



Taking Fayetteville's Natural Heritage into the Future - since 2003

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Newsletter

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Sixth Annual Kessler Trail Run Will Be Held November 17th

FAYETTEVILLE NATURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT **JENNIFER OGLE** INVITES RUNNERS AND PARTIERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE **2018 KESSLER TRAIL RUN**:

Mark your calendars! The **6th Annual Kessler Trail Run** is scheduled for **November 17th at 9:00 a.m.** Now, I realize many of this newsletter's readers (myself included) aren't trail runners, but the **KTR is our big fall fundraiser** that helps with the purchase of local natural areas, the management of natural areas that have already been protected through FNHA's efforts (such as Kessler Mountain and Mount Sequoyah Woods), and education and outreach. It would be great if you would support this work by coming out to the Kessler Trail Run **After Party** at the **Ozark Mountain Smokehouse** around 11:00 a.m. to drink local beer from **Fossil Cove Brewing** and **Ozark Beer Co.**, eat delicious food from **Pop's BBQ** and **Sparks Wood Fired Pizza**, and listen to live Americana by **Chucky Waggs and the Company of Raggs**!



Last year's runners start the 20K race



After Party Tickets are just **\$10 online** (\$15 after November 10th).

Purchase tickets here: <https://app.regwiz.io/register/kessler/406>

While you're at the site, order a **Commemorative 2018 Kessler Trail Run T-shirt**, featuring a graphic of Rock City by **Big Bot Design**!

Do you want to participate in the Kessler Trail Run but as a **Volunteer** instead? We are looking for people to **help** with various tasks the day of the event, so please **contact Dana** at danasmith213@gmail.com to let her know you're interested in helping out.

See you at KTR 2018!
Jennifer

Annual Meeting to Be Held on December 9th

The annual meeting is set for December 9th, **3:00-5:30 pm**, in the **Chillin' Room at the Smokehouse** (1725 Smokehouse Trail, Fayetteville, 72701). **Frank Sharp**, thank you for making the Smokehouse available to us again this year!

Terri Lane of the **Northwest Arkansas Land Trust** will speak to us about their **5,000 Acre Campaign**. Here is a link to information about the campaign: <https://www.nwalandtrust.org>

Terri will also update us on the **Regional Open Space Plan** and projects NWALT has going on at Kessler and the Outdoor Classroom.

Efforts Continue to Revive the Understory of Mount Sequoyah Woods

In 2003, the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association was formed to save Mount Sequoyah Woods from development.

FNHA's efforts have expanded, and it counts among its successes protecting the Brooks-Hummel Preserve, mapping Fayetteville's green infrastructure, reclaiming Callie's Prairie, and helping the City and others turn Kessler Mountain into a place where students and interested people of all ages can learn about, experience and research an amazingly diverse natural area.

This month, FNHA will continue work on a biological inventory of Mount Sequoyah Woods. In 2003, **Theo Witsell**, the senior botanist and ecologist for the [Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission](#), identified 108 species during a visit to the property; we hope to add to his list.

The following article tells about an on-the-ground restoration project at Mount Sequoyah Woods in which we're partnering and about other projects funded by the same National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant.

Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA), a local nonprofit watershed organization, and partners have removed close to 32 acres of invasive species within the understory of Mount Sequoyah Woods. BWA received a grant in October, 2017, from the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** to "[Initiate Community Stewardship through Watershed Discovery](#)." During the past eleven months, over 194 volunteers have contributed 370 hours to removing invasives on the mountain. Targeted species for removal include the noxious Amur Honeysuckle and Japanese Honeysuckle that have, over the years, choked out native species such as Coralberry from the upland urban forest. Project goals include manually and mechanically removing a total of 97 acres of invasive species from Mount Sequoyah Woods by early 2020, as well as working towards restoration of native habitat of the upland forest by planting Ozark native tree and shrub seedlings. Recently, the project steering committee, comprised of partners from the **City of Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Department**, **Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association**, **U of A Agricultural Extension**, **Ozark Off-Road Cyclists**, and **Comprehensive Botanical Services**, met to plan for additional acreage to be cleared of invasive species. As part of the grant, BWA will also commission work to develop a comprehensive conservation management plan for the City parks department to use for long-term management of the urban greenspace, the first of its kind for the City.

