

streaming dialog OF A LITTLE RIVER



Visit our website at www.littleriverwatershed.org

Little River Watershed Association would like to welcome Mark Whited as the new Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Little River,

As the new Executive, I would like to thank everyone in the community who has supported this great organization over the years. Your involvement and participation during past events and river clean ups is greatly appreciated. I look forward to the opportunity to work with community leaders, organizations, businesses and the citizens of Blount County to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources that make this corner of the Smoky Mountains such a special place. This is truly a gate way to the Smokies for millions of vacationers looking to find the peace and quiet they can't get at home. Nestled deep within the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee, the Little River is home to some of the most pristine forests and rivers that provide excellent habitat for species diversity. The animals, plants, and organisms living in our forests and rivers provides us with a quality of life that is a vacationer's dream. As stewards of the land, it is up to us to preserve and protect this area for future generations to enjoy as we do today. Whether you live in the country or one of our urban areas, your life will be affected by the quality and quantity of the water in our watershed. Water quality is a basic fundamental component of a healthy ecosystem and also directly affects our lives as the water we drink. As most should know, the public water supply of Blount County comes from the Little River. But how does the quantity of water effect our lives?

Earlier this fall we received approximately 3 inches of rain within 18 hours and the Little River swelled beyond its banks reclaiming portions of the floodplains within the county. The water height measured at the gauging station located near the edge Townsend, inside the boundary of the Smoky Mountains National peaked out just below 5000 CFS or cubic feet per second. This equates to just under 7 feet. Recently the average daily flow of the Little River, measured at this location by the same gauge, varies from about 250- 450 CFS or about 2-3 feet. In perspective, it could be worse. I've seen the water level much, much higher years ago while living in Walland.

In May of 2003, it rained heavy all night and all the next day. When I returned home in the afternoon, I realized that Old Walland Hwy was flooded just past the Walland Bridge. I drove up to Kinzel Springs in hopes of crossing the Little River there, but the level of the water had flooded over Old Walland Hwy. Determined to find another way to get home, I thought of the swinging bridge. I was stopped in my tracks to see the level of the water less than 2 feet below the bridge. The Little River had risen almost 15 feet! As I continued to explore the extent of the flooding, I watched a great amount of personal items floating away. From yard furniture to refrigerators, the Little River was washing away all that had been left within its reach. Even a motor home, parked between the river and road, was about to be washed away. The water level had risen to its windshield and everything inside the RV was afloat. The river had risen so fast that I knew many people who left for work in the morning would not make it home until the waters receded. Many people never had a chance to pull their belonging out of reach of the river before they were washed away.

If you are landowner along the Little River or its tributaries then you have witnessed the effects of flash flooding. Spring time has brought us some of our heaviest rain fall, so please take the time to secure your belongings and move vehicles, lawn furniture, pets and animals to a safe location during times of heavy rains.



Normal conditions along the green way. Pistol Creek after just 3 inches of rain earlier this fall!

Little River Watershed Association has Adopted-a-Stream!



This fall the Little River Watershed Association has officially adopted a 5 mile section of the Little River from Kinzel Springs bridge to the Walland bridge. During the end of October, LRWA's board of directors and staff conducted our initial assessment and clean up.

We removed 33 bags of trash, along with car parts, miscellaneous items and construction debris. Most of the trash removed consisted of fast food drink cups, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and glass bottles. In the flood plains along the river we found mostly plastic bottles, aluminum cans and a gold mine of flip flops that seemed to collect in one specific bend in the river. At this site alone we were able to almost fill up a trash bag of just flip flops. There is something to be said about wearing sandals that have a heel strap as opposed to flip flops when partaking in river recreation activities.

We are working hard to improve the ascetic value of this community by removing litter from our rivers, streams, lakes and roads. If individuals, families or community groups would like to participate, then please come out for our next regularly scheduled clean up on Saturday February 20th. You can contact the office of LRWA with any questions and stay tuned for more information.

If you are a land owner along the Little River or along the tributaries of the Little River and you are willing to provide access to the river to expand our trash clean up efforts, please contact us. If you know of a dump site in your community or drive past one on a regular basis and consider it an eye sore, let us know and we will be sure to add this to our clean up locations.

The Adopt-a-Stream program encourages regular litter and trash clean ups at a specific section of any river or stream in our community. If you adopt a section, the name of the organization responsible for taking care of their section will have their name placed on the Adopt-a-Stream sign giving them recognition for efforts towards community stewardship. The Blount County Stormwater department has endorsed this national program and are making it available to citizen's groups, churches, organizations, businesses and individuals interested in conducting regular trash clean ups along your adopted section of stream. A real benefit to being involved in this community program is that trash bags, grabbers, gloves and safety vests are provided for all the participants in the clean up. In addition, Blount County Stormwater coordinates with Keep Blount Beautiful to arrange for trash to be disposed of properly. If your organization, citizens group or church would like to be involved in this program then please contact LRWA or Justin Teague at Blount County Stormwater for more information.

