



Friends of the Locust Fork River is teaming up with **PALS** for a massive clean up April 16 - 26. The Blount County Commission has set up dumpsters in each of the four commission districts for road (and riverbank) trash collected as part of the 2021 **PALS** campaign.

Roadside trash detracts from the awesome beauty of Blount County. The **PALS** clean up will corral that trash and keep it from blowing into creeks and streams that flow into the River.

The **PALS** clean up is also a competition among Alabama's counties. Volunteer with FLFR or with your neighbors, church, school, etc. to fill the dumpsters located in Blountsville, Oneonta, Cleveland and Warrior. Find more details on the Blount County Facebook page or at [flfr.org](http://flfr.org).

## *Cleaning up Blount County, one bag at a time*



*Clean-up results at Horton Mill on March 13*

## *The monarchs are migrating*

Thanks to a generous **CAWACO RC&D** grant last year, FLFR has built out the Restoration Nursery hoop house, shed and work tables to cultivate native species plants, especially butterfly milkweed plants. Seedlings are being transplanted at the hillside of King's Bend Scenic Overlook.

*Continued on page 2*



## Saturday River Clean Ups

Every month, local volunteers like you meet to spend a couple of hours cleaning up six sites of the Locust Fork River in Blount County.

You bring water, light gloves, a 5-gallon bucket, sturdy shoes and a playful attitude.

Remember to register for the site of your choice and sign a waiver at: [flfr.org](http://flfr.org).

Your FLFR team leader supplies trash pickers and bags, and may also take photos of your team and the trash collected before you leave.

### Join or Renew

Your donation constitutes a membership. To join

or to renew your membership, go to:

[flfr.org](http://flfr.org).

You may also mail your check to:

**FLFR**

**P.O. Box 638**

**Cleveland, AL 35049**

FLFR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Donations to Friends of the Locust Fork River are tax-deductible and appreciated.



*Jennah and Alden raise the new sign*

Monarchs co-evolved with milkweeds and, as a result, monarchs thrive on a genus of plants on which other predator insects cannot. The genus *Asclepias* includes many species that are the sole host plants for monarchs.

Monarch populations have dropped over the past decades, so now it is up to home gardeners and groups like FLFR to nurture the monarchs on their trans-continental migrations by growing nourishing habitat. For these reasons, FLFR is adding more varieties of *Asclepias*, monarch host plant species.



*Volunteers roll up the hoop house side curtains to catch spring breezes*



Two contests - **Art & Photo** - with prizes in each of **\$25 to \$200!** Entries are accepted through July 15, 2021. Additional **\$100** prizes are from business sponsors: Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Blount-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce, King, Green & Dobson, LLC, Locust Fork Family Dentistry, Locust Fork Pharmacy, Oneonta Dental Center, OTELCO, Regions Bank, Spring Valley Beach Water Park, Stifel Investments and The Blount Countian. For more details, go to: [flfr.org](http://flfr.org).

*From page 1, The monarchs*

Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed plants, and the hatched larvae eat the plant and ingest the sap, which is protective by being poisonous to their predators.

In February, volunteers began meeting weekly to grow trays of butterfly plant seedlings. More recently, strong-armed volunteers created terraces on the hillside for the plants by laying down logs. As this native species garden continues to mature, we look forward to welcoming monarchs in the spring and autumn for many years to come.





## A Paddler's Rights on Rivers

Recently, FLFR has had some calls asking what rights paddlers have on rivers regarding land use. There is a lot of misinformation in people's minds regarding the subject.

The question is prompted by paddlers not wanting to trespass, but wanting to enjoy all aspects of the river, including strolling the sandbars, rockslides and swimming areas.

Here is some information FLFR found on the *National Organization of Rivers* website: [nationalrivers.org](http://nationalrivers.org). See, also: [flfr.org](http://flfr.org).

### *Is the quarry threat to Butler Mountain over?*

It's been months since the quarry threat has made the news cycle. Still, there's no reason to believe the threat has passed. The mining company (Vulcan Materials) sent a company attorney to a Clay City Council meeting on behalf of the land owner (Walker Family Holdings). Hundreds of acres encompassing Butler Mountain and surrounding areas are still at stake as well as three watersheds into which the Mountain drains: the Black Warrior, the Cahaba and the Coosa.

Stay tuned to: [quashthequarry.org](http://quashthequarry.org).

*Public ownership of physically navigable rivers, including the land up to the ordinary high water mark, predates property deeds. What the property deed says or doesn't say about the river is irrelevant.*

Rivers that are physically navigable only by canoe, kayak and raft are still legally navigable. Because they are legally navigable, such rivers are held in trust for the public by the states for navigation, recreation and fisheries. The land along them is public land up to the ordinary high water mark. It is the land where the vegetation and soil show the effects of water. The public can use this land for walking, fishing, resting, camping and other non-destructive visits.

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The state does not actually own the river, but is obligated to preserve the river for these public benefits.

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Public ownership of physically navigable rivers is the same in all states. It is a U.S. Supreme Court standard, and it includes those rivers that are physically navigable by canoe, kayak and raft. The public's right to visit additional non-navigable streams does vary from state to state, but this variation only applies to those small streams.

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*From the pages of the Locust Fork Yacht Club's  
Creek Bankin' Recipes*

***Venison Grillades***

2 - 3 lbs. venison cube steaks	2 tsp. garlic, minced	2 cups water
5 Tbsp. bacon drippings/oil	3/4 cup parsley, chopped	1 Tbsp. Worcestershire
3 Tbsp. flour	14 oz. can, diced tomatoes	2 tsp. Maggi Seasoning
3 cups onions, chopped	8 oz. tomato sauce	1 bay leaf
2 cups bell pepper, chopped	2 tsp. Better Than	1/2 tsp. thyme, dry leaf
2 cups celery, chopped	Bouillon, Beef	1 cup green onion tops

In a 10" - 12" outdoor Dutch oven over the hot coals of a creek bank fire, brown meat in drippings and/or oil. Remove. Make sure there are 3 Tbsp. oil in pan. Over low heat, add flour and stir until brown. Add vegetable ingredients, except tomatoes, tomato sauce, and chopped green onion tops. Sauté until al dente and the roux is dark. Add venison and remaining ingredients except chopped green onion tops.

Simmer, covered, for 3 hours over medium-low coals. Stir occasionally. Add water as necessary OR red wine, to give the dish some richness. Serve over mashed potatoes, rice or grits. Garnish with chopped green onion tops.



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*Friends  
of the  
Locust Fork  
River*