

MULBERRY RIVER SOCIETY NEWS

<https://www.facebook.com/mulberryriversociety> | <http://mulberryriversociety.org/>

2022 Conservation

MRS is still planning to partner with US Forest Service for repairs after flooding in 2021, at the Redding Campground pier, that dislodged the capstone of the upper deck.

Newly Approved Projects

Repair High Bank, Indian Creek flood damage with crushed rock.

Cargo Trailer for MRS property storage and event transportation.

Volunteers of the Year

2019 - Pam Byrd/Debbie Stillwell

2020 - Ricky Murphy

2021 - Jacob Gould

What's Happening 2022!



VOLUNTEER EVENT - FREE FOOD & PRIZES CANOE RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE BELOW
No Ticket purchases are required to participate in event

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU MARCH 5TH 2022 @
THE 31ST ANNUAL MULBERRY
RIVER CLEAN UP FOR JAMBALAYA
AND CORN CHOWDER!**

**RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
ONLINE
BY FEBRUARY 1ST 2022!**

**STAY POSTED TO OUR
FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE
<https://fb.me/e/4akHugeon>
AND WEBPAGE
<http://mulberryriversociety.org/>**



2019

MRS participated in 2 education events: Woods and Watersheds April 26th on Mulberry Mtn, and Wild and Scenic Rivers November 1st at Byrd's Adventure Center with many other organizations with 12 NWA Schools in partnership with Native Expeditions.

Woods, Watersheds, and Wildlife Education Events - highlights available here:

<http://www.nativeexpeditions.org/index.html>

MRS adopted a 1 mile stretch of Hwy 215 from Redding Campground East towards Byrds Adventure Center.



Kara Medsker initiated, and Robin Gregory wrote proposal to award MRS with a \$1500 Keep America Beautiful Grant for Cigarette Litter Prevention working with 7 NWA Schools in education and local businesses to disperse portable ashtrays at Turner Bend, Oak Cafe, and Byrd's Adventure Center. Cigarette Clean Ups were initiated throughout Summer/Fall.



Community Education/Stewardship

Cigarette Litter Prevention

Program

Oark Middle/High School
Ozark High School - ENVI Science
Clarksville High school - AGRI
Mulberry High School - EAST
Cedarville High School - EAST
Lamar High School - EAST



Cigarette Litter and Micro-Trash Clean Ups Summer/Fall 2019

1. Multiple US Forest Service access locations - Wolf Pen, High Bank, Indian Creek 6/29/19
2. Starbucks Partners @ Byrds Adventure Center 9/15/19
3. Turner Bend Outfitter (Mulberry HS)- 10/14
4. Redding USFS Campground/Indian Creek (Ozark HS) -10/15
5. Wolf Pen USFS Campground/High Bank access (Oark HS) -10/16

Spring Turner Bend Clean up - March 2nd

6. Lamar HS - Lower Mulberry access locations

Fall Byrd's Wild and Scenic River Education Event

Nov. 1st Clean Up - Nov. 2nd

7. 6 Participating Schools/8 agencies & organizations



January 13, 2022

Appreciation and Recreation

Spring Turner Bend Clean up - February 29th

The 29th Annual Spring Mulberry River Clean up in 2020 was the biggest event to date with over 300 participants. It was a beautiful day with musicians "The Birthday Boyz" to bring on a happy diverse crowd of folks and families from all over Northwest Arkansas!! So many compliments rained in from all over on social media and at the event.Then Covid!

When recreation became the escape of the majority during the Spring and Summer of 2020, our Wild and Scenic Mulberry River had closed USFS campgrounds. Yet as soon as some were able to open, the public flooded the river to relieve stress, get out of the house from lock down and enjoy the river.



2020

With a nudge from Robin... Cedarville HS EAST student Hayley Garrett, MRS had a new logo made with the theme proposed "Protect the Critters... Keep Litter Out of the River"! We also had a wonderful offer to print new MRS shirts from Ronnies Screen printing.

MRS member Pam Byrd-Boulden, stressed the need for paddlers to have signage at river access locations. Therefore with a portion of funds included in a Conservation Education grant from the US Forest Service, written through Native Expeditions, to partner with MRS for installation of signs our river community was able to make a big impact for river information and safety!

Fall Byrd's Clean up - November 7th

This event provided the opportunity to install many of the river signs with teams at 10 access locations. We did our best to stay safe and still partner with Arkansas Tech Environmental Science Club and Starbucks Partners from Fayetteville to get the job done while stacking up a lot of trash/tires for Jacob Gould to take back to GreenSource Recycling!!



2021

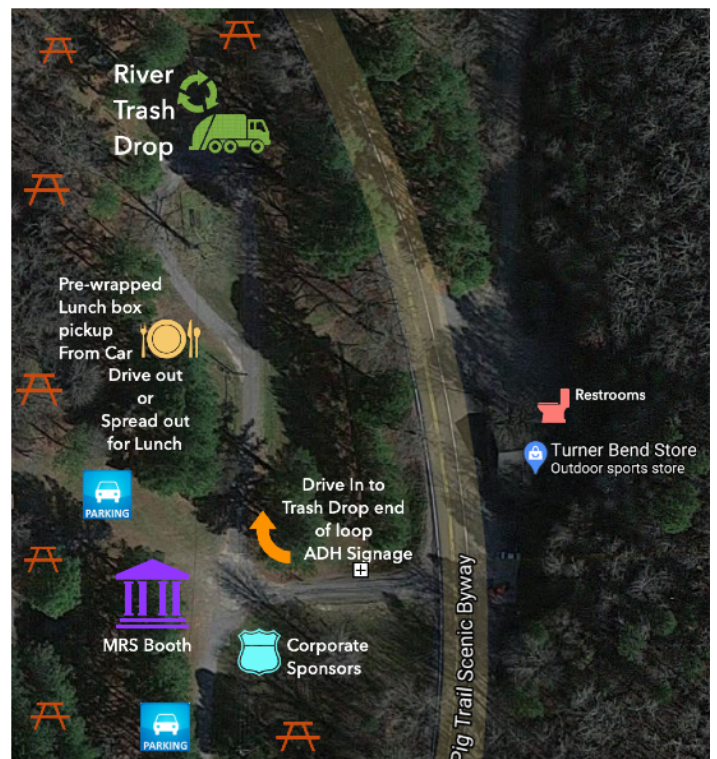
MRS presses on with business to collaborate with stakeholders like the US Forest Service and the AR Dept of Transportation in regards to proposed construction projects at High Bank, new Turner Bend bridge.

The US Forest Service is working on a delayed timeline of original proposed projects both at High Bank and locations downriver.

MRS decided we could not adhere to all of the historic guidelines and funding necessary for preservation of the old Turner Bend Bridge and it will be demolished in 2022/23.

Spring Turner Bend Clean up - March 6th 2021

The continuation of Covid required development of a new safety guidelines at our event. We rose to the challenge and an alternate location, complete with an event map to streamline trash drop off and box lunch pick-up was born! A new alternative to picking up volunteer prizes was also made to match your ticket to a table to pick up at a "as you arrive basis" instead of waiting to have a name called to match a random prize.



Fall Byrd's Clean up - November 6th

This event had a small dedicated number of volunteers though the amount of trash was not as evident as in past clean ups. However there are still locations where things have been dumped, that have been scouted out for the next clean up to come. But a good time and nice lunch provided by Byrd's was enjoyed by all!