

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



VOICES of the HARPETH

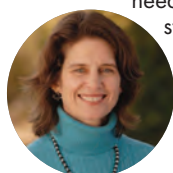
Photo Credit: John Guider

SUMMER 2023

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2021, the board and staff developed a capacity expansion plan to address the burgeoning need for conservation leadership in the state and to attract key staff that will steward our vision of clean water and healthy rivers for all Tennesseans. As the founding Executive Director and CEO, I am thrilled to announce that as of April 2023 Grace Stranch, a Nashville native and our former COO, is Harpeth Conservancy's new CEO. An attorney, formerly full time at Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, PLLC, now Stranch, Jennings & Garvey, PLLC, Grace brings over 15 years of experience in organizing around environmental issues in Tennessee.



As President, I will focus on capacity building and capital campaign and provide clean water policy leadership across the state. Increased support for our crucial capacity expansion so far has allowed us to expand our team over the past few months. Anne Passino started in April 2023 as Director of Clean Water Protection. Anne is a Nashville native who, among her other credentials, was Senior Attorney for Southern Environmental Law Center, primarily focused on clean water and land use. We are also excited to have two new great staff to expand our work in community engagement and education, Marie Campbell, and with events, Ryan Robison.

Our globally unique waterways in Tennessee are under tremendous pressure with more than 1 million people expected to move to our area in the next decade. **Currently, almost 60% of our recently assessed waterways do not meet water quality standards.** These numbers will continue to degrade with the predicted growth, especially in urban areas. The next 10 years are critical! To meet this challenge, the next two phases of our plan include: 1) a capacity building plan of \$2.125 million that will expand the staff team to 15 with our own water quality science lab by 2025, and 2) a capital fund of \$10 million built over the next 4 to 5 years.

Our "bricks and mortar" are our staff, board, advisory council, and networks that advocate for the right to have equitable access to clean water. The staff bring together a network of professionals including engineers, attorneys, scientists, agencies, elected officials, academics, and community leaders to collaborate with people of all ages, races, and socio-economic backgrounds to solve problems, build support for responsible and equitable solutions, and put those solutions in place.

Harpeth Conservancy provides much-needed leadership for clean water and rivers in Tennessee. With your continued investment and support, we can ensure that that we'll be around for as long as it takes to protect the future of clean water in our state.

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

Sincerely - **Dorie Bolze**

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"In the coming decades, the changing climate is likely to reduce crop yields, threaten some aquatic ecosystems, and increase some risks to human health. Floods may be more frequent, and droughts may be longer, which would increase the difficulty of meeting the competing demands for water in the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers."

– EPA, 2017 Snapshot



LETTER FROM THE CEO

Harpeth Conservancy's vision is clean water and healthy ecosystems for rivers in Tennessee **championed by the people who live here.** We actualize our vision by utilizing scientific data to inform responsible and equitable policy solutions. This work requires strong relationships and coalition-building, which is why **your involvement really matters.** As CEO, one of my focuses is to expand and deepen our relationships with statewide networks, partner organizations, and supporters like you!



Our collaborations and leadership have statewide impact. As the chair of the Tennessee Water Group, Harpeth Conservancy (HC) brings water leaders from across the state together to stay informed and strategize on issues impacting our rivers. This legislative cycle we increased our bimonthly calls to weekly to better tackle legislation impacting clean water and rivers, and to strengthen our strategic relationships with each other.

HC is honored to currently serve as fiscal sponsor for a few of our partner organizations - Mill Creek Watershed Association and Friends of the Piney River. HC was fiscal sponsor to Friends of Lick Creek (Hickman County) and Protect our Aquifer (Shelby County) prior to obtaining their own nonprofit status. In addition to these fiduciary relationships, we merged with Richland Creek Watershed Alliance in 2020 and continue to build partnerships around the Richland Creek area.

I am particularly excited about relationship building with you, our supporters. This has been a banner year for concerned citizens showing up and taking an active role in championing our rivers. Many of you have attended public hearings about sewer permits and rezonings for developments. Many of you provided written and oral testimony to decision-makers before and after the hearings. You also engaged with your legislators and went to in-person meetings on a wide range of legislative issues.

THANK YOU – your voice truly matters! We want to keep up this momentum and continue to mobilize people who will champion our beloved Tennessee rivers with us. We hope you will share this newsletter with a friend, come to one of our upcoming events, follow and share our social media posts and action alerts, and donate so we can continue to grow with our amazing community!

Warmly - **Grace Stranch**

MISSION: Harpeth Conservancy's mission is to restore and protect clean water and healthy ecosystems for rivers in Tennessee.

FOLLOW US AND STAY INFORMED



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@HarpethConservancy

WHAT WE DO & HOW WE DO IT

Harpeth Conservancy leads collaborations, builds consensus, solves problems, and puts solutions in place that reduce pollution and maintain healthy areas.



RESTORATION Implement and promote projects that improve waterways in both rural and urban areas.



ISSUES Ensure pollution problems are addressed - like sewer and drinking water - and provide leadership for effective statewide clean water policies and strategies.



VOICE Work to ensure everyone has meaningful involvement in decisions and legislation that affect clean water, public health, their livelihoods and rivers.



