

25 Years

Philanthropy and Conservation In the Natural State

Arkansas is blessed with an abundance of natural treasures, and it is equally blessed with a generous and engaged group of citizens whose gifts make conservation possible. Over the past 25 years, support from individuals, corporations and foundations enabled the Conservancy to safeguard some of the best remaining lands and waters in Arkansas. Below are just a few examples to illustrate Arkansans' culture of giving back to the Natural State:

Model Land Conservation Program Challenge Grant

When the Conservancy established its Arkansas program in 1982, it had an immediate goal to match a \$1 million challenge grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. In the first three years, Arkansas donors not only matched the grant but leveraged the gift 10 to one. Over 25 years, the gift has been leveraged more than 100 to one.

Corporate Council For Conservation

Created in 1993, the Corporate Council allows Arkansas businesses to join together to provide a base of financial support for conservation. With gifts adding up to as much as \$100,000 annually, the Council's 100-plus members have demonstrated the relationship between a healthy economy and a healthy environment.

The Legacy Club

By supporting the Conservancy through their wills and estate plans, more than 100 generous Arkansans are leaving a legacy of natural lands and waters to future generations.

Volunteers

Hundreds of volunteers have given thousands of hours of their time in the board room, in the office and in the field to help fulfill the Conservancy's mission.

The Conservancy Circle

These leading individuals, companies and foundations make gifts of \$10,000 or more that help the Conservancy meet today's conservation challenges and strengthen programs across Arkansas.

Gifts of Land and Conservation Easements

To date, Conservancy supporters have donated more than 7,800 acres of land or conservation easements in Arkansas, with a total value in the millions of dollars. These ecologically significant lands will remain natural for generations to come, and they personify the spirit of both philanthropy and conservation.

Profiles of Giving

Creative Cause-Related Marketing

In 1993, Heber Springs-based Aromatique, Inc., launched a line of decorative fragrance called "The Natural State" to benefit the Conservancy, pledging \$1 for every item sold in the line. Over 12 years, the creative gift generated nearly \$1.7 million, allowing the Conservancy to dramatically strengthen its conservation programs.

