



## Beaver Watershed Alliance December e-News

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### We Have So Much To Be Thankful For!

The season of giving and thankfulness is a great time to be thankful for all that our watershed landowners, land managers, partners, and volunteers give to the effort to voluntarily protect the Beaver Lake Watershed. Here at the Beaver Watershed Alliance we are extremely grateful and appreciative for all of the caring and helpful hands working to make a positive difference for our region, its natural environment, and future generations. The *Source Water Protection Services* that we all provide are invaluable and only made possible by our friends and partnerships. Alone we are like a single drop of water, but together we are an ocean.

Our effort has grown to include a few thousand volunteers and about 16,000 landowner households who are working to make improvements on, and best manage, more than 200,000 acres or about 25% of the watershed. It is neat to see the variety of practices and innovative methods that folks are using on their properties. It is also neat to see the joy and enthusiasm that our volunteers bring to this meaningful effort as we work to make a noticeable difference in people's lives and in our watershed which provides drinking water for 1 in 7 Arkansans.

Beaver Watershed Alliance is thankful to our many partners that help us provide *Source Water Protection Services*. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Environmental Protection Agency section 319 grant program, Walton Family Foundation, United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Forestry Association, Carroll Boone Water District, Benton-Washington Regional Public Water Authority, Tyson Foods Inc., Cargill, Butterball, a whole slew of municipalities like Washington County, Fayetteville, Bentonville, Springdale, Pea Ridge, and Rogers Water Utility along with many other businesses like Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Patagonia, and individuals who are helping to fund important work with landowners in the watershed to help keep our water clean, healthy forests and support wildlife.

While funding for this important work is limited, we are proud to be able to deliver quality *Source Water Protection Services*, and none of this could be possible without investments of energy, time and/or financial support for clean water from willing conservation partners, landowners or volunteers like you. **To you**, the Alliance is truly appreciative and we look forward to working with you to achieve a lot more voluntary environmental improvements in 2017!

### Upcoming Events

December 3  
Forest Management Workshop  
Elkins Community Center  
Elkins, AR  
9:00 am -12:00 pm

December 6  
West Fork White River Watershed Initiative Intro Program  
West Fork Library Hall  
West Fork, AR  
6:00-7:00 pm

December 10  
Kudzu Removal  
Tunnel Park  
Winslow, AR  
10:00 am-2:00 pm

December 12  
Conservation Stewardship Program Informational Meeting  
Beaver Water District  
Lowell, AR  
9:00 am

February 18  
Richland Creek Cleanup  
Goshen Community Center  
Goshen, AR  
9:00 am -1:00 pm

[Events Calendar](#)

## Giving Thanks For Our Partners

Great partners help make clean water!



## Arkansas Water Resources Center Receives Watershed Guardian Award

Arkansas Water Resources Center(AWRC) was recently recognized as a Beaver Lake Watershed Guardian for their long-term involvement, support, and technical assistance in the voluntary protection of BeaverLake, Northwest Arkansas' source of drinking water.

The Watershed Guardian Award program is a stewardship recognition effortcarried out by the Beaver Watershed Alliance to recognize individuals,businesses, organizations, and agencies in the Beaver Lake Watershed communitywho have demonstrated, supported, or achieved water quality protection effortswithin the watershed.

The AWRC was recognized for theirdedication and commitment to supporting voluntary water quality protection inthe Beaver Lake Watershed through scientific investigation of water quality,volunteer participation on the Technical Committee of the Beaver WatershedAlliance (BWA), and in education and stewardship efforts.

The BeaverWatershed Alliance is a non-profitorganization focused on maintaining high quality drinking water in Beaver Lakeand improving water quality within the Beaver Lake Watershed. For more information about how you can helpprotect water quality, visit [www.beaverwatershedalliance.org](http://www.beaverwatershedalliance.org) or call479-750-8007.



