

Blooming orchids and sprouting onions

Orchids and onions are sprouting in North Knox County.



Shannon Carey

Keep Knoxville Beautiful hosted the 25th annual Orchids and Onions awards banquet Oct. 11 at The Foundry. The event was studded with local folks. Orchids are presented for excellence in beautification, while onions are given for unsightly buildings or sites.

Environmental achievement awards were also presented.

Our own Beaver Creek Watershed Association received an organizational environmental achievement award for its efforts to reduce silt and erosion. BCWA president Tim Ezzell accepted the award.

Ezzell's acceptance speech sent thanks to BCWA's many sponsors and volunteers.

"But mostly to the people of the watershed," he said.

Ruth Anne Hanahan of UT received an individual environmental achievement award for her leadership efforts in numerous programs in Knox County. These include the CAC AmeriCorps Water Quality Team, the Knoxville/Knox

County Adopt-A-Watershed Program and the BCWA.

Hanahan thanked TVA and others who sponsor these programs.

"The list goes on and on," she said.

Powell Realtors Larry and Laura Bailey received an honorable mention in the existing structures Orchid category for their reuse of the Across the Creek building. Stout's California Salon in Fountain City also received an honorable mention in the category.

Other area nominees for existing structures include Crown College, Powell Place and Fountain City Art Center.

Fountain City Branch Library won the Orchid for new construction. Nominees for the category included Emory Family Practice, Powell Professional Park and Tennessee State Bank of Powell.

Powell Animal Hospital and Weigel's locations on Central Avenue Pike and Dry Gap Pike were nominated for landscaping Orchids.

Simply Unique Florist, 4907 Jacksboro Pike and the Fountain City Creamery building were nominated for historic preservation awards.

Parkview Independent Living of Fountain City was nominated for a multi-dwelling unit Orchid.

County commissioner Mary Lou Horner, in her Auntie Litter persona, presented Onion awards. Embarrassingly, two of

the eyesore nominees are local.

Harmon's Garage in Fountain City was nominated for an Onion. The building is right across from Fountain City Park.

Pride Market next door to Blockbuster in Halls was also nominated for an Onion. This empty gas station is up for sale, and tall weeds dot the landscaping. The building even has a "Halls Has It" light pole banner in front of it.

If there's one thing that Halls has had enough of, it's derelict buildings.

Horner presented onions to people in the audience who should be able to do something about the winning sites.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful is governed by a volunteer board of directors, including Horner, Page Pratt, Scott Frith and Edythe McNabb.

Trashy photos can earn cash

Scenic Tennessee will take submissions for its annual photo contest though Nov. 3. This year's contest theme is "Message in a Bottle."

Contestants are asked to send photos of litter, particularly beverage containers. These containers make up about half of all roadside garbage in Tennessee.

Students in grades 5-12 and amateur and professional adults are eligible. Winning photographers will receive \$100. Info: www.tnbottlebill.org.

Contact Shannon Carey at shannon@hallsnews.com.



County commissioner Mary Lou Horner (at right) hands out Onions as Auntie Litter at the 2005 Orchids and Onions awards banquet. Above are two North area Onion nominees: Pride Market on Maynardville Pike in Halls (top) and Harmon's Garage across from Fountain City Park (bottom).



(Photos by Shannon Carey)