

Stream Lines

Cumberland River Compact



A monthly e-newsletter from the Cumberland River Compact

January 2006

Only You Can Save Gil

For generations, or a reasonable likeness of time thereof, only one fish has become synonymous with education on the Cumberland River - and his name is Gil. But today, that icon of hope for the young and young at heart is in dire peril and needs your help.

Much like the mail carriers creed, "neither rain nor sleet, nor ketchup covered kid fingers shall keep Gil from his appointed rounds." And appointed rounds he has indeed made. This past year saw Gil at over 20 events entertaining and engaging both young and old alike; creating smiles and ease of

dialogue to talk about the river, our water and the future.

But much as a mail carrier's bag becomes worn out, so has our beloved Gil. The elements and long hours of use at events has brought about dilapidated whiskers, virtual loss of an eye, worn fins and, quite frankly, he does smell a bit . . . well . . . fishy.

So we turn to you, our supporters, to help save this valuable endangered species. As a not-for-profit (which we take sometimes too literally), the Compact relies upon those who see value in our endeavors, who benefit from the work we do to enhance your water and who understand that long-lasting and meaningful change can only come through education.

Gil is a vital link in our chain of successes and he needs your help.



The mission of the Cumberland River Compact is to enhance the water quality of the Cumberland River and its tributaries through education and by promoting cooperation among citizens, businesses, and agencies in Kentucky and Tennessee.

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Old Hickory Watershed Association is Born!

In a well-lit meeting room at Sumner Regional Medical Center on Thursday, January 12, 2005, OHWA (pronounced O-wa) was born!

Birth weight - Over a dozen people Thursday and many other interested stakeholders over the last few months have attended six educational meetings about Old Hickory watershed issues and what citizens can do to enhance water quality in that area.

Parents - The meetings were hosted by the Cumberland River Compact and supported by Department of Agriculture's Nonpoint Source program, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Bridgestone Americas Holding Inc. and you our generous donors.

Details - OHWA is already working on a mission statement and by-laws with plans to discuss those and future plans next month! They have also already been invited to give input to their watershed plan being developed by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation!

If YOU live in the Old Hickory Watershed and would like to get involved with OHWA - stay tuned. We'll be sending a meeting announcement for their February 9th meeting to our whole e-mail list. Here's to you and our watersheds too!



BOB Adds 4th Site

Nashville to Get First Multi-Family EarthCraft Certified House



The Building Outside the Box Committee added a fourth BOB site -- Morgan Park Place -- a multi-family development in Nashville's Germantown, being built by the Lawrence Brothers, LLC. This urban 63-unit mixed use site will be a Metro model for stormwater treatment and will be the first multi-family project in Tennessee to achieve EarthCraft House certification.

Additionally, on Saturday December 17th, BOB co-sponsored an educational open house and self-guided tour of Nashville's first single family dwelling EarthCraft Certified House. BOB had representatives on hand to answer questions about the many sustainability features in this home. Over 150 attendees were also treated to the beautiful home design interiors courtesy of Amelie de Gaulle Interiors: Organic Design.

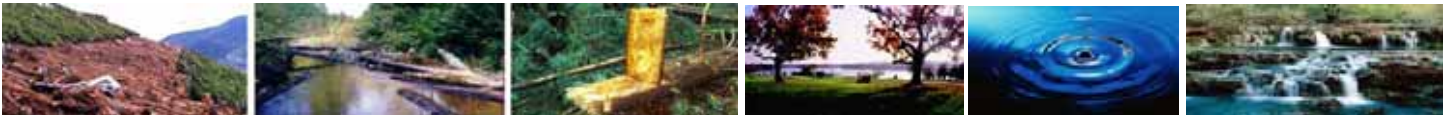
“ We want people to see that these buildings can be at least 40 percent more energy efficient than conventional buildings and to show that constructing them is practical. ”

**Bill Lawrence
Partner
Lawrence Bros., LLC**

A Case for Stream Restoration

Michael Stringer - Local Officials Program Director

The Cumberland River Basin has many hundreds of miles of streams and rivers that are corridors of great economic, social, cultural, and environmental value. These riparian areas are complex ecosystems which include the land, plants, animals, and network of streams within them. They perform a number of important functions, such as regulating stream flow, storing water, removing harmful materials from water, and providing habitat for plants and animals



However, many riparian areas have disappeared from Middle Tennessee. As part of the land development process, streams are often placed underground into culverts.

