



Bayou Bartholomew Alliance **NEWSLETTER**



Summer 2003

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Conservation Easements Pick Up Steam



A year or so ago the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance embarked on a conservation easement program to help save the remaining forested areas along the bayou. Many programs assist landowners in reforesting areas that were formerly cut, but few programs offer assistance to those who have chosen to preserve some of these magnificent resources. By enrolling in a conservation easement program, a landowner can keep his forest or natural area and at the same time still control access or lease it for hunting or other purposes. An easement provides a landowner with a way to save some money from federal income taxes and thus receive a monetary incentive for hanging on to those natural areas. To date the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance is completing several easements with landowners along several miles of stream in Ashley County. A number of easements have been donated to the Alliance in Jefferson County. If you would like further information on the conservation easement program and how it may benefit you and the Bayou, please give the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance Coordinator a call. The treasure you choose to preserve will be one that lasts far into the future. We thank all of those who gratefully contribute to this conservation effort.

We would like to thank the following who have made donations recently to the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance. Your donations greatly contributed to the success of this massive restoration project. Many Thanks!

Individuals

Kenneth Dashiell	Bastrop, La.
Neil Olan	Melbourne, Ar
Nelda Steed	Star City, Ar
Gerald Majors	White Hall, Ar
Linda Johnson	Redfield, Ar
Bob Phillips	Pine Bluff, Ar
Steve Fleming	Dermott, Ar
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Dicken	Rochester, Mn

Business/Organizations

Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society,
Shreveport, La
American Forests
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT!

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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

BAYOU BARTHOLOMEW NATURE TRAIL

The new nature trail in Pine Bluff near Hazel Street and I-530 is about 90 per cent complete. About the only thing left to do is to build and erect the marking signs and interpretive signage along the trail. It should be ready just in time for the fall colors. The trail base is completed as are the boardwalks and foot bridges. It truly is a wonderful walk through nature. We anticipate that the road to the parking lot will be paved soon. Again we would like to thank all of those hard-working volunteers who made it possible by cleaning up the area and clearing the corridor..

The new trail will be 1.78 miles in length and will contain a number of boardwalks and foot bridges. It will give hikers a view of a wetland with a beaver lodge and a heron rookery, a view of the bayou itself in several locations, and pass through other wetland areas, a hardwood forest, and a mixed growth forest. The trail will begin near the old sewage pump station and traverse the banks of an old sewage lagoon that is now utilized by ducks, geese and is well on its way to recovering with wetland vegetation.

Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, Winrock International, ADEQ, and The Nature Conservancy Receive Grant

Recently, headed by Gregg Patterson of Winrock International, that group along with the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, collaborated on writing a grant proposal to apply for funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Watershed Initiative Program. The hard work paid off as the group received a grant totaling some \$650,000.

The group was one of over 800 that applied for the funding nation-wide. Only 20 groups were selected to receive funding under the extremely competitive grant program.

The grant covers a two year period beginning in October. Each of the four member group has different initiatives to perform under the grant. The Bayou Bartholomew hopes to use its share for several things. Most importantly, the grant will provide dollars for a full time assistant to work with the BBA Coordinator on conservation easements, volunteer programs, logjam removal, and other ongoing activities. The grant also provides travel expense for work on the bayou as well as office supplies, telephone services, etc. It seems it takes a lot to keep an organization going these days. The good news is that by covering these costs, all funds donated by individuals and organizations goes directly to things like trail building, tree planting, and other real project items.

The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance will also use some of their share of the funding to help landowners renovate weirs that were placed in the Bayou in the past. Weirs often are built in a manner that actually causes the stream to silt in and become impassable for fishes and watercraft. By re-designing these weirs, we can assure that they do not create problems which they were not intended to do.

The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance is working closely with The Nature Conservancy to develop conservation easement programs, document the bayou's incredible diversity of plant and animal life, and to work jointly with landowners in the watershed to create a feeling of cooperation and good will toward conserving this wonderful natural resource.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can contact the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance by writing, calling, or -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

Volunteer To Keep Arkansas This Beautiful!



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.)

Mail to

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

THE GREAT ARKANSAS CLEANUP

WE NEED YOUR HELP

PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 6, 2003

**MEET AT 7:00 A. M.
PINE BLUFF CIVIC CENTER**

**BUSES WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO
CLEANUP SITES**

BUSES WILL RETURN AT 11:00 A.M.

**HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, DRINKS WILL BE PRE-
PARED BY THE PINE BLUFF POLICE AND FIRE DE-
PARTMENTS**

**REGISTER A GROUP
CALL MARILYN KEARNEY
PINE BLUFF/JEFFERSON COUNTY
CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION
870-543-4901**

**For more information call the BBA Coordinator
870-879-4808**

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.



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