



# WATERSHED NEWS

FOUNDATION

AUGUST 14, 2006

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The date for Secchi Day on Beaver Lake has been rescheduled to Saturday, August 26, 2006. For details, contact Suzanne Langley or Fran Free at [slangley@audubon.org](mailto:slangley@audubon.org) or [ffree@audubon.org](mailto:ffree@audubon.org) or call the Fayetteville Audubon office at 479-527-0700. Event co-sponsored by Beaver Water District and Audubon Arkansas

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## NIXA HOMES EVACUATED AFTER SINKHOLE SWALLOWS MAN'S GARAGE

By [Juliana Goodwin](#) Springfield News-Leader

Posted on August 14, 2006

URL: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060814/NEWS01/608140373/1007/NEWS01)

[leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060814/NEWS01/608140373/1007/NEWS01](http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060814/NEWS01/608140373/1007/NEWS01)

*Experts call massive sinkhole's size and sudden collapse unusual.*

Nixa --ÉAs Norm Scrivener finished the front section of his Sunday paper, a mammoth sinkhole swallowed his garage and the 2001 Chevy Cavalier inside.

"I thought a tornado had hit. I heard ripping and cracking," Scrivener said. "Then I thought a plane or drunk driver hit the house."

The garage ripped away from the house at 327 N. Delaware taking a chunk of roof and several feet of driveway with it.

At least six houses in the neighborhood were evacuated as geologists, engineers and emergency personnel surveyed the area.

The sinkhole had most people baffled and neighbors worried.

Neighbors watched as one official slowly climbed on all fours on a fire truck ladder, which extended horizontally over the gorge, to try to measure its depth.

The crater was 75 feet deep and 50 to 60 feet in diameter, Bob Pavlowsky, who teaches geography at Missouri State University, told a News-Leader photographer.

Sinkholes are common in the Ozarks, but the size of this hole is not, said Doug Gouzie, assistant professor of geology at Missouri State.

"This particular size of collapse and suddenness is uncommon," Gouzie said. "For ones I have seen around here this is probably one of the larger ones. It will take time to see how (it) ends up."

It will likely continue to collapse in the coming days, weeks and months, he said.

That morning

It sounded like thunder, said neighbor Carol Adkins, who watched part of the home disappear at around 8:30 a.m.

"I listened to what I thought was thunder for 15 minutes. The last rumble I heard sounded like it was on the ground. ... I looked outside and saw his garage falling. I never heard it hit the bottom," Adkins said.

Adkins called Scrivener, but he didn't answer.

"I was afraid. I didn't know if he was in the house or not," Adkins said.

Then she dialed 911 and while on the phone, watched part of his driveway disappear.

Adkins, who lives across the street, then got nervous and told the emergency dispatcher she wanted to move her car. She began to worry about gas lines.

"It was scary. It was like a mud slide. I mean if you were on the edge of it, you were gone, gone," Adkins said.

Matt Behlee, who lives two houses down, said it sounded like a wind storm. When he came outside, he saw Scrivener standing there looking at his yard and "sort of scratching his head."

Scrivener's parents built the house in 1968, and he purchased it three years ago after his father died.

When the garage disappeared, so did his father's fishing rod collection and tackle boxes, photo albums and Scrivener's scrapbooks.

"It's not the value; it's the more sentimental stuff," Scrivener said, looking at his home from behind yellow police tape.

Siding was torn away exposing yellow insulation. Shredded wires hung over the house and into the cavern.

Several feet of foundation extended over the sinkhole.

"I mowed the yard yesterday and there weren't any cracks or holes in the ground. It's a bizarre deal," said Scrivener.

#### Formation

Sinkholes are formed over time from 100 years to thousands of years, said Gouzie.

What happens is the limestone rock, common in the Ozarks, is very soluble and dissolves easily in water, Gouzie said.

The minerals tend to dissolve along the cracks in rock, creating caves, and water washes away soil from spaces in the rock, eroding over time.

