

# East Mississippi Foothills Land Trust

Newsletter— Summer 2007

## Welcome to our First Newsletter!

The East Mississippi Foothills Land Trust (EMFLT) is pleased to distribute our first newsletter to our general membership. We have many exciting projects that we will be sharing with you through these newsletters as well as through our website, [www.EMFLT.org](http://www.EMFLT.org). Thank you for your support and encouragement as members of this organization. We welcome your comments and involvement.

- Tommy Vincent, President



## Overview of EMFLT

The EMFLT is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established on November 14, 2003 to preserve East Mississippi's precious resources and promote community support, education and participation. It is a qualified conservation organization, which can accept conservation easements.

The Mission Statement is to conserve, promote, and protect the open spaces and green places of ecological, cultural, or scenic significance of the counties of East Mississippi.

Officers: Tommy Vincent - President, Tommy Dulaney - Vice President,  
Andrew Covington - Treasurer, and Dorothy Allen - Secretary

Monthly board meetings are held every 3rd Friday and are open to members.

## Chunky-Okatibbee Watershed Project

During the summer of 2006, the EMFLT received a \$350,000 grant from the MS Department of Environmental Quality to develop and implement a watershed management plan for the

Chunky-Okatibbee Watershed. The objective of the watershed management project is to identify sources of pollution in the Chunky-Okatibbee Watershed; to identify best management practices to

address the sources of pollution and water quality impairment; to develop a watershed education and public involvement campaign; and to encourage acquisition, conservation, and preservation within the watershed.

### Articles of Interest:

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## Conservation Easements

One of the goals of the EMFLT and the Chunky-Okatibbee Watershed Project is to establish conservation easements across the watershed. Many may ask, what is a conservation easement? Well, we are glad you asked.....

and amount of development that may take place on his particular property.

People grant conservation easements to protect their land from inappropriate development while retaining private ownership.

An easement can be written so that it lasts forever. This is known as a perpetual easement. Some easements may be written for a specified number of years and are called term easements. Only gifts of perpetual easements can qualify a donor for income and estate tax benefits.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement a property owner makes to restrict the type

Each easement's restrictions are tailored to the particular property and to the interests of the individual owner.

To learn more about conservation easements, please contact us.

## Upcoming Events

**River Week Event:** The Chunky River Clean-up will be held at 8:30 am on Tuesday, June 5th. Meet at the Stuckey Bridge Canoe Rental located on Stuckey Bridge Road.

Please e-mail us if you plan to participate to ensure enough food, drinks, and canoes . You can e-mail: [melissa.pringle@eco-systemsinc.com](mailto:melissa.pringle@eco-systemsinc.com).

**Watershed Implementation Team Quarterly Meeting:** The next WIT meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2007. The meeting will be held at Margaret and Robby Lester's cabin located on the Chunky River.

## Website Under Construction

Our website address is [www.EMFLT.org](http://www.EMFLT.org). This will soon be up and running — please keep checking!