

Newsletter

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature; he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

- John Muir

Mark Your Calendar!

FNHA Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2012
2:00 pm
Fayetteville Public Library
Henry Board Room

FNHA Newsletter

Reduces Carbon Footprint,
Goes Green

As part of its effort to live more lightly on the planet, the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association has transitioned to an electronically-distributed newsletter. You will receive your copies via e-mail rather than as paper issues sent through the mail as part of our sustainability initiative. The planet and FNHA thank you!

FNHA Recognizes Dr. Douglas A. James with 2011 Golden Acorn Award

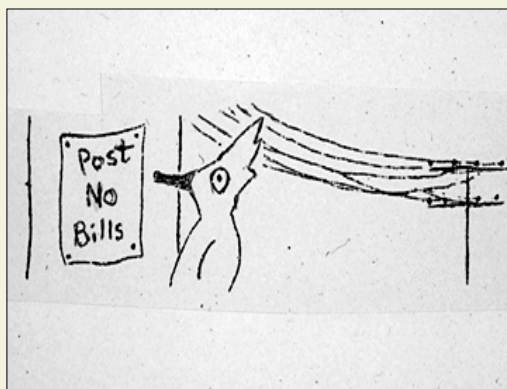
The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association recognized Dr. Douglas A. James' life work as a teacher, environmentalist and avian ecologist as it presented him with the 2011 Golden Acorn Award "For sharing his enthusiasm for the natural world with his students and his many friends over a career spanning several generations and continents. He has nurtured countless natural scientists, amateur ornithologists and conservation champions."

Doug treated FNHA members to a talk about his life in birding, illustrating it with delightful slides. His research has taken him to a number of exotic places to study birds and their habitat, including Ghana, Nepal, Belize and other sites around the world. We were all impressed by his continuing enthusiasm for his work and understood clearly why he has inspired so many generations of students.



Doug James presents *Fun With Ornithology Grade School to Ancient Age* to an enthusiastic group at Sharpridge

That birds have been Doug's life-long love was made clear by the photos he showed us of his childhood drawings — remarkable likenesses, especially for a seven-year-old. His waggish sense of humor also surfaced early, as his youthful bird cartoons illustrate.



Still teaching and leading popular field trips in the second half of his eighth decade, Doug shows us the wisdom of making our passion our career. He is a joy to know and an inspiration to all of us.

Fayetteville Natural

The FNHA Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012, at 2:00 pm in the Fayetteville Public Library.

The featured speaker will be Amber Tripodi, a doctoral candidate and Graduate Research Assistant in the Department of Entomology at the University of Arkansas. Amber's research on bee populations and habitats has focused on prairie restoration sites in Fayetteville, comparing the bee populations in the Lake Fayetteville, Paul Noland, Woolsey Wetland and World Peace prairies with those on small farms, undeveloped lots and roadside tracts throughout Northwest Arkansas.

Although she also studies carpenter bees and honey bees, Amber's focus is on various species of bumblebees and the plants that support them.

The brief business meeting will include election of officers for the upcoming year. Refreshments will be served.



Photo: Bumblebee Guide USFS 2011

¹ Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States A product of the USDA Forest Service and the Pollinator Partnership with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Service

Fayetteville Friends of Native Plants Remove Invasive Non-Natives

All around Fayetteville, volunteers are removing invasive plants from public land so native fauna and flora can flourish.

It's happening along the Frisco Trail north of Martin Luther King Boulevard where Friends of Native Plants on the Frisco Trail have dug up, pulled or cut truckloads of bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose and privet and planted spicebush, elderberry and other native shrubs in their place. It's happening on a 250 x 600 foot strip of land along the Clabber Creek Trail near Porter Road. There, Rollie Freiss and volunteers have removed bush and Japanese honeysuckle, Bradford pear, privet, euonymus and multiflora rose and planted fringe and sycamore trees, chokecherries, native viburnums and shrub dogwood.

It's happening at Wilson Springs west of Sam's Club in north Fayetteville where volunteers organized by Audubon Arkansas are removing cedars and escaped domestic pear trees to bring the 121-acre plot back to its original state as a tallgrass prairie and perennial wetland.

And it's happening on a several-acre plot north of Lake Fayetteville where FNHA volunteers and others are sawing down and dragging away cedars to allow a native prairie to reassert itself. At least two other properties are being restored to their natural state: the 46-acre Woolsey Wetland Prairie north of Fayetteville's western wastewater treatment plant and the 2.5 acre World Peace Wetland Prairie off South Duncan Street in south Fayetteville. (See *related story*, p. 3) Why all this effort to eradicate plants intro-

duced from around the world and to encourage the return of plants that grew here originally? Two good reasons are to protect the food supply for people and animals and to preserve the natural heritage of our region.