"It's a long slow process. It's usually just a quick thing when some of it collapses through. There's usually some piece that works its way free at the last minute that collapses all at once," Gouzie said.

Sinkholes often tend to form along a line, which is what city planning and zoning departments look for when surveying property.

"It's very difficult to check for where one is forming," Gouzie said. "What they can look for is where ones already have formed. If they form along a line, if there is a cave that follows a crack in the rock, then sometimes we try and look for linear lines and sinkholes in the same direction. I think this one was a surprise to everybody."

Some people recommend "drilling" to try to detect if a sinkhole is forming under the land, but Gouzie said the chances of finding it are slim.

In 2005, according to a News-Leader story, in Greene County, the Planning and Zoning Department's geographical information system shows 2,633 sinkholes on its map.

#### Neighborhood

Scrivener had already talked to his insurance adjuster and learned his house would be a total loss. The cost of the house and its contents are covered, but not the land, which is where he has his equity, he said.

"It is what it is," he said.

Sister Tammy Lair was shocked this happened at the house she lived in for six years growing up. She now lives elsewhere in Nixa.

"This totally just blew my mind, you know," Lair said, sitting on a folding chair across the street.

Sipping a Big Gulp sized soda, she said her brother would either stay with her or with friends. He has numerous options.

"I am absolutely amazed the rest of the house hasn't fallen in," said Crystal Lair, Scrivener's niece.

But as Scrivener talked to friends and neighbors, he kept his sense of humor.

He has two Lotto tickets inside that house, which given his luck, are sure to be winners, Scrivener said.

And as if losing his car wasn't bad enough, it went down with a full tank of gas — \$22 worth.

"I just filled up last night," Scrivener said. "It couldn't do it when it was empty; it had to do it when it was full."

Scrivener was not allowed back into his home to collect any of his possessions.

Standing outside, sweating in 99 degree heat, he only had the clothes on his back.

Neighbors fared better. They were able to pack a few belongings before they had to evacuate in the morning.

"I got my car and my guns," Behlee said. "We'll see what happens next."

Bryan Newberry, assistant fire chief, didn't know when neighbors would be allowed back in their homes.

The sinkhole had eroded into one neighbor's yard, and Newberry thought this second house could "potentially" be affected.

"I worry about them condemning it," Behlee said, referring to his home. "It's a possibility. If it gets any wider or gets bigger."

Very unusual

Phil Amtower, Christian County emergency management director, had never seen anything like it.

"There are quite a few around the county in uninhabited places. As far as in the city, in a residential neighborhood, this is the first I know of," Amtower said.

It was also a first for Red Cross volunteer Karen Heil, who was passing out cold drinks and packing up lunches.

"They called and asked us to canteen for up to 50 workers," Heil said. "This is our first sinkhole. We had to call ... and ask ... what to do."

Marisa DeClue, spokesperson, said the Red Cross responded as it always does in an emergency, offering help with food, shelter and clothing.

Scrivener said he felt bad for his neighbors who were inconvenienced by all this.

Despite Nixa police and fire fighters asking people to stay away from the scene, there was a steady stream of visitors.

"We're getting lots of traffic, and people want to come by and see, but it just takes a lot more manpower and police effort and that costs money to direct traffic," Amtower said. "If they can stay away it would be most helpful."

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## **E. COLI LEVELS KEPT IN CHECK AT BELLA VISTA LAKES**

By Charles Huggins The Benton County Daily Record

Posted on August 13, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/bcdr/News/38343/>

BELLA VISTA — Villagers shouldn't worry about high E. coli levels as they take a dip in one of Bella Vista's seven lakes this summer.

Lakes Superintendent Rick Pearson regularly collects samples from each lake to be tested by an independent lab, Environmental Testing Group.

Pearson does come across high E. coli readings from time to time, but a short time later after another sample is analyzed, the readings tend to drop back to normal levels.

Pearson attributes the spike in readings due to the large number of Canada geese that inhabit the lakes. When the geese defecate in the lakes, it can cause a high concentration of E. coli.

"The geese are a problem at every location I take samples," Pearson said. "I know they're causing some of these high E. coli readings."