Culverting has historically been used to address flooding concerns and to prepare land for subsequent building and roads. With this approach, creeks become part of the man-made infrastructure and are maintained as storm drains, thereby losing many of their inherent benefits, such as wildlife habitat. Over time, maintenance and potential failures of the culverts/storm drains become an ongoing issue and cost, and remain so indefinitely given the unpredictability of nature.

One way to buck this trend is to restore streams to a more natural state. Stream bank restoration re-creates the natural functions of a stream corridor and has the potential to greatly enhance the quality of the water, as well as to reduce the threat of flooding. Stream bank restoration helps governments save money and creates important new economic drivers for the area.

In fact, in the lower Minnesota River basin, river bank restoration efforts were used to offset some proposed new industrial pollution. As part of an innovative pilot program, a local company proposed to complete several river corridor restoration projects in return for being able to discharge industrial effluent into the lower Minnesota River.

It was less expensive for the company to pay for river restoration projects than to continue with operations as they were at the time. The restored sections of river bank help to keep agricultural nutrients (which are similar in

nature to the pollution they proposed to pipe into the river) out of the stream.

As a result of this project, less pollution is flowing into the Minnesota River than before the project, several historic buildings were saved from falling down a rapidly eroding river bank, and the added native vegetation provides more habitat for birds and other animals. And don't forget this important point: *a local business is saving money by paying for the restoration efforts.*

Middle Tennessee stands to gain from such innovative partnerships and solutions. The Cumberland River Compact has recently undertaken the challenge of restoring three sections of stream corridors in the Cumberland River basin. We are also working with local officials, staff, and the general public about these efforts to show the value of such endeavors.



Before and After Stream Restoration

Corbin City Reservoir: New Project Begins

The Corbin City Reservoir is listed as a first priority impaired water body in Kentucky's 2002 303(d) report. The report cites the impaired uses as drinking water supply (non-support) and aquatic life (partial support). The pollutants of concern are nutrients, organic enrichment, low dissolved oxygen, taste and odor, and algal growth.

Third Rock Consultants, LLC is in the process of identifying significant sources of nonpoint source pollution, developing practical solutions, and prioritizing projects for future funding for the Corbin City Reservoir and the impaired stream reaches of its corresponding watershed. The goal of this project is to provide background information that will spur watershed remediation to ultimately make Corbin City Reservoir and its tributaries safe for drinking, overall recreation, and aquatic life.

Project teams (comprised of representatives from local government, utilities, schools, and state agencies) have been involved with the development of the project's goals, the review of monitoring plans, impairment prioritization, and plan development for reducing found impairments to

levels within the range of healthy warm-water aquatic habitats. Currently, the majority of the watershed has been evaluated and the major NPS pollution contributors have been identified. Additional goals include an educational



outreach component that will involve the development of environmental classroom materials in cooperation with staff from the Laurel and Knox County school systems. Watershed awareness will be a topic of discussion and study in science classes. Also, using information gathered during

the first phase of the project, further monitoring is proposed to determine rough loadings of primary nutrient contributors. This information will help with detailed remediation recommendations.

A detailed project summary can be found at Third Rock's website:

<http://www.thirdrockconsultants.com/CorbinReservoir.htm>

Editors Note

○ This past year has seen the fostering of our 7th watershed organization. We have also received invitations from the White House and the Museum of Natural History in DC to make presentations. We launched the Local Officials Water Curriculum to more than 300 officials. We had 300+ kids enjoy a day of fishing and education during our Rodeo. And we facilitated the Principals of Agreement between our two states of KY and TN to work jointly toward facing the challenges of enhancing our water.

We've had a great year and faced down many obstacles to our success. Among our many challenges, funding our continuing efforts is perhaps the greatest. Saving Gil is important. Other items that you can help YOUR Cumberland River Compact with to defray our cost of doing business are listed here.

