



Cache River Restoration Phase I Complete



As barges drifted slowly away and heavy equipment fell silent, a significant part of conservation history came to completion in late June - and a 4.6 mile stretch of the Cache River was restored to its old meanders! Since concerned citizens and conservation organizations stopped the ditching project along the lower Cache River over four decades ago, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, the City of Clarendon, and other partners have planned and plotted restoration of the 7 miles of ditched river. The first phase of that restoration is now complete through a project with the Corps of Engineers. Returning the Cache to its meandering course will convey significant benefits to the natural hydrology of the adjacent floodplain and floodplain-dependent wildlife. Partners already are assembling a plan to complete the restoration on the remaining channelized lower section. For more information, go to <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/arkansas/index.htm>.

Three MAV NAWCA Standard Grant Proposals Move Closer to Funding

All three North American Wetlands Conservation Act Standard Grant proposals submitted by LMJV partners for the FY15-01 funding window have been recommended by the NAWCA Council for funding approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which will meet in September. All the partners who are contributing to these projects are to be commended for assembling viable local partnerships and fundable proposals. The projects are as follows:

Wham Brake Hydrology Enhancement (LA) project will restore and permanently protect 4,950 acres of prime wetland habitat in Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes. Paul Link is the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries project officer.

Arkansas MAV Protection, Restoration and Enhancement II will permanently protect 498 acres (along with 1,206 acres in Phase I) of wetland within the Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA and adjoining the Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA, in addition to restoration on three additional public areas, including White River NWR. The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission project officer is Luke Naylor.

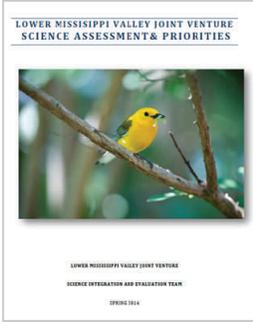
West Tennessee Wetlands Enhancement Project will conserve 2,441 acres of wetland habitat across Dyer, Fayette, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, and Shelby counties in West Tennessee. Tim Willis is the Ducks Unlimited project officer.

Pine Woodland Management for Birds Featured in *Birder's Guide Magazine*

Staff from three southeastern Joint Ventures collaborated to author an article in *Birder's Guide Magazine's* May edition, entitled ***Pine Woodlands: Restoring the Woodlands of the Past for the Birds of the Future***. Jane Fitzgerald, Central Hardwoods JV Coordinator; Keith McKnight, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Coordinator; and Catherine Rideout, East Gulf Coastal Plain JV Coordinator provided a brief history and descriptions of ongoing partnership activities on behalf of conservation of native pine woodland habitat across the southeast. Work of each Joint Venture as well as broader partnership efforts across shortleaf pine and longleaf pine geographies are hi-lighted. The article can be downloaded from www.lmvjv.org, and the full issue is available at <http://bg.aba.org/i/330390>.



Science Team Meets to Establish LMJV Science Priorities



The LMJV Science Coordination, Integration, and Evaluation Team met at Gumbo Flats near Lambert, MS, in late May to begin finalizing our Science Priorities for the next five years. A draft Science Priorities document, which identifies the major areas of science need and describes specific questions and assumptions in need of addressing, was developed and is currently under review and revision. The document will be ready for Management Board review prior to our 22 October Fall business meeting in Destin, FL.

Interactive Land Ownership Database Up and Helping in the MAV!

Thanks to funding from the Walton Family Foundation, the expertise of USGS National Wetlands Research Center, and hosting and support provided by Ducks Unlimited, the MAV Landowner Parcel Database was released in March, 2014. The database and web application has been developed in support of the conservation outreach and coordination interest of the LMJV Partnership and is intended to provide field biologist and planners with spatially-specific private land ownership data (to include parcel boundary, name, and address information) within the MAV of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi to assist in targeting area specific conservation goals and objectives. More information can be found on our web site at:

http://www.lmvjv.org/Pages/Tools/MAV_Landowner_DB.htm



CDNs, Working Ag Lands, and the New RCPP

The LA/MS Conservation Delivery Network's (CDN), Working Ag Lands Work Group recently hosted a field day in the central Mississippi Delta to better acquaint CDN members with water quality, quantity and soil protection practices being implemented on working lands. The well attended outing was highly informative and provided great insights into how current, state-of-the-art irrigation and water management practices are being implemented to address these priority conservation concerns in the Mississippi Delta. As importantly, the on-site visits provided valuable opportunities to observe the integration of beneficial wildlife habitat within these systems through strategic use of Farm Bill programs and practices. The Field Day also provided an effective platform for asking questions and discussing additional strategies for enhancing wildlife habitat on Ag working lands. The recently chartered Tri-state Conservation Coordination Committee currently is coordinating with key NRCS personnel, utilizing a CDN based sub-committee, in the development of a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposal that will target innovation in the integration of wildlife habitat on working lands.