For example, high levels were observed this month at Lake Rayburn and Loch Lomond's Tiree Park. After a couple of retests, the E. coli was back to acceptable levels, which is 126 fecal coliform colonies per 100 milliliters of water.

Getting rid of the geese is a problem all to itself, Pearson said. The public would not look favorably on killing what many love to see when they visit a lake. Setting up nofeeding signs could discourage residents from encouraging the geese to stay in the same area.

Canada geese prefer short grass, so Pearson suggested lake-front residents let the grass along their shorelines grow high. Harassment techniques such as a fake owl could also scare the geese away.

The geese cannot be poisoned, Pearson said, and during hunting season, which starts in October, a person can kill up to two geese.

That would have to be done with a bow and arrow, because firearms cannot be used within the village's boundaries.

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## AERT PLANS NEW FACILITY NEAR WATTS, OKLA.

By Lana F. Flowers The Morning News

Posted on August 11, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2006/08/14/business/0812aertheating.txt>

Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies Inc. plans a new recycling facility in Watts, Okla.

Adair County, Okla. commissioners are scheduled to hold a public hearing at 10 a.m. Monday in Stilwell, Okla. to get comments on issuing waste minimization industrial revenue bonds.

The bonds would help finance construction of the Springdale-based company's newest plastic recycling and composite building materials facility.

AERT combines wood and plastic to manufacture decking, window and door components and other items.

The Adair County Economic Development Commission, Oklahoma state officials and representatives from the Cherokee Nation recently met with AERT representatives regarding the Watts facility, according to a news release.

Plans for the project are subject to regulatory approval, the release states.

It was not immediately known Friday how much the AERT plant would cost to build or how many jobs it might provide in the Watts area.

Bob Thayer, AERT chief financial officer, was out of the office Friday afternoon and the company did not have anyone else available to comment, said a woman who answered the telephone at AERT's Springdale headquarters.

However, the Watts area, about 7 miles from the Arkansas state line, likely could use the income boost from new jobs.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census reported the town had 323 people in 2003. Watts had a median household income of \$26,417, compared to the national median of \$41,994, according to 2000 Census reports.

Watts' per capita income was \$9,356 in 2000, compared with national per capita income of \$21,587, the Census reported.

AERT will release earnings for the second quarter, ended June 30, after stock markets close on Monday.

AERT is expected to provide additional information about the Watts facility in a second quarter earnings conference call at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday. The call will be Webcast at [www.aertinc.com](http://www.aertinc.com).

The company has a goal of increasing its recycling capacity by 15 percent this year. Joe G. Brooks, company co-chief executive officer, said in June that AERT in 2003 processed 110 million pounds of plastics through five lines. The company got more efficient by 2005 and processed 260 million pounds of plastic in three lines, Brooks previously said.

The planned Watts facility is the latest in a line of plant improvements and expansions:

Construction was finished in January on a 60,000-square-foot facility at 802 E. Huntsville Ave. in Springdale. Equipment testing and installation continued this summer. AERT expects the \$25 million plant to have 60 employees and operate four lines. That plant could generate \$100 million per year in sales, giving AERT the potential for \$200 million in annual company-wide sales.

A warehouse at 315 Lincoln St. in Lowell has 325,000 square feet, with an additional seven acres of outdoor storage. AERT began an expansion of the Lowell warehouse in 2004. The warehouse, with 60 employees, receives and stores raw materials and is a storage and distribution center for finished products.

A facility at 801 N. Jefferson St. in Springdale has 100,000 square feet and AERT began replacing old production equipment this summer.

AERT is studying the feasibility of building a facility to recycle municipal waste.

Brooks previously said the company also would like a facility to recycle wood, including used pallets and construction waste, within three years.

AERT also operates manufacturing and recycling facilities in Tontitown, Alexandria, La., and Junction, Texas.

Shares of AERT (NASDAQ: AERT) closed Friday at \$2.88, up 14 cents, or 5.11 percent. The price climbed higher in after-hours trading to \$3.25, up nearly 13 percent. In the past 52 weeks, the price ranged from a \$3.71 high to a \$1.20 low.

