



# Bayou Bartholomew Alliance NEWSLETTER



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## 9-Element Plan

We are currently in the process of developing a nine-element watershed plan for the Bayou Bartholomew Watershed. This plan is being developed to satisfy EPA's requirements for entities to receive future 319 grant financial assistance to reduce non-point source pollution. The plan will provide a template for further conservation work in the watershed.

To date, the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance has promoted programs which have helped landowners receive higher payments for enrolling in conservation practice programs by having the watershed designated as an impaired stream. This status provides for better incentives than what would otherwise have been received for landowners to enroll in various conservation programs. The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance has provided farmers with over one million hardwood tree seedlings at no charge.

The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance Technical Support Group will meet on February 10, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. The group is composed primarily of state and federal agency personnel as well as city, county, and industry representatives. If you are a land owner in the watershed and wish to provide input to the planning process, feel welcome to attend. Please send an e-mail to [layher@earthlink.net](mailto:layher@earthlink.net) to let us know that you are coming so we can make arrangements for everyone planning to attend. We hope to serve a quick lunch and the meeting should adjourn by 3:30 p.m. We are most interested in any ideas that landowners may have concerning what programs they would like to see implemented or continued in the watershed.

## Helping the Farmer: Conservation Easements

The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance began a conservation easement plan some time ago to provide a way for landowners to protect existing natural areas on their properties, keep these areas in natural habitats, and receive some financial incentive for doing so. Not so long ago, a story appeared in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette which indicated that some organizations might be using such easements illegally and that the IRS would be auditing such groups. We have learned that the easements in question were in fact legal and that there is no problem with an organization receiving easements for conservation purposes as long as the land owner does not over-inflate the value of the property on his tax forms. Conservation easements provide that land owners may have the property appraised and reduce gross income by that amount, thus saving money by reducing income taxes. The IRS will let stand existing rules on easements through this year. They are in the process of promulgating new rules which we believe will go into effect next year. **So, if you haven't done so already, you still have this year to enroll in an easement program and receive the benefits of reduced taxes.** Next year, we have no idea what rule changes will be made. Remember, an easement protects property into perpetuity, so when you're gone the land remains in natural habitat for the future. What better gift for generations to come?

# Bayou Volunteers: Delos McCauley

by Eric Brinkman



E. Delos McCauley

This quarter we are highlighting the volunteer contributions that Mr. Delos McCauley has made to the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance and the general public.

Delos earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas. After college he worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for three years in Arkansas and two years in Florida. He then attended Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Delos and his wife, Hazel, embarked on careers as Methodist Missionaries. Through this work they lived in Nepal for 18 years and 9 years in Kenya. They retired in 2001 and returned to Arkansas after serving 30 years as missionaries. The

McCauleys currently live in Pine Bluff. Delos enjoys bird

watching, nature photography, golf, and playing duplicate bridge.

Mr. McCauley has taken it upon himself to develop a bird and wildlife checklist for the William G. "Bill" Layher Nature Trail (see insert). As an avid bird watcher and nature photographer, Delos has made countless trips to the trail in all seasons and weather with the hopes of adding "another" bird to his life list. Luckily for us, he has kept detailed accounts of the birds and wildlife he has encountered along the trail. Mr. McCauley has generously offered to share this list with the Alliance and anyone interested. The trail was built by the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance for public use. The trail head is located near the intersection of Hazel St. and I-530 in Pine Bluff. Checklists will soon be available at the trail head in pamphlet form.

Would you like to help the Bayou Bartholomew Alliance in their efforts to preserve and restore the Bayou? Please fill out the cut-out below and mail to the Alliance or contact the Coordinator, Bill Layher, at (870) 879-4808 or layher@earthlink.net.

