August is National Water Quality Month - find out how you can be involved in celebrating with us!

August is National Water Quality Month - check out this month's newsletter for the latest in water quality workshops, stewardship events, and opportunities to stay informed!

Aug 2015

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About BWA

The Beaver Watershed Alliance was formed in 2011 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.

Angela Danovi, of Ozarks Water Watch, and BWA Volunteer Hugh Wagner monitor water quality near the Beaver Dam at our Secchi Dip-in
August is National Water Quality Month in the United States. This is a great time for residents of northwest Arkansas to consider what households and communities in our area are doing to protect freshwater resources! You can make a difference in the water quality of the Beaver Lake Watershed, which provides drinking water to nearly half a million people - whether you adopt a new best management practice on your property, participate in citizen-science water quality monitoring, volunteer at a stewardship event, or attend a watershed workshop. To learn more about actions that you can take to protect water quality, check out our Pollution Prevention Tips Fact Sheet.

Payments for Watershed Services: Pilot Projects for Watershed Protection

Forested watersheds of the southern United States provide numerous services to the region. At no cost, they purify water, control flooding and erosion, and provide places for people to relax and have fun. Yet despite their value, many watersheds are under threat from development and poor land management.

“Payments for Watershed Services” (PWS) programs are one strategy to keep watersheds healthy. Through a PWS program, landowners receive financial incentives to conserve, sustainably manage, and/or restore watersheds to yield the kinds of benefits described above. The World Resources Institute’s new issue brief, Insights from the Field: Forests for Water, looks at three potential PWS programs in the Upper Neuse Watershed in North Carolina, the Sebago Lake Watershed in Maine, and throughout the city of Raleigh, North Carolina. This brief also shares some insights gleaned from the work in progress.

For the rest of this article from the World Resources Institute, follow this link:
http://www.wri.org/blog/2012/02/payments-watershed-services-pilot-projects-watershed-protection
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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.

Save the Date for the 2015 Beaver Lake Watershed Symposium: "Our Region's Cornerstone"

Save The Date
SEPTEMBER 25, 2015
HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Carroll Electric

“Our Region’s Cornerstone”

For more information, contact Beaver Watershed Alliance at info@beaverwatershedalliance.org or 479-759-0007

This year’s focus will recognize Beaver Lake as our regional cornerstone. The source of community growth and economic development, high quality of life, and drinking water supply – Beaver Lake is important and our water needs are growing and pushing the limit. Given that the waters of Beaver Lake are our most important regional resource, topics relating to water supply needs and distribution over the next 50 years, water allocation/increased regional allocation effort, cost, quality, regulation and short term threats will all be presented. We hope that you can attend and look forward to seeing you there!

Hobbs State Park Receives Watershed Guardian Award for Lakeside Area
Hobbs State Park was recognized as the 2015 Watershed Guardian for the Lakeside Area Watershed at the 2nd Annual Lake Appreciation Month Cleanup on Saturday, July 11th. The park received this award for exceptional stewardship efforts employed to help protect the Beaver Lake Watershed and habitat for wildlife. Some of the park’s many beneficial practices include forest management and removal of invasive species, which lead to increased biodiversity of native flora and fauna. The park employs Low Impact Development, and installed a rain garden to capture runoff from their parking lot. Hobbs conducts education programs for all ages to increase awareness about conservation and water quality to park visitors, as well as programs for landowners to teach forest management practices and display examples first-hand. In addition, the park engages volunteers in events to clean up Beaver Lake, its shoreline, and park trails. Hobbs also practices game management, including permitted hunts for deer, and is currently undergoing work to restore the Ozark Chinquapin.

We greatly appreciate Hobbs State Park for working to protect water quality and wildlife habitat in the Beaver Lake Watershed and are proud to name them this year’s Watershed Guardian Award for the Beaver Lake-White River "Lakeside Area" Watershed!
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Open Space Plan topic of August 13th Speaker Series

The next installment of the Beaver Watershed Alliance Speaker Series "Investing in Water Source Protection in NWA: It's good for business, agriculture, recreation, nature, and you" will take place at the Rogers Public Library on Thursday, August 13th from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. The featured speaker will be Elizabeth Bowen from the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission who will be presenting about the Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan. Lunch is provided, and RSVPs are requested to info@beaverwatershedalliance.org or by calling (479) 750-8007.

Beaver Lake Watershed Community Forum to be held in Clifty August 25th
The UA Division of Agriculture Public Policy Center is hosting an upcoming Community Forum for the Beaver Lake Watershed on August 25th in Clifty. The forum will take place from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Clifty Community Center, located at 182 Madison 8248, Huntsville. The purpose of the forum is to allow watershed stakeholders to discuss water quality concerns and connect with groups currently working to address nonpoint source pollution in the watershed.

For meeting details, see the Public Policy Center Upcoming Events here:

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**July Stewardship Moments**

This year's Lake Appreciation Month Cleanup was a huge success, engaging over 60 volunteers in kayaking, standup paddleboarding, and walking the shoreline of Beaver Lake to remove trash from the lake and its

http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/?u=958bedd4b5c4e63dc7e589f7d&id=4a6b9b19ed&c=890093637c
Because of our awesome volunteers, three tons of trash and bulky waste were removed, and the lake, shoreline, and roadside areas are much more clean for everyone to continue to enjoy and appreciate this valued natural resource! Big thanks to our event partners and sponsors - Hobbs State Park, Beaver Water District, Keep Arkansas Beautiful, Ozarks Water Watch, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission Stream Team, Benton County Cooperative Extension, Benton County Solid Waste, Benton County Environmental, Boston Mountain Solid Waste District, Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists, US Army Corps of Engineers, ABLE, Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Coca-Cola, Casey's General Store, Cargill, Gearhead Outfitters, Fayettechill Clothing Company, SUP Outfitters, and Ozark Mountain Trading Company.