



Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association

JOIN TODAY! INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP IS \$20. SEND
PO BOX 3635 WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

FNHA WINS NATIONAL ARBOR DAY AWARD

FNHA
NEWSLETTER
THE FNHA
WOULD LIKE
YOUR OPINION
ON HOW YOU
RECEIVE FNHA
NEWS.

WOULD YOU
PREFER AN E-
COPY EMAILED
TO YOU IN-
STEAD OF A
PAPER COPY?

PLEASE E-MAIL
THE EDITOR
AND LET US
KNOW

YOU CAN
REACH STEVE
HATFIELD AT

shatfieldrla@aol.com

At a two day celebration at Arbor Day Farm, National Arbor Day Foundation headquarters in Nebraska City, Nebraska, FNHA was among the twenty national conservation-minded organizations or individuals winning this year's awards for work inspiring people to plant and celebrate trees. Each year the Arbor Day Award Foundation honors exemplary environmental stewards or tree planters who make a difference around the world by planting trees or through education.

Representing FNHA at the Awards Banquet were Bob Caulk, Karen Rollet-Crocker and Urban Forestry Coordinator Patti Erwin from the Arkansas Forestry Commission. "The winners honored this year are doing their part to inspire the next generation of tree planters and conservationists across the United States," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The work done with their hands and with their hearts will have a significant impact on the world today and for generations to come."

The Foundation has given out Arbor Day awards since it was founded in 1972.

The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association was honored for its unique way to work with city leaders to protect our natural areas. FNHA was formed in 2003 to preserve a tree-covered hillside near downtown that was popular with residents and has since helped to also preserve a 14-acre urban forest in the center of the city, and a 20-acre lot on the city's west side that allows

public access to a trail that winds through a forest. Our members have contributed more than \$500,000 to the City of Fayetteville to preserve more than 130 acres of natural areas. Results from our Urban Forest Conservation Assessment were used in the City Plan 2025 Future Land Use Plan.

The 2009 Arbor Day Awards given at the ceremony were:

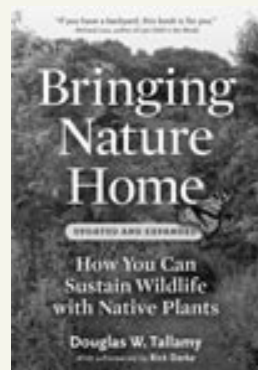
The Frederick Law Olmstead Award for extraordinary work on

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Looking for "prairie" in prairie township 2

Impressions From the "Old World" 3



On July 8 at 7:00 pm, Douglas Tallamy will speak at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks about sustaining biodiversity in our own backyard. FNHA is a cosponsor. Tickets are

\$10 for BGO members. Visit

www.fayettevillenatural.org to read the

March, 2009 FNHA Newsletter article or go to www.bgozarks.org or call 479-

750-2620 for more information



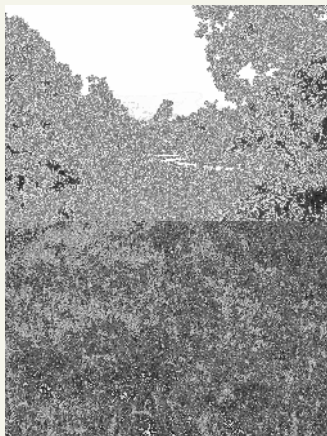
From the left: John Rosenow, CEO of the Arbor Day Foundation, Bob Caulk, Karen Rollet-Crocker and Urban Forestry Coordinator Patti Erwin from the Arkansas Forestry Commission

BRINGING NATURE HOME 7.8.09

LOOKING FOR "PRAIRIE" IN PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

A rough hewn pioneer, trusty flintlock in hand, crawls over a low rise covered with big bluestem grass toward a small herd of bison. Greater Prairie-Chickens flush, and off run the bison, down the hill, across the branch. Or imagine a time even earlier, with Native American hunters.

We aren't in Kansas or the Dakotas. It's the hillock today called the Fayetteville Downtown Square. The bison don't stop until they reach the shelter of an oak barren -- an open stand of black oak and post oak trees-- down by today's Dickson Street. That's the "prairie" in Prairie Township, the original Fayetteville. It may be a famous Farmer's Market today, covered with plantings of exotic trees, shrubs, and flowers, but before it was once all about Tallgrass Prairie.



Old Butterfield Stage Coach route, near Lake Fayetteville
Photo by Chris Wilson

Professional botanists are fussy about words like "prairie." For them, the word is proper ONLY if the botanicals are largely in-

tact, especially all of those native warm season grasses -- big and little bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass -- and the prairie coneflowers & sunflowers. Otherwise, they prefer the term "former prairie" or grasslands, since most of the old prairies in northwestern Arkansas have been converted to cool season grasses like fescue and bermuda, with consequent loss of native botanicals, birds, small mammals, insects, herps. Less than 1% of North America's original prairies remain. This has been a catastrophe for associated plants and animals.

