



the river's voice

The Official Publication of the Friends of the Locust Fork River Fall/Winter 2008

Our Mission

As Friends of the Locust Fork River, we join together to actively preserve the natural integrity of the river in its free-flowing state, and to that end, the lifestyle of the community that surrounds it.

OUTINGS & EVENTS

Sat. October 25

Covered Bridge Festival

We'll do our annual Covered Bridge River Walk from Swann Bridge downriver to Powell Falls. Fall foliage is usually gorgeous. Moderate hike, about 3 hours round trip. Meet at Howard's Restaurant & BP, 9 am just north of AL 79 & US 231 merge, in Cleveland, or Swann Bridge at 9:30. Contact Sam Howell, 205-706-4376, showell@brescoinc.com

Also look for FLFR's booth in downtown Oneonta for the "urban" component of Blount County's Covered Bridge festivities.

(continued on page two)

Metro Tire Landfill Aids the Locust Fork River

Sam Howell, FLFR president

BWRk & FLFR vs. Metro

Environmental lawsuits are often classics of "Let the punishment fit the crime," philosophy. The Metro Tire Landfill case is a good example.

Metro will pay \$7,500.00 to establish a Supplemental Environmental Project as part of the settlement of Black Warrior Riverkeeper (BWRk) and FLFR vs Metro Recycling, Inc.

In addition, Metro has proposed a plan to correct the Clean Water Act violations at their landfill, which prompted the lawsuit.

UPDATE STUDY

The money is to be remitted to the Freshwater Land Trust (FLT) for the hiring of biologist, scientist, PhD's, interns, etc. Those experts will conduct and record a study updating a former aquatic species study done on the river in the mid-seventies.

The results will be compared with the 30+ year-old study to see if the river has held its own, degraded, or — hopefully in some areas — become healthier. The updated study will be valuable in directing future efforts to maintain a healthy river and watershed.

IN THE END

As a result of the diligence of citizens and partner organizations like the BWRk, The Metro Tire landfill case — in the end — is helping the Locust Fork River and its watershed by way of this settlement donation to the FLT. This trust, www.freshwaterlandtrust.org, is a conservation group housed at Birmingham-Southern College.

THANKS

FLFR would like to thank the Riverkeeper team for its experience, expertise, and generous help in protecting the Locust Fork River in this legal suit. We also want to thank FLT for offering to facilitate the new fish study on the river.

We commend Metro Recycling, Inc. for its willingness to do the right thing. Once the Intent-to-Sue was filed by BWRk and FLFR, and violations were noted and proven, Metro chose to settle and do the right thing with as little impact on its company as possible. Thanks to the art of mediation, we were able to reach an agreement everyone could live with.

With teamwork like this from caring people of all walks of life, we will always have a healthy and free-flowing Locust Fork River.

Day on the River: A Fun & Successful Happening!

see page two



OUTINGS & EVENTS

CONTINUED

Sat. November 15

Horton Covered Bridge & Mill hike

Hike, shoot pictures and talk photography, (if desired) at the beautiful covered bridge then downstream to the old mill site. Meet at 9 am at Horton Mill Covered Bridge, AL 75, north of Oneonta. Bring water and snack. Moderate hike 45 to 60 minutes one way. Contact Joe Still, 205-965-4565, stillphoto0p@aol.com for directions or more info.

Sat. February 7, '09

Locust Fork Invitational Canoe & Kayak Races

1st of Alabama Cup Whitewater Slalom Series King's Bend, Cleveland, AL, 9-5 Dress warmly and enjoy exciting whitewater slalom competition. Volunteer to help: Sam Howell, 205-706-4376, showell@brescoinc.com

March 7 & 8, '09

Mulberry Canoe & Kayak Races

The 2nd race of the Alabama Cup
See www.mulberryraces.com

March 20-23, '09

North Alabama Whitewater Festival

King's Bend, Cleveland, AL
Extreme white water activities
(more about this in a later issue)
(continued on page four)

Day on the River, Sept. 13th, 2008 A Fun & Successful Happening!

Sharon Cook, Day on the River directress of excellence

OUR GOAL

FLFR's goal for 'Day on the River' is to teach the children who live in the Locust Fork watershed to be good stewards of the river and all the river's inhabitants.