EDUCATE Promote practices and approaches that individuals, landowners, farmers, businesses, and governments can do that effectively make a difference.



RECREATION Promote responsible recreation including safe access to our rivers.



SCIENCE Conduct and fund river studies on water quality, public health threats, and wildlife.

THE TENNESSEAN

How one rural county is fighting to save a pristine creek from pollution as Middle Tennessee grows.

George Walker IV, THE TENNESSEAN
Jan. 5, 2023

A battle in Hickman County over a wastewater treatment plant reflects the larger issue of environmental conservation as Middle Tennessee rapidly expands.

In April 2023, the TN Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) recommended denying the proposed new sewage treatment plant that would discharge into Lick Creek, an "exceptional" waterway of the Duck River watershed. HC commends TDEC on its recommendation. Check our website to learn more!



To achieve our vision of clean water and healthy ecosystems for rivers in Tennessee championed by the people who live here, HC is actively engaged in helping to shape science-informed water policy on the local, state, and federal levels.

KEY TERMS & CONCEPTS:

Almost everything humans do, from growing food to manufacturing products, has the potential to release pollution into the environment. Regulatory agencies charged with protecting the environment identify two main categories of pollution: point source and nonpoint source pollution.

Point Source Pollution (PS): Any contaminant that enters the environment from an easily identified and confined place. PS pollution is easy to identify because it comes from a single place. Example: Sewage treatment plants – discharge can introduce nutrients and harmful microbes into waterways. Nutrients can cause a rampant growth of algae in water.

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS): Pollution that comes from many places, all at once. NPS pollution is the opposite of PS pollution and is harder to identify and harder to address. Example: Stormwater runoff - picture a city street during a thunderstorm. As rainwater flows over asphalt, it washes away drops of oil that leaked from car engines, particles of tire rubber, pesticides, dog waste, and trash. Runoff goes into a storm sewer and ends up in a nearby waterway.

Nutrient Pollution: The process whereby too many nutrients, mainly phosphorus and nitrogen, are added to bodies of water. While nutrients are chemical elements that all living organisms need to grow, excessive nutrients drive the growth of toxic algal blooms and can sicken or kill humans and animals, including our pets! In turn, dangerous nutrient pollution negatively impacts tourism and recreation.

Toxic Algal Bloom: Also known as harmful algal blooms, or HABs, occur when colonies of algae — simple plants or bacteria that live in the sea and freshwater — grow out of control and produce toxic or harmful effects on people and wildlife.

STATEWIDE ISSUES: DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

When does HC review a proposal for development?

HC reviews proposals when the following are at issue:

- ▶ Flood safety and management
- ▶ Sewer and drinking water capacity
- ▶ Water quality
- ▶ Wildlife and river ecology
- ▶ Stream restoration and protection

How does HC offer guidance and prevent issues related to the above?

Initially, HC gathers and analyzes information related to the proposal. This process may involve the following:

- ▶ Conduct a site visit
- ▶ Review flood models and stormwater regulations
- ▶ Assess and engage with impacted communities
- ▶ Connect with experts for further review



After HC has a clear understanding of the proposal and the issues, our team may execute any of the following steps:

- ▶ Provide expertise and guidance for issue resolution
- ▶ Collaborate with interested parties
- ▶ Host informational meetings
- ▶ Educate community members about the planning process and how to participate
- ▶ Facilitate connections with experts
- ▶ Increase exposure of the issue through press, social media, and more

What are some examples from this past year?

- ▶ Ariza Development proposed along the State Scenic Harpeth River in Nashville: HC held meetings about flood safety and management issues with council members, planning staff, community members, the development team, and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) staff. As a result of HC's involvement, the development team agreed to raise Coley Davis Road to remove an existing floodplain and flood safety issue.
- ▶ Pinewood Surf Club proposed along the Piney River in Hickman County: HC is in the information gathering stage. This development has concerns in all of our areas of expertise. We are currently focused on drinking and sewer water capacity and issues around flooding.
- ▶ Belle Meade Plaza redevelopment proposed on Richland Creek in Nashville: HC held informational meetings, conducted site visits, and engaged with experts. HC is focused on the review of potential issues related to floodplain management, river restoration, water quality, and wildlife.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT?

- ▶ Vote in local, state, and federal elections
- ▶ Get to know your state legislators: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/>
- ▶ Get to know your elected officials and planning commissioners
- ▶ Become a Water Quality Monitoring volunteer (May to September)

Find info about engagement opportunities here:



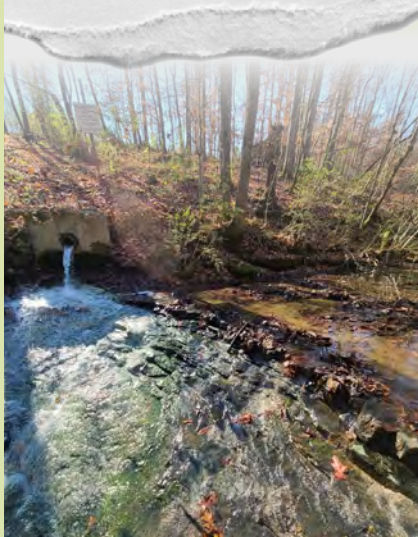
NUTRIENT POLLUTION is one of Tennessee's most widespread, costly, and challenging environmental problems with local and global consequences. Limiting nutrient pollution is one important component to improve waterway health and ensure the future of clean water.

