

Spring 2011



FIVE MILE CURRENTS

Newsletter for the restoration and preservation of Five Mile Creek

Volume 7, Issue 1
Editor Francesca Gross

Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership

Spring 2011 Five Mile Creek Clean Up

Alabama Power Service Organization has been a champion of Five Mile Creek since the partnership began in 2003. Alabama Power Coordinator of Media Relations *Michael Sznajderman* has led the volunteer group through 3 creek cleanups (Brookside 2005, Roebuck 2006, Fultondale 2007) and 4 'build-a-park-in-a-day' events (Tarrant 2003, Center Point 2008, Graysville Canoe Launch 2009, Brookside History Museum 2010). In March 2011, they plan to work on a cleanup on the banks of Five Mile Creek in the Birmingham Roebuck Park neighborhood.

- TASKS - Pick up trash, remove privet, plant wildflowers, plant shrubs
- BRING - Gloves, hand tools if you have them—rakes, shovels
- WEAR - Comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes

TIME—Registration at 8 am, work begins at 9 am
 DATE— March 19, 2011 Saturday
 WHERE—Park at the old Roebuck Bingo building on Highway 75, across from Sonic and Parkway Christian School. Look for banners on Highway 75.
Highway I-59 towards Gadsden, Exit 134, Street address for registration: 9820 Parkway East

FREE Hotdog lunch provided by Alabama Power Service Organization
 Free t-shirts while supplies last

Partners: Alabama Power Service Organization Magic City Chapter, Cawaco RC&D Council, Freshwater Land Trust, City of Birmingham, El Paso Gas, Killough Springs Neighborhood Association and local businesses.



2010 Brookside Museum Clean Up

Inside this issue:

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- Map of Historic Sites

Past APSO Events



Center Point 2009



Graysville 2008



Fultondale 2007

Economic Impact of Greenways

What is the worth of outdoor recreation to Alabama's economy? Take the quiz!

During a recent presentation at the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham Annual Meeting in Birmingham, the economic value of greenways was brought to light by the keynote speaker Pete Conroy. Mr. Conroy was instrumental in the establishment and operation of the new Little River Canyon Center, the reuse of Fort McClellan, the Chief Ladiga Rail Trail (90 miles long!) and other projects that promote both conservation and economic development.

In order to quantify the regional impact of the Five Mile Creek Greenway with similar conservation/economic development projects, we can look at three surveys -

- 2006 Census National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-related Recreation
- Alabama SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) 2008-2012
- 2009 Travel Economic Impact Report (Alabama Tourism Department)

What do you know about the impact of outdoor adventure as economic development?

Here's a quiz:

1— In 2009 how many BILLIONS of dollars were spent by travelers in Alabama?

2— What is the #1 activity people in Alabama like to do for recreation?

(hint—it's not football, really it isn't.)

3—What percent of people in Region 3 (Jefferson, Shelby, Walker, St Clair, Chilton) Alabama participate in visits to historic sites for recreation?

4—How many millions of dollars in state and local tax revenues in 2009 came from travel and tourism? (Answers on page 4)

In 2006, birdwatchers numbered almost 48 million and those that traveled away from home totaled 19.8 million.

*SOURCE: 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation
Report Number: FHW/06-AL*



Great Blue Heron on Five Mile Creek at Coalburg Road Photo by F. Gross

Alabama Trails Conference April 1-2, 2011

DISCOVER! Alabama Trails

Conference Presented By



Alabama's FIRST
Trail Conference for
All Trail Types
All Trail Users
All of Alabama

Alabama Trails Conference

April 1 - 3, 2011

Pre-Conference Event on March 31st

Fairhope Civic Center
Fairhope, Alabama

For the first time in Alabama, all types of trail enthusiasts will be in one place at one time. Approximately 250 persons from across the state representing trail user groups and organizations, non-profit organizations, land management organizations, local governments, state and federal government agencies are expected to attend the 2011 Alabama Trails Conference. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about trails, network with other trail groups, see trail products, and experience some of Alabama's existing trails!

To register and find details on the conference programs and events go to: www.trails.alabama.gov

Brookside Greenway Festival moves to the fall (and summer)!

After 4 years of working through various weather conditions from ice and rain to perfect spring days, Brookside has moved its Greenway Festival to the summer and fall.

SUMMER

The Wild Russian Boar Offroad Duathlon is scheduled for **July 16, 2011**. Mike Bryan and Chris McCondichie will be organizing a 5K run and the 3rd Annual Duathlon (run-bike-run).

FALL

The Brookside Community Center and Burrell-Country Museum will hold a fundraising event in the fall.



Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership

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Recreation Quiz Answers
See page 2 for Questions

1—In 2007, travelers spent more than \$9.3 billion in the state, an increase of ten percent (10%) from 2006. (Source: 2009 Alabama Tourism Report.)

2— Statewide percentage of population participating in Outdoor Recreation Activities 65% - Walking for pleasure (Source: SCORP p. 58)

3— 51% of Alabamians in Region 3 (Jefferson-Shelby-Walker-Chilton-St. Clair) visit historic sites in Alabama—about 566, 000 people in 2008. (Source: SCORP p. 71)

4— More than \$685 million of state and local tax revenues came from travel and tourism activities . (2009 Alabama Tourism Report, www.800alabama.com)

What is the Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership?

Five Mile Creek has suffered from decades of impact from industry, mining, and urban pollution. After the devastating floods of 2001-2003, the communities along Five Mile Creek began to seek a solution to the problems of “Creosote Creek”. The Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership was formed to protect and preserve the water quality and quality of life for residents along Five Mile Creek by protecting streamside buffers and planning for “smart-growth” within the watershed.

The Partnership endures between the cities of Birmingham, Center Point, Gardendale, Tarrant, Fultondale, Brookside, and Graysville. Other partners include the Jefferson County Commission, the Freshwater Land Trust, Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and many other community agencies and stakeholders.