

## 2020 Art & Photo Contest

**2020**

### Art & Photo Exhibit

The 2020 traveling exhibit is on display for the month of November at the **Blountsville Public Library**, 65 Chestnut Street, Blountsville, AL.

### Contest Winners Video

You can view the 2020 contest winners and their entries in a 2:26 minute video on YouTube, at "Friends of the Locust Fork River."

While you are there, sign up as a FLFR subscriber.

### Thank you, Blount Countian!

All winning photo contest entries were printed in color in the September 30th issue. Also, printed were photos of the artists, most from this community!



**Blue Heron - Color Pencils**  
*Brady Turner, 1st Place Teen Art*



**Horse Portrait - Pyrography**  
*Joan Babcock, 1st Place Adult Art*

The 2020 Art & Photo Contest awards ceremony was on a beautiful Saturday morning, October 3, at the King's Bend Scenic Overlook. FLFR awarded over \$2,000 in prizes to 27 winners out of a total of 109 entrants and 433 entries. Thanks for all the support that made the biggest winner our community!

## New Quarry proposed to City of Clay

The City of Clay in Jefferson County has received notice of a proposal from Vulcan Materials Company to operate a limestone quarry on Butler Mountain, which drains into three Alabama watersheds: Black Warrior, Cahaba and Coosa. The project would require annexation by the City of Clay and a zoning change of the property from agriculture to mining.

In October 2020, the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition was organized to protect the well populated commercial and residential area of Clay-Pinson-Trussville from the irreparable

damage a limestone quarry operation would inflict, including threats to the community's health and safety in addition to dust, noise and heavy truck traffic.

The location is near the Northern Beltline, a proposed 52-mile highway through northern and western Jefferson County around the city of Birmingham, with a \$3.5 billion price tag.

The project's timeline to completion is estimated to be 10 to 15 years.

Neighborhood Preservation Coalition is a unified group opposing the project. Go to: [quashthequarry.com](http://quashthequarry.com) or Facebook and search "Stop the Clay AL Quarry"

### **Second Saturday River Cleanups**

Monthly cleanups are underway again at the following locations:

- ~ **Swann Bridge**
- ~ **Mardis Mill**
- ~ **Taylor Ford**
- ~ **Horton Mill**
- ~ **Crooked Shoals**

Register, sign a waiver and receive details at:

**FLFR.org**

### **Planting at the Grand Staircase**

Join Jennah Gilley and other volunteers to plant, weed, add compost and mulch new native species plants outdoors at the King's Bend Scenic Overlook. For details about the next monthly planting day, go to:

**FLFR.org**

### **Join or Renew**

Your donation constitutes a membership. To become a FLFR member or to renew your membership online, go to FLFR.org.

Or mail a check to:

**FLFR, P.O. Box 638,  
Cleveland, AL 35049**

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

*All donations to  
Friends of the Locust  
Fork River are  
tax-deductible and  
appreciated.*

**Our voicemail line:  
205-274-FLFR**

## **October 3rd . . . the community turned out to celebrate contest winners and stayed for some riverbank fun**



***Future FLFR volunteers scramble  
among the boulders bordering  
the Grand Staircase.***

Due to COVID, FLFR held its 3rd Annual Art & Photo Awards Ceremony outdoors at the King's Bend Scenic Overlook.

Over 100 people, including winners, business awards sponsors as well as their families and friends, joined FLFR at the Overlook on a superb and bright autumn morning.

The Scenic Overlook is the site that was chosen for the first native plant garden in FLFR's River Restoration Project.



***Linda Mitchell, and family, rambled  
down the Grand Staircase to the  
river after the Ceremony ended.***



***Stephen Guesman,  
FLFR President, opens  
the Awards Ceremony.***

### **FLFR Online Store - Now Open**

Get your favorite T-shirts . . . the *Critter Shirt*, the *300 Million Years and Counting Shirt* and the *Paddle On Shirt*! Show your support of FLFR. Click on the blue Online Store button at **FLFR.org**.





## Native Plant Species Greenhouse

After site preparation was completed, construction of FLFR's new greenhouse got underway. Above is a view of the future home of native plant seedlings that will be added to those already planted at the King's Bend Overlook and Grand Staircase.

The new greenhouse will sustain cultivation and reintroduction of native plant species to this and other public access sites along the Locust Fork River and its tributaries for years to come.

FLFR also has initiated a youth volunteer program to give student volunteers an opportunity for

experiential learning as they participate in aspects of FLFR's River Restoration Project. In correlation with the youth volunteer program will be a scholarship awarded to the outstanding FLFR youth volunteer each year.

The estimated expense involved in setting up the Project is close to \$9,000 and includes the greenhouse, tools and equipment, plants and seeds and the first year's rent under a five-year land lease that includes water and light access.

FLFR is grateful for major funding (\$5,000) awarded by Cawaco RC & D that has jump-started construction of the greenhouse to grow the Project.



### FLFR Contacts

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### Welcome to the FLFR Board!

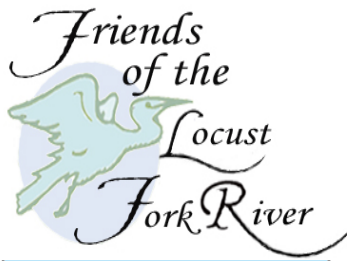
A cordial welcome to the newest member on the FLFR Board of Directors, **Nancy Pile-Laney**.

