

NewsStreams

Because Clean Water Can't Wait

Kentucky  Waterways Alliance
Healthy waterways.
Healthy communities.

Photo Credit: Susan Griffen Ward



A New Strategic Plan

Jeff Jewel - Development Director



Ward Wilson

Executive Director

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2017 is already proving to be a year of great change. We face new challenges, embrace new opportunities, and have a new strategic plan for Kentucky Waterways Alliance.

Speaking of change, we've welcomed a new Executive Director to help us institute our new plan. Judy Petersen is retiring after 20 years at KWA, and long-time KWA member, volunteer, and board member, Ward Wilson, will be our new leader. We will be hosting a series of events around the state in honor of Judy's 20 years of work protecting Kentucky's river, lakes, and streams. We're dubbing this our 20/2020 campaign as this will be our opportunity to celebrate 20 years of growth and accomplishments with Judy at the helm, while also

looking forward to the goals outlined in our strategic plan for 2017 through 2020.

We have a lot of work to do in the coming years. Facing serious environmental policy changes, rolling back of stream protections, and a lot of political headwind can seem like a daunting task. However, we must double down on our efforts to support one another so that we can navigate the bumps in the road together. We have to keep making progress on restoring and protecting the waters of our commonwealth. It's also important to celebrate our victories and remember that local actions really do matter.

We might not be able to accomplish everything we would like on a national level,

but we can clean up the stream that flows through our neighborhood, plant trees and pollinator gardens at our neighborhood schools, and help out the local wildlife by turning our own backyards into Certified Wildlife Habitats.

We feel it is more important than ever to have an ambitious, well-organized plan and numerous paths to achieving real results in the battle for clean water and healthy ecosystems. We hope you will join us for one of our 20/2020 events this spring and learn more about our plans and how you can be a big part of our future successes.

Watch for news, events, and volunteer opportunities at www.kwalliance.org, follow us on Facebook, or both!



President Trump & The Environment

Bijaya Shrestha
Water Policy Director

In his address to the joint session of Congress on February 28th, President Trump vowed to "promote clean air and clean water." His rhetoric, however, does not match his actions. Since Donald Trump's election victory, he has appointed Scott Pruitt as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), signed Congress' disapproval of the Stream Protection Rule, signed an Executive Order instructing the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to review and reconsider a 2015 rule known as the Clean Water Rule, and stated an intent to cut the budget of the EPA by \$2 billion.

The Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt's appointment as the Administrator of the EPA on February 17. As the Attorney General of Oklahoma, Mr. Pruitt sued the EPA 13 times, including lawsuits to block its Clean Power Plan as well as the Clean Water Rule. Mr. Pruitt has also expressed skepticism about human-caused global warming, recently rejecting

the scientific consensus on climate change. As the new Administrator of the EPA, Mr. Pruitt has said that research on global warming would not be especially prioritized over other EPA research work.

In early February, Congress used the Congressional Review Act to repeal the Stream Protection Rule, which limited coal mining companies from dumping waste and debris in the adjacent valleys. The Rule required companies to monitor affected streams during mining and develop restoration plans for damaged waterways. It also provided communities with basic information about toxic water pollution. In Appalachia, mountaintop removal mining has been responsible for the destruction of over 2,000 miles of streams and 2.5 million acres of Appalachia's ancient forests. Later that week, President Trump signed the bill repealing the rule.

Ahead of his address to the joint session of Congress on February 28th, President

Trump signed an Executive Order, instructing the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to review and reconsider a 2015 rule known as the Clean Water Rule. President Trump believes that the rule regulates "nearly every puddle or every ditch on a farmer's land" and thus wants to see it eliminated. Contrary to President Trump's statement, the rule clarifies what streams, rivers, and wetlands fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government and specifically excludes ditches and puddles that are not tributaries. Furthermore, the rule does not change the exemptions for agriculture established by the Clean Water Act.

The rule does protect 60 percent of the nation's streams and millions of acres of wetlands, waterways that provide healthy habitats for many species of wildlife. Eliminating the rule would make innumerable streams and wetlands vulnerable to pollution and destruction. Many Kentucky communities get their drinking waters from



these streams as well using them for recreation. Eliminating the rule would mean that our major waterways downstream from these streams and wetlands, such as the Ohio and the Mississippi, will also be vulnerable to more pollution.

On March 16, President Trump unveiled his budget blueprint to "Make America Great Again." The budget blueprint proposes deep cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) while increasing the Department of Defense budget by \$52.3 billion.

