



The Boone Watershed News

A Publication of the Boone Watershed Partnership, Inc.

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The Boone Watershed Celebrates Earth Month 2012

Message from the President

Lets face facts: in spite of regulations and the hard work of cities, agencies, organizations and others, many of the lakes, rivers and streams in the Boone Watershed are still affected by pollution and litter. However, significant progress is being made to remedy this.

Through your support of the Boone Watershed Partnership, you can be a part of this ongoing effort to im-

prove the water quality of our lakes, rivers and streams. We are currently working on numerous projects with our partners, including our two stream restoration projects on Sinking Creek and Gap Creek. We have also developed a stream restoration project for Beaver Creek and are seeking funding for it. We are helping to educate the public about the importance of clean water through our many outreach programs.

The BWP needs your help

in ensuring we can continue to work for clean water. I urge you to make your tax-deductible contribution today to help us carry out our mission!

“To partner with local users, regional, state, and federal entities, educators and others to identify and address water resource issues in Boone Watershed”

Gary Barrigar
President, BWP

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Clean Water: We All Need It!

Do your part to conserve and protect our water!



recommit ourselves to making environmental protection a personal priority and to ensure that our actions reflect our beliefs, values and commitment to conserving and protecting our water by simply “doing the right things”.

Deborah Wilkinson

From the Editor

As we move into Spring of 2012, the month of April (Earth Month) marks the 42nd anniversary of the celebration of Earth Day (April 22). Over the passage of time, we can become complacent about the true meaning of the day. Included in this issue is an article which provides an historical overview to remind us of how far we have come in the last 50+ years. People like Rachel Carson and

“In nature nothing exists alone”
— Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*



Senator Gaylord Nelson were indeed visionary and have given us a strong platform on which

to continue their ideals and work. It is my hope that by reading this issue of the BWP newsletter, each of us will take the time to look at our behaviors: how much water do we consume from disposable plastic water bottles, are we doing everything we can to reduce our “water footprint” (on average for an American it is 32,911 glasses per day, recommended is 8), are we mindful of how what we do impacts our environment...? There are many people who remember Boone Lake 30 years ago, when it was unhealthy to swim in it or to consume the fish that lived in it. Only through efforts by dedicated organizations and individuals **today** will we continue to make strides to improve our water quality for future generations.

BWP is heavily involved in the celebration of 2012 Earth Month (a list is found on page 6) and we would like you all to join us at one or all of the events as a volunteer or participant. This is an opportune time for us to



Earth Day–An Historical Perspective and Optimism for the Future

What do a Senator from Wisconsin, a biologist from Pennsylvania and a war in Vietnam have in common?

Well, all of these diverse forces came together in the late 60's and early 70's to initiate what has now become an annual worldwide affirmation of environmental stewardship.

In 1962, Rachel Carson, a quiet loner from a Pennsylvania farm who later became a renowned biologist and nature writer, published "*Silent Spring*", a denouncement against the spraying of DDT and other pesticides. By blaming their use for the widespread decimation of bird and animal populations, she is credited with giving the environmental movement its robust scientific underpinnings.

It was during this same era that Senator Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005), a conservation-minded Democrat from Wisconsin, first proposed making environmental protection a national priority. Even though in 1963, he convinced President Kennedy to go on a national "conservation tour," little came of it politically. That same year, Nelson introduced legislation to ban DDT but not one single member of Congress joined him.

And to literally add fire to the movement the most famous eco-disaster of the decade, Ohio's Cuyahoga River, which flowed through Cleveland and other industrial cities, caught fire in 1969, from all the hazardous wastes (primarily TCE) that were being regularly dumped into it.

So, how does the war in Vietnam get involved here?????

The idea for what was to become Earth Day came to Senator Nelson after witnessing two unrelated events while visiting California in 1969. One was the massive oil spill in Santa Barbara and secondly, by the **student anti-war movement**. He realized that if he could infuse that student energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. He announced the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment" to the national media; persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair; and recruited a fellow Wisconsinite, Denis Hayes as national coordinator. Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land. Hayes is still a driving force and voice for Earth Day to this day.

As a result, on the 22nd of April, 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of

wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values. It is interesting to note that the date of April 22nd was selected because colleges were still in session and it was pretty much in between spring break and final exams.