STATEWIDE ISSUES: SEWER PLANT REGULATIONS

In September 2022, Harpeth Conservancy learned about a potential bacterial algal bloom growing directly below the outfall of the White Bluff wastewater treatment plant (an example of **point source pollution**). Upon inspection of the bloom, HC partnered with the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) to file a complaint requesting that TDEC address ongoing permit violations by the Water Authority of Dickson County's (WADC)'s White Bluff wastewater treatment plant. Although TDEC confirmed the presence of sewage-loving bacteria and algae in Trace Creek, it found its presence was not a violation of the permit. In March 2023, HC and SELC filed an appeal to the Tennessee Board of Water Quality, Oil, and Gas.

The growth of sewage-loving bacteria is one potential consequence of 1) inefficient and over-capacity water and sewage infrastructure caused by growth and development in the area, and 2) inadequate nutrient limits within a permit, both of which lead to pollution in our waterways. While some capacity issues can be remedied with facility improvements and regionalization strategies, our rivers and creeks have a limited amount of water and deserve protection. HC is working hard to

Environmental group sounds the alarm after a 'sewer fungus' is found in local creek. NewsChannel 5 NASHVILLE



Bacterial and algal growth directly below the outfall from the White Bluff wastewater treatment plant.

ensure proper nutrient limits are set to restore and protect our water from pollution and that developments prioritize water and sewer infrastructure and capacity issues during the planning process. (See page 5 for more on "nutrient pollution.")

Success! We completed 25 visual stream assessments (VSAs) for Williamson County stormwater managers. These VSAs help evaluate and monitor water quality, habitat, and sources of pollution.



This graphic depicts a degraded river system vs. a high-quality river. When performing a VSA, we evaluate the health of stream by surveying the nearby vegetation, land use, flow regimes, substrate, and more! (Credit: The Nature Conservancy)



Photo Credit: Ken Tucker

COMING TOGETHER TO TACKLE NUTRIENT POLLUTION

The Need for Holistic Plans:

October 2022 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the marquee law designed to ensure all communities have access to clean waterways. Unfortunately, there is still a lot of work to do to fulfill the Act's purpose. Earlier last year, for example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified nutrient pollution as a growing challenge that implicates both water quality and public health, calling it "the most widespread stressor impacting rivers and streams."^[1] The EPA is tasked with ensuring we all have clean drinking water and unpolluted rivers. Part of this process includes identifying pollution sources and developing a holistic pollution management plan for each river. These plans are known as TMDLs because they are supposed to set the Total Maximum Daily Load for how much of a given pollutant is allowed in a waterbody, then divvy up that load among the various sources of pollution. Sources of nutrient pollution range from sewage treatment plants (**point source pollution**) to excess fertilizer washed into our streams when it rains (**nonpoint source pollution**).

<https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/2022-epa-nutrient-reduction-memorandum>

Our Work on Nutrient Pollution:

Since 2015 when the Harpeth River was declared among the **10 Most Endangered Rivers** by American Rivers because of the threats of sewage pollution and excessive water withdrawals, HC has been working with experts, other concerned stakeholders, and federal and state agencies on a TMDL for the Harpeth River watershed—a watershed that covers 863 square miles, about half the size of Rhode Island! A plan is needed because over 100 miles of the watershed (tributaries included) is considered impaired due to excessive **nutrient pollution**. HC is concerned that with continued population growth in the area and without a comprehensive pollution management plan, the problem will only get worse. This concern is grounded by the complex modeling HC conducts, which in turn is grounded by years of data collection and EPA training to analyze nutrient-related problems in the Harpeth River. HC uses these complex models to help answer questions about nutrient pollution such as, how much nutrient pollution enters the Harpeth? What season or time of

year is pollution the highest? How much pollution is induced by humans? Incorporating this kind of analysis into a pollution management plan will allow the public and regulators to make informed decisions to protect public health and water quality such as whether a watershed can handle additional sewage treatment plants.

Fortunately, in February 2023, when the City of Franklin was granted a renewed permit for its sewage treatment plant, TDEC agreed with HC's request to clarify that the permit may be modified to incorporate any necessary watershed planning requirements associated with a TMDL. With that acknowledgment, the story of developing TMDLs to address nutrient pollution—and restore healthy waterways—in Tennessee continues.

HC requested a hearing on Franklin's permit that was held August 2022. Thanks to the nearly 100 attendees, including elected officials, and the nearly 200 community members who provided comments and shared their concerns about the permit! Check out page 2 for information about a proposed sewage treatment plant on Lick Creek and visit our website to learn more about upcoming opportunities to participate!

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHY NUTRIENT POLLUTION MATTERS AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

- ▶ TN's phosphorus and nitrogen levels are responsible for up to 10% of the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico
- ▶ The Dead Zone cost seafood and tourism industries roughly \$82 million per year!
- ▶ Pollution increased cost to treat drinking water
- ▶ Combined impact is anticipated at \$1.1 billion (2010-2020)

HOW CAN WE LOWER NUTRIENTS IN OUR WATERWAYS?

