



Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association

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ANNUAL MEETING

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The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association's annual meeting on January 25, 2009, held at the Fayetteville Public Library, featured a forum on "Troubled Water: Preserving and Restoring Arkansas' Most Valuable Resource." Two leading experts on water issues in Arkansas, Martin Maner and Dr. Marty Matlock, discussed Arkansas' persistent water concerns, told us about specific projects they have been involved with, and presented some ideas about what they are doing and what we, as citizens, can do to protect the quality of our water and to help restore water quality where it has deteriorated.

Martin Maner is Director of Watershed Management with Central Arkansas Water (CAW), a metropolitan system which traces its history to the springs and wells of the early 1800s and which currently provides water to nearly 400,000 users. CAW, which is publicly owned, emphasizes a regional approach to water needs and has won numerous EPA awards for its commitment to water quality

Maner drew parallels between his current work with the Lake Maumelle Watershed Management Plan to protect water quality in Lakes Maumelle and Winona and the work being done in Northwest Arkansas as part of the Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan. He discussed some of the ways in which water issues have affected relationships between Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as the impact of rapid development and population growth on water resources. He emphasized the need for regional and cooperative watershed protection efforts, particularly in our area, and commended the work of the Water/Wastewater/Watershed Committee (W3C) of the Northwest Arkansas Council and the Missouri-Arkansas Partnership (MAP).

Marty Matlock is Associate Professor in the Ecological Engineering Group of the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at the University of Arkansas and has conducted research on a variety of ecological issues. He is Di-

rector of the Center for Agricultural and Rural Sustainability and works with municipal, state, and federal agencies as well as non-profit organizations to better understand and manage ecological services. One groundbreaking project which has drawn national attention combines urban stream ecological services restoration with outdoor classrooms, greenway trails and park development. Among other activities, he will be working with the Springdale water utility in 2009 on the Clear Creek stream restoration project.

Matlock discussed population pressures on water and other global resources, emphasizing the interdependent relationships of various natural and constructed systems. He pointed out that natural systems, once altered, cannot be fully restored but that degradation can often be mitigated. One of his primary messages was that everything is connected and everything changes. Streams and riparian zones are best served when they are protected from degradation; they can be restored with great effort and expense, but never to the exact state they were in originally.

Article by: Dr. Barbara Taylor

FNHA CELEBRATES EARTH DAY 4.25.09

SCULL CREEK TRAIL CLEAN-UP

April 22 is Earth Day, for 2009! What better way to help the Earth and enjoy a Spring Day than participating in FNHA's semi-annual clean-up along Scull Creek Trail in Fayetteville? And what a great way to share our planet with the kids

and grandkids in a positive, constructive activity!

The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association sponsors a section of the new Scull Creek Trail between Appleby Road and Steele Boulevard. This section includes a wide variety of landscape types including woods, meadows and creek sides, all part of the Illinois

River watershed. The trail also has the longest pedestrian tunnel in the state of Arkansas! Importantly, Scull Creek Trail is now Fayetteville's busiest trail corridor, connecting Downtown with the Mall area, offering residents North-South route across the City without need of an auto.



Spring trout lily atlanta



Spring Jacob's ladder

On July 8 at 7:00 pm, Dr. Douglas Tallamy will speak at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks in partnership with the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association about sustaining biodiversity in our own 'patch of earth'. The talk will be held at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, 4703 Crossover Rd., Fayetteville. Tickets are \$20 for BGSO members and \$25 for non-members. Visit www.bgozarks.org or call 479-750-2620.

Dr. Tallamy's book, "Bringing Nature Home" describes how and why you



should sustain wildlife by planting native plants. His premise is the need to work toward a new 'garden' environment that will support and reverse our local and worldwide loss of animals such as birds, insects and other wildlife in native habitats. The book review from Timber Press states:

"As development and subsequent habitat destruction accelerate, there are increasing pressures on wildlife populations. But there is an important and simple step toward reversing this alarming trend: Everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife — native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plants disappear, the insects disappear, impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. In many parts of the world, habitat destruction has been so extensive that local wildlife is in crisis and may be headed toward extinction. Bringing Nature Home has sparked a national conversation about the link between healthy

local ecosystems and human well-being, and the new paperback edition — with an expanded resource section and updated photos — will help broaden the movement. By acting on Douglas Tallamy's practical recommendations, everyone can make a difference."



Douglas Tallamy's background and profession make him uniquely qualified to suggest ways of conserving our wild natural heritage even in developed areas.

"As a child, Douglas W. Tallamy learned first-hand about the finality of suburban development as practiced today. Having recently moved with his family into a new house in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, he spent his sum-

mer days exploring the "wild" places that surrounded him. One of his first discoveries was a small pond where thousands of pollywogs wiggle near its shoreline and he took great delight in watching them grow each day. One day as he watched, a bulldozer crested nearby piles of dirt, and — in an act that has been replicated around the nation millions of times since — proceeded to bury the young toads and all of the other living treasures within the pond.

Tallamy is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, where he has written more than 65 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other subjects. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

Article by: Karen Rollet-Crocker

Governor Beebe signs HB 1577 that provides for state income tax credits for conservation easements that protect riparian areas or wetlands. Joyce Hale lead the effort that got the support of all possible stakeholders. Ulvalde Lindsey sponsored the bill that passed with no votes against. Congratulation to both, a job well done!



EARTH DAY

Continued from Page 1

The public is invited to join in the clean-up, meeting in the northern end of the parking lot at Gregg Street and Futrall Road, near the Freeway overpass at 4:00 p.m. on April 22. Collection bags for debris and bottled water will be available for participants. Gloves are available to borrow on a first come, first served basis. Participants are asked to bring hand clippers to trim back shrubbery along the trail. No tree limb or other ice storm damage clean-up is expected.

