



## HARPETH RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Contact: Dorie Bolze  
Telephone: 790-9767 ext. 101  
Cell Phone: 479-0181

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Email: [doriebolze@harpethriver.org](mailto:doriebolze@harpethriver.org)

Photos available upon request. Please note photo credits and captions for each.

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### HARPETH RIVER SWING RAISES NEARLY \$100,000

At recent "No Waste" celebration of 10 years of success protecting the Harpeth River.

Over 300 people celebrated ten years of success in protecting the Harpeth river and clean water in Tennessee along the banks of the Harpeth in northern Williamson County, at host **Hank and Mary Brockman's** (Williamson County Commissioner) Ponotoc Farm. Guests celebrated as presenting sponsor, Nissan North America, Inc. (NNA), presented HRWA board and staff with its \$50,000 grant renewal. The Harpeth River Swing raised another nearly \$50,000 in corporate sponsorships, ticket sales, and live auction proceeds.

"Nissan is proud to partner with HRWA," said Scott Becker, senior vice president, Administration and Finance, Nissan North America. "HRWA has made tremendous strides in preserving and restoring the ecological health of the Harpeth River and its watershed."

Event co-chairs, **Nancy Hiatt** and **Becky Barkley**, décor chair, **Angela Calhoun**, and event sponsors **Waste Management** and **Whole Foods of Cool Springs** created a completely "NO WASTE" celebration. Guests celebrated among cleverly displayed river debris pulled from the river in recent clean-up efforts and hundreds of newspaper flowers made by **Angela Calhoun** and displayed in reused glasses and bottles. "The whole purpose of the décor was to both remind everyone of the urgent need to help our communities and waterways recover from the May flood and to reuse and re-purpose things into décor so that the entire event was waste free," explained Angela.

**Whole Foods of Cool Springs** underwrote a sumptuous, organic dinner. Along with **Waste Management**, both sponsors recycled or composted all event waste and that meant the plates, cutlery, napkins and whatever décor people didn't want to take home with them!

**Lipman Brothers and the R.S. Lipman Co** impressed guests with their special cocktail, Corsair Pumpkin Spice Punch, and underwrote the great selection of beer, wine, and spirits. "At the Lipman companies, we believe we have a responsibility to make our community stronger, healthier and more vibrant," says **Robert Lipman**, a Harpeth River neighbor and longtime sponsor of the Harpeth River Watershed Association. "By supporting the Harpeth River Swing, Lipman is helping preserve and protect one of Tennessee's treasured natural resources."

Guests also were treated to a cigar tent courtesy of **CAO Cigars**. The **Entice Band** brought down the tent with fantastic soul and funk dance music that had people raving it was the best party in years.

The funds from Nissan and the Harpeth River Swing will enable HRWA to continue much needed [flood recovery](#) efforts along the Harpeth that HRWA started with a 6-month National Emergency Grant administered in part by Work Force Essentials and support from the Community Foundation of Middle TN's Tennessee Emergency Response Fund. Funds will also support work to improve recreational access to the river through the [Harpeth River Blueway Project](#) and to support [HRWA's Water Quality Program](#) to increase the river levels of dissolved oxygen to meet state standards to support wildlife and protect human health.

[List of Corporate Sponsors:](#)

- Presenting Sponsor: **Nissan North America**
- River Defender: **Waste Management, Whole Foods of Cool Springs (in-kind), Lipman Brothers and the R.S. Lipman Co. (in-kind)**
- Entertainment Sponsor: **Sound Kitchen and The Blonder Group**
- Table Sponsors: **Neal and Harwell, Conseco Group, Gresham Smith and Partners, CDM, Ingram Barge, TomKats, First Tennessee Bank**
- In-kind: **Boyle Investment, Haynes Realty, Walton's Antique and Estate Jewelry, CAO Cigars, REI, VIP Williamson County Magazine, LP Building Products, Lightning 100, NFocus, Southern Exposure**

Go to the [Harpeth River Swing](#) on the web for details, photo album, and all corporate sponsors

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Ten years old, the Harpeth River Watershed Association (HRWA) is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt, science based conservation organization whose mission is to protect the state scenic Harpeth river and clean water in Tennessee. The Harpeth river flows through six counties in the Nashville region and is one of the unique freshwater river systems in the Southeast which contains a greater variety of aquatic life than anywhere else in the world. For more information about upcoming events and updates on the Harpeth River, please visit our website at [www.harpethriver.org](http://www.harpethriver.org).

