



FIVE MILE CREEK CURRENTS

The Quarterly Newsletter for the restoration and preservation of Five Mile Creek

Volume 6, Issue 1
Editor Francesca Gross

Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership

2010 Year of the Small Towns and Downtowns

The Alabama Tourism Department has designated 2010 the Year of Small Towns and Downtowns. Each of our Partnership towns has planned a homecoming celebration including a historic plaque provided by Alabama Tourism. Towns are listed in order of the date of the event with phone numbers and web sites for more information. Make sure to call first and confirm the dates and times.

Center Point, April 10, Center Point Festival of the Springs 205-853-9711

www.centerpointchamber.com. Reed Harvey park, Polly Reed Road. Celebrate the history of Center Point with vendors, entertainment, food, and other fun activities. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Gardendale, April 16-17, Magnolia Festival, 205-608-1800

www.magnoliafestival.org. Free. Gardendale Civic Center Complex. Classic car show, pooch parade, kids carnival, remote-controlled NASCAR, Eurobungy, cookie eating contest for great prizes. Fri., 5-9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Cardiff, May 2, Cardiff Cemetery Decoration Day, 205-631-1017

Cardiff Cemetery. Witness the unveiling of a historic marker and join multi generations of townspeople as they decorate the historic cemetery.

Tarrant, June 19, Five Mile Creek Festival. 205-849-2800

www.cityoftarrant.com. Downtown at corner of Ford Street and Pinson Street, music stage, car show, carnival, vendors.

Graysville, July 10, Mayberry Day, 205-674-5643 www.graysvillecity.com.

Admission charged. Maurice C. West Community Center--Squad Car Nationals, Trivia, Look-a-like contest, car show, music event, and dinner. Begins at 10 a.m.

Birmingham, August 18, Centennial Celebration Rickwood Field, 205-458-8161

Fultondale, August 21, Fultondale Founder's Day, 205-337-1629

www.fultondalechamber.com 14th Annual 205-841-4481. Free. @ Black Creek Park. Join the fun as Fultondale celebrates fond memories of the past with food, crafts, music and other activities. 2-8 p.m.

Brookside, Nov. 6-7, St. Nicholas Food Festival, 205-674-9275

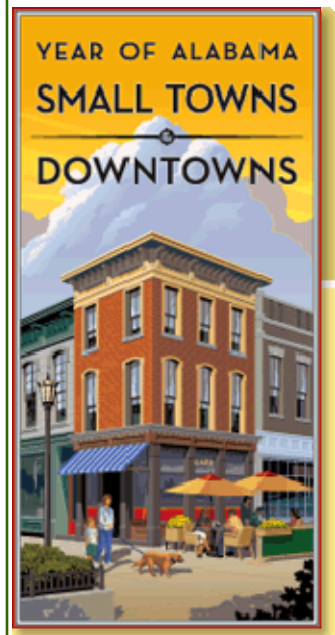
St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church--Begun in 1981, the event increases in attendance each year. The ladies of the Sisterhood of St. Olga have prepared the food and pastries from recipes handed down from relatives and friends who immigrated to Brookside from Western Ukraine. www.brooksidealabama.com

Inside this issue:

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Good news for Greenways—Alabama Trails Commission

Bills Target Leading National Role for Alabama Recreational Trails

JANUARY 28, 2010 MONTGOMERY, AL - Companion bills filed in the Alabama legislature (SB 258, HB 376) would create an Alabama Trails Commission to foster widespread development and link-up of green and blue-water trails throughout the state. Focused on health, family, economic and tourism incentives, the bills call for the proposed commission to coordinate local needs, goals and leadership in trail design, operation, build-up and maintenance for hiking, biking, running, horseback riding, motorized off-highway vehicles, and water sport. An initiative of the Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ARTAB), the plan was moved forward by Senator Wendell Mitchell (Luverne) and Representative Cam Ward (Alabaster). Both legislators have long histories in the outdoor recreation communities. An ARTAB committee chaired by Fairhope City Council member Debbie Quinn led in the plan's preparation.