- ▶ Set nutrient limits and create TMDLs
- ▶ Educate and work to change nutrient source practices, like HC's education and restoration work in Eagleville
- ▶ Encourage the use of sustainable land use and development practices that prioritize sewer and drinking water infrastructure and capacity issues during the planning process



Photo credit: U.S. Geological Survey, Binder Lake, Iowa.

Nutrient pollution causes toxic algal bloom that affects drinking water, recreation, businesses, and property values. In Tennessee alone, nutrients impair nearly 3,000 river/stream miles and more than 15,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs.

A bass fisherman casts a line into the algae-clogged waters of the Iron Gate Reservoir, March 2009, in the Klamath River Basin, California.

Photo Credit: David McLain/Aurora Photo.



PERMITTING, STATE POLICY, AND REGULATORY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ HC was represented by SELC in a successful administrative lawsuit that challenged a statewide rule and permit with significant stormwater repercussions across TN. HC made sure that stormwater, or rainfall, that lands on roofs is included in the onsite treatment and management of stormwater systems in development projects that, when functioning properly, reduce **nonpoint source pollution** in waterways.
- ▶ HC prepared and filed official comments on the Triennial water quality standards. Every three years in TN, state water quality standards are revised. HC's role is to double check the state standards and make sure that the standards are protective of our state's water resources and waterway health. If those standards are violated, then the sections of waterways that do not meet these standards are placed on the 303d list, or list of impaired waterways.



Representatives from Harpeth Conservancy and Tennessee Conservation Voters at the March 2023 Conservation Day on the Hill.

HARPETH CONSERVANCY IN THE LEGISLATURE

- ▶ **Tennessee Office of Outdoor Recreation (OREC):** HC worked with American Canoe Association (ACA) and other groups to support legislation to create an office to help manage recreational use of the rivers. All Tennesseans deserve access to safe recreational use of our rivers while also maintaining the health of our rivers and preventing overuse. See article (right)
- ▶ **Conservation Day on the Hill:** HC partnered with Tennessee Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Tennessee Environmental Council, and Tennessee Interfaith and Light on Conservation Day on the Hill. More than 40 people gathered to meet with legislators and their constituents to voice concern for our waterways and teach community members how to do so as well.
- ▶ **Tennessee Water Group (TWG):** Under HC's leadership, we increased participation and coordination in understanding and tracking bills affecting water quality, rivers, and development growth planning with our statewide network of leaders.
- ▶ **2023 TN Legislative Session Bills:** We reviewed more than 20 bills and worked with a variety of partners to strategize next steps. This year's highlights included bills affecting wetlands, local zoning, and the participation of conservation oversight. We anticipate a substantial increase in state legislative bills undermining local zoning and growth planning in future sessions.

OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION



Andrea White, American Canoe Association, and Dorie Bolze, testifying before the TN General Assembly in March 2023 for a bill to create the OREC.

Increased population growth in Tennessee has elevated the need for improved recreational management, especially in "hot spot" areas. A State Advisory Commission report from December 2022 that looked at measures needed to accommodate the evolving recreational uses of TN's waterways had a key recommendation to create an Office of Outdoor Recreation (OREC). HC helped form a broad coalition to promote this recommendation in the TN legislature. The goal of an OREC is to help augment state agencies and foster collaborations with local government, business, rescue, safety, and non-profit partners to help the growing outdoor recreation sector foster economic growth in rural communities and protect our unique waterways. This is part of our long-time focus and staff expertise on managing and enjoying Tennessee's waterways responsibly.

THANK YOU TO CORE MISSION SUPPORT FROM:

THE DAN AND MARGARET
MADDOX
FUND

patagonia



THE CAROLYN SMITH
FOUNDATION

ACTION ALERT:

Contact your state legislator to support an Office of Outdoor Recreation in TN (bill number: **SB0375/HB1337**). This issue will still be active next legislative session (Jan.-March 2024).

TN WATER WATCH

Disease-causing bacteria are one of the most common and hazardous pollutants found in rivers and streams. When present, these bacteria can negatively impact the health of humans and pets that recreate in these waters and can be costly to remove from drinking water. Bacteria monitoring programs exist in many U.S. states including Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, and New York to help inform the public when waters are contaminated with harmful bacteria. Along with these monitoring programs, many states have alert systems when waters are contaminated. Unfortunately, these systems don't yet exist in Tennessee, so HC will be launching a similar system to help protect public health called TN Water Watch!

Among all the factors affecting water quality, harmful microbials such as bacteria threaten our waterways and pose health risks to swimmers, kayakers, and recreational fishers, not to mention its impacts on drinking water. Waterborne pathogens (bacteria capable of causing disease in humans) have been known to cause Salmonellosis, Legionnaires' disease, dysentery, and other stomach, respiratory, skin, and brain illnesses. Bacteria sources may include sewage, stormwater runoff, agricultural runoff, or industrial waste.

