

NewsStreams



A publication of Kentucky Waterways Alliance: Working to protect and restore Kentucky's waterways.

Have a SPLASH of bourbon!

We all know that clean water makes better bourbon, right? Well, gather your friends and come out to celebrate both on the evening of Friday, October 9th for our third annual fundraising event, *Bourbon Splash!*

This year's event will be held at the **Muhammad Ali Center**, located on the banks of the Ohio River in Louisville. As you arrive, take a tour of the Muhammad Ali Museum and then be ready to bid on amazing one-of-a-kind silent auction items. The event will feature a farm-to-table dinner catered by the fabulous **Wiltshire Pantry**, cocktails, wine, beer, and exclusive bourbon tastings. Entertainment will be provided by **Billy Goat Strut Revue**, whose toe-tapping, Kentucky-flavored version of "Bourbon Jazz" will have you ready to dance!

Special thanks to our River level sponsor, **Brown-Forman**, and to Creek level sponsors **Sweetwater Brewing Company** and **Orvis** for making this night possible.

Tickets for the event are \$100 (or \$75 for current members!) Tables of 10 tickets are \$750, or \$1,000 for a corporate table. All proceeds support our mission to protect and restore Kentucky's waterways. **Make sure you purchase your tickets soon. Last year's event sold out quickly!** For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, please visit the event web page at:

www.kwalliance.org/bourbonsplash

KENTUCKY WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

BOURBON
SPLASH

10 . 9 . 15

Featuring Billy Goat Strut Revue

Muhammad Ali Center, View Pointe Hall

Message From the Director

Good News

I am excited about all the great news we have for you in this edition of *NewsStreams*! In the past several months, we've had a number of important wins and successes that we want to share with you.

As someone who grew up in Rachel Carson's hometown in the 1970s, a passion to defend and clean up our environment is in my DNA. For a brief period in time, the need to protect our environment was huge on the public's radar. The US Congress showed strong bipartisan support in approving many of the major pillars of environmental protection we still enjoy, including the Clean Water Act.

Yet today, it is often deemed too expensive to protect clean water and clean drinking water resources that we rely on for survival. I am thankful for our faithful members and ask that you do your best to let our state and federal representatives know how you feel. It's easy to tell them those things you are against but please also tell them the things you support; write your Congressperson today to say you support clean water!

In addition to the good news about our hard work and our great partnerships that you'll find in this newsletter, you'll be hearing more from us soon about our new Strategic Plan. We are setting the stage for our next few years of work, and we have an ambitious new plan. We'll expand on our work across the state and represent both our water heritage as well as our new affiliation with the National Wildlife Federation. Stay tuned!



KWA staff and board at our strategic planning meeting in General Butler State Park.

Finally, the fall is when we traditionally elect our board. If you have time to give and are interested, please let us know. We rely on our members and volunteers to make KWA the wonderful organization that it is.

**Interested in joining KWA's board of directors during this exciting strategic development process?
Let us know today!**

On behalf of a healthier Kentucky,

Judy Petersen

Executive Committee

Gordon Garner, President
Ward Wilson, Vice President
Bruce Scott, Treasurer
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Bacon Creek Agricultural Coordinator

Kentucky Waterways Alliance
120 Webster Street, Suite 217
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 589-8008

**Want to be in the know about water-related happenings?
Visit our website at
WWW.KWALLIANCE.ORG
to check out upcoming events in Kentucky!**

KWA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Articles express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of KWA or its officers.

Making the sun shine in coal country.

Guest article by Tom Vierheller, KWA Big Sandy River Basin Delegate

My family had been thinking about going solar for years. But we didn't know much about it – how much would it cost, how well would it work, and what would our coal country neighbors think of it? I did not know much about the potential of solar or the costs or the other things we could do at our home to reduce our energy use.

We started really looking into it about three years ago. The first thing we needed to do was figure out our current home energy use. Once we had a baseline of our energy consumption, then we could try to reduce it.

The average electricity consumption for a U.S. residential utility customer in 2013 was 10,908 kilowatt hours (KWH). This works out to 909 KWH per month (*US EIA.gov*). In 2012, the monthly average for Kentucky homes was 1,130 KWH, the sixth highest monthly average in the nation. Our house is all electric, and we had been averaging about 24,000 KWH per year, more than double the average household consumption!

In an effort to be more energy efficient, over the last three years we have added: thermal solar hot water tank, photovoltaic panels through net metering rated for 3,200 KWH per year, new ultra-high efficiency heat pump, and upgraded insulation of duct work. We also took advantage of the blower door test and insulation upgrades offered free of charge by Kentucky Power.

Our goal at the beginning was to reduce our average annual electric use by 50%. We have not quite made it, we are at a 40% reduction. However, the heat pump is our sole source of heat in the winter, and these last two winters have had some bitterly cold temperatures in Kentucky. If the temperatures are closer to normal this winter, and with additional work on an exposed area of the house this summer, we hope to make our goal this year.

