

Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers Member News



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WELCOME PARTNERS

Dr. Thomas Stank, Southern Eye Associates, Jonesboro
Scott Simon, The Nature Conservancy, Little Rock
Dianna Fulghum, Lakeview

WELCOME COMPANIES

Riley's Outfitters, Mountain Home
John Bailey, Flippin

WELCOME MEMBERS

Bob Sinclair, Bull Shoals
Scott Yaick, Mountain Home
Andre Munson, Mountain Home
Jennifer Loyd, Flippin
Richard Martin, Kimberling City, MO
Kenneth Wells, Lakeview
David Brunell, Rogers
Rick Moore, Russellville
Jack Curry, Mountain Home
Reasha Saltsman, Collinsville, OK
Matt Palmer, Oakland
Chuck Guhl, Des Moines IA
Jay Dzik, Waukegan, IL

President's Message

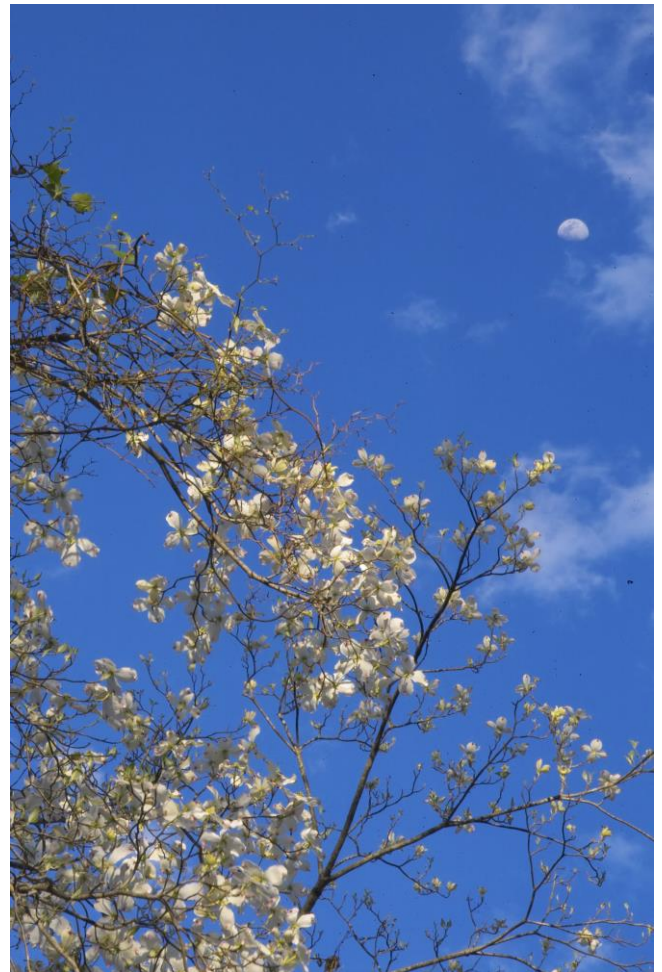
Spring in the Ozarks

Spring in the Ozarks is an especially wonderful and wondrous time. Waterfalls and streams are rushing, daffodils and dogwood trees bloom, frogs and birds start singing in search of mates.

The Buffalo River, Crooked Creek and many of the other Ozark rivers and streams provide challenging floating experiences as well as wonderful nature experiences.

Please spend time outdoors to appreciate the beauty of nature and reflect on our responsibility to protect what our Creator has given us.

“The rivers flow not past, but through us, thrilling, tingling, vibrating every fiber and cell of the substance of our bodies, making them glide and sing. The trees wave and the flowers bloom in our bodies as well as our souls...” (Mountain Thoughts, by John Muir 1938)

