



# The Boone Watershed News

A Publication of the Boone Watershed Partnership, Inc.

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## The Boone Watershed Celebrates Earth Month 2013

### Message from the President

As I begin my term as President for 2013, I give pause to look back on the history of the Boone Watershed Partnership. For 18 years the Boone Watershed Partnership has been working to make a difference in the water quality of the lakes, rivers and streams in our watershed. What started as a TVA initiative to develop awareness about the importance of clean water has

grown into a nonprofit organization working with many partners. I thank all who have worked countless hours to make BWP a success. I also welcome new board members: Bill Francisco, Jim Austin, Sue Doyle, and Kathleen Moore. Each brings new skills and talents to help us to accomplish our mission. I am also pleased that Deborah Wilkinson has accepted the position of Vice-President. She brings to the leadership a great dedication to the task of

making the BWP what it can be. With the work of a great board and executive team, 2013 promises to be a milestone year for the BWP!

To learn how you can become involved in helping keep our streams clean, I invite you to visit our website at:

<http://boonewatershed.com>

Gary Barrigar  
President, BWP

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

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

### From the Editor

It is hard to believe we are into a new year. The year 2012 was extremely successful with many accomplishments. The Board of Director's elected new officers and new board members to replace outgoing members. The Sinking Creek Project (Johnson City) with the Sinking Creek Wetlands Enhancement is progressing steadily with 24 sewer hook ups, 5 septic tank drain field repairs and one agricultural project completed (Partners-City of Johnson City, TVA, TDEC, BWP). The grant for the Beaver Creek Project (Bristol) has been received and work will begin in March. A small section of Gap Creek (part of the Gap Creek Project (Elizabethton) that was eroded during the recent heavy rains is being re-

paired and the project will be closed after additional trees are planted to reinforce those areas (Partners-local landowner, BWP). Brush Creek has been adopted by the Service Learning Students of ETSU with 3 dates set up for clean ups this spring (fall of 2012, 7 cleanups, >200 volunteer hours and over 2900 pounds of litter were removed). The list goes on and on.

A new exciting year is underway for BWP. We could not do all of this without our BOD, members and partners. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer and be a part of this great organization, see our activities page 6. I hope you will take advantage of as many as possible and know you are making a difference in our water quality.

Deborah Wilkinson-editor

### Join BWP TODAY!

- and become a part of an organization that is making a difference to the communities in which we live. You can now become a member, renew your membership or make a donation directly on line from the BWP website via PayPal.



[www.boonewatershed.com](http://www.boonewatershed.com).

If this method doesn't appeal to you, you may continue to print and fill out a form found on the website and mail it along with your check.



### A New Native Plant Blog and Database Under Construction

Did you know that you can have fun gardening and improving our Tennessee waters at the same time? The Tennessee Yards & Neighborhoods Program (TYN) is out to help you do just that. TYN’s aim is to help keep Tennessee’s waterways clean, one yard at a time! The program encourages people to build a yard that is based on its nine principles: Right plant, right place; Manage soils and mulch; Appropriate turf grass management; Water efficiently; Use fertilizer appropriately; Manage yard pests; Reduce storm water runoff and its pollutants; Provide for wildlife; and Protect water’s edge.

The program is relatively new and began in 2009 under a 319 grant. Today it is an official program sponsored by the Water Resources Research Center and University of Tennessee Extension. It is functioning in 7 counties and 13 municipal storm water programs (MS4s) across the state.

Use of native plants in the home landscape is a key part of TYN’s mission because native plants help achieve many of their nine principals. TYN found that Tennessee homeowners needed a “go-to” place that could help them review and select commercially available plants that are native to Tennessee. They also needed a place where they could swap information about these plants and discuss their success or problems with certain plant varieties. TYN jumped in to fill the gap and is in the process of creating the Tennessee Native Plant Blog [<http://tynnativeplants.wordpress.com/>].

The blog will include not only a large database of flowers, grasses, ferns, shrubs and vines, but also a place to post blogs and to comment on specific plants listed in the database. The database contains detailed, colorful plant photographs and helpful information on how to grow these plants. It is currently under construction, with about 400 flowers being the first entries. Even though it is still under construction, people are welcome to access the plant information currently on the site, read current posts, and to post their own blogs and comments.

For more information about Tennessee Yards & Neighborhoods and to get a link to the TYN Native Plant Blog visit [[tyn.utk.edu](http://tyn.utk.edu)]

Contributed by Joy Stewart

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### 2013 Board of Director’s and Officers Elected

January 16, the first Board of Director’s meeting of 2013 found the members electing a slate of officers and new board members.

Officers selected from the BOD for the 2013 term are: Gary Barrigar, President; Deborah Wilkinson, Vice President; Matt Dake, Treasurer and Ingrid Luffman, Secretary.

Four new members were elected to join the Board for the two year term 2013-2014: Jim Austin-expertise in Visual Design will be helping with our website design, Sue Doyle– expertise in Environmental Health and a Boone Lake Association liaison, Bill Francisco– Sinking Creek resident and partner in the Sinking Creek Restoration project and Kathleen Moore–expertise in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape and Public Administration in Planning and Development and ETSU liaison.