This year we expanded to 144 children, 61 parents, 75 volunteers & 11 activity stations. In 2000 we had 18 children & 3 activities. What growth! It's all totally free including lunch, which we served this year to 276 people.



PARTNERS

The Friends of the Locust Fork River produces and manages the Day, but *clearly* we couldn't do it without our partner groups who provide the fun and educational activities.

These partners include:

- > Birmingham Canoe Club,
- > Cahaba River Society,
- > Alabama Rivers Alliance,
- > Ruffner Mtn. Nature Center,
- > Alabama Water Watch,
- > McWane Science Center
- > McDowell Environmental Center.

Additional activities provided by individuals were:

- > Venture Scout Troop of Oneonta
- > Ashley Allen, of Oneonta High School, a paleontologist and winner of the national 'best teacher' award

- > FLFR members/ environmentalists: Nancy Jackson, Debra Gordon-Hellman, Richard and Melanie Johns.



The weather partnered too: *it was perfect!*

THEY "GOT IT"

The children and their families *experience* concepts such as:

- > basics of the water cycle,
- > the food chain,
- > respect for larger life forms such as snakes and trees,
- > the relevance of the tiny creatures who live in the river,
- > the concept of watershed,
- > how ground pollution migrates to the river,
- > the pleasure we humans can have playing in a clean, healthy river.

Children and parents responded on our evaluations with tremendous praise for the event and statements by the children that they truly 'got it'. For example, from one child's remarks: *"I learned what happens when you mess up nature's natural balance."* Now, there's a successful learning experience.

COMMUNITY EVENT

'Day on the River' is truly a community-wide event since food and other essentials are donated by local businesses. *We greatly appreciate the donations by:*

- > Wal-Mart of Oneonta,
- > Piggly Wiggly of Cleveland,
- > Wayne's BBQ,
- > Pro-Source Landscaping and
- > Wolf Creek Creations.

FLFR CONTACTS

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The McWane Science Center, our newest activity station, also provided four general admission tickets as door prizes.

Finally, none of this could happen without the beautiful, spacious riverbank location at King's Bend, generously provided by the Pat King family.



AND AGAIN

In 2009 it'll be the 10th Annual Day on the River, held also at King's Bend, on September 12th! Plan to be a part of this activity and bring your children. (see page four for more on Day on the River '08)



*As you can see,
Day on the River
is a success because
we have tons of help
from dozens of
helping hands,
lively spirits, and
bright minds.*

OUTINGS & EVENTS

CONTINUED

Sat. March 28, '09

Locust Fork Classic Canoe & Kayak Races

Final race of Alabama Cup

King's Bend, Cleveland, AL,

9-5 Still dress warmly if needed,
and get more whitewater action.

Volunteer to help:

Sam Howell, 205-706-4376,
showell@brescoinc.com

Jan, '09

If we can get another great fossil outing with paleontologist Ashley Allen, we'll post it on e-bulletin. He's in China!

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

FLFR has a very good shot at winning grant money for our long-desired watershed & river crossings SIGNAGE project. We just need some able-minded volunteer to fill out the grant application. You ready and willing?

Our dream is to have a sign posted wherever a major road enters/leaves the watershed, and wherever roads cross the main stem of the Locust, then, eventually, wherever any road crosses any tributary or in/out of the watershed. *Wouldn't that help raise river awareness?*

(continued on page six)

(2008 Day on the River continued from page three)

Day on the River in a Nutshell:

2000 -1st DoR: 18 children

2005- 6th DoR: 30-35 children, 3 stations: Birmingham Canoe Club, Cahaba River Society & Gene Gonsulin's Critter Camp

2006-7th DoR: 40- 45 children, 4 stations: "Make your own Watershed" added

2007-8th DoR: 84 children, 54 parents, 11 stations & 58 volunteers

2008-9th DoR: 144 children, 61 parents, 11 stations & 71 volunteers. WOW!

This means we fed 276 people. We fed them lunch and tools for stewarding our river. Every single station at Day on the River was named at least 2 or 3 times as a favorite by the children.

What could we, the Friends of the Locust Fork River, say to thank everyone who made it happen that would be better than these comments!?

WHAT I LEARNED AT DAY ON THE RIVER:

"I learned to row a canoe, how to catch fish and about what a watershed is."

