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Beaver Watershed Alliance July e-News

July is Lakes Appreciation Month!

July 2017 has been proclaimed by Governor Asa Hutchinson as Lakes Appreciation Month in Arkansas. With over a half-million acres of reservoirs in Arkansas, summer is a great time to encourage all Arkansans to appreciate the lakes of our Natural State by participating in recreation and stewardship activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, taking care of our lakes, and enjoying the scenic beauty and other benefits provided by our lakes, including drinking water and community and economic growth.

Beaver Lake, one of the largest lakes in Arkansas, is the drinking water source for over 500,000 people in the NWA region. The Beaver Lake watershed (area of land that drains to Beaver Lake) is 1,192 square miles of land and water, including rivers, streams, lakes, prairies and forests, and is home to 17 incorporated municipalities. The landscape is woven together geographically by the White River, with the headwaters starting in the southern portions of Washington County and western parts of Madison County, flowing northerly into Benton and Carroll counties to form the lake. Beaver Lake also generates 142 million kilowatt hours annually for energy consumption and brings over 43 million to the local economy through recreation and tourism.

“The importance of protecting our lakes and reservoirs for future generations is critical to our quality of life, communities, wildlife, and potential for future growth and economic development,” said John Pennington, Executive Director of the Beaver Watershed Alliance. “Beaver Lake is worthy of our appreciation and protection, and I hope others will join us in doing so.” Amy Wilson, Director of Public Affairs at Beaver Water District, said, “Beaver Water District’s support of Lakes Appreciation Month is part of our ongoing tradition of 50 years of supplying water to much of Northwest Arkansas and working to ensure that it is safe to drink.”

Lakes Appreciation Month is a signature program of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) whose mission is to foster the management and protection of lakes and reservoirs for today and tomorrow. According to Brad Hufhines of Beaver Water District, NALMS board member, "Water can no longer be taken for granted, and we cannot expect that our water resources will always be here and be usable unless we take care of them."

Many free, public, outdoor activities, including kayaking tours at Hobbs, volunteer cleanups along the White River and scuba diving at Beaver Lake, will be happening throughout the month of July. See a schedule of activities below or visit us at www.beaverwatershedalliance.org. To learn more about the national Lakes Appreciation program, visit www.nalms.org.



Read the 2017 State of Arkansas Executive Department Proclamation for Lakes Appreciation Month.



Check in at Hobbs State Park Visitor Center
20201 East Hwy 12

9 AM - NOON

Cleanup around the lake and trails. Remove trash by boat or by foot. Cleanup supplies will be provided for volunteers at the dock. A limited amount of kayaks and standup paddle boards will be available, free of cost, must RSVP, first come, first served. becky@beaverwatershedalliance.org 479-750-8007

NOON - 1 PM

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Provided & Trash Weighed in at Hobbs State Park Visitor Center



Show your appreciation for Beaver Lake, our drinking water source!



[View Lakes Appreciation Month Activities](#)



Cornerstone Bank recognized as War Eagle Watershed Steward

Upcoming Events

July 8
[Lakes Appreciation Month Cleanup at Hobbs](#)
Hobbs State Park
Rogers, AR
9 am - 1 pm

July 11
[Rain Garden Stewardship Madison County](#)
Convenience Center
Pettigrew, AR
11 am - 1 pm

July 11
[Conservation Win-Win Workshops](#)
NWA Land Trust Workshop
Benton County

The 2017 War Eagle Steward Award was presented to the Cornerstone Bank for their leadership in water quality protection and stewardship of natural resources at their newest branch in Huntsville, AR.

Through the use of pre and post development best management practices such as silt fencing, rock check dams, straw wattles, bioswales, and a stormwater detention pond at the Huntsville Branch, sediment and stormwater runoff created through the land use conversion from pasture to a bank and parking lot will be reduced.

"Their efforts to go above and beyond existing regulations from the local to federal level, and to take voluntary efforts to protect War Eagle Creek which flows to Beaver Lake, drinking water supply for 500,000 residents of Northwest Arkansas, shows their dedication and effort to striving to give back to the communities they serve, helping to make the communities they operate in better places to work and live," says John Pennington, Executive Director for the Beaver Watershed Alliance. "The stewardship and community service of Cornerstone Bank's Governing Board of Directors and staff is much appreciated."

