

Beaver Lake Watershed News

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Beaver Lake Watershed Resident, Landowner, or Land Manager,



This newsletter is being sent to you because our records show that you either live or own property in the Beaver Lake Watershed. If you would prefer to receive a digital copy only or have your name removed entirely from this mailing list, please notify the Beaver Watershed Alliance at 479-750-8007.

Working to protect, maintain, and improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the Beaver Lake Watershed is both a demanding job and a dream come true. As long as I can remember I have enjoyed meeting new people, working outside in the pasture, being close to the creek, or in the woods. This job allows me to still visit these places and meet new people, albeit not as much as I would like. The hours I spend inside these days are long as I write grants to try and secure resources needed to address the issues facing the Beaver Lake Watershed and its stakeholders. Trying to secure the needed resources to aid landowners with voluntary soil, water, and wildlife conservation goals is worth it though. After all, Beaver Lake provides drinking water to nearly a half million people, and is a key to our region's future. Come to think of it, you are a key to the future that can help protect water quality in Beaver Lake and its tributaries, and I hope that you will be willing to learn more about how you can do so! Please don't hesitate to check in with us here at BWA to let us know how we may assist you in helping to conserve soil, water, and wildlife habitat on your property.

Sincerely,

John Pennington
Executive Director
Beaver Watershed Alliance

Coming Soon

Inside this issue:

Note from the Director	1
Forest Opportunity Assessment	2-3
West Fork Opportunity Assessment	4-5
Beaver Lake Watershed Programs and Volunteer Opportunities	6

The War Eagle Riparian Management Education and Demonstration Project will kick-off in October. Beaver Watershed Alliance was recently awarded a grant from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and US Environmental Protection Agency to work with streamside landowners to assist with soil, water quality, and wildlife habitat conservation efforts. Forests, pastures, streamsides, households, businesses, and cities can all be managed for better or worse outcomes. No matter who you are, where you live, or what type of business you conduct—you can help improve and protect water quality voluntarily if you choose. The Beaver Watershed Alliance would like to work with you to help you maximize your management activities to protect water quality.

Special thanks to our sponsors:



Beaver Lake Watershed

Forest Landowner Opportunity Assessment Update

Dear Forest Landowner,

Our first round of forest landowner community input and interest meetings were very revealing. Many owners of forested lands are struggling with diseased timber and declining forest health overall. Others are simply more interested in learning more about the forest and various forest management approaches whether it be for wildlife habitat improvements, sustainable harvesting, controlled burning, conservation easements, or forest management plans. Now being aware of landowner needs, Beaver Watershed Alliance has arranged, and is still arranging, a variety of programs to help meet the needs of forest landowners. Please check out our two upcoming programs this fall.

Sincerely,

The BWA Team

If you are unable to attend the forest landowner meetings, please give us a call to chat or invite us out to your forested land so that you can share with us information about what types of management resources you would like to have or issues that you would like to address.

Email: Info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

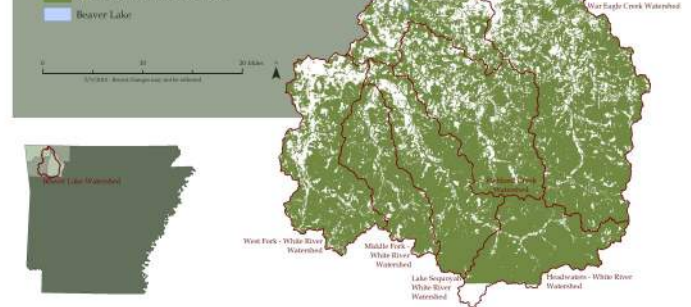
Phone: 479-750-8007

Forest and Woodland Land Cover

Beaver Lake Watershed

Forest and Woodland Cover and Watershed Elements

Beaver Lake Watershed 10 Digit HUC Boundaries
Forest and Woodland Land Cover
Beaver Lake



Forest Management Programs

Sunday October 5th will be the first program focused at meeting forest landowner needs. The program will focus on conservation easements and stream restoration. Often times, the two of these conservation measures go hand in hand. No doubt that we will be in good hands with the Watershed Conservation Resource Center and the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust who have worked together to develop a stream restoration and conservation easement project that we will learn about indoors, but go outdoors to learn about the site first hand.

