

Arkansas Chapter Trout Unlimited 2009 Conservation Banquet & Auction



Native Texan, small business owner, committed Trout Unlimited volunteer.... and now **Dennis McCarty** is the 2009 recipient of the Coy C. Kaylor Conservation Award.

Dennis is one of those people who has always loved fishing – whether it was the saltwater off Galveston when he and his wife, Pat, lived in Houston or the many lakes in the Dallas area after they relocated there. After years of corporate life and tired of the corporate world, Dennis and Pat dreamed of owning their own business where they could work together and enjoy a smaller town. Fifteen years ago that dream resulted in their ownership of the Fayetteville Kwik Kar Lube. But above all Fayetteville helped fulfill Dennis’ love of fly fishing and beautiful streams and, fortunately, it eventually led him to become involved in Trout Unlimited. Since getting involved with TU, Dennis has worked tirelessly to strengthen the Arkansas Trout Unlimited chapter; expand TU across the state; help young people learn about fishing and conservation; and develop a volunteer support organization and improved facilities at the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery.

He now serves as Chairperson of the Arkansas Council of Trout Unlimited where he has been instrumental in starting two new TU chapters in Arkansas. In addition, Dennis provided key leadership in the legal battle to obtain an injunction against the land developer at Overlook Estates who illegally developed land that negatively impacted the tailwaters of the Norfolk River in early 2006. Ultimately, Benny Doyal and Homeport Land Co., LLC paid \$175,000 as part of the enforcement case settlement with funds to be used for projects that benefit the Norfolk River and its watersheds. Arkansas Council Trout Unlimited received \$50,000 and the Arkansas Chapter of TU received \$25,000.

Also, Dennis is currently a board member and treasurer of The Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery, Inc., a non-profit citizens organization formed in 2006 and dedicated to conserving fishery resources and providing support for activities to the hatchery. He also volunteers regularly teaching young people and adults to fly fish including veterans with the “Healing Waters” program.

His passions include his wife, Pat; his family; his black lab, Annie (which he won at a TU auction); his many friends; and of course fly-fishing. Congratulations, Dennis, and thanks for your vision and commitment to Trout Unlimited!