born in Florida and has been raised in Northwest Arkansas since the age of 1. Both women have appreciated studying organisms and the diversity found in the natural world.

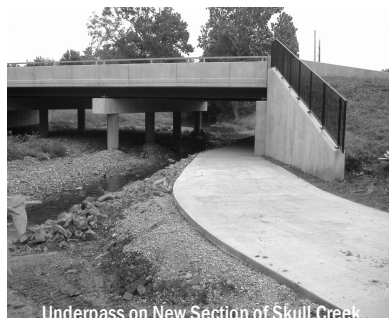
This use of the Brooks-Hummel property for educational purposes is an example of programs that FNHA would like to develop in the future.

Article by: Karen Rollet-Crocker

SCULL CREEK TRAIL CLEAN-UP

Fourteen volunteers showed up on October 10 to clean-up our "adopted" section of Scull Creek Trail. Board member Mike Adelman, who organized the clean-up, noted that most of the litter was in the Creek and several of the volunteers spent the mild fall afternoon "wading for trash". The Trail looked great to the large number of folks

who attended the Grand Opening on October 18.



Underpass on New Section of Skull Creek

FALL MEMBERSHIP PARTY

Brian and Bonnie Runnels again opened their beautiful home and garden and our fourth fall membership party was a great success. Good food and wine, terrific ambience, interesting conversation and gorgeous autumn weather made for a fantastic evening.

FOOD: Bob Caulk, Deborah Coody, Barbara

Boland, Beverly Norton Walker and special thanks to Lisa and Abijheet Purkayastha and son Ian who provided taste treats from India.

WINE: compliments of LIQUOR MART, served by Roger Henry

AMBIENCE: decorations by Gabi Schafer and Bonnie Runnels

CONVERSATION: thanks to about 100 very interesting FNHA members and guests