

THE SOQUE RIVER CURRENT

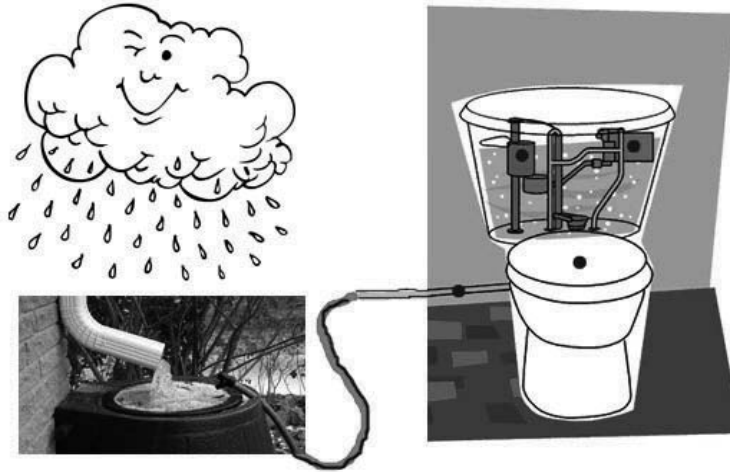
Spring/Summer 2011

Soque River Watershed Association

Vol. 13, No. 1

Rainwater Harvesting - The way of the Future!

With annual rainfall of greater than 51 inches, Habersham County seems like a place in which water supply wouldn't be a problem. However, because our county is situated at the very tip top headwaters of the Chattahoochee River Basin rather than at the very end (the mouth) of a large river basin, we have to think about and manage water a little more carefully. The reason is that almost all of the water available for our use in the county actually originates as rainfall that lands within our very county boundaries. That's a lot of water but it is



But what in the world is rainwater harvesting?

The collection, cleaning, storage and re-use of multiple sources of water collected on-site such as:
 Rainwater,
 Stormwater,
 & Greywater
 to replace or reduce the consumption of municipal water and to increase long-term water supplies..

a finite amount and quickly being divided amongst more and more of us. And even though water can be pumped from other locations, it's costly to do so, and our neighbors often have other plans for that water themselves (resulting in conflicts like the tri-state water wars). For these reasons, and many, many more, these looming concerns about long-term water supplies should be leading us towards a more sustainable future for water management, and that's going to involve an emerging new practice called **Rainwater Harvesting**.

And what exactly is Rainwater Harvesting? Traditionally the term has only been thought of as rainwater used for irrigation (like capturing water in rainbarrels), but the Association and others are taking a much broader view and the definition we're using now is *"The collection, cleaning, storage and re-use of multiple sources of water collected on-site such as: rainwater, stormwater, and greywater to replace or reduce the consumption of municipal water and to increase long-term water supplies."*

If that still sounds like a mouthful, let's break it down to its simplest components, and we'll try and explain along the way how all these practices actually end up helping our creeks and rivers too. The animation above is a simple way to picture the basic concept of water re-use.

Learning some Rainwater Harvesting TERMS

First, it's useful to differentiate the terms rainwater, stormwater, greywater and groundwater. "Rainwater" in this context is defined specifically as rain that is coming off of a relatively clean roof so it's not going to be contaminated. That's the key difference: rainwater falls from the sky essentially clean allowing us to re-use this resource. Rainwater only becomes stormwater when it is **discharged** into an area where it can pick up contaminants or cause damage due to its erosive force. Water that flows across a parking lot collecting oil and heavy metals is no longer rainwater; it becomes stormwater which pollutes water supplies. *see Rainwater (p. 8)*



The SRWA is a 501(c)3 non-profit.
 Donations are tax deductible

www.soque.org

soque@windstream.net

Post Office Box 1901
 Clarkesville, GA 30523
 706.754.9382

Justin Ellis,
 Executive Director

Duncan Hughes,
 Watershed Coordinator

Kimberly Brown,
 Administrative and Outreach
 Coordinator

Mission:

To work together with individuals and organizations to protect and restore Habersham County's Soque River, its tributaries and watershed.

Directors:

John Bigelow (Pres.)
 Scarlett Fuller (VP/Sec.)
 Walter Matlock (Tres.)
 Doug Henry
 Charlé Statler
 Richard Averack

Bill Gresham
 Roy Lowe
 Randy Moser
 Teri Parker
 Brenda Hunt
 Jean Holmes



Ripples in the Current Spring and Summer 2011 Calendar



May

24 - **Rain Barrel Fittings Day** - Come on out to NGTC at 9am - noon and help us assemble some rainwater harvesting equipment for our local community. E-mail for details - soque@windstream.net

26 - **Tour of Sustainable Water Supplies** - See below for more details.

June

3 - **Five in Five Celebration at Sutton Mill** - If you're a supporter of the SRWA, then this party is thrown in your honor. This year's event, in addition to raising \$5,000 in 5 days, will also feature Caribbean food from Gaby's in Toccoa, great raffle items, local brew, and a great slide show.

24 - **Streambank Restoration Workshop** - It'll be hard to miss our streambank restoration project on Hwy 115 during the week of heavy equipment operation. We'll have a very small group attend a "construction workshop" on natural channel design on this Friday. See below for details.

