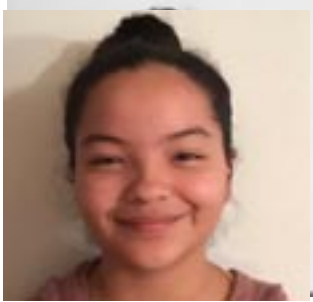




the river's voice

The Official Publication of The Friends of the Locust Fork River Summer 2021



Lizbeth Piceno - 1st

“Friend of the River” Scholarships Awarded

FLFR is honored to recognize four winners of the 2021 “Friend of the River” scholarship. In May, Stephen Guesman, FLFR President, traveled to several Blount County high schools, and to the June Fling, to present scholarship certificates to this year’s four winners. Award amounts are: 1st place, \$1,200; 2nd place, \$800; and 3rd place, \$500.

This year’s candidates volunteered many hours with FLFR, practicing physical distancing outdoors, participating in river clean-ups and riverbank restoration planting. They learned from FLFR mentors about watersheds, native plants and endangered species; as well as about local tributaries, swimming holes and waterfalls. They made new friends and have become river stewards. Congrats!



Layla Harbison - 2nd

Lizbeth Piceno, 1st place, graduated from Susan Moore High School and is bound for the University of Alabama at Birmingham, majoring in engineering. She has demonstrated leadership qualities, loves the outdoors and plans to continue volunteering with FLFR.

Layla Harbison, 2nd place, graduated from Hayden High School and will enter Auburn University in the fall. Layla loves nature and outdoor activities as well as softball, band and dance. *FLFR Note:* Auburn University is home to Alabama Water Watch, which trains FLFR water-testers.



Emma Knowles - 3rd

Emma Knowles, 3rd place, is a homeschool graduate going to Mississippi College to study studio art. Emma loves nature, art, caving and writing. Last year, her entry in the FLFR Art & Photo Contest won 2nd place for teen art.

Savannah Painter, also 3rd place, graduated from Hayden High School and is entering the University of North Alabama in Florence to pursue nursing. Savannah loves nature and outdoor activities, especially hiking and kayaking.



Savannah Painter - 3rd

FLFR’s new scholarship program is for Blount County youth volunteers eager to learn about the great outdoors. Scholarship candidates must be graduating seniors attending a public or private high school or being home-schooled in Blount County; they also must be accepted by an institution of higher education prior to being considered for the award. Throughout the year, applications are accepted at FLFR.org. Next year’s winners will be announced the first week of May 2022.

Science Education & Fun

Second Saturday River Clean-ups

- ~ Swann Bridge
9:00 am
- ~ Low Water Bridge
10:00 am
- ~ Horton Mill Bridge
10:00 am

Register online for the site you want. Bring your own water, gloves, bucket, sturdy shoes and a smile! Questions? Email: info@flfral.com.

Join FLFR as a new member or renew your membership

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

Or mail us a check:

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.

Dreamcatchers & Explorers

More than 350 local elementary kids in two Blount County summer programs had a wonderful river experience, thanks to FLFR volunteers.

Photo at right: Stephen Guesman, FLFR President, teaches canoe safety to Explorers at King's Bend on the Locust Fork River.



Don't Litter Messaging

The Covered Bridge Players created "Gracie Green" and "Tracy Trash" to teach kids that littering hurts everyone. The skit was well received by the young audiences who promised not to litter.

Photo at left: Ramona Brewer, Mindy Egan and Nicole Singleton created the great characters and the original skit.

Meet Mr. Breakfast

Edouard Ndecky, *aka* Mr. Breakfast, aided by his guitar playing and simple game equipment, led kids in multiple field activities and games.

Photo at right: Mr. Breakfast giving a pep talk about being kind to others: to fellow students, teachers, parents and, well, just everyone!



Saving the Monarchs

Stacy Hammond (*left*), Counselor at the Blountsville Elementary School, is also a Monarch Butterfly advocate, teaching kids about the life cycle of Monarch butterflies.

FLFR started a Monarch Waystation with native species milkweeds at the Grand Staircase of King's Bend Scenic Overlook Park on U.S. Highway 231.

Science Education & Fun

Dreamcatcher Interns

These enthusiastic young people (*right*), interns, accompanied younger kids at the Susan Moore Elementary School Summer Program, including the July 1st outing to River Beach Outfitters on the banks of the beautiful Locust Fork River. Many thanks to River Beach Outfitters for providing the venue.



Saving the Birds

This summer, FLFR organized workshops at the Oneonta and Blountsville Public Libraries for kids in the libraries' summer reading programs.

(*left*) A hands-on project was making bird feeders of oranges and sunflower seeds to take home and place in a tree for the birds.



Engaging Kids in Nature

In honor of FLFR's 30 years of river stewardship, FLFR donated 200 copies of "A Garden to Save the Birds" (*right*) to inspire kids and their families to care for the animals around us. Each child participating in the libraries' summer reading program received a copy of this beautifully illustrated children's book.

Update on Quarry Threat

The grassroots opposition to a Clay Quarry is now reinforced by the Alabama Chapter of the Sierra Club. For a video overview of the issues involved, go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGLuFwMJaeQ

The Sierra Club recently aired a webinar featuring **Vicki Carroll**, grassroots leader; **David Butler**, attorney for Cahaba Riverkeeper; and **Brienne Kendall**, a student researcher at Birmingham-Southern College. You are invited to go to the Sierra Club's website for action requests: www.sierraclub.org/alabama.

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205-274-FLFR



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



Picnic Watermelon

1/4 cup Balsamic Vinegar
1 Tbsp. Sugar
4 cups Watermelon, in 1" cubes
4 oz. Feta cheese, crumbled
2 Tbsp. Mint, chopped fine

Melt sugar in vinegar over heat until thickened and syrupy. Store in a container at room temperature. Prep watermelon, feta, and mint. Store each in a separate container in the cooler. Mix the vinegar syrup with watermelon cubes. Then add feta and chopped mint. Serve and enjoy this refreshing treat.

Cheese, Sausage & Apple Skewers*

1 Apple, cut in 1/2" pieces
4 oz. Block of cheese, cut in 1/2" cubes
4 oz. Sausage, cooked, cut in 1/2" cubes
Box Toothpicks

On as many toothpicks as it takes, skewer the cheese and sausage cubes and store in a container for the cooler. When ready to serve, add the apple cubes. Take all the pieces off the toothpick in one bite and let flavors do their thing!

**Flavor tip: use venison summer sausage, cheddar cheese and Honeycrisp apples.*

Friends of the Locust Fork River

1991  2021

Celebrating
30 YEARS OF RIVER
STEWARDSHIP

Blount County is Awesome by Nature!

FLFR.org