This month, read about the upcoming Northwest Arkansas Youth Paddling Days, learn about the Watershed Guardian Award recipients, and meet our new Executive Director!

June 2013

The Alliance recognizes Best Management Practices with "Guardian Award"

Alliance Board Treasurer, Barbara Taylor, presents the Watershed Guardian Award to Larry Karigan-Winter, Director of the Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center

The Alliance has presented the first two Watershed Guardian Awards in a series of awards aimed at recognizing best management practices from a variety of stakeholder groups in the Beaver Lake Watershed.

The late Henry D. Griffith was recognized on May 25th at
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**Upcoming Events**

**June 1 - 16**
Water Watch Week - various events

**June 8**
West Fork Rain Garden Tour
- West Fork Library, West Fork

**June 11**
4-State Watershed Academy
- Branson Convention Center, Branson, MO

**June 12**
Bentonville Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour - Bentonville

**June 15**
UpStream Art Tour - TBD, Fayetteville

**June 18**
Rain Barrel Construction Workshop - Fayetteville
Community Food Hub, Fayetteville

**June 22**
Fayetteville Springfest - Dickson Street, Fayetteville

The Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center was recognized at War Eagle Appreciation Day on Saturday, June 1st, at Withrow Springs State Park. The Center had its origins in 1989 when a group of earth-conscious friends came together as volunteers to keep recyclables out of the landfill. Larry Karigan-Winter, now...
July 9 - 10
Bentonville Summer Water Days - Mary Mae Jones Elementary School, Bentonville

August 17
Secchi Day on Beaver Lake - Prairie Creek, Rogers

Check out our online calendar for more detailed information on upcoming events!

NOTE: Our Rain Barrel Construction Workshop in partnership with Feed Fayetteville, as part of Water Watch Week in Arkansas, has been rescheduled! The workshop will take place on Tuesday, June 18th from 4:30 - 6 pm at the Fayetteville Community Food Hub, located at 221 South Locust Ave. in Fayetteville. The workshop costs $45 per barrel and participants will be lead step-by-step in the construction of a 55 gallon rain barrel. Pre-registration is required and we only have a few spots left! Register for the workshop by contacting Alena DeGrado at alena@feedfayetteville.org. All proceeds will benefit Feed Fayetteville.

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.

Congratulations to the Watershed Photography Contest Winners!
First Place: Brandon Otto of Fayetteville

Second Place: James Lovell of Bentonville

Third Place: Andrew Ironside of Fayetteville

Congratulations to the winners of our first Watershed Photography Contest! Check out the photographs on display at the Bank of Fayetteville on the Fayetteville Square for the month of June.
The Beaver Watershed Alliance is facilitating a series of paddling trips on the White River in June for our Northwest Arkansas Youth Paddling Days project. The Alliance was awarded the Paddle Nation Project Grant from Outdoor Nation, a national initiative connecting the Millennial Generation to the outdoors. This grant opportunity supports pioneering projects and initiatives aiming to connect young Americans with their waterways through recreational paddling. The Alliance, in partnership with Pack Rat Outdoor Center, will be leading four different educational paddling trips for Youth Bridge, the Yvonne Richardson Community Center, and a group of fifth grade girls from West Fork, serving a range of youth and young adults, from 6-21 years of age.

The goal of these trips is to encourage local youth to get outdoors. Specifically, to expose them to one of the Natural State's greatest activities, canoeing. The Alliance and Pack Rat will educate the participants on various environmental issues, water safety, and how to practice Leave No Trace ethics. Then, they will hit the water for a day of paddling on the White River, just below Beaver Dam. Each trip will be an all-day event, with stops along the way for lunch, snack breaks, and educational opportunities.
In preparation for one of the trips, the participants from Youth Bridge were invited out to Pack Rat for a paddling clinic. Our aim for the clinic was to provide water quality education, safety training, and paddling instruction in order to leave the participants feeling more comfortable in a canoe, and more excited about the trip ahead. For some, it had been several years since they had been in a canoe, and for others, this was the very first time. One participant, after getting out of a canoe, stated how much she enjoyed being on the water, contrary to the fears she expressed just twenty minutes before.

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to conduct our trips as planned thus far due to the ever-changing weather conditions during springtime in Arkansas. However the determination of the trip leaders, and the enthusiasm of the youth participants, will ensure that these trips take place this summer. Look for photos and stories from the Northwest Arkansas Youth Paddling Days in a future newsletter!

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**Meet the Executive Director**

The Beaver Watershed Alliance Board of Directors is very excited that we were able to attract several excellent candidates for the position of Executive Director. John Pennington, as our choice, has demonstrated the skills, capability and reputation necessary to provide leadership for the Alliance. We are thrilled to announce that John has accepted the position, and will be starting with the Alliance soon. A full press release will be released within the next week. In the meantime, we invite you to get to know John:
John Pennington

Mr. John Pennington is a native of Johnson County, Arkansas, where he grew up on B.H. Quarter Horse Ranch cutting hay in the humid River Valley all summer long, and sneaking off to the local streams of the Ozarks to swim and catch smallmouth bass every chance he could. John has a B.S. in Biology from Arkansas Tech University and a M.S. from the Crop, Soils, and Environmental Science Department of the Dale Bumpers School of Agriculture at the U of A Fayetteville. He has worked as a County Extension Agent conducting watershed outreach and education in Washington County, Arkansas, for seven years, and has just recently accepted the position of Executive Director for the Beaver Watershed Alliance. In his spare time John serves as the Chair of the Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership, Vice President of the Ozark Highlands Trail Association, and Secretary for the Arkansas Earth Day Foundation, in addition to floating, fishing, hiking, and spending valued time with friends and family. He is a member of the Washington County Farm Bureau, Washington County Cattlemen’s Association, Arkansas Chapter of the American Water Resources Association, Razorback Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and Northwest Chapter of the Arkansas Canoe Club. John is proud to have the honor of serving and representing the Beaver Watershed Alliance, as watershed outreach and education, as well as working with the fine people of Arkansas, is his one of his greatest passions in life.