Humans, birds and other animals depend on seeds, berries, and nuts for food. (It's estimated that 1/3 of the human food supply comes from pollinated plants.) Wild bees, butterflies and beetles do the pollinating. And they evolved to depend on the leaves of specific native plants for food and habitat, especially in the larval stage. When these pollinators come upon a lawn or a "pest free" shrub or tree from elsewhere, what they sense is a sterile wasteland where they won't be able to eat or find a home. But when they come upon a forest or a prairie with its variety of native trees or grasses and flowers, they have a veritable buffet of foods and habitats.

In his book *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy supplies comprehensive lists of native and alien plants and the number of kinds of butterfly caterpillars that can live on them. He notes that caterpillars make up the largest portion of the food for terrestrial birds, so lowering the supply of caterpillars lowers the number and diversity of birds we'll have. On that list, <http://bringingnaturehome.net/native-gardening>, native plants usually far outscore alien plants in the number of pollinators they support. For example, 118 kinds of caterpillars rely on native shrub dogwood for food while NO caterpillars can make any use of the alien shrub nandina. In addition to supplying little or no food, non-native

plants often leaf out early, shading out and killing the seasonal succession of native plants that would become food and shelter for the animals that rely on them.

Also, when alien plants take over our landscape, as they have in many parts of Fayetteville, we lose our sense of living in a unique place. We live at the edge of the Ozark mountains just along the eastern edge of a tallgrass prairie, but you wouldn't know it to see the ailanthus trees, privet, periwinkle and bush honeysuckle that are becoming our "woods" and the fescue, Bermuda grass and sericea lespedeza that cover our open land. Children growing up in rural parts of Arkansas get to see a landscape that uniquely suits their geographical location. But children growing up in Fayetteville see the plants that anyone can buy at any nursery in America, and the worst alien escapees. Fayetteville is different from "just anywhere." We can preserve our landscape to reflect our special natural heritage.

Many people have been helping on projects to remove invasive plants and establish native woods and prairies but we need more helpers. Sign up with Fayetteville Friends of Native Plants at fayfnp@yahoo.com to receive emails about upcoming work sessions. Those not able to lift, cut and dig can help by making donations and in other ways. Welcome to our new cooperative effort to encourage native plants and wildlife in Fayetteville.

Article by Nancy Varvil

Call to Action for Wildlife in Fayetteville

We need FNHA members to help our city become recognized by the *National Wildlife Federation*® as the first Community Wildlife Habitat™ in the state of Arkansas.

In 2010, FNHA partnered with the Environmental Action Committee's *Fayetteville Wildlife Habitat Project* to educate and inspire Fayetteville residents to provide the basic elements wildlife need to survive; food, water, shelter, and places to raise their young. To be recognized as a community habitat,

Fayetteville had to satisfy a comprehensive matrix of community outreach and habitat development goals, including the requirement of certifying a minimum of 200 homes. We have surpassed all other community goals but still need **50 more homes** to participate in order to qualify.

Here are two simple ways you can take action and certify your property today: Go to www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife to learn more, and click "certify" to register your habitat.

The online questionnaire takes minutes to complete. There is a one-time \$20 processing fee, for which you will receive a habitat certificate, a one-year membership and a subscription to *National Wildlife Magazine* (a \$15 value.)

Or, to receive a free, pre-paid hardcopy of the application (funded by FNHA), email Terri Lane at treehuggerlane@cox.net or call her at 479-966-4780 and leave your name and address. You will receive your packet in a few days.

complete the form and return using the included envelope. You will also receive the benefits listed above at no charge. Most properties easily qualify with little or no modifications. There is no site check, this is a self-monitored certification process intended to be educational and inspiring. There are no restrictions on your property once certified and signage is optional. (Signage available at www.nwf.org.) Once certified, you can continue to improve and enhance your

backyard habitat as time and resources allow. It is an ongoing and enjoyable process. Habitat certifications are automatically tracked by the address and zip-code included on your application and Fayetteville will be immediately credited for your certification.

Together we can create attractive, diverse landscapes that protect wildlife and preserve our unique natural heritage! To learn more about our local effort and to download helpful wildscaping and native plant and habitat brochures, go to <http://habitat.accessfayetteville.org> or email Terri Lane, project leader, at treehuggerlane@cox.net.



Prairie Restoration Efforts in the Fayetteville Area by Joe Neal

A lot of us worked on the grassland section of Fayetteville's green infrastructure planning effort. We identified key properties that should be protected and their ecological values enhanced. One of these was at Lake Fayetteville Park.

Duane Woltjen is leading the effort to get Unit 3 (of 3) finished in the ongoing prairie restoration at Lake Fayetteville, north of the Environmental Study Center. He has rounded up volunteers in a steady stream of emails. The work on Unit 3 started in mid-October. Volunteers have been meeting at the highway 265 locked gate near the northeast corner of the park. Everyone brings eye protection, gloves, water, and a good work ethic. Some like me aren't all that skilled with a chain saw, but passable, and learning more with each session!

