



Fall Roundtable meeting to feature mussel recovery talk at Sugar Grove Diner on Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. in Marion

Southwest Virginia Freshwater Mussel Recovery Coordinator Megan Bradley will be featured speaker for the fall Upper Tennessee River Roundtable dinner meeting on Thursday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. at Sugar Grove Diner in Marion.

Bradley has been with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for less than a year. She hails from Central Virginia and is a graduate of Virginia Tech and Southwest Missouri State. She previously worked as a VDGIF technician under the invertebrate specialist.

Cost per person is \$17. **Meal reservations must be made in advance to**

guarantee a meal. To reserve a spot, call 276.628.1600 to **by Tuesday, Sept. 18.**

The evening will begin with dinner, followed by the

speaker, a business session, open forum and raffle. To donate to the raffle, bring items that evening.

Membership is open!

Membership applications and dues will be accepted during the meeting for anyone wishing to join the Roundtable. Individual levels include: Student (Stonefly): \$5 or 5 hours of volunteer time; Single (Tennessee Heelsplitter):

\$5; Family-up to six at same address (Dragonfly): \$30 for entire family.

Business levels are: Silver (Smallmouth Bass): \$50; Gold (Kingfisher): \$200; Platinum (Hellbender): \$500.

Members may vote at Roundtable meetings on business matters, such as bylaw revisions and advocacy issues. Dues are utilized to help fund office expenses, such as telephone and internet fees, office supplies and a variety of outreach events and some on-the-ground projects. The Roundtable is a 501c3 nonprofit based in Abingdon and serving the Upper Tennessee River watershed.



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Calendar

Saturday, Sept. 15:

Muster Grounds Cleanup; Regional Stream Cleanup Kick-off; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 20:

Roundtable dinner, 6 p.m. in Marion.

Saturday, Sept. 22:

Public Lands Day; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. litter pickup at future Pennington Gap trail.

First Annual Three Rivers Art Auction set for Nov. 10

Water is the theme of the First Annual Three Rivers ArtAuction at MountainRose Vineyard in Wise on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Tickets sold in advance are \$10 each; tickets at the door are \$15 each. A ticket covers entrance to the event, hors d'oeuvres,

one glass of wine and a chance on a door prize drawing.

Featured artisans include Cecelia Pippin, David Alexander, Nykki Wyatt, Martha Chapman and many more.

To purchase tickets, call the Roundtable office at 276.628.1600.



Coordinator's Corner: Stream cleanups, education conference ahead

The Roundtable currently offers many opportunities to get involved: the Ninth Annual Regional Stream Cleanup



Carol Doss

kicks off this Saturday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Muster Grounds at 702 Colonial Road in Abingdon. This cleanup is co-sponsored by Abingdon Go Green Committee, Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful and Clean Virginia Waterways. First 50 volunteers will receive stream cleanup T-shirts. Pizza lunch will be provided for all.

Our next event is a trail walk

and litter pickup on the future path of the Pennington Gap Greenway on Saturday, Sept. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in celebration of National Public Lands Day. A health and fitness talk will be given by Jeannie Mullins of the Lenowisco Health District. Volunteers will receive pedometers, water bottles, healthy snacks and other giveaways, courtesy of Tennessee Valley Authority. The trails celebration is co-sponsored by Lee County Litter Control, Town of Pennington Gap, Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful and Clean Virginia Waterways as well as TVA.

Funded by TVA, Regional Stream cleanup extends to Oct. 30.

Two outdoor classrooms will be developed this fall in Lee County as part of two other grants.

Later this fall, the state Environmental Education Conference will be held Oct. 24-26 at Hungry Mother State Park in Marion. Southwest Virginia Environmental Education Team (SWEET) will lead a session with examples of successful education projects. I'll lead another session Thursday and a rain garden field trip on Friday.

Early bird registration ends this Friday, Sept. 14. To register, <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia-naturally/events/virginia-environmental-education-conference.shtml>

ACCT reforestation grant funds tree planting

A \$2,500 grant paid for trees and signage at the former Stone Creek tippie site that the Roundtable is helping transform into an outdoor classroom and community park. The main project is funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



William Neff, VA Dept. of Forestry; OSM/VISTAs Andrea Rocchio, Katie Commender; Tim Miles, Daniel Boone SWCD.