July

16 - **Tour of Sustainable Farms** - Our tour of sustainable farms was by far our most popular in our sustainability tour series last year, so we're bringing it back again. Details soon.

Tour of Sustainable Water Supplies May 26th

As part of our continuing series of sustainability tours, the Association wants you to learn everything you ever wanted to know about how the water in your home gets from the stream, to your home, and back again. That's why our next tour is a **Tour of Sustainable Water Supplies**, where you'll explore how we currently manage water in Habersham County from A to Z.

The tour will feature the cities of Clarkesville and Cornelia and their Drinking Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants, followed by a visit to Habersham Mills Lake which has the potential to be considered as a future water supply source for Habersham Countians.

The Tour will run from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday May 26th.



Streambank Restoration starts June 20th



Concerns with failing streambanks are still one of the most common calls we receive at the Association office, and according to recent studies in Georgia, streambank erosion may account for almost 80% of all stream sediment in many Piedmont streams. The causes of streambank failure can be complicated and the best solutions can seem even more complicated. That's why we wanted to demystify a process called "Natural Channel Design" which basically strives to re-equilibriate streams into a natural and stable form that will hold up for decades to come.

After spending many years scouting streams for the



SUMMER PARTY for SUPPORTERS JUNE 3rd

The “5 in 5” fundraiser at Sutton Mill is back. Our newest fundraiser was so well received last year, we’ve brought it back and Caribbeanized it! Imagine all the beauty and coolness of Sutton Mill, now with a working water wheel and add to that jerk chicken, spicy cabbage and slaw with Caribbean style succulent fried pork, vegetable rice, plantains, curry chicken, rum coconut drinks and much, much more. Gaby’s of Toccoa is our very special food host this year and all her dishes come straight from her home in Haiti.

The Summer Celebration Party will be on **Friday, June 3rd** and held at the fully restored historic Sutton Mill. This Celebration of the Soque and its supporters is the culmination of the Association’s “5 in 5” fundraiser in which we work to raise **\$5,000 in 5 days between Monday May 30th and Friday June 3rd**. All proceeds of the event will go towards the Association’s FIVE program areas and each day of the event we’ll describe a program, our successes from this past year, and our vision for the year ahead.

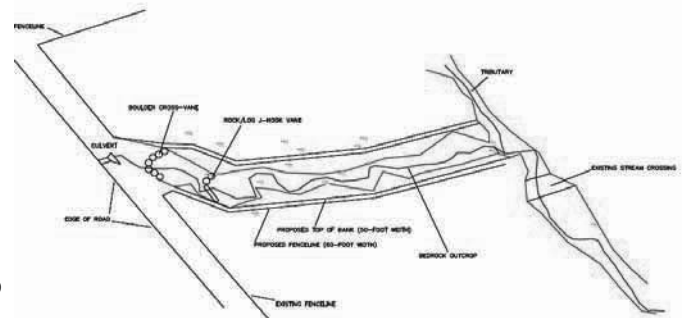
The Event is **FREE** to all current and new dues paying members to the Association as our way to say thank-you for supporting and being involved in our efforts. We do encourage you make an additional donation during our “5 in 5” if you’re already a member, or consider sponsoring a new member and bring them to the event. We also have raffle tickets for \$5 for a growing list of local goodies like restaurant certificates and even for local veggies through Locally Grown. Mark you calendar and don’t miss it!

Restoration (continued from p.2)

perfect opportunity to construct a visible streambank restoration project, the perfect location and property owner emerged last year when we met Lamar Whiting. Lamar and his wife Carol own a beautiful 52 acre farm located right on Hwy 115 heading towards Cleveland. His property drains an unnamed tributary to Yellowbank Creek. We hoped Lamar might be willing to consider a project to keep his banks from further eroding and when we noticed he was stockpiling concrete to armor the banks with, we knew the time was right....he was ready for action. Over the last year we’ve worked with NC State engineers, UGA, a revegetation expert from Auburn and a construction team from North Carolina to plan and rebuild 500 linear feet of stream. The process is called Natural Channel Design, and it will essentially reform a mini floodplain within a broader river channel allowing Lamar’s stream to dissipate it’s energy during floods rather than scour the banks and river bottom.

The project will also help to fence cattle from the stream, and build a cattle crossing as well. All of these efforts are intended to educate the community about the importance of streambanks and what to do (and not do) when they are seriously impaired.

June will be here before you know it so be ready to learn along with us all about Natural Channel Design. Our thanks to Lamar and Carol for their willingness to try this approach.



Partnership Update

The Soque Partnership (led by SRWA, the City of Clarkesville, NGTC, and some 15 other partners), has recently demonstrated success working with property owners to install measures to reduce sources of bacterial pollution to streams. Over the past three years, the Partnership has worked with 16 property owners, primarily local farmers, on projects including fencing cows from streams and providing alternative sources of water for these animals. While livestock are certainly not the only cause of bacteria in our waters, they are a source that can easily be reduced or eliminated with cooperation of our friends in the agricultural community.

