

This month, learn more about upcoming programs and events including the Northwest Arkansas Rain Garden Project, and meet a couple of our board members.

BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



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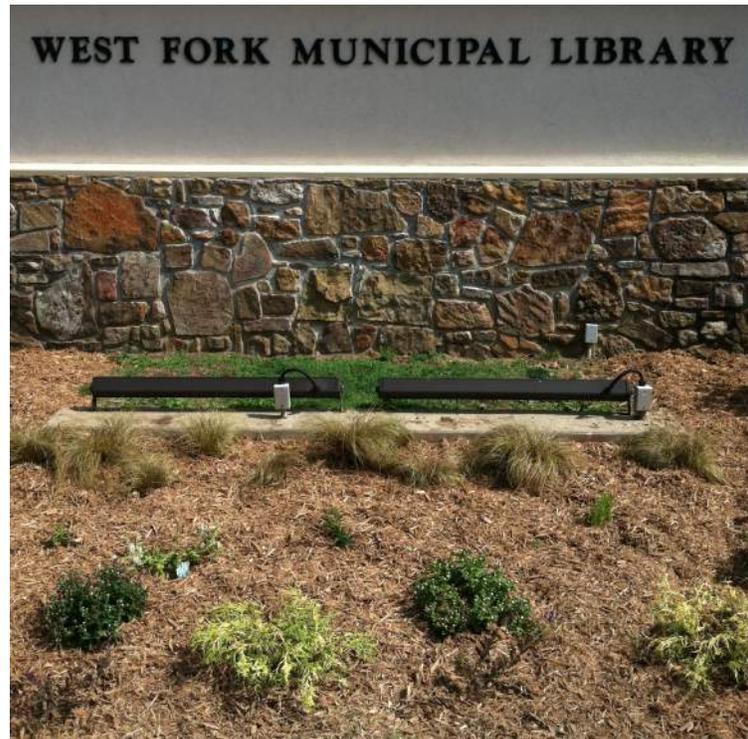
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February 2013



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.



West Fork Municipal Library rain garden installation

The Northwest Arkansas Rain Garden Project is seeking applicants for 2013!

'Tis the season - the rain garden season, that is. Spring is on its way, and the Alliance is preparing for the rain garden installation season, in partnership with Beaver Water District and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership. Last year was the first of

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Upcoming Events

February 8

Multi-Basin Water Council Meeting - Center for Nonprofits, Rogers

February 22

Blue Pathways: LID Installation and Maintenance Workshop and Tour - Washington County Cooperative Extension Office, Fayetteville

February 23

Pack Rat Scull Creek Cleanup - Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Fayetteville

February 28-March 2

Dig In! Food and Farming Festival 2013 - University of Arkansas Global Campus, Fayetteville

March 26

NWA IECA Lunch 'n Learn - Golden Corral, Rogers

April 4-5

Sustainable AR State Conference - The Chancellor Hotel, Fayetteville

April 12

Rain Garden Academy - Beaver Water District, Lowell

April 20

three for rain garden installations through the Northwest Arkansas Rain Garden Project, which is funded by a grant from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project will install 60 rain gardens total, 30 in each of the dominant watersheds in Northwest Arkansas - the Beaver Lake watershed and the Illinois River watershed.

Rain gardens are a great way to mitigate stormwater runoff, which is one of the primary sources of water pollution in urban areas. As rain hits impermeable surfaces, it runs off into storm drains, or even directly into creeks and rivers. The rainwater carries pollutants, such as chemicals and nutrients, into waterways eventually making their way into our drinking water source. Rain gardens constructed near roofs, driveways, and drains collect this stormwater runoff. The water percolates through the soil and re-enters the water supply through groundwater recharge, thereby protecting streams from pollutants through water filtration.

Besides filtration, there are a number of benefits that rain gardens provide. They add to groundwater through recharge, reduce area flooding by collecting rain, moderate streamflow, and provide a habitat for important wildlife such as pollinators.

The process of constructing a rain garden is fairly straightforward. First, a site is selected that is downslope from impermeable surfaces, but not too close to any buildings. Next comes the plant selection - native plants are optimal for placement in a rain garden because they are adapted to the local climate conditions, and more resilient than non-native species, requiring little to no fertilizer or pesticides. Several inches of mulch are applied to the garden after planting to prevent erosion, suppress weeds, and retain soil moisture. Little long-term maintenance is required for these gardens besides occasional weeding and watering when needed.