In addition to efforts on Mount Sequoyah, project funding is helping to increase and establish riparian buffers along streams and creeks within the **Town Branch Creek watershed**, a sub-watershed of the **Beaver Lake watershed**. Over 5,000 native

tree and shrub seedlings were planted in spring of 2018, and several acres alongside urban waterways and the Razorback Greenway trail will be seeded with pollinator plants this fall. One of five green infrastructure demonstration projects has been installed. The recent development Homes at Willow Bend, located in South Fayetteville, has incorporated Low Impact Development, or LID, principles into the site to manage stormwater runoff and protect water quality. Measures such as rain gardens, bioswales and pervious pathways are designed to demonstrate and encourage communities to develop voluntary, sustainable practices that benefit water quality and habitat. Four mini-grants are available to businesses, municipalities and organizations within the Town Branch watershed to install LID features as part of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation project. BWA will also host educational and volunteer events to promote awareness and education about Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development.



The public is invited to attend educational and volunteer events that will help achieve these conservation goals. A bioblitz (rapid assessment of plants) took place on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Events are free, family-friendly and a great way to get involved with the community and learn more about natural areas and their benefits.

For a list of all [upcoming BWA events](#), visit www.beaverwatershedalliance.org or check out their [facebook](#) page.

Article and photo of volunteers in Mount Sequoyah Woods by **Becky Roark**

Saving Land Today for the Generations of Tomorrow

It's no surprise to residents of Northwest Arkansas that the pace of land development in the region is rapidly increasing. As our community continues to build more places to live, work and play, we must work together to plan and invest in places that will remain natural, open and accessible. The Northwest Arkansas Land Trust announced earlier this year that it is leading a bold effort to save land through their new campaign to preserve 5,000 acres over the next three years.

The land trust focuses on landscape-scale conservation, an approach that maximizes benefits to people and wildlife by protecting whole ecosystems. "The goal of the campaign is to proactively protect and steward those landscapes which provide the greatest benefit to our region," says Terri Lane, Executive Director. Lane, who also serves on the FNHA board of directors says existing tools, such as the Urban Forest Conservation Assessment led by FNHA in 2006, and the current regional open space plan, help inform their conservation priorities. Most of the 5,000 acres to be preserved will be in Benton and Washington counties, the two most rapidly urbanizing counties in our region.



The land trust prioritizes landscapes that protect our region's drinking water, wildlife habitat, access to nature, and local food and farms. Landscapes like the Greater Kessler Mountain Corridor which stretches from Washington to Stevenson Mountains, providing habitat for diverse plants and animals; or the Illinois River Headwaters Corridor which follows the river through fertile bottomlands connecting the Greater Kessler Area to the 15,000-acre Wedington Wildlife Management Area. Connected landscapes are critical for wildlife movement, climate resiliency and scenic preservation.

The Northwest Arkansas Land Trust works hand in hand with regional partners, including the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association, and willing property owners to protect vulnerable landscapes through conservation easements, real estate donations and other measures. In some cases, however, the only way to save key properties is to buy them. "We are often approached to conserve land that is only available through purchase," says Terri Lane. "Even when a grant for purchase can be secured quickly enough, a cash match is often required. By raising and maintaining our own acquisition fund, we will be better positioned to conserve strategically, to partner with other conservation agencies on large projects, and to act quickly on the purchase of at-risk lands."

The land trust was founded in 2003 as a locally-based and regionally-focused land trust. Recent additions bring their staff to eight employees. Their service area includes 13 counties in Northwest Arkansas with a core focus on Benton and Washington counties, where development pressure is the greatest.

To accomplish their goals and preserve quality of life through the permanent protection of critical landscapes, the land trust is reaching out to the community for support. To learn more about their work and to make a contribution to the 3-Year, 5,000-Acre Campaign, visit www.nwalandtrust.org/donate.

Article and photo of [Whooping Hollow Woods](#) by Terri Lane and Lauren Embree



Hear more about NWALT's
3-Year, 5,000-Acre Plan
at the
FNHA Annual Meeting
December 9, 2018

FNHA Endowment Fund Provides Scholarships to Halberg Ecology Camp

The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association contributed \$2,000 from its **Founders' Scholarship Endowment Fund** to provide tuition assistance to at least six area 11- and 12-year-olds who attended the Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp this summer.

The **Halberg Ecology Camp** has been held every year since 1980. It provides 11- and 12-year-old girls and boys a sample of seven scientific disciplines: ornithology, mammalogy, herpetology, geology, botany, aquatic biology and entomology. The staff is made up primarily of college instructors, high school science teachers, graduate students and other naturalists, and is a remarkable learning opportunity and introduction to the wonders and complexities of nature.

