

We *are* the river. United we *are* the solution.

SUMMER 2018



VOICES of the HARPETH

Photo Credit: Desmond Lake

The State Scenic Harpeth River is one of only
3 FREE FLOWING rivers in Tennessee.

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Next year will mark 20 years since our founding as the Harpeth River Watershed Association. Starting with \$1,300 and 30 members, we have grown to include full-time professional staff in conservation policy, science and law, with broad financial and community support. Last year, we became the Harpeth Conservancy to better reflect the statewide and regional scope of our mission: to restore and protect clean water and healthy ecosystems for rivers in Tennessee by employing scientific expertise and collaborative relationships to develop, promote and support broad community stewardship and action.



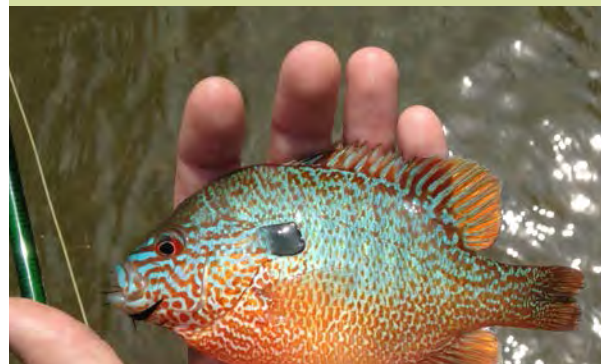
Our efforts have helped to set statewide water policy and to create programs such as the Tennessee Blueway concept of non-motorized river access points. We have helped to build consensus with the development community on restoring streams and reducing runoff, and to implement innovative pilot projects. We coordinated scientific studies and volunteer water quality monitoring and helped to integrate water quality and rural land protection priorities into land use plans for growth.

The greater Nashville region is developing rapidly, producing major growing pains that most everyone experiences daily with increased traffic. This influx of 100 new residents a day also means more demand for drinking water and more sewage to treat. For the next several years HC is taking the lead in TN in tackling a major national pollution problem – **NUTRIENT POLLUTION – that fosters excessive algae growth and, when conditions are ripe, can lead to toxic algal blooms and fish kills.** Our nation got a rude awakening in 2014 when toxic algal blooms on Lake Erie forced a 3-day shutdown of the Toledo, Ohio, drinking water plant that serves 500,000 people! The same problem is developing right here. Read on to learn more about our work and how YOU CAN HELP!

Let's make the Harpeth the example in Tennessee of how an entire river system can meet water quality standards so that everyone can drink from, play in and live along a beautiful and healthy river.

Dorie Bolze
President & CEO

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54 Did you know there are
species of fish in the
Harpeth vs. 25 in the Colorado?!

From large-scale dam removal and green infrastructure projects to volunteer-driven streambank restoration, we work with state agencies, cities, farmers, and community leaders to build a multifaceted approach to restoring natural river flows, reducing erosion, and limiting pollution entering our waterways.

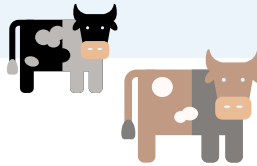
STREAM RESTORATION IN THE HEADWATERS

A key long-term approach to our restoration work in the Harpeth is partnering with farmers and rural property owners and the TN Department of Agriculture to restore streams. We have managed **8 state grants that have put over \$125,000** on the ground in restoration projects around the Harpeth River system in **5 counties**. A focus area has been in Eagleville, the headwaters of the main Harpeth, to reduce erosion and nutrient pollution to ensure clean water for everyone downstream. This past year, we put \$15,000 on the ground with another \$9,000 coming this summer to begin a new grant with the City of Eagleville to work with city hall and downtown businesses on reducing stormwater runoff.

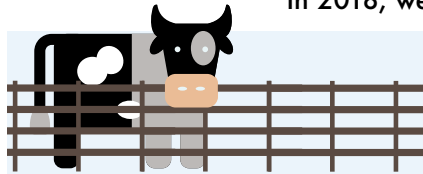


Exclusion fencing keeps cattle out of streams, giving vegetation along the banks a chance to regrow.

Since 2006, Harpeth Conservancy has worked with **11** different farmers and the City of Eagleville to impact over **2,800** acres through restoration projects.