In order to determine the health risk associated with bacterial contamination, we test the water for the presence of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). *E. coli* is both a contaminant and an indicator species whose presence suggests that other harmful pathogens are likely present in the water. Higher levels of *E. coli* indicate a higher likelihood of becoming sick.

A predictive *E. coli* model was created by correlating levels of *E. coli* with real-time environmental factors (weather, river flow, precipitation, etc.) resulting in a simple predictive equation that forecasts the levels of *E. coli* for the day. **TN Water Watch will be one of a few monitoring programs in the U.S. that will have the capability to make these predictions in real time.**

In Summer 2023, HC will provide predictions of waterborne harmful microbial densities at highly recreated river access points around Middle TN, with plans to expand to include other sites and rivers across Middle TN.

CITIZEN WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROJECT:

In 2022, we collected over 100 samples at 10 locations along Harpeth River, Richland Creek, Mill Creek, Whites Creek, and Browns Creek. Of those 10 locations, we have collected enough data to launch TN Water Watch at 8 of them in 2023 (see table below for location description).

TN Water Watch *E. coli* Sampling Results

Sampling Location	Number of Days Sampled	Number of Samples ABOVE EPA <i>E. coli</i> Criteria	Percentage of Samples ABOVE EPA <i>E. coli</i> Criteria
HARPETH RIVER			
Lewisburg Pike Boat Launch	26	7	27%
Moran Rd. Bridge	42	14	33%
Hwy 100- Boat Launch	44	11	25%
Hwy 70- Boat Launch	32	5	16%
RICHLAND CREEK			
Jackson Blvd.	25	16	64%
McCabe Golf Course	28	15	54%
MILL CREEK			
Mill Creek Greenway	27	13	48%
Whitset Park	23	9	39%

The EPA's recommended swimming criteria for *Escherichia coli* is 235 CFUs/100 mL – swimming is not recommended when values exceed 235 CFUs/100 mL. We discovered that many locations still exhibit elevated levels of *E. coli* during critical times during the year when many community members are using our Tennessee rivers to recreate. As *E. coli* densities increase in waterways, the risk of becoming sick while recreating in the river also goes up.

In 2018, a study published in *Environmental Health* determined that approximately **90 million illnesses in the U.S. in a given year** are caused by bacterial contamination of waterways **costing an estimated \$3 billion per year**. Some of the riskiest recreational activities included swimming, fishing, and motor boating with swimming being the riskiest.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Andrea Waitt Carlton
Family Foundation



RIVER RESTORATION

RIVER RESTORATION

Restoration is one of our core outreach programs that offers hands-on opportunities to participate in and learn more about our mission to protect and restore clean water and healthy ecosystems for the rivers of Tennessee. Restoration projects engage volunteers of all ages and include river clean ups, invasive plant removals, and native tree plantings.



FEATURED STREAMBANK RESTORATION (INVASIVE REMOVALS AND TREE PLANTINGS)

Davidson County | Winter 2022 & Spring 2023: In partnership with Friends of Warner Parks (FOWP), volunteers **planted 500 trees** and **removed over 165,000 sq ft of invasive plants** as part of the Edwin Warner Park Land and River Restoration Project. This project restores the **Little Harpeth River Watershed** by improving the floodway and restoring the integrity of the riverbank, along with FOWP's plan to completely eradicate invasive species from Warner Parks by 2027. Volunteers participated from the **Fulbright International Scholars Program, Belmont University, Christ Presbyterian Academy, Nashville Nature Explorers, Ensworth School, Montgomery Bell Academy, Community Health Service**, and more!



Cheatham County | February & March 2023: In partnership with Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), volunteers **planted 2,400 native trees** along the **Harpeth River** on a rural farm. Planting native trees along a river restores the streambank by extending the riparian zone, a "buffer" filled with native plants that create wildlife habitat, promote infiltration that will reduce flood risk and mitigate bank erosion, and protect water quality by filtering **nonpoint source pollution**. Volunteers participated from **Nashville State, Vanderbilt Law School, Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet School, and First Presbyterian Day School in Macon, GA**. We also participated in the Garden Club of Nashville's Weed Wrangle® at LL Burns Park in Kingston Springs, a one-day, area-wide, volunteer effort to help rescue our public parks and green spaces from non-native invasive species through hands-on removal of especially harmful trees, vines, and flowering plants.



FEATURED CLEAN UPS

Williamson County | January 2023: During the 18th Annual **Little Harpeth River** Clean Up in partnership with the **Rotary Club of Brentwood**, **160 volunteers** removed **1,360 lbs of trash** including tires, a child's car seat, a plastic table, garden tools, and more from over 10 miles of river!



Davidson County | Summer & Fall 2022: With **Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association** and **Ensworth School**, we cleaned up **200 lbs of trash** from **Richland Creek**. We worked with **Montgomery Bell Academy** to clean up **100 lbs of trash** from **Kingfisher Creek**. Together we all learned more about how to be river stewards!



HC volunteers with Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association and Christ Presbyterian Academy.



