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## **Workshops for Landowners to Learn about Streamside Timber Management and Conservation Easements**

The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, the Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation, Inc., and the Arkansas Forestry Commission have teamed up to present a workshop to landowners in the Bayou Bartholomew Watershed. These workshops will address a number of topics that will give landowners and managers information on various options they have in choosing what to do with lands along streams such as the Bayou or its tributaries. The workshops will be held at six locations around the watershed on different dates. Some will be held at night while others will be daytime events. It is hoped that by providing an array of times and dates for the workshops more individuals might be able to attend.

These workshops will provide information on the importance of the Bayou Bartholomew but from a landowner perspective, an individual will be able to make some sound decisions regarding what to do with such lands. In some cases an individual might wish to harvest timber. Ideas on how to accomplish that with minimal environmental impact will be presented. What options are available to a landowner through logging contracts will be discussed. Can the area be replanted or cleaned up? Whose responsible for it? Perhaps someone wants to enhance or maintain habitat for waterfowl, deer or other wildlife. How can such areas be managed to maximize these goals? In other cases a landowner may wish to keep old growth timber intact and preserve it for future generations or even develop a hunting or fishing lease area? Conservation easements which allow monetary benefits to landowners while preserving or managing forests will be reviewed. **We are requesting that those individuals who wish to attend these workshops pre-register by calling 870-879-4808 and leaving a message including their name, phone number (in case of a meeting cancellation), and which workshop location they will attend. Pre-registration can also be done by sending an e-mail message to [layher@earthlink.net](mailto:layher@earthlink.net).** See page three for an agenda of items which will be covered in the workshops. Please pass on the information to a friend, colleague, or any one else who might wish to attend. Either a lunch or dinner will be provided with each workshop. We'll see you there!!!

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Monday, October 29	5:30-9:00	Monticello	UAM School of Forest Resources
Thursday, November 15	5:30-9:00	Hamburg	Catfish Inn
Friday, November 16	noon-3:30	Pine Bluff	Delta Rivers Nature Center
Monday, November 26	noon-3:30	Dumas	Community Center
Wednesday, November 28	noon-3:30	Star City	Country Kitchen Buffet
Friday, November 30	noon-3:30	McGehee	McGehee Municipal Building

**DON'T FORGET TO PRE-REGISTER AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN AD-**

## **BARTHOLOMEW'S SONG**

The long awaited arrival of a book written by historian Rebecca DeArmond-Huskey has finally ended. The book is available and can be ordered from the October catalog provided from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. To obtain a catalog you can call 501-324-9762 or write to the following address: Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201. Come visit an enchanting place too long overlooked in American History, where steamboats battled difficult waters to bring life to the banks of the Arkansas and Louisiana waterway known as Bayou Bartholomew. Artfully written, this narrative flows like the landscape it describes, brimming with facts, details and family names so valuable to historians and genealogists.

Beginning with the first inhabitants and a brief description of the archeological remains they left behind, the author explores the bayou through chapters like The Colonial Wilderness, Early Bayou Settlements in Southeast Arkansas, Early Bayou Settlements in Northeast Louisiana, A Steamboat Thoroughfare, A Watery Land, Hunters and Their Prey, Good Times on the Bayou, and more.

Part II is devoted to family histories and lists births, deaths and marriages for hundreds of surnames including Abraugh, Boone, Bunch, Chambliss, Crawley, Currie, Day, deYampert, Doles, Foster, Harp, Kinnaird, Robertson, Naff, Norris, Pugh, Robertson, Shackelford, Thomas and White. Twenty-three pages of notes and a twelve page bibliography reveal and enhance the archival effort behind this book which also includes a list of the oral respondents who the author interviewed, their date of birth and the date of their meeting. An appendix lists the names of all signers of the Canal Petition to Congress by Citizens of Chicot County in 1833 and six tables contain information about commerce, population, and the names of all the steamboats documented on the Bayou Bartholomew. For Arkansas, Louisiana natives this is a must have addition to your library and for the curious reader it guarantees an enjoyable and enlightening experience.



.. The Bayou Bartholomew begins in Jefferson County as small drainages, only flowing after rains. This small spring hidden by lush vegetation adds permanent flow near the beginning of the Bayou Bartholomew west of the City of Pine Bluff.

## Agenda for Landowner Workshops

(continued from page 1)

The workshops described on page one are open to the public, however you need to pre-register at least one week in advance. To do so, please review the information on page one of this newsletter. **There is no charge for the workshops and a free meal will be provided. Those who might benefit from attending a workshop include landowners, farm managers, accountants, realtors, loggers just to name a few..** An agenda for all workshops is provided below. Please check the list of locations on page one to determine whether the workshop is a day time event or an evening. The topics covered in each workshop are the same so if you cannot attend the one closest to you, please attend another that better fits your schedule. We look forward to providing information that will be beneficial to your long term planning.

### AGENDA

DAY	NIGHT	TOPIC
12:00	5:30	Dinner (Lunch)
12:30	6:00	Welcome/Introductions—Dr. Bill Layher
12:40	6:10	Importance of Bayou Bartholomew
1:00	6:30	Break
1:10	6:40	Best Management Practices/Streamside Management Zones
1:40	7:10	Contracts for Logging
2:10	7:40	Conservation Easements
2:30	8:00	Break
2:40	8:10	Landowner Management Options
3:30	9:00	Evaluation/Closure

Funding for these workshops was provided through a grant obtained from the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency. Planning was accomplished by the Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation, the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, and Plumb Creek Timber Company.