Barry Haas, Camp Treasurer, sent the following note of thanks to FNHA: The Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp thanks the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association for your very generous \$2,000 donation. We received a check from the Arkansas Community Foundation yesterday. Please thank your members for us.

We will use your donated funds for scholarships, tuition assistance and for other general camp expenses.

Every student's tuition is much less than the actual cost of camp with the balance of funds coming from supporters like North Central Arkansas Master Naturalists. The actual cost to hold camp for first- and second-year camp students is about \$450. Camp supporters, including individuals, Audubon chapters plus other nature groups, were able to provide 44 full scholarships plus tuition assistance to 6 other campers in June 2017. A total of 114 campers were in attendance at the two Halberg Ecology Camp sessions last June.

If you or other FNHA members know of any nature loving 5th or 6th grade boys or girls, please make them aware of this exceptional hands-on nature learning opportunity. They can download an application and brochure at:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.arbirds.org_halberg-5Fecology-5Fcamp.html&d=DwIFaQ&c=7ypwAowFJ8v-mw8AB-SdSueQgSDL4HiiS-aLK01W8HA&r=yQ6kb2RKR6e8DRrikjPPw&m=KIFyD3B2zX92VwZCKA6l_HLggKvuFL7aNbSvFzDwyp8&s=pXqUHVX25YvXJVdA5pLO25YADS3nXsboY-Qhc_4AuOM&e

Thanks again for the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association's continued support for 'our' Ecology Camp.

Sincerely,
Barry Haas
AAS Halberg Ecology Camp Treasurer



Wilson Springs Wetland Preserve BioBlitz Draws Crowd of Volunteers



Photo of volunteer **Sim Barrow** by Marson Nance
Article by Lauren Embree;

On Saturday, September 15, the **Northwest Arkansas Land Trust** hosted a BioBlitz at the NWALT **Wilson Springs Wetland Preserve** in Fayetteville. The 12-hour event was a community effort to identify as many living species as possible during that period of time. More than 165 volunteers of all ages assisted local experts with observing and identifying plants, insects, birds, fungi and other living things. The results provide highly valuable information for researchers and the land trust, and will be used to direct land management activities for the preserve.

While the findings are still being researched and identified, volunteers observed more than 30 new plant species, bringing the total of confirmed species on the preserve to almost 400. Ongoing research is provided by **Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists, Arkansas Native Plant Society**, and the **University of Arkansas Entomology Department**.

For more information about the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust or Wilson Springs Wetland Preserve, visit www.nwalandtrust.org.

FNHA Bushwhack at Brooks-Hummel Nature Preserve on November 4, 2018

The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association is hosting the 9th Semiannual Brooks-Hummel Bushwhack on Sunday November 4th, from 1:00-3:00 pm, at a beautiful, little known City preserve. Just three blocks east of Ozark Natural Foods, the 15-acre tract is surrounded by steep, densely forested slopes on private land. It is indeed a wildlife sanctuary. We will be parking at the end of Hillcrest Avenue.

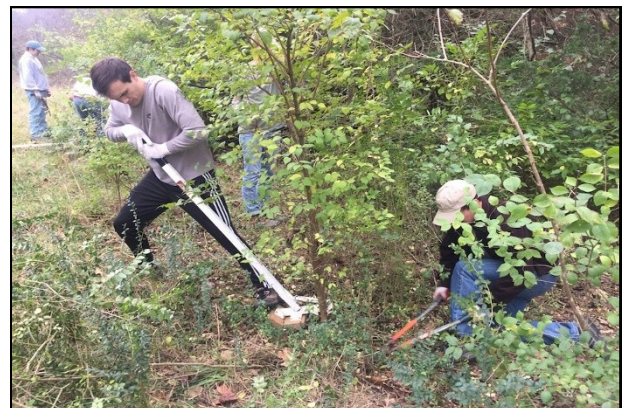
FNHA board members and volunteers will be on hand to cut and remove invasive *bush honeysuckle* and *Chinese privet*, among others. This will be a great opportunity to learn which non-native shrubs are crowding out our native species and how to control them.

The City Parks & Recreation Department will provide gloves and goggles, loppers, pruning saws, and Pullerbears (for pulling up small brush). All ages are welcome, but there are no formal trails and the terrain is uneven. Please wear sturdy shoes and long pants. The old two-track trail from Hillcrest to the Preserve is steep.

If the weather turns rainy or very cold on November 4, we will try again on the following Sunday, November 11, at the same time.

