

Down by the river

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Fall 2020

2020 Reflections

Education & Outreach

In 2020, Upper Tennessee River Roundtable:

- Recorded videos, participated with other groups, for a total of 6 videos.
- Developed outdoor classroom plan at the Abingdon Community Center with funds from Dominion Charitable Foundation.
- Showed the film, "Hidden Rivers," with 85 vehicles at Park Place Drive-In in Marion.
- Conducted 8 Trash Treasures workshops.
- Made 12 email newsletters, two print newsletter, and three infographics.
- Conducted stream monitoring sessions working with the Clinch Water Watch.

Pollution Prevention & Conservation

The Roundtable, assisted by many:

- Purchased barrels and hardware to make 115 rain barrels.
- Conducted two rain barrel workshops in Tazewell and one in Norton.
- For Abingdon and Washington County, met individually with 60 residents to for individual instruction.
- Purchased eight pet waste stations for Greenbelt trail in Big Stone Gap to keep waste from washing into Powell River. Funding from LG&E KU.
- Funding for rain barrels, printing from VA Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Litter Prevention & Recycling

Upper Tennessee River Roundtable working with Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful, completed:

- Four stream cleanups with a total of 77 volunteers filling two pickup trucks with litter.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event for Tazewell County, funded by TVA. Tazewell Soil & Water Conservation District collected tires, medicines, cardboard.
- America Recycles Day with Sustain Abingdon collecting 10,000 pounds of paper, 800 cubic yards of electronics, 101 pairs of shoes, food for the local food bank, and pet supplies for a local shelter.

Stream Projects

The Roundtable and Partners for Fish & Wildlife and Canaan Valley Institute:

- Planted warm season grass and wildflower meadow along the Middle Fork of the Holston River at Chilhowie Town Park. Partners: the Town of Chilhowie, Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Canaan Valley Institute.
- Planted riparian buffer along the South Fork of the Clinch River at Dunford Park working with the Town of Tazewell.
- Collaborated with Tazewell Soil & Water Conservation District on agricultural projects.
- Received grant funding from VA Dept. of Environmental Quality.

In Appreciation

Upper Tennessee River Roundtable thanks everyone who supported the mission toward cleaner rivers this year. Thank you for the grants, donations, in-kind labor, in-kind donations, and thank you for our many project partnerships. (We tried to be inclusive, but please forgive us if we left out anyone.)

- Monthly donors to Upper Tennessee River Roundtable & Members of Upper Tennessee River Roundtable
- Volunteers for Upper Tennessee River Roundtable Projects and Programs
- Donations from family and friends in memory of Mary Kathryn Wheeler
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- Appalachian Electric Power (AEP) Co.
- LG & E KU Foundation
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Canaan Valley Institute
- Abingdon Vineyards
- Bass Pro/Cabela's Outdoor Foundation
- Natural Capital
- Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful, Keep Virginia Beautiful, and Keep America Beautiful
- Clean Virginia Waterways
- City of Norton
- All towns, and especially the Town of Tazewell, Town of Chilhowie, Town of Abingdon and Sustain Abingdon, Town of Big Stone Gap, Town of Appalachia, Town of Saltville
- Friends of Southwest Virginia
- Clinch River Valley Initiative
- All of the counties that provide some form of support
- Washington County
- The CARES Act
- All Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and especially Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District, Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, and Daniel Boone Soil and Water Conservation District
- Clinch River Valley Initiative and Action Teams
- Virginia Master Naturalists
- Virginia Master Gardeners
- Hungry Mother State Park & Natural Tunnel State Park
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Partners for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards
- The Clinch Coalition
- United Way of Southwest Virginia
- Emory & Henry College
- Virginia Highlands Community College
- Southwest VA Environmental Education Team and our partnering school systems
- Virginia Save Our Streams and the Izaak Walton League and Clinch Water Watch
- Stapleton Landscape Architecture, Chad Owens, and Abingdon Community Center
- Park Place Drive-In Theater
- Clif Bar Family Foundation