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## **DEVELOPERS SAY CITY'S FEES CREATE HIGH HOME PRICES**

BY MARSHA L. MELNICHAK Northwest Arkansas Times

Posted on August 13, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/43754/>

City-mandated fees add to the price of a home both directly and indirectly, and at least one developer thinks the city could help create more affordable housing by waiving some of the fees as incentive for building affordable or attainable homes.

The fees can be a cash amount such as water and sewer fees, or they can mean a reduction in land that can be used for home lots because the developer must set aside some the property for trees or parks, for example. Water retention and detention areas and the amount of land required for streets, easements and rights of way also reduce how much of a property can be used for development and add to the price of each structure.

“ The rich man’s fees are just the same as the poor man’s fees, ” said developer Tracy Hoskins of Paradigm Development.

A single-family house will likely have a building permit and inspection, plumbing, electrical and mechanical fees through Building Safety, according to Jeremy Pate, director of current planning.

Water and sewer impact fees are \$ 1, 143. The parkland dedication fee is \$ 960 for a new house in a new subdivision.

Homes built on lots platted long ago do not require additional park fees, he said.

Impact fees of \$ 233 for police and \$ 208 for fire are paid by those building homes in the city.

In Fayetteville, trees are also a fee consideration when building.

Builders are required to save 25 percent of the tree canopy. Because the number of trees on a lot varies from none to 100 percent tree canopy and because the amount of effort put into saving trees varies, there is no way to identify an average tree mitigation fee.

Developers can pay a fine to the city or plant trees at other sites, depending on circumstances. Of course, developers often have to buy the trees for replanting, which adds to the cost of development of that lot.

They can vary the amount of tree canopy disturbed by where the building is placed or how big it is. “ The city’s No. 1 priority is preservation of tree canopy, not payment of mitigation money, ” Pate said. Not all fees are paid by the developer. Some are paid by the home builder and some by the home buyer. But to Kip Hearn, vicepresident of H 2 Engineering, it seems like the fees have been skewed so that developers have to pay more than their share.

“ Depending on the project, it is a sizable impact. Off-site improvements throughout the city. New development, it appears, is one way the city of Fayetteville has used to improve their infrastructure. Roads, streets, water and sewer. That’s really been a primary place for them to get these improvements made, ” Hearn said.

The Fayetteville City Council has accepted a methodology for road impact fees but has not formally considered any amounts. The report they accepted allowed a maximum of \$ 3, 409 for each single-family detached dwelling.

Hoskins ’ own efforts at building affordable and attainable housing have sometimes been shot down by worried neighbors through the city’s planning process.

For example, Paradigm’s Oakbrooke proposal for homes west of Ruppel Road between Wedington Drive and Mount Comfort Road raised neighbors’ ire.

“ What we wanted at Oakbrooke were 1, 200-squarefoot homes so we could keep those homes around \$ 120, 000, and that didn’t play out for us, ” Hoskins said.

The smallest homes in the development, as eventually approved, will be 1, 400 square feet. The aim now is to price those at \$ 150, 000, though rising construction costs could halt that goal, according to Jim Ramsey, architect for Paradigm.

However, Hoskins said despite that change, Paradigm is committed to having houses under \$ 150, 000 at Oakbrooke.

Neighbors objected that they were too small, that they would become rental homes and that they would drive values down in neighboring subdivisions.

Affordable and attainable homes don’t have to be cheap prices, said Hoskins, if creative thinking is applied.

“ You can have a low-price house for the moderately income folks — \$ 100, 000 or \$ 130, 000 house. Or the same person, if they do things right, can get a much more expensive piece of property and still make the payments by getting renters in a loft garage or a basement or ancillary structure. That’s what makes it attainable for that person, even though it may typically be out of their budget, ” he said.

Hoskins suggested that the city could encourage affordable housing.

There’s no way a developer can afford to build all 100 houses in a subdivision of that size as attainable housing, he said.

