



Etowah Meanderings

Winter 2002/2003

Xeriscape Workshop

Seventy-five enthusiastic gardeners attended the Environmentally Friendly Landscaping Workshop on September 10, 2002 at the Dawson County Library! Mr Gary Wade with the UGA Cooperative Extension Service gave an overview of Xeriscape principles (water efficient landscaping) and Ms Kathy Gable of the Georgia Native Plant Society presented plants native to Georgia that are very drought tolerant, provide valuable habitat and food for wildlife and can be incorporated beautifully into landscapes!

Afterwards, Doris Cook, chair of the Alliance gave a tour of the xeriscape project at Etowah Water & Sewer; which was implemented through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the GA Environmental Protection Division. The project demonstrates landscaping options that are water efficient and require minimal fertilizer and pesticide applications, thereby reducing potential pollution sources for nearby streams. Both Leilani's Nursery from Dawsonville and the Georgia Native Plant Society had beautiful drought tolerant plants for sale! For more info on the Xeriscape project, see the Alliance's web site at: <http://www.etowahriver.org/progproj.html>.



Doris Cook, Chair of the Alliance, giving participants a tour of the Xeriscape Project.

Annual Meeting

The Upper Etowah River Alliance held it's semi-annual meeting on November 6, 2002 at the Sawnee Center in Cumming GA. Dana Poole, Director of Administration & Outreach for Georgia River Network gave an overview of her organization, their activities and the variety of workshops they offer to watershed groups in Georgia. For more information see their web site at <http://www.garivers.org/>

The Alliance also presented awards to the following dedicated volunteers and partners whose efforts and support have been invaluable to the success of the Alliance over the past year. Awards went to:

2002 Buddy Hobbs Memorial Award - Etowah Water & Sewer Authority

2002 Member of the Year Award - Ginger Rayburn

2002 Volunteer of the Year Award - Jill Pilcher

2002 President's Award - Dick Spreen

2002 Partner of the Year Award - Cherokee Water & Sewerage Authority



Dana Poole, Speaker

Erosion & Sedimentation Workshop

The Alliance's Monitoring Committee sponsored an Erosion and Sedimentation Roundtable Discussion November 21, 2002, at the Sawnee Center in Cumming GA. Invited participants included officials from city and county governments in the upper Etowah watershed involved in reviewing erosion prevention plans and enforcing regulations to reduce the amount of sediment entering our streams. Participants had lots of great ideas on how E&S programs could be improved to help protect water quality in our basin. The recommendations that came out of this meeting will be sent to city and local elected officials with suggestions on how local E&S programs could be improved! The group felt the meeting was so useful that they indicated they want to meet on a regular basis!



Participants of the E&S Roundtable Discussion

Clean Water Month 2002

October is the time of year when the Upper Etowah River Alliance celebrates Clean Water Month by offering presentations to students in the upper Etowah counties. The program teaches students the importance of protecting our water resources, amazing aquatic biological diversity in the Etowah basin and the ways we can reduce our negative impact on local streams.

This year volunteers gave presentations about the Upper Etowah River Watershed to over 1400 students in 15 schools in Cherokee, Dawson and Forsyth counties during the months of October and November. The presenters, Ginger Rayburn, Sally Joyce, Len Woodward, Doris Cook and Diane Minick all did a wonderful job and elicited positive reactions from the schools such as the following one received by Mrs Minick.

"DEAR DIANE,
WE ENJOYED YOUR VISIT TREMENDOUSLY! THE STUDENTS EVALUATED THE DUSTBOWL UNIT LAST WEEK AND LISTED YOUR VISIT AS THEIR FAVORITE ACTIVITY - YOU BEAT OUT A TRIP TO THE FAIR IN PERRY! THANKS SO MUCH!
SINCERLY,
KAREN McINTYRE" R.M. Moore Elementary

If you are interested in a presentation to your class, scout troop or other youth group, please contact the Upper Etowah River Alliance Clean Water Month coordinator in your county (see list below).