A hearty thanks goes to those individuals who rolled off the Board as their terms ended in 2012: Bob Fondry, Ron Siegfried, Ann Harrison and Steve Wyse. While they are no longer on the BWP BOD, they remain committed to the Mission and will be active as members.

### So, What is the Big Deal with Storm Water Run-off???

In this quarter's newsletter you have seen at least a couple of articles mention storm water runoff and drainage to help our water quality. Well, here are a few reasons for that:

Whenever an area is developed, forested areas, grassy meadows and fields are replaced by houses, shopping malls, and commercial and industrial buildings. These fields and meadows where rainwater used to infiltrate or be absorbed are replaced by **impervious surfaces** such as paved parking areas, buildings and streets. Whenever natural areas are replaced by impervious surfaces, the rain that falls in an average rain event is forced to behave differently. Some examples are:

More rainfall becomes runoff because less infiltration and interception takes place. Especially in urban areas, a small storm event can result in a large amount of runoff because there are not enough places that catch rainwater and allow it to soak into the ground.

This larger amount of runoff is then forced, via storm drains, to fit into existing stream channels. This makes the runoff water travel faster in the stream channel. This ultimately causes many associated problems such as bank erosion.

The larger amount of water and the faster speed at which the water travels increases the risk of flooding downstream (aka downtown Johnson City).

The faster-moving water in the streams erodes stream channels and carries sediment downstream and results in higher levels of all types of pollutants.

The runoff also picks up pollutants such as oil from streets and sidewalks. Because there is less vegetated surface in an urban setting, the pollution is less likely to be filtered out of the water before it is carried downstream to other areas of our watershed.

Don't get me wrong, we should be happy for all the rain we can get but we need to give Mother Nature a helping hand ever now and again and think about the "big picture". Sometimes it can be just as easy as making the parking area out of permeable pavers or gravel instead

of asphalt. Maybe Joni Mitchell said it best in her 1970's tune, Big Yellow Taxi--

*"They paved paradise to put up a parking lot" and "Hey farmer, farmer, put away that [DDT](#) now" – "They took all the trees, and put 'em in a tree museum / And charged the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em."*

**If you have forgotten or weren't here yet, check it out**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWwUJH70ubM>

Contributed by Rick Wimberly

### ETSU Storm Drain Labeling Program

In an effort to educate the ETSU community about the importance of protecting the regional waterways, ETSU students in Dr. Aimee Govett's Science in Education class installed metal placards on over 100 storm drains on campus in 2012. Working with ETSU's Department of Environmental Health and Safety and the Department of Sustainability, these service-learning students assisted the university with their storm water management plan by helping to educate and inform campus constituents about the dangers of litter, oil drips, and other pollutants that can greatly harm the water supply. Plans are to continue the students' efforts and have all storm drains labeled on the campus in the near future.

Contributed by Kathleen Moore



## 9th Annual Jacob Francisco Memorial Century Bike Ride and Awareness Walk

### About the Bike Ride

The Jacob Francisco Memorial Century is a noncompetitive charity bike ride that includes quarter century and metric century bicycle routes beginning from the East Tennessee State University (ETSU) parking lot behind Knight's Food & Sports on W. State of Franklin in Johnson City, Tennessee. The century routes go over Buffalo Mountain within the first 10 miles, and the remaining route of the quarter century is mostly flat returning to ETSU. The metric century follows the Nolichucky River and finds some rolling hills around Washington County before returning to ETSU through historic Jonesborough. Well-stocked rest stops managed by enthusiastic volunteers and restrooms are available for both routes, and Knight's Food & Sports will offer post-ride bite for the metric centurions. Fruit, snacks, refreshments, and a chance to win door prizes will be available for all registered cyclists upon return.

### About the Awareness Walk

The Awareness Walk is approximately 2.5 miles of a new walking/bicycling path along W. State of Franklin toward downtown Johnson City. The walkers begin their non-competitive walk behind the departing cyclists, and will enjoy the awareness-raising environmental art completed by area elementary students in an open-air gallery. Fruit, snacks, refreshments, and a chance to win door prizes will be available for all registered walkers upon return.

### Why participate?

Jacob Francisco was a kind, active, smart, handsome 6 year-old boy when he was contaminated with an *E.coli* bacteria from an unknown source. Flu-like symptoms quickly developed into renal kidney failure from hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) which spread the toxicity of the *E.coli* bacteria to every body organ causing him to suffer and die on June 29, 2004 -- just over 2 weeks of showing his first symptom. This is not a rare illness. HUS is the leading cause of renal kidney failure of America's children.

Shortly before he got ill, Jacob declared that he would be famous one day, and would be on the covers of magazines. He couldn't say what would bring his fame, but his family and friends work to create Jacob's fame for

saving lives. The Jacob Francisco Memorial Century & Awareness Walk has been a significant fundraiser for the ETSU Foundation for the Jacob Francisco Lecture-ship, which has paid expenses for medical lectures at the Quillen College of Medicine about *E.coli* bacteria prevention and treatment. This year, the event will raise funds for the Boone Watershed Partnership-Sinking Creek Restoration Project.

