



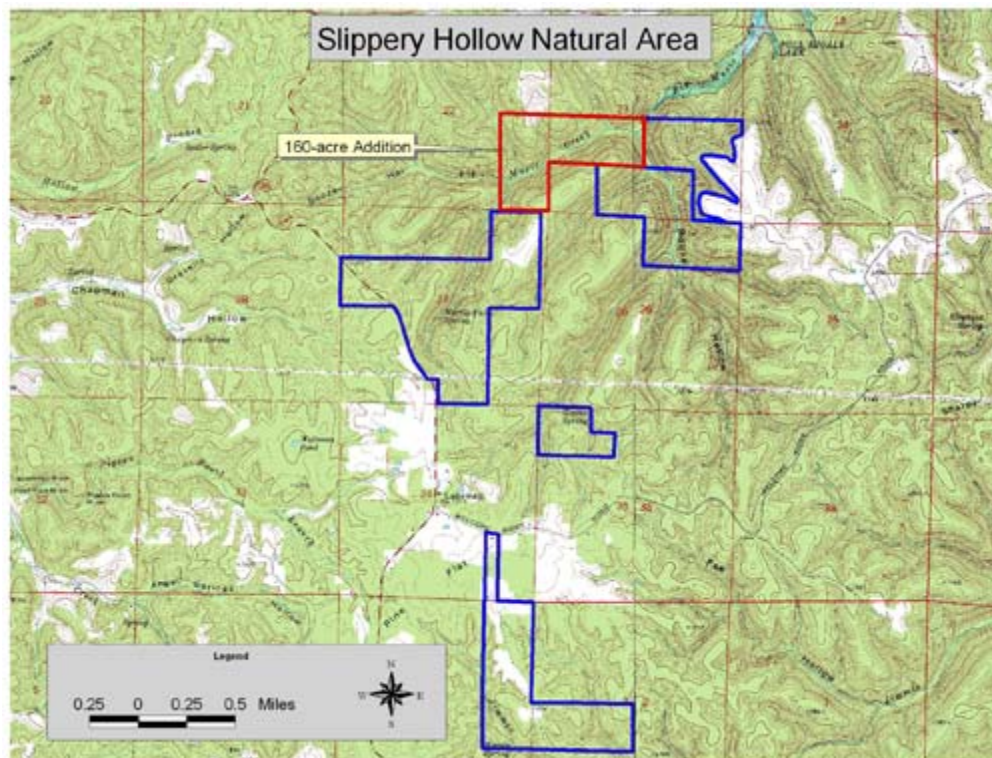
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What's New

New Tract at Slippery Hollow

[Bryan Rupar](#), ANHC Chief of Acquisitions and Stewardship



ANHC recently closed on an additional 160 acres at [Slippery Hollow Natural Area](#), bringing the grand total to 995 acres. Located near Yellville in Marion County, this new property connects two previously unconnected portions of the existing natural area. The natural area is within the Ozark karst ecosystem which hosts a diverse array of 62 organisms adapted to cave and karst habitats and found no where else in the world. Three areas of caves in the Arkansas and Oklahoma Ozarks sustain the world's population of the Ozark big-eared bat. The Slippery Hollow cave system is the eastern anchor to this suite of caves. See images of Slippery Hollow Natural Area [here](#).

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DAH Legislative Breakfast

[Jane Jones-Schulz](#), ANHC Education & Information Coordinator



ANHC staff discuss Fernwood Seep Natural Area with state representative Nate Bell from Mena.

ANHC recently participated in a special breakfast event from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. hosted by the [Department of Arkansas Heritage](#) (DAH) for the members of the 88th General Assembly in the department's collection management facility at 1000 LaHarpe Boulevard in Little Rock. On Thursday, January 13, members of the Arkansas State Legislature got a chance to tour behind the scenes at the facility used for off-site storage for the museums and agencies of DAH. Living history characters pointed out unique items from the museums' collections while the heritage resource agencies, including ANHC, had a chance to display publications and maps illustrating their impacts around the state. A few hardy legislators braved the sub-freezing temperatures to view demonstrations with ANHC's research and stewardship equipment housed at the facility.

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ANHC and Arkansas Master Naturalists

[Jonelle Doughty](#), ANHC Public Information Specialist



Dec. 15, 2010 Clean-up Crew

ANHC partners with a number of different government agencies, non-profits, and educators for everything from the stewardship and acquisition of natural areas to increasing the ecoliteracy of Arkansans. The [Arkansas Master Naturalist](#) program is one of our important eco-education partners. Master Naturalists are dedicated to their mission—to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of

natural resources and natural areas within their communities. They have logged thousands of hours of volunteer service since their inception in 2006. [Click here](#) to read more about ANHC's partnership with this great organization.

