



The year 2020 was a difficult year. The Coronavirus kept RRC from holding its annual meeting, its 4th graders education program, and its river cleanup event. The only board meeting since February was held outdoors on November 7th at Rio Vista Park. There it was decided to forego the annual meeting and leave the members of the present board in place for an additional year. In spite of the lack of meetings RRC stayed abreast of evolving issues by way of electronic communications and managed to accomplish some significant victories as discussed below.

Jack Dennis

Unfortunately, RRC lost one of its most revered members. Jack Dennis, who had been a RRC member for over 30 years, serving as president and vice-president and a mentor to many of us, passed away October 11th. Jack is survived by his sons Mike and Rook who are also members of RRC. We certainly will miss Jack.



Jack Dennis giving FDEP officials a tour of the Rainbow River (2008)

Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)

We have discussed before that RRC joined with several other springs advocacy groups to object to the inadequacy of BMAPs devised by FDEP to ameliorate nitrate pollution of our waterways. Unfortunately, our November 2019 court hearing on this matter has still not been acted upon by the judge. However, in the meantime, Senate Bill 712 was passed which provided substantial funds to replace poorly functioning septic tanks and wastewater package plants with central sewer treatment. A little RRC advocacy might have helped to garner over \$9 million to replace the Rainbow Springs sewer plant, package plants at Sateke Village, the RS campground, and the high school and elementary school, as well as to provide central sewer to Chatmire and Burkitt Road residences. We shall hope for a continuation of such funding to replace septic tanks in Rio Vista and along the Rainbow River. This does not solve the problem of excessive nitrates emanating from agricultural sources, however. Much more needs to be done in that respect.

Wood Duck Boxes

A crew consisting of Jerry Rogers, Jeff Sowards, Walt Manchester and Curt Reed spent the better part of two days in November refurbishing wood duck boxes on the Rainbow River. This is an annual ritual of cleaning out the boxes, refurbishing them with cedar chips, and repairing or replacing damaged boxes such as those shown in the attached photograph. Jerry reported that there was evidence of 100% productivity in the 50 boxes, certainly a wildlife success story.



Replaced Wood Duck boxes ready for repair or recycling

