

Coming up . . .

Blount County Fair
September 11 - 15
Oneonta Agri-Business
Center. On display are
entries in the art & photo
contest.

Art & Photo Contest
Awards Ceremony
Wednesday, Sept. 12
at 6:00 p.m. on stage at the
Oneonta Agri-Business
Center.

Blount County Solar
Home Tour
October 6 & 7
(Details on page 2.)

Covered Bridge Festival
Saturday, October 27
Stop by our booth and find
out more about FLFR.

Veterans' Day Parade
November 3
Join the FLFR float crew.
Volunteer at: FLFR.org

Second Saturday **River Clean-up**

> **Swann Bridge**
Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

> **Mardis Mill.**
Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10
10:00 - 12:00 noon

Register at FLFR.org or
email: ellen@flfral.com



Donna Matthews and Sharon Cook spoke with Judge Chris Green and Blount County Commissioners in July

FLFR has a to-do list for the Scenic Overlook

On behalf of FLFR, Donna Matthews and Sharon Cook interviewed Judge Chris Green regarding progress on the proposed Scenic Overlook at the old 79-231 bridge.

The County Commission envisions this as a natural attraction for residents and visitors alike. Funding was secured, an easement was put in place and an advertisement for bids on paving and adding sidewalks and railings was published in June.

The Grand Staircase, pictured below, was added by the County Commission using funds on hand and local talent to move boulders and rocks into this practical and pleasing design. Soon, boaters and hikers will have convenient access to the Locust Fork River.

FLFR's to-do list

~ FLFR can inform boaters and hikers about progress on this project. At present it's a construction zone. Access to the area will be available when work is completed. Meanwhile, on FLFR's website and Facebook page you may track progress.

~FLFR can share information about the Locust Fork watershed, geological significance, and flora and fauna in the area, all for the benefit of residents and visitors.

~ FLFR can contribute signage content for the Scenic Overlook, such as the river's history, the river's inhabitants and river maps.

~ FLFR can continue to work with Commission members as they seek ways to enhance everyone's experience of the natural wonders of Blount County.





Blount County Solar Home Tour

The 26th **Blount County
Solar Home Tour** is
October 6 & 7
9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Bring a picnic lunch.

Visit five solar designed
houses:

- ~underground
- ~straw-bale
- ~dodeca-yurt
- ~clerestory
- ~conventional, solar
retrofitted.

Learn about solar photo-
voltaic (PV) electricity
generation, solar water
heating, rainwater
catchment systems and
geo-thermal heating and
cooling.

Learn numerous ways to
weave energy efficiency and
sustainability into your
existing home.

This tour is part of the
National Solar Tour USA,
sponsored by ASES, the
American Solar Energy
Society, to showcase solar
technology in local homes.

Register by email to:
soltouralabama
@gmail.com to receive
a schedule and a map.

Hey, Volunteers

FLFR is growing and we need
you to volunteer. Do you love the
Locust Fork River? Are you a cre-
ative person? We have volunteer
opportunities to meet your inter-
ests, schedule, talents and desire
for having fun.

- Table at outreach events
- Monitor & update web site
- Help with long-range visioning
- Join our water quality team
- Help coordinate Kids' Day
- Lead a monthly outing
- Serve on our board of directors
- Be a river watchdog

Let us know by going to FLFR.org
and showing our new Volunteer
Coordinator, Ellen Luce, what
you'd like to do. And, thanks!

Art & Photo Contest

Our first ever Art & Photo Contest
received 177 entries from folks of all ages
who live, work or go to school in Blount
County.

Cash prizes of up to \$300 will be given
at an AWARDS CEREMONY, Wednesday,
September 12, 6:00 p.m., at the Blount
County Fair in the Agri-Business Center.

The entries will be on exhibit at the
FLFR booth during the Fair. Thereafter,
they will be moved to the Frank Green
Building and other locations in the
County.

We are grateful to our sponsors:
Blount County Museum & Historical
Society, Blount County Economic
Development Council, Hometown Bank,
King Green & Dobson LLC, and Locust
Fork Pharmacy. Thank you, sponsors!



