2018 ______ Speaker Series



Investing in Water Supply Protection in NWA It's good for business, agriculture, recreation, nature, and you!

TOPIC: Restoration and Management of Public & Private Lands

Thursday, August 30 from 11:30 am to 1 pm

11:30 am - 12 pm Free Lunch & Networking

12 pm - 1 pm Speaker Series Program

1

LOCATION UPDATE: <u>Program Location:</u> West Fork Library Hall 210 Garfield Ave. West Fork, AR

Northwest Arkansas' cities and communities large and small can benefit from the Beaver Watershed Alliance speaker series *Investing in Water Supply Protection in NWA*.

This quarterly speaker series, presented by Joe Woolbright and Joe Neal, will discuss the design, implementation & maintenance challenges for restoring and managing public and private lands and the ecological results from local projects. Prairies, wetlands and forests help to filter stormwater and provide valuable ecosystem services to not only the watershed, but also to the public and wildlife.

Ecological restoration encompasses a vast array of techniques, tools and methods. And while no two restoration projects are ever the same, an understanding of procedures and the issues associated with ecological decision making are critical to success. The emphasis of this workshop is on common process, planning used in ecological management and tools used in different regions or types of restoration such as prairie and wetland restoration, prescribed fire and others. By providing a strong foundation in project management and planning that addresses the major phases of ecological restoration projects, attendees will come away with the necessary skills to address most of the issues and challenges of conducting a restoration project and an understanding of how to chart a path that will enhance the likelihood of a successful project.

Joe Woolbright is a retired general contractor. He founded Ozark Ecological Restoration Inc. (OERI) in 1998. They are a 501 (c) (3) education based non-profit. OERI's mission statement is "Restoring unique Ozark natural communities to pre-settlement condition." They have affected approx. 12,000 acres since their inception and currently provide ecological stewardship for 45 sites on 6,000 acres of public and private lands. They specialize in, but are not limited to, Tall Grass Prairie and grassland restoration.

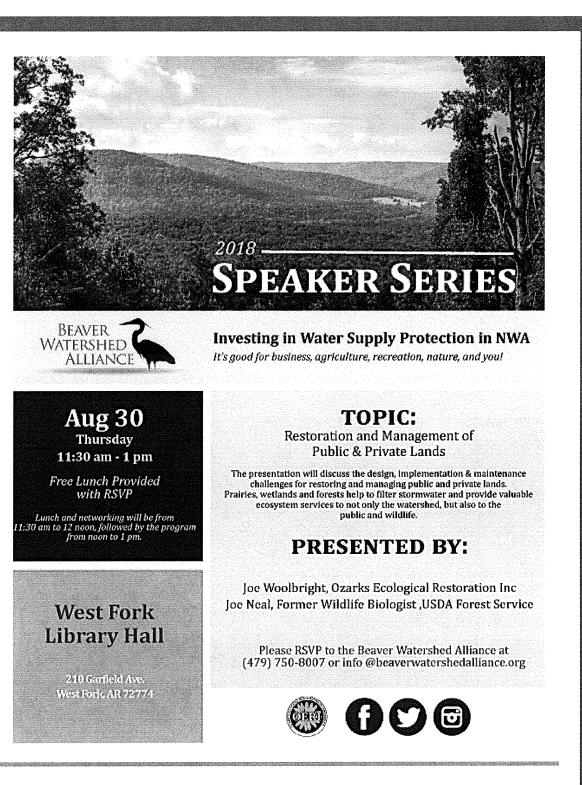
Joe Neal, Ornithologist, will cover the results of restoration efforts as to the effect on grassland bird populations. Neal is the author of The Birdside Baptist and co-author of Arkansas Birds and History of Washington County Arkansas. He has worked as a biologist for three decades, including 17 years in the USDA Forest Service as a wildlife biologist working to restore the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker in the Ouachita Mountains. Now retired from the Forest Service, he is active in both Arkansas Audubon Society and Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society. He writes and records commentaries for "Ozarks at Large," a feature on KUAF, is a Visiting Scholar in the University of Arkansas, and writes a local bird column for the Washington County Observer.

A free lunch will be provided and networking will be from 11:30 am to 12 noon. The program will be from 12 noon to 1 pm.

Since Beaver Lake supplies 1 in 7 or nearly a half million people with clean drinking water, provides over forty million tourism and recreation dollars for the local economy, and is the key factor to a successful future in the region, BWA developed this quarterly speaker series to share the rationale behind investing in watershed protection activities today that can benefit our entire region tomorrow. The series name, *Investing in Water Supply Protection in NWA: It's good for business, agriculture, recreation, nature, and you,* reflects these goals.

This is a free program, and lunch is included. Please RSVP by calling BWA at 750-8007 or email at info@beaverwatershedalliance.org.

BWA is a non-profit organization focused on maintaining high quality drinking water in Beaver Lake and improving water quality within the Beaver Lake Watershed.



About Beaver Watershed Alliance

BWA was formed in 2011 to proactively protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed through outreach and education, voluntary best management practice implementation, and scientific investigation. BWA represents a diverse stakeholder group from conservation, education, water utilities, technical and science, agriculture, recreation, business, and local government groups working together for the goal of clean water.



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