



Etowah Meanderings

Summer 2008

UERA Welcomes New Board Chair!

Nolton Johnson was recently elected as Chair of the Upper Etowah River Alliance Board at its July 9, 2008 Board Meeting to replace Diane Minick who stepped

down to assume the position of Watershed Director for the Alliance.

Since June 2006, Nolton has been employed as a senior consultant Geosyntec Consultants providing technical assistance with various water resources,

stormwater, and NPDES permitting projects throughout the Southeast. He was appointed to the UERA Board in the fall of 2006 and has served as vice-chair. Prior to Geosyntec, Nolton was employed with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and retired in June 2006 as Water Resources Branch Chief.



Nolton has been a volunteer in the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program since 1998 and actively provides chemical, biological, and physical sampling support services to the Toonigh Neighbors, located in Cherokee County, Georgia. Participation in the UERA is an extension of this effort and greatly broadens the opportunities for education and outreach support to a region of the state that contains the headwaters to Lake Allatoona. The Etowah River and tributary streams are extremely important to this region and to Lake Allatoona.

The UERA will continue to promote the education and outreach for proper management of non- point source and overall water resources management of the region.

The citizens, developers, industry, and communities in the region want to do what is right. The UERA will help promote best management practice concepts, and to look for partnerships that help to promote these concepts. It is my hope that UERA can continue to be successful with the premise that folks will change their habits or practices as long as they understand the reasons for it, it is reasonable and affordable, and the consequences of not doing it are well understood.

One of the greatest opportunities at the UERA is to associate with people of various backgrounds, who are all interested in the water resources of the region. Whether focusing on a technical BMP or tool, canoeing down the Etowah River, or seeing how fish weirs were constructed, the different perspectives and the opportunities to focus on the watershed while influencing the long term vitality of the region cannot be overlooked. The board members are an outstanding group of folks and now we have Diane Minick as our new watershed director.

See you on the Etowah!

Nolton Johnson

Thoughts From Your Watershed Director

It has been my honor to chair this organization for the last four years. Now I am extending my work to the nuts and bolts of this group. I work to facilitate and implement our Federal 319 grant.



This allows me to help people throughout our

five counties solve stormwater and other pollution problems that impact our watershed with funding from the grant as well as utilizing my expertise. I also conduct the business of the Alliance, which is primarily developing ways to educate folks about our unique watershed.

My background includes working for 30 years as an educator in the biological and environmental sciences. I 2001 I started a stormwater landscaping company and have successfully completed many projects throughout North Georgia. I live in Canton with my husband of 37 years. We have lived in the Woodstock/Kennesaw and Canton area for 28 of those years. We are passionate fly-fishers and love to camp and enjoy the beautiful outdoors in this region.

I look forward to serving all of you and hopefully working with many of you to extend our impact throughout the watershed.

UERA Recent Activities

Canoe the Etowah...May 24, June 14 & 15

The original two canoe trips on the upper Etowah in Dawson County were so well attended that we added a third day. Board member Glenn McAllister did a wonderful job of planning and carrying out these trips. Appalachian Outfitters provided the canoes and transportation. Everyone took pleasure in the beauty of the river and its peacefulness. To see more photos visit our website at www.etowahriver.org.



Here is Glenn's trip report.

Eighty people paddled nine miles of the Etowah River through the Dawson Forest during UERA sponsored canoe trips on May 24, and June 14 - 15. All kinds of folks participated... families, grandparents with grandchildren, husbands and wives, friends, scouts, and one teenager who said she wants to be an environmentalist.

Appalachian Outfitters of Dahlonega provided equipment and shuttle services. Ben La Chance and his assistant met us at Kelly Bridge where we boarded vans for the short

drive to the new canoe launch at the Hwy. 9 bridge in Dawson County. After a brief safety talk, we hit the river. The water level was lower than normal-- 3 ½ feet at the put-in-- just enough water to float our merry paddlers gently down the stream without getting stuck on too many riffles.

As we paddled away from civilization and into the forest, nature revealed her unspoiled beauty to us-- mature hardwoods and pines on both sides of the river, rhododendron and mountain laurel, and as always the sounds of birds nearby. With no dangerous rapids, the Dawson Forest affords beginning paddlers and easy-going seniors a chance to practice their strokes and maybe take a dip in one of the fine swimming holes.

Stay tuned for the date of our fall fundraising paddle. Appalachian Outfitters has generously offered to donate the outfitting services and UERA will use the proceeds to fund more recreational opportunities for UERA members. Thanks, Ben!
Submitted by Glenn McAllister

Grant Projects

The tornado in Cherokee County caused an existing rain garden to be severely damaged. This garden collected water from neighboring homes, a driveway, the street and kept the water from flowing into the flood plain along Little River. Our grant paid for 60% of the cost of the repair, which was in the neighborhood of \$2,000. The pictures show the garden after the tornado and the garden improved and repaired. Thanks to Callahan Specialty Landscaping for their good work. If you need help with stormwater issues, email me at info@etowahriver.org and I'll do my best to help you find a solution.

