

East Mississippi Foothills Land Trust

Newsletter— Winter 2007/2008

Statement from the East Mississippi Foothills Land Trust

The East Mississippi Foothills Land Trust (EMFLT) is pleased to provide our winter newsletter to our general membership. We have been busy over the past several months and have many updates to pass along to you. We anticipate the Year 2008 to be our best year yet in terms of gaining membership, raising public awareness, securing conservation easements, and addressing water quality in the Chunky-Okatibbee Watershed. - Tommy Vincent, President



Milestones Accomplished

- A successful River Day Event was held on June 5th on the Chunky River.
- The Watershed Implementation Plan was drafted and approved by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and is currently being implemented.
- The website has been completed. Examples of some of the exciting items highlighted on the website include the following: details regarding the Chunky-Okatibbee Watershed Implementation Project, Eco-Tour guides, maps of the watershed, a promotional video, numerous photographs, and educational brochures.
- An educational table-top display was created and is currently on “tour” at various schools and welcome centers throughout the watershed.
- A litter clean-up event was held at various locations on the Sowashee, Okatibbee, and Chunky on October 19th.
- Sampling at thirteen locations at Okatibbee Lake was conducted and water quality analyzed.
- USGS conducted low-flow water quality sampling at eighteen stations across the watershed.
- An Adopt-a-Stream Training Workshop was held on November 9th.
- Stakeholder presentations have been made to the Association of Civil Engineers, Newton Rotary Club, Meridian Rotary Club, Audubon Society, Optimist Club, Keep America Beautiful, Pascagoula River Basin Alliance, Pascagoula River Basin Team Meeting, Meridian Chapter of MS Engineering Society, Garden Club, Literary Club, and Landowners along the Chunky River.



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Conservation Easements

On-going discussions with Plum Creek and various landowners continue. The Land Trust anticipates securing its first conservation easement this year.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2008. This is an important meeting to attend and new board members will be elected. If you are interested in serving as a board member or would like to nominate someone for this position, please e-mail Tommy Vincent at trvincen@southernco.com.

East Mississippi Foothills Land Trust
Post Office Box 790
Meridian, MS 39302

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting: March 28, 2008

Board of Directors Meeting:

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

Watershed Implementation Team Quarterly

Meeting: The next WIT meeting is scheduled for February 22 at 1:30pm at the Mississippi Power Building in Meridian.

Website is Completed

The Land Trust is pleased to announce the completion of our website at www.emflt.org.