



The Boone Watershed News

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The Boone Watershed Partnership Works for Clean Streams

The Boone Watershed Partnership is continuing to make a real difference in the water quality of our lakes, rivers and streams in our watershed. During 2010, working in partnership with many groups and individuals, projects include: A Zero Waste Workshop to help education event facilitators and the public how to reduce the waste at public events, a strong presence at

the annual Tennessee Environmental Conference, (including a program on the work of the BWP), support of various partner stream clean-ups, numerous stream workshops, a rain barrel workshop and our annual BWP Awards Picnic. In addition, much progress has been made on our two stream restoration projects on Sinking Creek and Gap Creek. Our summer intern,

Katie Shuck, worked to develop a Facebook page, and organized a karaoke fundraiser, as well as other activities.

We invite you to go our website at <http://boonewatershed.com> to learn how you can become involved in helping keep our streams clean.

Gary Barrigar
President, BWP

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BWP Co-sponsors 'Planning a Zero-Waste Event' Workshop



A Zero-Waste event in Knoxville

In October 2010, the Boone Watershed Partnership, together with the Tennessee Valley Authority and the ETSU Department of Geosciences, partnered to host a workshop on planning and carrying out a Zero-Waste Event. The purpose of the workshop was to provide local leaders with the know-how to reduce the amount of waste produced at local and regional events.

The workshop featured John Homa who is the Solid Waste Project Manager for Knoxville, TN, and one of the organizers of Knoxville's EarthFest celebration. Mr. Homa has played a key role with environmental teams by cre-

ating office solid waste recycling programs in the three TVA corporate office locations. He has been responsible for Knoxville's recycling and drop-off centers, creating public awareness, educating the public, and implementing various programs in order to reduce waste. He has coordinated city events such as America Recycles Day and



BWP board member Ann Harrison recycles workshop leftovers for compost

Earthfest (Knoxville's Earth Day Event). In 2010, EarthFest generated 880 pounds of recyclables, and only 6.25 pounds of landfilled trash over the course of the festival.

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**Clean Water:
We All Need
It!**

**Do your part
to conserve
and protect
our
water!**

Sinking Creek Restoration Project Update

The Sinking Creek Restoration project has been underway just over two years. In October 2008, the BWP received a grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to address high levels of *Escherichia coli* in the creek. The lower sections of the creek have been posted to warn against contamination for decades. Sinking Creek originates on Buffalo Mountain and flows through Johnson City and Carter County before sinking into a network of underground caves and reaching the Watauga River. The Sinking Creek subwatershed also includes Catbird Creek which has similar characteristics.



On November 22, 2010, the first sewer connection was made along Sinking Creek

The Sinking Creek Project mainly consists of addressing runoff from agricultural activities and the use of septic tanks along the creek, where a public sewer system is readily available.

On November 22, 2010, the first sewer connection was made. Since that time, eight more connections are being pursued, with the possibility of eliminating the use of 9 septic tanks. The first tank that was taken offline was not more than about 50 yards from the creek. Additionally, participation is being sought for the few folks that remain on septic within the Johnson City limit on Catbird Creek.

On November 4, 2010, a steering committee was formed to better delegate responsibilities among the various contributing partners. An agricultural subcommittee was formed, and the USDA's Natural Resource and Conservation Service has begun to actively participate and provide valuable technical support. The subcommittee met twice in December, 2010 and has at least two projects identified or underway at this time. There is a possibility of up to four more projects that may be started, depending on landowner participation. A subcommittee for sewer connections and a public relations/outreach committee will also be formed.

Contact Sarah Ketron, Project Manager, if you are interested in learning more or assisting with the project. Ms. Ketron can be reached at sarah.ketron@yahoo.com or by phone at 423.220.7480

BWP Membership Profile: Cathy Landy



Cathy Landy measuring the water temperature

Cathy Landy has been a member of Boone Watershed Partnership for about 15 years. She earned her Master's degree in Environmental Health at East Tennessee State University and discovered a passion for water quality and watersheds while she was working on her degree.

She is currently employed part-time as a Watershed Representative by the Tennessee Valley Authority. She has also been working for the past 13 years at Buffalo Mountain Camp, teaching children about stream ecology and environmental education.