All participants will be entered in a raffle drawing for a \$ 50 Lewis & Clark Outfitters gift card. For clean-up details, please see the FNHA web site, fayettevillenatural.org, or contact Mike Adelman.



Spring wild ginger and bloodroot

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING PROJECT MAKES MAJOR PROGRESS

The Green Infrastructure Planning Project had a successful meeting of all the working groups on February 26th at Mt. Sequoyah. Four of the groups finished working maps and reports for the study area that includes Fayetteville, Johnson, Farmington, Greenland, and part of Washington County. The next step will be public planning meetings in the four communities.

Summaries of the work of each group are:

The Parks and Trails Working Group mapped

- a. existing and suggested parks,
- b. established, proposed and suggested trails,
- c. Fayetteville Neighborhood Associations Areas of Conservation Interest, and
- d. Conservation Easement Properties.

The Environmental Working Group mapped

- a. Upland Forests/Greenbelts,
- b. Floodplains,
- c. Conservation Easements,
- d. Springs,
- e. Waterbodies and 1st to 5th order Streams, and
- f. Prairies Remnant/Grassland and Wetland Classes (i.e. Freshwater Emergent Wetlands and

Mitigation sites, Wet Prairies, Seasonal Wetlands, Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands, Perennial Forested Wetlands, Upland Prairies, Riverine Wetlands, and Oak Barrens).

The Heritage Working Group mapped

- a. Historic Routes and NWA Heritage Trails Plan Routes,
- b. Historic Railroads,
- c. Historic Bridges,
- d. Camps and Recreation Areas,
- e. Springs,
- f. Working Family Farms,
- g. Urban Open Space Remnants,
- h. Historic Parks,
- i. Conservation Easements,
- j. Gardens,
- k. University of Arkansas Properties,
- l. National Register Building Sites,
- m. Historic Settlements and Communities, Historic churches,
- n. Cemeteries, and
- o. Mills.

The Land Use Working Group developed a list of programs and policies that would preserve Green Infrastructure. They suggested that various organizations and government entities pursue short, medium and long range policies that

maintain forest, wilderness, protected hillsides, riparian buffers, and agriculture as the majority land use. Human settlement should be compact, in conservation subdivisions and rural villages.

Policies suggested were

- a. education to improve children's relationships with nature,
- b. formation of an umbrella group to coordinate Green Infrastructure implementation,
- c. a program to reverse the decline of the agricultural economy and address the environmental impact of agricultural practices,
- d. extend trail systems,
- e. recommend a model Western Bypass transportation corridor plan for minimizing negative environmental impacts and reducing urban sprawl while developing parkways and limiting frontage roads, and
- f. working to create enabling legislation for transfer of Development Rights programs.

g. Also, the group has begun a program to make the Green Infrastructure maps and reports available through CAST at the University of Arkansas.

The Community Representatives are planning for the public meetings in the four communities.

The Public Awareness Working Group presented a 2009 calendar that represents the beauty of the Green Infrastructure landscapes and wildlife with explanation of Green Infrastructure and a description of its value to local communities. This group will also be helping to plan the public meetings.

Article by: Karen Rollet-Crocker

ANNUAL MEETING - ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

At the Annual Meeting of the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association, the following persons were nominated and elected to serve on the Association's Board of Directors:

Steve Hatfield; A principal in a landscape architecture firm in Fayetteville, Mr. Hatfield is a licensed landscape architect and received his degree from the University of Arkansas. Prior to opening his current practice, Steve served as Trails and Greenways Coordinator for the City of Fayetteville, then as the Park

Landscape Architect. He currently sits on City of Fayetteville's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. A member of the FNHA Board, Steve produces the organization's newsletter.

Pete Heinzelmann, M.D.; is long-time resident of Fayetteville, moving to this area in 1976 with his wife Margo. He worked as an orthopaedic surgeon, specializing in hand injuries and diseases, and is a retired partner in the Ozark Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Clinic. Pete was a co-founder of FNHA and served as its Chairman from the

organization's founding in 2003 until February 2008. He is currently a member of the FNHA Board, and is spearheading work for environmentally sensitive development of the City of Fayetteville's newest park, the Brooks-Hummel Tract.

Tom Lonon; A Fayetteville resident for almost 30 years, Mr. Lonon is a certified public accountant. Tom is currently a member of the FNHA Board and has served as the organization's Treasurer since its founding. Well known in the community,

Tom is also active in leadership roles in several local service organizations.

Dr. Barbara Taylor; Dr. Taylor is well known in the community as a member of the University of Arkansas administration. She currently serves the University as Vice-Chancellor for Human Resources. Barbara is almost as well known her engagement in civic and charitable causes, with special interest in environmental topics. FNHA is fortunate that Barbara recently volunteered her time and effort to our projects.

Article by: Mike Adelman

Please help us speak with one voice to preserve our natural areas in Fayetteville by renewing your current membership or by joining FNHA today.

Annual membership dues are:

(Please check one)

- ☐ **Conservation Champion \$25,000+** ☐ **Great Oak \$12,500- \$24,999** ☐ **Heritage \$5000- \$12,499 (Lifetime)**
☐ **Landmark \$1000 - \$4,999 (Lifetime)** ☐ **Sustaining \$250** ☐ **Supporting \$100**
☐ **Family \$40** ☐ **Individual \$20**

Make your tax-deductible check payable to:

Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association (or FNHA)

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The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association is a nonprofit corporation comprised of a group of citizens

dedicated to conserving the natural areas of Fayetteville and its environs for the benefit of present and future generations

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