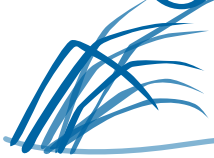


DOG RIVER CLEARWATER REVIVAL SPRING 2011 • NEWSLETTER



THE GREAT DRIFT



The DRIFT is the Inauguration of the first 7 miles of the Dog River Scenic Blueway.

Dog River Inaugural Float **Saturday, April 16th**
2:00pm

Dog River Park **FREE!**
(formerly Lusher Park) No cost to participate!

**Bring your canoe or kayak and join the fun,
or hang out on your dock and cheer us on!**

LIVE MUSIC! **POST DRIFT
PARTY - 5PM**
at the
RIVER SHACK!
6120 Marina Drive South
(251) 443-7318



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many thanks for making me the DRCR president. This is a great organization with an incredible track record and well-earned reputation for cleaning up the Dog River for families and future generations! I'll continue my work supporting the committee chairs through fundraising, internet management, meeting management, and awestruck admiration of their talents and commitment to the lands and waters of the Dog River. Together we can do our part and make a difference before it's too late!

What can you do? Go to our website (www.DogRiver.org) and find a project like the Bandalong Litter Trap, Fishing Tournament, Dog River Scenic Blueway, Storm Drain Markers, reporting and monitoring pollution, or Dog River Run. Friend us on Facebook. Plan ahead to contribute a little time every month.

A beautiful river runs through our city. Working together we can make a difference to reduce pollution and make sure there is enough clean water for future generations.

WATER TESTING IN DOG RIVER - 3 Great Volunteers Needed!

Dog River Clearwater Revival started its water quality monitoring program in January of 1999 under the auspices of Alabama Water Watch. Since that time, almost 2000 samples have been recorded. Many different sites have come and gone, and currently we have only 5 truly active sites. They are located on Eslava Creek at McVay, Spring Creek at Halls Mill Road, Bolton Branch at Navco, Montlimar Canal at Azalea, and Moore Creek at Halls Mill. We have two well established sites in need of new monitors. Those are Dog River at the Alba Club and Halls Mill Creek at Halls Mill Road. Ideally, we also need a dedicated monitor on Rabbit Creek preferably upstream of the Rangeline Road bridge. To be an Alabama Water Watch monitor you must attend a 6 hour training session and commit to monitor your site at least once a month on a regular schedule. After the first year, you must be recertified as part of Alabama Water Watch's quality control plan. After that, recertification is required every two years. If you would like to see the data that has been collected over the years by our group, go to the AWW website at <http://www.aces.edu/dept/fisheries/aww/aww/> click on AWW Data, choose Groups, then Group Histories, select Watershed as Mobile, then select group as Dog River Clearwater Revival. After that you can select any of our sites, including inactive ones, as well as view a graph of each basic chemical parameter measured. If you think water monitoring is something you would like to commit to do for several years, please email Mimi at mfearn@usouthal.edu to set up a training session.



ALABAMA POWER FOUNDATION \$25,000 MATCHING GRANT

The DRCR Keep It Clean Committee has been raising money to purchase a Bandalong Litter Trap to place in Moore Creek around Halls Mill Road. They are close to reaching their goal of \$150,000. Funders to date are Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Sybil H. Smith Trust, J.L. Bedsole Foundation, City of Mobile Keep Mobile Beautiful and the DRCR Fishing Tournament.

Now Alabama Power Foundation has offered \$25,000, IF we can raise the matching funds!!! So it's time to do your part by pulling out your wallets, hosting parties, baking cookies, calling on corporate partners, and getting creative about raising money. Working together this will put us within reach of trapping the majority of the trash washed from the lands and waters that drain into the Dog River before it's too late.

Contact **Claire Wilson** for more info:
clairewilson@comcast.net

STOP ILLEGAL MOORING OF VESSELS IN ALABAMA WATERS

The effort to mitigate problems arising from the illegal mooring of vessels in Alabama waters continues. We have taken a two prong approach to the matter, Prevention and Cleanup.

1) Prevention:

Let people know that it is illegal according to Alabama Administrative Code, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 220-4-.08 :

<http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/>

The officials at the DoCNR, State Lands Division, have agreed that this issue needs greater public awareness. The tactic is to place signs at major waterway inlets notifying people that mooring, as stated by the code, is a violation. Just like public awareness campaigns to buckle up, not litter, etc. This campaign is to be long term and will result in fewer damages resulting from adrift vessels during major weather events; at least the ones that were illegally moored.

