

## Coming up . . .

**Sat., May 4**

**1:00 pm**

### **Kayak Trip with River Beach Outfitters**

RBO honors FLFR by offering one-time discounts. FLFR leads the trip on an upper reach of the Locust Fork River near the old Stevenson Bridge. Register at **FLFR.org**

**Sat., May 11**

### **2nd Saturday Cleanups**

Swann Bridge - 9:00 am  
Mardis Mill - 10:00 am  
Taylor Ford - 10:30 am

**Sat., May 25**

**9:30 am**

### **Memorial Hike to Cornelius Falls**

Moderate difficulty hike. Bring a brown bag lunch, walking shoes and swim wear. Register at **FLFR.org**

**Sat., June 4**

### **18th Annual June Fling Downtown Oneonta**

Take a shift at the FLFR booth telling folks about the river, and stay into the night for fun, food and entertainment.

To register for a shift, contact **ellen@flfral.com**.

## Nancy Jackson wins Volunteer of the Year Award

The Blount County Chamber of Commerce has recognized FLFR volunteer Nancy Jackson for her more than 25 years of passionate protection of the River.

Nancy has served in every capacity possible. Trained water monitor, hikes and floats leader, outdoor workshop teacher, newsletter writer and editor with flair are some of the roles Nancy has filled with distinction.

Nancy illuminates her devotion to the beautiful Locust Fork River and the flora and fauna that inhabit its watershed. So, dear reader, here are Nancy's own words of acceptance.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I may be *little* but I can hold a TON of gratitude - and it overflows!

My grandmother called each one of her grandchildren "precious creature". I think I got the Precious Creature Gene!

Volunteering with the FLFR team all these years I have managed to give care to tons of precious creatures - two-leggeds; 4-leggeds, no-leggeds like snakes, worms and fish - on & on.

The care I give to any precious creature connects to the whole remarkable LFR watershed and



*Nancy Jackson displays the award*

connects to us all, in Blount County and beyond.

We are so blessedly precious and I get huge pleasure and fun from taking part in caring communities like FLFR and Blount County.

I am grateful for this gorgeous place I live in called Blount County: deeply wooded slopes, rocky cliffs, running creeks with waterfalls, pastures and cows, curvy, hilly roads.

AND I love this remarkable river with its pools, shoals, eddies, rapids, swimming and fishing holes and cool, shady spots on a hot, summer afternoon. Plus the awesome show of power when this river "gets on her high horse" - as one old-timer called it - in flood.

The wonder of this living being of a river, and the outstanding biodiversity of this watershed is miraculously intricate beyond all human understanding - and THAT richly feeds my Spirit.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Coming up . . .

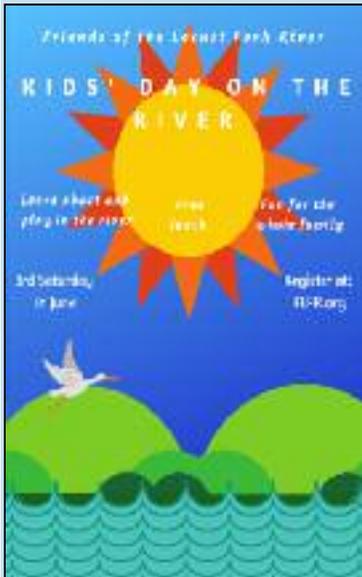
### Sat, June 8 2nd Saturday Cleanups

Swann Bridge - 9:00 am  
Mardis Mill - 10:00 am  
Taylor Ford - 10:30 am

### Sat., June 8 Youth Kayak Sprint

FLFR offers \$ support to Blount County kids (boys and girls ages 7-18) who take part in the 37th Alabama Youth State Games in Huntsville.

Register at [FLFR.org](http://FLFR.org)



### Sat., June 15 KIDS' DAY ON THE RIVER

Summer fun, nature exploration and adventure by the beautiful Locust Fork River for kids and their families. Advance registration required to participate.

Register at [FLFR.org](http://FLFR.org).



*Nancy Jackson, Volunteer of the Year*

*(continued from page 1)*

I love the sycamores and tupelo gums, the floodplain wildflowers, Blackburn lilies - maybe more beautiful than the Cahaba kind.

AND: I GET TO LIVE IN A COUNTYFUL OF GOOD PEOPLE.

To me this is Heaven on Earth.

We all get to connect with this miraculous World, and envision

*. . . a ton of gratitude -  
and it still overflows!*

caring for it and all its precious creatures, moving this whole county and others toward a more life-sustaining society.

Thank you for this honor.