**YES, I WANT TO HELP!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**

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

**WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU DO!!!**

# Bird CHECK LIST

S-Spring S-Summer F-Fall W-Winter  
 c-Common f-Fairly Common u-Uncommon  
 o-Occasional r-Rare a-Accidental m-Migratory

S S S F W

## Grebes

0 Grebe, Pied-billed..... 0 0 0 0

## Cormorants and Anhinga

0 Cormorant, Double-crested..... 0 - 0 0  
 0 Anhinga, American..... - 0 - -

## Bitterns, Herons and Egrets

0 Bittern, American..... m - - -  
 0 Heron, Great Blue..... c c c c  
 0 Egret, Great..... f - - -  
 0 Heron, Green..... f - - -

## Geese and Ducks

0 Goose, Canada..... u u u u  
 0 Duck, Wood..... c c c c  
 0 Mallard..... 0 - 0 0  
 0 Merganser, Hooded..... - - - -

## Vultures, Kites, Eagles, Hawks and Falcons

0 Vulture, Black..... 0 0 0 0  
 0 Vulture, Turkey..... c c c c  
 0 Kite, Mississippi..... f - - -  
 0 Hawk, Sharp-shinned..... 0 - - -  
 0 Hawk, Cooper's..... 0 - - -  
 0 Hawk, Red-shouldered..... 0 - - -  
 0 Hawk, Red-tailed..... f - - -  
 0 Kestrel, American..... - - - f

## Turkeys and Quail

0  
 0  
 0  
 0

## Rails, Gallinules and Moorhens

0  
 0  
 0

## Plovers, Stits, and Sandpipers

0 Killdeer..... f f f f

## Pigeons and Doves

0 Dove, Mourning..... f f f f  
 0 Pigeon, Rock..... c c c c

## Cuckoos

0 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed..... u c - -

## Owls

0 Owl, Barred..... c c c c

## Goatsuckers and Swifts

0 Swift, Chimney..... 0 c 0 -

## Hummingbirds

0 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated..... 0 c - -

## Kingfishers

0 Kingfisher, Belted..... c c c c

## Woodpeckers

0 Woodpecker, Red-headed..... c c c c  
 0 Woodpecker, Red-bellied..... c c c c  
 0 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied..... 0 - - 0  
 0 Woodpecker, Downy..... c c c c  
 0 Woodpecker, Hairy..... 0 0 0 0  
 0 Flicker, Northern..... c u u c  
 0 Woodpecker, Pileated..... 0 0 0 0

## Tyrant Flycatchers, Wood-Pewees, Kingbirds, Pewees and Phoebe

0 Pewee, Eastern Wood..... - - - -  
 0 Phoebe, Eastern..... 0 c c c  
 0 Flycatcher, Great Crested..... - - - -  
 0 Kingbird, Eastern..... c - - -

## Shrikes & Vireos

0 Vireo, Warbling..... c 0 - -  
 0 Vireo, Philadelphia..... - - m -  
 0 Vireo, White-eyed..... c c - -  
 0 Vireo, Red-eyed..... 0 c - -

0 Vireo, Blue-headed..... m - - -

## Jays & Crows

0 Jay, Blue..... c c c c  
 0 Crow, American..... c c c c  
 0 Crow, Fish..... 0 f f 0

## Larks

0

## Swallows

0 Swallow, Northern  
 Rough-winged..... 0 c - -  
 0 Swallow, Barn..... 0 c - -

## Chickadees and Titmice

0 Titmouse, Tufted..... u u c c  
 0 Chickadee, Carolina..... u u c c

## Nuthatches & Creepers

0 Creeper, Brown..... 0 - - c

## Wrens

0 Wren, Carolina..... c c c c  
 0 Wren, Winter..... - - - 0  
 0 Wren, Marsh..... f - - 0

## Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Bluebirds and Thrushes

0 Kinglet, Golden-crowned..... 0 - 0 c  
 0 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned..... c - 0 c  
 0 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray..... 0 c 0 -  
 0 Bluebird, Eastern..... c c c c  
 0 Robin, American..... c c c c  
 0 Thrush, Swainson's..... m - - -  
 0 Thrush, Gray-checked..... m - - -  
 0 Thrush, Hermit..... c - - c