Adopt-a-Stream
Blount County Stormwater
Program Coordinator
Justin Teague
681-9301



Right: LRWA removes trash and construction debris from a dump site along the Little River

Calendar Of Events Spring 2010

February 20th	Little River Clean Up
March 6th	Winter Gala
April 24th	Earth Round-up
May 6th	Community Leader Flotilla
May 14th- 16th	Trout Fest

Earth Round-Up

2010 Earth Round-Up will be held on Saturday, April 24th. We will kick off the event with a community clean up in the morning. Our clean up efforts will be throughout Blount County along our rivers, stream, creeks, roads, greenways and parks areas. Sign up for the morning clean up will be located at the Bicentennial Park Pavilion on East Lamar Alexander Parkway. We will be signing in volunteers from 8am until 10am. The clean up efforts will continue throughout the rest of the morning and convene around 2pm. As a volunteer you will be provided a meal during the evening festivities on Maryville College campus. Earth Round-Up evening festivities will include children's activities, community esculptures on display, live music, food, community booths, educational workshops and a silent auction. All proceeds from the silent auction will go to Keep Blount Beautiful and the Little River Watershed Association.



If you are involved in an organization, community group or church group and you would like to participate in this community service in the weeks prior to the Saturday April 24th event, then please contact the Little River Watershed Association or Keep Blount Beautiful to make arrangements. We will be available to provide clean up locations, clean up materials and arrange for the debris to be disposed of properly. Early group registration ends April 1st. We encourage everyone to come out and help clean up our community in celebration for Earth Day! Call our office or visit our website for more information.

Restoration Efforts Within The Little River Watershed

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Received \$40,000 From Our Local Chapter Of Trout Unlimited

On a cool sunny afternoon in mid October, I drove up to the trail head of the Middle Prong which is located just a few miles past Tremont within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. I was met by Dudley Shumate, Jack Gregory and Rufus King who is the current president of the Little River chapter of Trout Unlimited, Herb Handy with Blount tourism, Sam and Jodi Curtis and the owner of Little River Outfitters Byron Begley. The superintendent for the Park Dale Ditmanson and Park fisheries biologists Steve Moore and Matt Kulp gathered together for a ceremony recognizing the Little River chapter of Trout Unlimited for their donation of \$40,000 to the Park for brook trout restoration.

We hiked about half a mile from the Middle Prong trail head up to the falls on Lynn Camp Prong which serves as symbol of brook trout restoration since the waterfall is a natural barrier preventing non-native fish from moving upstream. The Park will focus it's effort of brook trout restoration within this portion of our watershed from the cascading waterfall on Lynn Camp Prong into it's upper tributaries. Brook trout were nearly wiped out due to habitat destruction caused by early logging in the Park. After the non-native rainbow trout were stocked in many mountain streams around the turn of the century, these non-native species have adapted to this environment and now grow faster and out-compete the native brook trout.

While over looking the falls, Rufus King from the Little River chapter of Trout Unlimited presents a check for \$40,000 to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



{left to right} Matt Kulp, Sam and Jodi Curtis, Rufus King, Dudley Shumate, Dale Ditmanson, Jack Gregory, Steve Moore, Herb Handy

The Little River Watershed Association needs your support

The Little River Watershed Association has worked hard this past year to protect our watershed by bringing the citizens and community of Blount County a voice for the river. Now the river needs to hear your voice. We encourage you to send a letter to our city, county and state representatives urging them to protect and preserve our waters for future generations. Our representatives need to hear from you that our waters are worth protecting and you expect them to support legislation that continues to protect our waters for future generations.

In order to continue our stewardship efforts within the watershed, we depend on your support and the support of the community. The management and protection of our natural resources directly impact the quality of our river systems. By protecting our waters we maintain a safe drinking water supply, protect fragile ecosystems and allow for safe and enjoyable recreational activities that leads to a higher quality of life for all to enjoy. Whether you enjoy fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, tubing or fresh water snorkeling, you are affected by the quality of our rivers and streams. Please take the time to make a tax deductible donation to the Little River Watershed Association so we are able to continue our efforts to preserve and protect not only the Little River, but all of our rivers, streams and wetlands within our watershed. Your tax deductible donation can be sent to:

Little River Watershed Association
1006 East Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, Tennessee 37804
980-2130

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www.littleriverwatershed.org

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