Ensworth School



Montgomery Bell Academy

BE RIVER RESPONSIBLE

-  Take your trash - Don't use glass
-  Avoid single-use plastics
-  Don't trespass on private property
-  Follow Tennessee boating rules
-  Share the river, respect others
-  Report a pollution problem

LEARN HOW: BeRiverResponsible.org

ENJOY THE RIVER. SEE A PROBLEM
CONTACT HARPETH CONSERVANCY
615-790-9767



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR RESTORATION SPONSORS



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT?

- ▶ Sign up to volunteer for a restoration project
- ▶ Organize your own clean up or streambank restoration project!
- ▶ Get a "Be River Responsible" sign for your property to encourage river stewardship!

Find info about
volunteering
opportunities
here:



MAP OF HARPETH CONSERVATION





- Science
- Community Engagement
- Development
- Policy
- Restoration Projects



Maddy Johnson with P.E.N. Pals Camper.

P.E.N. (People Exploring Nature) PALS

For more than 10 years, HC has partnered with Friends of Warner Parks on the P.E.N. Pals program that serves over **200 children** annually, ages 9-13, from Nashville community centers. Our staff help children explore the Little Harpeth River and understand the ecosystem that sustains Tennessee aquatic biodiversity. Our "creek critters" program encourages curiosity and gives children space to understand, appreciate, and respect river ecosystems! Thank you to our program sponsors: Colonial Pipeline, the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, and the Nashville Predators Foundation.



FAMILY FUN DAY 2022 RECAP:

Our third annual Family Fun Day was a blast and our biggest turnout yet with more than 160 attendees. We added rock painting, tubing, a live snake program, a recycling game, and fly tying to our list of activities. There was plenty of time to enjoy all the activities, meet members of the **Nashville Predators Energy Team**, and cool off with flavored sno-cones. Thank you to our hosts, Sarah and Tim Ford!



Sarah Ford with HC mascot Harry Otter.



Photo credit: Ken Tucker

RIVER STEWARD AWARDS 2022 RECAP

In 2022, we revived our River Steward Awards, a night of celebration that recognizes the exceptional efforts of volunteers and community leaders of all ages who have made a big difference for clean water and healthy ecosystems for rivers in Tennessee. HC staff selects awardees who embody the spirit of our "Don't Be Crappie. Be River Responsible!" campaign and have been vital to the success of our collective work. **Thanks to our hosts Montgomery Bell Academy and to our event sponsor, CAT Financial!**



Awardees not pictured: Bass Pro Shops, Carrie DuRard, Chris Janson, Civil Constructors, GIBCO, Pat Hutchinson, Patagonia, Sarah Ford, The Consecro Group, The Rogers Group, and Vulcan Materials.

- Community Advocate – Kathy Webber
- Governance Advocate – Matt Brown (City of Franklin Alderman)
- Intern of the Year, Legal – Sean Ramey
- Corporate Partner – Patagonia Nashville
- Citizen Scientist of the Year – Dave Cantrell & Allyson Davenport
- River Restoration Awardees – Paul Fowler & Pat Hutcherson
- Outreach Volunteers of the Year – Sarah Ford & Kathy Von Arb
- Next Generation Awardees – Britton Busbee & Gabel Gawthorpe
- Special Event Volunteer Awardees – Carrie DuRard, Heidi Hartman, & Dee Plunkett
- Special Project Awardees – Christian Currey, The Consecro Group, Civil Constructors, GIBCO, Vulcan Materials, & The Rogers Group
- Impact Award – Chris Janson & Bass Pro Shops
- Friend of the Harpeth – Montgomery Bell Academy

To read more about the awardees:



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

LESSONS ON THE RIVER SNAPSHOT

Our Lessons on the River events are all-ages, hands-on opportunities designed to engage communities in issue-based learning and skill-building that inspires life-long river stewardship! These opportunities are free and open to the public. **Thank you to our Lessons on the River Partners and Sponsors:** Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, Tennessee Environmental Council, Mill Creek Watershed Association, Nashville Nature Explorers, Patagonia, Montgomery Bell Academy's Service Club, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Bartlett Tree Experts, The Sandra Schatten Foundation, Thrive Garden Center, WM, Friends of Warner Parks, and Metro Nashville Water Services.

UPCOMING LESSONS ON THE RIVER 2023/2024 *

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
May 20	Restoring our Rivers: Habitat Assessment & Action	Richland Creek
June 24	Native Plant Float & Riparian Tour	Harpeth River
July 8	Creek Critters: Exploring Biodiversity in our Rivers	Mill Creek
Aug. 4	No Water, No Beer: International Beer Day with HC	Nashville
Sep. 24	World Rivers Day Family Nature Walk	Nashville
Oct. 21	Be River Responsible Fly-Fishing Clinic	Harpeth River
Nov. 11	Wetlands Habitat Tour	Cumberland River
Dec. 2	Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour	Whites Creek

*Events and dates are subject to change. Please check our website for current information.

STUDENT DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECT



CPA Media Studio teacher Michael Ellson and students with HC's Jane Polansky and Rep. Bob Freeman.

In Fall 2022, students at **Christ Presbyterian Academy's Media Studio** worked with us to produce a short documentary film highlighting the role of partnerships in HC's work on river conservation. The film was submitted along with four others to the **United Nations' World Wildlife Day Film Festival** held in

Washington, DC in March 2023. One of the student filmmakers, **Sydney Moore**, stayed on with HC as our Spring 2023 community engagement intern!

