

Congratulations to Stacy Cheevers, recipient of the inaugural Middle Fork Watershed Guardian Award! Read about Stacy's stewardship efforts, and much more, in this month's newsletter

BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



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March 2014

Streamside Landowners engage in discussions about conservation issues at workshop



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



Matt Van Eps, from the Watershed Conservation Resource Center, presents on fluvial processes at Saturday's workshop

cause of clean water.

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Upcoming Events

March 7

Stream Restoration Tree Planting - West Fork White River Airport Restoration site, Fayetteville

March 8

Stream Restoration Tree Planting - West Fork White River Airport Restoration site, Fayetteville

March 11

Blue Pathways Workshop - Mermaids Restaurant, Fayetteville

March 12

Live United Day Volunteer Event - West Fork White River Airport Restoration site, Fayetteville

March 14

UpStream Art Application Deadline

March 15

Trail Maintenance Outing - Ozark Highlands Trail

March 17 - 23

EPA WaterSense "Fix a Leak



Watershed residents gather to plant trees and shrubs along a tributary of the West Fork of the White River

A group of 25 streamside landowners and residents in the West Fork Watershed, from the headwaters near Winslow to the tailwaters in south Fayetteville, participated in our Streamside Landowner Workshop, sharing stories about how they have witnessed the river change over time and expressing interest in restoration activities. Presentations by the Watershed Conservation Resource Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Washington County Conservation District helped landowners understand stream processes, practical conservation practices, and opportunities for financial assistance to maximize production and conservation. The workshop ended with participants planting native trees and shrubs over an acre of riparian area that will soon be forested.

Stacy Cheevers named Watershed Guardian for the Middle Fork

Week"

April - May

Watershed Photography
Contest

April 5

Town Branch Cleanup -
Huntsville

April 11

Spring Rain Garden Academy
- Carroll Electric, Huntsville

April 12

Earth Day Hike - Hobbs State
Park-Conservation Area,
Rogers

April 19

Washington County Cleanup
- Locations TBA

April 26

East Fork of the White River
Cleanup - Bunch Park
Pavilion, Elkins

April 26

Pack Rat Boating Demo Day
- Pack Rat Outdoor Center,
Fayetteville

April 26

Benton County Cleanup -
Locations TBA

May 17

West Fork of the White River
Cleanup - Riverside Park,
West Fork

June 7

War Eagle Appreciation Day -
Withrow Springs State Park,
Huntsville

August 16

Secchi Day on Beaver Lake -
Prairie Creek Marina, Rogers



Stacy Cheevers, with wife and daughter, receives the Watershed Guardian Award for the Middle Fork of the White River from BWA's John Pennington

Stacy Cheevers is an agricultural producer with a beef cattle and poultry operation who lives and farms along the Middle Fork of the White River. Stacy's family has owned and operated their 1,000 acre farm in the Middle Fork Watershed for about a decade and have constantly worked to be good stewards of the land, air, and water. Partially for this reason, the Cheevers have also previously been named Farm Family of the year in Washington County. Stacy has undertaken many soil and water stewardship practices on his farm such as nutrient management, which documents fertilization records, guides how much fertilizer to apply, and dictates the timing and location of fertilizer applications. In addition to managing nutrients, Stacy also fences cattle out of the stream to prevent increased turbidity caused by cattle wading in the stream, nutrient deposition from livestock into streams, and to help protect his stream banks from erosion. Stacy has also utilized the Natural Resource Conservation Service - Environmental Quality Incentives Program to use best management practices on his farm which increase both productivity and protect the environment. Such best management practices include:

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.

storing poultry litter in a stacking shed, using alum to reduce ammonia emissions and prevent nutrient runoff, as well as building farm ponds to trap nutrients and aid in off-stream watering. Because of the Cheevers' love for their land, stewardship practices to take care of the river they live and work by, and constant efforts to increase conservation measures on their property, Stacy Cheevers has been awarded with the inaugural Middle Fork Watershed Guardian Award by the Beaver Watershed Alliance. Stacy, along with his wife and daughter, were recognized for their efforts at last month's Middle Fork of the White River stream cleanup.

Source Water Protection a priority in Woodland Restoration Program

Over \$30 million will be invested in financial and technical assistance through a new partnership between the NRCS and the US Forest Service for projects related to improving the health of US forests. The Western Arkansas Woodlands Restoration project is one of 13 projects across the country that will benefit from this program. This project will increase conservation efforts on forested lands in Arkansas with the goal of improving wildlife habitat, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and reducing sediment loads into the region's watersheds. Click [here](#) for more information.

Fix a Leak Week

Did you know that household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons annually nationwide, or the equivalent to the annual household water use of more than 11 million homes? Or that fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save you about 10 percent on your water bill? In most cases, household leaks are easily correctable and do not require a major investment to be repaired. Follow these steps to check for leaks around your home:

- Look at your water usage during a colder month, such as January or February. If a family of four

exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks.

- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)
- Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.

March 17-23 is "Fix a Leak Week". Make a commitment to check for leaks around your home during this week to ensure that you're not wasting water - and money! For more information, visit the EPA WaterSense Fix a Leak Week website [here](#).

Calling all Mountain and Stream Stewards!



Dot Neely picks up litter along the Middle Fork of the White River. Photo courtesy of Amy Wilson

BWA is a recipient of the 2014 Columbia Belay grant for \$5,000 through [Columbia Sportswear](#) and the [Grassroots Outdoor Alliance](#). The Mountain and Stream Stewardship program will be carried out in partnership with [Pack Rat](#)

[Outdoor Center](#), and you are invited to participate! We have a series of events lined up, including the East Fork Cleanup, the West Fork Cleanup, trail maintenance on the Ozark Highlands Trail, and a "Leave no Trace" themed Earth Day Hike at Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area. More events will be announced soon. Check out our website calendar [here](#) to find out more about how you can be involved.

Middle Fork of the White River Cleanup



Over 60 volunteers from all over Northwest Arkansas came out to Bunch Park in Elkins to participate in the first organized Middle Fork of the White River cleanup. Volunteers collected 2,000 lbs of trash, including 41 tires, from 28 miles of the river.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers that came out to participate in our first Middle Fork of the White River Cleanup last month. We are overwhelmed by the amount of community support that we had for this event and are excited to build on our efforts in the Middle Fork Watershed in the future! A big thanks to our partners and sponsors for helping us make this a successful event. Support was provided by the Arkansas Game and Fish Stream Team, Keep Arkansas Beautiful, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Beaver Water District, Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Washington County Environmental Affairs, Columbia Sportswear, and Coca-Cola.

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