



# Bayou Bartholomew Alliance **NEWSLETTER**



Summer 2003  
Vol. 14.

## **Conservation Easements Pick Up Steam**



A year or so ago the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance embarked on a conservation easement program to help save the remaining forested areas along the bayou. Many programs assist landowners in reforesting areas that were formerly cut, but few programs offer assistance to those who have chosen to preserve some of these magnificent resources. By enrolling in a conservation easement program, a landowner can keep his forest or natural area and at the same time still control access or lease it for hunting or other purposes. An easement provides a landowner with a way to save some money from federal income taxes and thus receive a monetary incentive for hanging on to those natural areas. To date the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance is completing several easements with landowners along several miles of stream in Ashley County. A number of easements have been donated to the Alliance in Jefferson County. If you would like further information on the conservation easement program and how it may benefit you and the Bayou, please give the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance Coordinator a call. The treasure you choose to preserve will be one that lasts far into the future. We thank all of those who gratefully contribute to this conservation effort.

We would like to thank the following who have made donations recently to the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance. Your donations greatly contributed to the success of this massive restoration project. Many Thanks!

**Individuals**

Dean Miller	Kilgore, TX
Ford Castleberry	Pine bluff, AR
Carroll E. Walls	Little Rock, AR
Virgil W. Trotter	Overland Park, KS
Jimmie R. Castleberry	Pine bluff, AR
Neil Olan	Melbourne, AR
Kenneth H. Dashiell	Bastrop, LA
Zach McClendon	Monticello, AR
David E. Dinwiddie	Pine bluff, AR
Curtis Merrell	Monticello, AR
Gerda Christine Carlson	South Euclid, OH
Jane Townsend	Pine bluff, AR
Calvin L. Sanders	Monticello, AR
Debbie Miller	Pine Bluff, AR
Janice Gill Ward	Fayetteville, AR
Tracy and David Coyle	Tucker, AR
Mark Townsend	Pine Bluff, AR

**Business/Organizations**

Potlatch Corporation  
 Three Rivers Audubon Society  
 ISG Resources  
 City of Pine Bluff Street Dept.  
 City of Pine Bluff  
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
 American Forests  
 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Arkansas Department of Transportation

**To adopt a trail  
 segment,  
 Call Bill Layher  
 870-879-4808**

**BAYOU BARTHOLOMEW NATURE TRAIL**

The new nature trail in Pine Bluff near Hazel Street and I-530 is about 40 per cent complete. We hope that construction will be finished by early summer. Many volunteers have helped with the clearing of the trail and trash cleanup. Additionally the Bayou itself has been cleared of logjams so that it is passable by canoe or small boat from Hazel down to Olive Street. The work of all the volunteers to complete these projects is greatly appreciated. We would recommend that you not use the new trail until its completion which should be soon.

The new trail will be 1.78 miles in length and will contain a number of boardwalks and foot bridges. It will give hikers a view of a wetland with a beaver lodge and a heron rookery, a view of the bayou itself in several locations, and pass through other wetland areas, a hardwood forest, and a mixed growth forest. The trail will begin near the old sewage pump station and traverse the banks of an old sewage lagoon that is now utilized by ducks, geese and is well on its way to recovering with wetland vegetation.

## CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Eight workshops have been held at five communities in the Bayou Bartholomew Watershed in the past two years. These workshops gave landowners, loggers, and other individuals a number of options to consider in how they manage their stream-side forest resources. It was hoped that this information would be used to help insure the integrity of the Bayou Bartholomew by preventing nonpoint source pollution such as soil erosion.

One of the best options available to landowners is to enroll a corridor of forest land along the stream in a conservation easement. This allows the landowner to reduce his/her gross income by donating an easement to the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance. Such an easement does not give away any rights the landowner currently has that they do not want to give away. For instance the landowner still would control access, could hunt/fish, lease property for hunting or fishing, etc. The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance would hold an easement that would spell out terms and conditions of keeping the designated easement in forest cover. Management plans for the forest could be included such as limited harvest or removal of dead timber if desired. The landowner can reduce gross income up to a percentage and if the value of the easement is greater than what the IRS allows in one year, the remaining easement value can be applied in future years until the full value is deducted from gross income.

By enrolling in conservation easements, the landowner can receive the value of forest lands without cutting the timber, thereby maintaining such forests for their esthetic value or for hunting purposes and enjoyment. This also allows minimal disturbance to stream banks and keeps the bayou healthier and cleaner from silt and other disturbances.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**You can contact the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance by writing, calling, or e-mailing:**

Dr. Curtis Merrell, President  
P.O. Box 665  
Monticello, AR 71657  
870/367-5901 home  
870/367-7427 fax  
cmerrell@sark.net

### Board Members

John Scott McClendon, VP	Dr. Robert Butler
Jack Edwards	Cynthia Kimbrell
Howard Kimbrell	Robert Mitchell
George Pugh	

Dr. Bill Layher, Coordinator  
Layher BioLogics RTEC, Inc.  
7233 Camden Cutoff Rd.  
Pine Bluff, AR 71603  
870/879-4808 office/fax  
layher@earthlink.net

## Volunteer To Keep Arkansas This Beautiful!



### YES, I WANT TO HELP!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### CHECK ONE

Enclosed is a donation to help fund: (donations are tax deductible)

- the nature trail
- tree seedlings
- general operations
- newsletter mailing and printing

I would like to volunteer to:

- help with cleanups
- help remove logjams
- Adopt a trail segment (be sure to include the name of your group such as a boy scout troop, 4-H Club, Rotary Club, etc.)

### Mail to

Bayou Bartholomew Alliance  
7233 Camden Cutoff Rd.  
Pine Bluff, AR 71603



### Birds at My Feeder

Several issues ago we printed an article about neotropical migrants (songbirds). On one of our snowy days I took some photos of our feathery friends at a feeder near our kitchen window. To learn more about birding opportunities you may wish to contact the Three Rivers Audubon Society or send an email to the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance coordinator at [layher@earthlink.net](mailto:layher@earthlink.net). Can you name the birds?



## **BBA Website**

The BBA has a website!

Visit the website at [www.accessarkansas.org/bba/](http://www.accessarkansas.org/bba/)

Maps, pictures, teaching modules for science classes, past newsletters, and upcoming events are all posted. We hope to expand the materials at the site. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas. Drop in! We'd love to hear from you.



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