### Technical Support Group Meets

The Bayou Bartholomew Technical Support Group met on September 20 at the new Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff. Twenty-six individuals from numerous state, federal, city, and industry organizations met to discuss what has been accomplished with regard to conservation efforts in the watershed and to provide reports on ongoing activities as well as to plan future ones. Perhaps most significant the Conservation Districts in the watershed along with the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance have agreed to pursue funding through the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission to continue the necessary work to conserve and improve the condition of the Bayou Bartholomew. Many other topics were discussed and reported on. This group provided the BBA with a short and long term strategy to solve many problems in the watershed in 1995. Work continues to meet the goals of the BBA.

### You can contact the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance by writing, calling, or e-mailing:

Dr. Curtis Merrell, President  
P.O. Box 665  
Monticello, AR 71657  
870/367-5901 home  
870/367-7427 fax  
cmerrell@sark.net

#### Board Members

John Scott McClendon, VP      Sonia Byrd  
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Howard Kimbrell                  Robert Mitchell  
George Pugh

Dr. Bill Layher, Coordinator  
Layher BioLogics RTEC, Inc.  
7233 Camden Cutoff Rd.  
Pine Bluff, AR 71603  
870/879-4808 office/fax  
layher@earthlink.net



Alligator gar such as the one pictured here used to be relatively common in the Bayou Bartholomew. The species seems to have declined over the past several decades and now is uncommon. This individual was seven-foot three-inches long and weighed 154 pounds. The fish was caught in the Ouachita River by Layher Biologics personnel as part of an extensive search for the critters funded by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

**We need to update our mailing list. To continue to receive this newsletter please fill out the form below. You need not contribute or donate money to stay on the list. Thanks!**

Send to: Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, 7233 Camden Cutoff Rd, Pine Bluff, AR, 71603

**KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ONE**

Enclosed is a donation to help fund the printing and mailing cost of the newsletter in the amount of \$5; \$10; \$20; other \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to continue receiving the newsletter but do not wish to make a donation at this time.

## Creature Close-up

Some people call them loggerheads. The first one I ever saw was truly an impressive animal. Two men came to my office and said they had a turtle they wanted me to look at and were wondering how old it might be. Going out into the parking lot I was greeted by a turtle which measured over six feet long from snout to the tip of the tail. It was trying to climb out of the back of an S-10 pickup truck bed.

The turtle weighed in at 126 pounds and was the largest freshwater turtle I had ever seen. It turned out to be an alligator snapping turtle (*Macrolemys temmincki*). No one knows how old they get or what their growth rate is. I speculated the animal was probably between 70 and a hundred years old.

Alligator snappers rarely if ever leave the water. They even mate in the water. The female will leave water to lay eggs in a nest on the ground. Anywhere from 15 to 50 eggs are laid once each year during summer.

The animal is a predator. It will eat anything it can stalk, capture and drag under the water. It also has a peculiar habit of fishing. An appendage on the tip of its tongue resembles a red worm. Laying on the stream bottom, it will open its mouth and wiggle its worm to attract fish. When the fish grabs the tongue, the mouth slams shut and dinner is served.

The alligator snapper is often confused with the common snapping turtle which it closely resembles. The common snapper reaches up to 30 pounds in many cases. The alligator snapping turtle has been known to weigh over 250 pounds. These animals were commonly caught, trapped and hunted in Arkansas' streams, bayous and backwaters. It is not nearly as



common as it once was and several states have listed it as threatened or endangered within their borders. If you see one you might wish to leave it alone. Just knowing they exist is worth more than a bowl of turtle soup.

The animal has an extra row of scutes (plates) on its shell as compared to the common snapping turtle. Also the loggerhead is the common name of a sea-going turtle not found in Arkansas. No matter what you call the alligator snapper it is truly an impressive animal.

The alligator snapping turtle pictured above was found in Byrd Park in Pine Bluff on the banks of the Bayou Bartholomew. It had dug a nest and laid a number of eggs. The turtle was found by a group of Audubon members while conducting a bird count in the area. This turtle weighed about thirty pounds and crawled up a rather steep embankment to lay its eggs. To see a live alligator snapper visit the new Delta Rivers Nature Center in Regional Park in Pine Bluff. They have a specimen weighing about 100 pounds in one of their large aquariums.

## **International Paper Foundation Grant Funds This Newsletter Edition**

The International Paper Company Foundation generously provided a \$2,000 grant to the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance. This grant will provide funds to publish and mail two editions of this newsletter, this one and the next. It requires nearly \$1,100 to print and distribute each newsletter. In the past we were fortunate to have received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to publish our newsletter. That grant has expired and International Paper contributed funds for two more editions.

We are actively seeking sponsors, whether individual or corporate, to assist in this effort. Should you know of anyone who might be interested in sponsoring the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance Newsletter publication, please notify Bill Layher, BBA Coordinator. We hope to continue this effort to inform you of the many conservation activities that continue to happen in the watershed.



Bayou Bartholomew Alliance  
7233 Camden Cutoff Rd.  
Pine Bluff, AR 71603