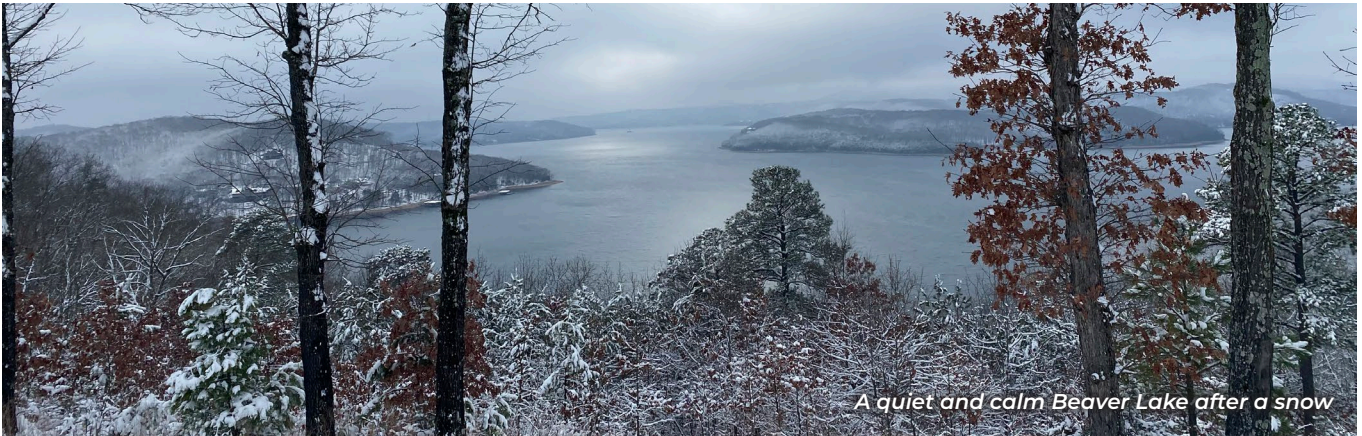


BEAVER LAKE WATERSHED NEWS

Our Mission: To proactively protect, enhance, and sustain water quality in Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed.



A quiet and calm Beaver Lake after a snow

Dear Beaver Lake Watershed Landowner,

The Alliance is excited to be hitting the ground running in 2023 and working with you for Source Water Protection. With over 67,000+ parcels in the Beaver Lake watershed, landowners like you are key to protecting the water quality of our local lakes and streams and ensuring healthy lands and water for future generations. We enjoy working with each and everyone of you, whether it's for habitat improvements, forestry management, helping you find out where the water goes and comes from on your property, or connecting you to partners for bigger projects like streambank repair or land conservation, you make all the difference by just taking a few steps at a time.

We're happy to share some of this past year's accomplishments, including stream, forestry and native plant programs, as well as share some upcoming activities and programs that you may find helpful for land management. We also have a great article contributed by the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust on how land conservation and farming can be tied together.

We look forward to working with you in 2023. Last year, we assisted over 100 landowners and worked on over 1,900 acres within the Beaver Lake watershed! As always, call us or email us anytime you are ready to take that first step!

Sincerely,
The Alliance Team



ARKANSAS' WHITE RIVER RESERVOIRS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

National Fish Habitat Partnership Funding Announcement



The Beaver Watershed Alliance (Alliance) and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) are excited to announce funding dedicated to improving aquatic habitat and water quality within Beaver Lake.

Fish habitat structures, made of cedar trees removed along the lakeshore,

will be sunk in various areas, including areas that can be accessed from the shoreline. The project will also improve shoreline fishing access around Beaver Lake, by creating public parking areas and walking trails.

The National Fish Habitat Partnership funds came from the Bass Pro Shops US Open grant program. The proposal, "Arkansas' White River Reservoirs Fish Habitat Enhancement Initiative," was one of nine proposals selected throughout the US, and received the highest amount of grant funding at \$275,000.

The Alliance and AGFC have worked together previously to create fish habitat in Beaver Lake (seen in photo to left, clearing invasive cedar trees to use as fish habitat in the lake), as well as to install a stream and riparian restoration on Clifty Creek, a tributary to Beaver Lake.

To learn more about these projects, call the Alliance at 479-750-8007 or email daniel@beaverwatershedalliance.org



CLIFTY CREEK - WAR EAGLE IMPROVEMENTS

Habitat Improvement and Stream Restoration



Through partnerships with the Bass Pro Outdoor Fund, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Stream Team, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, the Alliance, UA Extension Service, Cargill Cares, Rufus Fund for the War Eagle, and the landowners, Sue and Mike Phillips, significant funding was raised to complete a

streambank restoration and riparian enhancement along Clifty Creek, a tributary to War Eagle Creek.

