

The Norris Bulletin

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AROUND THE COMMONS

by Jack Mitchell

What a joyous, sad, convoluted world we live in. While the streets and sidewalks of our quiet and peaceful little village were filled with fun-loving, costumed children roaming about in search of candy and goodies, the streets of our nation's largest city were marred by another senseless act of terror, once again leaving death and destruction in its wake.

Our government's leader has spent his brief time in office stirring the fires of hatred and controversy and proven himself to be a source of divisiveness—that threatens to further divide us rather than bringing us together.

And though we pride ourselves on being the richest country on earth, many of us continue to fear opening our arms to the oppressed and less fortunate. And some who wrap themselves in their religion and claim to be the most generous and loving

Contributions of Coal Creek Watershed Foundation Recognized by East Tennessee Preservation Alliance

The dedication and efforts which Barry Thacker and Carol Moore have invested in Briceville and surrounding area of western Anderson County have significantly impacted the lives of numerous children who have benefited from the various programs implemented under the auspices of the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation, the charitable foundation which they helped to organize in 2000 with the mission of improving the quality of life in the Coal Creek watershed.

Last week at the annual conference of the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance, Thacker and Moore, along with several honorees, were awarded the prestigious Preservation Award in recognition of the work that the Watershed Foundation has done

over the past 17 years not only to enhance the cultural and educational opportunities available to the school children of Briceville Elementary School but also to help preserve the heritage of this unique region and expand its recognition as a place with many resources and much to offer.

The announcement of the award stated:

Barry Thacker and Carol Moore know about youth engagement and that understanding the stories of a community's past can impact the people of today. What started as an idea to clean up Coal Creek to im-



L to R: Todd Morgan, Carol Moore, Scott Brooks and Barry Thacker

prove trout fishing, grew into an expansive community initiative that engaged youth in new ways of discovering and preserving their history, including restoring Militia Hill, creating the Coal Creek Miner's Museum and history trails, establishing historic markers and listing sites on the National Register. As founders

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Watershed

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of the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation, Barry and Carol have provided multiple college scholarships to Rocky Top area students and reconnected them to their East Tennessee and Welsh heritage.

The conference was held at the Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, TN. Knox Heritage and the East TN Preservation Alliance hold the conference. Attendees include preservation professionals, architects, planners, tourism professionals, government and community leaders, economic developers, real estate professionals and others who have found that advanced knowledge of historic preservation principles and practices has value.