- Presentation Folders – Quantity 1000. Supporter can have logo presence.
- Mr. Whatsit's Waterguide – first printing quantity of 500. Logo Presence and ½ back cover for sponsor.
- Watershed Maps – \$5000 per watershed first printing. Logo presence for sponsor.
- Shop Rags - \$7000. Logo presence for sponsor.
- GPS for BOB program – Cost \$5000.
- Table-top display - \$2500. Logo display for sponsor.
- Annual Report Printing - \$3500 Over 5000 impressions and Streamlines, Riverglance and Annual report presence for sponsor.
- Riverglance – \$3500 Over 5000 impressions and Streamlines, Riverglance and Annual report presence for sponsor.
- Banner for Events - \$2500 for a 3 year logo presence for sponsor.

2,000,000 people

697 miles of river

14 watersheds

1 Organization



Cumberland River Compact



Name:

Address: City ST..... Zip:

Email: Contact Number:

Please accept my donation in the name of:

I wish to give: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1,000

I wish to pledge: \$100 per annum x 3 years to total \$300 \$250 per annum x 3 years to total \$750

\$500 per annum x 3 years to total \$1,500 \$1,200 per annum x 3 years to total \$3,600

Signature:

Please make all donations payable to:

Cumberland River Compact

P.O. Box 41721 Nashville, TN 37204

Ph: (615) 837-1151

Or

You can donate by visiting us online at

www.cumberlandrivercompact.org

Muddy Waters

Although sediment is a part of the natural environment, human activities sometimes increase the amount that ends up in our streams. Each monthly issue of Streamlines will have a Muddy Water tip for readers.

Consider selective debris removal.

Stream bank erosion problems are often caused as water is directed into the bank by debris lodged in the channel. Selectively removing problem debris can eliminate obstructions. Be careful to remove only the problem obstructions; removing all in-channel structures will result in fish leaving the area. Contact your nearest Department of Environment and Conservation office for help in identifying obstructions that should and should not be removed.

CFWA Comes to Aid of Falling Water River



The stream banks of the Falling Water River in White and Putnam County is littered with trash - appliances, pieces of furniture and empty automobile gasoline tanks - but not for long! Members of the Caney Fork Watershed Association (CFWA) are working with volunteers from the Cumberland River Compact, TSRA, Tennessee Tech Student Environmental Action Coalition, Cookeville High School Tennessee Tomorrow and landowners to clean this beautiful river haven on Saturday, March 25th.

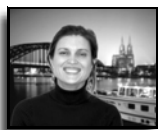
CFWA is working hard to engage the entire community and county executives of White and Putnam Counties have committed to pick up the assembled trash. On the clean-up day, White County will also furnish a crew

with a truck that has a winch. A landowner is providing parking and Poplar Grove Community Center will serve as one of the meeting places for the group which cleans near this location and for all participants at the end of the activity. Pizza, fruit and a huge sense of accomplishment will serve as reward for volunteers.

The Caney Fork Watershed Association promotes conservation and improvement of the aquatic ecosystems of the watershed. Organized through efforts of the Cumberland River Compact, the CFWA functions primarily to educate residents on ways to preserve and protect the natural habitat of the watershed.

To volunteer, please contact Mary Jane at cfwa@blomand.net.

Mill Creek Has Stream Restoration Project Manager



Mekayle Houghton has joined the BOB project as Stream Restoration Project Manager for the Mill Creek site. After earning a BA and MA from the University of Chicago, Mekayle worked with non-profits writing grant proposals for local, national and international endeavors, managing projects in distant lands, building consensus and educating the public about programs here and in the developing world. "With four boys, our family spends a lot of time walking Middle Tennessee's streams looking for crayfish and minnows and finding the occasional snake. Stream restoration is a wonderfully tangible and meaningful thing to say Mom does," said Mekayle.

BOB EarthCraft Workshop set for February 22

The next EarthCraft Workshop, co-sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Middle Tennessee (HBAMT) and Building Outside the Box (BOB), is entitled *EarthCraft House High Performance Home Construction Workshop*. Skilled craftsmen and tradesmen with the EarthCraft House Program in Atlanta will be conducting the working sessions. Architects attending will qualify for six (6) continuing education hours for recertification.

The Workshop for developers, builders, contractors and architects runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm central time at the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley Headquarters, 4522 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN; . On-site registration at 8:30 am.

Registration cost is \$75 for HBAMT members with advance registration; \$100 for non-HBAMT members with advance registration; and \$125 for on-site registration.

For registration contact HBAMT at 615-377-1055. For program information contact Gwen Griffith, Building Outside the Box Project Director, Cumberland River Compact. Phone 615-353-0272.