FLFR gives Dreamcatchers a Day on the River

The *first ever* Dreamcatchers' Day on
the River was a BIG HIT team effort of
FLFR and the Blount County Education
Foundation. River Beach Outfitters hosted
the July event.

90 kids netted river critters, measured
river sediment, paddled kayaks and
splashed a lot of water in the river.

Mitchie Neel, director of the
Dreamcatchers pilot, in cooperation with
the USDA, said the kids' faces looked
"magical."

We river folk know all about that river
magic "she weaves so well"!

FLFR looks forward to the second time
for this event next year.

FLFR is grateful to Eric and Lea Ann
Nolan, owners of River Beach Outfitters,
for hosting; and to volunteers who kept it
flowing: Ellen Luce, Daniel West, Chris
Cleveland, Nancy Jackson, Lisa Martin
and many others.

Ellen Luce, our new volunteer coordinator

Her fondest memories are of camping along the Locust Fork with grandparents, parents and brothers. The children slept under rock ledges! Grandmother brought the camping supplies and cooked fresh fish for the whole gang.

Now Ellen, with grown daughters of her own, wants to “give back” to the river she feels has given her so much. These days she says it’s her “natural medication” for stress. Maybe it always has been :-). She and spouse Chad bought kayaks and are diving into stress reduction!

Her “River Dream”? More people appreciating the beauty of this county and this rivershed, and pitching in to preserve its beauty. Her best shot? “More education for young people to respect the land and the river.”

With landowners’ permissions, signs could be posted with state fines for littering (\$250 for first violation & \$500 for second - of course the “rub” is enforcement.) And signs could remind people to “pitch in and keep here beautiful.”

This summer Ellen and her daughters pitched in to educate about 100 kids to the joys and wonders of our river at a FLFR / Dream Catchers event this summer. Kids were in the water all morning, testing, scooping critters and paddling. Those kids loved it, and that love could become respect and appreciation and giving back as they grow up....

Welcome, Ellen! We are so grateful for your time and skills coordinating FLFR volunteers.



Ellen’s Monarch butterfly nursery



Ellen “fosters” monarch butterflies. Last year 30 caterpillars emerged and she raced all over North Alabama to find enough milkweed plants for the little eating monsters.

No eggs so far this year, but she’s hoping 2018 has the 4th generation to emerge from eggs, and she’ll fatten up those caterpillars for their adult migration south.

FLFR Contacts

President

Stephen Guesman
friends@flfral.com
205-919-6231

Outings & Events Coordinator

Maria Brindle
info@flfral.com
205-429-3719

Volunteer Coordinator

Ellen Luce
ellen@flfral.com

Education Committee

Debra Gordon-Helman
debragh1@gmail.com

Newsletter

Eleanor Wright
ewrightbhm@msn.com

Kids’ Day on the River

kidsdayontheriver@gmail.com

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

Thank you!

Membership appeal, our first in two years . . .

FLFR is growing in outings, outreach and river projects, our latest being the River Access Project to preserve and improve the public’s access to the Locust Fork River. We count on your support so please be generous. Give online or to our P.O. Box & thanks!

FLFR media**Website:**

www.FLFR.org

Facebook & Instagram

*Friends of the
Locust Fork
River*

QR cube:

Alabama Rivers, A Celebration & Challenge

Bill Deutsch, retired Auburn University aquatic ecologist and co-founder of Alabama Water Watch, has published a beautifully written and illustrated book based on his explorations of Alabama waterways.

Cindy Lowry, executive director of Alabama Rivers Alliance, praises the book:

“Bill’s enlightening celebration of Alabama rivers also includes an honest look at the challenges they face and a call to take responsibility for ensuring that the state’s river story continues to be written by future generations. This is a must-read for anyone in a position to make decisions about the future of Alabama.”

FLFR provided a contribution toward the cost of the book. Copies available online alabamariversbook.org.

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



P.O. Box 638
Cleveland, AL 35049