The first Earth Day in 1970, succeeded in garnering support from Republicans and Democrats alike. It transcended economic status and brought together people from cities, towns, and farming communities. It ultimately inspired the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts. In 1990, Earth Day gained global support. Organizers were able to mobilize 200 million people from 141 countries. The 1990, Earth Day brought recycling to the forefront. Earth Day now draws together over 5000 environmental groups and reaches out to hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries.

Optimism for the Future:

Reversing environmental problems such as air and water pollution, habitat destruction, over-consumption of non-renewable resources requires much more than the single day of observance Earth Day offers. Embracing Earth Day means changing the way we live, not just on April 22, but all year long. World population now exceeds **7 billion** so it is more important than ever to consider the sustainability of our home.

World Population Milestones (USBC estimates)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----|
| Population (in billions) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Year | 1804 | 1927 | 1960 | 1974 | 1987 | 1999 | 2012 | 2027 | 20 |
| Years elapsed | | 123 | 33 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 19 |

There is no shortage of actions you can take to honor Earth Day. You can do things such as reduce, reuse and recycle. Don't buy bottled water, stop using plastic bags, get out of that entitled mind set and think about what you do. Get active in your community, Think Globally and act Locally. And always remember the words from Benjamin Franklin—**WASTE NOT-WANT NOT!**

If you would like to see how well you are doing to help get to:

http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/personal_footprint/

"Our goal is an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for all other human creatures and for all living creatures. . .The battle to restore a proper relationship between man and his environment, between man and other living creatures will require a long, sustained, political, moral, ethical, and financial commitment- -far beyond any effort made before."

[Senator Gaylord Nelson at Earth Day Ceremonies-
University of Wisconsin](#)



Things Children Can Do To Conserve Water

1. Do not let the water run while brushing their teeth.
2. Limit showers to less than 10 minutes or bath water to less than 6 inches (15 centimeters) deep.
3. Never litter or dump anything toxic, such as paint, pesticides, or motor oil, into storm drains or sewers. This pollution can flow into streams, rivers, or bays and eventually the ocean and pollute water or kill aquatic animals and plants.
4. Encourage their school to adopt a water conservation program.
5. Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water cools down. Running the faucet wastes 3 to 7 gallons (11 to 26 liters) of water per minute.
6. Recycle their wading pool water by using it to water the garden.
7. Collect rainwater to water indoor plants or the garden.
8. Organize a cleanup day at a river, creek or stream in the area.
9. Don't use the sprinklers just to cool off or for play. Running through water from a hose or sprinkler is fun, but wastes gallons of water.
10. Be conscious of the clothes they put in the laundry. Wash clothes only when they are too dirty to wear. 💧

Members of BWP Board Meet with Congressman Phil Roe and TVA

In November of 2011, TVA, as a result of their Natural Resource Plan, unexpectedly cut funding to support critical work done by non-profit watershed groups and lake associations. On Friday March 9, members of Boone Watershed Partnership (Gary Barrigar, Ron Siegfried, Matt Dake and Deborah Wilkinson) along with members of Boone Lake Association and Cherokee Lake Association met with Congressman Phil Roe and staff and representatives of TVA to discuss the issues and concerns this change has presented. No decisions or solutions were proposed at this meeting. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in the fall to continue the dialogue and reinforce our partnerships with TVA. 💧

Did you know?

If you buy a bottle of water for \$1.00, you can refill it 1,740 times from the tap for the same cost.

The US uses more water in a day than it uses in OIL in a year. More water in 3 days than the world uses in oil in a year .

In the US, one of 6 gallons of water leaks from water pipes.

The average person in the US flushes the toilet 5 times per day = 18.5 gallons of water per day per person
= 5.7 billion gallons daily for US.

Turning off the faucet while brushing teeth saves 3 quarts of water each time you brush, an average of 2 gallons per day.

It takes ~2000 gallons of water to produce a pair of jeans.

Remember our friend Benjamin Franklin?

When the well's dry, we know the worth of water.

