

The Upper Etowah River Alliance

A Note from the Director

2011 has been a busy year and I want to take a moment to tell you of a few changes that have happened here.

1. The UERA Board of Directors had a change in leadership as a part of the normal transition that needs to happen in order to help UERA continue to grow. Lori Forrester became the Board Chair, Mike Marchbanks became the Vice Chair and Nolton Johnson became the Board Secretary. Robert Morrison continues as our Treasurer. Kevin Smith has taken over our Education Committee.
2. The UERA Board added several new members!
 - From Dawson County, **Jane Graves** joined UERA bringing a background in community education and awareness activities. She is an active member in the Dawson County Rotary Club and the President of the Dawson County Homeowners Association. She has been a Mary Kay consultant for many years. Jane and her husband Lionel are invested in protecting the Etowah for the good of all.
 - From Forsyth County, **Matthew Pate** comes to UERA as an avid outdoorsman and is currently the Manager of the Forsyth County Parks and Recreation Outdoor Recreation Division and the Sawnee Preserve. He has been working on the development of the Eagle's Beak Park on the Etowah River on Old Federal Highway near Highway 369. That park will have a canoe launch on it as well as primitive camping among other things. He looks forward to working with UERA as we further develop our recreational activities on and around the Etowah..
 - From Cherokee County, **Linda Teachey** has joined our Board after actively serving as an educational volunteer for the last several years in the classrooms around Cherokee County and Canton. She has also spent countless hours working at the UERA office helping with the landscape as well as in the office. Linda received the UERA Volunteer of the Year Award in 2010. Linda is a Horticulturalist and has worked as a horticulturalist for the city of Wilmington, NC, at tree farms and an orchid farm. Linda is also a Master Naturalist and is active in her conservation subdivision in the Freehome area.

We welcome these three new board members and look forward to the positive influence that they will add to the UERA Board. Look for their pictures on the website soon.

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3. Our solar array is working hard on the roof of the UERA office. We have not had an electric bill for the last four billing cycles! That makes our office a net zero building, possibly the first one in the State! Thank you to Radiance Solar for choosing UERA as a recipient of this system as part of their GEFA grant.
4. We had a wonderful canoe trip on June 18 with 21 people in attendance. We paddled through the Dawson Forest section of the Etowah. It was a beautiful day with Rhododendrons blooming and a few native azaleas. The water was refreshing for those of us who took the plunge after the last rapid! Ooooh it sure was chilly! Our next canoe trips will be in October. This year we are paddling on the last two weekends in October. On October 22nd we will paddle the Dawson Forest tract and on October 29 we will paddle the Chestatee and then, for those who would like, go to the Crimson Moon Café in Dahlonega for dinner! For both of these canoe trips, Appalachian Outfitters donates all of the proceeds to UERA!
5. This summer UERA expanded our educational programs by going to the Outdoor YMCA Camp in Canton for eight (8) weeks. The programs were a real success! Thanks to Kevin Smith (our Education Chair) , Lori Forrester (our Chairwoman) and other volunteers Linda Teachey (UERA Board member), Kelen Shostak (Woodstock Stormwater), Marjorie Hicks (Cherokee County Stormwater) and Nancy Moon (Holly Springs, Stormwater). They did an outstanding job!
6. Sidelines Grille in Canton has become a new partner. Pretty soon we will be providing some "Friend-raising" activities at their place, so watch for our information about that. Thanks Sidelines for your support!

That's all for now! Have a great end-of-summer and start-of-fall and think Etowah!

Diane Minick, Director