

# Newsletter

www.fayettevillenatural.org

Volume 9 Issue 2

## Eco-Restoration at the Ozark Natural Science Center

*The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association has established a fund to endow student scholarships at the Ozark Natural Science Center. The following dispatch comes from **Joe Neal**, who with Joe Woolbright met with a summer class earlier this month.*

On July 11, Joe Woolbright and I paused to admire scaly blazing stars (*Liatris squarrosa*) blooming on the edge of a rocky outcrop. We were in the Madison County Wildlife Management Area on our way to Ozark Natural Science Center.

This summer, FNHA has provided teacher-nominated scholarships for six students, ages 13-15, to attend ONSC's new camp, Eco-Restoration. This is right down Woolbright's Ozark Ecological Restoration Inc. (OERI) alley. We presented our dog and pony show concerning local ecological restoration efforts to students in one of the center's labs.

During the camp students engage in discussions, travel to Baker Prairie Natural Area, Kings River Falls Preserve, engage in night time frog watches and astronomy, enjoy Dr. Suess's *Lorax* (1972), where trees tell what's happening in the environment, and work on tasks around the center. The class is being taught by Hendrix graduate Justin Taylor, with assistance from interns Megan McCaghey of Little Rock and Nate Sellers from New York. Students include four girls and three boys, drawn from Little Rock, Dallas, and Northwest Arkansas.



Scaly Blazing Star Liatris  
(*Liatris squarrosa*)

You never get far from natural science at ONSC. Bathroom walls include a classic 1990 Earth Day poster ("Think Globally, Act Locally"), a poster above the sink illustrating the water cycle, a towel dispenser explaining two pumps produces enough paper, a sign around the light switch ("Going out? Turn it off.") It's not the place to be slouchy when it comes to protecting the earth.

The Ozark out-of-doors is steaming into the spacious lab-classroom. There's a bobcat watching everything when Joe and I present our restoration show. Well, it's stuffed, and up on a speaker in the corner, but you get my point. There are piles of field guides, insect collections, artsy cloth mural panels on the ceiling celebrating the wild, posters describing creatures students identify when assessing varying levels of water quality. In short, a busy place, to match busy teenager energy. I especially liked one field guide, all swollen up and now dried out from being dropped in the creek. Got used! A good thing, too.



The Eco-Restoration Class of 2012 seems prepared. I ask each for a one sentence comment on natural diversity: "diversity is beneficial to all of us because we are part of the whole; everything is connected; need all kinds of life to make the earth livable; we thrive when we move together;" etc. I'm not repeating this as well as they did, but maybe you get the drift.

Ecological restoration is a kind of tinkering with nature. It was Aldo Leopold who wrote that the first rule in tinkering is to save all of the parts. I don't know if any of these teenagers have read *Sand County Almanac*, but I sure got the impression the message is getting out.

Article and photos by Joe Neal

Joe Woolbright, instructors and interns, and students at Ozark Natural Science Center summer camp.

## Beware of the Alien Invader!

If you have walked through Gulley Park, Mount Sequoyah Woods or in many of our neighborhoods, you have probably noticed a bush that greens up early in the spring, has pretty red berries in the fall, looks nice and seems to be growing everywhere. It is **Bush honeysuckle**, a plant brought into this country in the mid 1800's from eastern Asia and promoted as a hedge, ground cover and landscape plant. It certainly had those qualities but what wasn't realized then was that it had a dark side – it could spread and grow into almost any habitat around it -- wet, dry, sunny or shady. So now we are seeing it where it was never intended to be – in our forests, our open prairie areas, beside our streams and lakes. It has become an “invasive alien” of the worst order and magnitude with the destructive capacity to take over and replace native plant and animal communities.

This “alien invader” is easily identified. It has, of course, a bush configuration and grows four to eight feet high, forming dense thickets. Its leaves are pointed and located oppositely on the branch. In the spring, yellow/white flowers grow at the base of the leaves where paired red berries develop in late summer.

Bush honeysuckle is spread by birds and by root propagation. It is often seen growing into the margins of forests (from our properties!) where its dense, compact form and early spring leafing effectively shade out the crested iris, trout lily, trillium, spicebush and other normal flora of the forest floor. If allowed to grow unimpeded, it can actually prevent the natural regeneration of forest trees and halt normal forest succession. Its berries, consisting mostly of carbohydrates, do not make good food for birds, especially migrating species, which need berries and nuts that are rich in fat and protein for long lasting food stores. When oaks and other nut-producing trees are crowded out by bush honeysuckle, there are no nuts to eat, so squirrels and chipmunks disappear, followed by the owls, hawks and foxes that feed on them; eventually, the normal balance between the plants and animals in their natural habitats is destroyed.