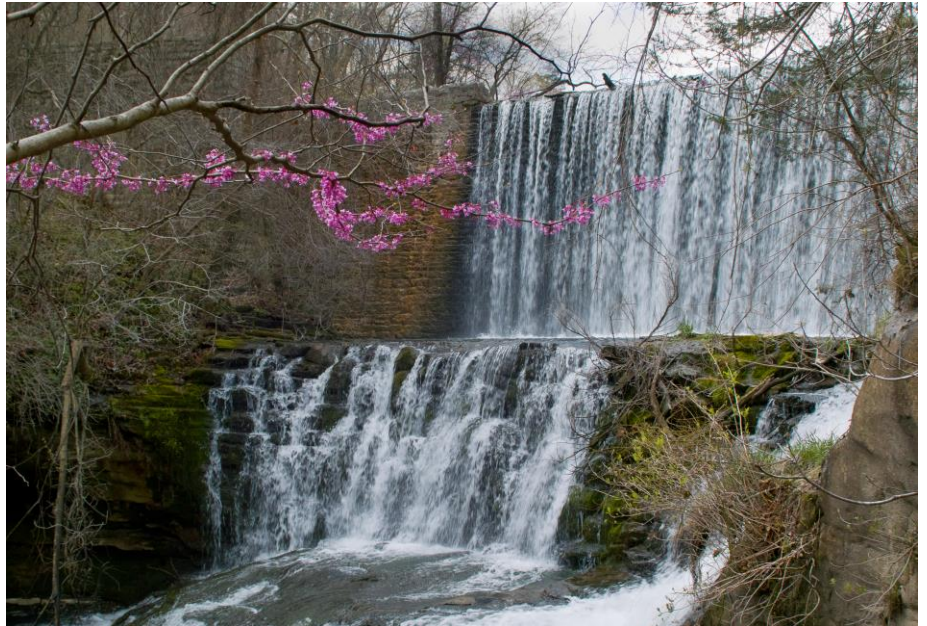


We are blessed to have these Natural State resources to enjoy and appreciate.

Please join Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers in our efforts through education, cooperation, contribution and service to protect and preserve our streams, rivers and watersheds for future generations.

Thank you.

Steve Blumreich, President
417-839-0193



ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately 60 Friends of the Rivers enjoyed the Annual Dinner April 23rd at the Vada Sheid White River Room as Friends celebrated its sixteenth year in operations.

Recognition was given and appreciation expressed to Dr. Eddie Dry for his 6 years of service on the Friends of the Rivers Board. Dr. Dry was instrumental in providing valuable guidance to Friends, coordinating the ASU Mountain Home Stream Team as well as recommending qualified students for Friends of the Rivers \$1,000 annual scholarship.

The event's key note speaker was Mr. Scott Simon, Director of the Arkansas Nature Conservancy. Scott explained The Nature Conservancy's role in protecting unique lands in Arkansas which are critical to protecting water bodies used for human water supplies or are home to endangered species. He described the recent acquisition of 1,425 acres Council Rock Forest in the Buffalo River Watershed and its' importance in protecting that watershed. Scott also described the Nature Conservancy's work with stream and river bank restoration projects and Arkansas's Unpaved Road program designed to reduce sediment runoff from unpaved county roads.

The annual Friends of the Rivers Award was presented to Wendy Luna for her invaluable work and tireless efforts helping Friends protect our watersheds. Wendy's contributions include supporting our website, newsletter, email notifications, member data base management and our Crooked Creek celebration.





Thank you Wendy, we couldn't manage without you and we truly appreciate you. To show our appreciation Wendy was presented a plaque with a hand painted Bonneville trout painted by Duane Hada with the inscription

The evening ended with a drawing for a guided fly fishing trip donated by local guide Lori Sloas. The lucky winner Mary Kirby Thank you Lori for contributing this guided trip.



TRACKING ADEQ PERMITS IN YOUR AREA!



Do you want to be alerted when the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is considering a permit near you, or near any property that is of value to you? How about a landfill permit, or a hog farm permit near you?

Once a Notice of Intent is published by a permittee, you have only thirty (30) days to comment; or, in some cases only ten (10) days are allowed to file a comment or request a public hearing in response to the permit notice. Only those who file a comment may appeal a permit once granted. Requests for public hearings on mining permits may be restricted further to only adjoining landowners. The Environmental Protection Agency no longer requires states to publish notices in newspapers for many air permits and is considering such action for water permits.

A new website has been created for you to subscribe FREE and receive an alert by email, called a Permit Action Notification. The customized alert provides you with information on the pending permit or a permit modification or even a permit renewal within a twenty-five (25) mile radius of the zip code submitted. You will be directed online to the specific permit information in the ADEQ database. Multiple zip codes may be submitted.

