



BWA's programs continue to encourage volunteers to make a difference in the water quality of Beaver Lake and its watershed, as well as work with landowners and decision-makers to work towards sourcewater protection in our watershed during the month of August. Find out more in this month's newsletter!

# BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



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## August 2014



### About BWA

The Beaver Watershed Alliance was formed in 2010 to establish programming to maintain high quality drinking water in Beaver Lake and improve water quality in 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 goal of clean water.



Kelly and Donna of Still on the Hill perform songs from the "Once a River: Story Songs about the Beaver Lake Watershed" to a full house at Ozark Folkways in Winslow

## Still on the Hill touch hearts and bring history of Beaver Lake to life through "Once a River" concert series

Audiences all over Northwest Arkansas laughed, cried, and came away with a deeper appreciation for Beaver Lake and the White River through a concert series put on

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **August 9**

Devils Eyebrow Shoreline Cleanup - Garfield

### **August 16**

Secchi Day on Beaver Lake - Prairie Creek Marina, Rogers

### **August 21**

Speaker Series with Randy Easley of Central Arkansas Water - Rogers Public Library

### **August 23**

Still on the Hill "Once a River" Concert and Forest Landowner Meeting - St. Paul

### **September 6**

Town Branch Cleanup - Walker Park, Fayetteville

### **September 6**

Lee Creek Cleanup - Devil's Den State Park, Winslow

### **September 20**

Beaver Lake Games - NWACC and Prairie Creek Marina, Rogers

### **September 26**

Beaver Lake Watershed Symposium - Carroll Electric, Huntsville

### **September 27**

Beaver Lake Cleanup - Prairie Creek Marina, Rogers

Check out our [online calendar](#)

this summer by local folk-duo, Still on the Hill. The group performed their new album of story songs about the Beaver Lake Watershed for school groups and the general public in a 10-part series aimed at using folk music and stories to share the history of Beaver Lake and encourage the public to help take care of this valuable resource.

Kelly and Donna pored over historical documents for months to write these songs which share the story of the White River and the people that lived and worked along the river before the river was dammed to create a reservoir, which serves as our drinking water source today. The songs also expressed how folks appreciate Beaver Lake, from Kelly's days of canoeing among the cedar trees in the lake as young boy, the story of Jay Schneider and his mission to paddle around all of the coves of the lake.

Another story that should be told about this project is one of partnership, and organizations coming together to pool resources and work together to make this project a success. BWA, Beaver Water District, Association for Beaver Lake Environment (ABLE), and Ozarks Water Watch contributed funds for the project to match a grant provided by the Arkansas Arts Council and provided staff to help run each concert. The efforts of each of these organizations were integral in making this project a success!

The concert series ended last month, however there is another concert scheduled on August 23rd in St. Paul, as well as more in the works! Stay updated with us here, as well as on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), to get the latest on future "Once a River" performances!

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## **Speaker Series focuses on Watershed Protection Policy**

Since Beaver Lake supplies 1 in 6 or nearly a half million people with clean drinking water, provides over forty million tourism and recreation dollars for the local economy, and is the key factor to a successful future in

for more detailed information on upcoming events!

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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.

the region, the BWA wanted to start a quarterly speaker series that focuses on the rationale behind investing in watershed protection activities today that can benefit our entire region tomorrow through the protection of Beaver Lake, our water supply. Hence the series name *Investing in Water Source Protection: It's good for business, agriculture, communities, nature, recreation, and you.*

Folks from Harrison to Westville, Oklahoma benefit from generally good water quality in Beaver Lake and its watershed. As long as the water in the lake is of a high quality, Northwest Arkansas will continue to prosper with ongoing community development and economic growth. "The argument can easily be made that Beaver Lake is now the limiting factor for our success as a region," stated John Pennington, Director of the Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA). Pennington went on to say keeping water quality in good condition, will also equate to beneficial habitat for wildlife.

The upcoming speaker series program, being held at the Rogers Public Library on August 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:30am until 1:00 pm, will feature Randy Easley of Central Arkansas Water who will be speaking about the policy of source drinking water supply protection from the perspective of a long time practitioner. Easley formerly served as the Environmental Manager in Fort Smith, and now serves as the Director of Water Quality & Operations for Central Arkansas Water. His topic will be about implementing the Lake Maumelle watershed management plan. Easley stated "I will cover a bit of the history of how our (Central Arkansas Water) watershed management plan got to where it is, some of the current practices being implemented, and where we are moving in the future." While the water quality issues for the Lake Maumelle and Beaver Lake Watersheds are similar, the approaches to protection have been different. Pennington states "sometimes watershed managers need to share notes and stories of success and struggle in order to achieve water quality protection in respective watersheds." The program is free, and will include lunch. RSVPs are requested.