Well, what can be done to fend off this “evil alien invader”? For one thing, **don't allow it to grow on your property**. When the invaders are small (“alien babies”), they can easily be pulled out by hand. When they are full-grown, stronger steps are needed. The conservation departments of Missouri, Ohio, Indiana and other states recommend cutting the “invader” at its base and painting the stump with a 20% or higher concentration of glyphosate (TM Roundup or Rodeo.) This helps to discourage the invader from rising up again, but often repeat cutting and herbicide applications are needed in the succeeding 3-5 years; this invader is no weakling!

What are the consequences if we don't act? **A major alien takeover!** What should we do? I propose that we arm ourselves, declare war on the “aliens” and start a major community crusade (campaign) and get after these guys -- its time to act!

Crusadingly submitted by Pete Heinzelmann

## When You Replace it, Go Native!



Bush Honeysuckle in bloom (aka the Alien Invader)

**Okay**, so you are going to miss that bush honeysuckle after it's gone because you like the screening it provides along the edge of your property and its bright red berries in the fall. Are there plants that will do the same things, but that don't bully all the other plants out of the territory?

The answer is “Yes.” You can plant native shrubs that pull their weight in the local environment because not only are they attractive, but they also provide food, nectar and act as host plants to the insects and birds that evolved to depend on them. Some of many possibilities are described below:

- Possum Haw (*ilex deciduas*) is a free-branching shrub or small tree. Fairly nondescript in summer, female plants with their red, orange, or yellow fruit can become a blaze of color in the fall and winter landscape. It adapts to a wide range of soil conditions and has a high tolerance for heat. It can be grown in shade, but it fruits best in partial shade to full sun.
- Black haw (*viburnum prunifolium*) and rusty black haw (*viburnum rufidulum*) are 10-15' native viburnums that have glossy leaves, clusters of flowers in the spring and dark fruits that the birds love in the fall.
- Clove current (*ribes odoratum*) brings the bonus of fragrance. The 4-6' foot shrub has fragrant yellow blooms in the spring that turn into blue-black fruit in the fall. They live in moderate to dry soil.
- Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) is a thickly- branched, slow-growing dogwood seldom more than 6 feet high. Its flowers, which bloom in June or July, are white and loosely clustered. Its white fruit appear in September or October and are set off by bright red fruit-stalks.
- Spicebush (*lindera benzoin*) starts the year with yellow-

(continued on page 3)



## FNHA Board Member Creates Artwork for Unity Prairie Fundraising

Karen Rollet-Crocker has generously donated a series of prairie-related art pieces she created to Unity Church of Fayetteville to help raise funds for their prairie-restoration project on the church grounds at 4880 West Wedington Drive. Karen and other FNHA members have advised the church on the project, which involves removing non-prairie species and planting or otherwise restoring native prairie plants. The art work which Rollet-Crocker created is available printed on reusable bags or as notecards. For information about ordering the bags and notecards (examples of the art work shown below) please contact Bob by email at bobcaulk@cox.net



Butterfly Milkweed Item #1



Grassland Item #2



Monarch Item #3



Bluestem Item #4



Coreopsis Item #5



Blue Sage Item #6

**Prints also available  
on blank stationary!**

6 cards with  
envelopes \$10  
Item #7

**Now taking orders! These local, hand-made bags are available for a \$15 donation towards the Unity Prairie Project in Fayetteville, Ark.**

## **Bring Back the Prairie!**

The Unity of Fayetteville property, located at 4880 W. Wedington Road, is nestled on what used to be the original Prairie Township, documented in the early 1800's by the U.S. Government Land Survey Records. It is part of the original Osage Prairie, which is in decline due to wheat production by early settlers and today's urbanization, according to the EPA and the Native Plant Conservation.

Unity has initiated a project to "Bring Back the Prairie," one grass lawn at a time. The site is approximately 1.5 acres, and we are committed to converting it back to our natural heritage – the prairie. We are partnering with local organizations such as the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association and the City of Fayetteville to learn from the experience as well as educate our community about the many benefits of incorporating Ozark native plants into our landscape.