See Next page for highlights from the last 10 years of success for HRWA.

The first TEN Years of HRWA: HIGHLIGHT OF SUCCESSES for the Harpeth River and Clean Water in Tennessee. Go to [www.harpethriver.org](http://www.harpethriver.org) for more details.

- HRWA was recently awarded \$350,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the restoration of the Harpeth River in Franklin. This is a major collaboration project with the city of Franklin and many state and federal agencies that will eliminate the only obstruction to fish movement on the entire river as the city's drinking water withdrawal is modernized and a small 6 foot high lowhead dam is removed. Once complete, the Harpeth River will be one of the few rivers in the southeastern U.S. without any blockages to fish movement.
- As of the fall of 2007, Franklin's Drinking Water Plant now has a state permit that set requirements to prevent pulling out too much water from the Harpeth in the summer. This was a major focus of HRWA efforts and we brought in many experts to help establish the river flow needs.
- Clean-up of contaminated groundwater seeping into the Harpeth River and Liberty Creek in downtown Franklin has recently begun over 3 years after the state identified the source. HRWA helped neighbors next to the company (Egyptian Lacquer) successfully get the clean-up underway as part of a confidential settlement agreement negotiated by Neal and Harwell and co-counsel, Elizabeth Murphy.
- In the summer, much of the Harpeth River, starting in Eagleville, has problems with low oxygen levels in the water that threaten fish life. HRWA conducted several water quality studies and funded analyses that show that the discharge of treated effluent from the sewer plants in Franklin and Williamson County are the primary reason the river does not meet water quality standards in the summer for nearly 60 river miles downstream to Cheatham County. HRWA prepared in-depth analysis for the state that calls for the sewer permits to be set to reduce pollutant input by 1/3. HRWA is part of an effort by the city of Franklin, which has the largest sewer plant on the entire river, to develop a longterm sewer and drinking water plan.
- HRWA prevented the removal of the state Scenic river designation of the Harpeth in Davidson County and the use of the large McCrory Lane quarry right next to the river as a construction debris landfill against that state Scenic Rivers Act.
- Nearly \$1 million in state and federal tax dollars has been brought to the Harpeth by HRWA for stream restoration projects on farms, schools, parks, and developments. HRWA formed the River Restoration Corp program through which nearly 1000 people have volunteered on stream restoration projects, rain garden projects, stream clean-ups, and river studies.
- HRWA formed the collaboration with Harpeth River State Park, TN Scenic Rivers Association, and others to form the **Harpeth River Blueway**. This is a series of public access points no more than 3 to 4 paddling hours apart along the length of the entire river. The first waterproof map of the Lower Harpeth access points was produced in the fall of 2009.

- HRWA staff have helped write and adopt important local rules on new development in Williamson County, Franklin, and Nashville to reduce polluted runoff into streams and set design standards.
- HRWA has conducted river studies, many with volunteers, that allow the tracking of the river's health. HRWA has produced plans to restore and protect clean water and healthy streams and protect land that guide cost effective approaches for developed areas and farmland.
- HRWA worked in a statewide coalition to prevent recent efforts by road builders and others to remove federal Clean Water Act requirements to protect small streams which would have meant the loss of federal funds.
- HRWA has conducted water quality education workshops with numerous classrooms, scouts, and youth groups that have reached over 1000 children.

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