## Mockingbirds, Catbirds and Thrashers

0 Mockingbird, Northern..... c c c c

0	Thrasher, Brown.....	o	o	o	f	o	o	Towhee, Eastern.....	c	o	o	c	● Fiery Skipper
0	Starlings							Sparrow, White-throated.....	c	-	o	c	
0	Starling, European.....	c	c	c	c	o	o	Sparrow, White-crowned.....	u	-	u	o	
0	Pipits							Sparrow, Fox.....	o	-	-	o	
0	Waxwings							Sparrow, Song.....	o	-	-	o	
0	Waxwing, Cedar.....	o	-	-	o	o	o	Sparrow, Swamp.....	o	-	-	o	
								Junco, Dark-eyed.....	o	-	-	o	

S S F W

**Warblers, Parulas, Redstarts and Waterthrushes**

0	Warbler, Tennessee.....	m	-	m	-	o	o	Blackbirds, Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, Cowbirds, Grackles, and Orioles					
0	Warbler, Nashville.....	m	-	m	-	o	o	Cowbird, Brown-headed.....	o	o	o	o	
0	Warbler, Orange-crowned.....	-	-	-	-	o	o	Blackbird, Red-winged.....	c	c	c	c	
0	Warbler, Blue-winged.....	-	-	-	-	o	o	Grackle, Common.....	c	c	c	c	
0	Parula, Northern.....	o	o	o	o	o	o	Oriole, Baltimore.....	c	c	-	-	
0	Warbler, Chestnut-sided.....	m	-	m	-	o	o	Oriole, Orchard.....	c	c	-	-	
0	Warbler, Magnolia.....	m	-	m	-	o	o	<b>Old World Sparrows, Grosbeaks, Siskins, Finches, Goldfinches and Crossbills</b>					
0	Warbler, Blackburnian.....	m	-	m	-	o	o	Finch, House.....	o	o	o	c	
0	Warbler, Yellow-rumped.....	c	-	u	c	o	o	Goldfinch, American.....	c	o	o	c	
0	Warbler, Black-throated Green.....	m	-	m	-	o	o	Sparrow, House.....	o	o	o	o	
0	Warbler, Pine.....	o	-	o	-	o	o						
0	Warbler, Bay-breasted.....	m	-	m	-	o	o						
0	Warbler, Yellow-throated.....	o	-	o	-	o	o						
0	Warbler, Black-and-White.....	o	-	o	-	o	o						
0	Redstart, American.....	m	-	m	-	o	o	<b>Mammals:</b>					
0	Warbler, Prothonotary.....	o	c	o	-	o	o	● Beaver					
0	Warbler, Worm-eating.....	o	o	o	-	o	o	● Mink					
0	Ovenbird.....	o	o	o	-	o	o	● Fox Squirrel					
0	Warbler, Canada.....	m	-	m	-	o	o	● Gray Squirrel					
0	Waterthrush, Northern.....	o	-	o	-	o	o	● Coyote					
0	Yellowthroat, Common.....	o	-	o	-	o	o	● Bobcat					
0	Warbler, Hooded.....	o	-	o	-	o	o	● Swamp Rabbit					
0	<b>Tanagers, Cardinals, Buntings, Dickcissels and Grosbeaks</b>							● Black Bear					
0	Tanager, Summer.....	o	f	o	-	o	o	<b>Butterflies:</b>					
0	Cardinal, Northern.....	c	c	c	c	o	o	● Viceroy					
0	Grosbeak, Blue.....	o	-	o	-	o	o	● Pearl Crescent					
0	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted.....	o	-	o	-	o	o	● Cloudless Sulphur					
0	Bunting, Indigo.....	c	o	o	o	o	o	● Question Mark					

**New World Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs and Towhees**

0	Tanager, Summer.....	o	f	o	-	o	o	Common Checkered Skipper					
0	Cardinal, Northern.....	c	c	c	c	o	o	● Silver-spotted Skipper					
0	Grosbeak, Blue.....	o	-	o	-	o	o	● Southern Dogface					
0	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted.....	o	-	o	-	o	o	● Red-spotted Admiral					
0	Bunting, Indigo.....	c	o	o	o	o	o	● Funeral Duskywing					
								● Sachem					
								● Monarch					
								● Orange Sulphur					