“ However, if there were incentives that applied to the entire subdivision, if a developer committed to doing a percentage — let the city pick what that percentage is, 20 percent, 25 percent — of houses that are under, say, \$ 150, 000, to be mixed and mingled among the median-priced houses and the higherpriced houses, if they would apply these incentives to the entire neighborhood, the developer or builder could potentially use the incentives from even the higher-end houses to make the lower-end houses more affordable. ” Hoskins believes the city has to get involved for there to be good neighborhoods with attainable housing. Besides a commitment of funding incentives or fee waivers, he said the city could help with acceptance of residential options other than single-family detached. Brownstones, row houses, townhomes, reasonably priced condominiums and loft apartments, for example, are much more accepted as a way of life along the East and West coasts. Ramsey described a townhome situation of a New York friend. “ They could own it, single-family attached, and it’s their home they could raise their children in and deed it to them when they die, but it’s not the typical Northwest Arkansas detached home, ” he said. “ Sometimes you really have to fight the fight as a developer to get that as an option, ” Hoskins said. “ In other words, the city needs to incentify development and redevelopment and get out of the mindset of taxing development as a whole. ” Steve Rust, president and CEO of Fayetteville Economic and Development Council, also believes the city can play an important role in creating an atmosphere for affordable housing by investigating the idea of graduated fees in areas where they want development.

“ In other words, impact fees ought to be more to develop way out in the boondocks than downtown, ” he said. “ If the government is serious about it, then government has to help. ”

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## MINIMUM FLOW

By CHANDRA HUSTON The Baxter Bulletin  
Posted on August 14, 2006

URL: <http://www.baxterbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060814/NEWS01/608140315/1002>

Biologist: Why change a good thing?

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is one in a series of stories examining different aspects of minimum flows in the White and North Fork rivers. The Bulletin is taking a look at what minimum flow is and how it will impact the Twin Lakes Area.)*

The White and North Fork rivers are considered by many to be the crown jewels of trout fishing in Arkansas. World-class and premium are just some of the words often used to describe the fisheries.

Minimum flows are planned for the rivers to help keep the water cold enough to support fisheries and fish habitats in the tailwaters below Bull Shoals and Norfolk dams.

Why change a good thing?

That's what fish biologist Jim Wencker would like to know.

"If we have a world-class fishery, then why mess with it?" he said.

Wencker, 63, now retired, said he is a proponent of minimum flow but does not support the Bull Shoals and Norfolk dams project because of incomplete data. He said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should reformulate its data for Bull Shoals and Norfolk. He said Table Rock, Beaver and Greers Ferry lakes also were included in the initial study.

Wencker said he doesn't think minimum flows will make that much difference in the rivers. He said large releases have damaged the rivers' bottoms. He also said there are times minimum flows would be good, but he would rather see maximum flow restrictions.

Wencker said even if there is a problem in the rivers, the proposed minimum flows are not the answer.

"Water is our most valuable resource," he said. "There are a lot of people in Baxter County whose livelihoods depend on trout."

Norfolk National Fish Hatchery Manager Ken Boyles said he isn't sure how minimum flow will impact the lakes, rivers and hatchery.

"I'm not sure anyone knows what is going to happen," he said. "The models show what is going to happen on an average year. What happens in an extreme year?"

Boyles said there is a limited amount of cold water available in the lakes. In the summer months, water temperatures creep up as high as 86 degrees. Each winter more cold water is generated, but a winter lacking rain or snow could leave the lakes with low levels, he said.

"If we're going to have a problem it will be in the fall," he said. "You have to get water off the bottom because the top is too warm."

River Ridge Inn owner Jim Smith said his main concern is the danger minimum flows could cause. He said he does not see any potential problems with a minimum flow on the White River because it is long and wide. The narrow North Fork is a different story.

Smith said more than 20 boats are destroyed each year by fishermen trying to get their boats up the river. He said more water in the river could lead to boaters showing no regard for wading fishermen.

