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Obed Watershed Community Association

June 2009

ACTION NEEDED on Coal Ash Dump!

A Public Hearing is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on June 2 on the proposal to build a landfill for coal ash on Smith Mtn. Public Comments will end on June 15 at 4:00 p.m. followed by a Commission vote at 7:00. There are many questions that have been raised about the proposal and the company making the proposal, but no answers have been given. Ask your Commissioners to vote NO until these questions have been satisfactorily answered. More information on the OWCA website. This is not good for the county.

Welcome Summer Youth Workers

For six weeks this summer, three young adults, Nathan Blaylock, Katie McHugh, and Jameson Glass will be assisting OWCA in a variety of ways - working on Stream Assessments, Water Sampling, Data Analysis, and lots of other activities of our organization. They will be paid under the Summer Youth Employment project. Both Katie and Jameson are college graduates with biology degrees. Nathan is a current college student. Please welcome them when you see them participating in our various activities.

Restoration Work goes well

The Master Gardeners worked with us to do the initial planting on the stream section near the Senior Center at the Complex. There will be some more bank work, but we're off to a good start.

The project on Town Branch also went well. We installed both rocks and bank stabilization rolls along a 100 foot section. Thanks to all the volunteers that worked with us that day.

Come See Us at the International Celebration

**1-2pm Saturday June 6
Crossville Depot**

We'll have an information booth and will be giving out water as an expression of our focus on the streams of Cumberland County. It's a fun event with food from all different cultures of the world. Help celebrate human diversity.

Wildflower Walk

Wed. June 10, 9-11

Master botanist Bill Hess will again lead us as we explore the world of trees and plants of the Obed River Park. Meet at the big pavilion in the park. The Park is located just past the county fairgrounds on 70N.

Stream Clean-up at Devil's Breakfast Table

Monday, June 15 9:00 to 11:00

We will be conducting our first-of-the-season clean-up at the Devil's Breakfast table, a popular swimming and picnicking area, just inside the boundary of the Obed National Park. Wear long pants. We have bags, gloves, etc. Meet us out there, or caravan from Common Ground (405 W 4th St), leaving at 8:30 a.m.

Rain Barrel Workshop June 23

The fourth Rain Barrel Workshop of the year is Tuesday, June 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. As with last year, the time block is divided up into half-hour blocks. Price this year is \$40/barrel, which includes all the parts assembled on the barrel. We are also including a free membership with the price. Already a member? Your price is \$30. Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up as soon as possible. These workshops fill quickly. Call 484-9033 to register.

Stream Restoration Workday Saturday June 26 - 9:00 - 12noon

We will be restoring a section of the Obed River between Sparta Drive and 70S. This will involve moving some rocks to modify the way the stream hits the bank and tying cedar revetments to the banks to protect them from further erosion. We will be working both on the banks and in the water. It is physical labor but not back-breaking work. If you're interested in participating in repairing a stream, come join us. Snacks will be provided. Call 484-9033 for directions. This is in town, not far from the Kroger Shopping Center.

Martin Elementary Work Continues

The wet weather in May delayed our work in stabilizing the bare bank and seeding with Tennessee native grasses, courtesy of the Tennessee Wildlife Management Agency. We're in the process of lining up a back hoe or bobcat to fill in the erosion channels and spread some soils on the rocky areas. Once we have the site ready, we'll need some volunteers to help put down erosion cloth and seed the area with the native grasses. If this sounds like something you'd be willing to donate a morning for, give us a call at 484-9033.

Join the Stream Team Volunteers

Now that the weather is warming up, volunteer with OWCA as an excuse to get outside and enjoy the beauty of our area. We need help in three areas:

- **Stream Surveyors:** You walk streams with a trained leader and take observation. We are now working in the

Tansi area and above the Cumberland Mountain State Park.

- **Stream Restorers:** If you are willing to volunteer a couple of hours in a stream, willing to work on actual stream restoration projects or are part of a group that is looking for a service project, please let Dennis know.
- **Water Samplers:** OWCA needs volunteers to take samples during or immediately after rains to see how much mud is in the water. Over time, we want to see a reduction in this amount of mud. OWCA provides the equipment and training. It takes about 15 minutes to do a sample. If you live on a stream and would like to sample at your house, or are willing to get out and drive to a sampling site, please let us know. You do **NOT** have to get in the water!

Good News on Bad Water Bills

While a couple of bills that will have negative impacts on Tennessee streams made it through, most of the bills that would have reduced protection for Tennessee streams were stopped. It seems strange after the Kingston disaster that legislators would want to weaken protections, but despite the obvious failure of deregulation at the national level, there are still powerful forces that want to reduce environmental protections that are in their way. Perhaps next year, we can be cheering positive legislation instead of trying to stop bad legislation.

OWCA Board

The OWCA Board includes Ed LeGrand (president), Deanne Blankenship, Jean Cheely, Rita Defrees, Sandra Goss, Fran Grant, Pete Peterson, and June Zettlemyer.

OWCA sponsors are LP Shanks Co., St. Raphael's Episcopal Church, 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.