In 2017, we installed **2,000 feet** of cattle exclusion **fencing** and 1 stream crossing. In 2018, we plan to install an additional 1,300 feet.



Installed **2 alternative watering facilities** to provide clean water for livestock and to keep them out of the streams.

VOLUNTEER RESTORATION PROJECTS

Thanks to volunteers like YOU, here is what we accomplished last year:

Total Trees Planted.....	1,400
# of restoration project volunteers	160
Total pounds trash removed.....	1,050
Total feet of streambank revegetated.....	1,990

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ▶ Plan and organize your own tree plantings, invasive species removals or river clean-ups!
- ▶ If you live on a stream, river or creek, do NOT mow up to the water. Leave a buffer to prevent erosion.
- ▶ Join us for one of our organized restoration projects.
- ▶ Do NOT plant invasive species (visit our website for a list!)



Students from
Ensworth High School
helped us with our
work to plant over
800 trees to
create a stream buffer.

Thanks to these companies and organizations for help with our restoration work this year:

- ▶ Caterpillar Finance
- ▶ Ensworth High School
- ▶ Friends of Warner Parks
- ▶ Garden Clubs of America
- ▶ Greenways for Nashville
- ▶ HCA
- ▶ Nissan
- ▶ Tennessee Environmental Council
- ▶ Turner Construction



Sediment oxygen demand chambers deployed in 2017 measure the oxygen consumed by micro-organisms in the river's sediments.

WATER QUALITY STUDIES

HOW CLEAN IS YOUR WATER?

Over half of the Harpeth River does NOT meet Tennessee standards for water quality due to high levels of nutrient pollution!

This fuels the growth of excessive algae and leads to low oxygen levels in the water. In fact, nutrient pollution from 33 states contribute to the Gulf of Mexico's dead zone, an area the size of New Jersey, with oxygen levels too low to support aquatic life during warm summer months (TN is the 9th largest contributor). To address this, we are helping lead a large collaborative effort with the TN Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC), the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), local municipalities, and environmental groups to **develop a plan that will establish nutrient limits needed to restore water quality in the Harpeth to state standards.**

Our scientific program is currently focused on providing the data necessary to support the Harpeth River's pollution reduction plan and ensure it serves as a model for rivers throughout the Southeastern US. In 2017, Harpeth Conservancy collected water quality data at 4 sites throughout the summer, and measured oxygen dynamics in the river's sediments. We conducted the first quantitative surveys of algae communities in the Harpeth River in partnership with Austin Peay State University identifying over **180 species of algae!** This summer, we are expanding our algae surveys to increase our understanding of this critical component of the ecosystem and support calibration of the water quality model being developed by the US EPA.

Thanks to the **Dugas Family Foundation and LP Building Products** for supporting our water quality studies.



73 of the **126 miles (58%)** of the main Harpeth River channel do **NOT** meet state water quality standards set to protect public health and wildlife.*

*Based on 2018 assessment information from TDEC.



BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

You don't have to be Albert Einstein to help! In addition to expert driven studies, we directly involve the community in our scientific work. With our new citizen science project, Water Reporter, **YOU can participate in a nation-wide mapping effort using only your phone!**

Water Reporter is a mobile app that allows anyone to monitor conditions throughout their rivers by posting geo-referenced photos of potential problems, such as:

- ▶ Eroding streambanks
- ▶ Visible pollution and trash
- ▶ Excessive algae growth

With YOUR participation in natural resource mapping, we will increase the available data for managing our watersheds, and you can see what is happening too!



Help report problems like this nuisance algae!

▶ **Become a Water Reporter!** Download the app and use it! Go to www.harpethconservancy.org/waterreporter

▶ **Test your soil!** Contact us for how to get a Soil Test Kit. We gave out over 300 last year!

▶ **Don't use fertilizers with phosphates in them.** Visit our website for fertilizers to use!

▶ **Pick up your pet waste and dispose of it properly.**

The risk of losing Middle Tennessee's iconic rural lands, agricultural production, and scenic landscapes is very real and is affecting drinking water supplies and water quality.