Watch the student film here:



UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS 2023/2024

Come see us or help volunteer on the outreach team!

- June**.....Cumberland River Compact's Waterfest, Goodlettsville
- July**.....Bluegrass Along the Harpeth, Franklin
- September**.....Predators Foundation's Fishing Tournament, Nashville
- October**.....Light the Nations Festival & Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival
- December**.....REI, Brentwood
- January**.....Patagonia, Nashville

*Events and dates are subject to change. Please check our website for current information.

OUTREACH EVENTS – We love connecting with people in our communities and sharing our mission. We participated in **18 events** with exposure to **more than 150,000 people** over the past year. Here are a few spots where you might have seen us:

- ▶ Christ Presbyterian Academy
 - ▶ Cottonwood HOA
 - ▶ Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association
 - ▶ Earth Day Festival, Nashville
 - ▶ Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts of Middle TN
 - ▶ Main Street Festival, Franklin
 - ▶ Montgomery Bell Academy
 - ▶ Nashville Lawn & Garden Show
 - ▶ Nashville Outdoor Recreation Expo & Festival
 - ▶ Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival
 - ▶ Predators Foundation Celebrity Clay Shoot & Fishing Tournament
- And more!



Volunteers at Earth Day Festival.

Learn more & sign up to volunteer here:



Special Thanks to our Community Engagement Sponsors

Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, Colonial Pipeline, Harpeth Painting, Sandra Schatten Foundation, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Nashville Predators Foundation, TC Energy, and WM.

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INTERNSHIPS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Robby Lape, Water Quality Intern | Summer 2022: Robby, Geography/GIS major at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, tested weekly water samples from various locations in Middle TN and helped create an interactive map that displays the different sampling locations and the data from the water samples from those locations each week.



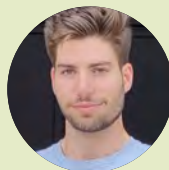
Sean Ramey, Legal Intern | Fall 2022: Sean, Belmont College of Law student, helped with research on policy campaigns for the Franklin Sewage Treatment Plant issues, development and zoning issues, reviewed TDEC permits, and assisted on the Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law presentation.



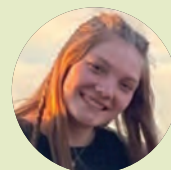
Karalyn Berman, Legal Intern | Spring 2023: Karalyn, Vanderbilt Law School student, helped our policy team with research on development and zoning issues, Tennessee legislative issues, and a special project on TMDL's.



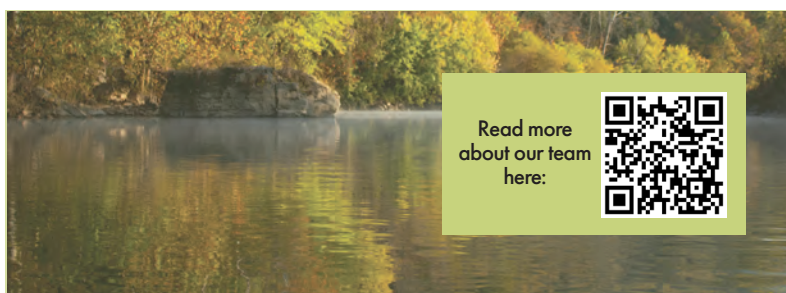
Jacob Brandes, Legal Intern | Spring 2023: Jacob, Vanderbilt Law School student, helped our policy team with research on development and zoning issues, Tennessee legislative issues, and a special project on PFAS (aka "forever chemicals").



Sydney Moore, Community Engagement Intern | Spring 2023: Sydney, junior at Christ Presbyterian Academy, collaborated on content creation for social media and helped coordinate and staff our outreach and education events.



Isabella Baldwin, Science Intern | Spring 2023: Isabella, senior at Harpeth Hall, conducted a project that uses photo data to quantify the levels of riparian vegetation along the Harpeth River.



Read more
about our team
here:



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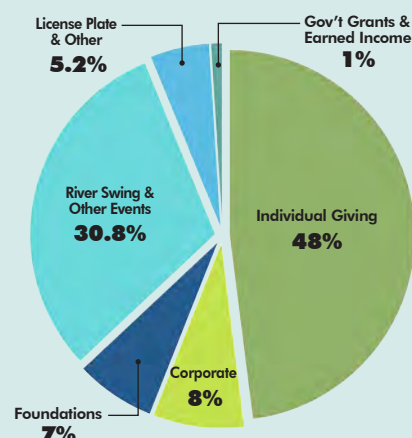
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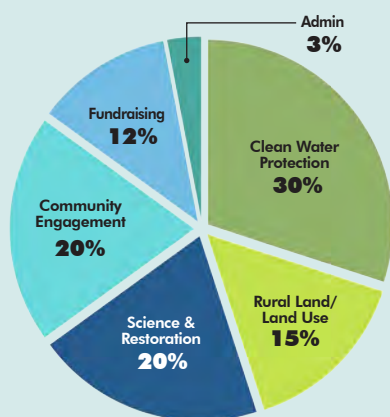
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Unaudited FYE 2022 (FYE-March 31, 2023)

INCOME \$1,242,517



EXPENSES \$991,873



Assets \$725,788

Liabilities \$182,982

Net assets \$542,806

See our annual audit, 990 tax filings, and other documents at our Giving Matters profile (givingmatters.com).

