



Bayou Bartholomew Alliance NEWSLETTER



Fall/Winter 2002
Vol. 12.

We Hit a Million !!!!!!!

After about five years of purchasing trees and providing them to landowners, this winter the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance will have purchased and delivered 1,040,472 tree seedlings. These seedlings have been planted along the banks of the Bayou Bartholomew, in reclaimed brakes and wetlands, and even in old sewage lagoons. Trees have been planted in Ashley, Drew, Lincoln and Jefferson Counties.

The purchase of these trees by the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance has been aided by the generosity of many individuals, companies, foundations and governmental agencies over the past several years. This year funds were provided by the National Fish and Wildlife foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and some individual donors. These added up to over \$30,000. Then, the American Forests contributed an additional \$35,000. All together these funds purchased over 300,000 trees which will be planted this winter season.

The continued support of you and others will hopefully let us achieve another million! Thanks to all those who have helped in the past. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bayou Segments Passable by Boat

Cane creek boat ramp to the bridge at Meroney, Hazel Street to Olive Street in Pine Bluff, and Parkdale to Wilmot (almost).....What do all of these areas have in common? Recently they were blocked with logjams. Today, with the help of many volunteers, these portions of the Bayou Bartholomew are floatable by canoe or small boats. Over twenty miles of the stream once blocked by logjams are now open.

We hope to continue to open more sections of the bayou. It's a big job but it can be done. In five days, volunteers cut through an estimated thirty-six logjams. With chainsaws, boats, cables, and strong backs these hard working individuals opened new waterways. Special thanks go to James Mooney and his crew who spent nearly 16 hours with chain saws on the Pine Bluff segment.

By opening the logjams, we hope to prevent the stream from cutting banks and causing excessive erosion. Logjams are not totally removed. Logs can be used to armor banks and also provide great fish habitat. But opening a path through these can also allow the floater a great view of the world's longest bayou.



Volunteers open the bayou at Parkdale..

The Trail Begins

Over a year ago we published an article about a grant to fund the development of a nature trail along the Bayou Bartholomew in Pine Bluff. For those who have been wondering, it is finally coming to pass.

Eastin Outdoors, Inc. of Fayetteville has been engaged to build the trail. The project began December 2nd. Ken Eastin estimated that it will take some three months to complete the project.

Local sponsors from Pine Bluff contributed \$25,000 toward the project. This was matched by \$96,000 in federal monies provided by the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

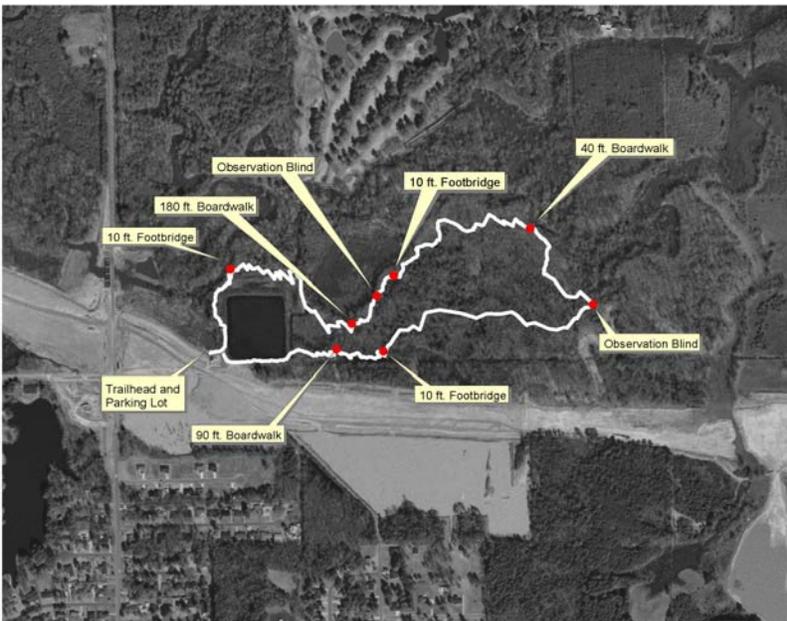
The trail will cover 1.78 miles, meandering along the dike of an old sewage lagoon, now a wetland; following the bayou bank through a grove of large hardwoods; passing by a heron rookery and beaver lodge; before winding under a mixed hardwood forest and back to a parking lot.

The Pine Bluff Street Department recently constructed the base of a parking lot using materials donated by ISG Resources from the White Bluff Power Plant. The lot will eventually be paved over when trail construction is complete.

The trail will include three sitting benches, two wildlife observation blinds, and be marked with interpretive signage. This trail will provide a nice addition to the City of Pine Bluff. Hikers, joggers, bird watchers, and nature lovers will have a very nice place to enjoy their favorite past-times.

We are looking for volunteers to help clear the trail of debris, leaves, and fallen limbs. If you belong to a club, organization, scout troop, 4-H Club, etc. that would like to adopt a segment of the trail and assist with clearing and future upkeep, please let us know. We hope to raise funds to place markers along the trail recognizing those who have adopted trail segments.

Bayou Bartholomew Interpretive Nature Trail Project Site Plan



**To adopt a trail
segment,
Call Bill Layher
870-879-4808**

**We hope to hear
from you!!!**

0  1 Miles

Conservation Easements/Landowner Streamside Forest Management Workshops Announced

Reserve Your Spot!! Free Meal to Attendees!!