This project will demonstrate what impacts can be made through small-scale native plant restorations in urban areas. The space is open to visitors to learn more about native plants, ecological restoration, water conservation, habitat revitalization and our natural heritage!

Prairie renderings by Karen Rollet-Crocker, FNHA

Visit us at [www.unityfay.org](http://www.unityfay.org) and like us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/unityfay](https://www.facebook.com/unityfay)

## When You Replace it.... (from page 2)

green blossoms, then sports aromatic leaves that turn yellow in the fall. Birds like the red fruits and the larvae of spicebush swallowtail butterflies depend on leaves of this plant for food.

- American beautyberry (*callicarpa americana*) adapts to many soil types, including dry. The small bunches of pink flowers in the spring turn to large globs of magenta berries in the fall that provide food for many types of birds.
- Aromatic sumac (*rhus aromatica*), unlike other sumacs, has rounded leaves and does not spread excessively. It grows easily in many settings and its bright, hairy seeds are favorites of many birds and other animals.
- Ninebark (*physocarpus opulifolius*) has thin bark that peels away in flakes and numerous rounded groups of white flowers. The seeds are eaten by many species of birds.

Many of these can be seen in the woodland/native plant area of Wilson Park. They can be purchased at Pine Ridge Nursery ([www.pineridgegardens.com](http://www.pineridgegardens.com)), Missouri Dept. of Conservation (<http://mdc.mo.gov/>), search for Seedling Order Form) and Shine Hollow Ranch just above the line in Missouri (<http://www.shinehollowranch.com>). Or ask your local nursery to find them for you.

The best time to plant is in the fall so that the plants have a chance to become established before summer.

Article by Nancy Varvil

## **Woolbright Elected to FNHA Board**

At the July, 2012, meeting of the Board of Directors of FNHA, Joe Woolbright was unanimously elected to the Board.. Joe is founder of the non-profit Ozark Ecological Restoration, Inc., headquartered in Siloam Springs, AR. He is an expert in prairie restoration and has been involved in the recent work on the Lake Fayetteville prairie remnant, the Woolsey Wet Prairie restoration project and several other local projects. Welcome a-Board, Joe!

**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!

## Beaver Water District Education Center Dedication and Public Opening

*FNHA Board member Dot Neely provided the following article about the new Beaver Water District Education Center which she adopted from a 6/8/2012 news release by BWD Public Affairs Director Amy Wilson:*

A June 5 ceremony was held by Beaver Water District to dedicate its Water Education Center in honor of John Lewis, Bank of Fayetteville President, BWD Board Member for over 32 years, and President of the BWD Board from 2000 until the time of his death in 2007. The dedication was followed by a Public Opening for the Water Education Center at 301 N. Primrose Road in Lowell, Ark. on June 27. The Center will now be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Water Education Center is designed to educate both children and adults about the value of drinking water and stewardship of the watershed as a natural resource.

The Center includes:



Photo by Don Shreve

- Scale Drinking Water Plant Model
- Interactive Kiosks exploring History of Water, Water Treatment and Watersheds
- Wall Size Watershed Map
- 50 Person Education, Presentation & Meeting Room



Photo by Don Shreve

The building and grounds also offer many opportunities for education about drinking water treatment and watershed awareness including:

- LID (Low Impact Development) Walking Tour
- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Building information

For more information, visit [www.bwdh2o.org](http://www.bwdh2o.org)



*Ornithologist and avian ecologist Doug James of the FNHA Board explains:*

### How Do Birds Get Their Names and Why Do Bird Names Change?

Some bird names got twisted from the British usage, still in use in England when settlers crossed the Atlantic. Not being trained biologists, pioneers consequently were confused concerning names for birds in the New World. I will discuss only names for diurnal birds of prey, the group we incorrectly call hawks.

First the genus *Buteo*, birds with stout bodies, long broad wings, and broad tails. The British named this the Buzzard and all other *Buteos* are various buzzards. This means our so-called hawks should have been named Red-tailed Buzzard, Red-shouldered Buzzard, Swainson's Buzzard, and Rough-legged Buzzard, etc. In Britain the term hawk means the genus *Accipiter*, slim bodied birds with short rounded wings and long narrow tails. Our birds in this genus, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Copper's Hawk, and Northern Goshawk, are correctly called hawks. We used to call our American Kestrel the Sparrow Hawk but the USA people in charge of bird names changed it to agree with the related species in Europe. The same pertains to what field guides used to list as Duck Hawk and Pigeon Hawk, now changed to Peregrine and Merlin to agree with the names of the same species in Europe. We now know the previously named Marsh Hawk to be the Northern Harrier to place it in the group of harriers in the Old World.