Environmental Education Park Proposed to Complete Sinking Creek Restoration Project

An environmental education park at the Sinking Creek wetlands in Johnson City is a logical extension of the Sinking Creek Restoration Project led by the Boone Watershed Partnership. The City of Johnson City has been a vital partner in restoring Sinking Creek, and the development of an environmental education park on approximately 28 acres of city property has moved aggressively forward since initial discussion of the park in October, 2011. The concept has been enthusiastically received by city management and by the Johnson City Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Now, city management and representatives of the Boone Watershed Partnership are planning for best funding sources and proper development among several agencies and potential partners.

An environmental education park at this particular location will be a permanent reminder of what can happen when a stream is abused by humans, yet will raise a community clean-stream conscience to reverse what we have done. Many Sinking Creek residents have cooperated with the Sinking Creek Restoration Project, but there is still more work that could be done. Although the grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture used to assist residents with the Sinking Creek Restoration Project is coming to an end, the park will continue to remind neighbors and visitors to be more aware of what is going into the stream.

Students from area schools and colleges will have access to a wetlands environment to explore the habitats, and learn why preservation of the creek and wetlands are so important to us. The access will encourage students to pursue scientific studies. The public will have access to view the wetlands, the stream, and to explore the hardwood forest in an urban neighborhood. The site of the proposed park is located in a neighborhood that has not seen progressive development in many years. Although the park will be inviting, it will emphasize the TDEC warning signs located within a mile downstream about the danger of swimming and wading in the stream because of the unacceptable high levels of *E. coli* bacteria.

As an environmental education park, it will not be a traditional city park. The vision for the park is a small parking lot to access a rustic foot trail leading to a large gazebo to be used as an outdoor classroom. The gazebo will be found fairly close to the parking lot to convenience educators carrying their materials and tools. The view from the outdoor classroom will enable reference to the wetlands and the highlands of the park. Rustic trails from the gazebo will lead students to boardwalks over parts of the wetlands and bridges over the stream. Another direction will lead students to the hardwood forest above the wetlands. There will be no lights so as not

to disturb wildlife, nor will bicycles or skateboards be allowed. It is envisioned that college students from graphics, communication, biology, and environmental health departments could create appropriate educational signage along the trails, bridges, and boardwalks.

A separate account for development of the Environmental Education Park at Sinking Creek has been designated by BWP. The Jacob Francisco Memorial Century & Awareness Walk, which is held every 3rd Saturday in April, is dedicating all funds raised to Boone Watershed Partnership for the development of the park. This year, the event is April 21st, and includes non-competitive 25 and 62 mile bicycle rides with stocked rest stops approximately every 15 miles, and a non-competitive 2 mile walk that features an open-air art gallery of over 200 pieces of environmental art created by area students.



BWP member Bill Francisco, who is a Sinking Creek resident and father of Jacob Francisco, maintains a blog site at www.jacobfrancisco.com to raise awareness of *E. coli* bacteria in our water & food. Registration and more information about the Jacob Francisco Memorial Century & Awareness Walk can be found at the site, as well as Bill's postings about current developments with the environmental education park at Sinking Creek. 💧

For more information on the wetland park, contact Bill at 423 926-6813 or wlcisco@aol.com.

Contributed by Bill Francisco

2011 Sponsors and Major Members

Without our sponsors and members, our organization would not be able to continue operations. At this time, we'd like to recognize our 2011 sponsors and major members.

SPONSORS



MAJOR MEMBERS

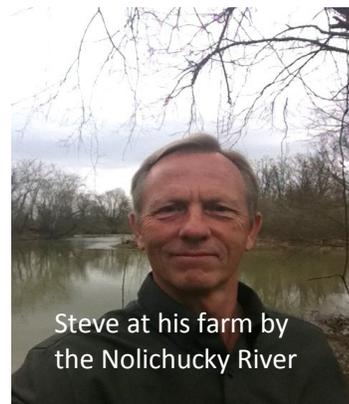


Please join us in our efforts to improve the quality of our water by becoming a new member or renewing your existing membership.