Awards are presented each year during War Eagle Appreciation Day, a community-wide event held at Withrow Springs State Park. The daylong gathering includes a family friendly float, music and food, and activities focused on the environment and community. Award winners receive a metal sign that bears the War Eagle logo and identifies the recipient as a War Eagle Creek Steward. The program promotes awareness of the impact that land owners, residents, business owners/operators and other community members have on the watershed and recognizes those who have worked hard to protect the War Eagle Creek watershed by in some way by making a significant contribution to the water quality of the War Eagle.

July 14

[Stewardship Cleanup and Float on the White River](#)

Riverview Resort
Eureka Springs, AR
10 am

July 15

[StreamSmart Volunteer Training](#)

July 19

[Adopt a Highway Cleanup](#)

Hwy 412, Springdale, AR
9 am - 12 pm

July 20

[Devil's Eyebrow Float and Tour](#) (By Pontoon)

Garfield, AR
9 am - 12 pm

July 24

[Sunset Kayak Tour at Hobbs](#)

Rogers, AR
8 pm

July 25-26

[AWRC Annual Conference](#)

Fayetteville, AR

July 29

[Scuba Diving at Beaver Lake](#) (must be a certified diver)

Day Park, Beaver Lake
10 am - 12 pm

July 31

[Morning Kayak Tour at Hobbs](#)

Rogers, AR
10 am

SAVE THE DATE!

August 8

[Conservation Win-Win Workshops](#)

NWA Land Trust Workshop
Washington County

August 19

[12th Annual Secchi Day](#)

Beaver Lake

September 29

Beaver Lake Symposium
Elkins, AR

Water for Life!

The value of your interest and involvement in the voluntary watershed protection effort for our



Protecting and restoring Beaver Lake, our regional drinking water source!



Devil's Eyebrow Float & Tour

Explore & Discover the Beaver Lake Watershed!

Thursday, July 20th 2017

9:00 am - 12 pm

Lost Bridge Public Use Area @ 12861 Marina Rd, Garfield, AR 72732

As part of Lakes Appreciation Month, we invite you to explore the Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area by pontoon! Learn more about this natural, open-space preserve, which supports the highest concentrations of rare plant species in Arkansas and help keep it clean and pristine by helping pick up trash along shorelines.



All materials and supplies provided.

Space is limited, please RSVP to becky@beaverwatershedalliance.org or call 479-750-8007 for more information. Outdoor clothing and footwear recommended. Learn more about the Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area at www.naturalheritage.com



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.

Together, we can make a difference!

Events Calendar



Be a citizen scientist! Join the Secchi Dip-In! Learn how to take secchi measurements by watching NALM's student-produced "How to Take a Secchi Depth" video.

Secchi Dip In is a part of Lakes Appreciation Month in the Beaver Lake watershed, call 479-750-8007 or email becky@beaverwatershedalliance.org to volunteer!



Free family-friendly outdoor activities such as floating the White River on Friday, July 14, are a great way to enjoy, recreate and give back to this important waterway!

This trip will be an enjoyable float along a calm stretch of the White River with fine folks from Pack Rat Outdoor Center and Beaver Watershed Alliance. Call 479-750-8007 or email becky@beaverwatershedalliance.org to reserve a free canoe for this trip!



Partners for the West Fork White River Watershed Restoration Initiative met and visited local streambank restoration projects in the West Fork watershed. Thanks to the Watershed Conservation Resource Center for leading the tour and to AR Farm Bureau, NWA Land Trust, Ozarks Water Watch, Arkansas Forestry Commission, City of Fayetteville, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, City of West Fork, AR Game and Fish Commission, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture - Extension (UAEX), Natural Resources Conservation Service, Beaver Water District, USGS and Walton Family Foundation!



Thanks to the volunteers and participants at the 2017 War Eagle Appreciation Day event, held at Withrow Springs State Park! Volunteers removed 16 tires and over 1,200 lbs of trash and bulky waste from the War Eagle creek! Event goesers were entertained with live, local bluegrass and learned all about the War Eagle watershed by visiting the many booths by War Eagle Appreciation Day partners and sponsors. Thanks to all who made it a great day!



Thanks to the volunteers who came out to kill the kudzu (Part III) in Tunnel Park, Winslow! Special thanks to event sponsors: Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Patagonia and Beaver Water District.



While you're out enjoying Lakes Appreciation Month activities, or enjoying Beaver Lake and its watershed, use these hashtags and tag Beaver Watershed Alliance!

#BWAlliance #LakesAppreciation

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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Great Partners = Clean Water



Beaver Watershed Alliance

614 E. Emma Ave. Suite M438
Springdale, AR 72764
Phone: 479-750-8007



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