

Etowah



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A tale of two gardens: Tour participants check out rain gardens at the Etowah Water and Sewer Authority (left) and Brooke Park subdivision (right).

Alliance Holds BMP Tour

On June 18, a small, but hardy bunch of souls spent the day touring some of the Upper Etowah River Alliance's Best Management Practices demonstration projects. We visited 3 rain gardens, a Xeriscape landscape, a tree revetment and a stackhouse. Best Management Practices are recommended construction methods that reduce erosion and protect water quality.

The day proved to be both interesting and fun. The weather cooperated, giving us had a bit of rain while at the raingarden and no rain at the drought-tolerant Xeriscape. At the Department of Natural Resources' canoe access point on the Amicalola River, we got to see real kayakers use the new structure, while at the Etowah, we were rewarded with a glimpse of a Great Blue Heron. The day took a wild turn as we rode the school bus through the Ben Overstreet's hay field.

At the tree revetment, it was interesting to see how the site had changed in 5 years. The bank is beginning to stabilize and has a good bit of natural plants growing. The revetment is working! By the end of the day, we were tired and hot, but better educated about best management practices and how they help protect rivers and streams.

Join us for the Upper Etowah River Alliance's Annual Meeting!

We will gather at the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce October 5 at 6 p.m. for food, fellowship and fun, and to celebrate all the work the Alliance is doing for river protection. Laurie Fowler, of the University of Georgia's Institute of Ecology will speak on "The Role of the Etowah in Georgia's Watershed Management Plan."

To RSVP call 706-779-5756.

UERA Joins with Others to Celebrate Etowah

Seven organizations working to protect the resources in the Etowah Watershed have joined forces to help people celebrate and learn about the wonder and beauty of the Etowah River.

Representatives of the Upper Etowah River Alliance, Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan, The Nature Conservancy, Cherokee County Recycling Center, Keep Bartow Beautiful, Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority and the Coosa River Basin Initiative have combined their efforts to produce a booklet that lists all the activities people can participate in during the next few months.

The activities range from hiking and canoe trips to educational presentations and are located throughout the watershed. The booklets can be found in local business, libraries, and government offices. So, if you are looking for something to do with your family and friends this fall, look for the Celebrate Etowah booklet and join us!

www.celebrate-etowah.org



Education Committee Creating Presentations

If the education committee has its way, everyone from Dahlonega to Canton will learn about rivers.

The committee, chaired by Lori Forrester, is working hard to create presentations that appeal to all ages – from grade schoolers to adults. In addition, they are making sure those presentations given in schools help teachers meet curriculum standards.

Presentations focus on water quality, erosion and sedimentation pollution and river ecology. One of the newest tools at the UERA's disposal is the Enviro-scape (shown at right). This hands-on demonstration tool models how non-point source pollution occurs and how it effects our rivers and lakes. Though the directions say it is "not a toy," it is proving to be a fun way to learn! The Enviro-scape is loaned to the Alliance by the Cherokee County environmental coordinator.



Mark Your Calendar!

Adopt-A-Stream Workshops

- October 16: Getting Started
- October 23: Chemical Monitoring
- November 6: Biological Monitoring

Project WET Teacher Workshops

- Oct 19 & 20: Dawson County
- Oct. 11 & Nov. 2: Cherokee County

For more information, contact
Robin Dake, (706) 779-5756

Watershed Roundtable

November 2 – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sawnee Center, Cumming

This event brings together speakers representing watershed-wide projects to talk about monitoring, planning, and protecting our waterways. Topics include Phase II Stormwater ordinances, the Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan and the Watershed Assessment Project.