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Beaver Watershed Alliance January e-News

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Reflections and Appreciation from BWA Executive Director

As a youngster my favorite times were spent down at the creek or in the woods. I will never forget the feeling of exploration, the first time I caught a large smallmouth bass on lightweight tackle, or how much fun it was to play in the field, forest and stream with friends. In taking a minute to reflect at the end of the year, and after three and a half years of diligent watershed work, it was easy for me to see why I have chosen to work for the Alliance and to volunteer for the Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership and Ozark Highlands Trail Association. I like to help protect the resources that have provided, and have potential to continue to provide, profound joy, the essentials of life, and meaning for so many people and wildlife.

I am thankful that the Alliance has so many dedicated community volunteers and supporters that also share in the idea of giving back, wanting to take care of our natural environment, and making a difference for current and future generations by working to protect and improve the Beaver Lake watershed! Volunteers like YOU are truly and inspiration to be around and joy work with while improving our environment. Northwest Arkansas is lucky to have you!

While the water quality in Beaver Lake and its tributaries is considered to be relatively high, the only way it will stay this way, or improve, is to continue to be engaged in the ongoing effort to protect our source water, one of our most precious resources.

Upcoming Events

January 4
[Rain Garden Stewardship Event](#)
 Walker Park
 10 W. 15th St.
 Fayetteville, AR
 10 am - 12 noon

January 9
 BWA Quarterly Board Meeting
 Farm Bureau,
 Fayetteville, AR
 6 pm

January 11
[Rain Garden Stewardship Event](#)
 Starkey Park Pavilion
 Beaver Lake
 4022 Mundell Rd.
 Eureka Springs, AR

As we enter our 6th year as a formal non-profit watershed protection organization, the opportunities to make large scale improvements for water quality, wildlife, and recreation have grown and are numerous. Our establishment of relations with 16,000 watershed landowners and managers has lead to a treasure chest of environmental improvement opportunities around the watershed that have led to major headway toward making sediment and nutrient reductions which are recommended in the Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy.

Last year, along with our partners, we were able to offset the average annual increase of sediment (2,300 tons) and phosphorus (2,500 pounds) by preventing 4,800 tons of sediment and 2,600 pounds of phosphorus from entering tributaries to Beaver Lake. This is true watershed protection that is protecting our regional source water and so much more such as quality of environment and quality of life.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers, like YOU, we have been able to install almost 1,000 water quality best management practices on several hundred properties, remove over 60,000 pounds of trash from Beaver Lake and its tributaries, establish 60 rain gardens, remove invasive plants and restore upland forest on dozens of acres, and establish seven miles of riparian buffers in the watershed over the last three years.

Your indispensable efforts have also produced contributions of time worth approximately \$300,000 dollars of community service which has been leveraged as in-kind dollars for actual dollars to help bring additional funding to the Beaver Lake watershed for improvements to the natural environment.

Thank you again for your valued volunteer time and effort working to make a measurable difference for our environment, our source drinking water, and the benefit of future generations!

Sincerely,

John Pennington



John Pennington, Executive Director
Beaver Watershed Alliance
john@beaverwatershedalliance.org

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

January 12

White River Opportunity
Assessment Meeting
Elkins Senior Activity
Center
149 W 1st Ave, Elkins, AR
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

January 19

[Garlic Mustard Pull](#)

Van Winkle Trail at
Hobbs State Park
Rogers, AR
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

January 27

[Adopt a Hwy Conservation Stewardship Event](#)

Valero Gas Station
17410 Hwy 412,
Springdale, AR
12 noon

January 28

[Forest Workshop](#)

Hobbs State Park Visitor's
Center
Rogers, AR
9 am - 12 noon

SAVE THE DATE

February 2

Mullins Creek Clean up

February 9

[Invasive Plant Removal at Kessler Mountain](#)

Fayetteville, AR
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

February 18

Richland Creek Cleanup
Goshen Community Center
Goshen, AR

February 23

Speaker Series
Lunch and Learn
Elkins, AR

March 11

Riparian Planting and
Clean up
Beaver Lake Watershed

Water for Life!

The value of your interest and involvement in the voluntary watershed protection effort for our regional water supply is priceless and appreciated!



National Lakes Assessment 2012 | A Collaborative Survey of Lakes in the United States

Read, like, and share this newsletter to help spread the good water quality word and to help get your friends and family involved.

Together, we can make a difference!

Events Calendar

**Volunteer
for
Clean Water**

EPA's National Lakes Assessment Finds Nutrient Pollution is Widespread in Lakes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released the results of a national assessment showing that nutrient pollution is widespread in the nation's lakes, **with 4 in 10 lakes suffering from too much nitrogen and phosphorus.**

Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms, lower oxygen levels, degraded habitat for fish and other life, and lower water quality for recreation.

The assessment is part of a series of National Aquatic Resource Surveys designed to provide information about the condition of water resources in the U.S. The surveys are conducted in partnership with states and tribes to provide national-scale assessments of the nation's waters. [Read More](#)

We are fortunate that Beaver Lake is currently a high quality drinking water source, and we want to keep it that way for many generations to come. Working together to manage our land and water resources is key to collectively having a positive impact for Beaver Lake and its watershed. Find out how you can help maintain our community drinking water source today!



Beaver Watershed Alliance Welcomes New Staff Member

Becky Roark joined the Alliance in December 2016. She holds a B.S. in Landscape Architecture from the University of Arkansas. She has worked within the water quality and conservation fields since 2010, helping to develop the Low Impact Development Manual – A Design Manual for Urban Areas while interning at the U of A Community Design Center, she served as an Americorps Volunteer with the U of A Office of Sustainability and has designed and installed over 75 rain gardens in both the Beaver Lake and Illinois River Watershed, helping to increase green infrastructure technologies for this region. Becky is passionate about watershed protection, native plants, and the preservation of natural areas, serves on the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Board, enjoys kayaking and bass fishing, and spending time with her two children, Luke and Abby.

Becky can be reached at becky@beaverwatershedalliance.org or by phone at 479-750-8007.

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.

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Great Partners = Clean Water



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