After tornado



The tree limbs seen were in the rain garden shown by the arrow.

The rain garden was extended and restored.



Repaired

There are seven or eight potential projects in Pickens, Cherokee and Dawson Counties that we hope to get started in the near future.

New Offices and Address

The Alliance now has a new mailing address. Please use this address for all mail correspondence. The Upper Etowah River Alliance, P.O. Box 307, Canton, GA 30169.

We are establishing offices in each of the 5 counties that we serve. At this time we have an office in Dawson County. Our location is on Academy Ave., in the Dawson County Agricultural Services Center, in Dawsonville.

We hope to announce the location of our main office very soon. If you can help us find an office in Forsyth, Lumpkin or Pickens Counties, please contact me. We are a 501 (c) (3) organization, so donations of offices can be claimed as charitable donations.

Coming Soon in the Etowah!

August 16: The Alliance and the Cherokee County Historical Society are teaming up to give you an opportunity to see and learn about Native American Fish Traps (Weir) and have a picnic too. Cost? Nothing! Location? Cherokee County! Bring your family and walk along the banks of the beautiful Etowah River and listen to fish weir expert Mr. Bill Frazier tell the story about the weirs and the people who built them. Scientific measurements will be done while we watch. Afterwards we will enjoy a picnic lunch

provided by UERA and CCHS at our host's home in the woods. Please go to www.etowahriver.org and see all the trip and registration details. Don't Miss It!

August 23: Join us for the Forsyth County Family Waterfest! It is going to be at Young Deer Park, 7300 Heard Rd, Cumming, GA 30041 from 10 am – 3 pm. There will be great food, exhibits, live characters, children's games & crafts, demonstrations, boats, music and more. Call 770-205-4573 or email them at kfcb@forsythco.com.

August 23rd is the Coosa River Basin Initiative's River Revelry, will be from 6:30 pm until 10:30 pm, at Heritage Park in downtown Rome. It features live music, boat rides on the river, games, a River of Light Ceremony and food and drinks. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. Ticket proceeds will go to fund CRBI's good work and to the other basin organizations like ours. Check out their web site at www.coosa.org and don't miss a good time!

October 4, 2008: 7th Annual Etowah River Clean-Up

Come join the **FUN** for the annual
What: Etowah River Clean-Up, a "River Alive registered event.

Who: Everyone who cares about clean water and enjoys the outdoors.

Where: Boling Park, Canton, GA

FREE refreshments and Hot Dog Cook-Out at noon and,

FREE River Alive T-shirts

For more information, visit

www.etowahriver.com and
www.riversalive.com

New Alliance Members

Individual

Nancy King

Nancy Snavely

Marcia Mosher

Liz Baxter

Joe Kitchens

Steve Moorman

Carla Bahun

Jaime Richardson

Welcome to all of you! We look forward to fun times together.

Family

Doug & Pam Mayer

John & Sue Urbaitis





Carl Kologinczak

Tony Rackie

Fred & Vivian Weber

Miguel & Holly Salazar

Wish List for Our Offices

-  GPS Unit
-  Bookshelves
-  Small Tables
-  Desk chairs

Spotlight on the Board



This month the spotlight is on Don Wells from Pickens County.

Don Wells is President and CEO of the Mountain Stewards, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization located in Pickens County with programs covering North GA and the Southeast. The Mountain Stewards is a multi-mission organization that builds hiking trails, documents the ecology of the forested areas, locates, documents and preserves Native American historical and cultural sites and helps to educate the people of North GA on the need to preserve our natural resources.



He applies his background and knowledge of the North GA forested areas and rivers to support the mission of the UERA. With common missions and goals, the UERA and the Mountain Stewards work together to bring about preservation of one of our most precious resources in North GA, the Etowah River.

Upper Etowah River Alliance Board

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
Nolton Johnson	Chair—Cherokee County
Melissa Rottenberg	Vice Chair
Robert Morrison	Treasurer
Ken Owen	Secretary

Gene Cornelison—Limestone Valley RC&D
Lori Forrester
Eva Gumbert
Glenn McAllister
Mike Marchbanks
Norman Pope—Pickens County
Kevin Smith—Forsyth County
Dwight Turner
Don Wells

Join the Alliance

Membership Information

Basic Membership

Free, includes

- *Email Newsletter
- *Directory of Members
- *Invitation to Annual Meeting
- *Available to Purchase Shopping Bag
- Tickets to Annual Picnic

Supporting Membership

\$25 per year, includes

- * Email Newsletter
- * Shopping Bag with Logo
- * Directory of Members names and Staff and Board names and email
- * Free Tickets to Annual Picnic
- * Invitation to Annual Meeting

Corporate Membership

See the website for details.

Individual or Family Membership

Basic membership (free)

Supporting membership (\$25)

Name: _____

Student Family

Individual

Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Committees you would be willing to serve on:

Membership Education

Events

I would like to support the Alliance with a tax-deductible donation of

\$ _____.

Mail this form and any membership fee or donation to:

Upper Etowah River Alliance

PO Box 307

Canton, GA 30169

Working to preserve the beauty and diversity of the Etowah !