The Tennessean, May 17, 2018 Cover Story



RIVER REFLECTIONS

"Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel prizes – one for peace and one for science." John F. Kennedy, 1962

"Water conservation and management are likely to be the defining issues of the 21st century." As a



former riverboat pilot and an avid hiker, I have seen the changes that have occurred during the last forty years to the waterways of Middle TN. From the Cumberland to the Harpeth, the Duck, the Buffalo and many more rivers, water gives life in our

State. The growth of our community will continue to require diligence from all of us to act as caretakers of this natural resource. We have passed the point where we can look the other way or sit on the sidelines. Either through action or inaction, everyone is in the game. As water flows through every town in America, it leaves with a trace of that community, both literally and figuratively. As it flows, it tells our story. We must begin to ask ourselves the question; What do we want our water to say about us?"

— Patrick True, Brentwood, TN

Author of *From the River to the Rat Race: A Former Riverboat Pilot Navigates Corporate America*

Rural land is rapidly disappearing in middle Tennessee — regional planning is needed to preserve our rich history, farmland, waterways, and clean water, not to mention alleviate traffic!

Middle Tennessee is growing rapidly with almost 100 new residents a day, surpassing growth projections for 2020! At this rate, the region will have 3 million people and their cars by 2040, up from the current 2 million. A startling result is that rural land is disappearing at the rate of almost 20 acres per day! Yet these farm and natural lands have real economic value. **Middle Tennessee farms and natural lands provide more than \$3 billion in ecosystems services – such as cleaning and filtering our air and water and flood protection– not to mention billions in increased property values, agricultural and timber products, and over 175,000 jobs.** (These figures are from the University of Tennessee economic study funded by our partner Cumberland Region Tomorrow (CRT).)

Farming is disappearing from the region and many of the remaining large tracts of land are no longer used for farming. The weakened infrastructure for farming threatens agriculture in the region. **Since 2002, roughly 260,000 acres of farmland in Middle Tennessee have gone out of production. An additional 120,000 acres have been developed since 1999, and of those newly developed acres, more than half came from farm and forestland** (twice the size of Murfreesboro). (See the CRT's commissioned Report to the Region Update 2016.)

We Need Your Help to Build County-wide Leadership Groups to Form Consensus on Implementation Strategies

Harpeth Conservancy has a long history of expertise and involvement in helping formulate land use plans, local ordinances (especially with stormwater in developments and stream buffers), and regional planning. Over the past 20 years, numerous land use plans in communities around the Harpeth River region now promote the vision of maintaining rural and agricultural lands and the Harpeth as natural assets. HC experts were the first to identify the unintended consequences of numerous 2014 new state laws that have severely weakened the 20-year old urban growth boundary statute. This law was designed to control massive sprawl. The recent annexation of Williamson County rural land into the town of Thompson's Station for a high density residential golf course subdivision was one of several recent proposals that have identified challenges to maintaining rural areas in county and city growth plans.

Rural areas are important for overall water quality in the Harpeth and waterways around Middle TN. One of our urgent priorities is to expand support so we can work with partners to: foster joint efforts among cities and counties in the region, explore ways other communities in the US have handled these challenges, review current planning efforts, form consensus on next steps, and work on their adoption. We need to create a coalition with the farm-to-table movement, agricultural land owners, historic preservation, land preservation, smart growth, and transportation planning interests. We need to work with key local and state leadership to enable coordination of short- and long-term large rural landscape protection efforts and implement them in Tennessee.

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S MAJOR POLLUTION PROBLEM

Tackling Algae Issues in the Harpeth Before It's Too Late

Nutrient pollution – the discharge of excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus – has been called “one of America's most widespread, costly and challenging environmental problems.”

Too much nitrogen and phosphorus in waterways – over-fertilizing an entire ecosystem – causes algae to grow faster than nature can deal with it. The overgrowth of algae harms water quality, food resources and habitats, and decreases the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to survive. This can lead to fish kills and people and animals getting sick.