According to President Trump's budget proposal, the EPA's budget would be cut by 31 percent (\$2.6 billion), eliminate 50 programs, and reduce its staff by over 20 percent, which would be 3,200 people. This budget cut would result in the elimination of all funding for the enactment of the Clean Power Plan, the regulation designed to curb greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. It would also discontinue funding for climate-change research and international climate-change programs, the Environmental Justice program (helping local communities work through environmental concerns), the Global Change Research (reports humans' impact on the planet), Energy Star grants, the Science

to Achieve Results (STAR) graduate fellowships, as well as initiatives aimed at environmental protections along the US-Mexico border. It would also cut funding for the Superfund cleanup program and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance, while cutting the funding for the Office of Research and Development in half.

President Trump wants to reduce funding for the Department of Agriculture by 21% (\$4.7 billion) by making cuts to the National Forest System and eliminating loan and grant programs for water and sewage systems. For the Department of the Interior, he wants to increase funding for programs that drill for oil and gas on public lands while cutting funding for programs such as the national Heritage Areas and the National Wildlife Refuge Fund. He is also proposing a 29% cut to the State Department, which would eliminate climate-change prevention programs.

The budget proposes a 16% reduction to the Commerce Department, which includes

\$250 million from coastal research programs that help prepare communities for rising seas and worsening storms as well as \$73 million from the Sea Grant program, which provides integrated research, communication, education, extension and legal programs to coastal communities. The budget also proposes a 6% cut to the Energy Department, which would mean a \$900 million cut from the Office of Science. The budget eliminates NASA's Office of Education and cuts \$102 million of funding from the Earth science program, terminating four missions aimed at understanding climate change.

Although KWA has concerns about the direction this administration is taking when it comes to the protection of the environment, we stand resolute in working towards our mission and goals.

Please watch out for upcoming action alerts, and other local opportunities to defend clean water. Our voices need to be heard and your help is needed now more than ever!



AVEDA Earth Month 2017

Jessica Kane
Community Engagement Director

Kentucky Waterways Alliance is once again the Aveda EarthMonth partner for Kentucky! Throughout the year, and especially in the month of April, salons around the state will host events and fundraisers to support our mission of protecting, restoring,

AVEDA EARTHMONTH2017

and celebrating Kentucky's waterways. The money raised during EarthMonth goes directly to our programs, putting projects on the ground across the state. We've been installing pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and rain barrels in many locations, all helping to improve water quality in local streams. We will also be hosting several stream and river cleanups across the state. We hope you will join us on the water! In the meantime, check out some of the upcoming EarthMonth events and help us make this year's EarthMonth the most successful yet!

We would also like to thank all of the participating Aveda Salons. You guys are amazing and we are so grateful for your support and the extra time you spend making this work possible!



Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Jessica Kane - Community Engagement Director

We hosted our 9th annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Friday, March 10th, at the Greens Foundation Lodge in Louisville. It was our most successful festival yet and we would like to give a big thank you to our partner this year, The Parklands of Floyd's Fork. This event could not have been made possible without the support of our title sponsors, Quest Outdoors and

Wiltshire Pantry. Thank you so much for all you do for KWA and clean water! We would also like to thank our supporting sponsors, community partners, and most importantly, all of our wonderful volunteers that gave their time to make the event such a huge success. We hope you will join us next year for some exciting new additions!

Our Partner



Title Sponsors



AVEDA Earth Month Events

Spa Night
Allure Salon
April 12 @ 6PM
320 Boone Station Rd
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Save Water, Drink Beer
Greenline Salon
April 27 @ 5-8PM
27 W 7th St
Covington, KY 41011

Bunco Night
Pure Salon
April 29 @ 6PM
8003 Bardstown Rd
Louisville, KY 40291

Rain Barrel Workshop
June 4 @ 2 PM
Location TBD
Louisville, KY



Photo Credit: Gerry Seavo James
Director, Explore Kentucky Initiative

New Faces

Ward Wilson - Executive Director

I have moved from the board to the director's chair. It is a different view – one that I have enjoyed. It won't be easy to follow Judy Petersen after her 20 years of service to KWA as Executive Director. She is a hero to me and many others that care about Kentucky waterways.

As I settle in here, I am proud of how far we have come and determined that we must keep going. Our members, donors, partners, staff, and board provide a solid foundation upon which to build. A less tangible, but critical, asset is our reputation for getting our facts straight and getting things done. Our strategic planning process identified those strengths, but also clearly showed that we need to do more to address the threats to the waterways of our Commonwealth.

