



UTRR Newsletter

Fall 2004

Volume 5, Number 2

No Water, No Growth—Know Water, Know Growth UTRR Conference, Fall Meeting set for Oct. 14

The Upper Tennessee River Roundtable's Fall Watershed Conference, "No Water, No Growth—Know Water, Know Growth," offers tracks for educators, citizens, government, and watershed groups. The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, at Oxbow Center, St. Paul, and continues the next day.

The Fall Roundtable meeting is set for Thursday, Oct. 14, at 6 p.m. Anyone who registers for the conference and the dinner will receive a discount. Scholarships are available so anyone attend for free. Tennessee Valley Authority is fund-



ing the conference.

Teachers may be eligible for recertification points by attending the educators' track. The morning session will feature "Learning Landscapes," a presentation about outdoor classrooms by Denise Peterson of the Coalition for Jobs and the Environment. Joyce Buchanan, a director with the Tazewell Soil and

Water Conservation District, will share her unique approach to environmental education. Jim Willis, with Virginia Cooperative Extension, will talk about Project Learning Tree. In the afternoon, educators can choose Project Underground or Project WILD Aquatic.

Stacy Fowler, the Roundtable's OSM/VISTA, will lead Citizen Monitoring and Canaan Valley Institute will conduct a capacity building session. CVI is a sponsor for the conference.

See Page 3 for details and registration form.



Letter from the UTRR Chair

Dear Friends,
Autumn will arrive in just a few days and the Fall Conference and Roundtable meeting are just around the corner. I want to encourage you to attend both the conference and the meeting.

The two-day conference begins Thursday, Oct. 14. We're planning a variety of sessions for educators, citizens, government officials, and anyone who is interested in protecting our environment. There should

be something for everyone! With a grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority, we're able to offer a special price for these sessions. I hope to see you there!

Emily Lachniet

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In the spirit of Lewis and Clark

Abingdon Elementary to expand outdoor classroom

It was 200 years ago on May 14, 1804, that Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed from St. Louis, Missouri for a journey that would last more than two years. Collectively the party of explorers was called the “Corps of Discovery.”

President Thomas Jefferson asked Lewis and Clark to report back to him regarding the potential of these unexplored western lands to support a young and growing nation. So they set out going up the Missouri River to the uncharted territories of western Montana and onward to the Pacific Ocean. Needless to say, they had no health care insurance, no cell phones, and no 911 emergency services available to them. What they did have was vision, purpose, and a yearning to “discover” the vast array of plants, animals, soils, forests, streams, and ecosystems, that were just beyond the next horizon.

In the spirit of Lewis and Clark,



Ms. Linda Garnett (principal of Abingdon Elementary School) and Denise Peterson (Coordinator of the Coalition for Jobs and the Environment) are embarking upon a journey that will commemorate the “discovery” spirit of Lewis and Clark. Their efforts have already produced an impressive shelter on school grounds that will serve as the headquarters for their “Outdoor Classroom” and proposed walking trail. Plans for the trail are not complete, but their vision for the trail is to build several learning stations along a loop trail approxi-

mately one mile in length. These learning stations may include (but are not limited to), geology, forestry, wildlife, rain gardens, and weather – just to mention a few.

Inspired by the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s effort to promote the significance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Ms. Garnett and Ms. Peterson have rounded up their own “Corps of Discovery.” This group includes the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Washington County Schools, the Virginia Department of Forestry, Woodland Hills Church of Christ, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and most importantly, over 450 school students and teachers. All these agencies and organizations have expressed a willingness to provide funding and/or resources to get the project moving forward. Stay tuned, we’ll report back to you soon with our discoveries!

- Neal Kilgore

Coordinator’s Corner

- Carol W. Doss

The Roundtable office is quite busy these days preparing for the Fall Conference and Meeting as well as working on a variety of other projects. Thankfully, Martha Whitaker has joined us as Conservation Assistant and is helping with numerous projects. Martha served

as our intern from Emory & Henry College last semester. She graduated from the college in May with a double major in environmental studies policy track and geography. Martha is currently developing a Quality Assurance Project Plan for the mussel decline project on the Middle Fork of the Holston

River, working with grazing systems specialist Mike Altizer.

I’d like to invite you to the Fall Conference, which will have some great speakers, and the Roundtable meeting that will follow. If you need to contact us, call 276-628-1600.

