



RIFFLES AND POOLS

The February 2000 Activity Report of the Stream Team

Steve Filipek, State Stream Team Coordinator

Dave Evans, Ozark & Boston Mountains Region Coordinator

Stephen O'Neal, Delta Region Coordinator

Philip Penny, Gulf Coastal Plain Region Coordinator

Darrell Bowman, Ouachita Mountains & AR River Valley Region Coord.

Your stream team was asked to present what all of us have been doing to conserve our state's streams at the Mid-Year meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. We also learned more about how geomorphology or how stream channels are formed and react to various impacts influences much of our work on Arkansas waterways.

We all had an incredibly good experience with middle schoolers from Benton as they helped us plant hundreds of trees on the South Fork of the Saline River west of Benton. This young stream team, led by their teacher, helped save several hundred tons of sediment from spoiling the waters of this Ouachita Mountain ecoregion stream. This was on Mr. Emmett Sweningson's land, one of those great landowners that have an excellent land ethic. At the same bank stabilization job, we "schooled" some Oklahoma stream biologists in how to rehabilitate a stream bank.

Darrell worked with the Arkansas Tech University stream team to plant a riparian zone on Big Piney Creek. He also gave talks to ATU and a class at Southeast Oklahoma State University. Darrell also reviewed some streambank erosion on Illinois Bayou. Darrell is an accomplished canoeist and has been working with the Piney Creeks Chapter of the AR Canoe Club.

Dave worked with us on Williams Creek, a tributary to the Saline, where we assisted a landowner with stabilizing an undercutting streambank and planting various kinds of vegetation Stream bank and in his riparian area. He also spent several days working with the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission evaluating stream sites in IZARD, Sharp, and Baxter counties. Dave also represented the Stream Team (with Steve) at the Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group meeting. He attended a Spring River water quality sampling event in Hardy, Arkansas.

Stephen worked with 21 Stream Teamers planting a riparian zone and streambank on the Eleven Point River. A very conservation minded landowner has supported the re-establishment of a 150 foot wide buffer zone on his land. This one site has generated interest in at least 6 other sites that Stephen has evaluated and 2 that Steve has reviewed. Stephen is our resident herpetologist (snake and lizard expert) and has given several educational presentations at Pocahontas High School and Benton Middle School. He has also met with Parkin Archaeological State Park personnel to discuss them working with the Stream Team on aquatic conservation efforts.

Phil has been learning the ropes as the regional coordinator in the Gulf Coastal Plain of south central Arkansas where there is plenty of water. Phil has been getting bids on backhoes and other heavy equipment that your stream team needs to do some of the heavy duty rehabilitation needed on the more damaged waters. He has also been working hard on refurbishing a riparian zone on the Saline and the Eleven Point rivers. We've all been working on our respective budgets for 2001.

In addition, we met with about 20 interested people on what they would like to see in next year's **2001 Stream Team conference**. They gave us a lot of good ideas to work on and I'm proud to say that we already have a location chosen for the conference. It's going to be held at the **Best Western Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs March 9,10 & 11, 2001**. We will have additional meetings in other areas of the state to get more ideas on what you want on the agenda of the meeting in the near future.