As in the case of Units 1 and 2, the work consists of branching, felling, bucking, and dragging cedar, etc. in a primitive environment, with, as Duane puts it, "no porcelain conveniences, no water point." There have been weekday and weekend sessions designed to get the landscape ready for a prescribed (controlled) burn by January. We have all been cut and scratched, busted our chainsaws, and here and there fallen on our fannies. In this way, the work progresses. The plaque that commemorates the Butterfield Stage route through Lake Fayetteville includes a news report from 1859 mentioning prairies around Fayetteville. David Chapman's research on the birds at Lake Fayetteville includes maps that clearly show prairie mounds. The ongoing effort is to restore part of what is now Lake Fayetteville to earlier conditions, when prairie grasslands were a widespread ecological condition, maintained as grasslands by periodical fires. Loss of these native grasslands includes loss of birds, plants, insects, and other aspects of the natural Ozark biota.

Tallgrass prairies species like Big Bluestem and Indian Grass already present in the restoration units have become more abundant as a result of the botanical release created by

mechanical removal of weedy natives (like cedar) that have become unnaturally dominant with long term fire suppression. Ditto for removal of introduced and highly aggressive species like sericea lespedeza, bush honeysuckles, Bradford Pear, Russian olive, etc. that replace native species. Cedars are definitely part of our local ecosystem, but they become a problem in the unnatural situation where they are totally protected from fire,



Duane and Judy Woltjen stop working long enough to pose for a photo. The Woltjens are helping to restore the Lake Fayetteville tallgrass prairie by removing invasive cedars before the January prescribed burn

their natural regulator, and therefore entirely cover the land. Cutting cedars with and therefore entirely cover the land. Cutting cedars with follow-up prescribed burning creates natural conditions where the native species can again flourish.

Prescribed burning in a densely settled urban area is always controversial, at least to some folks. However, the real danger from fire comes from unplanned ignitions – fires set either accidentally (cigarette butts) or deliberately (arson). As trees and other types of vegetation grow, and the leaf and needle litter on the forest floor accumulates, wild fire dangers greatly increase. floor accumulates, wild fire dangers greatly increase. Prescribed burns reduced the dangers posed by these unplanned fires. Conducted under controlled conditions, these fires provide numerous ecological benefits to the landscape that evolved with fire, and greatly reduce dangers posed by wild fires, a significant economic benefit.

Restoration of prairie habitat can be undertaken at many scales. On September 25, 2011, Unity Church on Wedington Road invited Joe Woolbright from Ozark Ecological Restoration, Inc. (OERI) and me to give a presentation on prairie restoration.

Restoration efforts at Lake Fayetteville will provide better conditions for native plant and animal species. It is also expected to spur efforts elsewhere as folks have a chance to see the restoration potential. Former prairie habitat at Lake Fayetteville was identified as a key element in our green infrastructure planning project. It's now becoming a reality.

The church is just north of Woolsey Wet Prairie. The big lawn in front of the church was part of the once extensive Tallgrass Prairies here. The idea of returning the lawn to a more natural condition met with widespread approval among church members, but there was a lot of discussion about how to do it, and specifically whether or not to use herbicides to kill the existing introduced lawn grasses. OERI was hired to herbicide the lawn in late September, in hopes of killing the introduced lawn grasses and releasing residual native species. Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association provided seed money to help get the project going, part of the effort to move the green infrastructure effort forward.



FNHA Chairman Bob Caulk helps with the prairie restoration effort

Restoration efforts at Lake Fayetteville will provide better conditions for native plant and animal species. It is also expected to spur efforts elsewhere as folks have a chance to see the restoration potential. Former prairie habitat at Lake Fayetteville was identified as a key element in our green infrastructure planning project. It's now becoming a reality.



Recycle

FNHA Green Infrastructure Planning Project Hits the Trail by Dot Neely

[see page 5](#)

Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association (FNHA) interpretive signage, which explains the function and emphasizes the critical significance of "RIPARIAN LINKS IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE," has been approved by the City of Johnson for installation at the Clear Creek Trail/Northwest Arkansas Greenway junction.

Washington County Cooperative Extension Service Agent John Pennington offered the sign design opportunity to FNHA, in August, 2011, in exchange for FNHA's assistance with the Clear Creek Riparian Education and Demonstration Project funded by a grant from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

The sign's content, focused on water quality benefits derived from conservation of open spaces, was selected to meet the funding agencies' requirements.

"Green infrastructure and/or conserved open spaces (e.g., working lands, parks, greenways, and undeveloped areas) improve water quality by creating natural buffer zones that protect rivers, wetlands, and lakes. These areas also filter pollutants contained in runoff, help to prevent soil erosion, and greatly diminish potential for hydrologic alteration of watersheds," John Pennington noted as he discussed the role of conserved open spaces in preserving water quality.