As you may ask, why is the Marine Police not enforcing this code. Excellent question! The issue for the Marine Police is that they must observe the violation as it is occurring; more attuned to a speeding ticket than a parking ticket. However the major problem for the Marine Police is their safety procedures require them to be ashore 48 hrs prior to a named storm. Thus, their observation of a violation is severely restricted, let alone the large area to patrol with limited resources.

In addition to State regulation, an effort is being made to arm the City of Mobile with amendments to its code. In researching the Mobile Code it became obvious the lack of attention to the matter of the vessel itself. The Codes focus more towards the actions of mariners aboard causing litter and illegal dumping. In addition, the Code is deficient in addressing Dog River, while the Mobile River and its affluents are specified. The lack of thoroughness in the Code is a major problem when addressing the issue of enforcement and cleanup.

2) Cleanup:

There are many factors surrounding the issue of vessels cleanup, the major ones are: ownership, condition, and location.

Here is the list of agencies I've spoken to thus far:

- **City of Mobile:** Police Dept, Urban Development Department
- **Mobile County:** Sheriff's Dept, Dept of Environmental Enforcement
- **State of Alabama:** State Lands Division, Marine Police Division
- **Federal:** U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Coast Guard

All were cooperative and felt that the need for action was warranted. However all stated they were not empowered to do so.

I contacted the Alabama Attorney General's office, Environmental Division. The official I spoke with was very interested in the situation. She shared our frustration and is researching the protocol and agencies responsible. My gut feeling is that this is an area of our State laws that are not adequately addressed and that eventually legislation will be needed. We will see!

- **Nick Matranga**

ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN!

DRCR's Storm Drain Marker Project began in 2006 with the stated goal of installing markers on each of the storm drains within the 92 square miles of the Dog River Watershed. To date hundreds of volunteers have installed over 7,000 markers. You may ask why we are doing this. Many people do not realize that the storm drains are not connected to the sewer system and that anything that goes down a storm drain goes directly into our creeks and then into Dog River and Mobile Bay. Our markers state "No Dumping, Drains to River or Bay." By placing these markers on each storm drain we hope to educate the public and decrease the amount of trash and other pollutants reaching Dog River through the storm drains.

This is an ongoing project and there is no schedule for volunteering. Volunteers install markers in an assigned area whenever they have the time to do so. Some volunteers work for a week-end, some for a week and some for a month or longer. It is up to you how much you want to do. It is an easy project and great for families, scout troops, clubs, classes or just individuals. It's also great for earning those community service hours you may need for school or church. If you are interested in helping with this project please contact me, **Janet Miller**, at j46miller@yahoo.com or **654-1827**. I will help you pick an area and provide you with all the supplies and information you need.



REPORTING POLLUTION PROBLEMS

Bethany Walton

Community Outreach Coordinator
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) recognizes that Dog River Clearwater Revival (DRCR) is one of our most active community groups here in Mobile County. As stewards of the river, some members of DRCR have been involved for many years with the citizens' water quality monitoring – testing for water pollution. As stewards of the river, all DRCR members should be aware that there are other groups and resources in Mobile County that can be contacted to report different types of pollution on or in Dog River.

Problem	Who to Call	Phone Number
Anything Environmental	AL Dept. of Environmental Management (ADEM)	800-533-2336
Hazardous Materials Spill	Mobile County EMA	251-460-8000
Septic System & Public Health	Mobile County Health Dept.	251-690-8158
Littering	Mobile County Litter Patrol Dept.	251-574-7867
Boating or Navigation Concern	Alabama Marine Police	251-981-2673

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) is one of 28 NEPs nationwide. The NEPs are made up of local, state, and federal governmental agencies, all resource management organizations, and a wide variety of interested citizens and community members. One component is the Community Action Committee (CAC), which consists of community groups like the Dog River Clearwater Revival.

One of the main goals of each NEP is to develop plans for maintaining water quality in an estuary. This is accomplished through monitoring of pollution.

