

Arkansas Chapter Trout Unlimited 2007 Conservation Banquet & Auction



In 2002 the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited created the Coy C. Kaylor Conservation Award to be given annually at its Banquet. We are pleased and proud to announce this year's recipient is **Bill Tenison** who is pictured above.

You might not realize it now but Bill started his fishing career as a cat fisherman. Bill was raised in Hardy, Arkansas where he and his father spent many hours catching fish (or at least fishing) with spinning rods. Anyone who knows Bill understands he tells a pretty good story and it's rumored he can provide hours of entertainment if you ask him about his early years fishing with his dad. After high school he worked in the discount retail business as a manager for Magic Mart until he decided he was tired of being transferred by his employer. After a 1986 visit to northwest Arkansas, he decided to call Fayetteville home and was hired as the manager of Angler's Den (a small fly shop just off the Fayetteville Square). This is where his love of fly fishing began and, ironically, Bill was managing the fly shop before he had more than two real fly fishing trips under his belt. What started out as a temporary way to relocate to northwest Arkansas has now evolved into a twenty-one year career in the fishing business. Most people recognize Bill as the owner of the White River Angler, a shop he opened in November 1998.

Even though Bill loves to guide and tie flies, his favorite thing is teaching fly fishing. While the number is unclear, somewhere around a thousand people (young and old) have taken lessons from Bill since 1992. As a result, many have captured Bill's excitement about fly fishing and found a new passion in life. Bill's also crazy about baseball - St. Louis Cardinals and the Razorbacks. In his spare time, Bill is a very active member and volunteer at Sequoyah United Methodist Church. Bill has been married to Jamie for 18 years and they have two daughters, Sara "Bug" (14) and Rachel (9). And they also have a wonderful "rescue" dog, Abby, that helps protect the store.

Bill's second "career" has been his work with Trout Unlimited that began when he started at the fly shop in 1986. While he's not technically a charter member of the Arkansas Chapter, he's close. Over the years, Bill has served as secretary, treasurer, and Superman of the banquet committee for at least 18 years, if not more! His volunteer hours committed to Trout Unlimited over the years would be staggering! In addition, Bill has been involved in Casting for Recovery and three local school-based fishing programs - Holt Huskies Fishing Club, J.O. Kelly Middle School, and the McNair Fly Fishing Club. And finally, Bill has provided yeoman's service on numerous stream improvement projects, Chapter events, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission activities.

Congratulations, Bill, and thanks for your vision and commitment to Trout Unlimited!