The Arkansas Environmental Defense Alliance (AEDA) created the website. AEDA understands that timely notice of permit changes is critical for public comment and for minimizing risk of harm to citizens, wildlife and other natural resources. AEDA is a nonprofit environmental watchdog organization dedicated to policy, legal and legislative environmental matters in Arkansas.

It is easy to get started on the website, and there is no charge to subscribe. Simply provide your email address and a zip code.

www.adeqwatchdog.org

Sam Cooke
Board Member
Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers

FRIEND OF THE RIVERS – MR. FRED BERRY



“Like an old friend who had been sadly misused” is how Fred Berry described Crooked Creek as he considered how he could help protect and preserve it. Fred Berry was instrumental in protecting and preserving a 2.75 mile stretch of the river together with approximately 420 acres of land now known as the Fred Berry Conservation Area and Education Center just west of Yellville. Fred and his family donated stock in the Bank of Yellville (which ultimately was acquired by Arvest Bank) to Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation which used the proceeds to acquire the property, a dairy and cattle farm back in 1999.

Crooked Creek was being aggressively mined for gravel which left the creek bed destroyed and many of its inhabitants struggling to survive. The damage done to the creek bed is still visible today and according to Fred “will take many, many years for the creek to heal itself.”

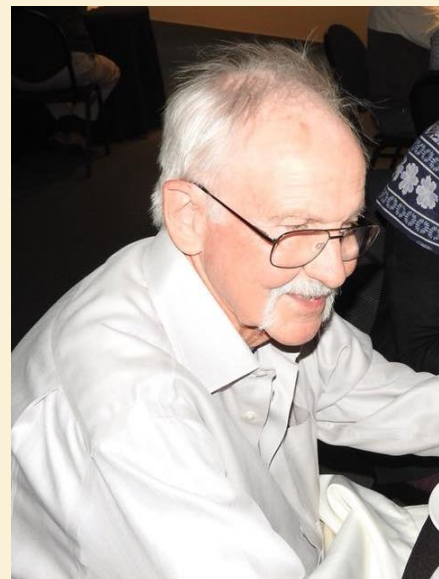
Fred, now 78, lives in the house where he grew up about 1.5 miles from Crooked Creek. He spent 50 years as a teacher of English and history as well as a counselor in elementary and middle schools in Green Forest, Yellville – Summit and also North Arkansas College in Harrison. Fred has undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Arkansas and continues to be passionate about educating youth about the importance of our natural environment.

Thousands of kids of all ages visit the Fred Berry Center each year for outdoor education and fun and Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers has their annual Crooked Creek clean up celebration at the pavilion.

According to nationally recognized artist and naturalist Duane Hada who grew up fishing and exploring Crooked Creek, “what Fred has accomplished through his generosity will be a lasting legacy for all generations to love and protect Crooked Creek. He has elevated its value to all users in terms of education of the resources and helped us take pride in keeping this crown jewel of Ozark streams better than ever.”

Fred has also been a major contributor to The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas. According to Scott Simon, Director of The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas, “Fred Berry has had a lifelong interest in youth education and the environment. A retired Yellville-Summit school-teacher and counselor, he is soft spoken but generous beyond measure. With a contribution from Fred in 2003, The Nature Conservancy launched its Ozark Rivers Legacy Program, an effort that brings together state, federal and private partners to address declining water quality in Ozark streams. His gift has attracted tens of millions of dollars of matching funding. Because of his gift, he was named our Ozark Rivers Conservation Hero. Probably no one has had a greater impact on the conservation and restoration of our Ozark rivers than Fred Berry.”

[*Mr. Fred Berry is truly a Friend of the Rivers*](#)



CROOKED CREEK

Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers recognizes the importance of Crooked Creek and our members work to educate people about this wonderful resource as well as threats to it. We are passionate about the importance of Crooked Creek, a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon small mouth fishery in addition to being a beautiful stream to float and enjoy.

Many of our members including Mr. Fred Berry, the major contributor to the Fred Berry Conservation Center and fishing guides Gabe and Ben Levin and Duane Hada know first-hand how Crooked Creek has changed over the years due to pollution, gravel mining and increased human usage.