## News about the Board



Photo by A. Shepherd  
Terri Lane introduces NWF officials at a ceremony honoring Fayetteville (and Terri) for being the first city in Arkansas named as a Community Wildlife Habitat.

The last quarter was a busy time for Board member **Terri Lane**. She accepted congratulations from the National Wildlife Federation on her successful campaign to have Fayetteville named the first NWF Community Wildlife Habitat in the state of Arkansas. As the project moves into a maintenance phase she has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust which, like FNHA, strives to promote efficient urban planning, sustainable conservation of natural resources and protection of our region's abundant heritage.

The Newsletter "staff" and members of the FNHA Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to wish our friend and very special Board member, Dr. Douglas James, a very

### Happy Birthday, Doug

Doug will be an amazing 87 years young on Wednesday, July 25th, but not only is this special day Doug's birthday, but he and his bride, Elizabeth Adam were married on July 25th making the special day their wedding anniversary as well. It's doubtful Doug has forgotten their anniversary...smart move!!

**Congratulations, Doug and Liz**  
Best wishes for many more celebrations in the years ahead. Keep doing what you're doing because it sure seems to be working for the two of you!!

FNHA annual memberships are due in January of each year. You will receive a renewal reminder sometime during 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 so doing 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](http://www.fayettevillenatural.org)  
or contact us directly

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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:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark \$1000  | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40   | <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$20      |

Membership is for the calendar year,  
and dues are payable January 1

Use your PayPal account on our website at [www.fayettevillenatural.org](http://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**

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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

## Chairman's Corner by Bob Caulk

In preparing for my presentation at the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council Conference, I spent some time thinking about the significant successes that FNHA has been part of as we approach our **10th** birthday. We've documented many of these successes in this newsletter over the years including land conservation and conservation/land use planning. In addition, we have a prairie restoration underway that is showing signs of success already.

These successes have essential common elements: Community support that includes residents, elected officials and city staff, Partners that provide the key ingredients when needed to insure a successful outcome and Champions. Here I want to thank the **Champions** that stepped up during FNHA's first ten years. They have the passion to overcome obstacles, to move forward when others grow weary, and to complete the undertaken task. Community support and Partners will be topics for a later Chairman's Corner.

The LAND Conservation Champions are well known in the community for taking the lead in our successful conservation projects and have all received a Golden Acorn Award from FNHA.

Pete Heinzelmenn

Hugh Kincaid

Frank Sharp

Our LAND USE PLANNING/Conservation Champion has the academic and analytical skills required to plan and execute a project -- skills that are rare in all-volunteer groups like FNHA.

Karen Rollet-Crocker

Our RESTORATION Champion focused attention on prairie habitat and the importance of insuring that young people will at least have a glimpse of what a native tall grass prairies looks like. Unfortunately for FNHA, he has moved back to Missouri.

Chris Wilson

We have an ORGANIZATION Champion who is one of the Founders, has never been on the Board, and can be counted on to step up and do what needs to be done to accomplish a goal. He is the Vice-Champion for *all* our successes.

Duane Woltjen

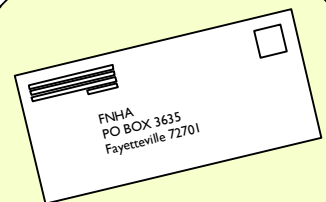
I have no doubt that additional Champions will come forward in the next ten years. Northwest Arkansas appears to have an abundance of interested and capable people. FNHA will continue to provide an opportunity for them to contribute to the community.

## GIS Presented to Urban Forestry



**Bob Caulk discussing the GI Plan with Betsy McGuire, Executive Director of Main Street Russellville.**

FNHA was invited to present a talk at the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council Conference in Russellville, Arkansas, in June. The presentation was on FNHA's Green Infrastructure Plan project, completed in 2010, and the history of FNHA's partnership with the Arkansas Forestry Commission Urban and Community Forest Program. FNHA Vice-Chair Karen Crocker also attended the conference.



If you've renewed your membership this year, we value you as a member, appreciate your support, and thank you for sharing our vision.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet this year, won't you please do so today?

(See the membership form on Page 5)