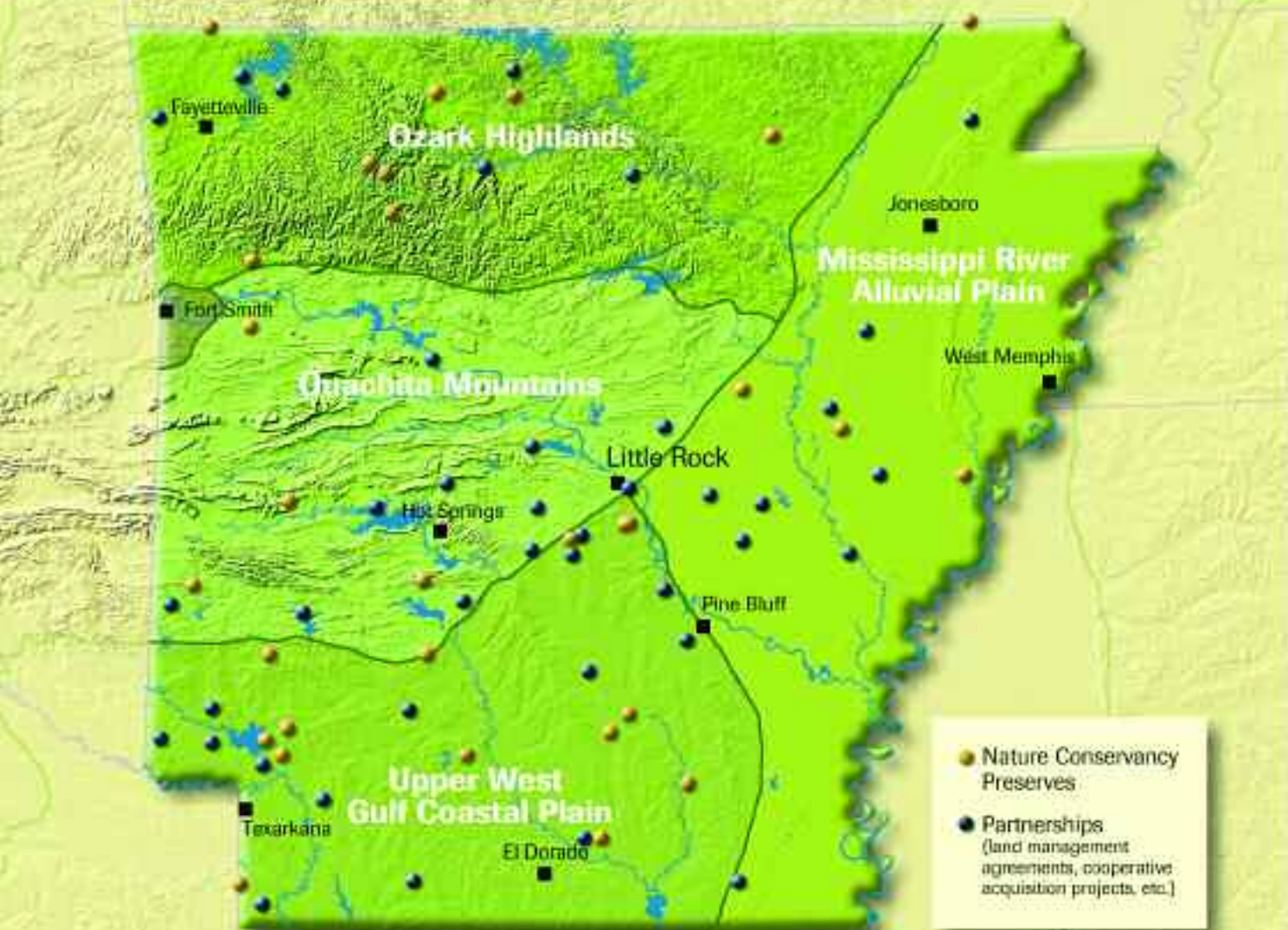


Dunnahoo Preserve

Leaving a Legacy

Through his generosity and the love of nature he instilled in others, the late Patrick Dunnahoo of Benton created a legacy. He made several generous gifts during his lifetime and remembered the Conservancy in his will. Dr. John Simpson, Conservancy trustee and Dunnahoo's nephew, said, "Uncle Pat's love of the natural world made an early impression on me. He made me sensitive to Arkansas' wonders and the importance of protecting them for future generations." Dunnahoo's gifts expanded the Strawberry River and Trap Mountain preserves and created Dunnahoo Preserve, a glade near Benton that protects newfound Pelton's rose-gentian and other rarities.

Where We Work



Local to Global—To date, The Nature Conservancy and its supporters have helped conserve more than 250,000 acres of natural lands and waters in Arkansas. The Arkansas program currently owns or manages 36 nature preserves encompassing more than 20,000 acres and has ongoing cooperative projects with public and private landowners on more than 200,000 acres. These sanctuaries are found in every corner of the state. For more information about the Conservancy's work in Arkansas, visit nature.org/arkansas. The Conservancy has conserved more than 15 million acres in the United States and has helped conserve more than 102 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and the Pacific. Learn more at nature.org.



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Spreading the News

Special thanks to Hank Browne of Hank's Fine Furniture for helping the Conservancy get the word out. Hank's has generously paid for the production of Arkansas chapter newsletters since 1997.