And I need to say: I bet y'all know how this really works: somebody gets an award, and without her team, not much would have happened... without a multitude of hearts, minds and hands working with passion and commitment to a cause.

Would every person who's volunteered with FLFR please stand and receive this award? We are 100% volunteer!

I am indebted and grateful to the many TEAMS who bring good things about in our county.

## Thank you, Blount County, for installing signs and placing trash receptacles

All FLFR 2nd Saturday cleanup sites now have "Adopt-A-Stream" signs from PALS (People Against a Littered State) and new red trash receptacles. Thanks are due to Commissioner Mike Painter as well as county workers Terry Frankin, Jeff Bailey, Benny Gunther, Michael Gunther and Larry Reynaldo.

In 2018, FLFR volunteers contributed about 138 hours to collect an estimated 1.8 tons of trash at the three cleanup sites.

Signs and containers remind the public to keep Blount County clean and beautiful!



## Ken Wilkerson

### In memoriam



*Ken Wilkerson, founding board member of FLFR*

In 1991, the Birmingham Water Works planned to turn the Locust Fork River into a lake. Ken Wilkerson, a true friend of the river, decided to fight the plan.

“Ken was a founding board member of FLFR and was a very instrumental board member at that,” Sam Howell.

“Actually, Ken started everything. He called me on a Sunday morning to tell me about the Birmingham News article about the dam. He had a fighting spirit,” Betty Millette.

“This is so sad. Ken and Susie were the first FLFR folk I met. Ever since, I have loved the group and its people,” Jimmy Stiles.

“Ken did us all a hell of a service by being such a nuisance to the Birmingham Water Works Board and their plans to dam the Locust Fork. They hated to see Ken coming. A true warrior for the river!,” Stephen Guesman, FLFR President.

The FLFR leadership team offers condolences to Ken’s wife, Susie Mixon Wilkerson.

Donations in Ken’s memory may be sent to the Blount County Animal Adoption Center, 5554 County Hwy 1, Cleveland, AL 35049.

### FLFR Contacts

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#### Join or Renew

Your donation constitutes a membership. To become a FLFR member or to renew your membership online, go to [FLFR.org](http://FLFR.org).

Or mail a check to:

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

#### Leave a voicemail: 205-274-FLFR

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

*All contributions to the Friends of the Locust Fork River are tax-deductible and appreciated!*

*Thank you!*

## Celebrating the Woodlands & Rivers of Blount County

Wildflowers to armadillos, a wealth of natural beauty awaits your camera in Blount County. Enter your best photos and artwork and be eligible to win \$\$\$. Details at [FLFR.org](http://FLFR.org).

Here’s a shout out to our 2019 contest sponsors:

*Alabama Cup Racing Association,  
Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Blount Animal Clinic, The Blount Countian, Blount County Economic Development Council, Blount-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce, Drayer Physical Therapy, King, Green & Dobson, LLC, Locust Fork Family Dentistry, Locust Fork Pharmacy, Oneonta Dental Center, OTELCO, Hometown Bank, and Spring Valley Beach Water Park.*



**FLFR media****Website:**[www.FLFR.org](http://www.FLFR.org)**Voicemail:**

205-274-FLFR

**Facebook &****Instagram**Friends of the  
Locust Fork River**QR cube:**

From the pages of the

*Locust Fork Yacht Club's Creek Bankin' Recipes*

## Taco Soup

2 lbs. ground beef  
 2 cups diced onions  
 2 cans (15 -1/2 oz) pinto beans  
 1 can (15-1/2 oz) pink kidney beans  
 1 can (14-1/4 oz) whole kernel corn, drained  
 1 can (14-1/2 oz) Mexican-style stewed tomatoes  
 1 can (14-1.2 oz) tomatoes with chiles

1 can (4.6 oz) black olives, sliced  
 1/2 cup green olives, sliced  
 1 pkg. (1-1/4 oz) taco seasoning  
 1 pkg. (1 oz) ranch dressing mix  
 corn chips, for serving  
 sour cream, grated cheese, green  
 onions and pickled jalapeños

Brown the ground beef and onions in a skillet, drain excess fat. Transfer to a large slow cooker or a stockpot. Add beans, corn, tomatoes, olives (optional) and seasonings. In a slow cooker, cook on low for 6 to 8 hours. In a stockpot over hot coals, simmer for about one hour. To serve, place corn chips in bowls and ladle soup over them. Garnish with sour cream, grated cheese, chopped green onions and sliced pickled jalapeños. *iRiquísimo!*

EVERGREEN-ER  
 Our newsletter is  
 printed on recycled  
 paper with  
 soy-based ink.



P.O. Box 638  
 Cleveland, AL 35049

