



Blue Springs Nature Preserve

Steering Committee Newsletter / Jan. 2009

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Steering Committee Member,

I hope that everyone has had a smooth beginning to the New Year. I am pleased to present the first issue of the Blue Springs Nature Preserve newsletter for 2009 to you. The BSNP Steering Committee has been blessed with many caring and dedicated members. In this issue of the newsletter, we would like to spotlight one of our members who has become a catalyst in this project.



I've known Lyman Lovejoy and his family for several years, and I've learned much about him. For instance, there is probably not a single person in St. Clair County that Lyman does not know. If there is, he is bound to introduce himself to that person before long. The trait that sticks out the most is his love for the outdoors. Lyman has grown up with the woods and streams of St. Clair County as his playground. Even today, when he has free time, there is no place else he would rather be but walking through the woods with his dog Benji.

With his people skills and affinity for nature, Lyman Lovejoy is the ideal person to serve this Steering Committee as finance chairman.

Sincerely,
Spencer Weitman

Blue Springs Nature Preserve Steering Committee

Spencer Weitman
National Cement Company of Ala.
Steering Committee Chairman

Lyman Lovejoy
Lovejoy Realty
Finance Chairman

Bill Phillips
Envision Ecology
Land Use Chairman

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Facilities and Infrastructure

Marsha Boswell
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Hon. Charles Robinson
St. Clair County Circuit Court
Finance Committee

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Steering Committee profile:
Lyman Lovejoy

BSNP web site launches



Visit us on the web at www.bluespringspreserve.com.

Nature is paradise for Lovejoy

Love of the outdoors makes Lyman Lovejoy one of BSNP's biggest cheerleaders

It would appear that Lyman Lovejoy wears his influences on his sleeve – literally. When interviewed for this article, Lovejoy wore a button down shirt adorned with pictures of fishing tackle.

Because of his absolute love for the outdoors, it is no wonder that Lovejoy, who serves as finance chairman of the Blue Springs Nature Preserve Steering Committee, is one of the most passionate cheerleaders for Blue Springs Nature Preserve.

“We are losing a generation of kids that are growing up indoors, playing video games and watching TV,” said Lovejoy. “It is important that they learn to appreciate the outdoors, what it means to be green and to use the land wisely.”

Lovejoy spent much of his time outdoors as a youth. His father, Sim Lovejoy, worked for about 30 years as a camp superintendant at the YMCA's Camp Cosby in Clay, Ala., where he taught children fishing and other outdoor activities. Naturally, Lovejoy learned to fish and to enjoy the outdoors at an early age.

Today, Lovejoy is president of



Teresa and Lyman Lovejoy visit with tortoises in the Galapagos Islands this past fall.

Lovejoy Realty, a company he founded with his late wife Catherine in 1971. He has grown the company into one of the top real estate firms in St. Clair County, where he is a past Realtor of the Year honoree.

Lovejoy is known throughout the county for his active involvement in a number of business and community organizations. Despite his hectic schedule, Lovejoy ensures that he has time to himself to enjoy the outdoors.

“Everyday, I try to spend about an hour walking in the woods on my

farm before work, simply to absorb the outdoors,” said Lovejoy. “Most weekends, I tend to pick a walk outdoors over watching a movie indoors.”

Lovejoy and his wife, Teresa, live at their farm in Ashville, which covers 350 acres with several lakes and ponds. The Lovejoys also maintain a farm in Shoal Creek that includes several miles of walking trails (which Lovejoy built himself) as well as bluffs and waterfalls.

His farms allow him ample room for his fishing, birding and planting

About National Cement

National Cement Company of Alabama, Inc. is a major producer of cement in the Southeastern United States, employing approximately 450 people.

The company is highly committed to environmental stewardship and supporting the communities in which it operates.

About Blue Springs Nature Preserve

Blue Springs Nature Preserve, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is located in the town of Ragland in St. Clair County, Ala. The 147-acre preserve was made possible thanks to a land donation from National Cement Company of Alabama.

For more information, please visit www.bluespringspreserve.com, contact Tommy Palladino at (205) 328-9334 or send an e-mail to info@bluespringspreserve.com.



wildflowers. The ponds and lakes are stocked, which gives him the opportunity to fish often. He maintains about 50 birdhouses and 70 nesting gourds to attract purple martins.

