

This month, check out our upcoming events, learn more about our programs, and meet a couple of our board members!

BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



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About the Alliance

The Beaver Watershed Alliance was formed in 2010 to establish programming to maintain high quality drinking water in Beaver Lake and improve water quality on the Beaver Lake Watershed. The Alliance represents a diverse stakeholder group from conservation, education, water utilities, technical and science, agriculture, recreation, business, and local government groups working together for the cause of clean water.

Please take a minute to update your contact information for us

November 2012

Watershed Protection Strategy Accepted by EPA

The EPA officially accepted the Beaver Watershed Alliance's Watershed Protection Strategy last month, making the plan the first to be accepted in the state of Arkansas. The written plan was commissioned by the Northwest Arkansas Council and adopted by the Alliance in 2012. The protection strategy is intended to guide the conservation and stewardship programs surrounding the Beaver Lake Watershed through the identification of a strategic plan to maintain the quality of the watershed. The first priority of the Protection Strategy is establishing a council to preside over the implementation of the plan, which is how the Beaver Watershed Alliance originated. The Alliance was designated to carry out the key elements of the plan, which include implementing best management practices, developing a lake protection certification program for developers and contractors, providing educational opportunities surrounding the watershed, and devising an adaptive management program. The strategy can be downloaded from our website www.beaverwatershedalliance.org.

Watershed Awards Given to

by clicking on "update subscription preferences" at the bottom of this page. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

November 4-8

Stream Smart Citizen Monitoring - Various locations

Contact Jordan Johnson at jjohnson@audubon.org for more information

November 9

Fall Friendraiser - Hobbs State Park - Conservation Area Visitor's Center, Rogers

RSVP to info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

November 17

Lake Atalanta Bird Habitat Improvement - Lake Atalanta Rogers

November 27

NWA IECA Lunch 'n Learn - Golden Corral, Rogers

Check out our [online calendar](#) for more information on upcoming events!

Please share this newsletter with your friends and neighbors so that they can have the opportunity to become active members in the Beaver Watershed community.

Two Northwest Arkansas Men by ADEQ



Deputy Director Ryan Benefield with John Pennington and James Gately, respectively

Last month at the Arkansas Watershed Conference, sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, two Northwest Arkansas conservationists won awards for their work towards protecting water quality in the region. John Pennington received the Ginger Tatom Professional of the Year award, and James Gately received the Clean Water-Stronger Communities of the Year award. Pennington, a Washington County extension agent for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, has been actively involved in several conservation projects around the Washington County watersheds including stream cleanups and efforts to prevent property destruction due to bank erosion. Gately, a retired teacher and president of ABLE (Association for Beaver Lake Environment), serves as a volunteer at Hobbs State Park, and has been involved in numerous efforts to increase education surrounding the water quality of Beaver Lake and the watershed. Congratulations to these two men, and thanks to everyone that has been involved in watershed projects and education this year!

Fall Friendraiser



Come out to the Beaver Watershed Alliance's Fall Friendraiser event. Join us for beverages and hors d'oeuvres at the Hobbs State Park - Conservation Area Visitor's Center. There is no cost to attend.

Friday, November 9th
5:30-7:30 pm
20201 East Highway 12, Rogers

[Click here](#) for directions

RSVP required to info@beaverwatershedalliance.org



Photo by Dr. M.C. Barnhart

Scaleshell Mussel

Leptodea leptodon

One of the few endangered species in the Beaver Lake Watershed is the scaleshell mussel, which was added to the list of endangered species in 2001. The scaleshell has disappeared from its wide habitat range across the eastern United States over the past 50 years, with populations remaining solely in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. These mussels typically reside in medium to large-sized rivers that exhibit good water quality, and they contribute to the maintenance of water quality by filtering out particles in the water through a siphon. They

are typically small in size and have a fragile shell that appears scaly on females, hence the name "scaleshell". The mussels are sensitive to pollutants and sediment in the water, which they cannot escape due to their sedentary nature. The introduction of the zebra mussel into the United States is also a major threat to the scaleshell due to competition for food as well as suffocation because the zebra mussels may attach themselves to the scaleshells. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has devised a plan to recover populations of the scaleshell by partnering with watershed groups to prevent sedimentation, restore degraded habitats, and stop the entrance of toxins into streams. Thankfully, the extinction of this species is preventable and can be accomplished through the efforts of citizens to reduce the use of chemicals on their property, and learn about best practices prior to developing land near a water source. The Beaver Watershed Alliance is actively involved in programs related to water quality education, habitat restoration, and scientific research on sedimentation in the watershed. Your involvement with the Alliance and our partners will ensure that important species, such as the scaleshell, will be able to thrive in our watershed.

Meet the Board



Barbara Taylor

Dr. Taylor grew up in the Berkshires in northwestern Massachusetts where her lifelong interest in water issues began. She has conducted educational programs for the League of Women Voters and the Winthrop Rockefeller

Foundation concerning water issues in Arkansas and has served on the Fayetteville Citizens Advisory Committee on Wastewater Treatment, which was involved in the implementation of the split-flow treatment system. She received her BA from the University of New

Hampshire and her MA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin. Her most recent position was Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources with the University of Arkansas, from which she retired in 2010. She currently serves as the Treasurer on the Alliance's Board of Directors.



Will Winn

Mr. Winn holds a degree in Agronomy and Environmental Science from the University of Arkansas. He currently resides in Springdale with his family, and works in the Public Works Department with the City of Fayetteville. Will was recently appointed as a

member of the Wastewater Licensing Committee with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and was the 2012 Program Committee Chairman of the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association. He is an avid outdoorsman and sportsman, and enjoys spending quality time with his family.

Watershed Moment



Sailboat on Beaver Lake. Photo courtesy of Beaver Water District