

# arkansas member update



| summer 2008

Spring snapshots: left, dedication of the John A. and Mildred B. Cooper Nature Preserve; upper middle, field trip at Bayou DeView, © Harvey Williams; lower middle, wildflower walk at the Rick Evans Grandview Prairie WMA; right, Caddo River field trip

# Kingsland Prairie Preserve:

## Tending a forest for ecological sustainability and economic viability

Joe Fox walked through the woods at Kingsland Prairie Preserve like a good shepherd might walk through his flock.

On a sunny spring day, Joe pointed out a section of Kingsland Prairie where many of the trees—mostly loblolly pine—were harvested in late 2006. He was looking for pine seedlings that had germinated after a prescribed burn. When he found them, he seemed as excited as a shepherd welcoming the birth of a lamb.

Joe, who has worked for the Conservancy since 2000 and is director of conservation forestry, visits Kingsland and the Conservancy's other conservation forestry sites regularly. He monitors ongoing timber management, ensuring contractors follow the Conservancy's plan. He checks the effects of fires on the forest months and years after the burns. And it's obvious when visiting Kingsland with Joe that he visits because he loves the place and his job.

Forestry is in Joe's blood. His grandfather, father and uncle started a lumber and sawmill business, W. S. Fox and Sons Lumber Company, where Joe worked for 20 years. After his family sold the business in 1993, Joe continued to work in forestry and wood products before joining the Conservancy.

In many ways, Joe's experience with his family business prepared him well for the Conservancy's conservation forestry program, which tests and showcases timber operations that are ecologically sustainable and provide good economic returns.

"Unless landowners demanded otherwise, W. S. Fox and Sons always thinned the trees. We didn't clear-cut forests," Joe said. "And we let the trees regenerate naturally."



Kingsland Prairie Preserve



Joe Fox at Kingsland Prairie

Today, it's commonplace for landowners to clear-cut forests and then create rows of elevated beds to keep newly planted seedlings above standing water that can inhibit their growth. In addition, most plantations in Arkansas grow just one species—loblolly pine.

“Unlike plantations, natural pine flatwoods have wetter and drier areas, which increases the variety of trees,” Joe said. “A greater abundance and diversity of animals live in natural pine flatwoods. I've seen more turkey on Conservancy land than I have in my entire career in the woods before I started working here.”

Since the Conservancy purchased Kingsland Prairie in 2002, Joe has overseen its management, which involves prescribed fire to maintain open woodlands, like those that dominated south Arkansas' landscape before the late 1800s.

“Conservancy crews have conducted prescribed burns on most of the land at Kingsland once and much of it twice or more,” Joe said. “The fire has done exactly what we hoped it would. It's knocked back woody competition on the prairies and thinned the mid-story trees in the surrounding woodlands. The wildflowers here are fantastic now.”

*(Continued on next page)*



Joe Fox demonstrates the use of a prism to measure basal area.

## Kingsland at a glance

The Conservancy purchased the 820-acre Kingsland Prairie Preserve, located in Cleveland County, in 2002. About 200 acres are prairies, and the remaining area is forested. The prairies were likely formed because the landscape is flat, which prevents rainfall from draining from the land, and its relatively thin soil overlays a hardened layer of earth through which water can't easily seep. Researchers believe that over thousands of years the evaporation of standing water created a salty soil called *lafa*. *Lafa* inhibits the growth of most trees and provides habitat for rare and endangered plants, including *Geocarpon minimum*, which is found only at five sites in the world.

But fire alone does not accomplish the Conservancy's goals at Kingsland.

"Red-cockaded woodpeckers once lived here, and our target is to restore habitat suitable for them," Joe said.

Open, mature pine forests with a basal area (an expression of tree density) of about 70 square feet per acre is what researchers have deemed as the target density for the continued recovery of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers.

"Forests are always growing and changing," Joe said. "When they become too dense, we thin them back to the low end of our target density range."