Friends of the Rivers sponsors a public educational event that encourages people to learn about, enjoy and protect Crooked Creek.

Annual Crooked Creek Clean Up and Crawfish Boil - Sunday, May 27th



In 2017 about 20 people floated from Kelly Access to Yellville City Park in canoes and kayaks. A trailer load of trash was pulled from the river including tires, metal frames, bottles, cans and other trash.



Ben and Gabe Levin who live on Crooked Creek, help plan and coordinate the float. The section of river to be floated and cleaned up this year will be announced at a later date.

After the float and cleanup, and open to all, is a celebration with a crawfish boil thanks to David Lemoine and smoked burgers thanks to Wendy and Gary Luna, along with cold beverages and live entertainment at the pavilion on the Fred Berry conservation area just west of Yellville. Last year about 80 people enjoyed the festivities.



Duane Hada creates an original pleinair image of Crooked Creek that we will raffle at the event.



WIN A GUIDED FISHING TRIP A guided fishing trip offered by Gabe Levin on Crooked Creek or the White River will also be raffled. Raffle tickets can be purchased online or at the event for \$25 each. The winning name will be drawn at the Crawfish Boil.

Tickets for the crawfish, burgers and refreshments are \$30 per adult and can be purchased online at www.friendsoftherivers.org or at the event. Please register in advance so we know how much crawfish and burgers to prepare.

There is no charge to float the creek and participate in the clean up. But we ask you to register so we can give you float details as they develop.

Come Help Clean Up Crooked Creek and Join the Fun!

RIVER RELATED EVENTS

The White River TU Chapter 698 Youth Camp for 2018 is scheduled for Saturday, June 23rd. Campers must be between the age of 10-15 and have an interest in fishing and the environment. A parent or guardian is to accompany each camper during the day and will participate in some of the activities. This one day event is free, but limited to 25 kids. More info and to register: whiterivertu.com

The White River TU Chapter 698 Bonneville Cutthroat egg planting program was planned as a five-year project and included both the North Fork and White Rivers. We have yet to plant eggs five times in either river, primarily because our spring planting schedule interferes with Mother Nature and her own plans. We invite volunteers to join us on either date/river.

The Arkansas Audubon Society is looking for nature-loving 5th and 6th grade boys and girls who love hands-on nature for this June's Halberg Ecology Camp sessions. Campers get a sampling of seven disciplines- ornithology, mammalogy, aquatic biology, herpetology, entomology, geology and botany- during the Sunday to Friday sessions. For families who can't afford the regular tuition we have some scholarships and tuition assistance. Tuition for first-year campers is \$325 versus our actual \$450 cost per camper.

Here's a [link to the Halberg Ecology Camp](#) page where there are links to download the application form (Word or PDF) and also the camp brochure:

Egg Planting at Rim Shoals

📅 Saturday, June 2, 2018

🕒 8:00am-12:00pm

☰ Meet at the Rim Shoals boat ramp at 7:00 a.m. Volunteers will be shuttled by boat to the planting area. Wear your waders and have any personal supplies packed to be easily toted. Shovels and other tools will be supplied. We will supply lunch back near the ramp after the event.

