



Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association

JOIN TODAY

FNHA
ANNUAL MEETING
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THE FNHA
ANNUAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS AND CONDUCT OTHER YEAR-END BUSINESS WILL BE HELD IN THE WALKER COMMUNITY ROOM AT THE FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SATURDAY
JANUARY 20,
2007
10 AM TO NOON

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fall Fund Raiser A Great Success	2
GIS Study Complete	2
Chairman's Corner	4
Brooks-Hummel Property	3



The Chef and His Mate: Bob and Sara Calk, Made The Annual Fundraiser a Bountiful Success

2006 ENVY AWARD GOES TO FNHA

On November 4, 2006, the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association received the top award in the Innovation Category for the ENVY Award from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Nominated for the award by the League of Women Voters of Washington County (LWVWC), the project, called "Urban Forest Conservation Assessment in Fayetteville Arkansas" created a new approach for identifying high priority characteristics and targeting natural features for preservation in and around Fayetteville. The League has designated

issues of urban growth for this year's study topic, and is pleased that this particular project has garnered a state award. 'Innovation' was one of five

possible categories. It is meant to recognize organizations that break new ground with programs that go beyond 'traditional' environmental efforts. From



Pictured are, from left to right starting in the front row are Marcus Devine, Director of ADEQ, Karen Crocker, FNHA project director, Patti Erwin, Urban Forestry Coordinator of the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Libby Wheeler, President of the LWVWC, Lindsey Smith, Arkansas State Representative, Bob Caulk, FNHA, Joyce Hale, LWVWC, John Crone, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the U of A, and Myna Marsh.

MOUNT SEQUOYAH WOODS PAVILION BECOMING A REALITY

Underwood and Lindsey To Make Pavilion Possible

Recently, Bill Underwood and Jim Lindsey agreed to provide primary funding for a pavilion in Mount Sequoyah Woods. Plans are to construct a Civilian Conservation Corps style structure similar to those seen in our national and state parks. It will be located in the lower and flat-

ter part of the woods with easy access from the Happy Hollow trailhead. If all goes well, it should be completed in the spring 2007.

The City Council has provided an additional benefit to the FNHA by allowing it to deduct the cost of the pavilion (up to \$80,000) from our remaining commitment to them. Of our

original \$300,000 pledge to help the City purchase Mount Sequoyah Woods, we have raised and given \$200,000.

Article by Pete Heinzelmann

COMPLETED GIS STUDY FOR URBAN FOREST CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

This fall, our study of highly ranked natural areas has been finished. It has attracted attention from planners for the City of Fayetteville in the development of the 2025 Plan. The League of Women Voters has sponsored a presentation of the results and an application for the state ENVY award. The presentation was videotaped for the Open Channel. If you would like a CD with the report contents, please call

Karen R. Crocker at 442-9360.

After maps of the highest ranked parcels of land based on terrestrial and aquatic characteristics were produced, we began visiting each site. Our visits were documented using a "site conservation worksheet" developed by John Crone, professor of landscape architecture at the University of Arkansas. We managed to

visit and assess 34 sites at a beginning step, but will continue to do "on the ground" assessments in the next year. The 'Location of Site Assessments for GIS-Ranked Parcels' map, included on the insert page, shows visited sites listed alphabetically from A to U. Site O is the Hummel-Brooks property, a 14 acre parcel that neighbors and FNHA are raising funds to preserve as an urban park.

One interesting result of the GIS analysis was that many of the top ranked parcels were part of larger clusters of other highly ranked parcels. In one example, there are five ranked parcels near Lake Wilson Park. In another example, there are three ranked parcels on Puddin Hill. Unfortunately, a number of other sites were either under development or up for sale. *Continued on next page*

FALL FUND RAISER A GREAT SUCCESS

Another feature at the event was the beautiful ceramic pieces by Beverly Norton Walker.

Once again our hosts, Jay and Judy McDonald, delivered an evening to remember! Jay was responsible for the weather. Would you believe temperatures above 60 degrees and a fantastic sunset on the 28th of October? Judy provided the ambiance and the new kitchen that is perfect in every way. What a treat to be able to cook, maneuver, and socialize all at the same time with around 20 people in the kitchen at any given moment. More than 120 guests attended the party.

Based on the amount of food consumed, this year's menu of home-cooked hors d'oeuvres and sweets was a huge hit. The Thai grilled lamb salad, eggplant caponata and asiago friscos were very popular. The favorites among the desserts were the toffee crunch caramel cheesecake, key lime cheesecake, and the caramelized lemon bars. All of the recipes are available by email

(scaulk@windstream.net) or by calling 973-2968.

Another feature at the event was the beautiful ceramic

pieces by Beverly Norton-Walker. Several pieces were sold with a percentage coming to FNHA.

Thanks to Jay Gillespie at Liquor Mart for providing the great wine, and to Beverly Norton Walker who provided the wonderful functional art-work serving platters. Many FNHA members worked hard to insure our guests had a treat time. Sara Caulk's invitations got the largest response we have ever had. Judy Woltjen and Linda Eilers welcomed the guests and Margo Heinzelmann did a super job coordinating the valet parking. The guys did a great job shuttling cars, and we hope that they are available for the next shindig! Dennis Petersen and Walt Eilers bartended and kept the wine flowing while Linda Petersen, Beverly Walker, Nancy Varvil, and Sara Caulk kept up with the supply and demand by making sure the food platters weren't empty. Once again Bob Caulk did all of the cooking and even managed to get a marriage proposal from one of the delighted noshers!