October 18th will be a general forest management program which will cover several aspects of forest management.

RSVP is encouraged and requested. Call 479-750-8007 or email: info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

Forest Management Workshops to be held in October

Land Conservation and Stream Restoration

Sunday, October 5th from 1:30-4:00 pm at the Greenland Community Center

General Forest Management Considerations

October 18th 9:00-12:00 pm location TBA

A morning with the most passionate forester in the State of Arkansas. Dr. Hal Liechty of the University of Arkansas Monticello will share his vast knowledge and expertise of general forest management considerations. A special program for the learning forest manager.

Forest Landowner Community Meetings Update



Forest landowners participating in the West Fork community forest landowner meeting.



Controlled burn taking place at Hobbs State Park Conservation Area. Photo credit to Jay Schneider.

Beaver Watershed Alliance hosted a series of 6 community meetings for owners and land managers of 40 acres or more of which 75 percent is forested and within the Beaver Lake Watershed this Summer. One-hundred thirty four individuals from all around the watershed participated and provided valuable information relating to the needs and interests of forest landowners. A list of informational and technical needs, and program recommendations valued by our forest landowners and managers were made and BWA will be carrying out workshops over the next year based on the feedback we received with our partners like the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Hobbs State Park and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. We will also incorporate this information into a Forest Management section of the Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy for other forest landowners to consider.



Sustainable timber harvesting is part of managing a healthy forest. All trees die eventually, and some are better than others for wildlife, aesthetic, or financial values. Understanding which trees could be harvested, how this can help wildlife, your pocketbook, and forest health was a major theme expressed by forest landowners in the Beaver Lake Watershed.

Meeting the owners and managers of the forested land is a pleasure, and we feel confident that BWA can help to secure the needed resources that will be helpful for landowners to achieve improved forest management for wildlife, health, harvesting and land conservation. If you are unable to attend our programs, but would like to discuss your forest management interests or show off your beneficial forest management practices just give us a call and we'll be happy to head for the hills. Special thanks to the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Hobbs State Park, Northwest Arkansas Land Trust, Ar-Tex Ranch, Watershed Conservation Resource Center, the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Extension Service, University of Arkansas Monticello, NRCS and Conservation Districts, and US Endowment for Forestry and Communities for offering their unconditional program interest and support!

Phone: 479-750-8007 **Email:** info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

Program sponsor:



The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that works collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation's working forests and forest-reliant communities.



West Fork of the White River Opportunity Assessment Project Update

Dear Streamside Landowner or Watershed Resident,

We received valuable feedback from stakeholders in the West Fork Watershed at our series of meetings this year and would like to thank everyone that attended, which included over 140 individuals including farmers, forest landowners, and representatives from businesses, municipalities, county departments, schools, and area nonprofit organizations. Our input maps are in the process of being updated and will be available for viewing online soon. In the meantime, we would like to invite you to join us for a tour of the stream restoration on the West Fork River near the Drake Field Airport. This is your chance to view the entire project in person and learn about the history of the project, the overall process, and see it for yourself! Learn more about this opportunity below.

This is our last call for you to take advantage of the resources offered through our program. If you have a question or concern about your streamside areas, or would like to learn more about the resources available to you and how we can help you with your land and stream management goals, give us a call today at **479-750-8007** or email courtney@beaverwatershedalliance.org. Please leave us a message if we are out of the office.

Courtney Thomas
Outreach Coordinator

Last call for conservation site visits!

We want to help you do things that are beneficial for your home, yard, pasture, forested land, and streamside property. It's not too late to set up a **FREE** property site visit to enable us to connect you with resources. This is your last chance, so contact us today at **479-750-8007** or courtney@beaverwatershedalliance.org

Special thanks to the program sponsors and funders:



Beaver Water District



Tour the Airport stream restoration site

Join us on Sunday, October 5th, for a tour of the West Fork White River Airport Site stream restoration. The program will take place from 1:30 - 4 pm and will include presentations about the project by the Watershed Conservation Resource Center and the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust.