One such example of this cooperation is the case of David Barnes’ farm in the Fairview area. By installing more than 1750 linear feet of fencing on a pond and tributary stream to Yellowbank Creek, bacteria levels downstream over the past 6-9 months have dropped to the lowest levels since monitoring began in 2005. Projects like these have also led to decreased bacteria levels in the mainstem of the Soque River. The Soque (from Hwy. 115 in Clarkesville to Batesville) has perpetually been on Georgia’s list of impaired waters for high bacteria levels. With help from City of Clarkesville Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel, the Partnership has documented water quality improvements in the river due to projects like Mr. Barnes’. These data have been submitted to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and it is anticipated that the Soque will be removed from the list of impaired waters next year (the water quality list is published every two years). The Partnership will continue to implement projects, on farms and with other partners, which result in cleaner water for all citizens of Habersham County and our neighbors downstream.

The River Rundown

Soque activities during the Winter and early Spring



January 29th - Tour of Sustainable Streambanks

Our fourth sustainability tour featured one of our favorite topics, streambank restoration, and we were quite pleased that over 30 attendees were also interested in the topic. The focus of the event was to explain natural channel design, which rather than armoring eroding banks with rock, attempts to mimic natural stream dynamics by rebuilding floodplains and other natural channel characteristics. The tour featured current and future restoration sites including 200 feet along the Clarkesville Greenway, a 500-foot section to be restored this summer (see page 2), a natural streambank on the Soque at Jackson Bridge and one of the first natural channel design projects in the Southeast. The Gainesville Times wrote an excellent article about the tour that is available on our website.



February 12th - Willow Stake Harvesting

To follow up on our streambank restoration tour, we wanted to get some practice in one of the best practices for quickly establishing woody vegetation along streams. It's called Live Staking. Many native trees like Black Willow, Silky Dogwood and Alder have the ability to re-root quickly from cuttings. To test this practice, about 10 people came out to the peninsula at Habersham Mills Lake and helped us cut 50 black willow stakes and 50 alder stakes. Because these plants are shrubby and put out multiple trunks, we were able to get about 6 live stakes per tree cut down. Not only will the original tree resprout from the original roots, now it will have six clones for us to place along riverbanks that need a little help holding their soils.

February 26th - Watershed Group of the Year

During the Georgia River Network's annual conference, the Association received the most prestigious award that a river conservation group can receive in Georgia, the "Watershed Group of the Year." Duncan Hughes and Justin Ellis attended the conference to accept the award. The Association also led a presentation on Using Sustainable Agriculture to improve water quality and broaden your audience. Among other reasons, the GA River Network attributed the award to the Association's contributions in "revolutionizing the way watershed groups work in agricultural areas in Georgia."



March 15th - Farm Field Day

What better day to go check out water quality improvement projects on farms than on a wet, rainy, soggy day? Fortunately, about 25 other attendees agreed, including our own County Commission chairman, the County manager, the County building director, and the president of the Habersham Farm Bureau and member the Board of Education, Gilbert Barrett. During the tour, participants, which included half a dozen potential future farm partners, were able to see a small sample of the 15 cattle exclusion projects, stream crossings, and other best management practices that are reducing sediment and bacteria as part of our Soque Partnership. Thanks to the farmers who make this happen.



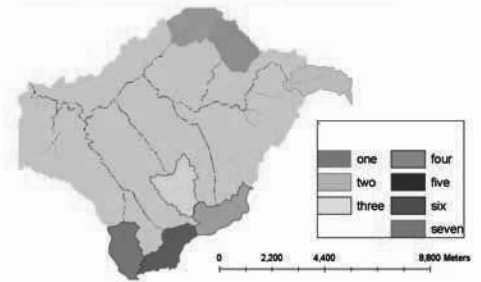
March 17th - Willow / Cypress Planting Date

After a lot of cold and rain, we finally hit the jackpot on the day we decided to go plant about 100 willow and alder stakes and a couple dozen bald cypress trees donated by Joe Hatfield at various locations around the watershed. We planted quite a few at David Barnes' farm in Fairview, on the steep banks at Pitts Park in Clarkesville, and along the Greenway behind Old Clarkesville Mill. We'll be monitoring these plantings to see how they do and look forward to future planting days.

April 13th - Georgia Water Resources Conference

As the SRWA has grown in our technical capacity to assess and address water quality problems, we've slowly been able to share our lessons learned with the larger watershed and research community. In April we were able to give two presentations at the GA Water Resources Conference, one entitled "A Strategy for Attaining Bacterial Water Quality Standards" and the other "Sediment Source Assessments and establishing Priorities for Abatement." For those who are curious about the Association's long-range strategy to reduce pollution from these two sources, we encourage you to visit our Publications page on our website and read these two technical papers.

Hazel Creek one square mile catchments



April 18th - Fairview Elementary gets limed

We've begun a very exciting partnership with the Habersham County Board of Education to slowly restore about 8 school sites that currently have little vegetative cover, to lush green acres that will help increase water infiltration, reduce erosion, and enhance the aesthetics of the school and the surrounding environment. Over the last few months we've taken soil samples at Fairview Elementary and recognized that prior to improving soil fertility and planting grass seed, we needed to raise the pH from a very low 5.0 to at least 6.0 by applying a powdered agricultural lime. That's where David Barnes, one of our former farm project partners, came in and with the generous loan of Gilbert Barrett's spreader trailer, used his tractor to spread the lime. After that works in we'll be looking at spreading some organic matter and grass seed.