Our vision of clean water and healthy ecosystems for rivers in Tennessee starts here on the Harpeth. Academic experts on sewer plant and nutrient pollution who have analyzed existing data on the Harpeth say that the Harpeth River is already past a tipping point for harmful algae blooms to occur during hot, low-flow summer months. Nutrient pollution can be a difficult problem to solve, and many states are behind where they need to be in addressing it, due to technical, legal, and regulatory issues. **In TN, state data indicate a 70% increase in river miles polluted with nitrogen and phosphorus from 2004 to 2016.**

Franklin Sewer Plant Expansion Permit set by State in 2017 Allows Franklin to more than DOUBLE the Amount of Phosphorus the Sewer Plant has been Discharging into the Harpeth

The Harpeth has been on TDEC's official list of “impaired waters” for phosphorus pollution since 2004. Thus, Harpeth Conservancy filed an administrative appeal with TDEC because the permit allows phosphorus loads from Franklin's sewer plant to MORE THAN DOUBLE when state and federal clean water laws prevent adding more pollution to an already polluted system. Meanwhile, **Franklin filed an appeal of their new permit, claiming that no limit on phosphorus pollution is necessary** or that it should be allowed to increase its discharges beyond the artificially high amount in the new permit.

HC Helped State Legislators Offer Ways to Resolve the Sewer Permit Issue and Foster Collaboration

State legislators representing the State Scenic Harpeth in Nashville sponsored a bill in the 2018 session to set the phosphorus limit at 120% of Franklin's current average annual phosphorus discharge to give the city a cushion as the new sewer plant is built and the Pollution Reduction Plan study is completed (see page 3). With Franklin not supportive of this bill, a resolution was filed by Republican Senator Dickerson near the end of the session recommending all stakeholders in the Harpeth share information and

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK ★★ SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017
THE HARPETH
THE FUTURE OF ONE OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE'S WATERWAYS
river.tennessean.com



River at a crossroads

work collaboratively “to achieve their shared goal of improved water quality on the river.” This resolution, though ultimately withdrawn, helped increase interest around the Harpeth among state legislators to work in a more coordinated way across the river system on shared goals. We will continue to work with state legislators, elected officials, business leaders and others to form a collective leadership effort.

We Need Your Help to Set the Sewer Permit Limit for Phosphorus Near Current Amounts and Give Franklin Flexibility as it Builds its New Sewer Plant

Franklin is close to approving a \$100-\$150 million sewer plant expansion this summer that should have the ability to remove as much phosphorus and nitrogen as needed for the Harpeth to recover, pending the findings of the Pollution Reduction Plan study underway. This is partly a result of the successful settlement of our Clean Water Act lawsuit against Franklin in 2016 which aimed to bring Franklin into compliance with their prior sewer permit. The Franklin city administrator stated at the April 24 Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting: **“Our commitment [is] that the loading we put in that river is no more than it is today even though we are adding treatment capacity.”** This is fundamentally the same proposal HC made in its permit comments, to have the permit keep the phosphorus load at current levels until the study is done to determine what reductions the river needs to recover. Our priority is to work out with TDEC and Franklin a revision to the sewer permit phosphorus limit that provides accountability for Franklin's commitment.

The Harpeth River was recognized as an ENDANGERED RIVER by American Rivers 2015.

Since 1994, the Harpeth has been on the state's official “303(d) list” for waterways with pollution problems. Large sections of the Harpeth River downstream of the city of Franklin and its sewer plant to Kingston Springs have been on the list as “impaired” by phosphorus pollution since 2004 with little progress made toward restoration. The single largest permitted source the state identifies in the 303(d) list is the Franklin sewage treatment plant.

IT'S AN IMPORTANT ELECTION YEAR:
Speak up for clean water and healthy rivers.

- ▶ Learn about the water quality conditions in your favorite places
- ▶ Go to our website for links, resources, and to stay current!
- ▶ Contact your local and state elected officials and candidates
- ▶ **VOTE ON ELECTION DAY!!**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

OUTREACH



Family Fun at Cumberland River Compact's Waterfest



On the Trails with Fleet Feet



Promoting clean water at Pilgrimage Festival on the Harpeth River

At Harpeth Conservancy, one of our goals is to educate people on how to protect clean water. We do this in lots of ways including with our website, educational materials, speaking at local events and schools and being involved in community events. Here is a sampling of how we are out and about talking to people about our work and clean water:

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Over the past year, we have had a tent, table, speaker or presence at over **50 community events** (that's about 1/week!) and had **exposure to over 200,000 people!** Here is just a sampling of where we have been: Earth Day Festival, Music City Eclipse Festival, Thunder on the Cumberland, Pilgrimage Festival, Fleet Feet Trail Running Group, Middle Tennessee Flyfishing Association, Whole Foods, Bonnie Raitt & James Taylor Concert, Water Fest and SO many more!