This project accomplished its objectives to install a stream bank restoration to reduce sediment flow into Beaver Lake, enhance riparian buffers along the waterway, improve fisheries in Beaver Lake, and provide education and

outreach to producers and landowners in the Beaver Lake watershed.

The Alliance is proud to report that 300 linear feet of eroded streambank has been restored, which included the planting of 300 native trees, shrubs, and grasses in a riparian buffer area designed to protect water quality and provide essential wildlife habitat.

Right: Clear water flowing through the recently restored and enhanced area of Clifty Creek.



PLAN AHEAD FOR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

How can you enhance your property and protect water quality?



Do you have 10 acres + of wildlife habitat that you would like to improve?

Upland plant communities in Arkansas are fire-adapted and depend on fire to maintain ecosystem health.

Healthy plant communities create healthy wildlife areas.

Low-intensity burns are typically recommended every 3-4 years.

Contact our knowledgeable team to get your wildlife management plan and learn ways to improve your forested area.

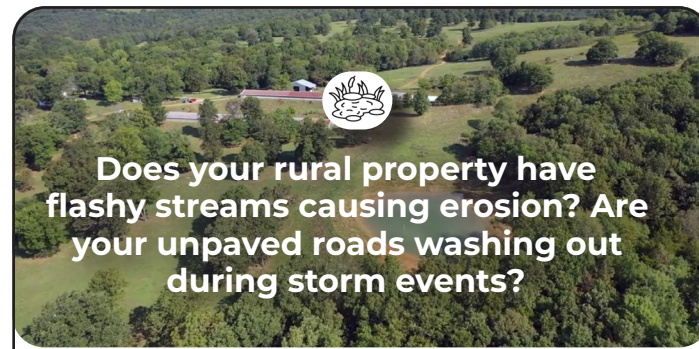


Experiencing sheet, rill, or gully erosion on your pasture, forest, or urban property?

"Low-Tech Erosion Controls" utilize hand tools and simple materials like cut brush and stones to redirect runoff or stabilize an area with erosion. These are simple tools to help reduce gully erosion and slow down rain runoff.

The Alliance can help you decide where to place these and how to build them on your property.

Special interest will be given to landowners in the War Eagle sub-watershed.



Does your rural property have flashy streams causing erosion? Are your unpaved roads washing out during storm events?

Installing a strategically placed pond can reduce the effects of stormwater by increasing flood storage on a temporary basis.

If you have a pond on your property, the Alliance can help look at ways to improve or enhance your pond. If you are looking to install a pond, one of our staff can assist you with the initial steps. If you live in the War Eagle watershed area, special funding is available to install ponds on agricultural properties.

There are also things you can do to correct eroding private unpaved roads and programs for improving public unpaved roads.

Interested in improving your property and protecting water quality with one of these best management practices?

These practices can protect your property from stormwater damage, improve wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and much more.

The Alliance is available to assist landowners with assessment, planning, and implementation of prescribed burning, pond planning, and Low-Tech Erosion Control practices.

For more information about any of the above practices email info@beaverwatershedalliance.org or call 479-750-8007. A staff member will start the process with a free site visit to your property.



NWA FARM-LINK AIMS TO KEEP WORKING LANDS IN WORKING HANDS

Article by Susan Koehler, Farmland Preservation Manager, Northwest AR Land Trust

Whether you have called Northwest Arkansas home for a lifetime or recently, it's undeniable that the demand for developable land for housing, and retail in the area is intense.

Thankfully, concerned institutions and individuals are leading several efforts to help keep our corner of the Natural State, natural, and to preserve our agriculture history.

In 2019, as part of the NWA Food Systems Initiative funded by the Walton Family Foundation, the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust was asked to join the University of Arkansas and other organizations to grow more farmers, and local fruits and vegetables for area residents.

NWALT's role is specific to farmland preservation in addition to access and support programming for new or expanding farmers. One of the key elements of the work is the NWA Farm-Link website the Land Trust manages. Here, farm seekers and farmland owners can connect, as well get access to resources. "We joke that NWA Farm-Link is a true farmers only platform," said Susan Koehler, farmland preservation manager. "While dating app analogies can simplify these types of programs for newbies, NWA Farm-Link is an important new tool for us."

Farm Seekers from anywhere can create profiles and share about the type of the farm or land they want. Farm Seekers with an interest and skills in growing fruits or vegetables may benefit more greatly from participating, but any land seeker is welcome to join. Farmland owners create profiles

too, but with an emphasis on what type of farmer they need or the characteristics of their land. At this time, NWA Farm-Link is focused on assisting land and farmland owners in Benton, Carroll, Madison and Washington counties given the increasing urbanization of these areas. If privacy is a concern, NWA Farm-Link can accommodate these wishes, and work with individuals behind the scenes.