The staff and board worked together to

develop a Strategic Plan to meet that challenge to do more. A key part of our renewed commitment is the addition of "celebration" to our mission. We will continue to protect waterways by leading the discussion of how to reduce pollution and destruction. Also our restoration work is growing in key watersheds across the state. Celebration may sound less serious, but people and their love for their waterways are keys to our success. I have studied and worked in water resources management and engineering most of my life. I do it because I love waterways and I'll bet most of you do, too. Let's take the time to celebrate and enjoy the good so we are energized for the work of protecting and restoring our rivers, lakes, and streams.

Healthy waterways. Healthy communities.

What's Up With BCA

Tim Joice - Watershed Program Director

Time flies when you're having fun! That's the saying, right? Well, we've been having fun with Beargrass Creek Alliance (BCA) activities and time has been flying. In the last year, we have done dozens of stormwater audits at residences all over the watershed. We've even advised folks outside of the watershed about stormwater issues and given suggestions for their property.

We'll be especially busy the next few months, and can use all the help we can get! First, we have our BCA Spring Cleanup on April 1 at Seneca Park. Then, through April and May, we will have Every Drop rain garden, rain barrel, and tree installations. We'll also continue with our stormwater audits during that time. If you are interested in getting a small group to help with an installation, or learn how to do a stormwater audit, please contact us!

But that's not all! We have our storm drain marking program available for groups that want to take a walk around a neighborhood and make sure folks know that the storm drains go straight to the creek. Of course, we are always open to helping local groups organize cleanups on the creek or in a neighborhood.



Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

Our Mission

To protect, restore, and celebrate Kentucky's unique waterways and their watersheds.

Our Vision

KWA envisions a Kentucky that sustains and celebrates our vast network of healthy waterways.

Kentucky's lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands support thriving aquatic ecosystems, healthy fish and wildlife populations, abundant recreation, and dependable, clean water supplies for future generations.



Our Core Functions

Kentucky Waterways Alliance is the voice for the lakes, rivers, and streams of Kentucky. We are the only water-focused organization with a state-wide scope in Kentucky.

We work in partnership with many organizations to perform the following core functions:

Protection

We advocate for clean water and protecting our streams from the impacts of pollution. We engage citizens and provide them the tools they need to speak up for our critical water resources.

Restoration

We work in key watersheds and communities to facilitate the restoration of unhealthy streams. We assist in funding unique projects that can help restore threatened and endangered species as well as their environments.

Celebration

Many Kentucky waterways are national treasures. Providing clean water and unique habitat to world-class biodiversity. We live, work, and play in the watersheds across the state and we celebrate their unique values.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Gordon Garner - President
Kay Harker - Vice President

Pamla Wood - Treasurer
Hugh Archer - Secretary
Beverly Juett - Immediate Past President

Goal 1. Revitalize and restore key watersheds through community engagement, advocacy, watershed planning, and other targeted strategies.

We work with community members to support stewardship of their local waterways. We have educated thousands across the state about issues facing local streams, creeks, rivers, lakes, and wetlands. We work with communities to help implement projects that will improve water quality in places of need.

Goal 2. Defend clean water and champion sound public policy to protect Kentucky's waterways so they support healthy communities of plants, animals and humans.

We believe clean water is a right; it belongs to every Kentuckian. Our role is to be Kentucky's watchdog for clean water and to help balance the influence of industry with the needs of our waterways. The role of community members in protecting our waterways is often overlooked or undervalued. KWA helps communities understand how they can effectively protect their local lakes, rivers, and streams, empowering them to make a difference.

Goal 3. Increase the community awareness and knowledge about water, its connection to our health, and issues facing Kentucky's waterways. and humans.

We recognize that water quality is important to everyone. We provide opportunities that make it easy for anyone to become engaged in clean water issues. By making clean water advocacy simple and relatable, we ensure that our message reaches as many people as possible.

Goal 4. Sustain, strengthen, and expand partnerships to empower and engage individuals, communities, businesses, and government in watershed protection and restoration.

We're stronger and more effective when we work with others. KWA has strong and effective partnerships and through the work in this plan we will make those partnerships even more successful. Developing new and stronger partnerships with industries, businesses, and other groups strengthens and unifies our voice. We will increase our impact on aquatic ecosystems as trustee for the Kentucky Aquatic Resources Fund, and by expanding our partnership with state and federal Fish and Wildlife Service, businesses, universities, and others.



Board Members:

Scott Vanderploeg - Lower Green River
Tom Vierheller - Big Sandy River
Bob Johnson - Jackson Purchase
John Niland - Licking River

Evan Holladay - Salt River
Marcia Boone - Salt River
Emeritus Board Member:
Frank Elsen



Photo Credit: Jim Moyer

NewsStreams

Because Clean Water Can't Wait - Spring 2017



Healthy waterways.
Healthy communities.

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