Cherokee Diane Minick 678-493-9574
678-493-9066 fax dianeminick@msn.com

Dawson Doris Cook 706-216-6168
706-216-6170 fax dorisc@etowahwater.org

Forsyth Jill Pilcher 770-781-2129
770-781-2163 fax jjpilcher@co.forsyth.ga.us

Lumpkin (we have no coordinator at the moment, please contact the Cherokee coordinator)

Pickens Laura Slaughenhop 706-253-4077
706-253-4078 fax mctg@mindspring.com

We are looking forward to even greater participation next year and would like to invite anyone who would be interested in being trained to do this presentation to contact Diane Minick at dianeminick@msn.com. As students learn about the importance of protecting the Upper Etowah Watershed they will become better stewards of this uniquely diverse watershed.



Students in Forsyth county learning how a river gets polluted.

Alliance Holds Retreat for Board Members

Board Members of the Alliance will participate in a one-day winter retreat at Camp Glisson. Participants will include members of the Executive, Core and Steering Committees. This retreat will be held in early February 2003. If you have questions contact Doris Cook at 706-216-6168 or dorisc@etowahwater.org.

Want to get paid to protect your stream?

Do you know someone who would love to protect the stream on their property? Do you know of a stream that needs restoration? In Georgia the US Corps of Engineers now requires anyone who negatively impacts a stream to mitigate for that damage by protecting or restoring another stream in the same basin. Join us to learn more about how you might be able to protect or restore your favorite stream in the Etowah basin!

February 27, 2003

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Dawson County Library

If you would like information on the workshop, please call Candace Stoughton at 770-704-7280 or Doris Cook at 706-216-6168.

Topics to be covered:

- information about the program
- what is required of the landowner?
- case study with a local landowner
- how you can get involved

Who should attend:

- landowners
- developers
- local government officials
- anyone interested in protecting/restoring their favorite stream

Sponsored by:

Limestone Valley RC&D
The Nature Conservancy
The Upper Etowah River Alliance
US Fish & Wildlife Service

DIRECTIONS:

From GA 400 north-bound:

Take GA 400 north
Turn left on GA 53 (at McDonalds)
Take GA 53 for 6.5 miles
Right onto Allen Street (just past Thunder Road)
Library is down the road on the right.

From GA 400 south-bound:

Take Ga 400 south
Turn right on GA 53 (at McDonalds)
Take GA 53 for 6.5 miles
Right onto Allen Street (just past Thunder Road)
Library is down the road on the right.

From GA 53 west-bound:

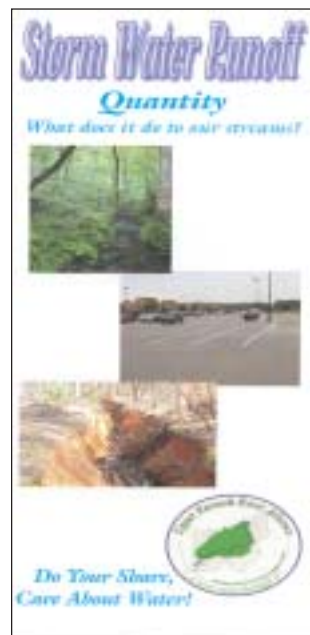
Once you cross over GA 400
Continue on GA 53 for about 6.5 miles
Right onto Allen Street (just past Thunder Road)
Library is down the road on the right.

From GA 53 east-bound:

Take GA 53 through Dawsonville
Left onto Allen Street (just before Thunder Road)
Library is down the road on the right.

Stormwater QUANTITY Brochure

Our newest brochure has just been published and it explains how increases in stormwater runoff due to deforestation and urbanization negatively affect our streams by increasing in-stream soil erosion, reduce habitat for fish and other stream organisms etc... To see it online go to: <http://www.etowahriver.org/publications.html>.



Clean Living, Without the Side Effects

Here are a few easy tips for cleaning that are less harmful to our precious Etowah streams!