Gardening may be his favorite outdoor hobby. Lovejoy confesses to collecting seeds and berries for countless wildflowers and plants from his farm, along roadsides, through clearance sales at Lowe's and anywhere else he can find them. He stores them in his garage until he is ready to use them.

Many of the wildflower seeds are planted along the trails at his farms, while others are used to attract birds. He also spends time finding seedlings and clearing the area around them so that they can flourish into mature trees.

Lovejoy recently completed a master gardeners program through the Auburn University's Extension Program. One of the requirements of the program is to volunteer 40 hours of community service, which Lovejoy is working on fulfilling.

Lovejoy's farms have also given him the opportunity to host numerous hunting groups, Sunday school classes and 4H Clubs. In addition to the llamas that he keeps, visitors can see geese, ducks and other birds, along with wild deer, beavers and otters.

Each December, Lovejoy hosts a squirrel hunt that attracts about 75 children and adults.



Lovejoy examines a spider lily in full bloom at his farm in Shoal Creek. One of Lovejoy's favorite outdoor hobbies is gardening, and he has planted countless wildflowers along trails at his farm.

"It is more about getting kids outdoors and exposing them to nature than hunting," said Lovejoy, noting that slingshots are used for the hunt.

Love of the outdoors has even influenced his vacation plans. Most recently, the Lovejoys visited the Galapagos Islands, best known for their rare wildlife and contributions to the studies of Charles Darwin.

The Lovejoys have also taken a cruise to Alaska, a safari in Africa and a trip to Yellowstone National Park to observe wildlife.

Lovejoy sees Blue Springs Nature Preserve as an opportunity to show today's youth the outdoors and to teach them about the environment.

"Blue Springs Nature Preserve will allow the youth of Ragland, St. Clair County and surrounding counties to be able to get back to

the basics of being outdoors, learning about our environment and how valuable it is to protect it, and how to save our water and protect our wildlife," said Lovejoy.

He sees the vast potential that Blue Springs Nature Preserve brings to St. Clair County, and he does not believe that it would be a hard sell to convince outdoor enthusiasts to visit the park.

"The Blue Springs property is one of the most beautiful sites in St. Clair County. If I could get them on the land, they would agree," said Lovejoy.

"There is so much to see in St. Clair County and Alabama, and we want to share it with other outdoorsmen."

For more information on the Blue Springs Nature Preserve project and how to become involved, feel free to call Lyman Lovejoy at 205-629-5508.

BSNP launches web site

Blue Springs Nature Preserve now has a presence on the World Wide Web with the launch of its web site this month.

The web site will serve as a vehicle for communicating news to interested parties and a means to attract potential donors.

The site features five main pages:

About states the mission of BSNP and discusses the history.

Plan describes the master plan for the site.

Support will detail fund-raising opportunities for donors.

News hosts the newsletter and news releases about the project.

Contact provides contact information and lists the steering committee.

A photo gallery, including recent fall images, is forthcoming.

BLUE SPRINGS NATURE PRESERVE

HOME ABOUT PLAN SUPPORT NEWS CONTACT

EXPERIENCE NATURE

View the Site Plan

Blue Springs Nature Preserve is the result of a public-private collaboration between National Cement Company of Alabama, and citizens and elected officials of Ragland and St. Clair County, Alabama. [View the plan here](#)

Photo Gallery

See the beauty of Blue Springs from your desktop by browsing our photo gallery. Coming Soon!

Experience Nature

The vision of Blue Springs Nature Preserve is to transform former farmland into an outdoor classroom for students and a playground for families to enjoy nature in its purest form.

Located in rural St. Clair County at the junction of Blue Springs Fork and Trout Creek, Blue Springs Nature Preserve consists of more than 140 acres of rolling meadows, pristine streams, life-sustaining wetlands and majestic, wooded hills. A variety of wildlife, including birds, deer, butterflies and wildflowers, make their home at Blue Springs Nature Preserve.

[Learn More](#)

Please take a moment to visit the page and let us know what you think. Email us at info@bluespringspreserve.com with any feedback.



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