Our Gracious Host, Jay McDonald

It was very gratifying to all of us that our guests did in fact have a fabulous time, and we thank you for supporting FNHA. We couldn't do it without you.

About fourteen thousand dollars was raised at the banquet.

Article by: Bob Caulk



Brenda Thiel and Beverly Walker



Randall Webb, Linda Rye, and Dennis Petersen, enjoying great conversation and wonderful food at the annual fund-raiser.

Continued from page 1

2003, when the FNHA began raising funds for preservation of Mt. Sequoyah Woods, we had also been looking for a comprehensive way to identify other important natural areas and features around Fayetteville. This was a difficult task, given the extensive land area that needed to be considered. In 2005, an opportunity arose to work with Ethan Inlander, a Conservation Geographic Information System specialist at the Nature Conservancy. GIS, a computerized system of mapping, used

available natural resource maps along with aerial photographs and county ownership parcel maps to create a series of layers that began to identify the most valuable natural areas in and around Fayetteville.

History has shown that communities often operate by crisis management, making reactionary rather than proactive decisions when those decisions relate to land use. Recognizing this and observing the rapid pace of development in Northwest Arkansas, the FNHA has successfully iden-

tified parcels of land worthy of preservation. The classification of each piece of land uses a Conservation Priority Ranking Model for GIS that blends science, geography, aesthetics, human use, and the threat of loss into a clear procedure for ranking widely diverse land parcels. With a short list of priority projects in hand, FNHA is now helping neighbors save the 14 acre Brooks-Hummel property north of Lake Lucille in Fayetteville.

Article by: Karen Crocker

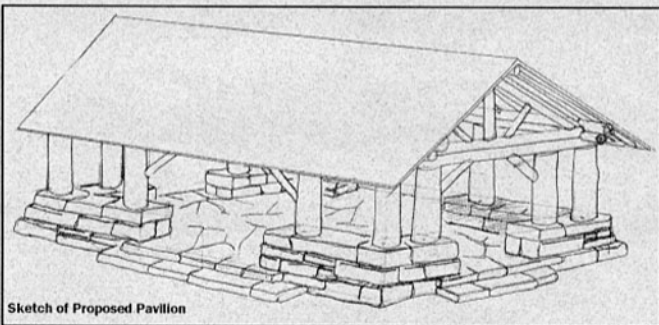
History has shown that communities often operate by crisis management, making reactionary rather than proactive decisions

GIS STUDY COMPLETE

The FNHA's proposed future actions are to publicize and discuss the goals and results of this study, work with City staff to insure that the results of the study are reflected in planning, develop specific conservation plans and concepts such as transfer of development rights, open space bond issues and conservation easements, and keep the priority list of conservation parcels updated.

Article by Karen Rollet-Crocker

MOUNT SEQUOYAH WOODS PAVILION BECOMING A REALITY



Sketch of Proposed Pavilion

BROOKS-HUMMEL NATURE RESERVE PROJECT

The recently completed Conservation Assessment identified the Brooks-Hummel property as one of the natural areas in the city most worthy of conservation because of its unparalleled natural qualities. The property, which is for sale, is east of Hillcrest Avenue and north of Lake Lucille. Two

groups of neighbors working with FNHA have obtained a purchase option that expires February 28, 2007. When acquired, the property will be turned over to the city as a natural park area. Significant pledges have been raised, but your support is needed. Time is of the essence.

A flyer explaining how you can help was donated by one of the neighbors and has been mailed to FNHA members. Thanks to the many who have responded. If you haven't responded, please consider making a pledge or tax deductible contribution.



Brooks Property

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Chairman's Corner.

An Organization That Is Working

Commitment and Partnership Are The Keys

I can't think of a better word to describe the FNHA at this time than to say it is *working*. With the completion of the GIS study, we now have a good idea of where the high quality natural areas in and around Fayetteville are located. This is invaluable information for City and County planners, landowners and developers as they strive to make plans for the future.

This project could not have been completed without the hard work

and high talents of several key people. Karen Rollet-Crocker, a U of A landscape architecture professor, as project director led this effort from start to finish. She received immeasurable help from Bob Caulk, Duane Woltjen and Doug James (U of A distinguished professor of biology) from the FNHA, and John Crone from the U of A landscape architecture department. The other key components without which this study could not have been done were Patti Erwin, a state forester who facilitated obtaining the \$20,000 matching grant from the State to fund the project and Ethan Inlander, the GIS (geographic information system) specialist at The Nature Conservancy, who applied the criteria to the

satellite maps to locate the prime areas. Add to this the input from City representatives from the planning division and the parks and recreation department and the Beaver Lake Water District and we have a partnership that has produced something that will work very well for the future of Fayetteville.

Now the question for all of us is how do we act on this information. That will be the next thing to work on.

Pete Heinzelmann

WE'RE WILLING
TO BE ON THE LIST!
FAYETTEVILLENATURAL.ORG



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