The FNHA "RIPARIAN LINKS IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: Crucial Stream Corridors for Water Quality & Wildlife" sign was designed by Dot Neely and produced in partnership with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, FNHA, the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service/Arkansas Forestry Commission's Urban Forestry Program, Beaver Water District, and the City of Johnson.

FNHA annual memberships are due in January of each year. You will receive a renewal reminder near the end of the year. Memberships at the Landmark level and above are Lifetime memberships. Since 2003, with support from so many levels, FNHA has been able to preserve natural areas, start an education endowment for children, influence land use and conservation policy, and in doing so we have gained national support and recognition. None of this would have been possible without you, our amazing members, and we hope you will continue to support FNHA as we continue to preserve our natural heritage. Thank you!

**Have a question?
Need more info?
Want to Comment?**

**Fill out the contact form at
www.fayettevillenatural.org
or contact us directly**

Board of Directors

Bob Caulk Chairman
973-2968 bobcaulk@cox.net
Karen Rollet-Crocker Vice-chair
790-5539 krollet@uark.edu
Tom Lonon Treasurer
527-6982 Tom@lononcpa.com
Nancy Varvil Secretary
871-7023 nvarvil@yahoo.com

Governing Board

Wade Colwell 466-8345
wadecolwell@sbcglobal.net
Deborah Coody 443-6758
dcoody@swbell.com
Steve Hatfield 443-3294
shatfieldrla@aol.com
Pete Heinzelmenn 521-8973
pete7hz@gmail.com
Doug James 575-6364
djames@uark.edu
Dot Neely 239-8125
dgn.edensgreen@gmail.com
Barbara Taylor 530-1098
btaylor@uark.edu

Additional Contact Info

Duane Woltjen 521-7032
ozarktraveler1@att.net

Newsletter Team
Editor - Barbara Taylor
Display/Co-edit - Sara Caulk 841-2685

Help us to continue making exemplary natural areas accessible to everyone by supporting our conservation, stewardship, policy, and education efforts.

Please join FNHA or renew your membership today

Annual dues are:
(☒ Please check one)

Membership is on an annual basis, due in January of each year

- ☐ Landmark \$1000 ☐ Steward \$500 ☐ Sustaining \$250
☐ Supporting \$100 ☐ Family \$40 ☐ Single \$20

Use your PayPal account on the web at www.fayettevillenatural.org "Join Us"
or

Make your check payable to **Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association (FNHA)**
and mail to **PO Box 3635, Fayetteville, AR 72702-3635**

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

FNHA is a 501(c)3 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

RIPARIAN LINKS IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

CRUCIAL STREAM CORRIDORS FOR WATER QUALITY & WILDLIFE

HUBS
 TERRESTRIAL CORES
 AQUATIC CORES/
RIPARIAN CORRIDORS
 LAND CORRIDORS
 URBAN/AGRICULTURAL



RIPARIAN AREAS FUNCTION AS STORMWATER BUFFERS, CRITICAL HABITAT LINKS, AND CORRIDORS FOR MOVEMENT

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

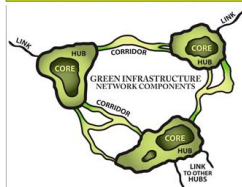
The ecological framework of interconnected water and land environments at every scale.

OSARKS REGION ECOSYSTEMS

Healthy functioning natural elements or restored ecological systems, which are the foundation of the Green Infrastructure Network and are essential to ensure the availability of all Ozarks Region ecological services, include:

- GLADES
- FLOODPLAINS
- PONDS
- SPRINGS
- GRASSLANDS
- LAKES
- RIVERS
- WETLANDS
- LOWLAND & UPLAND FORESTS
- DRY & WET PRAIRIES

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

A conservation strategy focused on selecting and managing networks of natural areas, greenways, historic sites, parks, working landscapes, and other open spaces that preserve the ecosystem values and functions, sustain water and clean air, and provide associated benefits to human populations.

VALUABLE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Natural alternatives to man-made environmental control systems help save taxpayers and government agencies millions of dollars

- Air/Water Temperature Regulation & Pollutant Removal
- Food Production
- Invasive Plant/Nuisance Organism Abatement
- Water Recharge
- Carbon Storage
- Flood/Drought Mitigation
- Timber Supply

LINKING ARKANSAS COMMUNITIES

A regional strategic conservation plan for NW Arkansas is available online at www.fayettevillenatural.org/whats-happening.php. The plan was produced by the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association in partnership with Beaver Water District. Project funding was provided by USDA Forest Service/Arkansas Forestry Commission's Urban Forestry Program and Beaver Water District.