When the Conservancy purchased Kingsland, almost the entire tract—with the exception of the prairies—was a crowded 100 square feet or more of basal area per acre. The Conservancy developed plans to thin the forests in four timber sales, the last of which is scheduled for this summer. To date, proceeds from the timber sales have enabled the Conservancy to pay for 84 percent of the preserve's purchase price. The remaining 16 percent was paid for with donations from the Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable Trust and other supporters. Timber revenue has also funded prescribed burns.

"Now that the 620 forested acres at Kingsland have been thinned, we should be able to thin about 100 acres every few years from here on out," Joe said. "The money we make from future timber sales can be used for continued stewardship and monitoring plants and animals to make sure they are responding well to our efforts. And we can use leftover money to conserve other properties."

After six years, Joe said Kingsland Prairie has proven that landowners can manage their forests sustainably and make money.

"Prescribed fire and ecological thinning work. They work for the environment and for the landowners," said Joe, smiling as he surveyed Kingsland, much like a proud shepherd would survey his flock. ■

# Understanding and conserving underground habitats

## Researchers gather in Arkansas to advance global cave conservation

The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas recently played host to a group of conservationists from around the globe who are working to conserve an ecosystem that is—for most people—out of sight.

From May 19 to 22, some 35 karst—or cave—conservationists from China, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Indiana, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Arkansas attended a workshop in Eureka Springs to learn about karst conservation tools and to discuss conservation practices that address common threats. During the workshop, the group also developed conservation plans for five significant karst projects in the Dominican Republic, Mexico and the United States.

“It’s fitting that we’ve come to Arkansas for this event,” Conservancy Regional Scientist Rob Sutter said during the workshop’s opening dinner, which was held at the 1886 Crescent Hotel and Spa and sponsored by its owners, Marty and Elise Roenigk. “Arkansas is the leader in karst conservation, and all one has to do is look around to see signs of karst throughout the Ozark Highlands.”

A field trip in which the participants visited several of Eureka Springs’ 100-plus springs and other karst features provided a particularly clear illustration of Sutter’s comments.

“Visiting these features and discussing among experts how the area’s watersheds and development are impacting the fragile karst ecosystem below is pertinent to the Conservancy’s work in Mexico,” said Sam Meacham, president of CINDAQ, a local non-profit organization that explores and maps the Yucatan Peninsula’s flooded caverns. “Over the past 35 years, there’s been an increase in population of 1,200 percent along the Yucatan coast, which is home to Cancun.”

Mike Slay, director of the Conservancy’s Ozarks karst program in Arkansas, said the workshop accomplished exactly what it was designed to.

“We came here to learn from each other,” he said. “Karst systems, no matter where in the world they’re located, have many similarities. In Arkansas we face many of the same issues that our colleagues in Mexico and China face—and vice versa.”

Karst terrain covers about 12 percent of the Earth and harbors diverse organisms that are among the world’s rarest and most endangered. Subterranean creatures represent more than half of imperiled species listed in the U.S. Natural Heritage Program, yet less than 4 percent are federally protected. But much more than rare animals is at stake—25 percent of humankind relies on groundwater from karst terrain for drinking water.

“The declining quality of groundwater as a result of under-protected surface areas is a major threat to humans and is the primary threat to karst organisms,” said Slay. “Another of our main objectives here at the workshop is to work together to bring to light the unique habitat that karst ecosystems provide and the perils they face.” ■



During the workshop, participants visited several of Eureka Springs’ karst features.

# Conservancy lunch honors corporate supporters

On April 24 the Conservancy hosted its 15th annual Corporate Council for Conservation recognition luncheon in Little Rock. Since its establishment in 1993, more than 100 of Arkansas' leading corporations have joined this coalition to support the Conservancy's work throughout the state.



Steve Rogel (left) with Tim Snell, the Conservancy's associate state director for water resources

Steve Rogel, CEO and president of Weyerhaeuser Company, was the keynote speaker for this year's luncheon. Rogel focused his presentation on the renewability of trees, their potential to provide alternative energy sources, the amount of greenhouse gases they remove from the atmosphere, and the need for sustainable forest certifications for forests around the world.