The Be River Responsible campaign was launched in spring of 2017 to address littering and other impacts of recreationists on our waterways. Every summer, **over 500,000 visitors enjoy the Harpeth River State Park**, many of whom are unfamiliar with river etiquette, safety and stewardship. Last summer, we distributed **2,500 FREE biodegradable litter bags at public river access points and canoe outfitters** to encourage responsible river recreation, and are doing the same this year.

SPECIAL THANKS TO PARTNERS:

- International Paper
- Orvis
- Outfitters: *Foggy Bottom, Tip-a-canoe Rentals, Finch's Country Store, & Friedman's of Franklin.*
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)
- Whole Foods

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ▶ Come see us at events and tell your friends! Join our Outreach Team to help spread the word at local events!
- ▶ Sport some of our cool Don't Be Crappie/Be River Responsible gear (stickers and t-shirts available in our online store).
- ▶ Help distribute Be River Responsible bags at local outfitters (reach out to mollywarner@harpethriver.org for upcoming dates).
- ▶ Be River Responsible yourself!
 - ◆ Take all of your trash with you.
 - ◆ Access the river **ONLY** at approved access spots! (We led the efforts to establish the TN Blueways. A map of access points is on our website and www.tnvalleywatertrails.org.)
 - ◆ Be mindful of others with regards to noise pollution.

Over **500,000 people** access the Harpeth River from the Harpeth River State Park alone! We estimate user numbers are considerably higher, making it **one of the most** recreated rivers in the state.



Part of our mission is to educate people about what is in their water, so they know why it is important to protect it. Then, to teach them how! **We led over a dozen educational events last year.** Including a Water Talk at Whole Foods, Science Night with Eagleville High School, and many more. Here are a few highlights from last year:



The Lesson on the Harpeth showing species from within one of the most biodiverse river systems in the world.

LESSONS ON THE HARPETH

Harpeth Conservancy created Lessons on the Harpeth in 2017 as a family friendly hands on approach to learn ON the river! At two of our Lessons on the Harpeth, Harpeth Conservancy and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency staff showed attendees how to collect and identify fish. Attendees learned and helped determine fish species (even a rare Tippecanoe Darter), measure fish length, collect valuable scientific information for biologists, and more.

EDUCATIONAL TOOLS

We provide information on all things water, the Harpeth River, and help keep our environment healthy. Check out these tools:

CITIZEN ACTION GUIDES - over **1,000 guides** will be available starting this summer thanks to a grant from **The Predators Foundation and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.**



HOME & GARDEN TIPS ON OUR WEBSITE - want to know more about rain gardens, ways to reduce water use or more, visit our website at www.harpethconservancy.org/make-a-difference/action/

SPEAKERS - we will happily help provide or identify experts to speak at events.



Through our various activities, we helped educate THOUSANDS of children about water, the outdoors and wildlife!

P.E.N. PALS

P.E.N. Pals (People Exploring Nature Pals) was created by Metro Parks in partnership with Friends of Warner Parks to "improve the quality of life and promote positive self-esteem in the youth of Nashville's inner-city through environmental education, outdoor adventure and recreation activities." Throughout the summer, HC conducts water quality lessons for hundreds of youth from Nashville's community centers. For many of these children, P.E.N. Pals is their first time camping, sleeping outdoors, splashing in a creek, and seeing river critters. Evoking a sense of curiosity, appreciation, and responsibility for the protection of these resources is an important part of our mission.

Thanks to The Barbara J. Mapp Foundation for providing crucial funding for our wildlife education work.

LOOK FOR THESE UPCOMING COOL EVENTS:

REPTILES on the Harpeth in partnership with the Nashville Zoo!

BIRDS on the Harpeth.

Check our website for dates and locations.



Nissan's Green Team helping to plant over 800 trees



Caterpillar Financial river clean-up

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!

Merriam Webster defines a volunteer as a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service. We define them as AWESOME!