Former Pro Football Player for New York Giants featured speaker on Low Impact Development at UTRR Fall Conference Oct. 14, St. Paul

Bill Ellenbogen, former pro football player for the New York Giants, is one of many featured speakers at the Roundtable's Fall Conference, "No Water, No Growth—Know Water, Know Growth." Ellenbogen, who played pro in the 1970s and 1980s, will lead a Low Impact Development session for the local government track on Thursday, Oct. 14.

Joel Haden with the Tennessee Valley Authority will present a session

on Growth Readiness for local government. Other sessions will feature rain garden development and how to grasp opportunities with TMDLs (total daily maximum load).

Litter control and recycling sessions will feature Kenny Robinson from the Virginia Department of Transportation and Billy McConnell with Mountain Heritage on Assign-A-Highway programs that utilize probationers to pick up litter.

Watershed groups will want to take advantage of Canaan Valley Institute's capacity building workshop while citizens can benefit from the monitoring session track that will include a field trip.

Doug Ogle, an educator for 30 years, is the featured speaker for the Roundtable dinner Oct. 14. Ogle researches threatened and endangered species and will share his insights with the Roundtable.

Conference and Roundtable Dinner Registration

Please complete this registration form and return to UTRR, P.O. Box 2359, Abingdon, VA 24212 **no later than Sept. 28, 2004**. Meals will only be guaranteed for those who make reservations.

Registration Fees

- Conference & Dinner \$25
- Conference \$20
- Roundtable Dinner \$10

Scholarship Requested

- Conference Oct. 14
- Conference Oct. 15
- Both Conference Days

Lunch Preference Oct. 14

- Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Grilled Chicken Salad
- Grilled Cheese/Side Salad

Lunch Preference Oct. 15 (Second Day is free.)

- Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Grilled Chicken Salad
- Grilled Cheese/Side Salad

Oct. 14 Fall Roundtable Meeting Agenda

- 5:15 Registration
 - 6:00 Dinner
 - 6:30 Full Roundtable Meeting
 - Opening Speaker: Doug Ogle
 - "Partnership with US Fish and Wildlife" : Amanda Wood, Daniel Boone Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative: Richard Davis, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
 - 7:30 Business Session
 - Chair Report
 - Coordinator Report
 - VISTA Report
 - Committee Reports:
 - Old Business— Bylaw Changes
(Call 628-1600 for a copy)
 - New Business—Membership Fees
- Adjourn by 8:30*

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

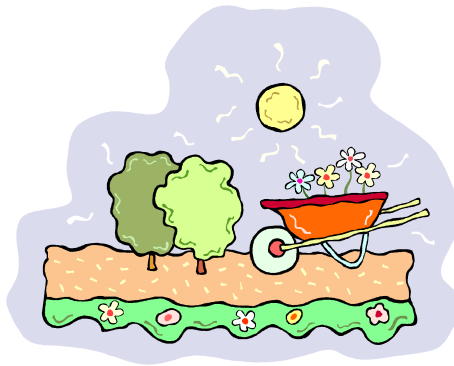


Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Inc.
P.O. Box 2359
Abingdon, VA 24212

EPA grant proceeds with video project, stormwater, composting demonstrations

Projects are getting underway with the Roundtable's Environmental Protection Agency grant. A contract has been awarded to MapTech to conduct a composting demonstration utilizing sawdust and chicken litter. Phil McClellan of MapTech plans to select a site in his native Scott County for this demonstration.

A contract has also been awarded to Russell Lumber Co. of Lee County to haul sawdust to strip mined land operated by Sigmon Coal Co. in KEOOKEE.



Six proposals have been received for a stormwater management demonstration. The stormwater management team will select one or more proposals to fund.

Ed Davis, chair of the Public Outreach Committee, researched prices for a video camera, which will be purchased soon to film projects for TV airing. Other projects will be underway very soon.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, Sept. 23: OCG Meeting, DCR Office Conference Room, Abingdon (Contact Neal Kilgore for more information.)

Saturday, Sept. 25: Regional Stream Cleanup in seven counties, two cities.

Saturday, Oct. 2: UTRR Display at Fall Fling in Wise.

Thursday, Oct. 14: *No Water, No Growth—Know Water, Know Growth* Conference, Roundtable Meeting, Oxbow Center, St. Paul

Friday, Oct. 15: Conference continues at Oxbow Center.