



Clean Water Partnership

Locally Led Projects

By Allison R. Jenkins

Statewide Coordinator, Alabama Clean Water Partnership

What do giant fishing lures, watershed plans, rain barrels, fishing line recycling stations and crumbling river banks along the Lower Tombigbee River have in common? All are projects supported by the Alabama Clean Water Partnership (ACWP), a statewide watershed-focused organization working to protect, restore, and enhance water quality across the state of Alabama. The ACWP, a nonprofit organization incorporated in 2001, is supported by private and corporate donations, as well as grant funds from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and others.

Working in conjunction with citizens and a variety of agencies and organizations across Alabama and in the shared watersheds of neighboring states, the ACWP works to initiate projects that positively affect water quality. With an overall goal of restoring and protecting the state's water resources in accordance with the goals of the Clean Water Act, *the ACWP provides a neutral forum to the public, offering a non-threatening atmosphere in which to work together for better water quality, addressing storm-water runoff in a non-regulatory way.*

Storm-water runoff and the pollutants that are carried with it untreated into the state's waterways are the primary focus of the group's efforts, making education and interaction with the public key to its success. Organizations serving private forest landowners in Alabama that are currently partnering with the ACWP in its efforts include the Alabama Forestry Association, Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Pulp & Paper Council, Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alabama Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Ten ACWP River Basin Facilitators work across the state in support of river basin steering committees composed of interested stakeholders. The public, local businesses, and organizations are all encouraged to become involved in efforts underway at both the basin and sub-basin levels, focusing on local issues, planning, and implementing projects that make a difference in water quality. Scientific watershed studies, written and web-based educational materials, and local workshops for cities, businesses, educators, and homeowners are just some of the projects underway for 2010.

To learn more or to GET INVOLVED with ongoing watershed efforts, visit the ACWP website at www.cleanwaterpartnership.org or contact Allison Jenkins, statewide coordinator, at (205) 266-6285. ☎



Thirty giant fishing lures decorated by local artists educated residents of Montgomery, Prattville, and Millbrook about storm-water runoff as part of the "Hooked on the Alabama River" project.



Property loss along the lower Tombigbee River is a challenge for farmers and homeowners alike.

Making a Difference!



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Participants in the Alabama Rain Barrel Project construct rain barrels to aid in storm-water harvesting at their homes. This project is supported by Coca-Cola Enterprises, the World Wildlife Fund, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Legacy, Rain Catchers, the Soil & Water Conservation Society, and various other partners throughout the state.

Partners across the state are installing Mono-filament Fishing Line Recycling Units (MRUs) at marinas, public fishing piers, and boat ramps in an effort to safeguard recreational water users and wildlife. Pictured top: James Lafoy, employee of the Tuscaloosa Water and Sewer Department-Lakes Division, installing one of three MRUs at Lake Tuscaloosa boat landings.