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT

NISSAN'S GREEN TEAM

Nissan's Green Team has devoted over **100 hours of service** to Harpeth Conservancy in the past year alone (and over 1,000 hours over the past decade!). Their employees participate in tree plantings, canoe clean ups and serve on our waste management team to make River Swing a zero-waste event.

- ▶ 66 hours of tree planting
- ▶ 12 hours at canoe cleanups
- ▶ At least 18 at River Swing just in waste management
(not including committee time!)



HCA helping with a river clean up in Franklin

OUTREACH AMBASSADORS FOR RIVERS (O.A.R.)

Our O.A.R. Team was created in early 2018. These trained volunteers will be representing HC at outreach, social, and tabling events over the next year. If you are interested in helping out, please visit:

www.harpethconservancy.org/volunteeroutreachteam

“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS **CAN CHANGE THE WORLD;** INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING **THAT EVER HAS.**”

—Margaret Mead

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



WRAY ESTES

Wray joined Harpeth Conservancy in 2015 through the FiftyForward Program. She volunteers a half day, once a week

doing development and database work, helping with mailings, and running errands for us. She is extremely dependable and goes above and beyond when needed, especially around events! Wray has racked up at more than 208 hours over the past year alone, and is approaching **1,000 hours** of total service!

GET INVOLVED! Sign up to volunteer at many types of events at www.harpethconservancy.org/volunteer

COLLABORATIONS FOR HEALTHY RIVERS AND CLEAN WATER



NASHVILLE WATERWAYS CONSORTIUM TAKES OFF

HC created the Nashville Waterways Consortium 2 years ago with 4 other conservation organizations: The Nature Conservancy, Richland Creek Watershed Alliance, Cumberland River Compact, and TN Environmental Council.

The Nashville Waterways Consortium mission is to create a community effort to protect Nashville's waterways and inspire action. We launched the first

campaign, Rivive! Nashville last fall with public art and recently with a pledge campaign. There are now 2 large murals in Nashville by international and locally renowned artists and a new music related installation, called WADE, on the Cumberland River pedestrian bridge. Funding for the Nashville Waterways Consortium is provided by Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Fund.



ONE MISSISSIPPI

We have been working with The Mississippi River Network, a coalition of 53 organizations dedicated to creating a healthier Mississippi River by working for the well-being of the land, water and people of America's largest watershed. The Mississippi is truly America's River—a critical source of water for 18 million people, a diverse habitat for wildlife, the backbone of our economy and a rich part of our heritage. We have been working with 1 Mississippi to recruit River Citizens who pledge to reduce their water impact. We have distributed over 300 soil sampling kits and recruited many river citizens committed to help reduce phosphorus pollution here in Tennessee and downstream.

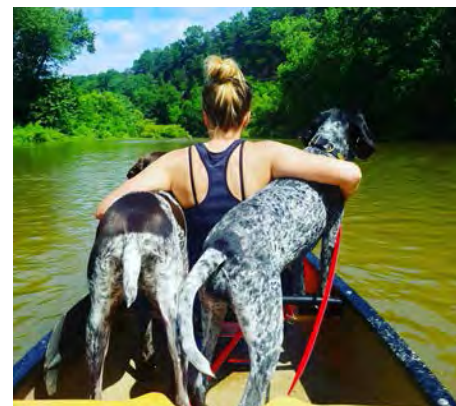


Opportunity NOW (ON) is the youth employment initiative from the Mayor's Office of Nashville, working to provide young people in Davidson County access to employment. HC hosted one of the first class of ON high school interns last summer and will be hosting two interns this summer. Interns learn valuable professional skills and gain knowledge about the non-profit and environmental job field. This summer, they will each work 24 hours/week for 6 weeks. In 2017, our intern was Rania, from Hume Fogg. This year our interns are Kenly from Martin Luther King, Jr. High School and Akilah who is homeschooled.

INTERNS/EXTERNS

We have a robust intern and externship program. The following students have helped or are helping with events, outreach, research projects, GIS mapping and more:

- ▶ A master's student from MTSU
- ▶ Law students from Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities, including recent Vanderbilt University graduate Robert Abrams who will be joining HC for at least six months under Vanderbilt's Public Service Pathways program
- ▶ Interns this Summer: Eric Olson (Auburn University) and Matt Silverman (University of Michigan)



OUR HARPETH CONSERVANCY STAFF



Front Row (L to R): Molly Warner, Kaki Comer and Wray Estes. Back Row (L to R): Jim Redwine, "Harry, the Otter," Matt Silverman, Haylee Hall, Dorie Bolze, Dan Fitzgerald

Harpeth Conservancy has bolstered our team to truly be the leaders in science-based conservation for the Rivers of Tennessee moving into the next 20 years and beyond.