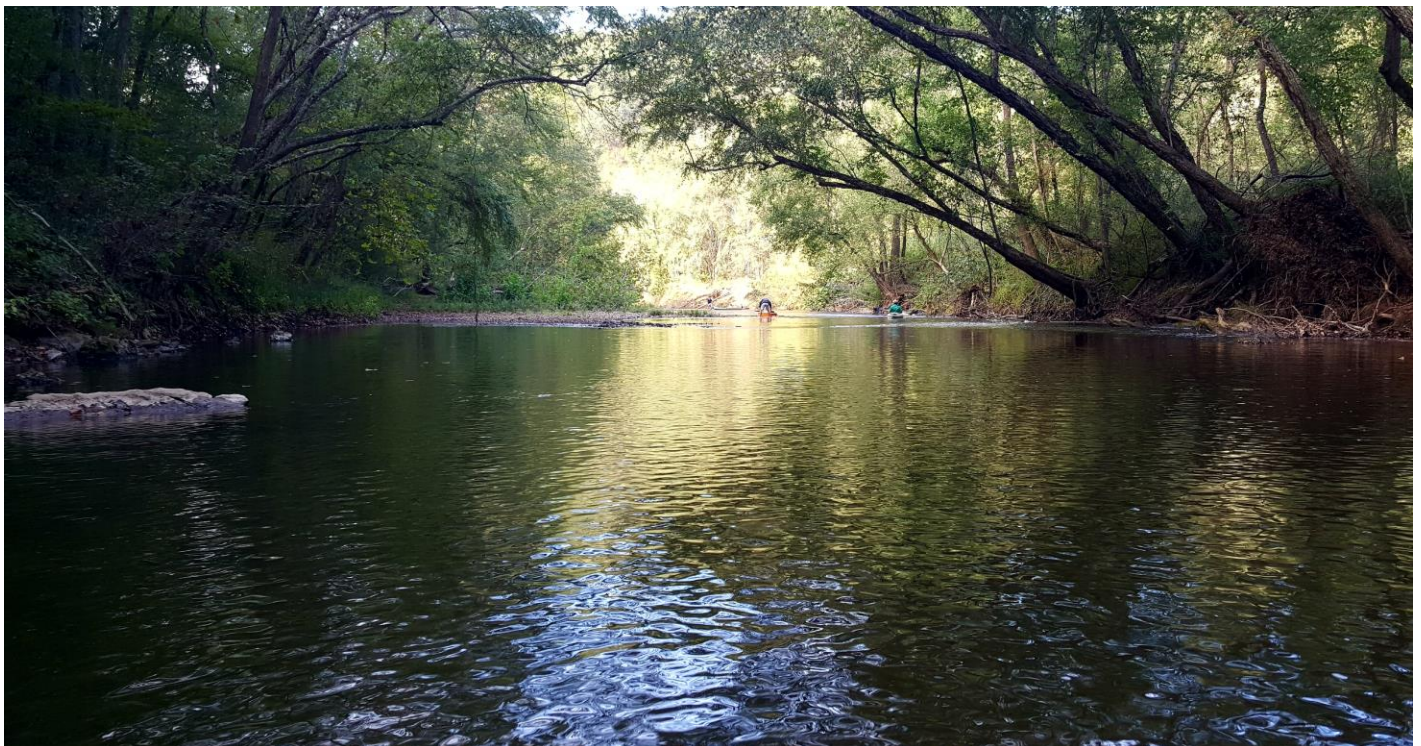
Egg Planting at North Fork River

📅 Saturday, June 9, 2018

🕒 7:00am-12:00pm

☰ Meet at Mill Pond on River Ridge Road at 7:00 a.m. Watch for signs on right side of road past AGFC Bill Ackerman handicapped access to find our impromptu parking area. Volunteers will be able to walk then wade to the planting site. Lunch will be provided near the parking area after the planting.

POKE BAYOU



On the divide between the Strawberry River and White River, Poke Bayou begins. Its watershed waters flow southward, entering the White River at Batesville (originally named Poke Bayou). The first settlements of the historic city were on the banks of Poke Bayou as early as 1800. Records of one mercantile establishment are dated 1812.

In the last four and a half miles segment in the city of Batesville, Poke Bayou winds lazily through rolling hills and hardwood lined banks with occasional riffles preceding the bends. It passes adjacent to Batesville's old downtown where canoers will soon be able to access the stream at a small water craft launch funded by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) and the city. The upper access for this stretch is at the Highway 69 (White Drive) bridge near a city park. Paddlers going the entire distance may take out at the White River Bridge access one half mile downstream from the mouth of Poke Bayou.

Area Boy Scouts use the last two miles to train for the 150-mile National White River Canoe Race. This Explorer Scout race, held each August, begins on the White near Bull Shoals Dam and ends at the Batesville city park at the White River bridge. Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers has been supporter of this race for many years. The use of Poke Bayou for floaters and fisherman has brought attention to the beauty of the natural surroundings along the stream.