May 3rd - Sediment Hotspot Mapping

One of the more ambitious projects the SRWA is pursuing is a method of assessing and prioritizing where to work to stop sediment in the Hazel Creek sub-basin. We'll go into more depth in a future newsletter but our approach is novel and untried by any watershed groups in Georgia and uses a combination of GIS, aerial photography, instream sampling and field assessment to identify hotspots for sediment so that we can focus our efforts on projects that will reduce the most pollution for the least money. Our first scouting day based on the creation of brand new hotspot maps compiled by GIS analyst Alex Smith (pictured) proved the utility of the approach. All the sites we visited did indeed demonstrate sediment problems. We'll talk about the solutions very soon!



Some things you may have missed from last Summer / Fall



Fairview Cistern Install
August 10, 2010

Duncan Hughes, SRWA, and Michael Harrup of A-1 Gutters install a 1,000 gallon cistern at Fairview Elementary that will meet all the irrigation needs for the Fairview Garden.



Soque River Roast
October 8, 2010

Raised \$16,000 for the SRWA

Guest of honor Gov. Sonny Perdue is welcomed to the event by former guest of honor Ted Turner and Catherine Crier of CNN.



Soque River Ramble
October 23, 2010

Raised \$1,200 for the SRWA

Dale and Jean Holmes and friends have sponsored this fundraiser showcasing the beautiful headwaters for 4 years.

Sustainable Local Food Production PAGE

Community Garden renamed the Green Way Garden

Plants are in the ground and coming up strong, and it's apparent that last year's returning gardeners are smarter and better organic growers than they were a year ago. In addition to that, the garden serves as a training ground for organic production practices, where we learn and can teach everything from electric deer fencing, pump and irrigation systems, cover crops and soil fertility, and the introduction of new and unusual crops like sunflowers for oil seeds, fennel, fava beans and kohlrabi.

The Garden recently unanimously was renamed the Green Way garden, and we have to admit that this name suits our purpose. We're constantly trying to learn how to be better stewards of the landscape, and that takes practice.

If you haven't seen the garden we highly encourage you to take a walk on the Clarkesville Greenway sometime, located beside Old Clarkesville Mill. You won't be able to miss our lush, loamy fertile farm. We're also looking forward to giving the Clarkesville City Council a tour of the greenway and garden sometime this month.



Thanks to our supporters

FIELDALF Farms donated funds to help us purchase a riding lawn mower, the HOME DEPOT donated nearly all the start-up supplies such as tools, hoses and fencing, Richie Averack donates use of his Kubota tractor (pictured above), Joe Wilbanks donated compost last year, Keith Gossett donated pine straw for our blueberries, Danny Otter donates storage space and use of the mill pond; Kevin Peyton at NGTC donated use of a water pump, the City of Clarkesville donates the land that we use, United Community Bank donates their community room for our meetings, local farmers donate their expertise to help us learn gardening skills and solve problems, Sidney Roland donated time to help us plant 50 blueberry plants last winter, and of course our 40 or so gardeners have donated numerous hours to fence mending, weeding, promotions and potluck cooking and other tasks that have made it a success so far. If you have an idea of something to donate please let us know, we can always use tools, stakes, silt fence, tomato cages, irrigation accessories, perennial fruits, you name it!



Group Visits Blue Ridge Ventures on May 9th

A central component to re-building land-based local food businesses is the capacity to process and can local foods for re-sale as "value added" products. Back in early March the Habersham Board of Education announced that, with construction of the new courthouse at the old Habersham High School site, the cannery will have to be re-located. Fortunately, the new high school has \$1 million remaining after construction to be used for re-location of the cannery at the new high school site and possibly including an agricultural complex. To assist the BOE in maximizing the potential of such a facility, approximately 10 farmers and local food organizers in Habersham, Rabun and White counties visited **Blue Ridge Ventures** near Asheville, NC to see their community kitchen facility. This facility allows farmers to lease space at \$22 an hour to process everything from juice, to frozen foods, to baked goods. The group is hoping that with a similar facility in Habersham county, one day schools can serve locally grown and preserved foods.



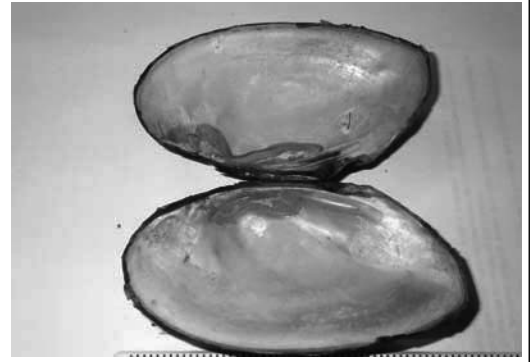
Greenhouse to be Moved to Community Garden

Greenhouses are another central component to having year-round food, and they're great for farmers trying to extend their production and income into the colder months. The Association purchased a greenhouse 3 years ago that we never really put to good use, so we realized, why not move it to our community garden plot and use it to demonstrate the benefits of greenhouse production. In addition to trying some in-ground growing, the greenhouse will be used for the production of starter plants, and the propagation of rain garden plants and streamside vegetation to reduce bank erosion. By locating the greenhouse on the greenway we can also encourage volunteers to take an active role in the "growing of green things" required for sustainability.