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS



Jim Redwine, VP & COO, and Director of the Clean Water Protection Program, won the American Bar Association's Award for Excellence in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Stewardship for his work on the General Motors bankruptcy.

Publications include: "Does it Hurt to Get SLAPPED? A Study of the Perils of Citizen Involvement," *Natural Resources & Environment*, Fall 2017; "False Dichotomy Between Growth and Clean Water? The Harpeth River Experience with Citizen Suits and Beyond," *River Management Society Journal*, Spring 2017.



Dan Fitzgerald, Director of Watershed Science and Restoration recently won the British Ecological Society's Functional Ecology JBS Haldane Early Career Researcher Award!

Publications: Fitzgerald, DB et al. 2018. Diversity and Community Structure of Rapids-dwelling Fishes of the Xingu River. *Biological Conservation* 222:104–112.

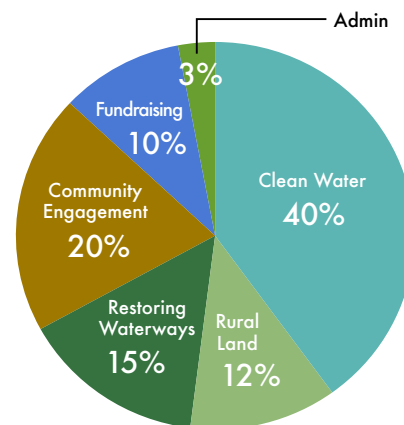


2018 Brentwood Environmental Stewardship Award: Harpeth Conservancy received this award for our work with Brentwood City Parks and the Brentwood YMCA to build a rain garden as a demonstration project to be replicated throughout the region. Rain gardens like this one, filter storm water runoff from a parking lot and helps filter water before it runs into the river.

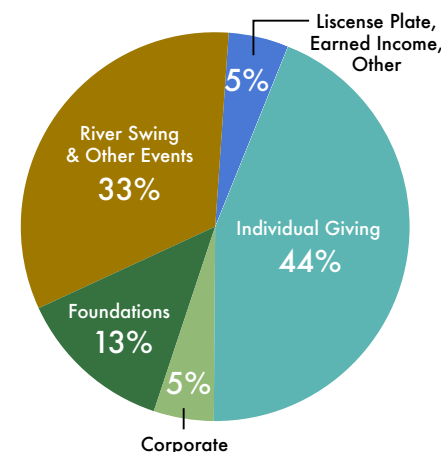
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Unaudited FYE 2018

EXPENSES - \$561,430



INCOME - \$562,258



This year our number of donors doubled and raised 40% more support

RALLY FOR RIVERS

\$140,000 Raised!

Your donations really made a difference! **You raised \$140,000** during Rally for Rivers, our year end giving campaign. **THANK YOU!** Your support enables us to expand our efforts to employ scientific expertise and collaborative relationships to foster solutions that reduce pollution and maintain healthy areas that are vital to our economic and personal well-being.

THE AMERICORPS VISTA IMPACT AT HARPETH CONSERVANCY



Former VISTAs: Kaki Comer, Alex Yuro
and Madeline Bule

We are grateful for our long-standing partnership with the AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteering In Service to America) program and the great work our VISTAs have contributed over the past 4 years. The program is also a great way for Harpeth Conservancy to provide job

training and experience to recent graduates and cultivate the next generation of environmental leaders.

Since 2013, Harpeth Conservancy has hosted 5 VISTAs, who each commit to a year of service. They help the capacity of our organization and support other initiatives by:

- ▶ Recruiting, cultivating and creating a volunteer program
- ▶ Bolstering HC's environmental education programs
- ▶ Orchestrating the Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival
- ▶ Conducting outreach in rural communities and with farmers in order help them get state and federal monies for agricultural best management practices
- ▶ Launching drug take back program to facilitate the safe disposal of prescription drugs and keeping them out of waterways
- ▶ Leading volunteer restoration and cleanup projects...and more!