In 2006, Weyerhaeuser and its foundation donated \$1 million to the Conservancy, which funded a range of forest conservation and biodiversity projects in the Northwest and the Southeast, including sites in Arkansas.

During the luncheon, the Conservancy presented a Conservation Partner Award to Mary Elizabeth Eldridge and Mark Karnes of the Ross Foundation for the foundation's exemplary land management practices, which serve as a commendable model for forestland

owners across Arkansas. The Ross Foundation owns approximately 65,000 acres of forestland in southwest Arkansas and in the Ouachita Mountains. The foundation incorporates management techniques such as prescribed fire and ecological thinning to maintain its land in a sustainable way, providing income for the foundation's charitable activities.

The Conservancy also presented Tom Fennell of Fennell Purifoy Hammock Architects a Friend of Conservation Award for the company's generous work to design and oversee much-needed renovations for the Conservancy's Little Rock office. ■

# Conservancy friends host reception for Nobel Peace Prize recipient

On May 1 The Nature Conservancy hosted a welcoming reception at Little Rock's Curran Hall for Dr. Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Maathai was visiting Little Rock to speak to a full house at the Clinton School of Public Service as part of the Frank and Kula Kumpuris Distinguished Lecture Series.

In 1977 Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, a grassroots environmental organization that has empowered women to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families through the planting of more than 40 million trees across Kenya. (Learn more at [greenbeltmovement.org](http://greenbeltmovement.org).) Since then, Maathai has campaigned tirelessly for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation.

During the reception, which drew about 30 Conservancy friends, Maathai noted the \$300,000 grant the Conservancy provided the Green Belt Movement to restore the woodlands of Kenya's Rift Valley. In addition, Conservancy software provides the group with data that shows which tree species grow best in particular soil types, and the Conservancy generates before-and-after maps of reforested plots for monitoring purposes.

Maathai also addressed conservation challenges, particularly excess sediment plaguing Kenya's rivers. She discussed how building local infrastructure for growing, planting and tending trees in riparian areas can alleviate this problem while empowering people to understand and take charge of their local environmental conditions.

"We are very excited and honored to have hosted this reception for such an inspirational woman who has accomplished so much," said Lynn Watts, the Conservancy's director of philanthropy in Arkansas. "Dr. Maathai's words were surprisingly germane to Arkansas. We face many of the same water quality problems here, and there are valuable lessons in the success of the Green Belt Movement's community-driven approach." ■



Wangari Maathai (center) with Department of Arkansas Heritage Director Cathie Matthews (left) and Mary Wohleb



# New Cooper Nature Preserve at Hot Springs Village is a family affair

“It is because of the support of businesses like Cooper Communities and forward-thinking individuals like John Cooper that the Conservancy is able to conserve the Natural State.”

—Scott Simon, director of  
The Nature Conservancy  
in Arkansas



During the dedication, Conservancy staff talked about aquatic animals they netted from the Middle Fork.

The May 8 dedication of the 123-acre John A. and Mildred B. Cooper Nature Preserve at Hot Springs Village was near and dear to John Cooper III. The new Conservancy preserve was named in honor of his late grandmother and grandfather, who founded Cooper Communities, where Cooper III now serves as president.

“Under my grandfather’s leadership, Cooper Communities founded Hot Springs Village,” Cooper said. “I think he’d be proud to know that we’ve set aside a portion of the city for conservation.”

State Director Scott Simon said the forested property will protect the health of the Middle Fork of the Saline River.

“It is because of the support of businesses like Cooper Communities and forward-thinking individuals like John Cooper that the Conservancy is able to conserve the Natural State,” Simon said. “We are so very thankful for this absolutely gorgeous gift from Cooper Communities.”