"I learned that the food chain is like team work."

"I learned that snakes can make their heads in a triangle to scare you and that different trees have different leaves."

"I learned that box turtles are not terrapins."

"This is a very old river-millions of years old and Alabama was in an ocean then."

"Why we shouldn't litter in the woods."

"We should protect the watershed and not put oil and stuff on the ground."

"We saw a dragonfly larvae!!"

"How to find fossils and how old some of the animals and plants are that left them."

"I learned that fish and other animals use camouflage to hide and stay safe from predators."

"The water cycle means the water just keeps going back and forth from rain to lakes to oceans and back."

"There are bugs in the water."

"I loved everything here and my favorite was getting to pet and hold a snake."



ALABAMA REALLY NEEDS A PLAN *from the Alabama Rivers Alliance website*

A NEW study emphasizes Alabama's need for a comprehensive water plan. The U.S. Forest Service, commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund, ran computer models that show the state and all of the Southeastern United States could be in for more drought and degrading water quality.

Population increases, industrial development and gradual warming of the climate could conspire to create huge storms, lingering droughts and sediment runoff in the Southeast that would threaten water supplies for

people, wildlife and marine life, according to the study, a summary of which was released this summer to Congress.

Growing cities and new industry, though having a positive economic impact, could strain the region's water supply. The elimination of forests could lead to more erosion, and the resulting sediment runoff could put hundreds of marine species at risk.

Editor's note:

A comprehensive water plan would help!

ACTION ALERT: ***Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to help shape Alabama's water policy of the future*** *from the Alabama Rivers Alliance website*

Subcommittees of the new Joint Legislative Committee for Water Policy and Management are open to the public.

We encourage anyone with an interest in water resources to sign up for one or more committees. There needs to be more participation from recreation, conservation, and preservation interests.

To sign up for a subcommittee or to receive announcements of committee and subcommittee

meetings, please contact Pamela Averrett at 334-242-7875 or Pamela.averrett@alsentate.gov.

This may very well be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to help shape the water policy of the future. To help the Alabama Rivers Alliance protect your water resources, please consider participating in this unique process. You don't need any expertise – just your love of Alabama's greatest natural resource: our waters.

FLFR'S WISH LIST

Canon adaptable
50-300mm zoom lens;
with macro;
autofocus or manual;
used is OK!
*(this to go with our
wish-fulfilled
digital camera.)*

Alabama Cup raffle items

Grant writer
*(see page four
"Grand Opportunity"
in this issue)*

AL Cup Races volunteers
(see page two "Outings")

Canoes, sit-on-tops,
PFD's and paddles

River stories,
memories, pictures

Old/antique photos
of people enjoying
the Locust Fork.
*(i.e. family reunions,
baptisms, fishing, etc.)*

*(GRANT OPPORTUNITY
continued from page four)*

DETAILS

The grant challenge offer (\$1,000-\$5,000) is through CAWACO Resource Conservation & Development Council. It serves 5 counties, including Blount and Jefferson. Its mission: "To help people protect and develop their economic, natural and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment and way of life."

The grant application packet includes:

- > 7-page information and guidelines section
- > 8-page proposal section, including "Project Summary", "Project Narrative", "Budget".

(continued on page seven)



SPACE OUT IN '09!

Did you River Rats know that 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy? 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of Galileo's 1st astronomical observation through a telescope.

(So much space in a mere 400 years, huh?) The International Astronomical Union is launching a global celebration. You can find out more from www.astronomy2009.org

BOY SCOUT CLEAN UP!

Locust Fork River clean-up on September 5, 6, and 7th was a great success for the Boy Scout troops from North Shelby County and the Morris Area. They took to the river in john boats and canoes to collect 124 tires and 14 bags of trash from a 2.5 mile stretch of the river just above the Warrior-Kimberly Road.

Allec Lucas from Troop 5 organized the clean-up as his Eagle Scout project. The work crew was Troop 5 from North Shelby

County and Troop 283 from the Morris area. The Kimberly Fire Department sent two representatives.

Everyone worked effectively together to pull the tires from the river and load them in boats, after which scouts floated them downriver to the bridge. The tires were later hauled to B & B Landfill located in Blount County.