*Brian Haggard, Director of Arkansas Water Resources Center, accepts award. Photo by Dot Neely, BWD*

## **ADEQ Approves Beaver Lake Water Quality Criteria**

On November 10, 2016, ADEQ announced the EPA completed its review of the Arkansas Regulation 2, which establishes water quality standards for surface waters throughout the state of Arkansas. As part of the review process, EPA approved most of the proposed revisions to the regulation including adopting site specific criteria on Beaver Lake. The standards limit the amount of chlorophyll (an indicator of algae levels) in Beaver Lake at Hickory Creek to 8 micrograms per liter. It also sets a standard of secchi transparency (clarity of the water) at 1.1 meters. Both chlorophyll and secchi transparency measurements are taken over a five year period during the growing season (May to October) to determine if water quality standards are met.

The intent of any water quality standard is protecting the designated uses of that water body. At Beaver Lake, the designated uses are primary contact recreation (swimming); propagation of fish, wildlife and aquatic life; and domestic, industrial, and agricultural water supply (drinking water). In general, domestic water supply represents the highest priority use for Beaver Lake and is associated with the most stringent water quality standards. Therefore, water quality criteria development initially focused on protecting this designated use.



## Beaver Watershed Alliance Recognized by North American Lake Management Society!

The Beaver Watershed Alliance was recently recognized for the Leadership and Service - Outreach and Education Award at the 36th International Lake Management Symposium held by the North American Lake Management Society in Banff, Canada. Accomplishments leading to the reception of this award include extraordinary design and delivery of effective outreach and education programming regarding the voluntary protection of Beaver Lake, the drinking water source of Northwest Arkansas. Applying outreach and education efforts that are comprehensive in communication and programming methodology lead to impressive outcomes through enabling public and private landowners to take actions necessary to protect their watershed.

In 2013, BWA began identifying streamside, forest, and pasture landowners in priority watershed areas to mail quarterly newsletters about the watershed that contained information such as what a watershed is, existing water quality issues in the watershed, recommended BMPs, special water quality projects in specific areas of the watershed, upcoming stewardship opportunities, free property visits and educational programs. Beginning with 1,000 landowner families, BWA's program has grown to reach 16,200 landowner families or about 75 percent of the watershed population in only 3 years. The intent of BWA staff is to establish relations with landowners and foster stewardship, provide valuable information about watershed issues, and to provide technical assistance to help landowners achieve their soil, water, and wildlife conservation goals by connecting them with appropriate resources.

The cumulative results of this approach are the buy-in and participation of landowners who own 200,000 acres or twenty-five percent of the watershed, implementation of over 800 water quality best management practices, measured increases in learning, development of a volunteer army of several thousand people deep that has planted 7 miles of riparian buffers and removed over 60,000 pounds of trash from 100 miles of waterways, a prioritized inventory of water quality improvement opportunities with willing landowners that want to help restore and protect their watershed, and offset of the average annual increase of sediment and nutrient loading to the lake.



*BWA Receives Leadership and Service Award for Outreach and Education from NALMS. Pictured Brad Hufhines of Beaver Water District, John Pennington of BWA, Reed Green of USGS, and Byron Winston, UA Graduate (NALMS Member).*

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## ***Water for Life!***

The value of your interest and involvement in the voluntary watershed protection effort through invasive plant removals or other volunteer activities of our regional water supply is priceless and appreciated! Read, like, and share this newsletter to help spread the good water quality word and to help get your friends and family involved. We are all in this together!



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## **About Beaver Watershed Alliance**

BWA was formed in 2011 to proactively protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed through outreach and education, voluntary best management practice implementation, and scientific investigation. BWA 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.

Your financial contribution will help BWA fulfill our mission to proactively protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed through outreach and education, voluntary best management practice implementation, and scientific investigation.

[Click Here To Donate](#)

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## Beaver Watershed Alliance

614 E. Emma Ave. Suite M438

Springdale, AR 72764

Phone: 479-750-8007



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