We're currently talking to Georgia Power company about possibly sponsoring this project so that we can make improvements to this greenhouse that will benefit us for many years.

First Official Mussel Sighting in Soque Basin in Decades

On February 1st during a casual visit to see a land owner with streambank concerns on upper Hazel Creek, the SRWA made a remarkable discovery...the shell of a native mussel called *Eliptio*. Freshwater mussels may be the most endangered of all species in the United States, with over 300 different kinds, and 70% of those either extinct, endangered or in need of special protection. When this sighting was reported to the state zoologist with GA DNR he responded "this is a really good find as there are very few mussel records [of any kind] from the Appalachian Chattahoochee Flint river basin upstream of Atlanta and particularly upstream of Lake Lanier." While the invasive *corbicula* (about the size of a quarter) is common, it's an invasive from Asia. We hope that we can further document the range of this native *Eliptio* and protect its habitat for a strong recovery. We'll keep you posted.



SRWA honors the life and contributions of Founding Member Chuck Wiechard

The Soque Watershed Community lost one of its most important founders in November of 2010 with the passing of Chuck Wiechard.

Chuck was intricately involved with the activities that led to the formation of the Soque River Watershed Association way back in 1996 when residents of the Soque Wilderness subdivision and members of their Property Owners Association (SWPOA) began to meet with other property owner associations in the area. The meetings were an effort to assist in the development of guidelines for set backs and erosion control to be considered in SWPOA property covenants. He helped with original letters to other Soque River property owners, meetings to discuss conservation and erosion control, and eventually blended this activity into a movement for the organization of



Chuck Wiechard entertains attendees of the SRWA's members picnic that used to be held each summer in Pitts Park. This tradition continues at Sutton Mill this year.

what would become the Soque River Watershed Association. His original SRWA responsibility was as chairman of a watershed wildlife committee, with a special interest in trout. In addition he spent many hours with SRWA planting trees, volunteered with the Justin Savage restoration project (pictured below), and other work with the GA Forest Commission giving public comment on timber harvest plans. On his 80th birthday he set a goal to bicycle 80 miles, which he accomplished. He was an avid cyclist and could be seen on his bicycle all over the County. He was also an avid fly fisherman and teacher to new fly fishers.



Chuck Wiechard plants trees at the Soque Restoration site on the left fork of the Soque River around 2000. Eleven years later, this site (home of our Soque Roast) now has a lush riparian forest thanks to the volunteer efforts of dedicated individuals like Chuck.

Chuck was a model volunteer, and as a direct result of his long-time participation in the Atlanta 17 swing band as their saxophonist, he was able to help the SRWA begin to raise considerable local funds with the Valentine's Day Big Band Event held every year from 2000-2008. The Atlanta 17 played the gig for free thanks to Chuck's involvement.

To honor Chuck's contributions to the Soque River, the Soque Wilderness Property Owners Association (SWPOA) has given a \$100 memorial gift to the SRWA.

Our sincerest thanks to Chuck and his wife Rose for over a decade of commitment to the Soque River Watershed. His example, along with all the SRWA founders, will be an inspiration to us for a long-time to come.

Locally Grown Market is a Growing Success

Despite living in a rural and agricultural county, until recently it's been hard to find fresh, local food that's grown in ways that are healthy and sustainable to our landscape and natural resources. Thanks to the ingenuity and dedication of a lot of local farmers willing to give an unusual marketing approach a try, Locally Grown food is readily available and growing. About one year ago Chuck Mashburn, a farmer in Rabun County, contacted the Association and proposed starting an internet based farmers market in the north Georgia Mountains similar to a market in Athens that sold nearly \$500,000 in local food last year. Though starting up was a bit slow and awkward, sales the very first week for our startup market on April 24, 2010 were over \$300 with about 10 farmers participating and maybe 20 customers.

Now one year later, the Northeast Georgia Locally Grown has sold over \$30,000 in local foods, with sales on our anniversary date of over \$1,500 in just one week, it looks like it's gonna be a bigger and better year. The website currently lists nearly 200 different food items from nearly 30 farms including all types of vegetables, pastured meats, eggs, milk, cheese, mushrooms, sprouts, teas, honey, fruit and baked goods.

The Association manages the market but the sales are directly between the farmers and the customers, and just 7% of each sale goes to keep the market going with expenses. Though the purposes and benefits of such a market are too numerous for a short article, we hope that this project encourages people to begin investing in starting **land based sustainable businesses** of all kinds. The collaboration amongst the farming community is also leading to many other future projects such as discussions about growing sunflower seeds for cooking oil, and working to build a community kitchen for farmers to process their food to resell year round (see article page 6).