Every dollar is critical for our work to protect clean water and healthy ecosystems for the rivers of Tennessee. Give today!



GOOD NEWS



Dorie Bolze was recognized as a non-profit leader in *Nashville Business Journal's* 2023 Women of Influence Awards.

Darrell Waltrip Automotive Group Hometown Heros

Honorees: Dorie was also honored at Darrell Waltrip Automotive Group's 100 Hometown Heroes luncheon in 2022.



Honorees Dorie Bolze and Dr. Monty McInturff, President of TN Equine Hospital.

BECOME A MEMBER: For information about our membership, www.harpethconservancy.org/about

RIVER SWING 2022 - A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR OUR RIVERS!

Chairman Christian Currey, along with an amazing committee, created a magical evening at River Circle Farm. Currey hosted the event for the 6th year and made a long-term commitment allowing a service road to be installed, which we named **River Swing Way**. Thanks to **Civil Constructors, Conesco Group, GIBCO, Vulcan Materials** and **Rogers Group** who all donated their services and materials to install the road.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ▶ 5-time Grammy Award winner **Keb' Mo'** as special musical guest, along with **Trevor Clark Trio** for cocktail hour, and **The Bluff** featuring **Joe Andrews** and **Tommy Landstreet**
- ▶ Silent Auction with **177** packages raising **\$66,000!**
- ▶ A Milestone Birthday celebration for **Christian Currey** and **Mark Moorberg** – Happy 60th gentlemen!
- ▶ Wine Pull that sold more than 110 bottles of wine – Thanks **Moon Wine & Spirits** (Kathy & Eddie), all of our wine donors and **Emily Humphreys** for sponsoring!
- ▶ Whiskey tasting station with samples from **Happenstance Whiskey, Jack Daniel's Special Release Rye, O.H. Ingram River Aged Whiskey, Old Hickory Rye** and **Sweetens Cove**
- ▶ Watermelon Splash Specialty drink thanks to **Lipman Brothers**
- ▶ Hand Rolled Cigars from **Atomic Cigars**
- ▶ Specialty areas like **Brownlee Lounge** and **Huck Hats booth**
- ▶ Fabulous buffet dinner from **Puckett's Grocery & Restaurant** and bites from **Olivia Olive Oil**
- ▶ **Wealth Strategies Partners Photo Booth** (visit our website to see shots!)
- ▶ After-party music from the **Sweet Lillies** (they are already booked for 2023!) plan to stay late!

More than
\$360,000
raised to
restore and
protect our rivers
and clean
water!



Keb' Mo'



Jill Brothers, Olivia Dial, April Tomlin, Layla Onan, Carly Mariani



Trace Ayala, Jimmy Liquaud, Tracey Hall, Tom Walker



Charlotte and Christian Currey



River Swing Volunteers from Montgomery Bell Academy and Vanderbilt's S.P.E.A.R. Program



J.T. Hodges and Vince Neil



BEST Party	1st place
BEST Outdoor Event	1st place
MOST FUN Party	1st place
BEST Special Guest-Keb' Mo'	1st place
BEST Photo Booth/Op.....	Runner-up

**WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH RIVER SWING?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE 2023 COMMITTEE!**

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J.F. FILMS, INC.



River Swing Committee on the rooftop at Waller (now Holland & Knight).

RIVER SWING 2022 PATRON PARTY

Thanks to **Waller** (now Holland & Knight) for sponsoring our Patron Party with a fabulous view of the Cumberland River!



Grace Stranch, John Ingram, Ann and Matt Dobson

LIFETIME DONOR LUNCHEON

John and Orrin Ingram co-hosted our Lifetime Donor Luncheon, and we were honored to be the **first seated event in the NEW GEODIS Park!** More than 200 donors who have given for 20 years and/or have supported with Lifetime Levels of \$10,000+ were celebrated. Everyone went home with a custom map of the Harpeth River Watershed area. Thanks to **Equitable Trust Co.** for sponsoring the event.



DINNER IN THE CREEK
SAVE THE DATE— JUNE 13, 2023

WWW.HARPETHRIVER.ORG/DINNERINTHECREEK

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SAVE THE DATE FOR RIVER SWING'S 20th ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, September 16th, 6-11:45 p.m.

Email hayleehall@harpethriver.org for more information.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS

List includes financial and in-kind donations from 4/1/2022 - 3/31/2023

*\$10,000+

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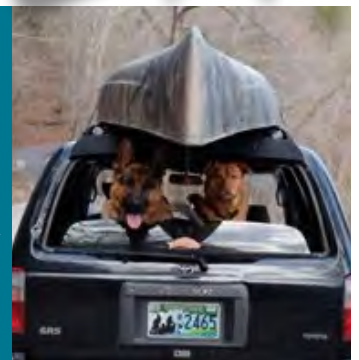
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