

The Chinquapin Project FAMN

Christopher Wyatt and other National Forest Service employees planted Chinquapin seedlings at Bell Slough as part of a project to reintroduce these trees to Arkansas. The Forest Service has done genetic research to find the trees with the highest resistance to the Chestnut Blight that destroyed so many of them. They asked our FAMN group to help with getting these blight-resistant seedlings watered twice weekly through the summer.

The nine seedlings are all planted on one gently-sloping hillside. Each seedling needs about a gallon of water a week.

A second batch of sprouted acorns was planted on Friday. Nine more seedlings were ready to plant at the same site as the first batch. Noah Wyatt the “prescribed burn guy” from AGFC was on hand to help.



A new seedling

Five Master Naturalists cleared the sites, planted the seedlings and then protected them with 1) plastic tubing to deter deer, 2) rocks to prevent mice and squirrels from digging under the tubes, and 3) nets on top of the tubes to keep birds out.



Seedling tube

Chinquapins are one of the most nutritious (and apparently tastiest) items in the forest. No wonder the Arkansas Forestry Commission wants to bring them back.

We were delighted to see that all 7 of the original seedlings are leafed out and looking happy! There's been so much rain in the past 6 weeks that we haven't watered often, but now have 16 seedlings to help stay moist through the hot, dry summer.



6-week old seedling

We need volunteers to help us water twice weekly. The 50-gallon water barrel is in place so you do not need to carry water :-)



For more information about why the restoration of Ozarks Chinquapins is so important, check out the following links:

[The Ozark Chinquapin Tree: Reviving a Native - Only In Arkansas](#)

[Saving the Ozark Chinquapin: Plotting the Course for the Future](#)