Part of the Fayetteville area green infrastructure effort has been directed toward identifying former prairie remnants that could be linked with other green spaces. This effort involved (1) forming a grasslands subcommittee, (2) meetings where we identified former prairie fragments we knew about, (3) site visits to become familiar with locations and conditions, (4) GIS mapping with Barbara Boland to get the fragments visually and data linked with other green infrastructure elements.

Our best former prairies are also seasonal wetlands because of dense, clay-rich, water-retaining (hydric) soils. They have been almost always literally "too wet to plow." One of the identified former prairies and wetlands -- the Wilson Springs property -- fits this description. A former Fa-



Remnants of a Former Prairie, Lake Fayetteville
Photo by Chris Wilson

yetteville mayor once decried efforts to protect this property because "it's just another old cow pasture." He was unaware of biological treasures protected there because the property had been ineffectively plowed. Another promising site, the Woolsey Wet Prairie and adjacent city-owned properties, also fits this description. We also identified a rare piece of upland former prairie at Lake Fayetteville, just north of the environmental study center, plus a few smaller tracts that could be incorporated into the planning effort.

It's impossible to convey the excitement I feel when

I find a marshland bird like American Bittern within the city limits. Finding a gorgeous Painted Bunting singing in a former prairie field reminds me of the potential behind efforts to protect such places. What I mean is, the presence of bittern & bunting puts "prairie" back into Prairie Township.

Article by: Joseph C. Neal

ARBOR DAY
AWARD

Continued from Page 1

a regional level -- Robert Thibodeaux, Church Point, Louisiana

The Lawrence Enersen Award for work done on a community level -- Michael Hardy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Media Award for outlets that capture the attention and imagination of people -- Louisiana Public Broadcasting; International Society of Arboriculture

Rachel Carson Award for providing nature education opportunities for children and families -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; World Forum Foundation, Redmond, Washington

Project Award for a wide range of conservation, tree planting and tree care efforts -- Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association, Fayetteville, Arkansas; the Village of Wilmette, Illinois; Reforest the Bluegrass of Lexington Kentucky; the Hardwood Forestry Fund of Reston, Virginia; Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, Inc.

Education Award for providing excellent educational programs that are

models for other to follow -- Tacoma High School's Outdoor Academy, Kent, Washington; Kirkwood Junior TreeKeepers of Kirkwood, Missouri

Celebration Award honors schools, communities and state programs that best capture the spirit of the tree-planters holiday -- the City of Minneapolis; the City of Olympia, Washington

Good Steward Award for tree planting and conservation efforts on private property -- Blue Valley Ranch of Kremmling, Colorado

Lady Bird Johnson Award for roadside beautification effort -- The Streetscape Program of Fort Myers Beach, Florida

Promise to the Earth Award gives recognition for sustained commitment and leadership by a corporation that partners with the Arbor Day Foundation on special projects - Allstate Insurance Company; Citi Cards

More information on all the exciting work being done around the country can be found at www.arborday.org/program/s/awards.

Article by: Bob Caulk



Patchwork of hamlets, fields and forests in central France

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE "OLD WORLD"

My wife Margo and I recently visited a country in the "Old World" about the size of Texas and home to roughly 60 million people. It has been inhabited by cultures which farmed the land since 10,000 BC and it has been an organized nation-state since about 500 A.D. Through the years this country has made significant contributions to the arts, to science, and to the development of the "New World" of which the United States is a part. The country is France.

We landed in Paris -- a beautiful city of parks, museums, cathedrals, cafes and, of course, the Seine. Aside from going a few miles to work on the Metro (subway), I think Parisians stay close to their residences and walk just a few blocks to small stores for meat, vegetables and fantastic pastries (a day without a French pastry is a really bad day!). All of central Paris is comprised of low level buildings four to six stories high. They allowed a high rise to be built in 1970 then looked at it and said, "never again".

Once out of Paris and into the countryside, we were struck by how much the French



Tree lined road in a small town in France

respect and value their natural environment. Driving along, we saw well cultivated fields of wheat, rape seed, corn and, of course, vineyards which were interspersed with patches of forest. Roads were often lined with trees planted for beauty and shade -- picture sycamores the size of those in front of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Fayetteville. Most of the buildings were made of stone and still stand and are inhabited after being built hundreds of years ago.

The countryside and small towns were clean and neat--no trash or dilapidated buildings. Flowers were everywhere, on windowsills, in yards, in shops and in the fields ("free range" poppies). The towns and small cities were compact with definite perimeter boundaries outside of which were the fields, forests and vineyards. We rarely saw an overhead power line or cell tower. We also noticed this same patchwork dotted with hamlets from the air as we flew home. A scene quite different from the one we saw recently flying into Denver where a huge expansive mat of sprawling suburbia spread for miles and miles along the front range of the Rockies.

Is there something we can learn from the "Old World"? I hope we can.

Article by: Pete Heinzelmann

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)

and mail to: **PO Box 3635, Fayetteville, AR 72702-3635**

Please print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **ST** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

(Saves paper, printing costs & postage)

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

CHECK OUT
FAYETTEVILLENATURAL.ORG



FNHA
PO Box 3635
Fayetteville, AR 72702-3635

Nonprofit Organization
U.S Postage Paid

Fayetteville, AR
Permit No. 1109