The preserve lines two miles of the Middle Fork, where the Conservancy recently completed a two-year sediment study and is now working to restore a 1,500-foot stream bank that is eroding rapidly. The preserve is also less than a mile from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission’s Middle Fork Barrens Natural Area. ■



## Conservancy and friends dedicate Ouachita River Nature Preserve

On May 16, about 30 Conservancy friends gathered for the dedication of the Ouachita River Nature Preserve near Camden. The new preserve was established when Calion Lumber Company of Calion, Ark., donated a 2,900-acre conservation easement to the Conservancy. The preserve includes mature bottomland hardwoods and cypress and tupelo sloughs along six miles of the lower Ouachita River in Ouachita County.

During the event, State Director Scott Simon presented Charlie Thomas, vice president of Calion Lumber—a business Thomas' family owns—a certificate for lifetime membership in the Conservancy. Upon accepting the award, Thomas told the guests about his decision in 1958 to purchase the property, which he described as “one of the Natural State’s finest treasures.”

“Every time I visit this place, I am amazed by its beauty and ecological value,” Simon said. “We are grateful that Charlie and Calion Lumber have entrusted the Conservancy to continue their conservation legacy here at the Ouachita River Nature Preserve.” ■



The dedication included a riding tour of the new preserve.

## Lunch and hike celebrate expanded Trap Mountain preserve

To celebrate and support the Conservancy’s recent purchase of a 121-acre addition to the Simpson Preserve at Trap Mountain, Hot Springs residents Kathy and Clay Farrar, Don and Barbara Munro, and Dr. John and Donna Simpson hosted on May 17 a lunch at the Farrars’ home and a hike at the preserve. During the lunch State Director Scott Simon and Conservancy trustee Dr. John Simpson discussed the preserve’s history and unique flora and fauna, such as the rare Arkansas twistflower that grows only in the Ouachita Mountains. Simpson also announced that he and his wife will match up to \$100,000 in gifts that benefit the preserve.

The Simpson Preserve lies on the border of Hot Spring and Garland counties. It was established in 2001 when John and Donna Simpson donated 349 acres, and then expanded in 2003 with their donation of another 200 acres. The preserve now comprises 790 acres. ■



The celebration included a hike at Trap Mountain.

# Arkansas' dynamic Delta rivers



Hundreds of miles of rapidly eroding stream banks exist along rivers in east Arkansas. Shown above is the Black River.

**D**elta rivers in the Natural State face serious threats and are generally in poor health. As the spring floodwaters in east Arkansas receded, revealing further erosion on rivers throughout the region, Cache River Project Manager Josh Duzan and Delta Project Manager Matt Lindsey discussed conservation issues that drive their work.

## **What is the big-picture objective of the Conservancy's work on rivers in east Arkansas?**

*Matt:* Understanding the needs of healthy rivers and the needs of people in the region, and then addressing challenges and ensuring the critical needs of people, animals, plants and the environment are met in a sustainable way.

## **What big rivers do you focus on, and what are some of their major problems?**

*Josh:* We focus on the White, Cache and Black rivers as well as Bayou DeView and Bayou Bartholomew. Their biggest problem is excess sediment due to the instability of these river systems as a whole. You don't see an eroding bank here or there, as occurred historically. You see massive erosion—the tell-tale sign of river instability—over the entire reach of the system.

### What caused the instability?

*Josh:* In 1927, the largest flood in recent history occurred in the Mississippi River basin.

Around 26,000 square miles were inundated, including most of eastern Arkansas. After the flood, Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1928, which authorized a large-scale flood control project on the Mississippi River and some of its major tributaries. The project included the construction of levees, floodways, channel cut-offs, revetments, dikes and dredging on the Mississippi River. These actions basically straightened the Mississippi River, sped it up and deepened its channel. Over time, the channels of the lower Mississippi's major tributaries have deepened to match the lowered bed of the Mississippi River.

*Matt:* Projects mandated by the Flood Control Act have done a good job of protecting the land and people from catastrophic floods, and that's important. But the negative effects on our rivers and the environment weren't anticipated.



Josh Duzan (left) and Matt Lindsey

### Why are deeper, straighter channels in the Delta a problem?

*Matt:* River meanders and floodplains are energy release valves for rivers. In a natural system, a river has twists and turns to slow it down. When it gets too full, it spills over into the floodplain and slows down. When river channels are straightened and deepened, they have less access to these release valves. The energy has to go somewhere, so it goes downward and cuts the channels even deeper. It's a compounding problem.

