The value of your interest and involvement in the voluntary watershed protection effort of our regional water supply is priceless and appreciated! Read, like, and share this newsletter to show off to your friends and family the value of YOUR contributions!

Forest Management Catches Like Fire with Landowners

This past weekend a few dozen landowners participated in a workshop designed to give owners and managers of forested lands a few more tools and options to consider as they begin or continue their work to maintain healthy forests for wildlife, water quality, peace of mind, or income.

Speakers included Kevin Hickie from Arkansas

About BWA
The Beaver Watershed Alliance 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.
Forestry Commission of Benton County, Thom Dodd from Natural Resource Conservation Center of Huntsville, and Levi Horrell from Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. They offered several options for managing forest land, but it all depends on what the landowner's goals are. You may want to manage for timber production, for wildlife habitat, for aesthetics, or a combination of goals. If your forest is too dense (lots of small trees), you may want to consider thinning. This can be accomplished by selective thinning (and possibly selling good timber), prescribed burns, or selective application of herbicide. A combination and repetition of treatments will be necessary. While some results may be immediate, the best results from prescribed burns will be most noticeable after a few years. We recommend starting with a Forest Management Plan, which you can get for FREE by contacting the Arkansas Forestry Commission. If you own productive land (such as cropland, hay, pasture, or timber) you may be able to get technical or financial assistance from the NRCS.

There will be another opportunity to learn more about prescribed burns on Feb 27th. The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission will host a workshop to
help landowners learn how to safely use prescribed burns as a management tool. The workshop will take place from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville.

Click here for more information and to register.

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Thank You, Volunteers!

Protecting, maintaining, or improving watershed health is simply not possible without volunteer power. Whether helping to plant 10,000 trees along several miles of newly created riparian buffers, helping to remove thousands of pounds of invasive plants from the watershed, helping to remove tons and tons of trash from our local environment, helping to fold and label 10,000 newsletters for landowners - BWA will always need and appreciate your help to maintain and improve the watershed of our regional water supply. BWA and our partners, the community, and individual landowners are deeply grateful for your efforts.

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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.
Over the next few months we will have more watershed improvement volunteer events than anyone has ever seen conducted by an organization in the region. We hope that you'll want to come on out and feel the JOY and LOVE from all of the thankful folk and wildlife you will be lending your helping hands to in order to make a positive difference that will have lasting impacts.

Water Quality Protection in Our Daily Lives

You can do simple things in your everyday life to help protect water quality. Most people don't realize that water that flows down the street and into storm drains does not get treated - it goes straight to the creek and into our water supply. Washing your car on the driveway can send detergents down the street and into the storm drain. But, if you wash your car in the yard, the water and detergents have time to soak into the ground before entering the water supply. Another option is to take your car to a car wash, where the waste water will be treated. For more tips on how you can protect water quality at home, check out our Pollution Prevention Tips Fact Sheet.
Streamside Management Workshop

When? Saturday, March 5th, 2015
Where? Carroll Electric
5960 U.S. 412 Business
Huntsville, AR

What? A workshop to provide needed information for streamside landowners and land managers.

Why? Nearly 15,000 landowners in the Beaver Lake Watershed have streams on their property, and many of them are experiencing erosion to some degree. Streambank erosion causes problems for the landowners, wildlife, and our regional water supply because it is the primary source of sediment and phosphorus delivery to Beaver Lake. To help landowners and land managers better understand the problems they are experiencing, causes of the insidious problem, and their solutions, Beaver Watershed Alliance is providing a FREE workshop to equip land owners and managers with practical knowledge to prevent, slow or stop stream bank erosion.

Workshop Agenda

8:30-9:00 Registration, Coffee and Donuts
9:00-12:00 Presentations on:
    - Fluvial Processes
    - Stream Restoration Projects
    - Riparian Best Management Practices
    - Managing Riparian Fowage Through NRCS
    - Stream Work Permitting
12:00-12:45 Lunch
12:45-1:00 Riparian Buffet Planting

RSVP to Bryant at 479-769-4266 or bryant@beaverwatershedalliance.org by March 2nd if you plan to attend. Please call or email with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!
One of the best management practices for streamside landowners is to maintain a healthy riparian buffer, which is a vegetated strip along the banks and floodplain of a stream. The workshop will cover buffer installation and maintenance techniques, buffer management in a pasture setting, and the process of restoration, permitting, and acquiring financial assistance for projects. To top it all off, landowners and volunteers can get hands-on experience during a riparian buffer planting demonstration after lunch, and there will be more opportunities for hands-on experience the following Saturday, March 12th in the War Eagle Watershed.

This will be a great opportunity to learn how to do it yourself, hear stories of lessons-learned, and see how other folks are making it work. We'll need your help to keep water quality high so whether you want to mostly learn or volunteer, we encourage you to join us.

The Streamside Management Workshop will take place on March 5th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Carroll Electric in Huntsville. Presentations will take place from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, lunch will be provided, and the hands-on riparian planting demonstration will occur after lunch. If you are interested in attending this FREE educational program, please RSVP to Bryant Baker at (479) 769-4266 or bryant@beaverwatershedalliance.org

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Waste Management Options
Grow in the Beaver Lake
Boston Mountain Solid Waste District, Benton County Solid Waste District, Benton County, Carroll County Solid Waste Authority, Madison County Solid Waste & Recycling Center, and Washington County Environmental Affairs all provide a wide range of valuable recycle, waste and hazardous waste options. Many people let old electronics, batteries, pesticides, paints, and used tires pile up. Instead of sending these unwanted items that can fit in the dumpster to a landfill, where they may sit forever, take up space, and contribute to environmental pollution, try recycling them or taking them to places that can dispose of them safely. You can contact your county's solid waste or environmental office and find out where to take them and how much disposal will cost. While many items, like 4 tires per month, are free to drop off, some items will carry a fee. If the fee is more than you can afford to pay, ask your local county provider when and if they plan to have a free bulky, hazardous, or e-waste roundup and mark your calendar! Finally, Boston Mountain Solid Waste District recently expanded their program to include the recycling of plastic shopping bags. To find out more about what your local service provider has to offer check out their websites or give them a call!

BWA Welcomes New Outreach Coordinator
Bethany Alender, of Bentonville, was recently named Outreach Coordinator for the Beaver Watershed Alliance. Bethany joined the Alliance in after completing her Master of Environmental Studies from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Her graduate studies focused on ecological restoration, volunteer motivations, and citizen science. She grew up in Marietta, Georgia and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism at the University of Georgia. Bethany has spent many summers (and one winter!) in Alaska, where she worked as an instructor and hiking guide in Denali National Park. Bethany is passionate about connecting people to their environment, fostering ecological literacy, and promoting lifelong stewardship. She currently lives in Bentonville, where she enjoys riding mountain bike trails and the Greenway. Bethany can be reached at bethany@beaverwatershedalliance.org or by phone at 479-310-5768.
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