

Thursday's Field Experiences

Eco-Friendly Development

Don Curran, Resource Recovery and Recycling Coordinator for **Virco Mfg. Corporation** will lead a complete tour of the grounds and ecosystems at the Virco Mfg. Corporation Plant 2. The tour will look at specific wetland areas, an extensive creek, and various environmentally, friendly locations that have been specifically landscaped in order to return the property to its natural environment. The construction design was to return the land, not

See how business facilities can co-exist with nature in an environmentally, friendly manner.



A creek was constructed adjacent to the Virco facility to provide aesthetics and habitat.

occupied by the building, to a natural area for native wildlife which reside on the property. Mr. Curran plans to discuss how the farmland was transformed into a manufacturing facility without losing sight of the environment.

On the second leg of the tour, Gerald Cound, Heifer International World Headquarters Facilities Director, will lead participants on a site visit to the Heifer International World Headquarters development site located next to the Clinton Library in downtown Little Rock. Mr. Cound will go over the details involved in the planning and the high and low points of the project. He will share with participants the objectives and goals for the site development and go over Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) point activity for all water conservation activity. Participants will be able to see all that has been completed thus far in the development of the site.



Once completed, the Heifer International World Headquarters site will be a model of sustainable architecture and design that both developers and environmentalists can appreciate.

Bayou Bartholomew Watershed and the Delta Rivers Nature Center

Dr. Bill Layher, Bayou Bartholomew Alliance Watershed Coordinator, will lead this field experience session to the Governor Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff. Participants will be able to tour the facility, view the 20,000 gallon aquarium and learn about the unique history and ecosystems of Arkansas' Delta region.

An interpretive walk along the newly completed Bayou Bartholomew Nature Trail will provide an educational look at the native flora and fauna of the region.

The field session will include a look at best management practices (BMPs) including: filter strips, Riparian Reforestation, streambank stabilization, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) projects, and field erosion controls implemented in the Bayou Bartholomew watershed.



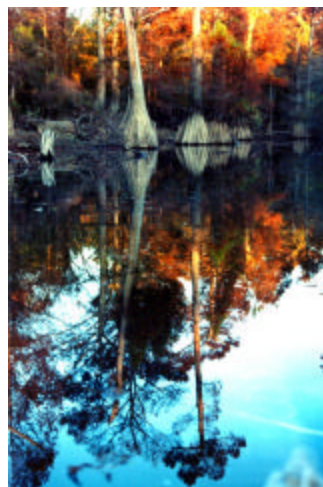
Native bottomland hardwoods dominate the banks of the Bayou.

Ecosystems in Your Watershed

One of the nation's largest urban wetlands, Fourche Creek drains 108,000 acres of Little Rock and surrounding areas. Its meandering channel braids and connects numerous ecosystems within the watershed. Tom Foti, Chief of Research with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, and Ken Smith, Executive Director of Audubon Arkansas, will lead participants through three main ecosystems present in the Fourche Creek Watershed and identify characteristics specific to each.

Participants will find themselves in an **Upland Hardwood Forest, Bottomland Hardwood Forest, and Wetlands**. They will see a Savannah Forest that has the largest White Oak stand in

Little Rock containing some Shortleaf Pine more than 125 years old, a Nepheline Syenite glade unique to the area, and a pristine wetland relatively untouched by development.



Cypress trees on Fourche Creek

This field session will focus on the geography, plant and animal communities, geology, and hydrology of these three ecosystems. Mr. Foti and Mr. Smith will share their knowledge, education, and experience with participants to help them identify different ecosystems and better understand how each functions as a whole. Be sure to bring along a camera to capture the unique beauty of Fourche Creek.