

## River Cane: A Cultural Resource and Ecological Haven

Hosted by The River Commons & Institute, a Watershed Conservation Resource Center (WCRC)  
initiative inspiring an ecologically sustainable future for all

Friday, March 29, 2024

Studio + Design Center, University of AR

### Workshop Agenda

8:30 AM	<b>Registration &amp; Refreshments</b>
9:00 AM	<b>Welcome, Introductions, &amp; Overview</b> , Sandi Formica, WCRC
9:15 AM	<b>Cultural History of River Canebrakes - Food, Shelter, and Hunting</b> Roger Cain, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of OK (UKB), will present the indigenous bamboo forests that once dotted southeastern landscapes creating cane biomes (canebrakes) that provided materials for the indigenous people who depended on them for food, shelter and hunting; river cane destruction and restoration.
9:50 AM	<b>Natural History, Ecology, and Mapping of Canebrakes in NWA</b> Theo Witsell, Southeastern Grasslands Institute (SGI) will present cane biology & ecology; mapping canebrakes, wildlife use, and historical canebrake habitat.
10:25 AM	<b>Break and Load Bus</b>
10:45 AM	<b>Exploring River Cane on the West Fork White River</b> Break into two groups and spend 35 minutes with specialists Cultural: Roger Cain, UKB & Cherokee Weavers, and Shawna Cain, Cherokee Nation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification of Harvestable Material to Create Textiles</li><li>• Sustainable Harvesting and River Cane Management</li></ul> Ecology and Restoration: Theo Witsell, SGI & Sandi Formica, WCRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wildlife Habitat and their signs</li><li>• Bird and Butterflies that Depend on River Cane</li><li>• Water Quality, Bank Erosion Protection, &amp; Site Restoration</li></ul>
11:55 AM	<b>Lunch Beside Remnant Canebrake:</b> Discussion and river cane storytelling
12:45 PM	<b>Board Bus and Return to Classroom</b>
1:00 PM	<b>An Introduction to Cultural and Scientific Aspect of Cherokee Traditionalists utilizing TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) and IKS (Indigenous Knowledge Systems)</b> Roger Cain, UKB, This session will include participants making pliable strips from the river cane harvested in the field.
1:30 PM	<b>Cherokee Technology Processing and Weaving River Cane Textiles for Basketry</b> Shawna Cain with UKB & Cherokee Weavers will teach Cherokee Southeastern basket weaving techniques along with history and traditions, while each participant makes their own river cane basket.
4 to 4:15 PM	<b>Close</b>

The WCRC would like to thank our partners: Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, UKB, Beaver Water District, and Arkansas Humanities Council. University of AR School of Art provided classroom space. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.