

# Lewis County 4-H Creek Stomp

## Frank Yancey



### Background

The Lewis County Home School 4-H Club members were interested in learning about the county's ecosystems. The 4-H'ers decided that they would like to learn while participating in projects that would be beneficial to the environment.

Because of the number of streams in Lewis County and the importance of clean water, the 4-H'ers developed a project that would involve stream monitoring, streamside clean-up, and fun.

### Materials Used

- Minnow seine (for small fish)
- Dip nets (for small fish and aquatic invertebrates)
- Kick screen (for aquatic invertebrates)
- Buckets and collecting jars
- Water test kit that uses tablets
- Ice cube trays for sorting invertebrates
- Dredges or scoops
- Tweezers
- Magnifying glasses
- Field guides
- Pencils and notebooks



"Creek Stompers" Seine for Fish in Big Swan Creek

### What is the Creek Stomp?

The Lewis County, Tennessee 4-H Creek Stomp has involved home schooled youth in watershed education. The home school 4-H club members get hands-on experience in monitoring water quality, identification of fish and aquatic macro-invertebrates, and scientific method, while learning about stream habitat and bio-diversity.

In December 2003, the home school 4-H club was awarded a Tennessee Water Works! Stream Savers grant. The club was selected to be the 2004 Grand Champion Stream Savers and received an additional grant. The grant money was used to complete projects in 2004. The youth were also awarded with a U.S.D.A. Water Quality grant in 2004 to further their educational efforts.

The home school 4-H club members decided to partner with the county's natural history museum to create a watershed education program and have used their grant money to purchase educational materials and build exhibits.

In 2004, the 4-H Creek Stomp was filmed by The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and was shown state-wide during special interest segments on news programs. The Creek Stomp was filmed again in 2005 for Tennessee's Wild Side television show.

The Lewis County Creek Stomp Program has involved forty-five youth ages 5 through 17 in water quality study. The youth have increased skills in data collection, field identification, problem solving, and reporting results. Through their efforts, four access areas on local streams have been cleaned. The Creek Stomp has proven to be an exciting way to get the youth involved in watershed issues.



2003 Stream Savers Award



### Let's Go Creek Stomping!



4-H'ers Learn About Aquatic Habitat



Exploring the Little Buffalo



Testing pH

### 4-H'ers Receive Recognition



Grand Champion Stream Savers 2004

### For More Information, Contact:

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