So, even with the last two very cold winters, we have reduced our energy use by 10,000 KWH per year. This amounts to about \$1,000 per year reduction in our electric bill. **This translates into approximately 10,000 pounds of coal which would have produced over 27,000 pounds of carbon dioxide!**

Bacon Creek Farm Field Day

KWA teamed up with farmer Brad Hines, the Hart County Conservation District, Larue County Conservation District, NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, Roundstone Seeds, and the KY Division



It will take a few years to get the money back from our investments, but my wife and I just felt it was the right thing to do. It was a way we could directly invest in healthier waterways and communities.



KWA Big Sandy River Basin Delegate, Tom Vierheller, poses on his roof with his solar panels and son, Wade Vierheller.

Visitors to our home are very curious about our solar setup. My family wondered if some in our area would see solar as a part of the “war on coal.” However, that has not been the case. Most everyone is first interested about the potential savings in the electric bill. Next, visitors really get into the technology and see it as the future for many homeowners. Until I show them the system, I often hear “solar cannot work in Kentucky.” I am proud to say it can.

My family will be opening up our doors for an open house on Saturday September 26 at 5 pm in Floyd County, Kentucky. Interested in learning more about the energy updates we are making or the work Kentucky Waterways Alliance is doing in our area of the state? We would love for you to join us. Contact Angela@kwalliance.org to learn more.

of Water to offer the public a chance to see agricultural conservation practices at work. Attendees were treated to a soil demonstration, lunch by the Hart County Cattlemen's Association, a hay ride, and a rousing game of Jeopardy! Thank you to everyone who participated!!



KWA Works Every Day on Behalf of Our Families for Clean Water POLICY.. IN BRIEF: what we're doing to protect your water resources

By Tim Joice, Water Policy Director

No MORE Mercury Campaign

Enough already! That's the message we've been spreading over the past six months. KWA and partner groups across the Ohio River Basin have been working to ensure the amount of mercury dumped into the Ohio River is reduced in the coming years.

Along with many allies, our campaign, No Mercury in the Ohio River Environment (No MORE), has resulted in thousands of citizens up and down the river, and throughout the country, voicing their support to remove mercury from discharges into the Ohio River. More than 17,000 folks have submitted comments to regulatory personnel and thousands more have signed on to petitions that demonstrate strong public support for better protections from toxic pollutants like mercury.

Science backs up the need to significantly reduce mercury pollution in the Ohio, but regulatory



KWA and our partner organizations surpassed petition signature goals, proving to ORSANCO that this is an important issue.

agencies are still strongly considering allowing more. In October, the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) will decide whether to backtrack from a current October 2015 deadline that was set way back in 2003 to ban the use of dilution zones for toxic chemicals like mercury.

It is a true tragedy that in 2015, we are still having to debate the merits of having cleaner water. KWA will continue to be a watchdog for Ohio River issues for citizens in Kentucky and will continue to work with allies in other states to ensure that the future of the Ohio River places citizen health and aquatic health over industry profits.

Winner Winner Chicken Dinner

In the last year, KWA has had some major successes for clean water.

- The *Red River Gorge Restoration and Watershed Plan* project is complete! The project involved the fantastic Red River Watershed Team and entailed completing a watershed-based plan for four tributaries to the Red River. The project also received additional funding to implement the watershed plan starting later this year!!
- KWA also reached an important milestone with the Darby Creek Watershed Plan! The plan has been revised, and KWA won funding to start putting best management practices on the ground in this Oldham County watershed.
- The EPA, at the urging of environmental groups, finally moved forward with a new rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to a great number of streams and wetlands!
- KWA and allies were able to get over 17,000 comments submitted in support of enforcing the ban on use of mixing zones for toxic chemicals like mercury in the Ohio River!
- Wins in mining: Frasure Creek Mining is again being sued by partner organizations KFTC and Appalachian Voices for falsifying pollution reports. A previous lawsuit and eventual proposed settlement with Frasure Creek over thousands of earlier violations was rejected in

late 2014 by the courts as insufficient for reasons that included an inability of the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection to enforce the Clean Water Act. Oh, and Arch Coal finally agreed to pay a fine and upgrade facilities for thousands of water quality violations at their mines in several states, including Kentucky.

- In June, KWA and partners tentatively won a lawsuit against the state Division of Water when the courts upheld a previous decision that now requires additional analysis be conducted to make sure LG&E/KU doesn't get away with continued discharges of toxic chemicals into our waterways!

- In early 2014, KWA voiced concerns to the Corps of Engineers and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) about the fee-based mitigation program for stream impacts being carried out by KDFWR, especially in Eastern Kentucky. As of November 2014, credits are no longer being sold in eastern Kentucky, which means mitigation must be arranged ahead of time. In addition, cost for credits has risen across the state to ensure the KDFWR has sufficient funds for projects.