Earth Day Celebration -
Fayetteville

April 20

Benton County Spring
Cleanup - Decatur, Garfield,
and Bentonville

April 22

Earth Day

April 27-28

Celebrate the Springs! -
Eureka Springs

April 28-May 1

AWW&WEA Annual
Conference - Hot Springs

April 30

Earth Day at the Botanical
Gardens of the Ozarks -
Fayetteville

May 14-15

AWRC Annual Watershed and
Research Conference -
Fayetteville

June 1

War Eagle Appreciation Day -
Withrow Springs State Park

June 1-16

Water Watch Week - events to
be held all over the Northwest
Arkansas region

August 17

Secchi Day on Beaver Lake -
Prairie Creek, Rogers

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

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR K-12 SCHOOLS:**

The Louisiana Environmental

At least 10 rain gardens will be installed in public or nonprofit spaces in the Beaver Lake watershed this year throughout the installation season of late March through mid-November. We already have plans to construct gardens at Withrow Springs State Park and West Fork Middle School. However, we're still seeking applicants and public parks, schools, and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply! Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and are available on the IRWP website at by clicking [here](#). Questions can be directed to Courtney Thomas by email at courtney@beaverwatershedalliance.org



**Call for Entries: Great American
Cleanup in Arkansas Youth Poster
Contest**

The Great American Cleanup in Arkansas, part of the nationwide Keep America Beautiful, is holding a Youth Poster Contest in conjunction with the annual spring cleanup this year. The cleanup focuses on local beautification projects and events that take place between March and May. The contest aims to engage elementary school students and educate the public through the art and message of the posters. One poster is allowed per school classroom, and they are due no later than Friday, March 1. Gift certificates will be given as a prize to the top 3

Education Commission is offering a grant award for up to \$5,000 for accredited K-12 schools in EPA Region 6 to encourage sustainability initiatives through student involvement. Click [here](#) for more information and to access the application.

Call for Artists for NWA UpStream Art Project

Design submissions are now being accepted for the 2013 UpStream Art project. Entries will be accepted until March 19, and the murals will be installed throughout the month of April. Don't miss out on this opportunity to create public art for display on city streets! For guidelines and more information, download the application [HERE](#) or visit nwaupstreamart.wetpaint.com.

Keynote address by Brad Lancaster, rainwater harvesting expert, at the 2013 Dig In! Food and Farming Festival

Brad Lancaster is the best-selling author of the award-winning books Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Volumes 1 and 2, as well as the creator of an information-packed [website](#). He will be the keynote speaker at this year's Dig In! Food and Farming Festival in Fayetteville. The festival is a celebration of local food, farms and gardens with films, classes, an information fair, seed-swap, tastings and more. Find out more about Dig In! by

posters in each of the 2 divisions: Grades K-2 and Grades 3-5. The winning posters will also be displayed in the Thea Foundation's art gallery in Little Rock in May. For more information, contact Elizabeth Philpott by phone at 501-682-3507 or by email at elizabeth.philpott@arkansas.gov.

Meet the Board



Jay T. Schneider

Mr. Jay Schneider is the Assistant Superintendent at Hobbs State Park – Conservation Area, directing the education, maintenance and resource management of the park. Jay has been with Hobbs since 2009, making it the

sixth Arkansas State Park where Schneider has worked. He is also an avid bird watcher and the lead Kayak Instructor for Arkansas State Parks. He previously worked for Fontenelle Nature Association in Bellevue, Nebraska and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Jay has a B.S. in Park Resource Management from Kansas State University and a M.S. in Resource Interpretation from Stephen F. Austin State University. He received the National Award for Master Front-Line Interpreter in 2009 from the National Association for Interpretation. Jay and his wife, Brandi, have been married for almost 15 years, and they have a nine-year-old son named Thomas.

clicking [here](#).

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.



Robert Morgan

Dr. Robert Morgan is currently the manager of environmental quality at Beaver Water District, the major provider of potable water in Northwest Arkansas. In this position he is responsible for implementing the District's source water

protection program and managing the water quality laboratory. Robert received his PhD in Engineering from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in 2007. His research is in the field of watershed management. Dr. Morgan currently serves the American Water Works Association as a member of the Source Water Protection Committee and as the Water Resources Sustainability Division's Liaison to the Standards Council. In addition, Dr. Morgan serves on the Board of Directors of the North American Lake Management Society.

Watershed Moment



Beaver Lake from Lost Bridge Village

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