



See the winning photos from this year's Watershed Photography Contest, read about how groups from across the state are coming together to keep forests healthy for drinking water protection, and find out more about our latest Watershed Guardian awardee in this month's newsletter!

BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE



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June 2015

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2015 Watershed Photography Contest:



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.



1st Place, Aubrey Shepherd, "Dragonfly on Pinnacle Foods Inc. Wet Prairie" - Shepherd appreciates the clean water and water quality services that this area provides to slow water down before it enters Town Branch in the West Fork of the White River watershed in Fayetteville.

Please take a minute to update your contact information for us by clicking on "update subscription preferences" at the bottom of this page. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

June 2

Connecting Families and Nature Conference - Branson, MO

June 8

Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan Workshop - NEBCO Community Center, Garfield

June 9

Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan Workshop - The Jones Center, Springdale

June 10

Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan Workshop - Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

June 11

Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan Workshop - Gentry Public Library

July 7

Lakeside Watershed Community Meeting - Lost Bridge Village Community Association

July 8

Lakes Appreciation Month Snorkeling Boat Tour - Rocky



2nd Place: Scott Ironside, "Lake Escape" - Ironside appreciates the peaceful, quiet setting of this cove on Beaver Lake to escape the stresses of life and enjoy wildlife, such as this Great Blue Heron, while kayaking on the lake.



3rd Place: Sheila Calix, "Ghost Whisperers" - Calix appreciates Beaver Lake in the fall, as captured in her photo of a pontoon boat gliding across the ghost vapors between the beautiful red and orange fall trees.

Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Forum Builds Collaboration

Branch Marina, Rogers

July 11

Lakes Appreciation Month
Cleanup - Hobbs State Park,
Rogers

July 18

Lakeside Watershed
Community Meeting - Hobbs
State Park, Rogers

July 20

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup -
Hwy 412, Sonora

July 20

Lakeside Watershed
Community Meeting - Sonora
Baptist Church

July 21 - 22

Arkansas Water Resources
Center Annual Conference -
Fayetteville

July 23

Lakeside Watershed
Community Meeting -
Goshen Community Center

July 27

Lakeside Watershed
Community Meeting - Rogers
Water Utilities

July 31

Lakes Appreciation Month
Kayak Tour - Hobbs State
Park, Rogers

August 13

Speaker Series - Rogers
Public Library

August 15

Secchi Day on Beaver Lake -
Prairie Creek Park, Rogers

Check out our [online](#)



A recent Forum on Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water increased collaboration between forestry and water sectors throughout the state. A combination of forest landowners, leaders and staff of state and federal agencies, drinking water utilities, and non-governmental organizations participated in a shared learning exercise to build collaboration for Healthy Forests and Clean Water in Arkansas. Two key points of discovery were that managed forests are healthy forests, and healthy forests are beneficial for long-term water quality. Each sector was able to share the goals, perspectives, approach, and regulatory framework relating to forestry and water treatment, and each sector came out with more friends and partners in soil and water conservation across the State of Arkansas. This program was made possible by the United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Beaver Water District, Central Arkansas Water, United States Forest Service, Ozarks Water Watch, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Department of Health, Weyerhaeuser International, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Forest Research Center, Arkansas Water Resources Association, Arkansas Rural Water Association, and Multi-Basin Regional Water Council.

**Volunteer Rhiannon Bowlin receives
Watershed Guardian Award for the
West Fork of the White River
Watershed**

[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.



Long-time West Fork Watershed Cleanup volunteer, Rhiannon Bowlin, was recognized as the 2015 Watershed Guardian for the West Fork of the White River Watershed at the 10th Annual West Fork Watershed Cleanup. Rhiannon has volunteered at the annual cleanup event for the past eight years in a row, and has served as a site leader for volunteers for several of those years. Her efforts have directly led to the removal of hundreds of pounds of litter and bulky waste from the river and its tributaries! She has also attended several other area cleanups in the Beaver Lake Watershed over the past year, including the Middle Fork of the White River Cleanup and the War Eagle Creek Cleanup. Rhiannon is a true steward who takes action and responsibility for the health of our natural resources and encourages others to do the same, serving as an inspiration for her friends, family, and the community to join her in making a positive difference.

The Watershed Guardian Award program is a stewardship recognition effort carried out by the BWA

Awareness and Education Committee. The purpose is to recognize individuals, businesses, organizations, and agencies in the Beaver Watershed community who have demonstrated, supported, or achieved water quality protection efforts within the Beaver Lake Watershed. These awardees have gone above and beyond to work towards good water quality for our region and have served as an inspiration to those around them to follow their example. Click [here](#) for nomination information.

Clean Water Act: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Department of the Army Announce Final Rule Defining Scope of Waters Protected Under the Clean Water Act

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and the United States Department of Army (collectively, “United States”) issued a final rule (“rule”) defining the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act (“CWA”).

Click [here](#) for the full article available by Walter G. Wright on the Mitchell Williams Environmental, Energy, and Water Blog.

Public Input Sought for Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan

The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) is developing a Northwest Arkansas Regional Open Space Plan throughout 2015. This plan includes both Benton and Washington Counties. The purpose of the plan is to develop a coordinated, voluntary program to protect and promote the region's most valued natural landscapes and open spaces. The goal is to preserve these assets; thereby maintaining our high quality of life as the region continues to grow and prosper.

Public workshops are scheduled for Jun 8th - 11th.

Meetings will be drop-in from 4 - 6:30 pm. All meetings will have the same information. Meeting locations are as follows:

Monday, June 8th – NEBCO Community Center, Garfield

Tuesday, June 9th – The Jones Center, Springdale

Wednesday, June 10th – Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

Thursday, June 11th – Gentry City Library

For additional information please visit the project website at <http://nwaopenspace.com>.

May Stewardship Moments



This year's West Fork Cleanup was a huge success! With the hard work and dedication of 70 volunteers, 2,280 pounds of trash was removed from the West Fork of the White River Watershed. A huge thanks to the volunteers that took time out of their weekend to help keep the river, and Beaver Lake, clean! We are also incredibly grateful for the partners and sponsors that greatly increased the positive impact of this event - Keep Arkansas Beautiful, Beaver Water District, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Stream Team, City of Fayetteville, Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Washington

County Environmental Affairs, Boston Mountain Solid Waste District, Washington County Cooperative Extension, Ozarks Water Watch, Northwest Arkansas Land Trust, Watershed Conservation Resource Center, Jose's Southwest Grille, Cabela's, Cargill, Boston Mountain Eye Care, Cavecloth, Ozark Natural Foods, and Harps. Together, we can truly make a difference in the water quality of Beaver Lake and its watershed!

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