Buying Local Food is a great way to support sustainability, and perhaps one of the best ways to enjoy it. To give Locally Grown a try just visit www.northeastgeorgia.locallygrown.net and start an account. You can try the market with no membership fee three separate weeks before an annual \$15 membership is applied. You'll get a weekly email on Sunday letting you know what products are available. Online ordering is Sunday and Monday, then you pickup your order at Grace Calvary Episcopal Church in Habersham County or at Chuck's House in Rabun County 5-7 p.m. every Wednesday. Thanks to all those who support this effort and who grow the food. And don't forget to eat well!



Buddy Belflower of Belflower Gardens delivers eggs, kale, blueberries, lettuce and a host of other goodies

Rainwater from page 1

The goal in rainwater harvesting is to prevent rainwater from ever becoming stormwater. Stormwater is now recognized as one of the principal causes of streambank erosion, and bank erosion has been found to be responsible for as much as 80% of the sediment in streams (from a recent UGA study of the Broad River just south of us). But perhaps most important is that rainwater that runs off and becomes stormwater can't soak into the ground, replenishing our local groundwater supply which is our true reservoir of freshwater, 20-30 times greater than surface water supplies (and actually feeds surface waters through seeps and springs accounting for almost 50% of instream flows on average). One goal then is to turn rainwater into groundwater and prevent it from ever becoming stormwater. That's how nature conserves, treats, and recycles water and we should mimic this efficient system. To accomplish these goals means intercepting rainfall and diverting it to a better use. So how do we do that?

Re-Plumbing Rooftops and Asphalt

Let's focus on the point of interception for a minute. Our two most common forms of impervious surface are roofs and asphalt. Both already have a system for moving water - roof gutters and an array of stormwater pipes, inlets and outlets. All are designed to move water off-site. Rainwater Harvesting is essentially "Green Plumbing" where we just tweak existing systems to be more efficient, and rather than remove water from the site, try and re-use it, and then what we can't re-use try and it get back into the ground. Here are three examples:

STORAGE TANKS
&
CISTERNS

1,000 GALLON
TANK
© FAIRVIEW
ELEM.



The backbone of rainwater harvesting is the cistern. A 1,000 sq ft house generates ~ 30,000 gallons of water in our county annually in runoff. In GA average daily water use is 168 gallons or 61,320 gallons annually. So half of all the water you use annually could be captured from your own roof.

Rainwater re-use has endless possibilities. The SRWA and the County recently partnered on a grant that would filter cistern water to flush toilets at the new courthouse.

CURB DIVERSION
&
INFILTRATION
DITCHES



The way we build roads and parking lots can increase water infiltration into the ground and save dollars, if we learn how to build them smarter. In the photo above from John's Creek Environmental Campus in Fulton County you'll notice that the road on the left has no curb and is sloped into this swale or infiltration ditch which is designed to hold water and allow it to soak into the ground. There's still a stormwater outlet for huge storms but all rains under an inch will percolate.

RAIN GARDENS
&
BIORETENTION



The ultimate in rainwater harvesting is the rain garden or bioretention cell. By simply digging a hole, forming a berm, amending soils with sand and organic matter, and planting plants that are drought tolerant you can increase water infiltration into the groundwater table. This system is scalable from residential to industrial. In fact, the constructed wetland at the Clarkesville Greenway is essentially a giant rain garden.

For more on Water Harvesting visit our website!

Thanks for the support of all our members

Student/Senior/Youth

Ruth Brokenshire	Chandler & Sallie Lanier
Virginia Carter	Barbara Moore
Clayton Franklin	Dwight Ogier
Sandra Forgach	Steve & Sybil Patton
Lela Griffin	Sidney & Suzanne Roland
Tony & Berma Hamilton	Ralph Singer
Charles Hughes	Amy Burge Skvarka

Individual

Brenda Adams	William Merrick
Nancy Adams	Carey Miller
Donald Allen	Vicki Miller
Dulcie Ariail	Jeff Moore
Gus Arrendale	Mary Ellen Myers
Jo Ellen Berg	Hoyt Oliver
Brian Blackburn	Keith Owen
Jerry & Bobbi Breazeale	Martha Parkman
Julian Brown	Nick Nickerson
Wendell Brown	Todd & Stacy Pealock
Duval Carter	Paul J. Reeves
Alexis Chapman	Sandy Reid
Beverly Garcia	Sterling Robertson
Page Griffin	Ivy Rutzky
Joe & Lynn Gunter	Randy Schlitz
Matt Henderson	John Shaw
Jeanette Housen	William & Carlita Turk
Sam Irvin	Janet Westervelt
Carol Latham	Deborah Wilson
Jane Lenzen	Lois M. Wood
Cheryl Lusnia	

