



Etowah Meanderings

Winter
2005

Alliance Participates in Winning Water Festival



Diane Minick explains the difference between point and nonpoint source pollution.

In our never-ending quest to educate the entire world about water pollution, the Upper Etowah River Alliance participated in the Winning Water Festival in Dalton on March 8, 2005.

This festival attracts over 1,000 4th grade students from Georgia and Tennessee, and covers a variety of topics about clean water. Kids got to meet live owls and snakes (not in the same room!), stand in a giant bubble, and search for macroinvertebrates in a mock stream.

Robin Dake and Diane Minick presented the Alliance's Build-A-River program to 10 classes. Katie Owens, representing Celebrate Etowah, assisted as well.

While the regular presentation is usually 45 minutes, the festival's time schedule limited each session to 20 minutes. Still the students seemed to enjoy learning about healthy rivers and the forces that pollute them.

This interactive presentation teaches students how fish, rocks, bugs and stream-side trees interact in a healthy stream. Then various pollutants are introduced in the "river" and their negative effects are discussed.

We have given this presentation to a number of students in the watershed. If you would be interested in such a presentation, please contact Robin Dake at robintdake@hotmail.com.

You and Your Lawn

Spring is almost here and it that time of the year we begin longing for a cleaner, neater, greener lawn. Your lawn can be a significant source of nonpoint source pollution. Here are a few tips for caring for your lawn in a way to protects water quality:

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly; or better yet, learn to control pests naturally
- Water lawns once a week and early in the morning
- Set your lawn mower to the highest setting. This helps control weeds.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn for a natural way to provide nitrogen

Remember, we all contribute to nonpoint source pollution by our everyday actions! Making small changes and working together can protect our clean water!

For more information, visit www.grassrootsinfo.org

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New Members

The following people have joined the Alliance in the past 6 months. Thanks for your support!

Bill Frazier
Bradley Currey
Jack Cashin
David Hinderliter
Stan Barnett
Marshall Mahone
Eva Gumbert
Duncan Cottrell
Joel Max Green
Ruth Fife
Robert Morrison
Carme Jenson
Bruce Williams
Parrie Pinyon
Mark Majors
Robert Fuller
Bill Hess
Clay Johnston
George McClure
Robert Green
Dana Thompson
Wilson Borden

If you would like to join us in working for a cleaner, healthier Etowah River, fill out the form and send it in. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, regular email updates and invitations to special events.

Join the Upper Etowah River Alliance

Sponsorships

Student	\$15
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Lifetime	\$500

Corporate

Bronze	\$100
Silver	\$500
Gold	\$750
Platinum	\$1,000

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Send your Sponsorship and form to:
Upper Etowah River Alliance
Rt. 2 Box 104
Eastanollee, GA 30538
Visit us at www.etowahriver.org

Thank You!



Diane Minick and I went to the Georgia River Network's conference in February. As part of the conference, I got to take a ride with Southwings, a nonprofit conservation organization that takes legislators, media and concerned citizens on flights over environmentally critical areas. Besides being a lot of fun, the trip was enlightening about how a change in perspective can show how land use affects water. I urge you, Dear Reader, to spend time seeing issues from new perspectives, then seeing how you can be of help.

~Robin