NWA Farm-Link is a free service and receives no commissions for possible transactions or matches. Members receive consultation and guidance and can be referred to area experts if needed. NWA Farm-Link has produced lease templates and other legal document templates around land transfer that can be made available to members working to finalize an arrangement.

"We meet people where they are in their journey to farm or create a legacy," said Susan. NWA Farm-Link can help facilitate leases or possible sales of farmland. Real estate professionals are welcome in the process, but not required. "We've also helped farm owners hire managers for farm businesses and found care takers. We do counsel landowners to be realistic about their expectations. We consider it a win if we can help members avoid a possible arrangement that does not truly meet their goals," said Koehler.

Other recent wins include helping a young farmer couple find land on a City of Fayetteville owned property, and helping an established farmer expand on to a large historic farm donated to the Land Trust.



For more information visit www.nwafarmlink.org or call 479-466-9666.

FARM & FIELDS WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH SOIL & WATER HEALTH

Agricultural lands can play a significant role in soil and water health. The Alliance has been exploring easy techniques that landowners can utilize to increase profitability while simultaneously protecting and enhancing soil and water health. At a recent Farm & Field workshop in Goshen, AR, landowners learned about water quality on fields, drought assistance, program funds available to assist farmers, hay nutrition, and more. We're looking forward to similar workshops in 2023 and hope you can join us! You can also contact the Alliance today to have one our trained professionals visit your property for free for technical assistance, connection to funding opportunities, and more. Call 479-750-8007 for more information.



Above: Jeremy Huff, USDA State Grazing Lands Specialist, demonstrating pasture management techniques with a rainfall simulator.

THE HIGH TUNNELS FOR NATIVE PLANTS PROGRAM COMPLETED!

The Alliance High Tunnel for Native Plants program wrapped up this past year, but nine producers will continue to grow local Ozark native plants for both retail and conservation work. Thank you the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service for the opportunity to pilot this program in the Beaver Lake watershed. We hope to see practice #325 "High Tunnel Systems" adapt to growing native plants, so that other producers around the state can help increase our local supplies.

If you are interested in purchasing native plants for your project, we encourage you to contact these growers in the NWA area. Also, we have wonderful local nurseries, such as White River Nursery in Fayetteville, that continue to supply native plants.



Above: David and Karma Nees, of Nees Farms, smiling in front of their recently installed high-tunnel.

OZARK NATIVE PLANTS PRODUCER INFORMATION

Fayetteville, AR:

Two Gardeners
Tracy Oates
mtoates@aol.com
479-387-1367

Firefly Farm
Melissa Terry
mat023@email.uark.edu
479-582-1445

Watershed Conservation Resource
Center
Jordan Forbis
forbis@watershedconservation.org
479-438-3744

Reagan Family Farms
Bill & Sheila Reagan
reaganfamilyfarm@gmail.com
479-443-5529

Huntsville, AR:

Moonlit Heights Native Plants
Travis & Shonda Garrison
mhnativenursery@gmail.com
479-981-2863

Natural State Flower Farm
Brenda Embry
naturalstateflowerfarm@gmail.com
479-200-6533

Winslow, AR:

GG's Hilltop Natives
Gwyn Gregory
gwyn1961@gmail.com
402-619-1421 or 479-839-3613

Garfield, AR:

Nees Farms
David & Karma Nees
neesfarms@gmail.com
479-903-4100

Eureka Springs, AR:

Tara's Garden, AR
Sheri Hanson
sherihanson@yahoo.com
479-253-7141

UPCOMING ALLIANCE PROGRAMS

The Alliance will be hosting several events early this year. Sign up for our E-news to stay informed or visit our website, www.beaverwatershedalliance.org to find an event near you.



Land Management workshops will be announced soon for Forest, Stream, Agricultural production, Low Tech Erosion Control and more. Sign up and stay informed on these opportunities to learn for free!

Point your phone camera at the QR code to visit our website!



Above: Daniel Hagood, Alliance Stream & Forest Resource Specialist, presenting at a recent Farm & Field workshop.



162 Doolin Drive
PO Box 762
Elkins, AR 72727

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
PERMIT #1

CONTACT US

Want more information?

Phone: 479-750-8007

Email: info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

Web: beaverwatershedalliance.org

Our records indicate that you own or reside on property in the Beaver Lake watershed. To receive a digital copy or be removed from this mailing list, please notify us.



Stories inside this issue:

- Stream restoration and habitat improvement projects
- Land improvement opportunities
- Farm-Link Program
- AND MORE!



With tax season upon us, are you familiar with the Wetland and/or Riparian Tax Credits?

If you have installed wetlands and/or riparian zones, we encourage you to check out this program to help you offset costs.

Point your camera at the QR code and it will take you to the website.