Before climbing Buffalo Mountain, the quarter and metric centurions travel along the high end of Sinking Creek past Jacob's home. Sinking Creek has been found to be contaminated with *E.coli* bacteria; prevalently, at the lower end of the stream. The Boone Watershed Partnership is the leading organization to clean up the stream with its Sinking Creek Restoration Project. Through the Sinking Creek Restoration Project, Jacob's story has been told, and twenty-four new sewer connections, four septic repairs, and one agricultural project affecting twenty acres along Sinking Creek have been completed.

A logical extension of the project is the development of an environmental education park on 28 acres of city property that include Sinking Creek wetlands. City leaders are anxious to work with other partners to build a boardwalk and outdoor classroom at an expanded wetlands that will be used by kindergarten through post-secondary and life-long learning students. This park will be a constant reminder that will raise a community conscience to rid, or at least reduce the *E. coli* in Sinking Creek. The funds raised from this year's event will go to the Boone Watershed Partnership-Sinking Creek Restoration Project toward development of the park.

The picture of Jacob on his bike was taken on his 5th birthday when he told his father to take off the training wheels.

**Please come ride or walk**





(Continued from page 4)

with us on Saturday, April 20, 2012 at 9:00AM to help raise awareness of this silent, ever-present, *E.coli* bacteria, and create Jacob's fame for saving lives! More information about Jacob's Project can be found at [www.jacobfrancisco.com](http://www.jacobfrancisco.com), which also has an active.com hyperlink for online registration for either the bike ride or the walk. Registration forms will also be available at local bike shops and other retail stores. Registration fees for the bike rides are \$30.00 before April 1st, then \$40.00, and \$10.00 for the awareness walk. The first 100 registrants for either the bike ride or walk are guaranteed a t-shirt. Contributed by Bill Francisco.

**We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our 2012 Sponsors:**

**Watershed Caretaker**

**Eastman Chemical Company**

**Municipalities**

**Bluff City, City of Johnson City**

**Major Members**

**Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Severn Trent Services, Boone Lake Association, Friends of Roan Mountain**

**Celebrate World Water Day and the International Year of Water Cooperation**

World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of fresh water and advocating for the sustainable management of fresh water resources. See how you can participate at <http://www.worldwaterday.org>

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. The objective of the year is to raise awareness of the potential for, and value of increased cooperation in relation to water.

**Hoarfrost**—soft ice crystals may form on vegetation or any object that has been chilled below freezing point by radiation cooling during clear frosty nights in winter. This deposit of ice crystals may sometimes be so thick that it might look like snow. The interlocking ice crystals become attached to branches of trees, leaves, hedge-



rows and grass blades and are one of the most prominent features of a typical 'winter wonderland' day. However, the fine 'feathers', 'needles' and 'spines' might also be found on any other object that is exposed to supersaturated air below freezing temperature. Photo by DW.



“How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is quite clearly Ocean.”

Arthur C. Clarke



**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE MONTHLY TO DO LIST**

**March- Wear some green to blend in with nature and remember World Water Day is the 22nd.**

**April- Duh, celebrate Earth Day on the 22nd and then consider making everyday Earth Day.**

**May- Remember, April showers bring May flowers. Especially if you have a rain garden and maybe even a rain barrel.**



### Upcoming Meetings/Activities

To volunteer or for more details contact Gary Barrigar at [gbarrigar@boonewatershed.com](mailto:gbarrigar@boonewatershed.com)

Tennessee Environmental Conference- <a href="http://www.tnenvironment.com/home.aspx">http://www.tnenvironment.com/home.aspx</a>	March 12-13	Meadowview Conference Resort and Convention Center—Kingsport, TN
BWP BOD Meeting	1-3 pm, March 27	Johnson City TDEC Office
ETSU/BWP brush Creek Cleanup *  To volunteer and for more info contact : Kathleen Moore,ETSU at <a href="mailto:MOORE@mail.etsu.edu">MOORE@mail.etsu.edu</a>	March 23, April 6, April 10	Johnson City Brush Creek
Jacob Francisco Memorial Century and Awareness Walk *  <a href="http://www.jacobfrancisco.com">www.jacobfrancisco.com</a>	9 am, April 20	ETSU parking Lot #22A Behind Knight's Pizza Johnson City, TN
Stream Workshop	April 20	Warrior's Path State Park, Kingsport, TN
Earth Day Celebration with the Girl Scouts *  For more information contact Deborah Wilkinson at <a href="mailto:deb.wilk@charter.net">deb.wilk@charter.net</a>	April 21, noon to 5:00	Gray Fossil Site
Earth Day Celebration with ETSU *	April 22	In front of ETSU Library, Johnson City, TN
Boone Lake Cleanup *	April 27	Boone Lake Picnic Pavilion, Johnson City, TN
Watauga River Cleanup*	9 am-12 pm, April 27	Covered Bridge Park, Elizabethton, TN
Blue Plum Festival *	June 7, 8, 9	Johnson City, TN
* Volunteers needed to help with these activities		

Learn how you can become involved in helping keep our streams clean.

<http://boonewatershed.com/>

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