Allec reported that 21 people put in a total of over 191 hours to complete this impressive clean-up. He extends his heartfelt thanks to all who helped make his Eagle Scout project such a success.

And this from longtime River Rat Susie Wilkerson:

"On behalf of FLFR I would like to thank Allec for his hard work and dedication in getting this successful river clean up organized and completed. Congratulations on an Eagle Scout project well done, Allec!"

The work of Allec and all the other scouts, firemen, and volunteers has made the Locust Fork more scenic and beautiful, and less polluted in the Warrior-Kimberly area. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK!

Membership Musings

Hello River Lovers,
Stephen Guesman here.....FLFR's
Membership Chairperson. Thanks to all
of you who responded to our late spring
membership appeal. As usual, your
generosity continues to encourages us.

If you haven't responded yet, there's
still time. Or just return the form at the
end of this newsletter.

If you've contributed to FLFR in the
last year, please do check the mailing label

for your membership expiration date. We
experienced a database crash and didn't
have a recent back-up — so I'm a little con-
cerned whether I've reclaimed all the data.

That database crash is also why we
haven't had any FLFR e-bulletins in
several months.

But we're back up and running
now (thanks, Sean!) So, if you've got
any questions, please e-mail me at
members@flfr.org. Paddle on!

(GRANT OPPORTUNITY
continued from page six)

CONSULTANTS

FLFR personnel would
provide background
information already
gathered. George Merkel
has done a good bit of
research into sign design,
cost, and posting costs.
He will be chief consultant.
Nancy Jackson will help
with editing, if needed.
Others will pitch in
as needed.

Contact Nancy at
njackson@urisip.net to
volunteer your services.

Web News

Hey, you Webbers! Paddle over to FLFR's
website, www.flfr.org and check out our
Outings postings, which we hope to keep
instantly (well, almost instantly) updated

for your information. We're proud of
our outings, and hope the website will
help everybody get to any and all
outings they choose.

(cut form here to mail back in) -----

membership form

Yes, I want to help the Friends of the Locust Fork River preserve our local treasure:

I am a new member or a renewing member (check expiration date on label) **please check one**

Individual — \$20

Family — \$30

Friend — \$50

Patron — \$100

Donor — \$250 and above

Please include me in the FLFR
e-mail network for outings and
Locust Fork river alerts

Call me to help with
FLFR activities

Name _____

(if mailing label is correct you just need to enter your name)

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone number _____ e-mail address _____

All contributions are tax deductible and gratefully appreciated! Please return this form to:

The Friends Of The Locust Fork, P.O. Box 245, Hayden, Alabama 35079

*The Locust Fork has
been compared to the
Yellowstone and the
Gallatin in Montana.
Unlike those rivers, the
Locust Fork doesn't enjoy the
protection of flowing through a
national park. It flows through
Alabama. It is our treasure, and
only the people of Alabama
can save it. As a member of
Friends of the Locust Fork
River, your contribution
will help in the fight to
preserve and protect one
of our state's rarest and most
beautiful natural treasures.*

River Recipes

From the pages of... *Locust Fork Yacht Club's Creek Bankin' Recipes*

EVERGREEN-ER



Please notice our
100% recycled
paper and soy-based

ink beginning in this issue. Those cost FLFR a bit more, and worth every penny by our reckoning. Our printer, Accuprint, has made these available upon request, and also grants us a 10% non-profit discount. We appreciate their help and newer, greener options.



The Friends Of The Locust Fork
P.O. Box 245
Hayden, Alabama 35079

You can find us on the web at
www.FLFR.org

Jesse's Riverside Chili Burrito

3lb pork butt, trimmed & cubed
2 lg onions, chopped
2 tsp garlic, minced
6 tbsp chili powder
1 tsp cumin, ground
2 tsp oregano, leaf
1 tsp ea sugar & salt & black pepper
4 oz sour cream
12 oz beer
Pack 10" flour tortilla

At your campsite on the river in a dutch oven over hot coals, sauté pork in oil until brown; add next 5 ingredients, stir & cook until onion wilts; add next 5 ingredients, simmer and stir occasionally for at least an hour. Adjust seasonings. Roll up in warm tortilla. Serve with Spanish rice, refried beans, and fresh salsa.