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Why am I getting this?

You are receiving this newsletter because you live, work, or own property in the Lake Fayetteville Watershed. This means that you are a watershed stakeholder!

Tú estás recibiendo esta carta porque tú vives, trabajas, o tienes una propiedad en la cuenca del Lago Fayetteville. Por favor contácteme Colin Massey (cmassey@uaex.edu) para una copia de esta carta en español. Nosotros también proveemos consulta GRATIS en la casa con respeto a la calidad del agua, muestreo de suelos de su jardín y del césped, inundaciones, o cualquier otro problema de agricultura.

The Lake Fayetteville Watershed is ten square miles of Fayetteville, Springdale, and rural areas of Washington County that drain into Lake Fayetteville. Bacteria, excess nutrients, and sediment limit Lake Fayetteville’s recreational uses. Stormwater draining from urban areas carrying automotive fluids, pet waste and other pollutants, is not treated and goes directly into creeks and streams. Our goal is to work with all stakeholders to protect th water resource.

Spring is right around the corner!

Although the winter weather is still fresh on everyone’s mind, springtime will be here before you know it. As you begin to think about plans for your lawn and garden, outdoor recreation, and other home activities, keep in mind what you can do to help **improve water quality** and limit the impacts to **your neighbors downstream**.

One way that you can start protecting water quality now is by properly disposing of pet waste. I have already talked to several people in the watershed who have been concerned with people leaving their dog’s poop on the trail or around the park. As you may recall, some recreation on Lake Fayetteville is limited because of bacteria from pet waste left on the ground, including backyards, that gets carried across the watershed during rain events. The good news is that the solution is just a simple step that can have big impacts on water quality.

If you haven’t contacted me yet but would like to be involved in improving the water quality of Lake Fayetteville, give me a call at the Extension Office (479-444-1755) or email cmassey@uaex.edu. We offer FREE home consultations regarding water quality, concerns about stream erosion, loss of land, flooding, soil testing, and home gardening. Or, if you just want to know more about urban water quality or hear about some upcoming events at Lake Fayetteville, please get in touch with me and I’ll be happy to visit with you.



Above, examples of best management practices

Ways You Can Make A Difference

- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste
- Keep waste from entering storm drains
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste
- Compost food and yard waste
- Recycle used motor oil
- Test soil before fertilizing
- Reduce runoff with a rain barrel or divert gutters away from paved surfaces
- Plant a streamside buffer
- Cover bare soil with plants or grass

These **best management practices**, or **BMPs**, are simple steps that can make all the difference in keeping our watershed clean.

David Chapman Documents Lake Fayetteville's Winter Birds



Above, a Bald Eagle on alert above Lake Fayetteville

To receive electronic newsletters email cmassey@uaex.edu

All meetings and activities in this newsletter are offered to all interested persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the Washington County Extension Service as soon as possible prior to the

Winter strikes northwest Arkansas with a vengeance but Lake Fayetteville remains one of the few lakes in our area to retain some open water. Bald eagles keep a wary eye on the coots which swim in ever tighter flocks in the hope that they will not be the bird's next breakfast. A pelican, tired from its long journey from the north, lands on the ice. The lagoon at the east end of the lake provides a welcome sanctuary for ducks where many species may be encountered. At the height of a snowstorm in February, ten species could be counted including mallard, gadwall, shoveler, pintail, ring-necked duck, wigeon, the less common hooded merganser and others already decked out in their breeding plumage. This winter several rarities were present at Lake Fayetteville including three juvenile trumpeter swans that spent much of their time feeding in pasture north of the interstate but kept returning to Lake Fayetteville once the ground was frozen over. The spotted towhee is another rarity, the western relative of our eastern towhee, and joins a tree sparrow and many other small birds frantically pecking sunflower seeds at a nearby feeder. Cooper's hawk is a small raptor that eyes all this activity, a tempting target for a bird that can flash fast through the branches in pursuit of its prey. At dusk a woodcock ventures out into the long grass ready for its aerobatic breeding display. Fields near the environmental center are known regionally as a preferred site for this rarely seen wader, a shorebird that prefers woodland. Many of our winter birds live a precarious existence and natural areas like Lake Fayetteville provide an essential respite from adversity. Lake Fayetteville is the jewel in the Fayetteville parks system providing recreation for our citizens and a home for our feathered friends. By helping maintain water quality the Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership (LFWP) is committed to maintaining this healthy environment.

David Chapman is a University of Arkansas Professor of Poultry Science, Lake Fayetteville Watershed resident, and LFWP member. He also is the author of an upcoming project titled "The Bird Life of Lake Fayetteville". Photos kindly provided by David Oakley.



Above, Trumpeter Swans navigate the lake



Above, a Spotted Towhee foraging