A U.S. Fish and Wildlife project tour included the recently completed stream stabilization along the future Pennington Gap Greenway. Melanie Carter explains the project to partners and others.

Staff, volunteers, partners teach students about environment

Many volunteers, staff and partnering agencies recently contributed time and talent to various environmental education events. About 600 third and fourth graders attended the second annual Conservation Camp co-sponsored by the Roundtable and Keep Bristol Beautiful. Sponsors included RiverWorks Discovery® , Alpha Natural Resources and BVU Authority. Roundtable staff assisted with 4-H camps for four counties and coordinated a RiverWorks Discovery Camp in Norton. Staff will help with upcoming fall environmental education events, although RiverWorks Discovery® grant ends this month.

OSM/VISTA Andrea Rocchio shown at right at a 4-H camp. Wise County's Curby the recycling robot, bottom right, and Malissa McConnell assisted with two events.

OSM/VISTA
Andrea
Rocchio shown at
right at a
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Volunteers key to success in rain garden construction and rebuilding

Master Gardeners and the American Chestnut Farm built a rain garden at the Meadowview farm. Master Gardeners assisted with rebuilding a rain garden at the Abingdon Senior Center. Emory & Henry Professor Joe Lane and 24 students spent a recent Saturday at the Senior Center garden, digging out weeds and grass, mixing in sand, installing drain pipes, planting and mulching. Roundtable staff as-

sisted Norton Recreation Director Shelly Knox in replanting and mulching Clear Creek Outdoor Classroom rain garden.

Honaker High School students planted two rain gardens built by the Roundtable at their school; a rain garden was installed at Honaker Elementary. Construction is now underway for two rain gardens at Gate City schools. Much of this work is funded by a grant from Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. Above and below are



college students shown in yellow shirts. April Grace is center below at Norton garden.



Upper Tennessee
River Roundtable

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Friend us on Facebook! Check out our website: www.uppertnriver.org

Mission: To achieve clean water throughout the watershed with the involvement of citizens in planning, educating, coordinating, attracting funding and serving as an advocate for our water resources.

Vision: We envision the citizens within the watersheds of the Clinch, Holston and Powell rivers practicing conservation and good stewardship thus insuring water quality and quantity so that the waters are fishable, swimmable and sustain a healthy and diverse ecosystem.



Salt Trail 5K top winners:
Men's:
Brian Crockett,
Richard Ferguson,
Luke Poe.
Women's
Sheri Nemeth,
Julie Romans, Angeline Saferight.



Upper Tennessee River Roundtable Board of Directors, Executive Council, Staff:

Board of Directors:

Agriculture: Carmen Cantrell

Aquatic Resources: Ernie Barker

Citizen "At Large:" Amanda Duncan

Coal: Bill Bledsoe

Conservation Groups: Neal Kilgore

Education: Dr. Ed Davis

Environmental Groups: Vacant

Forest Industry: Greg Gambrel

Industry: Karen Gilmer

Planning Districts: Lynn McKinney

Real Estate Development:

Jim Barker

SWCD: Mike Altizer

Small Business: John Ross

Tourism:

Sarah Love McReynolds

Recreation: Justin Laughlin

Local Government:

Bonnie Aker, Wise County

Clegg Williams, Smyth County

Shawn Morris, Lee County

Kenneth Dunford, Tazewell County

John Lentz, Washington County

Smyth and Scott counties:

Vacant

Local Watershed Groups:

Bob McKinney, Holston

Diana Withen, Clinch

Stan Botts, Powell

Executive Council:

Justin Laughlin

Ed Davis

Bob McKinney

Amanda Duncan

Diana Withen

Kelly Miller

Staff:

Carol W. Doss, *Coordinator*

Volunteer Staff:

Andrea Rocchio, *OSM/VISTA Member*

April Grace, *Assistant to Coordinator Thanks Raymon Grace Foundation.*