



"Protecting the health, purity, and economic viability of the Kings River Watershed, now and for future generations."

Stream Line

January 2020

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Long-time Carroll County Resident Shares Some Kings River History Contributed by Terry Clark

I have many fond boyhood memories of all the time spent in my youth on the Kings River, especially Mason Bend, also near the "Hull Hole." My family knew Ruth and Harley Mason quite well. When Kings River got too low to float we would go past Ruth and Harley's house to the hole at the southern end of Mason Bend. Good fishing there as a large rock in the river usually sheltered large catfish as well as bass. One year I caught a 13 lb flat head catfish there.

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Young Terry Clark admiring his catch on the Kings River
Photo Courtesy of Terry Clark

Upcoming Events

March 24th – 6:00 PM

Kings River Watershed Partnership Annual Meeting

Carroll Electric Meeting Room
920 Hwy 62 Spur, Berryville, AR

April 18th – 8:00 AM

Madison County River Cleanup

May 30th – 8:00 AM

Carroll County River Cleanup and Cookout

Annual Elections

The KRWP will be holding elections for the board of directors at the annual membership meeting. There is always a need for energetic and diverse individuals to contribute to the efforts of the watershed partnership. If you or anyone you know would be interested in serving, please send a nomination in writing to our address:

KRWP
PO Box 961
Berryville, AR 72616

Nominees must be members in good standing for at least one year to be eligible.

Terry Clark's King River History Cont.



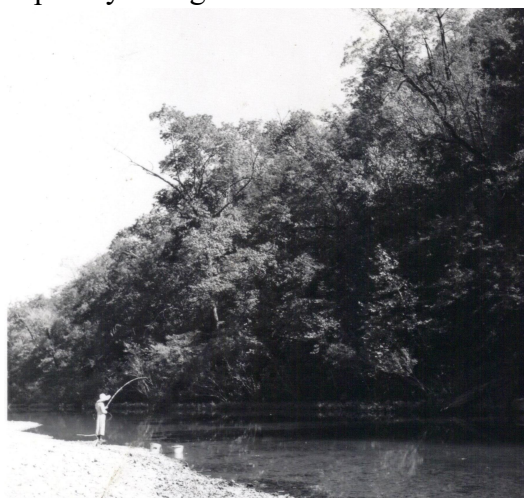
Grandmother "Nettie" Clark
Photo Courtesy of Terry Clark

Grandmother "Nettie" Clark was the first of several fisherman in the family, and would set out several poles, including a minnow pole to catch minnows for bait, and fish from the bank while my dad would wade-and-fish down the river, walk across the "neck" of Mason Bend, then fish downstream back to the starting point. We would do this several times each summer in the late '40s to late '50s. One time we camped for a week there. An added benefit was the really good water melons that Harley grew, comparable to those from Long Creek, which had the reputation of being the best in the area at that time. Several times we hunted ground hogs that liked to munch on Harley's young melon vines.

My dad was one of the first to float Kings and other local rivers in a canoe rather than a "john boat." He started in the '30s, and a favorite trip, when the water level permitted, was to put in at Rockhouse and take out at Keels Creek. I remember three-day float trips in the '40s down Kings or Long Creek, then White River, all the way to Lake Taneycomo and Hollister where my maternal grandparents lived.

The "Hull Hole," at one time was one of the deepest, best fishing holes on Kings River. But it completely filled in by the late '40s and no trace of it existed the last time I checked. At one time one could reach the Hull Hole by driving past George Baines' house (first cousin of LBJ), located close to what is now Hwy. 221 just before it turns south, then continue west on a jeep trail past the "Cabin Hole" (the cabin long gone) until reaching an old crossing (ford) that was at the foot of the Hull Hole.

My dad said large floods on Kings in the early '40s completely changed the river in several places. Before there were many more deep holes and pockets. After the '40s, much more gravel, larger and shallower shoals, and new channels. One area completely eroded was at the upper end of Mason Bend near where the Sutherlands lived. A field of maybe 10 acres, 10+ feet above the previous channel completely gone along with many cubic yards of gravel underneath. A similar situation existed at Piney Creek -- I waded and fished Piney for small mouth bass ca. 1950 and the creek bed then had mostly solid rock bottoms in the holes. Now almost all gravel upstream of Brushy Creek, maybe downstream as well, and the once-deep holes are filled in. Piney Creek dumps a lot of gravel into Kings River these days.



Young Terry Clark fishing on the banks of the Kings River
Photo Courtesy of Terry Clark

[Note- The Nature Conservancy finished an extensive erosion mitigation project at Mason Bend aimed at moving the river channel back into its natural bed to reduce sedimentation caused by cut banks washing into the river. TNC is now working on a similarly ambitious project to correct erosion that causes many dump-truck-loads worth of gravel from Rockhouse Creek to move into the Kings River each year.]

Clear Spring School River Studies

The Kings River Watershed Partnership and The Nature Conservancy contributed a grant to Clear Spring School to fund a “River Studies” block. This was a four week course, taught by Juanita Crider, and was designed to help students learn about our waterways and what we can do as stewards to bring solutions to an ever changing world and environment. The basics of Ecology, Biology, Chemistry and Geography were introduced through lectures, field research, and hands-on learning. The students were each given a “Landowners Guide to Streamside Living,” that was used as a reference during the block.

River Studies focused specifically on the “health” of our local streams and rivers. We assessed the physical, chemical, and biological parameters of Mill Branch Creek and multiple locations on the Kings River. The physical component taught students how to subjectively evaluate each habitat and riparian zone. The biological assessment taught students how to collect macro-invertebrates and identify if the species were tolerant, sensitive, or somewhat sensitive to pollution. The results gave students a general indication to how clean or unclean the water was. Lastly, we collected water samples from each location and tested it chemically with our Lamont Water Testing Kit. Once all three assessments were complete, the students had a holistic view of the water quality at each specific location. They were able to express their scientific insight and findings to each other.

The Kings River Watershed Partnership board unanimously voted to help fund this educational opportunity, as part of our mission is education and partnering with others to achieve this goal. The Clear Spring School High School class will be presenting a slideshow, on their experience and findings, at the Kings River Watershed Partnership Annual meeting on April 24, 2020. We invite you to attend and learn about who we are, what we do, and possibly how you can help as well.



Students visiting Berryville's wastewater treatment plant
Photo Courtesy of Juanita Crider



Visiting the Nature Conservancy's streambank
restoration site at Rockhouse
Photo Courtesy of Samantha Becker



River Time!
Photo Courtesy of Juanita Crider

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!

Membership is open to any individual, business, or organization that supports the mission of the Kings River Watershed Partnership. Dues are \$20 per year. You may renew in person at our Annual Meeting or print the membership form at the bottom page of this newsletter to apply.



KINGS RIVER
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP



"Protecting the health, purity, and economic viability of the Kings River watershed, now and for future generations."

Membership Form

Membership is open to any individual, business or organization that supports the mission of the Partnership. Membership dues are \$20 per year.

I support the mission of the Kings River Watershed Partnership and want to become a member of KRWP.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Mail to:

Kings River Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 961
Berryville, AR 72616
USA

For more information contact us at:
1-870-480-8897