THIS YEAR'S VISTA SPOTLIGHT MOLLY WARNER

Molly joined Harpeth Conservancy in February 2018 as the new AmeriCorps VISTA. Molly is originally from Peoria, IL, but recently moved from Fort Collins, CO where she attended Colorado State University and received a B.S. in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. Her work this year is focused on:

- ▶ Bolstering our citizen science program, Water Reporter, developing new outreach opportunities, writing grants, facilitating environmental education, and overseeing general social media efforts.



EXCITING NEWS!!!

We were recently awarded THREE additional positions as part of the Hands On Nashville AmeriCorps program. These three people will all serve a one-year term starting in August. Keep an eye out for job announcements and send applicants our way. If you have housing to offer, please let us know as the AmeriCorps members only earn a "poverty line" stipend!

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BUILDING LEADERS:

HC prides itself in cultivating the next generation of professionals in the conservation/ environmental fields. In just the past year, former employees (both originally AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers) have taken a new position at American Rivers in D.C. and another to pursue a Masters in Public Policy at Duke University. Over the years, past employees have gone to graduate school and are working at environmental engineering consulting firms, and are now the President/CEO of TN Environmental Council, the Policy Program director for TN Wildlife Federation, and at other partner organizations.



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Annual donors who contribute \$1,000+ are members of our Harpeth Protection Society. Thanks to Mary & Hank Brockman, Franklin Synergy Bank, Little Harpeth Brewing, Lipman Brothers, McConnell House, Red Pony Catering, Whole Foods and Yazoo who hosted and underwrote our events this year.

THINGS GOT WILD (& SCENIC) IN EAST NASHVILLE & FRANKLIN

Hundreds of guests have attended our Wild & Scenic Film

Festivals at The Pavilion East, The Belcourt Theatre, and The Franklin Theater. The South Yuba River Citizens League curates the global film festival, and Harpeth Conservancy is honored to be the exclusive host in the area. From floating National Wild & Scenic Rivers to rock climbing, skiing to light pollution, saving mountain ranges and more, people walked away ready to get outside and make a difference. Thanks to our sponsors: The Bailey Company, BancorpSouth, Fleet Feet Nashville, The Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, The Mississippi River Network, Orvis, Piedmont Natural Gas, Rock City Construction, and Village Real Estate/Foundation.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

► **Become a Member – Any gift is appreciated. Suggested giving levels are:**

\$60+ Individual
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www.harpethconservancy.org/donatenow

► Monthly payments, gifts of stock, and bequests are all welcome.

► Serve on a Committee – we are always seeking people to help plan River Swing and our Film Festivals.

► Matching Gifts – let us know if your company matches gifts, so we can double your support!

► Plan your own fundraiser for Harpeth Conservancy!



WHOLE LOTTA GOOD!

Thanks to everyone who shopped and stocked up at Whole Foods (Green Hills & Franklin) for 5% Give Back Day! Over **\$12,000** was raised!

Our Fall Harpeth Protection Society event will be Thursday, September 20th at Woolworth on 5th, and we hope you will join us! (Invitations coming soon!)

RIVER SWING WAS A SWINGING SUCCESS!

Over **600 people** attended the 14th Annual River Swing presented by Nissan. Thanks to the leadership of **Co-Chairs and Hosts Kathryn & Christian Currey and Agneta & Brownlee Currey** and all of our generous sponsors and guests, over **\$190,000 was raised** for clean water! Folks enjoyed dancing the night away to Higher Ground, bidding on auction items, eating a delicious dinner from Whole Foods and drinking refreshing beverages from Lipman Brothers, visiting the photo booth and just enjoying the lake and horses on the beautiful River Circle Farm. **THANK YOU for making River Swing another SWINGING success!**



Terry Hemmings, Stephanie Maxwell, Laura Reed, Robin Patton & Richard Patton



This year marked a decade of Nissan's support totalling **Over a half million dollars!**



Co-hosts, Christian & Kathryn Currey



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If you are interested in Sponsorship or helping this year, please contact hayleehall@harpethriver.org.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

AT RIVER CIRCLE FARM AGAIN!

RIVER SWING

2018

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