



YEAR 2020 IN REVIEW AND OUTLOOK FOR 2021

Dear Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers

The year 2020 was a year of adaptation for Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers (Friends). Because of COVID 19 the North Arkansas Fly Fisher's Sowbug Roundup was cancelled so we were not able to meet many of our members in March. We were also unable to have our annual dinner, Crooked Creek Clean-Up and Crawfish Boil. Because of this we were unable to connect with many of our members and continue some of Friends' activities. We did not attempt to conduct our Mountain Home High School Dodd Creek Stream Team outings or the Mountain Home High School Storm Drain Art Program due to the pandemic.

However we were able to:

- Continue our water testing program in Dodd and Hicks Creeks in Mountain Home in conjunction with the City of Mountain Home
- Continue our Dodd Creek stream bank erosion measurement program
- Conduct our first Mountain Home High School Steam Team classroom program early in the year before the pandemic was widespread
- Fund three Friends \$1,000 college scholarships

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 – Tracked ongoing proposed changes to the administration of the Clean Water Act and associated regulatory issues. Attended Arkansas legislative committee meetings and submitted comments in support of state funding of conservation projects in the Buffalo River watershed that would contribute toward improved water quality in the river.

Dodd Creek Bank Erosion Measurements



L to R Mike Risk, Scott Yaich, Jess Vanderstek, Edie Stahl, Tim Burnley & Eli Powers (AGFC), Steve Blumreich



Dodd and Hicks Creek Water Testing

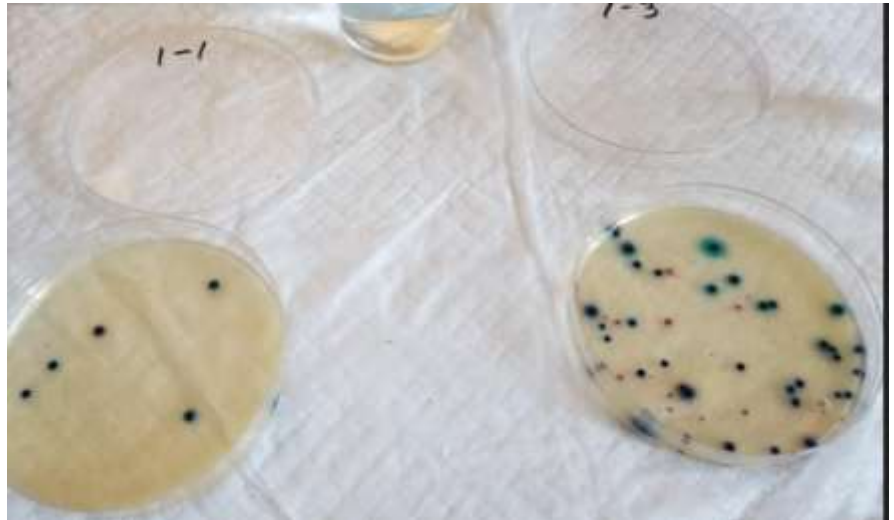


L to R Steve Blumreich, Amy Lanning (City of Mountain Home engineer), Mike Jirka, Mike Risk & Edie Stahl

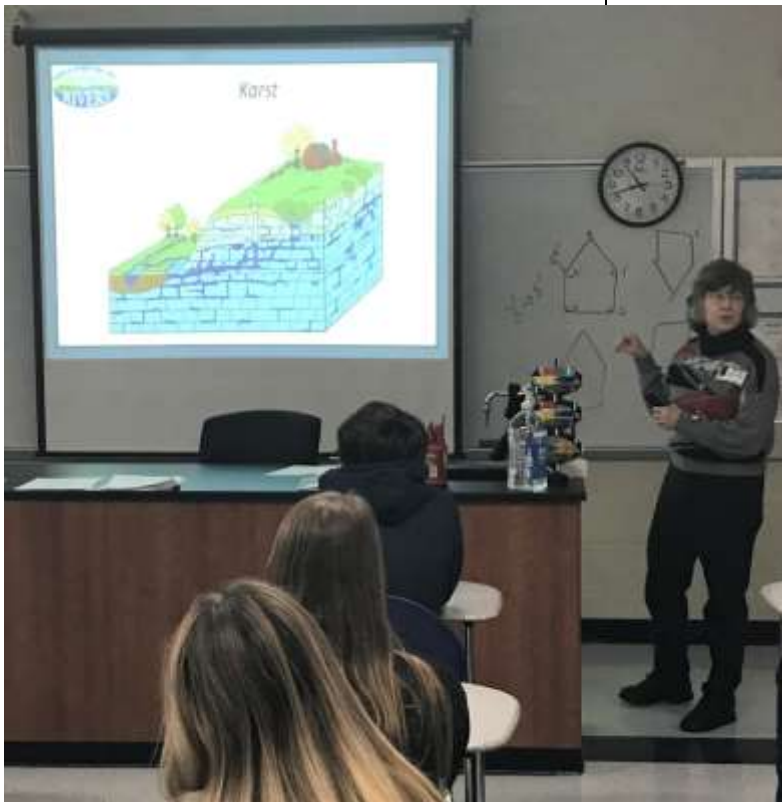


Water sample from Dodd Creek at Hickory Park, Mountain Home

Bacteria cultures from water samples developed by Mike Jirka help determine the amount of bacterial pollution in the creek water.



Education – Mountain Home High School Stream Team Program



Pam Phillips explains karst topography to MHHS students

College Scholarships

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

(Lyon College senior Allison Mundy)



Sydney Czanstkowski (left) attending Lyon College in Batesville and Anna Grace Foreman (right) attending Arkansas Tech University in Russellville



Outlook for 2021

Sowbug Roundup:

North Arkansas Fly Fishers has canceled Sowbug Roundup for 2021. Friends usually begins its year participating in the Sowbug Roundup, however due to the continuing Covid 19 pandemic the Roundup has been canceled.

Friends Annual Dinner:

The Friends Board has determined due to the pandemic to cancel the annual dinner usually held the end of April.

Crooked Creek Float, Clean up and Crawfish Boil:

This event is usually scheduled for the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, however at this time we are uncertain of the availability of the Fred Berry Center pavilion. We will have more information on this by April and if we are not able to have it in late May we will consider scheduling it for late summer or fall if possible.

Poke Bayou Float and Clean up:

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. We hope to schedule this for late summer or fall.



Mountain Home High School Dodd Creek Stream Team and Storm Drain Art Programs

We are hopeful both of these programs can be continued in the fall of 2021.



However, in 2021 we do expect to:

- Continue our water testing program in Dodd and Hicks Creeks in Mountain Home in conjunction with the City of Mountain Home
- Continue our Dodd Creek stream bank erosion measurement program in conjunction with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Continue our Mountain Home High School Steam Team classroom program as Covid 19 protocols allow
- Continue the Poke Bayou Float and Cleanup
- Fund three Friends \$1,000 college scholarships

These 2020 accomplishments and others would not have been achieved without your effort, time, membership dues, generous donations and other contributions.

More challenges are ahead in 2021 because of the continued threat of Covid 19 virus and growing threats throughout our watersheds.

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

- **Joining or renewing your 2021 membership**
- **Making a financial contribution**
- **Volunteering for Stream Team and stream clean up events**
- **Contacting your elected officials and agencies when necessary**



As Friend's past president and board adviser Jane Darr stated, "We all need a shot in the arm. Please be safe, get vaccinated, wear a mask and socially distance. We can all get through this pandemic if we work together."

Thank you again for your support.

Steve Blumreich
President
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