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Acknowledgment of the major sponsors of the Academy: Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission; Ouachita National Forest

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MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS

The Arkansas Academy of Science is an essential component in the science, technology, engineering and math pipeline for Arkansas. As a coalition of Arkansas scientists, it provides a local vehicle for presentation and publication of early scientific accomplishments in Arkansas. By promoting the work of Arkansas students, the Academy increases collaboration among the scientific community and provides a comprehensive network for scientific academics. These endeavors promote a higher standard of education within Arkansas and will encourage and promote a higher quality of life through educational opportunities.

As an integral part of the development and promotion of the Academy's mission, we wish to recognize the commitment and continued support of our Institutional Sponsors, The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and the Ouachita National Forest.

ARKANSAS NATURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION



Since 1973, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) has been working to conserve Arkansas's natural landscape. ANHC conducts research to determine which elements (species and natural communities) are most in need of protection. Field inventory documents the locations of elements of conservation concern. Information is also gathered from other sources, such as herbarium and museum collection records, and scientific publications such as the *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science*. ANHC's current strategic planning goals include working to expand the ecological literacy of Arkansans. The Arkansas Academy of Science is a critical partner in helping to address this goal and, in the long term, protect the natural heritage of our state. For more information about the ANHC research, inventory and protection efforts, including the System of Natural Areas around the state, visit the agency website at www.naturalheritage.com. Here is a link to the current newsletter featuring our support info as well. <http://www.naturalheritage.com/enews/archive.aspx?mid=13361>.

OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST



Stretching from near the center of Arkansas to southeast Oklahoma, the pristine 1.8 million acre Ouachita National Forest is the South's oldest national forest, established on December 18, 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Rich in history, the rugged Ouachita Mountains were first explored in 1541, by Hernando DeSoto's party of Spaniards. French explorers followed, flavoring the region with names like Fourche la Pave River. "Ouachita" is the French spelling of the Native American word "Washita" which means "good hunting grounds." The Forest's ecosystem management policy guarantees its management regime as an ecological approach, based upon the most current knowledge and best science, for providing multiple benefits from the Forest and encouraging careful use of the forest for the future. The research local to Arkansas and the Forest published by the *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* is critical to informing and supporting appropriate management decisions, environmental assessments and biological evaluations. The Ouachita National Forest extends support of the Academy's efforts through this sponsorship.

For more information about the Forest, visit our webpage at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/ouachita>.