Please report new sightings to:

E. Delos McCauley  
1405 Silver Fox Lane  
Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Phone: 870-850-7861  
Email: edelos@cablelynx.com

## Those Slow Moving Waters

*Jennifer Kimball*

Growing up in Jefferson County, Arkansas with a father who is much wiser than any credentials will ever state and who truly loves nature was an education on which no price can be placed. My younger brother and I used to crack jokes about the tidbits and trivia that our father often spouted. To this day, those very things are what has remained with me and didn't become part of the things only to make me "hmmm" and then be forgotten. Tidbits -- for which I am grateful.

As I think back, specific days are painted clearly in my mind. I remember riding over one of the bridges of Bayou Bartholomew and looking at the water. I remarked to my dad, "That water is nasty. It's muddy – nothing could be living there!" My dad, with a smile on his face, began telling me about the Bayou. "It's the longest Bayou in the United States, and there are lots of things living there." He continued his story and pointed out the curvy path the waters take. Over the years, I've learned more about the Bayou and observed the slow-moving waters that sometimes tire of movement and take a break in a stagnant pool. Then, as I look just yards downstream, I see those waters pick up the pace again and make their way down the winding path. I've thought back to this same first experience with the Bayou when I've heard scholars who have studied the waters speak of times that they've put a canoe in early in the morning, traveled the waters all day, and exited to see their truck just feet away.

On another occasion, I could hear a faint honking while I was playing outside. After asking my dad what the noise was, he pointed out the flock of geese flying over our house. As he talked, he explained the "v" formation of the flock and how these migratory birds work together. I was amazed by the teamwork and organization of these birds. "Hmmm," I thought, "people should learn from these geese." When I asked where they were going, he again brought up Bayou Bartholomew and the wetlands that surround it. He told of how geese and ducks will visit Arkansas for a time in the fall and how important the Bayou and areas like it are for the birds and their continued visits to our area. I thought of those wetlands every time he walked out the door to go duck hunting. These memories quickly came back to me about three years ago when I learned of development happening on land near the Bayou. Tons and tons of dirt were hauled in to raise the area above the flood plain. I watched as the lands that would naturally flood when the winter and spring rains made their presence known change from wetland to dirt land to parking lot. I watched as some of those cherished wetlands, habitat for many, were removed. I mourned for those wetlands and the geese that depend on it.

Yet, another fond memory I have of growing up with such a rich environment is of the times my dad would take my brother and I fishing. We fished in many places around Southeast Arkansas and as we fished, my dad would answer countless questions of why, who, what, where, and how. As he answered question after question, he created a love of learning that is almost a hunger for knowledge to this day. Recently, I discovered that Bayou Bartholomew holds more than I knew when I learned that it has the second largest variety of fish in the nation. Immediately, after learning this, I wanted to return to the Bayou, father in tow, and check out the information for myself.

Now I am grown, rearing children of my own and teaching others' children. I want them to have wonderful natural experiences like the ones that fill my memory. I want each generation to develop a respect for all forms of life, whether it's the cypress trees in the Bayou, the geese who are only seasonal visitors, or the people who remember their baptism in the Bayou's waters. I want these children to welcome change, but question development when important natural areas are destroyed. I want children to be educated and educate others about state agencies whose purpose is to see wildlife thrive, habitats protected, and wetlands prevail. I want these children to see and remember me the way I see my father – as someone who gave what seemed to be tidbits and trivia only later to realize they learned about life while they spent time along the curvy path of those slow-moving waters.

## 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

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Check out our web site at: [www.arkansas.gov/bba/](http://www.arkansas.gov/bba/)



Phil Penny of AGFC holds a large spotted bass caught in the Bayou during summer fish sampling..  
Photo by Bill Layher

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