

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.

January 2014



Lake Sequoyah by Brandon Otto - 2013 Watershed Photography Contest
winning photo

Resolve to work for good water quality

We've entered into another new year, which brings with it new beginnings and opportunities to make positive changes. We hope that you resolve to make a difference in improving water quality this coming year, a resolution that will have a lasting impact on our region. Last year, we commissioned a survey about water quality in Northwest Arkansas and found that over half of respondents didn't believe there was anything they could do to affect the cost of cleaning Beaver Lake water for drinking. In reality, our everyday actions do have an impact on water quality, and

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Upcoming Events

February 22

Middle Fork of the White River Cleanup - Location TBA

Check out our [online calendar](#) for more detailed 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.

there are ways that each of us can ensure that our drinking water stays clean. Taking action to improve water quality is a resolution that you can sustain, in fact we even have some simple tips to get you started [here](#). You can also participate in community activities with organizations that need your help, and we have a number of opportunities for you to be involved this coming year.

Stream Restoration Maintenance



We will be hosting invasive plant removal and native seed harvesting volunteer events throughout the year for the [Watershed Conservation Resource Center](#) stream restoration sites. We are also seeking groups of volunteers to perform a quarterly maintenance check at these sites. We already have teams for the West Fork site near Brentwood and Mullins Creek on the U of A campus, and are still looking for teams of 2-3 volunteers for sites on the White River near the Noland Wastewater Treatment Plant and the West Fork near Drake Field Airport. Contact Courtney Thomas at (479) 274-8903 or courtney@beaverwatershedalliance.org if you're interested.

Stream Smart



There are still sites in the Beaver Lake Watershed that are available for adoption by volunteers interested in performing water quality monitoring at a local stream through the Stream Smart program. Monitoring takes place on a quarterly basis and includes hands-on activities such as measuring temperature, discharge, and the presence of macroinvertebrates. Volunteers do not have to have a science background to participate. Contact Angela Danovi at adanovi@ozarkswaterwatch.org for more information.

Watershed Guardian Award

We want to know who you think should receive a Watershed Guardian Award in 2014! Last year, we gave out four awards, and we plan to continue recognizing individuals and organizations for their stewardship efforts in the Beaver Lake Watershed. We have a few ideas already for potential awardees, but we want to hear from you - our volunteers, supporters, and community members - about who should be recognized this year. The nomination form can be downloaded on our website [here](#) and completed forms emailed to john@beaverwatershedalliance.org.

Outdoor Watershed Education and Recreation

We are going to expand on last year's Northwest Arkansas Youth Paddling Days program to provide more opportunities to get local youth and families outside and recreating in and around the Beaver Watershed. These hiking and paddling trips will allow us to engage the community in a different way and facilitate educational

opportunities to increase awareness about our watershed and ways to recreate responsibly. Watch out for details and more information coming soon!

Creek and Lake Cleanups

We will continue to host and support cleanups this year, with the goal to cover a greater area of the watershed with our 2014 efforts. In addition to the West Fork White River Cleanup and the Beaver Lake Cleanup, we will be expanding to the Middle Fork of the White River and the East Fork of the White River, as well as working with groups to clean up tributaries in Fayetteville and Huntsville. As always, we rely heavily on volunteers to make these events successful and will need your help in 2014! Mark your calendars for our first cleanup of the year to tackle the Middle Fork of the White River on Saturday, February 22nd.

Dirt Roads' Watershed Impact Discussed



A multi-county dirt road symposium was held last month in Huntsville to address dirt road runoff and explore obstacles encountered by road crews when working to implement Best Management Practices. The participants at the forum represented stakeholder groups from Washington, Madison, and Benton Counties, and ranged from County Judges to Road Superintendents as well as local agency personnel from the Cooperative Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and County

Conservation Districts. The meeting centered around a lively and genuine discussion of the obstacles faced by counties and road crews and how to work on overcoming those obstacles to improve water quality runoff and minimize gravel loss. The symposium concluded with a spirit of collaboration in which non-profit, government, local agency, and private resources plan to be utilized and shared in order to best address the issues. Another Multi-County Dirt Road Symposium is tentatively planned for mid-June, which will include a tour of local problem areas as well as success stories. We owe many thanks to our partners from the [University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service](#) and [United States Forest Service](#), as well as those individuals that recognize the financial savings and water quality benefits which can be realized from this program effort.

Funding Available for projects through NRCS

Farmers and landowners seeking funding for projects still have time to apply for assistance through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Applications for EQIP will be accepted through Friday, January 17th and can be completed at local NRCS field offices. EQIP seeks to assist agricultural producers with projects related to water quality management, including erosion reduction, sedimentation control, and manure management. Projects related to enhancing forestland, improving wildlife habitat, and managing pasture will also be considered. Projects that have received assistance in the past include the implementation of cross-fencing, watering facilities, pipeline, heavy use areas, ponds, streambank stabilization, pasture establishment, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and firebreaks. Funding for projects in the Beaver Lake Watershed is available through the local NRCS offices in Benton, Washington, and Madison counties. For more information, visit the NRCS Arkansas office website [here](#). For field office contact information, click [here](#).



Alternative watering provides water to livestock away from environmentally sensitive areas such as streams. Photo Courtesy of NRCS



Pasture fencing enables rotational grazing which can increase forage utilization, animal weight gain, forage yield, and protect water quality

Meet the Board



David Pemberton

Mr. David Pemberton was raised in Huntsville, Arkansas. He attended Huntsville High School and graduated from the University of Arkansas. Pemberton spent 14 years with America's Car-Mart and six years with Walmart, before returning to Huntsville to live.

He and his wife, the former Lori Litterell of Berryville, Arkansas, own two small businesses in Huntsville. David has also been the Executive Director of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce for seven years. He lives on 150 acres along War Eagle Creek south of Huntsville and serves on the Board of Directors for the Northwest Arkansas Tourism Association (NATA) and is active with the Huntsville Kiwanis in addition to his service with BWA.

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