Family

Ty & Kristin Akins	Deborah & Bob Kilgore
Ben & Delores Anderson	Sarah Lanier
Chris & Richard Andrews	Phillip & Karon Lynd
Eddy & Alice Ariail	Dick & Theresa Martin
Rob & Brandy Aycock	John & Linda Mather
Margaret & John Philip Ballard	Gary & Kitt McCarthy
John & Alison Brewer	Bonnie & Gerald McDaniel
Bill Brooksher	Neal & Patty McEwen
Deana & Bob Brooksher	Ted & Suzanne Mikalsen
Ed & Kimberly Brown	Leslie & Margaret Parsons
Phil & Peggy Brownrigg	Steve & Carol Raeber
Dick & Sandy Bunce	Bob & Teri Parker
Susie Burch	Tom & Linda Partington
Bill & Ruth Camp	Elizabeth & Greg Pyron
Charles & Susan Cato	Bill & Gerry Robinson
Caywood & Janet Chapman	Bill & Mattie Robinson
Arthur & Marilyn Davis	Vic & Sandy Robson
Stan & Tina Davis	Ray & Sue Rowell
Alan & Georgina Dever	Jeff & Denise Samsel
Ted Doll	Angelia & David Sosby
Bob & Betsy Eagar	Floyd & Lou Turk
Rachel Eddleman	Jimmy & Linda Turner
Jack & Joyce Ethridge	Tina & Terry Turner
Denis & Kay Gauthier	Wally & Robin Warren
Barry & Alison George	Jim & Marily Watson
Keith & Nancy Gober	Ken & Hope Weldon
Terry & Anne Greene	Herb & Ann Whetzel
Diane & Carl Hett	Calvin & Mary Wilbanks
Harold & Billie Hodnett	Jack & Carole Wintle
Mary Ann & William Hobbs	Harry & Marie Wohlert
Ron & Betty House	
Duncan & Melissa Hughes	
Albert & Asden Johnson	

Additional Donations

Joe Gaitins
Jack and Beckie Hilton
Janith Peak

Signage Donations

Kimberly Brown
Gail Hayden
Ralph Singer

The SRWA is proud to say that over 50% of our operating budget is generated from local sources of support consisting entirely of membership donations and special events.

All of our programs are made possible as a result of this generous support from the community. Please consider JOINING during our **“5 in 5” fundraiser May 30th- June 3rd** and attend our Caribbean Party at Sutton Mill on June 3rd for free!

Guardian

Barrie & Bobby Aycock	Terry & Marilyn Murphy
Dan & Teresa Barry	Walt & Edith Mussler
Lincoln & Lisa Blackwood	Helen Norton
Frances Bulluck	David & Corrie Overton
Dan Calhoun	Mona Painter
Anne Callaway	Jami Pederson
Susan & John Chapman	Ellery & Faye Queen
Clarksville Garden Club	Dale Rackley
Dennis Clines	Brian & Tonie Reynolds
Tina & Thomas Evans	Martha Richardson
Dennis & Jan Epps	Corbin & Robin Rowe
Willard Ferguson	Billye Runion
Brooks Franklin	Lowell & Norma Sandven
Bill & Lane Gresham	Robert & Teresa Shapiro
Kathleen Hall	John & Emily Smith
Andrea Harper	Tom Smith
Claire Hicks	Barbara Steinhaus
Don Higgins	Millie Stevens
Tom & Carolyn Hodges	James Sullivan
Robert Hughes	Harry & Eleanor Thompson
April Ingle	Mark & Lisa Tolbert
Elizabeth & Larry Jamison	Jim & Muriel Toler
Tom & Andra Knecht	John & Donna Trafton
John & Cheri Luhn	Mike Vanwinkle
Jim & Lynn Mack	Bucky & Pam Walters
Walter Matlock	Alex Watson
Ben Wendee Maxwell	Richard Webb
Jordan & Amanda Turner Mayers	J.D. & Marcia Wellons
Jack & Kathy Molnar	Jerry & Cindy White
Richard & Billie Monroe	Zeke & Joanne Williams
Randy & Barbara Moser	Julianne Wilson
Audrey Moylan	Rodger Wilson

Protector / Business

Steve Adams	Jim & Barbara Hudak
John Bigelow	Warren & Lynne Kent
Nance Burrell	John & Nancy Kollock
Tom Dunken	Brad & Ally Lewallen
William & Carolyn Gaik	Barb & John Misner
Dave & Beverly Gale	Brad & Janean Parker
Gail Hayden	Alice & Brooks Roseman
Harold & Chris Hayes	Gary & Nancy Sievert
J Kenneth Weldon, DMD	Marty & Glad Simmons
<hr/>	
BBI International	John Hudson Home Inspection
Bluegraphics	Land and More Inc.
Eubank Family Dentistry	Mark of the Potter
Habersham EMC	Michael Mixon, CPA
Habersham Hardware	North Georgia Turf
Habersham Chamber of Commerce	Oliver & Weidner, LLC
Habersham Mill Partners	Sweet Shrubs Garden Ctr
Homestead House	The Northeast Georgian
Java Joe's Bistro	Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeepers

Partner

City of Cornelia
Walter & Jeanie Daves
Alan & Anne Hall
Jenna Wilson & Tom Hensley
Leigh and Darrin Johnston
North Georgia Technical College
Ronald Shook

Steward

Georgia Power Company
Keith & Julie Gossett
Ethicon

Founder

Dave and Sue Myers
Fieldale Farms

Lifetime

We no longer have a Lifetime membership category but we are thankful to those who joined at this level in the past

