

Fort Loudoun Lake Association Members and Supporters,

On behalf of our staff, I want to thank you for your confidence and support. We have been very busy working to make you proud of the part you play in our organization.

Without you we could not even begin to accomplish our mission of enhancing the economic benefits and quality of life value of clean water.

I know that you have heard the FLLA staff say more than once that we cannot improve the quality of water in Fort Loudoun Lake without improving the quality of the water going into the Lake. Internationally, if everyone took care of their own streams, creeks and waterways then the problems that we are seeing with our oceans would be resolved. The government has mandated that each municipality is responsible for the stormwater going into their own storm drains and from there into the local reservoirs. Stormwater is a major problem as urban areas have continued to increase. There is no place for the water to go. As it pours off of our roofs, down our streets, blows out our creeks, this water takes everything it runs over with it. This of course goes into the storm drains, into the creeks and then into Fort Loudoun Lake. The cities, counties and townships located in the watershed for Fort Loudoun Lake cannot resolve this by themselves and cannot accomplish this overnight. This project will involve many governments, agencies, utilities, educational institutions and each of us.

In addition to removing hazardous debris from Fort Loudoun Lake, the Fort Loudoun Lake Association partners with municipalities and agencies by becoming an extension of their staff in helping to meet the goals and deadlines for cleaning up and reducing our stormwater. We currently are working with TVA in helping to remove boating hazards, debris and trash from the 52 linear miles of Lake. We work with TWRA in removing invasive vegetation from our creeks to improve habitat for our native plants and wildlife. We maintain the Turkey Creek wetlands which filter and slow down stormwater going into the Lake. We work with the City of Knoxville by doing water quality testing in the creeks to evaluate the pollution and by removing blockages (weirs) in the creeks which alter the course of the creeks and also collect trash and debris. We work with the City and with UT by providing and maintaining trash skimmers in the creeks to collect and prevent trash from going into the lake. We are currently working with Knox County to design educational programs and plan stream health assessments. Doggie mitts are provided in area parks to dispose of pet waste properly. We are involved in providing natural shoreline stabilization to prevent erosion and harmful silt from entering the Lake. We are planting rain gardens, planning riparian zones and building rain barrels to slow down the surges of stormwater.

Much research is being done to try to reverse these problems. For instance, the University of TN has developed the No-Til method of farming which results in very little run-off. They are utilizing two newly discovered genes in soy beans and corn that will reduce the amount of phosphorus from the waste of the hogs and chickens that eat them and still contain the nutrients required for healthy animals. Now with less and less farm land to act as natural wetlands for urban areas, UT has developed ways to double the ears of corn on a stalk to increase the yield per acre.

It takes a community to raise a child and it also takes citizens, businesses and communities alike to protect and enhance the economic benefits and quality of life value of clean water. It is all about stewardship!

Please see the article named “Stop Litter” below to see what members & citizens alike can do and be a good example for our neighbors and friends. These are simple things that can definitely make a huge impact. This pamphlet came from the Nov/Dec issue of The Tennessee Conservationist. You may also read more about ways that TDOT and Keep Tennessee Beautiful suggest stopping litter at www.stoplitter.org.

And of course, one of the most important things we as members can do is to encourage others to become members of THE FORT LOUDOUN LAKE ASSOCIATION and work with us to increase and expedite our impact on water quality! Communicate with staff on your website (FLLake.org) and pass this site along to your friends, families, and associates to find out a lot more about the activities and events of your organization.

One of my favorites on the list of “Possible Reasons We Have Litter” is that: People feel disconnected from nature. Being involved with the FLLA can remedy this!

Thanks!

Penny Mitchell
Executive Director
Fort Loudoun Lake Association
(865) 523-3800 or (865) 850-5803