



There are several opportunities this month to be involved in helping to improve the quality of the Beaver Lake Watershed! You can make a difference - join us at one of our many volunteer events this month to find out how.

BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



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September 2014

BWA Executive Director Speaks



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.

I can't believe that a year has already passed since I joined the BWA family last summer. What a rewarding year! I've stayed busy establishing new programs throughout the watershed, securing grants to fund those programs, as well as working to create new partnerships, sponsors, and watershed friends that work for good water quality. One of the most important watershed friends that BWA, Beaver Lake and its tributaries, and all the people from Harrison to Oklahoma that drink that water from the lake have are the volunteers that devote time to watershed restoration activities and the land owners and managers of the watershed that steward their land. Without caring, thoughtful, and energetic people looking after the quality of water in Beaver Lake by treating the water that flows from their property into the streams flowing to the lake, water quality protection would not be possible. Likewise, without dedicated volunteers, partners, and sponsors who aim to improve the quality of the world that they live in for themselves, their friends or families, or future generations, water quality protection would not be possible. People caring about their local community, caring about their neighbors, caring about their children, caring about the future generations, caring about wildlife, and caring to take time out of their busy lives to make a difference are the heroes of mine, BWA staff, and our board of directors. For all of the accomplishments and accolades that BWA, our staff, and

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Upcoming Events

September 6

Town Branch Cleanup - Walker Park, Fayetteville

September 6

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

September 11

Native Plant Volunteer Day at Mullins Creek - University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

September 13

Winslow Half Marathon and 5K Run - Peeks Park, Winslow

September 13

Reel into Fishing Lower White River Cleanup - Twin Bridges, Goshen

September 17 - 18

2014 Nonpoint Source Pollution Stakeholder and Project Review Meeting - University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, Little Rock

September 19

Arkansas Water Plan Public Meeting - U of A Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center, Fayetteville

September 20

Beaver Lake Games - NWACC and Prairie Creek Marina, Rogers

board of directors have achieved and been recognized for, none of them are as important as taking time to tell our watershed stakeholders and volunteers that YOU are the reason that results have occurred and that water quality within the watershed is improving. YOU are making a difference. If YOU have not yet participated in our programming, utilized our information to make good soil and water conservation decisions in the watershed, or come out to volunteer at a stewardship event – I encourage YOU to do so over the next year. We always like to meet new people that like to help water quality, and we can always use help when we are working to make water quality improvements. Thanks again to everyone for your support in whatever form it is provided. YOU are making a positive difference, so don't let down and keep up the great work!

(continued at bottom...)

Help out the Natural State and its Rivers this Saturday!

Join us to make a difference in Northwest Arkansas this Saturday, September 6th, as part of Keep Arkansas Beautiful's Great Arkansas Fall Cleanup! Get involved by coming out to the Town Branch Cleanup at Walker Park in Fayetteville or the Lee Creek Cleanup at Devil's Den State Park in Winslow. Both events will start at 9 am with a meal and door-prize drawing following the cleanup. Visit our website calendar [here](#) for more details.



Please join us for this year's Beaver Lake Watershed Symposium. The Symposium will take place from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at Carroll Electric in Huntsville. Topics include the Discovery Farm program, water quality monitoring on the West Fork of the White River, urban Low Impact Development, update of the Beaver Lake Master Plan, assessment methodology for Beaver Lake numeric standards, US Fish and Wildlife Service critical habitat designations, and more. For more information and to register for this free event, contact Courtney Thomas at 479-750-8007 or info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

(...continued from "BWA Executive Director Speaks")

Please Encourage the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to Increase Funding to the Arkansas Stream Team Program

Recently, one of our best watershed resources disappeared when Dave Evans, of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Stream Team, retired. Good for him, but not so good for streams and rivers or the folks that own the land beside those waterways in the northwest portion of the Stream Team coverage area because it is currently empty. Dave was a joy to work with, and he made a very positive and lasting impression to the landowners that he served. He was a highly valued agency resource to the public of Arkansas. He also allowed a lot of beneficial actions to occur which improved water quality of our streams in Arkansas. His work benefited both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife as well. Please write our Arkansas Game and Fish Commissioners and encourage them to rapidly fill Dave Evans' position in the northwest portion of our state, and to increase money for the Stream Team Program.

Increased money being allocated to the Stream Team Program can be used to increase the amount of stream restorations taking place annually, increase the amount of resources available to stream teams who are making water quality and wildlife habitat improvements happen, and could even increase the amount of Regional Stream Team Coordinators. As the founder of two stream teams, and participator of a third, I know how well the Stream Team Program works to promote stewardship of waterways, improve water quality and wildlife habitat of waterways, and educate so many about how to determine stream health. Also, knowing how much a stream erosion problem can cost in dollars and wildlife – prevention of erosion problems from developing is a far more cost effective way to protect water quality and game and fish.

Please feel free to use the language above when writing or emailing each commissioner of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission who are listed below with corresponding contact information, or use your own.

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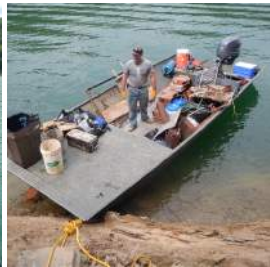
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Thanks again watershed stewards for your help in
protecting, maintaining, and improving the quality of water
in Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed.

John Pennington
Executive Director
[Beaver Watershed Alliance](#)
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479-970-3550

Our Environment. Our Health. Our Home.

August Stewardship Moments





Volunteers removed approximately 600 lbs of trash from the shoreline and surrounding area at Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area on Beaver Lake last month as part of an effort to increase volunteer conservation activities taking place at the natural area. Many thanks to the group of Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists that came out to volunteer, and to the event partners for their role in helping to keep Beaver Lake clean! Partners included the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, BWA, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Ozark Ecological Restoration.

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