Last year we put on five workshops throughout the Bayou Bartholomew watershed concerning options available to landowners concerning timber management along streamsidess. We are going to offer three more workshops in March, 2003. Workshops will be held in Pine Bluff at the Delta Rivers Nature Center, Monticello at the UAM School of Forestry, and at Hamburg in the Catfish Inn. These workshops will cover a variety of topics from management for timber production, contracting, streamside management zones, protecting water quality, conservation easements and tax and estate planning. Representatives from the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, the Arkansas Forestry Commission, University of Arkansas at Monticello, and Gross, Williamson and Bean, Estate and Investment Planning will make presentations. A meal will be provided during the workshop.

Because meals will be provided, we are asking that you register for the workshop you would like to attend. You may register by e-mailing your intentions to Bill Layher at layher@earthlink.net or calling 870-879-4808. Or use the mail in form below. We look forward to hearing from you and we are certain the food will be good and the information useful. You need not be a landowner to attend. The workshop is also sponsored by the Arkansas Forestry Education Foundation.

Schedule of Workshops

Pine Bluff	Delta Rivers Nature Center	March 4, 2003	9:00 a.m.
Hamburg	Catfish Inn	March 13, 2003	6:00 p.m.
Monticello	Univ. of Arkansas-Monticello	March 20, 2003	6:00 p.m.

I would like to attend the workshop circled above. I understand that there is no charge and that a free meal will be provided.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ **Zip Code** _____
E-mail _____
Phone _____

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	Dr. Robert Butler
Jack Edwards	Cynthia Kimbrell
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

Cleanups

Mayor Dutch King, the City Street Department, Jefferson County personnel, the UAPB Fisheries Club, Three Rivers Audubon Society, Women's Correctional Facility and other citizens helped cleanup the Bayou Bart on Ohio Street, near Pine Bergen and around Olive Street for two weekends. A lot of trash was hauled out and the bayou was cleared of a bunch of logjams at the Ohio Street bridge and between Hazel and Olive Streets. Hats off to James Mooney and others who spent 16 hours of laborious work using chainsaws to open up the waterway.



YES, I WANT TO HELP!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

CHECK ONE

Enclosed is a donation to help fund: (donations are tax deductible)

- the nature trail
- tree seedlings
- general operations
- newsletter mailing and printing

I would like to volunteer to:

- help with cleanups
- help remove logjams
- Adopt a trail segment (be sure to include the name of your group such as a boy scout troop, 4-H Club, Rotary Club, etc.)

A Message from the Nature Conservancy

Dear Landowner,

The Nature Conservancy is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. We at the Nature Conservancy feel that most landowners share a desire to protect the valuable natural resources present on their land for future generations. We work with landowners and stakeholder groups to implement conservation initiatives and practices that abate threats to the systems that support living things. We have developed a strong partnership with the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance which has expanded their efforts to include the entire watershed in both Arkansas and Louisiana. Many other state and federal agencies are working with us to help improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitats and preserve the Bartholomew. As a landowner you can become part of the team.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about options that are open to you as a landowner under the new farm bill and other programs that you may wish to take advantage of in helping to preserve and enhance the world's longest bayou. Included below is a list of contacts where you can find out more about these programs.

Several USDA programs are available to assist financially with taking marginal land out of production or in creating wildlife habitats or forest lands. These include WRP, CRP, EQIP, CREP and others. You should contact the USDA service center in the county or parish in which you own the land and request that the NRCS representative send to you an application packet. There is no charge to apply and you are under no obligation to participate. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has some programs available for landowner participation. The state wildlife agencies may also have additional programs to help restore habitats. You may wish to contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission or the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance recently began a conservation easement program which enables landowners to enroll woodlands in easements in exchange for income tax benefits. To find out more about these and other programs contact the individuals listed below.

- Morehouse Parish Louisiana** Larry D. Phillips, District Conservationist, USDA, 604 Marlatt St., Bastrop, La. 71220
- The Nature Conservancy** Louisiana - The Louisiana Field Office, P.O. Box 4125, Baton Rouge, La. 70821, or Ronnie D. Ulmer, Northeast Louisiana Field Office, P.O. Box 340, Winnsboro, La. Phone - 318-412-0472; rulmer@tnc.org.
Arkansas - Arkansas Field Office, 601 North University Avenue, Little Rock, AR Phone - 501-663-6699.
- Jefferson County Arkansas** Levell Foote, District Conservationist, Room 2114, Federal Building, 100 E. 8th St., Pine Bluff, AR Phone - 870-534-3200.
- Lincoln County Arkansas** Robert Hankins, District Conservationist, 207 South Jefferson, Star City, AR 71667. Phone - 870-628-3942.
- Drew County Arkansas** Ron Hayes, District Conservationist, USDA, 419 West Gaines, Monticello, AR 71655. Phone - 870-367-8400.
- Ashley County Arkansas** Bryan Hollis, District Conservationist, USDA, 310 North Cherry, Hamburg, AR 71646. Phone - 870-853-5254.
- Bayou Bartholomew Alliance** Bill Layher, Coordinator, 7233 Camden Cutoff Road, Pine Bluff, AR 71603, Phone - 870-879-4808; layher@earthlink.net.
Dr. Curtis Merrell, President, P.O. Box 665, Monticello, AR 71657, Phone - 870-367-5901, cmerrell@seark.net

Any of these representatives will be glad to discuss with you various options available and direct you to the proper office. We hope to hear from you.

Sincerely Yours,
Ronnie D. Ulmer
The Nature Conservancy

BBA Website

The BBA has a website!

Visit the website at www.accessarkansas.org/bba/

Maps, pictures, teaching modules for science classes, past newsletters, and upcoming events are all posted. We hope to expand the materials at the site. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas. Drop in! We'd love to hear from you.



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