



www.obedwatershed.org

Obed Watershed Community Association

February 2010

**Fundraiser Party Rescheduled!
Support Your Organization
and have FUN!!**

February 6th, Chestnut Hill Winery
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Chestnut Hill Winery is launching a new wine, Dulcimer White. They are inviting the public to come enjoy this new offering and funds raised will go to OWCA. There will be dulcimer music and finger foods. If you'd like to help, contact June Zettelmeyer at 788-5022. Please come and tell all your friends as well. This is open to the public and is a great opportunity for us to tell the OWCA story as well as promote a local business.

Fight the Invasives Workshop
with Lisa Huff, Naturalist

February 11, 2010 3:00 p.m. Common Ground

Tennessee has taken a new step forward in 2010 with its first ban on the sale of ten invasive plants. Lisa Huff, a state naturalist will talk about how to identify and eradicate the most troublesome plants that are taking over and crowding out our beautiful native plants. Since most of these plants have been sold as landscaping plants, Lisa will also talk about native substitutes that can bring their own beauty to our landscaped areas. She brings a slide show and years of experience. February 22 - 26 is Invasives Week in Tennessee. Tell your friends and neighbors and your local landscaper. Don't miss it.

New Water Monitoring Volunteers

Step Forward

We had a great response for our call for new water sampling volunteers. Kim Miller, Wayne Russell, Pat Westerfield, Tony Gustin, and Jean Dilliplane all attended our workshop and will be doing monthly monitoring on streams near their homes. Thank you! If you missed the training but would like to help, we are still needing some samplers along Spiers Branch (there are 18 separate tributaries here), Byrds Creek, or Long Branch. Contact Dennis if you would like to join the Stream Team. 484-9033.

**OWCA's Watershed Wednesdays at
SMHS**

OWCA is returning to SMHS beginning in February with our Watershed Wednesday series as part of Annell Field's Ecology class. This is the third year that we have been working with students to increase their knowledge and understanding of our Cumberland County watersheds and the importance to the health of the community.

**Lower Byrds Creek Watershed Plan
Completed**

The Watershed Plan for the Lower Byrds Creek Watershed was completed in January. If you are interested in seeing what we uncovered during our assessments last summer and fall, the plan is available on our website, www.obedwatershed.org. The watershed plans for Upper Byrds Creek and the Upper Obed will

also be on the website shortly.

Coal Ash Bill Moves Forward

A new bill that will require transportation issues and air quality to be considered in making decisions about siting coal ash landfills has been introduced by Senator Charlotte Burks and Representative Eric Swafford, both of whom represent Cumberland County. It would require that these considerations be included in the regulations before any new coal ash landfills could be permitted, including the proposed landfill at Smith Mountain. It also calls for new restrictions on “beneficial” use of coal ash to ensure that it does not become a source of pollution. This bill was drafted with the assistance of Cumberland Stewards and the Tennessee Sierra Club.

Legislative Day in Nashville Feb 23rd

February 23rd is the first of two scheduled “environmental” lobbying days with the state legislature. Citizens from across the state will be visiting the legislature to lobby on a range of bills that protect the environment, including the Coal Ash bill. The effort, sponsored by the Tennessee Conservation Voters, includes a large number of different organizations with concerns ranging from air pollution to mountain-top removal to park and greenway funds to clean water issues. You can go to support one or all of the issues. Sandra Goss of the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (and an OWCA Board member) is organizing a bus from East Tennessee that will stop and pick up folks from Cumberland County. If interested in riding the bus, call Sandra at 865-522-3809. Cost is \$20 for the bus.

Streamside Planting Coming Up late February and early March

Weather and water permitting, our Stream Team will be returning to the areas we did the bank stabilization in 2009 to plant some native

plants to ensure that we will have roots to hold banks after our stabilization materials rot out. In a process called “live staking,” we will be putting cuttings of about five types of plants into the banks which will develop roots and begin to grow. Obviously, we want to be out there when the water is not at its highest and the temperature is reasonable, but we also want to be out there while the plants are still dormant. If you’d like to volunteer with this activity (in the stream or on the bank), let Dennis know. He’ll work out some dates with you. It will be three or four days total, but you can help for as little or as much as you want. Call Dennis Gregg at 484-9033.

OWCA Board

The OWCA Board includes Ed LeGrand (president), Jean Cheely (vice president), Sandra Goss (treasurer), June Zettelmeyer (secretary), Deanne Blankenship, Kim Miller, Pete Peterson, and Sandy Schrade. The next meeting will be March 11th, but if you would like to help with one of the Board committees, contact Ed at 788-1846.

OWCA sponsors are Silvara Stone, LP Shanks, St. Raphael’s Episcopal Church, Crossville Friends Meeting, and Veolia Water NA.

OWCA is a 501(3) nonprofit membership organization. Tax deductible contributions can be sent to OWCA, 185 Hood Dr. Crossville, TN 38555. Dennis Gregg is the Executive Director and can be reached at 484-9033.

