



January 2019

Dear Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers

We are pleased to report that 2018 was a very productive year for Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers (Friends). We all believe the health, safety, quality of life and economic prosperity of the region is directly related to the water quality of our lakes, rivers, streams and creeks. With your generous support, Friends of the Rivers strives to protect and improve our waters. Some of the ways in which Friends helped last year to protect our waters included:

Advocacy – Friends was active by emailing, writing, calling the EPA, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), state and national elected officials and speaking at public forums. Friends worked with our members and the public informing them of issues and encouraging them to make their voices heard. “Voices of the Public Matter”

Collaboration – Protecting our waters requires collaboration with many groups, including Trout Unlimited, North Arkansas Fly Fishers, Buffalo River Watershed Alliance, White River Waterkeeper, Arkansas Audubon, Nature Conservancy of Arkansas and the Ozark Society and others. Positive working relationships with governmental agencies such as ADEQ, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and others with responsibilities that affect the stewardship of our water and other natural resources is a key to Friends success.

Education – Mountain Home High School Storm Drain Art and Dodd Creek Stream Team programs, Dry Run Creek youth fly fishing and introduction to macroinvertebrates teaches youth the connection between healthy water, the ecosystems it supports and their responsibilities as citizens to protect the water and watersheds.



(Mountain Home High School Storm Drain Art)



(Mountain Home High School Dodd Creek Stream Team)



(Dry Run Creek Fly Fishing and Intro to Macroinvertebrates)

Three \$1,000 annual Friends college scholarships reward students pursuing environmental and fisheries degrees and contributes to the cultivation of the next generation of responsible leaders.

Anna Lang
ASU
Mountain Home



Michael Schraeder Jr.
Arkansas Tech
Russellville



Samantha Westcott
Lyon College
Batesville



Stream Clean Ups – The Crooked Creek Clean Up and crawfish boil and Poke Bayou Clean Up removed a substantial amount of trash from those creeks while at the same time providing a rewarding (and fun!) opportunity for Friends members and guests to personally engage and contribute to the improvement of our waters. Old tires, pieces of metal, bottles, cans and general trash were removed to improve water quality and reduce hazards to the many canoeists, anglers, and other outdoors recreationists who are so important to the economy of the region.



A HUGE THANK YOU!

These 2018 accomplishments and others would not have been achieved without your effort, time, membership dues, generous donations and other contributions.

More challenges are ahead in 2019 because of growing threats throughout our watersheds. We are planning more public events and other activities to address those threats. We also have more educational and collaborative events planned to help improve and protect our waters, and we look forward to seeing you at these and welcome your active involvement!



Please support Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers' efforts to protect our streams, lakes and rivers by:

- **Joining or renewing your 2019 membership**
- **Making a financial contribution**
- **Volunteering for Stream Team and stream clean up events**
- **Contacting your elected officials and agencies when necessary**
- **Volunteering to serve on a Friends of the Rivers committee**



Thank you again for your support.

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