If you or your organization are interested in membership, please visit www.boonewatershed.com, print and fill out a form found there and send your check today. 💧

BWP Membership Profile—Steve Henegar

Steve Henegar has been involved with Boone Watershed Partnership since its beginning and is a member of the technical advisory board. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education. After graduating from U. T., he worked for several years in manufacturing and then began his career with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). He now has over twenty-seven years experience with TDA beginning as Soil Conservationist, then Regional Administrator and is currently Watershed Coordinator for Water Resources Programs in Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington Counties. He has extensive experience providing technical assistance to landowners to develop and implement conservation plans including design, layout, and construction of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP). He is project manager for TDA's Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund and EPA 319 grants which are TDA's cost-share programs for installing BMP's to improve water quality.



Steve at his farm by the Nolichucky River

While most of the projects Steve has been involved with are agricultural BMPs, he is also involved in non-agricultural projects such as the Sinking Creek Watershed Restoration Project funded by TDA through a 319 grant which has enabled many residents in the Sinking Creek watershed to connect to Johnson City's sewer system.

Steve enjoys being a part of the BWP because of the unselfish enthusiasm of the members that are all working toward a common goal of improving water resources. He is inspired seeing people volunteer their time and talents to improve this world.

After moving to his current home by the Nolichucky River where he grows corn, soybeans, millet, giant watermelons and fruit (his orchard has 26 varieties of apples, 5 varieties of pears and a few peaches and plums), Steve, who enjoys spending time on the river, began to notice the mussel shells in the river. He soon had quite a collection. His son, Stephen, who is with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, gave him a book to help identify them and then arranged for him to attend a meeting with freshwater mussel experts from all over the southeast.

(Steve Continued on page 6)



(CSteve continued from page 5)

He has developed a keen appreciation for these creatures for which he previously had little regard. Knowledge and understanding of the even the slightest in nature can bring about respect and appreciation. To raise awareness of the plight of this most endangered class of animals on earth and the need for clean water for their survival, he shares his collection of shells with over a thousand people each year . He also assists his son with his efforts to raise endangered mussels for re-stocking streams and works to relocate mussels and monitor their progress. In his spare time , as a member of the Appala-

Upcoming Meetings/Activities

To volunteer or for more details contact Gary Barrigar at gbarrigar@boonewatershed.com

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| BWP BOD Meeting | 2-4 pm, April 3 | Johnson City TDEC Office |
| Carter County Community Clean-up * | April 16-22 | See local announcements |
| AmeriCorps NCCC Volunteer Team | April 18-25 | Buffalo Mountain Camp Johnson City, TN |
| Jacob Francisco Memorial Century Awareness Walk * | 9 am, April 12 | ETSU parking Lot #22A Behind Knight's Pizza Johnson City, TN |
| Stream Workshop | 1 pm, April 21 | Warrior's Path State Park, Kingsport, TN |
| Beaver Creek Clean-up * | April 21 | Bristol, TN |
| Earth Day Celebration with the Girl Scouts * | 1-5, April 22 | Gray Fossil Site |
| Earth Day Celebration with ETSU * | 10-2, April 24 | In front of ETSU Library, Johnson City, TN |
| Boone Lake Cleanup * | 9-6, April 28 | Winged Deer Park, Johnson City, TN |
| Annual Carter County River and Stream Clean Up * | 9-1, May 12 | Covered Bridge Park, Elizabethton, TN |
| Springfield Acres Yard Sale | 7 to noon, May 12 | Springfield Drive, Bristol TN |
| Spring Roan Mountain Naturalist's Rally | May 4-6 | Roan Mountain State Park |
| Blue Plum Festival * | June 1-3 | Johnson City, TN |
| * Volunteers needed to help with these activities | | |

chian Trail Conservancy, Steve enjoys hiking, especially the Appalachian Trail. For the past two years, he has been involved in a major film project about the Appalachian Trail which his son, Samuel, has undertaken. Steve is also a member of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America and enjoys riding his motor cycle and exploring the natural world. 

Congratulations to Joy Stewart, BWP member and Master Gardener, for her article in the Tennessee Conservationist titled "Rain Gardens Provide Habitat For Birds and Butterflies and Help to Improve Water Quality". Read it online at http://www.tn.gov/environment/tn_cons/

Learn how you can become involved in helping keep our streams clean.
<http://boonewatershed.com/>
Join us on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Boone-Watershed-Partnership-Inc/133272473350069?re>