IN MEMORIAM

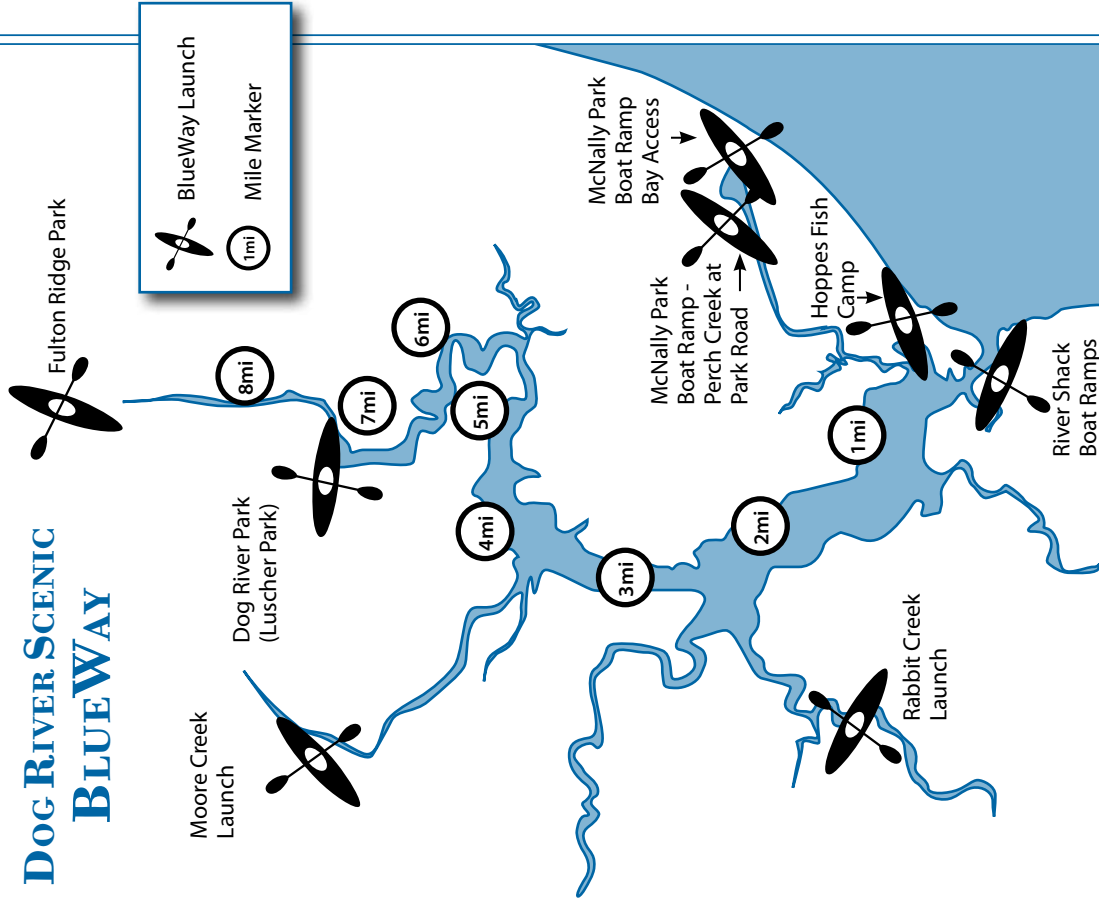
Many thanks to Imogen Inge Fullton who upon her passing had friends and family make donations to the DRCR. This is a passage from her obituary...

FULLTON

Imogen Inge Fullton, was born on September 9, 1915 in Greensboro, AL and was a lifelong resident of Mobile. She died peacefully at age 95 on December 27, 2010. She was the oldest of seven children born to Margaret Adams (Erwin) and Herndon Inge. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, James Henderson (Jim) Fullton. Imogen was a genteel Southern lady who lived her life with compassion and generosity to others. With a loving spirit she gave her time, talents and devotion, never counting the cost or expecting return. She and Jim loved sharing their home on Dog River with family, friends and neighbors. Every Sunday was "open house" to any and all, year around. Wonderful memories of those happy days will always be with us. God grant Imogen eternal peace and life everlasting.

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DOG RIVER SCENIC BLUEWAY



860 Cottage Hill Ave
 Mobile, AL
 36693



Blueway Supporting Partners:
 DRCR, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, MAWSS, City of Mobile, Mobile County Health Department, and the National Park Service - Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program.

Special thank you to the National Park Service - Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program for continued support.

Visit www.dogriver.org for more information on launches and points of interest along the Blueway.