Celebrating **25** Years
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN ARKANSAS



Smith Creek by Ethan Inlander, TNC

Conservation Through Partnerships

Conservation in Arkansas is the result of teamwork between The Nature Conservancy and many dedicated partners, some of which include:

- Arkansas Audubon Society
- Arkansas Canoe Club
- Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
- Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
- Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council
- Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
- Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission
- Arkansas State University
- Arkansas Wildlife Federation
- Audubon Arkansas
- Cornell University
- Delta Waterfowl Foundation
- Department of Arkansas Heritage
- Ducks Unlimited
- Federation of Fly Fishers, Southern Council
- FishAmerica Foundation
- Flyfishing Federation of America
- Louisiana State University
- Migratory Bird Conservation Commission
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Park Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- North Arkansas Fly Fishers
- Northeast Arkansas Fly Fishers
- Ozark Society
- Quail Unlimited
- Ross Foundation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- University of Arkansas System
- Numerous county and city governments
- Numerous private landowners

Celebrating

In 2007, as The Nature Conservancy looks back over its 25 years of work in Arkansas, we will celebrate conservation successes and the living legacy of the members, partners and supporters who made them possible. Over the past two and a half decades, the Conservancy has worked with many dedicated partners to conserve more than a quarter of a million acres in the Natural State, to add to the scientific understanding of the state's natural elements, and to lay the groundwork for sustaining our lands and waters into the future.

We have quite a lot to celebrate. In the Arkansas Delta, reforestation efforts begun in the 1980s have benefited farmers, communities and wildlife. The Ozark and Ouachita rivers programs are actively addressing threats to upland streams and helping keep them clean for drinking, recreation and aquatic life. Cave conservation work protects not only endangered animals but also groundwater vital to nearby communities. To bring ecosystems back into balance and to reduce the potential for uncontrollable wildfires, we are making great strides in safely restoring fire to the landscapes where it once occurred naturally. And in the blacklands, sandhills and timberlands of south Arkansas, we are merging the state's hunting, fishing and forestry heritage with enhanced protection for biodiversity.



For years the Conservancy in Arkansas has offered field trips to showcase its work. Pictured above are members enjoying a trip to the Mulberry River in 2004.

Looking at the enclosed timeline, a common theme becomes apparent—the Conservancy is just part of the equation. The greatest results were achieved through cooperation and teamwork, which includes your generous support. As a member or volunteer, you are an integral part of Arkansas' conservation team.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, thank you for your commitment to conservation. It has made all the difference over the past 25 years and is the key to future successes in the Natural State.

Scott Simon
State Director





Visit nature.org/arkansas for a more comprehensive list of the Conservancy's work in Arkansas.

1984 The Conservancy purchases 5,570 acres in Pulaski and Lonoke counties that are transferred to the state to form **Holland Bottoms Wildlife Management Area**. It is one of the most extensive remaining bottomland areas in central Arkansas and conserves significant habitat for migratory waterfowl and other native wildlife.



© Arkansas Parks and Tourism

1987 By purchasing and transferring 4,400 acres from Weyerhaeuser Company to Arkansas State Parks and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, the Conservancy helps create the **Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area**.

1989 The Conservancy acquires 3,667 acres at the current headquarters of the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge. Through the 1980s, the Conservancy is instrumental in acquiring more than 9,000 acres in the Arkansas Delta, much of it targeted for reforestation and inclusion in the Cache River refuge.



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1992 The **41,000-acre Arkansas/Idaho land exchange** is accomplished by the Conservancy, Senators Dale Bumpers and David Pryor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Potlatch Corporation to create an 80-mile protected corridor along the White River connecting the Cache River and White River refuges. The exchange, with a land value in excess of \$20 million, is accomplished at virtually no cost to the taxpayer.

1996 Using data from a 13-month-long Conservancy ecological assessment, Senator Dale Bumpers, Weyerhaeuser Company, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service complete the **Arkansas/Oklahoma land exchange**, an act that adds more than 133,000 acres to public conservation ownership in the Ouachita Mountains. Between 1998 and 2000, the Conservancy also works with Sen. Bumpers to add 9,000 more acres to the Ouachita National Forest.



1997 More than 100,000 acres are enrolled in a newly created **ecological restoration program** managed by the Conservancy and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. The project includes the implementation of stewardship plans at 12 sites across the state. Also, the Conservancy enters into a restoration agreement with Pine Bluff Arsenal on 6,000 acres and in the following year with Fort Chaffee on 55,000 acres.