Stephen O'Neal, a AGFC biologist, has led Batesville West Magnet elementary students in a Stream Team evaluation of Poke Bayou's waters since 2010. Three times a year the team analyzes water chemistry and macroinvertebrate populations. O'Neal reports that "Water quality is very high. In the biological scale, many different species which are not tolerant of poor water quality are found."

The Poke Bayou watershed encompasses 111, 800 acres in 172 square miles, including 290 miles of stream length, with an elevation change from 918 feet to 243 feet. Flowing through a rough karst landscape, the perennial stream is fed by numerous springs. Caves, fissures, and sinkholes are common in this watershed. Karst terrestrial and aquatic species are located here, as well as cave crayfish species. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, Ozark bass, rock bass and bluegill are commonly found. Bluffs 200 to 400 feet line Poke Bayou above Batesville, where it's upper waters have mostly class I and II rapids, with an occasional class III rapid.

Poke Bayou cuts through St. Clair and IZard limestone formations and often exposes Batesville and St. Peter sandstone layers. From the late 1800's until the early 1960's, manganese mining became a large industry in the watershed. The high-grade ore found here was used in the manufacture of steel. Ruins of wash mills and mine shafts dot the hills and tributaries today. The water of Poke Bayou at Batesville often was red with clay discharged from the ore washing during this time.

While the majority of the watershed is forested, urbanization and agricultural industry pressure have recently become threats to the normally high Poke Bayou water quality. County gravel roads comprise at least 50% of road miles in the watershed. Poultry and cattle farms are increasing in number. Two poultry processing plants in Batesville process a total of 3.5 million chickens weekly. Understandably, excessive sediment and nutrients from animal waste are now a significant source of water degradation.



FRIENDS ON THE RIVER - ED ALEXANDER

It's true there are many scenic places in the White River valley. As it winds its way through the mountains, limestone bluffs provide scenic vistas of the river and surrounding forest. Some of these spots are quite elusive, and many require strong map-reading skills, stamina as a hiker, and a bit of luck. A successful journey can lead to a spectacular, unforgettable view.



But some views, that are just as rewarding, are easily accessed, with little hiking and no map reading required. One such overlook is City Rock Bluff, just outside of Calico Rock.

By taking Highway 5 South a bit more than a mile, one will find County Road 1105 that turns off to the right at a white church. Following this gravel road for about two miles will lead to a small parking spot outlined by large boulders. From this parking area, a large, level rock ledge leads out to one of the more spectacular views on the entire White River. To the viewer's left the River curves upstream toward Norfolk. To the right, it surges downstream to Calico Rock. On a clear day, the bluffs at Calico are visible. All in all, the total view is stunning. Find a flat rock (of which there are many) and sit for a while.

As a photographer, this is a favorite location. I've visited it late at night, in the early morning hours, and every conceivable moment in between. As is the case with scenes throughout the Ozarks, City Rock Bluff changes with the weather, the season of the year, and even the time of day. The attached photos display a small sampling of the variety presented.

The lone pine tree stands on the edge of the cliff, and somehow flourishes in its precarious location. I visited City Rock Bluff before dawn planning to catch the crescent moon reflected in the River. A heavy mist rose from the water to bluff level, and spoiled any chance of seeing the river at all, much less a reflection.

Flexibility being a necessity for photography, I switched subjects and focused on the pine tree. The mist offered a soft quality to the image, and, at sunrise, turned from a somber grey to a warm, inviting yellow. The river, though not visible, played a pivotal role in these pictures.

On another occasion, I returned to City Rock Bluff to find the trees in full Fall color. Hiking downstream a bit, I found a vantage point that included it all: Fall foliage, limestone bluffs, and blue sky with wispy white clouds, reflected in the River. Unlike the misty dawn excursion, this outing offered the White River in all its glory.

Yet another trip found me again at City Rock Bluff, waiting for the sun to rise. Again, mists shrouded the water, but not as extensive as the time before, revealing the River banks and, faintly, the bluffs at Calico Rock. Just as the sun began to break over the horizon, the sky came alive with color. The mists lingered, giving the scene a soft, quiet quality. Same location, entirely different scene.

I encourage you to take the short, simple journey to City Rock Bluff. No matter when you visit, your trip will be rewarded with stunning views, and each successive visit will result in new and different scenes.