"If you're going to generate 8-10 inches of water on the North Fork River, you're going to endanger people and you're going to wipe out fly fishing," he said. "I guarantee that every boat that is rented at the dam and confluence will run all the way to the dam and float down."

Mike Armstrong, chief of fisheries for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, said the entity may have to look into creating boat motor restrictions in that area.

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## AROUND THE FARM: CATTLEMEN CONSIDER FEED OPTIONS

By ROBERT SEAY The Benton County Daily Record  
Posted on August 13, 2006  
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/bcdr/Agriculture/38361/>

It was poor planning on my part since I was expecting the call, but still got caught off guard when it came. “ In light of the squabble with Oklahoma, can we feed poultry litter to cattle since hay and pasture are in short supply and things don’t appear to get better anytime soon ? ”

Actually, the litter feeding issue has been in the hands of the FDA since 2002, but as of yet, they haven’t called a halt to its use as cattle feed. So, to make a long story short, it’s currently legal to feed litter to beef cattle as many cattlemen remember doing through a number of droughts and harsh winter feeding periods over the past 30 years.

Some may gasp at the idea of using poultry litter as cattle feed, but truth of the matter is that when offered as a free-choice feed source, very few animals will refuse to eat it. After top dressing a little corn, even the initial hold-outs usually come around.

Why feed litter ? When used as fertilizer, we know litter to be a good source of nitrogen, other essential minerals and organic matter. Nitrogen is a main component of protein and its presence results in litter having a 20 to 24 percent crude-protein range, which is more than adequate for any cattle being fed. The lowenergy concentration is one shortcoming of litter that can’t be ignored, therefore feeding suggestions include the inclusion of corn to meet the dietary needs of cattle.

Presently, the increased cost and shortage of hay serves to elevate the feed value of litter well above its traditional value as fertilizer. Extension poultry and animal nutrition specialists historically cautioned cattlemen to treat litter based on its nutrient content and not as a waste product. That is easy to say, but any hay replacement product must also match the physical needs of cattle and that means the replacement of daily intake is as much a concern as nutrient content. Feeding routines can be all over the chart because of many variables dealing with: The nutritional stage of cattle, the access and quality of other feed sources, and the user-friendliness of the feeding process. Some producers may simply choose to feed a litter-corn ration free-choice, whereas others may choose to ration out specific amounts daily, especially the higher corn-litter blends capable of achieving good daily gains on young cattle. A final point is that a 20-pound daily litter intake, after accounting for moisture content, will supply about three pounds of protein and eight pounds of energy. Corn is the usual supplemental grain of choice to elevate energy and Vitamin A levels where litter falls short. Those bits of information should raise the eyebrows of any cattleman and trigger more questions where the goal is to look back next spring with satisfaction on the experience of using litter as an emergency feed. Til ’ next week !

••• Robert L. Seay is a county extension agent with the University of Arkansas ’ Cooperative Extension Services Call him at (479 ) 271-1060 or e-mail [rseay @ uaex. edu](mailto:rseay@uaex.edu).

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## 2006 AMERICORPS STREAM TEAM ASSISTANTS PROJECT

URL: <http://www.mostreamteam.org/AmeriCorps/Positions/IntroPage.htm>

Based on a very successful pilot project in St.Louis in 2005 (Final Report), the Missouri Stream Team Program and Missouri River Communities Network (MRCN) have expanded the project to include 12 AmeriCorps Stream Team Assistants in communities throughout the state.

Eight fulltime and four halftime Assistants will be placed in St.Louis, Columbia, Kansas City and Springfield. Local sponsors, James River Basin Partnership, Table Rock Lake Water Quality and Watershed Committee of the Ozarks will provide office facilities, local supervision and administrative support. The Assistants will spend half of their time on the sponsors stream-related projects.

The AmeriCorps positions provide a great way for anyone interested in community service and the environment to obtain experience and provide a valuable service. Applications must be received by August 25, 2006. Find more information and the position announcement at:  
<http://www.mostreamteam.org/AmeriCorps/Positions/IntroPage.htm>

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