



IN THIS ISSUE

[Do You Have Spring Fever?](#) [Warren Prairie 2nd Largest Natural Area](#)
[Who Cares About Endangered Species?](#) [The Big Picture for a Tiny Plant](#)

Do You Have Spring Fever?



If so, we recommend a dose of the outdoors! Did you know that 15 of our natural areas have established trails? From easy, paved loops at urban natural areas like [Lorance Creek](#) and [Byrd Lake](#) (above), to the primitive and challenging 14-mile [River Corridor Trail](#) at [Cossatot River State Park – Natural Area](#), we’ve got something for everyone. Our new trails program coordinator, Toby Von Rembow, has been working on downloadable trail maps that will be on our website soon. And stay tuned for updates on new trails throughout the System of Natural Areas! In the meantime, learn about [Visiting a Natural Area](#) and find a trail near you.

[Back to top](#)



Warren Prairie 2nd Largest Natural Area



Left to right: swamp blueberry (*Vaccinium virgatum*) and dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*).

Warren Prairie is one of a kind, and it recently became the second largest in the System of Natural Areas. With 4,555 acres of salt slick barrens, open pine woodlands, bottomland hardwood forests and more, it protects habitat for 20+ rare species. Its working forests provide jobs in the community, and the varied landscapes offer Arkansans a number of outdoor activities. Hunters, birders, and botanists frequent Warren Prairie Natural Area for the abundance of flora and fauna that can be found there. Our success at Warren Prairie is due to a variety of partnerships and grant opportunities that sprung from the diversity within its boundaries. Our most recent acquisition of 175 acres was made possible through a partnership with [The Nature Conservancy](#) and funds from the [Forest Legacy Program](#). Learn more about Warren Prairie Natural Area [here](#).

[Back to top](#)



Who Cares About Endangered Species?



Red-cockaded Woodpecker (left) and eastern prairie fringed orchid (right), both 2010 winners.

Based on the 1,679 entries in [last year's](#) Arkansas Endangered Species Day Art Contest, our state's K-12 students care about them. The contest, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office](#), is more than just fun. Participants learn about our state's rare, threatened and endangered species as well as the habitats they require for survival. Do you know a young artist or want to teach your children about endangered species? Contest entries must be postmarked by April 29th, and Endangered Species Day is May 20th. Find information and resources for both [here](#).



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Can you name one of Arkansas's federally listed species? Comment on our Facebook page for a chance to win a Caddo Mountain salamander can coolie. Rules and more information available by [following this link](#).

[Back to top](#)

The Big Picture for a Tiny Plant



Left to right: geocarpon growing on the edge of a salt slick, distribution of geocarpon in U.S.

Geocarpon (*Geocarpon minimum*) may only grow to be 1-4 cm tall, but as a federally threatened plant, it's a big deal. It is very particular about where it grows, so habitat destruction and alteration have contributed greatly to its threatened status. However, there is good news! Since being listed in 1987, significant progress has been made to protect geocarpon habitat. The plant is even approaching the possibility of being delisted. In Arkansas, geocarpon is only known to occur in the saline soil barrens found in the Coastal Plain and Arkansas Valley natural divisions. ANHC currently protects the Coastal Plain populations in perpetuity. Read [this article](#) to learn more about this unique, threatened plant and our work to help it recover.

[Back to top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't forget to check out our Upcoming Events! *Read about AR Audubon Society's summer ecology camps for 11-12 year olds, a Vegetation of the Ozarks conference, ANHC's next commission meeting, and more!* [Follow this link for information.](#)

[Back to top](#)



Did you enjoy a particular story? Do you have a question for one of our experts? We love hearing from you! Send general questions, comments, and concerns to arkansas@naturalheritage.org. Individual article authors can be emailed by clicking their byline under article titles. Let us know what you think!



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