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Natural Features

Exploring Ecoregions

[Jane Jones-Schulz](#), ANHC Education & Information Coordinator



As part of learning and understanding information, most people go through a process of sorting similar facts into groups. Ecologists are no different, and one of their major tools for sorting or classifying information is “ecoregions.” Ecoregions are geographical areas defined by their distinctive natural features such as soil, geology, climate, and plants and animals that live there. Ecoregions can vary, based on the scale under consideration. For example, Arkansas Educational Frameworks address six main ecoregions or natural divisions: the Ozark Mountains, the Ouachita Mountains, the Coastal Plain, the Arkansas Valley, the Mississippi Alluvial Plain (Delta) and Crowley’s Ridge. Much of

our educational outreach focuses on these six main ecoregions – not just for school-age students, but also life-long learners, such as the Master Naturalist workshops listed in this month’s calendar.

Ecologists who regularly study the landscape of Arkansas work with as many as 32 different ecoregions, and the more we learn about our state, the more we understand the unique features that define these areas. During 2011, we are going to explore some of the lesser-known ecoregions of our state through articles in this e-newsletter and other informational materials. Our first focus is blackland prairies and includes an article in the January issue of *Arkansas Wild* as well as an [in-depth discussion guide](#) available as a download from our website.

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Battles and Blackland Prairies

[Jane Jones-Schulz](#), ANHC Education & Information Coordinator



Confederate marker at Prairie De Ann.

With the start of the new year 2011, the Department of Arkansas Heritage is beginning its focus on the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The museums of DAH will showcase amazing artifacts and information throughout the year and, along with staff from the [Arkansas Historic Preservation Program](#), are part of the [Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission](#). Battlefields around the state will be highlighted as we look to better understand that period of our state's history. Why did certain areas become the site of conflict? How did that place affect the outcome of the battle? How did the land affect the lives of the men in battle? Information collected through ANHC's ecological surveys can help to answer some of these questions. [Follow this link](#) to read about civil war battles in southwest Arkansas's blackland prairies.

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Restoration in the Blacklands

[Jonelle Doughty](#), ANHC Public Information Specialist



Terre Noire Natural Area in bloom.

[Terre Noire Natural Area](#) in Clark County became a part of Arkansas's System of Natural Areas in 1991. It has grown from 76 to 493 acres and is owned and managed by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). This natural area is one of the highest-quality examples of the blackland prairie ecosystem remaining in the state. But decades of fire suppression have altered species composition and prairie/savanna/woodland structure on newly acquired portions of this natural area. Eastern red-cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) has crept onto prairies, and woodlands and savannas have become too dense. [Follow this link](#) to learn about restoration efforts at Terre Noire.

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Calendar of Events

January 22, 2011

1:00 pm

ANHC Education and Information Coordinator Jane Jones-Schulz will conduct a two hour training session on Arkansas ecoregions for the [River Valley Master Naturalists](#) at Lake Dardanelle State Park.

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January 29, 2011

9:00am

ANHC Public Information Specialist Jonelle Doughty will discuss Public Land Management with [Central Arkansas Master Naturalists'](#) new trainees at the Central Arkansas Nature Center.

9:00 am

ANHC Education and Information Coordinator Jane Jones-Schulz will conduct a two hour training session on Arkansas ecoregions for the [North Central Arkansas Master Naturalists](#) at Bull Shoals State Park.

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February 3-4, 2011

The 2011 Arkansas TWS (The Wildlife Society) spring meeting will be held February 3-4 at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, AR. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Attendees are encouraged to mail [the attached registration form](#) (with appropriate registration fees) to Cory Gray by January 28. Registration will also be accepted on-site beginning at 12 p.m. on February 3.

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February 8, 2011

10:00am

The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission will hold its first commission meeting of 2011 on February 8th at 10:00 am. The commission will meet at The Nature Conservancy's office at 601 North University Avenue in Little Rock, AR. Other details TBA.

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February 12, 2011

1:00-3:00pm

ANHC Chief of Research Bill Holimon will teach a bird identification course to [Diamond Lakes Master Naturalists](#) at DeGray Lake Resort State Park.

March 17, 2011

7:00pm

ANHC Chief of Research Bill Holimon will present to [Central Arkansas Master Naturalists](#) at their monthly meeting.

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April 16, 2011

All day

ANHC botanist Theo Witsell will be conducting training sessions in the classroom and in the field for [Central Arkansas Master Naturalists](#).

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