- »For an all-purpose cleaner; mix a cup of vinegar in a pail of water.
- »To disinfect, use one-half cup borax or sodium carbonate (washing soda) dissolved in a gallon of hot water.
- »Wash windows and mirrors with one part vinegar to four parts water, or add 3T ammonia to the solution.
- »To deodorize carpets, sprinkle with baking soda. Vacuum after 30 minutes.
- »Oven cleaners containing lye and ammonia are especially toxic. For a healthier alternative, mix 2 tsp. Borax and 2 Tbs. liquid soap in a spray bottle. Scrub vigorously!
- »Use phosphate-free laundry soaps. There are plenty to choose from at your local grocery store.
- »To polish furniture, mix 2 tsp. lemon oil and 1 pint mineral oil in a spray bottle.
- »Toilets - Pour 1/2 c liquid chlorine bleach into bowl, let stand 30 minutes, scrub, then flush.
- »Tub and tile - 1/4 c baking soda, 1/2 c white vinegar, 1 c ammonia and 1 gallon warm water.
- »Drains - 1 c each baking soda, salt, and white vinegar. Pour into drain. Wait 15 minutes. Flush with boiling water. (from Tampa Bay Estuary Program, www.tbep.org)

Macroinvertebrate ID Cards Available

Diane Minick, an Upper Etowah Adopt-A-Stream volunteer has created waterproof macroinvertebrate identification cards that would be very useful to AAS volunteers for quick stream-side bug ID. They come with a clip so you can keep them handy on a belt loop while sorting samples.

Cost: \$6.50 plus \$1.50 for shipping.

To place an order indicate the number of Bug ID sets you need and provide an address where you would like them to be shipped.

Send orders and payment to:

Diane Minick
317 North Brooke Drive
Canton GA 30114

Questions? Contact Diane at dianeminick@msn.com.



Macroinvertebrate ID Cards

Website helps AAS Volunteers ID Bugs

Want to practice your bug ID skills before your next scheduled macroinvertebrate sampling? Check out the following website! It has great photos of all the bugs and is set up to help you get better at identifying the critters in your "adopted" stream! <http://www.rayswords.com/bugs/bugs.htm>

Upcoming Events

Alliance Retreat for Board Members

February 2003

Camp Glissen, Lumpkin County

Contact: Doris Cook at 706-216-6168 or dorisc@etowahwater.org.

Stream Mitigation Workshop -

How to get paid to protect your stream

February 27, 2003

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Dawson County Library, Dawsonville GA

For more information see announcement on page 3 of this newsletter.

Adopt-A-Stream Events

Get to Know Your Watershed

January 18, 2003

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Cherokee Water & Sewerage Authority, Canton GA

Chemical Monitoring Workshop

January 25, 2003

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Environ. Management Ser., Tate GA

Get to Know Your Watershed (tent.)

April 26, 2003

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

TBD

Chemical Monitoring Workshop (tent.)

May 3, 2003

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

TBD

For more information on any of these events or to register, contact Duncan Cottrell at 770-735-2778 or via email at duncancottrell@yahoo.com.

New Members

Bronze

Infratec Consultants, Inc

Individual

Charlie Becker

This newsletter was financed in part through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency under the Provisions of Section 319 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

Upper Etowah River Alliance County

Contacts

Cherokee: Bernese Cagle

Dawson: Clark Beusse, Doris Cook

Forsyth: Paul Kreager, Tim Perkins

Lumpkin: Mason Bryan, Marshall Mahone

Pickens: Stan Barnett, Barbara Decker

This newsletter was designed, laid out and printed by Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council.



JOIN THE UPPER ETOWAH RIVER ALLIANCE TODAY!

_____ Student	\$15.00
_____ Individual	\$25.00
_____ Family	\$40.00
_____ Lifetime	\$500.00

Corporate

_____ Bronze \$100	_____ Gold \$750
_____ Silver \$500	_____ Platinum \$1000

\$_____ Other tax deductible amount.

CONTACT US!

Name _____

Address _____

Contact Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Upper Etowah River Alliance
341 E Main Street
Canton GA 30114
770-704-7280
770-704-7281 fax
email: info@etowahriver.org
www.etowahriver.org

"eventually all things merge into one and a river runs through it"

Norman MacLean

Upper Etowah River Alliance

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Canton GA 30114