“Alabama’s diverse terrain provides some of the most splendid trails anywhere in the nation. This commission will help identify trails in the state and work to promote them and encourage usage.”
- ADECA Director Doni Ingram.

“This would be a first for Alabama,” said Quinn. “The Commission would promote and coordinate recreational trail projects across an array of organizations such as local, regional, state and federal agencies, trail advocates, business interests, higher education centers and non-profit organizations.” Quinn said a similar program has been underway in Florida since 1995.

Under the proposed legislation, there would be a twelve member Alabama Trails Commission. Five state agencies would be members: Alabama Department of Transportation, Alabama Department of Conservation and National Resources, Alabama Tourism Department, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the Governor’s Office. Other board members would represent trail users, local government and the business community. The legislation also calls for an Alabama Trails Commission Advisory Board and a tax-deductible non-profit foundation to advance the Trail Commission’s goals by fund raising and supporting recreation in education. The Commission would be housed in the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). For more information contact: Debbie Quinn, Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board debbiequinn@bellsouth.net

New Park Bridges in Center Point



Last summer Cawaco interns measured the water quality in the lake in Reed Harvey Park, Center Point. Looking around the lake edges, we thought *wouldn't a lake boardwalk look great.* Thanks to Mayor Tom Henderson and a HUD grant, bridges and boardwalks throughout the new park were installed in February. *Nature Bridges* construction techniques include top-down methods with minimal water quality impacts and a beautiful look.

Tarrant Receives \$5.7 Million FEMA Grant

Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) has announced that the City of Tarrant will receive \$5.7 million in funding for a major flood control project along Five Mile Creek in eastern Jefferson County. The project will allow Tarrant to build retention ponds to control flooding that has repeatedly affected residents and damaged businesses in the community. Downstream communities in the Five Mile Creek Partnership including Fultondale and Brookside will see benefits from the reduced storm surges in Five Mile Creek. The flood mitigation grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be released in two stages. The study and planning phase will receive federal funding of \$434,000 and the development phase will receive \$5.25 million.

The City of Tarrant applied for funding from the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Flood Program in February 2008. During 2000 and 2003 floods, several Tarrant homes were lost and businesses were damaged. In an effort to protect the city, Fire Chief Billy Hewitt, Mayor Loxcil Tuck and the Freshwater Land Trust have been working towards a permanent solution to the flooding problem. The project will be located on the Freshwater Land Trust property near Lawson Road. The 588 acre site will be used to temporarily retain flood waters. In addition to the flood control benefits of the project, additional connecting Greenway trails between Grayson Park in Birmingham and Tarrant's Hewitt Park could be built as a recreational enhancement.

Spring Greenway Events

March 27—Tree planting at Graysville Canoe Landing

April 10—APSO Brookside (see below)

April 24 - Brookside Greenway Festival

April 24 -Opening of the Brookside History Museum at the Burrell-Country House

June 19 -Tarrant Five Mile Creek Festival

To volunteer to help call 264-8464.



Alabama Power Service Organization

APSO has been a champion of Five Mile Creek since the partnership began in 2003. Michael Sznajderman has led the volunteer group through 3 creek clean ups (Brookside 2005, Roebuck 2006, Fultondale 2007) and

3 'build-a-park-in-a-day' (Tarrant 2003, Center Point 2008, Graysville Canoe Launch 2009). This April they plan to help put a pretty face on the historic Burrell-Country House in Brookside. The pre-1900 shot-gun style house needs a few repairs and some exterior paint. The main event

will be planting a 1930's era garden around the house. June Mays designed a beautiful garden and Master Gardeners contributed most of the plants. Mark your calendars for April 10. Check the web site for updates on this project.

www.fivemilecreekpartnership.com



Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership

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We're on the web!

www.fivemilecreekpartnership.org



What is the Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership?



Winter on Five Mile Creek

Five Mile Creek has suffered from decades of industrial, mining, and urban pollution and impact. 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, Cardiff, Tarrant, Fultondale, Brookside, and Graysville. Other partners include the Jefferson County Commission, the Freshwater Land Trust, Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and many other community agencies and stakeholders.