The program will begin at the Greenland Community Center located at 170 Letitia St.

575 landowners and watershed stakeholders are involved in the **West Fork Opportunity Assessment** program, which has led to **53** conservation assessments and the use of **96** Best Management Practices, including **over 2 miles** of trees planted, and **over 1 square mile** of Best Management Practices implemented. You can help add to these numbers — give us a call today to find out how!

What Best Management Practices are YOU using?

We want to know if our newsletter and programs have inspired you to use new practices that are good for your home and property, and help out water quality. **Call us at 479-750-8007 and let us know**

BMPs include rain gardens, soil tests, invasive plant removal, reforestation, not mowing to the creek, pasture renovation, streambank stabilization, low impact development, participating in a stream cleanup, following label instructions, picking up after your pet, integrated pest management, land conservation, maintaining stream vegetation, household hazardous waste management, sustainable forest management, fixing an oil leak, not littering, and more.



A soil test can tell you how much and what type of fertilizer is best for your property management needs.

Keep up with the latest from BWA through our monthly online newsletter!

Would you like to be informed about the latest water quality news, keep up with the Beaver Watershed Alliance's programs, and continue to learn about resources and opportunities in your watershed as well as the rest of the Beaver Lake Watershed? Sign up to receive our monthly eNews today! Visit our website, www.beaverwatershedalliance.org, enter your email address and click "Sign up". Then look out for news from us in your inbox at the beginning of each month!

West Fork Watershed Stakeholder Survey

You are invited to take our program survey — we truly value your feedback. Please return to us upon completion.

1. I found information contained in program newsletters to be useful: Yes No

What was most and least useful?

2. I learned something new about protecting water quality from program newsletters: Yes No

If "yes", what did you learn?

3. I attended a community meeting or watershed program: Yes No

If "no", what prevented you from attending?

4. I found information contained at meetings or programs to be useful: Yes No

What was most and least useful?

5. What topics would you like to see covered at future programs?

6. Did you use any new Best Management Practices to protect water quality on your property or a property you manage? Yes No

If yes, what are these practices?

7. Additional comments:

Please return to:
Beaver Watershed Alliance
614 E. Emma Ave. Suite M438
Springdale, AR 72764
Or
courtney@beaverwatershedalliance.org



Or Current Resident

Beaver Lake Watershed Meetings & Volunteer Opportunities

Program	Time	Date	Location
Beaver Lake Watershed Symposium	9:30 - 3:30pm	9/26/14	Carroll Electric, Huntsville
Stream Restoration & Conservation Easement Workshop	1:30 - 4:00p m	10/5/14	Greenland Community Center
General Forest Management Workshop	9:00 - 12:00	10/18/14	Hobbs State Park
Watershed Speaker Series	11:30 - 1:00pm	11/14/14	Fayetteville
Middle Fork White River Cleanup	9:00 - 1:00pm	2/15/15	Bunch Park, Elkins
Streamside Landowner Workshop	9:00 - 3:00pm	3/7/15	Carroll Electric Huntsville
Forest Management Landowner to Landowner		Spring TBD	Durham Community Building

RSVP is requested and encouraged. Some programs have a small maximum capacity, others may be changed due to weather or some other factor, and some times and dates are to be determined. We don't ever want you to show up for a program that has been altered in time or location. Please call 479-750-8007 or email info@beaverwatershedalliance.org to RSVP.

CREEKSIDE ASSESSMENTS

If you are a landowner that is currently interested in finding out more about the health of your forest, pasture, or streamside area, addressing streambank erosion problems, increasing wildlife habitat, gaining tax credits for streamside management, or even doing a little more to protect and improve the water quality of the Beaver Lake Watershed, then give us a call at (479)-750-8007 to arrange a FREE appointment. We will be more than happy to meet with you at your convenience about your particular concerns or interests.