Jim & Fran Blackburn	Roy and Patty Lowe
Ed Blair	Oscar & Vicki Mims
David & Dee Burton	Matt & Joely Mixon
Elmer & Betty Butler	Aubrey & Marilyn Motz
Jack & Stella Carter	Don Nicholson
Harry Clawson	Janet Parker
Oaky Dover	David Perryman
William & Betsy Duffey	Carl & Dona Peterson
Justin Ellis	Stephanie & Tony Pridemore
Jack & Pat Foster	Harry Roberts
Stanley & Dottie Foster	Ryan & Claudia Rocco
Sid & Crystal Gholson	Thayer Sibley
Nelson Griffith	Walton & Susan Smith
Phil Harrison	Bret Sleight
George and Betty Hearn III	Charle Statler
Buck & Pam Hill	Dave Thomas
Jack Holder	Dean Tunno
Brenda Hunt	Harry C. Vaiden
Jim & Geri Ingram	Neil D. Walsh
Walter & Marilyn Jarck	Judy Waskes
Rod Jurado	Richard & Marjorie Waters
Ed Kenna	Virginia & Carl Webb
Dale Latty	Frank & Alice Ziegler
Fred Lovell	

The SRWA has photograph cards for sale. Cards feature breathtaking areas of the Soque River and surrounding area. Cards are only \$5. Proceeds benefit the SRWA. See card designs on our website!



SOQUE RIVER - GLENMEADOW - THE MAINSTEM SOQUE RIVER UPSTREAM OF MARK OF THE POTTER EXEMPLIFIES THE LUSH EVERGREEN STREAMBANK FOREST OF HEMLOCK, RHODODENDRON, MOUNTAIN LAUREL AND DOG HOBBLE. THIS DENSE FOLIAGE IS SPECTACULAR TO THE EYE AND EXCEPTIONAL IN ITS ABILITY TO KEEP STREAM TEMPERATURES COLD AND HOLDING STREAMBANKS IN PLACE WITH TWISTED, GNARLED, DEEP ROOTS.

SRWA earns \$ CASH \$ from printer cartridges and cell phones

Businesses and individuals can help the environment and the SRWA by collecting used ink jet or laser printer cartridges and cell phones.

Recycling printer cartridges and cell phones keeps these items out of the landfill and provides cheaper alternatives to those who want remanufactured printer cartridges or refurbished cell phones.

Through a program called Funding Factory and the generosity and efforts of several local companies and organizations, the SRWA received \$755.79 between May 2010 and April 2011.

We appreciate our business partners in this effort. Ethicon, Habersham Medical Center, the Cornelia Library, the city of Cornelia, and Bluegraphics have all generously packaged and shipped cartridges to Funding Factory for the SRWA, to earn a total of \$584.49. Other individuals and businesses, including the Clarkesville Library, have delivered cartridges and phones for a total of \$171.30.

To find out how you or your organization can help, call the SRWA at 706-754-9382. When signing up at www.fundingfactory.com, the SRWA's beneficiary ID is 104108. Postage-paid labels are provided at no cost, and it just takes a few minutes to put your ink cartridges and used phones in a box and send them (for free) via UPS.



PLEASE JOIN THE Soque River Watershed Association!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Gifts of \$50 can receive a t-shirt if you give size and color here. Additional t-shirts and hats may be purchased!

T-shirts:	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	\$10
Ball caps:	Small	Medium			\$12
Fishing hats:		Medium	Large		\$12

Mail checks to: SRWA, P.O. box 1901, Clarkesville, GA 30523

Membership Categories - Please Circle	
Founder	\$1,000
Steward	\$500
Partner	\$250
Protector/Business	\$100
Guardian	\$50
Family	\$35
Individual	\$25
Student/seniors	\$15
Youth (under 18)	\$5
Total Enclosed:	

Vince Dooley confirms for SOQUE ROAST 2011



Legendary University of Georgia football coach **Vince Dooley** has confirmed his attendance as our guest of honor at our **SOQUE ROAST 2011**. Though we're still working on the final date as of press time, we're more than likely going to do it on a Friday in the fall either September 30, or October 7 or 14th. So don't make any other plans and get ready for our best Roast yet. Coach Dooley is pictured above with some monster trout caught from the Soque River with his good friend and our Roast Property host Marlan Wilbanks. The Coach is also a Soque Property owner.

Winter Campaign exceeded goals



The Watershed Association's Winter Campaign from December to April 1st was a smashing success. With an ambitious goal to earn \$4,000, gain 50 new members, 50 renewing members and 150 new e-mails we exceeded two goals and came dangerously close to the other two. Our final tally was \$5,192 (\$1,200 over target), a whopping 58 renewals (special thanks to our returning members from way back), 27 new members (welcome aboard), and 120 new e-mails. Because we met our funding goals we will proceed with the targeted river signage project, giving \$1,000 to the production of about 10-15 signs at bridge crossings telling drivers the name of the river underneath. Thanks to our generous donors for surpassing our goals!

SOQUE RIVER



WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1901
 Clarkesville, GA 30523
 www.soque.org * 706.754.9382
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
 Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Permit No. 99
 Clarkesville, GA



The Soque saw but one good snow in 2010, but the six inches that fell the night of January 7th created a beautiful backdrop upon which to take a very short canoe ride right through the Pitts Park section of the Soque.