

Down by the River

Roundtable, Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful win four national awards

By Carol Doss & April Grace

Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful and Upper Tennessee River Roundtable received recognition at the 2010 National Keep America Beautiful Conference in Orlando, Florida for outstanding achievements in the 2009-2010 KAB program year.

KSVB won a second place Cigarette Litter Prevention Program award for implementing the program in the counties of Lee, Scott, Wise, Russell, Dickenson, Buchanan and the City of Norton. KSVB also won a President's Circle award for the fourth consecutive year for meeting KAB's standards of excellence. KSVB also won a Nestle Pure



Carmen Cantrell and Judy Miller count cigarette butts in Norton.

Water award for recycling efforts during the 2010 Great American Cleanup. The Roundtable won a People's Garden award for its rain garden work. Photos by Carol Doss



Lebanon Square gets a new rain garden

Upper Tennessee River Roundtable coordinated a rain garden project at Lebanon Square Apartment Complex with help from OSM/VISTA Patrick Smith. The garden will absorb pollutants and assist with storm water runoff. See story and more photos on page 3.



Board of Directors:

Agriculture:

Vacant

Citizen "At Large:"

Vacant

Coal: Margie Horton

Conservation Groups:

Vacant

Education: Dr. Ed Davis

Environmental Groups:

Angie Atwood

Forest Industry:

Greg Gambrel

Industry: Rick Holmes

Planning Districts:

Vacant

Real Estate

Development: Vacant

Local Government:

Bonnie Aker

Teresa Guice

Lynn McKinney

Shawn Morris

Nicole Price

SWCD: Mike Altizer

Local Watershed Groups:

Bob McKinney

Diana Withen

Tourism:

Sarah Love McReynolds

Recreation:

Justin Laughlin

Coordinator's Corner: Projects, grants, volunteers!

By Carol Doss



I'm dedicating this issue to Office of Surface Mining/Volunteers In Service To America members Sarah Drakulich and Patrick Smith, who recently completed their terms of service in Southwest Virginia. Although Patrick was not a member working under the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, we collaborated on a number of projects. Patrick served in the towns of Lebanon and Grundy. His most notable work for the Roundtable included finding a suitable spot for a rain garden in Lebanon and gaining landowner permission to place the garden at Lebanon Square Apartment Complex. Patrick lived in the complex and worked hard to get his landlord and neighbors involved in the project.

Patrick also served on the Southwest Virginia Environmental Education Team, nicknamed SWEET, which serves as the official regional environmental education network in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Patrick designed a logo for SWEET, which is shown at right. SWEET debated for a long time on the type of logo to use and Patrick took the ideas and came up with an award winner.

Sarah served under the Roundtable, but was placed in the Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District Office. Sarah achieved numerous goals, but definitely made her mark with writing grant applications and with giving environmental education presentations. Sarah was such a joy to work with on grant applications. The last one that she worked on is being funded by the Virginia Depart-



ment of Conservation and Recreation for a \$250,000 Water Quality Improvement Fund grant. This application was tough because four or five different people helped write it. Putting together that many different writing styles into one document is no easy task. Sarah enjoyed the education aspect so much that she is considering doing that work as a career.

Hats off to Patrick and Sarah and best wishes in all that you choose to do!

Emory & Henry student Helbert creates clean stream T-shirt design

Emory & Henry student Ashley Helbert volunteered to create a T-shirt design for the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable's Seventh Annual Regional Stream Cleanup. Tennessee Valley Authority funded the event, done in conjunction with Clean Virginia Waterways and the International Coastal Cleanup. The cleanup, which is carried out by Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful, will continue through the spring Great American Cleanup. To volunteer, contact the Roundtable office.



Photo by Robin Grossman of Emory & Henry College

Grants from Virginia Environmental Endowment, Dominion Foundation fund rain garden in Lebanon Square

By April Grace

Volunteers worked together to plant a new rain garden in the Lebanon Square Apartment Complex in the town of Lebanon in November. Residents of the apartment complex helped by shoveling mulch, planting and hauling water for the plants.

OSM/VISTA Patrick Smith selected the site and assisted Roundtable Coordinator Carol Doss with the entire project during his second term. Not only did the residents help beautify the grounds and protect stream water from harmful runoff, but they also celebrated with a hotdog picnic after all the hard work was done.

The rain garden was made possible through grants to the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable from the Virginia Environmental Endowment and Dominion Foundation. Lebanon Square is also expected to make a contribution.

Jeff Stapleton designed the garden, which was excavated by C. L. Dale Construction. A rain garden is



Photo by Carol Doss

OSM/VISTA Sarah Drakulich assisted with planting the garden.

designed to hold rain for no longer than 72 hours. The water slowly seeps into the ground through layers of mulch, topsoil, compost and sand. Rain gardens prevent pollutants, such as oils on parking lots, from reaching streams.



Above left, Roundtable Assistant April Grace, OSM/VISTA Sarah Drakulich, Angie White of the Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, and OSM/VISTA Samantha Lukaszewicz help plant. Above right photo, OSM/VISTA Patrick Smith at far left, found a spot for the garden and involved residents. One resident planted in memory of Tristian Corey White. At right, C.L. Dale excavates the site.



Photos by Carol Doss

River Spotlight: Roundtable, Norton partner on project



City of Norton Parks and Recreation Director Shelly Knox and Steven Shelley work on the rain garden at Clear Creek Park, a project coordinated by the Roundtable and Norton.



City workers spent three days preparing the site. Volunteers planted the site in one day. The project was funded by Virginia Environmental Endowment and Dominion Foundation. Photos by Carol Doss

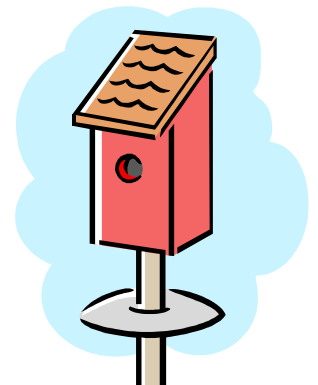


Emory & Henry College intern finishes term of outreach and education work

Hi, my name is Kristy Brooking and I am from Lee County. I am a senior at Emory and Henry College and I am majoring in Geography, obtaining an endorsement in Earth Science and I will be receiving a minor in Environmental Studies. I will also be receiving my teaching certificate. I worked with the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable for my internship this past fall semester.

While working with the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable I was able to go into the local classrooms and educate the students about their local watershed and how to preserve the water supply and the environment. Along with working for the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable for my internship I also worked with the Appalachian Sustainable Development with a program called Learning Landscapes and we were able to go into the local schools and grow butterfly gardens, colonial herb gardens, pizza gardens and create a pond habitat.

Learning Landscapes also allowed me to work with GLOBE, which helps students learn how to take temperature, measure precipitation and identify cloud types. Another project I helped out with was called Project Blue Bird, where we helped students build and paint blue bird houses. We put the houses up at local schools and students can observe blue bird behavior.



While working with the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable and The Appalachian Sustainable Development I have had the opportunity to work hands on with children and educate them on the importance of preserving the environment. This internship has been a great experience for me because it has allowed me to go in the classroom and see what it would be like to be a teacher.