



## With Your Help We are Making Progress

Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers’ work to protect the water quality of North Central Arkansas’s streams, rivers and lakes requires a combination of “Sound Science” and “Active Conservation” and, with your help, we are continuing through these unprecedented difficult times.

### 2020 – 2021 Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to introduce Friends of the River’s 2020-2021 scholarship recipients. Sydney Czanstkowski (left) and Anna Grace Foreman (right).



Sydney will be attending Lyon College in Batesville majoring in biology and plans to pursue a career in the medical field. She has been involved in recycling for many years and is concerned about the amount of waste and especially biomedical waste we produce. Sydney hopes to find ways to reduce the amount of biomedical waste generated and to create biodegradable medical materials.

Anna Grace will be attending Arkansas Tech in Russellville majoring in environmental science with a minor in geology. She is an avid outdoor enthusiast with a passion for protecting our natural environment.

We congratulate Sydney and Anna Grace and wish them great success with their future studies and careers.

Friends awards three \$1,000 college scholarships annually to students pursuing studies aimed at protecting and improving our environment. These scholarships are funded one half by Friends board members and one half by member contributions and member dues. We truly appreciate the generosity of our members and donors. Without your support Friends of the Rivers could not continue its efforts to help support environmental education.

Our last newsletter highlighted Friend's board members Mike Jirka and Pam Phillips and Friend's water testing activities. Their expertise in water chemistry contributes to Friend's "Sound Science" approach to protecting our water resources.

## **"Active Conservation"**

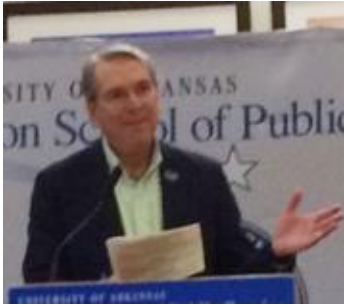
Protecting our water resources also requires "Active Conservation" and advocacy. National, state and local regulations impact our waters and it is important to be knowledgeable regarding these regulations.

Friends is fortunate to have board members Dr. Sam Cooke, Jerry Weber and Scott Yaich, Ph.D. who understand the myriad rules, regulations and laws and are able to advocate on behalf of clean water.

### **Sam Cooke**

Sam has a BA in Zoology from the University of Arkansas, and an OD (Doctor of Optometry) from the University of Houston. Sam is past President of Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers.





He currently serves as Board Chairman of the Poke Bayou Foundation, and President of Highrock Farm , Inc. He has served on the Batesville Utility Commission, and the Independence County Industrial Development Corporation board.

Sam monitors water permit applications and modifications submitted to ADEQ to determine if they impact our area waters and helps prepare responses. He also is involved with the Watershed Management Plans of our area watersheds as well as Arkansas's State Water Plan and proposed Nutrient Trading Plan.

### **Jerry Weber**

Jerry has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, now Missouri School of Science and Technology. He worked 30 years for Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. in Sunnyvale, California, first as a Flight Test Engineer who performed various subsystem flight test analyses during development and follow-on production testing of all of the Navy's Fleet Ballistic Missile Program submarine-launched nuclear warhead missiles. He later became the group engineer responsible for all missile subsystems analysis. During the last 8 years of his career he worked as a flight test program developer and then as a missile flight test engineer during the early testing of the Army's THAAD (Theater High Altitude Area Defense) system at White Sands Missile Range. The THAAD system consists of a hit to kill missile interceptor, a multi canister mobile launcher, a radar target acquisition and tracking system and the Fire Control system which is responsible for coordination of the launches from multiple systems in a multiple adversary missile attack.



Jerry joined Friend's Board in 2004 and screened new Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) permit applications primarily for mining and permit regulation changes. He became extensively involved in both reviewing and commenting on frack sand mining permits and following up on permit violations. He worked with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) to establish a Mountain View High School Stream Team as part of the EAST program (Education Accelerated by Service and Technology) where he worked with students interested in CAD architectural drawing and suggesting other activities which would enhance students' educational growth and transition into the technological world.

Jerry and his wife Carol have owned and operated Country Oaks Bed and Breakfast in Mountain View since 1993, an eight guest room facility on 69 acres. Along with his involvement as a board member on Friends, Jerry is involved in several local community organizations and is a volunteer fire-fighter in Stone County.

## Scott Yaich, Ph.D.

Scott received his B.A. in Biology from the University of Delaware and M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from Southern Illinois University. He spent his 35-year career working on wetlands and bird habitat conservation for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ducks Unlimited. Scott retired from Ducks Unlimited as Chief Scientist in 2017. He has testified three times before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in support of Clean Water Act protections. In addition to serving on the board of Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers, Scott is also on the boards of North Central Arkansas Master Naturalists and Ducks Unlimited de Mexico.



Sam, Jerry and Scott have a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience in reviewing water-related permits and developing responses to ADEQ, the EPA and various other governmental agencies in support of our water resources.

Their expertise and efforts have aided Friends in addressing water related issues including:

- Arkansas State Water Plan
- Buffalo River Watershed Management Plan
- Middle White River Watershed Management Plan
- Proposed Impaired Water Bodies
- Arkansas Proposed Nutrient Trading Plan
- Frack sand and gravel mining
- Waste water treatment facility issues
- CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations)
- Development along the White River
- Clean Water Act protections

Friends is fortunate to have Sam Cooke, Jerry Weber and Scott Yaich as board members and leaders of our Active Conservation and Advocacy efforts.

The waters of our region not only provide opportunities to enjoy ourselves and maintain some degree of normalcy in our lives while social distancing, but are critical to our local economy. If you have not yet renewed your 2020 membership, you can do so at [online](#).

Thank you

Steve Blumreich, President  
Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers  
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