1999 With support from the Walton Family Foundation, the Arkansas program begins **site-based programs** in three areas: the Ozark karst ecosystem, the Strawberry River watershed and the Big Woods.

2002 With the creation of the 820-acre Kingsland Prairie Preserve, the Conservancy begins its **conservation forestry program**, which tests economical forestry practices that maintain habitat and which is now applied to a dozen sites statewide.



2004 An **ivory-billed woodpecker is observed and confirmed in the Big Woods**. With the rediscovery, the Conservancy accelerates its efforts in the Big Woods, helping conserve some 15,500 acres and planting more than two million trees.

2005 The Conservancy creates **Smith Creek Preserve** with the bargain purchase of 1,226 acres above Sherfield Cave. The preserve connects the Ozark National Forest and the Upper Buffalo Wilderness Area and protects endangered Indiana bats.



© Byron Jarjorian

People, plants and animals around the world depend on healthy lands and waters for survival. That makes protecting natural places in our backyard and across the globe our common cause. Our goal is to ensure the health of the natural world that sustains us all.

1982

The Nature Conservancy creates its Arkansas Chapter, the 29th in the United States, with a \$1 million challenge grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. The Conservancy has already been at work in Arkansas since the 1970s, acquiring lands that become **Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area**, **Overflow National Wildlife Refuge** and **Logoly State Park**. In 1978 cooperative efforts of the Conservancy and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission launch the **Arkansas Natural Heritage Inventory Program**, the central repository of data on the state's biodiversity.



1986 The **Cache River National Wildlife Refuge** is established with the transfer of 380 acres of land from the Conservancy to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and with legislation supported by U.S. Senators Dale Bumpers and David Pryor.

1985

1991 The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and the Conservancy establish **Terre Noire Natural Area** in the rare blacklands ecosystem. A later partner-led assessment gives a complete picture of conservation needs, and subsequent acquisitions and landowner agreements result in thousands of acres in conservation ownership and management. Blacklands conservation is strengthened with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's acquisition of the 4,885-acre Rick Evans Grandview Prairie Wildlife Management Area in 1997.



1990

1995 The Conservancy establishes its Arkansas **fire restoration program**, which now consists of two burn crews that have restored fire to more than 60,000 acres of public and private land in the state. Three years later, the Conservancy teams with the Arkansas Forestry and Arkansas Game and Fish commissions as well as with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and the U.S. Forest Service to develop a state prescribed fire workshop program, which has trained more than 500 natural resource managers so far.



1995

1998 With the gift of Bear Hollow Cave from the John Cooper family, the Conservancy increases the scope of its karst work in Arkansas. In the following years, the **karst program** describes 20 species new to science, protects several caves, installs or repairs 24 cave gates, and cleans up 230 tons of trash from cave recharge areas.



© David Ashley

2001 In response to the red oak borer outbreak in the Interior Highlands, a **multi-partner oak ecosystem restoration team** is established, and more than 200,000 acres of woodland restoration sites are created in the following years. Monitoring soon shows benefits of prescribed burning and ecological thinning in restoring open woodland structure and biodiversity.

2000



© Arkansas Parks and Tourism

2003 Fred Berry makes a lead gift to launch the Conservancy's **Ozark Rivers Legacy Program**, an effort that brings together state, federal and private partners to address declining water quality in Ozark streams and rivers. With a gift from the Anderson-Tully Company, the Conservancy launches the **Lower Mississippi River Program** to support conservation within seven Delta states.

2005 The Conservancy begins its **Ouachita Rivers Program**, initially focused on the Saline and Caddo rivers.



2005

2006 The Conservancy and the state's Game and Fish, Natural Heritage, and Forestry commissions purchase a 16,000-acre working-forest conservation easement from Potlatch Forest Holdings, Inc. Slated to open as a wildlife management area and natural area, the **Moro Big Pine project** protects native loblolly-shortleaf pine forests and wildlife, including the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.



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2007 and beyond

We welcome your special anniversary gift to begin the next 25 years with even greater successes!

Unless noted otherwise, photos are by TNC staff.