To RSVP, call or email BWA at 479-750-8007 or [info@beaverwatershedalliance.org](mailto:info@beaverwatershedalliance.org).

**Secchi Day**  
on Beaver Lake

9th Annual

Saturday, August 16, 2014

**Also!**  
The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's 2014-2015 Aquatic Aquarium will be on display.

**Schedule of Events:**

**8:30 am - 11:00 am**  
Various Beaver Lake Aquatics  
Volunteer teams depart to measure Secchi depth and collect water samples.

**9:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
East & West Shelters at Prairie Creek Recreational Area  
5300 W. Park Road, Rogers, AR  
The public is invited to enjoy educational activities and exhibits!

**Family Activities**  
Boat Tours  
Photo Contest  
Lunch

**A Special Thank You to Our In-Kind Sponsors:**  
Hargs Foods, Hiand Dairy, Sam's Club of Fayetteville, Cook's Natural Market, and Outdoor Cap.

**For Information:**  
www.bwdh2o.org  
Amy Wilson  
awilson@bwdh2o.org

**Sponsors:** USGS, UVA, US Army Corps of Engineers, KNWA, OZARKS WATER WATCH, BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE, ABLE, HORNS BOULDER CONSERVATION AREA

## Volunteers needed to collect samples for 9th Annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake

Volunteers are still needed to collect water samples and Secchi disk measurements for sites on Beaver Lake as part of this year's Secchi Day! This event is named for the Secchi disk, a handy device is lowered into the lake to measure the water's transparency, which volunteers use to collect measurements for 35 different sites.

Volunteers will be supplied with Secchi disks and bottles, and launch at 8:30 a.m. to collect measurements and water samples, with a boat collecting samples from 2 locations. Participants must have a boat in order to navigate to and monitor the different sites on Beaver Lake. After collecting samples and Secchi disk measurements, each team will report findings and team statistics to be logged onto the "Great Wall of Secchi." Meanwhile, you can enjoy lunch and a host of hands-on,

fun activities for all ages!

Beaver Lake is the primary source of drinking water for Northwest Arkansas and this citizen-science monitoring helps to have an idea of the water quality of the lake and ensure that we're taking proper care of it.

If you are interested in volunteering to take samples for this event, please contact Sabrina Bowman at [sbowman@bwdh2o.org](mailto:sbowman@bwdh2o.org)

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## **Forested Landowner Program covers 20,000 acres in one month**

BWA was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant from the United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities (the Endowment). The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that works collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation's working forests and forest-reliant communities. In only one month's time, just over 4%, or about 20,000 acres, of all forested lands within the Beaver Lake Watershed are participating in the program. If you own or manage forested land within the Beaver Lake Watershed but have not received information about this program. Please contact BWA today and we will include you in future programming that will feature in-depth workshops of managing forested land to improve forest health, wildlife habitat, sustainable timber harvest, or conserve the land in perpetuity through a conservation easement.

Contact us at [info@beaverwatershedalliance.org](mailto:info@beaverwatershedalliance.org) or 479-750-8007 to find out how you can get involved.

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## Lakes Appreciation Month Moments



Volunteers removed invasive plant species at the Watershed Conservation Resource Center Drake Field restoration site, removed litter from the creek at our Town Branch Cleanup through the City of Fayetteville Adopt-a-Trail program and the Arkansas Game & Fish Stream Team program, cleaned up the roadside areas along Highway 412 near the White River bridge through the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's Adopt-a-Highway program, and picked up trash and bulky items from around the shoreline at Hobbs State Park as part of our Lakes Appreciation Month celebration. Thanks to Keep Arkansas Beautiful, Ozarks Water Watch, Hobbs State Park, Benton County, Benton County Solid Waste District, Beaver Water District, ABLE, Fayettechill, Pack Rat Outdoor Center, the U of A Cooperative Extension, Arkansas Game and Fish Stream Team, Casey's General Store, Grassroots Outdoor Alliance, Columbia Sportswear, Coca-Cola, and

Coleman for making our first annual Lake Appreciation Cleanup a success!



30 youth and family members from the Benton and Madison County 4H programs participated in stewardship floats on the White River last month in partnership with Pack Rat Outdoor Center

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