**Denby Bay Development – Partnerships at Work**

In 2002 the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce approached the Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee (LOCFC) with a concept to develop a visitor information area on Lake Ouachita within Montgomery County. From this initial contact, the LOCFC worked with private interests, along with federal, state, and local officials to implement an overall development proposal for the Denby Bay area on Lake Ouachita. The group formed a partnership coalition, known as the Denby Bay Development Coalition (DBDC) to push forward the development plan. The Denby Bay Development Coalition membership includes the Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee, the US Army Corp of Engineers, the US Forrest Service, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, the Office of the Montgomery County Judge, the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, the Ouachita Resort Owners Association and the Montgomery County Health Advisory Board. The coalition has initiated a project that will include a Visitor Information Kiosk, ADA accessible trail, ADA accessible fishing pier, ADA accessible boat launching facility and a hiking/biking trail that will navigate approximately 50 miles of forest lands around Lake Ouachita.

The Lake Ouachita Vista Trail is an initiative put together by the LOCFC to enhance recreational opportunities at Lake Ouachita. This series of trails, beginning at the Denby Bay area of the lake will connect five existing USACE campgrounds and five existing Commercial Resorts. It will provide an environment for enjoying the beauties of this lake through healthy activities such as hiking and biking. The committee also believes this trail will have a positive economic impact on area by providing new tourism facilities that will focus on increasing visitation to the area in its current off peak seasons. The first six mile segment of this trail system, scheduled for completion in March of 2006, is being constructed by volunteer effort and under grants from the USACE, and the Recreational Trails Grant Program administered through the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

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The Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee was formed through provisions of the National Recreation Act under the auspicious of the US Army Corp of Engineers. The committee works closely with the USACE to provide citizens input into resource and recreational planning at Lake Ouachita. Through their effort the Denby Bay Development Coalition was established to enhance the recreation opportunities in the Montgomery County Area of Arkansas. The entire Denby Bay Development project and the superb cooperative effort is truly a study in how a partnership can succeed.