



What's New at Storm Water Systems

Now that winter is over and the cold weather is on its way out, all of us at Storm Water Systems are ready to welcome Spring! April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring lots of trash from upstream, which means we have to work even harder to achieve our goal of keeping our waterways clean! So much has already happened in 2011 and our Spring newsletter is sure to bring you up to date. In this issue, you will read about Washington

D.C.'s satisfaction with their initial Bandalong Litter Trap installation and the news that they will be purchasing two additional units! Additionally, you will read about Storm Water Systems president, Gary Hopkins's involvement with the Georgia Rivers Network, our newest Bandalong installation in Little Rock, AK and finally, a very special award we received honoring all of our hard work in the environmental sector. Thanks for reading and as always,



Employees installing Bandalong in Little Rock, AK in late February 2011

we invite you to visit our website at www.stormwatersystems.com

Two More Bandalong Litter Traps in Washington, D.C.

Once again, our nation's capital has proven they are committed to protecting the environment. In April, the District Department of the Environment announced they would be awarding a grant to the Anacostia Riverkeeper and Groundwork Anacostia, DC for the purchase and installation of two more Bandalong Litter Traps. The first Bandalong was installed on Watts Branch Creek, a tributary of the Anacostia River, in early 2009 and collected more than three tons of trash in the first year. Now, two years later, the first city in the nation to install a Bandalong Litter Trap has come back and purchased two more units. The funding for the Bandalong comes from money collected by the District's Bag Bill, which puts a five cent fee on

plastic bags to encourage people to use cloth bags. Groundwork Anacostia, a local non-profit organization, will be responsible for the maintenance of the litter trap. The group will involve inner city youth as they monitor and log the type and amount of litter collected. Groundwork Anacostia is one of many local trusts within the larger national non-profit, Groundwork. Each local trust is dedicated to renewing and restoring distressed neighborhoods through environmental projects and programs that bring local residents, government, youth and businesses together. This further highlights the Bandalong Litter Trap's value as a tool for non-profit organizations. Additionally, as part of the Anacostia Riverkeeper's trash-free agenda, the Bandalong Litter



Sign for New Bandalong Units

Trap has proven to be a successful tool. Anacostia Riverkeeper, Dottie Yunger says, "The first Bandalong Litter Trap has proven to be an incredible success and sound investment for the District. Because of the first Bandalong's success, we are thrilled to further our trash reduction efforts in the Anacostia with the installation of two more units."

Gary Hopkins Joins Georgia River Network's Board of Directors



Gary Hopkins, Storm Water Systems president, was honored when he was approached earlier this year by Georgia River Network to serve in a volunteer position on the Board of Directors for

the advocacy group. Georgia River Network's mission is consistent with the mission of Storm Water Systems and more specifically, Gary's personal goal of keeping our world's waterways clean. Georgia River Network was founded in the late 1990s after a decade of aggressive development, significant population growth, and the weakening of laws protecting the state's rivers. The organization has spent the last decade engaging and empowering the citizens of Georgia to protect

and restore their rivers. As a native of Georgia and an avid lover of the state's rivers, Hopkins has witnessed the decline in water quality over the last several decades. It is his hope that by serving in this volunteer position, he will be able to help Georgia River Network reach out to more individuals and raise awareness about the many issues involving our world's water. He is pleased that the efforts of Storm Water Systems will allow him to serve this non-profit organization.

Bandalong Litter Trap in Little Rock, AK

In late February, Storm Water Systems installed the newest Bandalong Litter Trap in Little Rock, AK as part of the William E. Clark Presidential Park Wetlands project. The project involves the restoration of 13 acres of wetlands along the Arkansas River adjacent to the Clinton Presidential Library in downtown Little Rock. The Bandalong Litter Trap installation is customized for this specific location. "This is not the standard floating litter trap. There is a pavilion where people can come up and see how it works to keep the river and stream clean," Mark Kirves said. The Bandalong Litter Trap will be viewed by the millions of annual national and international visitors to the Clinton



Newest Bandalong Installation

Presidential Park and Library. The Bandalong was chosen by the Little Rock Public Works Department and the Little Rock Parks & Recreation Department because of its high visibility and educational value. Hoping to raise awareness about the growing problem of litter, the Bandalong serves as the perfect tool.

SPOTLIGHT: Dog River Clearwater Revival

After years of witnessing the quality of the water in their watershed decline, Dog River



Clearwater Revival (DRCR), a non-profit organization of local citizens, has taken matters into their own hands. No longer willing to wait on the City of Mobile to be accountable, the advocacy group has launched a campaign to raise money for the purchase of a Bandalong Litter Trap, which will make cleaning the river much easier for volunteers. To date, DRCR has received donations from the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, City of Mobile – Keep Mobile Beautiful, Sybil H. Smith Charitable Trust, JL Bedsole Trust, the Alabama Power Foundation and funds donated directly from members of their own group. The Bandalong Litter Trap, to be installed on Montlimar Creek, will be maintained by the DRCR Keep It Clean Committee who has worked with litter barriers for several years and knows

that effectively trapping litter and debris in the shallows upstream makes it easier for volunteers to collect and remove. According to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), litter has become a major source of pollution to Dog River, which drains more than 90 square miles of land in Mobile County. The main source of litter pollution in Dog River is generated by commercial sites and much to the dismay of DRCR, businesses have not been held accountable. Although DRCR's main mission is to make their Dog River clean and safe for generations to come, their environmental commitment is greater. Dog River discharges into Mobile Bay, which ultimately empties into the Gulf of Mexico "Since litter and debris in Dog River is ultimately emptied into the Gulf of Mexico, stopping the trash before it reaches the Mobile Bay is key," Claire Wilson, DRCR Keep It Clean Committee Chair says. "Litter in our oceans has detrimental effects on marine life. After all of the trauma the Gulf of Mexico has experienced in the last few years, we should be making every effort possible to prevent any further damage." For more information, visit www.dogriver.org/trap-the-trash.html

AWARDS



Co-founders Mark Kirves and Gary Hopkins with the staff of HEMC

Habersham EMC, a member of Green Power EMC, announced in early April that Storm Water Systems was selected to receive the inaugural Environmental Excellence Award.

"As Green Power EMC celebrates its 10th Anniversary, we wanted to recognize companies in our service area that have proven themselves to be environmental leaders," explains David Foster, Manager, Habersham EMC Marketing & Contact Centre. "This award was created to honor an outstanding Habersham EMC member and environmental leader that exemplifies inspiration, vision, innovation, leadership and concern for the environment. Storm Water Systems does just that."

Gary and Mark were thrilled to receive this award and be honored for their hard work in removing litter and debris from our world's natural waterways. HEMC recognized Storm Water Systems as not only being a part of the solution with their products, but also in their daily actions. In fact, the Storm Water Systems office also recycles 98% of their office's generated waste. "Paper, plastic, cardboard, aluminum cans...We recycle it all. Two or three times a year, an instructor from the local high school comes over and we donate scrap plastic from our products so he can teach the students how to weld plastic," Kirves shares.

"Most adults are already set in their ways, so if we're going to change behavior then we have to begin with students. They are the ones who will make these products in the future and the ones who will protect our environment," states Hopkins.

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