*Josh:* Some of the first explorers to this area noticed localized erosion at several spots on the Mississippi River and other bottomland rivers. What we see today, though, is extensive erosion along hundreds of miles.

### How does that affect the ecosystem?

*Josh:* Species that live in the rivers and surrounding forests are adapted to natural flooding and sediment cycles. Flooding brings nutrients to the plants and animals, and seasonally flooded areas are essential nurseries for many species. When deepened channels reduce flooding, species like red maple start to grow where bald cypress and tupelo are drying up. In addition to a shift in forest types, we've seen a vast reduction in native fishes and mussels and an increase in species that are more tolerant of pollution and increased sediment levels.

*(Continued on next page)*

“Rivers are connected. Altering the lower White River will have dramatic effects on all its tributaries, including the Cache River. As these tributaries react to changes on the White, their tributaries—in turn—will have to adjust. They’ll dig themselves deeper and further increase sediment downstream. It’s a giant ripple effect.”

—Josh Duzan



Photo by Bryon Jorjorian

## **You mentioned the Flood Control Act of 1928; is anything happening today or planned for the future that would exacerbate these problems?**

*Josh:* Maintaining the flood control projects and navigation channels is an on-going effort that degrades the health of Delta rivers. On the White River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is mandated under the Flood Control Act to maintain an 8-foot-deep channel from the Mississippi River upstream to Augusta and a 4.5-foot-deep channel from Augusta upstream to Newport. This involves dredging to allow barge traffic up and down the river.

*Matt:* There are also proposals to deepen the current navigation channel on the White River, and to extend its navigation channel from Newport to Batesville.

## **What effects might deepening the White and extending its navigation channel have on the river?**

*Josh:* That stretch, from Newport to Batesville, is unique because it hasn’t been dredged. Dredging it would destroy habitat like gravel shoals that are critical to mussels and spawning paddlefish.

*Matt:* Additional dredging would increase sediment, which affects sport fish like largemouth bass and crappie. They are sight-feeding fish, and sediment reduces their efficiency. These fish also need a cyclical connection to the floodplain and outlying oxbow lakes to maintain healthy reproduction. Deepening the channel means the river would have even less access to its floodplain.

## **What effects might deepening the White have on its tributaries?**

*Josh:* Rivers are connected. Altering the lower White River will have dramatic effects on all its tributaries, including the Cache River. As these tributaries react to changes on the White, their tributaries—in turn—will have to adjust. They’ll dig themselves deeper and further increase sediment downstream. It’s a giant ripple effect.

*Matt:* The soils of the Mississippi River Valley are especially vulnerable to this sort of degradation. There’s no bedrock to stop the erosion. A headcut—a place where the water digs into the riverbed—could run hundreds of miles upstream.

## **What is the Conservancy doing to address the problems that Delta rivers face?**

*Matt:* We’re working with farmers, the Corps of Engineers and others to restore certain areas and manage the rivers sustainably. We’ll never be able to return these rivers to their natural state, but we can manage them in a way that will help stabilize them and protect the valuable services they provide to both people and nature.

*Josh:* The Conservancy works with partners to provide the science to help guide management practices or policies. In 2003, with funding from the Natural Resource Commission, we completed a study of the Cache River to develop a baseline assessment of its sediment flows and bank erosion rates. It helped us identify sources of sediment. Now, as we implement restoration projects, we’ll be able to measure against the baseline to see if conditions are improving. We’re currently surveying the Black River as well.