Cathy is a Virginia certified Master Naturalist and is certified in the Virginia Save Our Streams Program and the West Virginia method of water monitoring as well as had training in the North Carolina method of stream monitoring. She participated in a Tennessee validation of the Virginia SOS method, working with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation aquatic biologists from the Johnson City Tennessee Field Office. She has led many stream monitoring workshops with the Boone Watershed Partnership and others and said she, "enjoys working with both aquatic bugs and people."

Cathy grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire and moved to the Tri-cities area in 1989. Growing up in the city she was not exposed much to nature and was delighted to discover the unexpected beauty of northeast Tennessee when she arrived. She says she saw how important it was to try to help protect our area from the negative impacts of urban development that she had seen in Manchester. She says that she remains in awe of the natural beauty of this area.

Cathy has volunteered at many Boone Watershed Partnership events, including stream clean-ups and rain barrel building workshops, as well as stream workshops. She also believes that the BWP is an asset to the community and is a great place for people to learn about water quality and how they can help to protect it.



Cathy and a volunteer collect macroinvertebrates

- Joy Stewart

Ten Things You Can Do to Protect Your Watershed

According to Center for Watershed Protection, the top ten things you can do to protect your watershed are:

1. Water your lawn only where and when needed.



2. Limit the use of pesticides and fertilizers used on your lawn. Consider using an alternative to the use of chemical pesticides, such as

Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is the use of natural methods to deter pests.

3. Plant native vegetation. By planting vegetation that is adapted to your region you will reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers and watering that will be required. This means less work for you!



4. Redirect rooftop runoff using a rain barrel or at the very least a spreader.



5. Dispose of pet waste properly. Because pet waste can be high in bacteria and nutrients, it should be disposed of in a toilet or trash can.

6. Carefully choose where you wash your car. Washing your car



on you lawn will reduce the amount of water that is converted to runoff and allow the detergents to be filtered by your lawn before it enters the stream system. Another alternative is choosing an automatic carwash that is connected to the

sewer system or recycles wash water.

7. Properly maintain your car. Regular maintenance will ensure a smooth running machine and reduce the amount of oil and other fluid leaks as well as reducing other pollutants that result from driving cars.



levels of bacteria and nutrients that can contaminate the groundwater, as well as streams. It is critical to have your septic system regularly inspected and maintained. Inspections should be done at least once every three years.

10. The best thing you can do to protect your watershed is to join a watershed organization. Doing so will help you learn more about your own water-



shed and its unique qualities. It will keep you informed as to what is going on in your watershed and what future plans there are for development. Watershed organizations can also provide a unified plan of action that can really make a difference in the future of your watershed.



8. Dispose of or recycle chemicals properly. All paints, oils, grease, anti-freeze and cleaning products should be disposed of properly. Many

of these items need to special processing which dumping down the stormdrain or even a household drain can not do. Many communities have a household hazardous waste disposal station or annual collection day.

9. Properly maintain septic system. For most people, out of site out of mind. Unfortunately though, septic systems are one of the top polluters because of their limited lifetime and up to 35% failure rate. Septic system discharge has high



Adapted from "Why Watersheds?" a production of the Center for Watershed Protection, Inc. For more information on watershed protection, visit the Center for Watershed Protection online at www.cwp.org or visit the River Network at www.rivernet.org

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During the BWP's zero-waste workshop, Mr. Homa presented a program and led a discussion on methods of reducing or eliminating waste at public events of various scales. The workshop was attended by local and regional government leaders, business leaders, environmental leaders, and ETSU student leaders. The workshop itself was a zero-waste event, with online registration and refreshments served on china and glassware. Cloth napkins were used, food waste was composted and name badge holders were collected for reuse.

Conducting a public event as a 'zero-waste event' provides leadership in environmental protection by reducing the amount of 'waste' or valuable resources that are sent to landfills. The premise of the zero-waste event is to collect this 'waste' and divert it from the landfill for reuse, recycling, and com-

posting. The BWP's zero-waste workshop focused on creating environmentally-savvy leadership, not more trash.

- Ingrid Luffman



Volunteers can be on site and provide on the spot education.



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

We're on the WEB!

<http://boonewatershed.com/>

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