

Happy New Year from the Alliance! Learn more about upcoming programs and events, and meet a couple of our board members in this month's newsletter.

BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



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January 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.



White River watershed. Source: Pfly, 2007

The White River named a National Blueway

Last Wednesday marked a significant announcement for conservation efforts in Arkansas and Missouri with the naming of the White River as a National Blueway, only the second in the nation to receive this recognition. Deputy Secretary of the Interior, David Hayes, made the announcement in Little Rock in the

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Upcoming Events

January 19

Arkansas Canoe Club
Northwest Chapter White
River Eagle Float - Garfield

January 22

NWA IECA Lunch 'n Learn -
Golden Corral, Rogers

January 23

Benton Co. Green Team Tour
- Waste Management
Sustainability Center, Rogers

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

April 12

Rain Garden Academy -
Beaver Water District, Lowell

April 22

presence of representatives from several government agencies and stakeholder groups.

The National Blueway system was established in May of 2012 to acknowledge the power of diverse stakeholder partnerships in addressing threats to rivers that carry national significance. National Blueways are recognized from “headwaters to mouth”, encompassing the entire length of the river, as well as its watershed, with the diverse interests and activities surrounding the river considered as part of the conservation effort. The White River is the first river system to undergo the entire process - from nomination to recognition - since the initiative was announced.

The White River and the watershed were chosen because of the river’s role in regional economics, recreation, and culture. The nomination was submitted by a number of local and regional groups including The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Audubon, Arkansas Canoe Club, Ozarks Water Watch, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Association.

“The White River Blueway designation is an opportunity to build on the past accomplishments by so many organizations and agencies, expand our vision, bring in new partners, and achieve a new level of conservation, recreation, and economic growth” said Scott Simon, director of the Nature Conservancy in Arkansas.

The designation does not imply a new protective status, or any regulations, but it does give priority to the White River and its watershed for financial assistance to groups working together to achieve goals in conservation, environmental education, and sustainable economic development. Along with the recognition, new projects aimed at enhancing the river’s natural resources and creating economic opportunities were announced by the USDA, the US

Earth Day

April 27-28

Celebrate the Springs! -
Eureka Springs

April 30

Earth Day at the Botanical
Gardens of the Ozarks -
Fayetteville

May 14-15

AWRC Annual Watershed
and Research Conference -
Fayetteville

June 1-16

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

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

Hobbs State Park-
Conservation Area offers
Eagle Cruises on Beaver
Lake throughout the winter.
[Click here](#) for the schedule of
cruises and more information.

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.

Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Army Corps of
Engineers.

“This designation has the potential to be a fantastic
opportunity to work on projects to benefit the whole
White River system” said David Casaletto, Executive
Director of Ozarks Water Watch.

Thus far, the planned conservation efforts as a result
of this recognition have been aimed at the lower
basins of the watershed. However, there are
discussions surrounding the implications of this
announcement for the upper basins, which include the
headwaters of the river, and the Beaver Watershed.
Keith Weaver, Project Leader for the US Fish and
Wildlife Service Southeast Region, and Jason Milks
with The Nature Conservancy will give a presentation
about the significance of this designation at the next
Multi-Basin Regional Water Council meeting on
February 8th at 10 am at the Center for Nonprofits in
Rogers. The public is welcome to attend this meeting;
registration is free, and lunch will be provided to those
that pre-register. Contact Angela Danovi at (479)295-
7717 or angela@ozarkswaterwatch.org to attend.



Source: NASA

Bald Eagle

January is “Eagle Awareness Month” in Arkansas,
and it just so happens that Beaver Lake is known for
being one of the best places to watch for bald eagles

in Arkansas. The magnificent birds migrate south along the Mississippi River in search of food as lakes in the northern Midwestern states begin to freeze. The Natural State, with its large, open waters that don't freeze during the winter, provides an abundance of food and an ideal winter home for the eagles from late October through early March. January and February, typically the coldest months of the year, are the best times to eagle watch. The birds of prey soar with a wingspan of 6-8 feet, and can dive up to 100 mph to prey on fish or waterfowl. They usually live around 20 years in the wild, and are known to mate for life. The iconic bird became the national bird of the United States in 1782. The species was declared endangered in 1967, but was been off of the list since 1995. Fortunately, populations have been growing over the past couple of decades, and hundreds of birds are counted around Beaver Lake and in the watershed each year.

Meet the Board



Trish Ouei

Mrs. Trish Ouei is an urban stormwater educator at the Benton County Cooperative Extension Service under the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. She has a B.S. in Health Education and a Masters in Educational Technologies.

Trish has served on many boards throughout her career, including the Society for Public Health Education and the Arkansas Environmental Education Association. Her career allows her to not only look at water quality from a runoff management side, but also from the public health eye and as part of solid waste management. She co-authored the LakeSmart Training Manual and Evaluation Materials, which

received the state, regional, and national award for best training manual by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Trish has been married for over 9 years. She and her husband Brionne (Brian) are expecting their first child this March.



Bob Caulk

Dr. Bob Caulk retired from the petroleum industry and moved to Fayetteville in 2000. He holds degrees in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie-Mellon) and Stanford. Bob has been Chairman of the board of Fayetteville Natural Heritage

Association for 5 years, was part of the team that worked to preserve the Brooks-Hummel Nature Reserve, has been heavily involved in conservation and green infrastructure projects, and is on the FNHA's Lake Fayetteville prairie restoration crew. He also participates in the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission Alternate Transportation Planning Committee. Bob is one of the founding members of the Alliance, and currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors.

Watershed Moment



Beaver Lake at sunset. Public Domain.