*Matt:* We continue to look for opportunities to conserve more land surrounding key rivers through conservation easements or acquisition. Conserving riverside land goes a long way toward improving the overall health of river systems. ■

# Conservancy in the community

Throughout the spring, Conservancy staff in Arkansas were busy accomplishing a vital part of the organization's mission: information sharing, education and outreach. Listed below are summaries of their work:

- Director of Core Conservation Support **Lane Patterson** and GIS Specialist **Sagar Mysorekar** unveiled to colleagues nationwide the Web-based database they developed to measure the success of Arkansas' conservation efforts. Arkansas and Costa Rica currently are the only two Conservancy programs using such state-of-the-art technology to track conservation data.
- **Tim Snell**, associate state director for water resources, participated in a "Water in Agriculture" panel presentation during a Water Stewardship Forum hosted by the Wal-Mart Sustainability Team in Rogers.
- Cache River Project Manager **Josh Duzan** presented current trends in river restoration at the Environmental Law Conference of the Arkansas Bar Association in Eureka Springs. In addition, Duzan spoke to the Pulaski Chapter of the Ozark Society in Little Rock, explaining the natural history of the Big Woods and the Conservancy's work with partners to conserve and restore habitat there.
- Director of Conservation Forestry **Joe Fox** made a presentation in Monticello on the history of the state's forests during the Teacher Conservation Tour sponsored by the Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation. Fox also led a discussion on conservation forestry for foresters engaged in continuing education sponsored by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.
- Ouachita rivers project director **Joy DeClerk** hosted meetings at Hot Springs Village and Benton to present the final report of the two-year sediment study the Conservancy conducted for the Middle Fork of the Saline River and to discuss the study's implications for the river and restoration work.
- Geographic information systems (GIS) and fire restoration staff delivered to Fort Chaffee a database they designed to track wildfire and prescribed burn information. The technology will help the post's land managers plan ecological restoration activities.



# Profile of Giving: Dr. Arthur and Lois Fry

**D**r. Arthur Fry has hiked at natural areas around the world. Today he's doing his part to conserve them.

Art, who joined The Nature Conservancy in 1978, says his love of nature began at an early age. He was born in 1921 in Montana and grew up in Dodson, a small community there.



Dr. Art Fry

“I began exploring the outdoors there at a young age,” Art says. “Today the mountains in the West are still among my favorite places in the world.”

After graduating in 1943 from Montana State University with a degree in chemistry, Art joined the Navy, where he served as an electronics technician working on radar technology.

“After World War II, I decided I wanted to find out how organic chemistry reacted with atomic energy, so I went to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where one of the top secret atomic energy facilities was,” Art says. “The work there contributed to the atomic bomb, but I was involved after the bomb’s invention. I wanted to learn how the technology could be applied in other areas. It was then I decided I needed my Ph.D.”

It was also at Oak Ridge where Art met his wife, Lois, also a chemist. She died in 1996.

“Lois loved to hike, too,” Art says. “I courted her in the nearby Smoky Mountains.”

In 1948, the couple moved to California, where Art earned his doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. From there, the Frys moved in 1951 to Fayetteville, where Art became an assistant professor for the University of Arkansas. In time he would go on to become university professor and serve twice as chair of the chemistry department.

While in Arkansas, Art and Lois continued their outdoor adventures, even after the birth of their two sons and daughter.

“We had a camper which served as our base camp for our backpacking treks,” Art says. “We sought out backcountry places all over the mountains of the West for most of our family vacations. Following our lead, all three of our children became avid hikers and conservationists.”

In addition to hiking in every state west of the Mississippi River and climbing hundreds of peaks in the Appalachians and in the western U.S., Art has traveled the world. Sabbaticals afforded him opportunities to explore wilderness areas in England,

Austria, Switzerland, Kenya, New Zealand and Australia, where he also snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef.

“Conservation, though, should be important to everyone, whether they hike or climb mountains or snorkel or not,” he says.

When Art and Lois joined the Conservancy, they began contributing annually. Today the Conservancy in Arkansas is listed as a beneficiary in Art’s will.

“Putting the Conservancy in our will was a joint decision between Lois and me,” Art says. “We were attracted to the Conservancy’s philosophy of conservation. We both thought the Conservancy does a great job working with other agencies and organizations and cooperating with landowners.”

