

Promoting awareness of an amazing River

Amid new times, FLFR is finding new ways to promote our ancient Locust Fork River, which is older than the hills surrounding it.

With the intentional goals of promoting awareness of our amazing River and at the same time increasing volunteer member involvement, FLFR has opportunities that even in these social distancing times are safe, fun and get you closer to the River.

2020 Art & Photo Contest

The 3rd Annual Contest is accepting entries through the end of July. Lots of prizes are available and the winning entries will be displayed in many venues throughout the County during the coming year.

Water Quality Monitoring

FLFR has a team of trained and certified water monitors that test water quality of the River monthly at designated locations. Training and certification are offered through Alabama Water Watch.

Monthly River Cleanups

In July, cleanups are scheduled for the 3rd Saturday rather than the customary 2nd Saturday. New volunteers are always welcome.

Eco-Mural Project

Across our nation as well as in Blount County, mural painting is in a moment of renaissance. FLFR is providing a series of murals about this amazing and beautiful River. The first mural, 10' by 42', is being painted at the Dry Creek Antique Store on Hwy. 231 in Cleveland.

River Restoration Project

This project began last December upon an understanding with Blount County that FLFR would restore native plants on the site of the Scenic Overlook and Grand Staircase on Hwy. 79. FLFR has done two plantings at the location and a third planting will take place in July.

Plans include restoring native plants at future access sites along the River. A plant-growing greenhouse will expand this project in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The greenhouse is to be a portable structure for care and tending of seedlings.

This project offers Blount County youth volunteers opportunities to learn through experience and to earn hours toward service requirements of their schools and any college scholarships to which they plan to apply.

Murals across the County

Saturday, July 18 River Cleanup Day

While we're social distancing, sites on the River are accumulating trash, especially on the weekends. Picking up and pitching in is needed at the following locations:

- ~ Swann
- ~ Mardis Mill
- ~ Taylor Ford
- ~ Horton Mill

If you like to keep our river beautiful, take your grabbers, bags and gloves to the River to pick up and pitch in. And, thank you!

Join or Renew

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

To leave a voicemail, call:
205-274-FLFR

Keep an eye out. Murals will be coming to walls near you in Blount County. Friends of the Locust Fork River is sponsoring a Murals Project to beautify formerly blank spaces, and deliver a message of beauty and care.

The specific purpose of the project is to raise awareness and gratitude among us all for this gorgeous environment we get to live in!

Just think: not everybody in the world gets to look out over valleys shrouded in early morning mists, mountain ridges receding with gentle color gradations into the far distance. Not everybody sees in their daily rounds rolling pastures of hay rippling in the breeze, or towering rocky cliffs, or a winding trail dissolving into deep woods.

When we think about it, we can realize how these visions give us a sense of peace, a glimpse of deep beauty, and feeling of balance in the world.

And through all of this beauty the Locust Fork River has been winding for a long, long time. It nourishes so much life! So many creatures depend utterly on it for water, for tiny food bits, for tasty larvae, for big fish. Its floods nourish the floodplain in timeless cycles. Its ripples and waves and torrents inspire the human soul.

Friends of the Locust Fork River intends for the murals to serve as reminders of how fortunate we are in this county and how we humans need to work together to nurture and maintain that beauty for generations to come.



FLFR's truckload for the PALS* Spring Cleanup

*People Against a Littered State
(Chris Cleveland and Sam Howell)



Eco-Muralist One Explorer paints in Blount County

“I started painting in the early 2000s, inspired and empowered by the Hip Hop and Skate culture that my older sister was a part of. As a child in school, I had a thing for writing and for shaping individual letters. I would bend them, expand them, and color them. Generally, the school was supportive of my

passion by emphasizing arts studies for me, particularly through my high school years.

“For the longest time, I was part of what in the Culture is called ‘*Style Writing.*’ Learning about the history of this discipline, where it came from and how it developed gave me a deeper understanding as I gained personal experience in my home town.

“Since that time, I have painted in over 15 different countries around the world, usually working with local painters from smaller communities of people. Recently, I have started a project of painting a series of murals that will raise awareness of the Locust Fork River and awaken people’s curiosity about the adventures one can experience in its watershed. I am excited to start this project together with local citizens of Blount County, painting the first mural at a Cleveland location during the month of July.”

Follow him on Instagram at @OneExplorer to learn more.

FLFR’s graphic designer for the Eco-Mural Project

“My name is Lakshmi Tummalapalli and I am an artist from Memphis, Tenn. I’ve been studying and competing in art since 2016. I am currently earning a graphic design degree and I volunteer for FLFR by providing graphic design.

“This is my first mural project. I am incredibly excited to be a part of creating art for Blount County citizens to enjoy!”



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Facebook
"Friends of the
Locust Fork River"
and
"FLFR Friends
Group"

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

Beer-Ritas with Fernando

12 ounces Limeade, frozen
12 ounces Water
12 ounces Shock Top beer
12 ounces Tequila, silver
Juice of 2 small oranges

Mix all liquids in a pitcher. Add orange juice. Add ice and stir until well chilled. Salt the rim of chilled margarita glass and pour Beer-Rita. If you are home, like most of us, and prefer a frozen drink, put Beer-Rita in a blender cup, fill with ice and blend. Pour into a salt-rimmed glass.

This adult beverage starred at the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Locust Fork Yacht Club. Many still remember that amazing time. So many folks were celebrating that Fernando had to make batch after batch of his secret margarita mix.

3rd Annual Art & Photo Contest

Entries accepted through July 31
WIN UP TO \$200

"Celebrating Farms and Woodlands of the Locust Fork Watershed"

You have 12 exciting categories to choose from when you submit your best photos or art work created in 2020.

With so many opportunities to win, don't wait one day more! Go to flfr.org to register, review the rules and submit your entries. Winning photos and art works will be displayed at numerous venues throughout Blount County during the coming year!

Do you have a question? Email: info@flfral.com.

Prizes!

Adult:
\$200
\$150
\$100
Teen:
\$100
\$50
\$25