She loves paddling the Locust Fork and has also paddled the Little Miami in Ohio, the upper Hudson and Battenkill in New York, the Ocoee in Tennessee and the Hiawasee in Georgia.

Nancy moved to rural Blount County last year, has gardens established already and, looking around for community involvement, discovered Friends of the Locust Fork River.

Nancy is assuming treasurer duties as Leigh Lynn is leaving the post for retirement.





### FLFR on the MEDIA



**INSTAGRAM**  
"friendsofthelocustforkriver"



**FACEBOOK**  
"Friends of the  
Locust Fork River"  
and  
"FLFR Friends  
Group"

**WEBSITE**  
[www.FLFR.org](http://www.FLFR.org)  
~Online Store  
~Event Registration  
~ River Access  
Resources

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

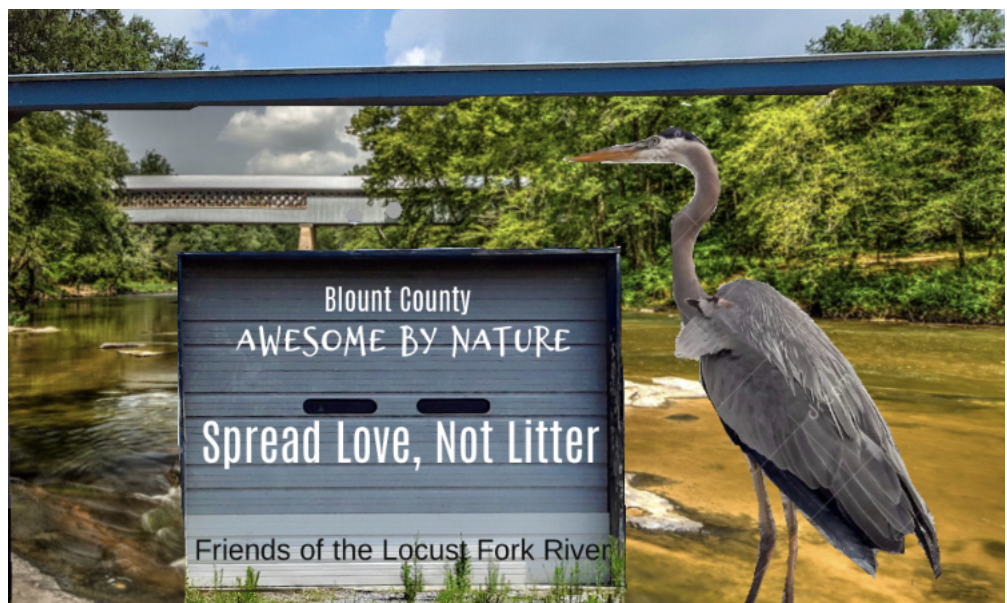
### On the Trail Jambalaya

*An easy recipe for camping on the Blue Trail or any hiking trail. The prep can be done before leaving the house. We don't cook out of a box very often, but this recipe is an exception because it makes for easy camping. Remember to take your favorite salad fixings and cornbread or corn tortillas to warm.*

1 box	Jambalaya Girl jambalaya mix
3/4 lb.	Medium shrimp, peeled
1/2 lb.	Andouille sausage, sliced or diced
3/4 cup	Onion, chopped
3/4 cup	Green pepper, chopped
1/2 cup	Celery, chopped
1	Tomato, seeded and diced
2-1/2 cups	Water
	Olive oil and Louisiana Hot Sauce

Sautee sausage in a little olive oil for 5 minutes over medium heat. Add onion, green pepper, and celery and cook until onion begins to be translucent. Add water, jambalaya mix, shrimp, and tomato. Cook according to box instructions. Serve with your salad and cornbread or tortillas and pass the hot sauce.

## Mural Project #3





Friends of the Locust Fork River  
P.O. Box 638  
Cleveland, AL 35049  
[www.FLFR.org](http://www.FLFR.org)

November 5, 2020

Dear FLFR supporters,

We are excited to announce the expansion of our River Restoration Project, started last year when FLFR volunteers began a Native Plant Garden along the Grand Staircase at the King's Bend Scenic Overlook Park on Highway 79.

The River Restoration Project has two major goals. The first is to protect and restore the Locust Fork River's ecological communities through reintroduction of native plants propagated from plants thriving in our area, including milkweeds for the establishment of a Monarch Waystation. The second goal is to establish a native plant nursery by cultivating these local varieties in order to reintroduce them at public access areas along the river and achieve a more sustainable eco-balance in these areas.

After the idea for this project developed, I was asked if I would be interested in managing the project. This is my dream position! I am a student of horticulture at Wallace State Community College and this project is near and dear to my heart. I hold close the health of and the relationship among and between our community and our beautiful natural places. And that is why managing this project is a dream position for me.

The next stage of the River Restoration Project is to construct a genuine greenhouse for native plant species and then furnish the new greenhouse with the necessary tools, work tables, pots, seeds and other supplies and services. Funding recently awarded to FLFR by Cawaco RC&D provided the resources for the greenhouse construction.

Now I am appealing to you, as a FLFR supporter, to help us raise funds for the purchase of gardening tools, work tables, pots and equipment necessary to expand the cultivation of native plants to benefit riverbank restoration, particularly in public access areas, along the Locust Fork River.

Thank you and best regards,

*Jenna Gilley*

FLFR Greenhouse Manager