Today Art lives at Butterfield Trail Village in Fayetteville. He has lived at the retirement community since 1992, a year after he retired from the University of Arkansas. Art has played a pivotal role in maintaining Butterfield’s recycling program, and he has continued his love of flower gardening at a community plot there. Art has also arranged presentations at Butterfield from a variety of groups, including the Conservancy.

“Everyone should strive to leave the world a better place,” Art says. “I figure my support of the Conservancy is a way to do that literally.” ■

## The Legacy Club

Art Fry and his late wife Lois belong to the Legacy Club, a group of Conservancy supporters who have made a lasting commitment to conservation by making a life income gift or by including the Conservancy in their estate plans. Art hopes his testimonial will encourage others to make similar gifts. Learn about the Legacy Club and the variety of giving options at [giftplanning.nature.org](http://giftplanning.nature.org). Or contact Susan Borné at (501) 614-5071 or [sborne@tnc.org](mailto:sborne@tnc.org).

## Green Growth takes root

The central Arkansas chapter of Green Growth, an auxiliary group of young professionals who actively support the Conservancy’s work, has been developing the group’s priorities. The steering committee has planned a recruitment party for July 10 at Ross Cranford’s Little Rock home. Guests will enjoy music, food and cocktails, and the steering committee will introduce the structure for Green Growth, which will include opportunities for special field trips and networking to further the work of the Conservancy. Those interested in attending the event should contact Lynn Watts at [lwatts@tnc.org](mailto:lwatts@tnc.org) or (501) 614-5074.

In April 2007, Green Growth hosted its inaugural event on the grounds of the Clinton Presidential Center, drawing more than 120 people. ■



Members of the Green Growth steering committee (from left to right) include Michael Blue, Bryan Barnhouse, Misha Boyne, Mary Browne, Page Atkins, Ross Cranford and Peggy and Daniel Maxell. (Not pictured is Warwick Sabin.)

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Jonesboro, AR 72404  
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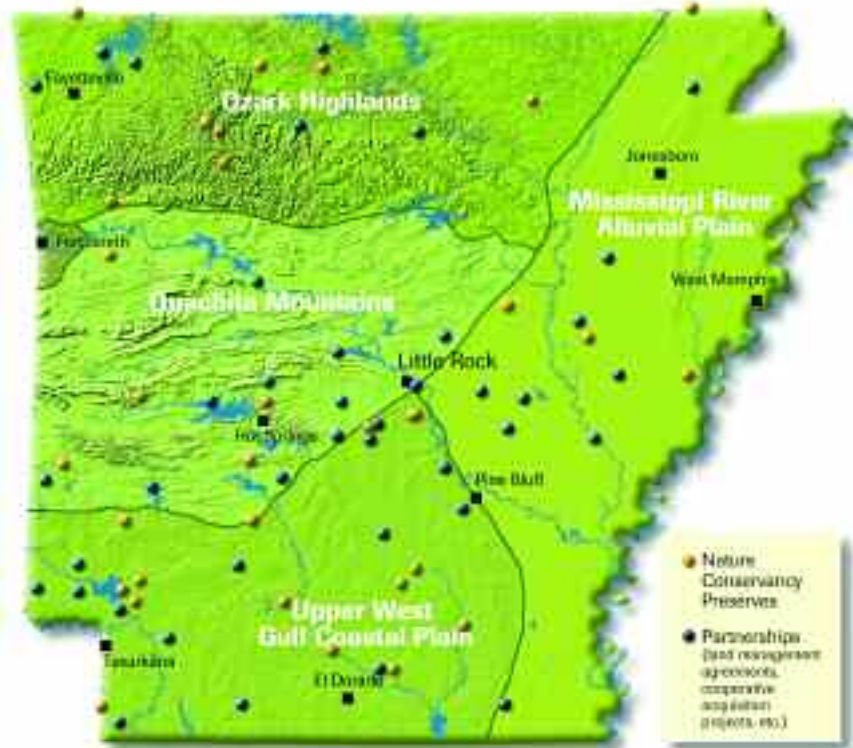
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The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas

601 North University Avenue

Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

TEL (501) 663-6699

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