FNHA is proud to partner with the City in preserving this and other important conservation lands like Mount Sequoyah Woods and the Kessler Mountain Reserve.

For more information on the Bushwhack, contact Tom Dureka at tdureka@gmail.com.



Article and photo of Brooks-Hummel Pond and of volunteers using Pullerbear and loppers by Tom Dureka

Fayetteville Parks Master Plan Being Developed; Comments Requested

FNHA Board of Directors member **Dana Smith**, who serves on the City of Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and is its vice chair, encourages citizens who are interested in the future of Fayetteville parks to submit their **comments** about the master plan currently being developed. The following information is from the **Parks Master Plan section of the City's website:**

The City of Fayetteville has completed its first round of public input for the **Imagine Tomorrow's Parks Strategic Plan** and is now taking input for round two. Findings from the first round of input include:

- The most visited and favorite park is Wilson Community Park.
- Trails, off-leash pet areas, open green areas, and places for family gatherings are some of the favorite recreational spaces and facilities.
- Residents feel the parks system is well maintained with a slight need to increase the overall quality.
- Respondents indicated funds should be distributed somewhat evenly between different classifications of parks, with a slight priority toward community parks and support for land acquisitions.

The City of Fayetteville is invested in providing a thriving park system for all ages, abilities, and activities. The City is asking for the public's help in building a strategic plan that will guide the future of park planning for the next decade. This strategic planning process will evaluate the existing conditions of the park network in Fayetteville and will identify areas for growth, improvement, and preservation. The natural beauty visible in Fayetteville's parks, lakes, trails, and gardens attracts outdoor enthusiasts from every corner of the country. As our City has grown the park system has diversified and become an economic driver. This planning process will build on our progress and will ensure a vibrant park system for future generations. Whether you use Fayetteville's parks for playing, running, biking, hiking, picnicking, or relaxing, we want your input. Together, let us **Imagine Tomorrow's Parks.**

The site provides a link to the **SECOND SURVEY** in a series of input that will be conducted, as well as a timeline for the **Master Plan's** development.

Editors note: THE 5-10 MINUTES YOU SPEND ON THE SURVEY INSURES YOUR PRIORITIES FOR OUR PARKS WILL BE HEARD. YOUR OPINION DOES MATTER!

New Feature : A Recipe from FNHA BODIME ***

FNHA board members enjoy the intrinsic rewards of their service to the organization, but they also enjoy the pre-board meeting potlucks that have long been an FNHA tradition. There are a lot of good cooks on the board! There has been talk of compiling a book of members' recipes which may or may not happen, but we thought we'd share some favorite recipes.

Bob Caulk is acknowledged by Board members to be the master of desserts, and he (somewhat reluctantly) agreed to share his variation on Neiman-Marcus Oatmeal Raisin cookies, which have no raisins!

Bob Caulk's Oatmeal-Dried Cranberry-Pine Nut Cookies makes ~24 1-oz. cookies (**Preheat oven to 300° F)

Ingredients:

1/2 C. **butter** (1 stick)
 1/3 C. **light brown sugar**
 1/2 C. **granulated sugar**
 1 large **egg**
 1/4 tsp.+ **almond extract**
 1 C. **all-purpose flour**
 1/2 tsp. **baking soda**
 1/2 tsp. **salt**
 1 1/2 C. **quick cooking oatmeal**
 1 1/2 C. **dried sweetened cranberries**
 with enough water to cover*
 1 1/2 C. **toasted pine nuts**

*may soak cranberries in 2T **amaretto** and enough hot water to cover.

Place butter and the sugars in the work bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment. Beat on medium speed for about 30 seconds until the mixture is fluffy. Turn down the speed to low and add the egg and almond extract. Beat for about 30 seconds longer, until well-combined. In a mixing bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda and salt. Add to the mixer, while beating on low speed, and beat for about 15 seconds, stopping the mixer once to scrape down the sides of the bowl with a spatula. Add the oatmeal, dried cranberries and pine nuts and mix 15 seconds longer.

Prepare a cookie sheet by greasing with shortening or non-stick spray. Using a 1-oz. scoop or 2-T measure, drop dough onto the sheet in dollops about 3 inches apart. Press down gently with the back of a spoon into 2-inch circles, 6 or 8 to a sheet. Bake for about 20 min. or until the cookies are nicely browned around the edges, for chewy or longer for crisper cookies.

** Bob uses a 300°F convection oven, and says it may take a bit longer in a conventional oven.

*** Board of Directors Member