As anyone in the advocacy world knows, when you get wins, you need to celebrate them. So, we just wanted to toot our horn a bit, and thank all of our members for their support and effort in helping achieve these wins!

Restoring the Red River

Guest article by Jon Walker - Hydrologist, Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky

Have you ever floated quietly downstream in a canoe along the Red River? If you have, you probably understand what treasures lay hidden in these Appalachian foothills of eastern Kentucky.



What you might not have noticed are the eroding stream banks and sediment that flows into the river, or the trash scattered along the banks and below the river's surface. With its headwaters on private land, many of the same water quality issues found in densely populated areas are found in the Red River.

The Red River is a tributary to the Kentucky River, a 260-mile long river that supplies drinking water to approximately one-sixth of the state. This watershed occurs in an area with a defined set of economic and ecological challenges to clean water.

In spite of water improvement needs, the Red River and its scenic surroundings attract thousands of visitors each year. A 20-mile portion of the river is designated as a Wild and Scenic River. Towering cliffs and unique rock features line the steep, wooded slopes of the river's corridor, and create a rugged landscape that invites both nature lovers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

The Kentucky Waterways Alliance and the Daniel Boone National Forest have recently acquired grant funding to help restore water quality in the Red River. A Kentucky Division of Water non-point

source grant has also been used over the past six years to make a positive difference.

Concerned citizens, nonprofit organizations, natural resource agencies, and local government officials have formed a grassroots watershed group. Their combined efforts have resulted in several watershed achievements. A comprehensive watershed plan has been written that prioritizes restoration project needs and aquatic habitat challenges.

Some of the project accomplishments to date include:

- Restored more than a mile of straightened stream channel back to a natural meander
- Removed two low-water stream dams that were impeding fish movement
- Rehabilitated 157 user-developed campsites causing erosion
- Reduced erosion on more than 32 miles of trail
- Eliminated 416 tons of stream sedimentation per year
- Cleaned trash from more than 75 miles of stream
- Conducted environmental education in classrooms and in the field
- Developed and distributed educational banners and brochures
- Started planning for septic system rehabilitation for watershed inhabitants
- Planning to hire a local and independent watershed coordinator

Student Conservation Association volunteers were instrumental in the completion of this work.



The Red River watershed has a mix of "outstanding resource waters" and "impaired streams," but the projects being implemented will improve water quality for local residents, tourists and aquatic species. The environmental education and public participation in stream projects will help build a strong land ethic into the future.

KWA's Development Director says "Goodbye"

Article by Angela Doyle, pictured below with her husband Marcus, son Kieran and daughter Katherine.



It's with mixed emotions that I write what will be my last newsletter article for *Newstreams*. Next month after Bourbon Splash, I will be leaving Kentucky Waterways Alliance after almost 6 years as Development Director to embark on a new career as "Doyle Family CEO" and full-time mom to two of the cutest kids I know.

This wasn't an easy decision to make, and has taken a lot of careful thought. I'm excited for the opportunity to be starting this new adventure, but sad to be leaving an organization I love so much. I'm not going too far, though - since I'm going to have a lot more time on my hands, I'll be free to volunteer for organizations I care about, including KWA!

I hope you can make it to the gala on October 9 so that I can say "Goodbye!" in person. Until then...thanks for the memories!

Green River Cleanups a Success

KWA, TNC and several other partner organizations teamed up once again this summer for two Green River Cleanups. We had more than 150 volunteers come out to help clean up just under 40 miles of the Green! 6,240 pounds of trash and 79 tires were removed from this biologically important stretch of river.

A big thank you to our sponsors TNC, WKU Green River Preserve, Big Buffalo Crossing Canoe, IGA, American Rivers, Whole Foods, Aveda, Hart County Solid Waste, Replica Screenprinting, Green River Paddle Trail, Green Co. fiscal court, Upper Green River Watershed Watch, DART Foundation, and all of our awesome volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!



*Our lucky kayak winners this year were Joe Norman of Horse Cave and Tyler Sole (top left) of Georgetown. Members of the North American Native Fishes Association (top right) were also on hand to show us what we are working so hard to protect. They were lucky enough to seign a Kentucky species of concern - Stargazing minnow, *Phenacobius uranops*, out of the river (pictured below).*



Kentucky Arrow Darter

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service are stepping up to conserve the Kentucky arrow darter, a candidate for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Through a Candidate Conservation Agreement signed on August 31, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service committed to take actions that will protect the small fish found in some headwater streams of the Daniel Boone National Forest. Populations of the Kentucky arrow darter in the Daniel Boone National Forest and the University of Kentucky's Robinson Forest constitute almost 49

percent of the species' remaining occupied habitat. Habitat loss and degradation represent the most significant threats to the darter.

This voluntary conservation commitment will ensure needed management actions for the Kentucky arrow darter will occur. Some improvements under this agreement include replacing culverts impeding the Kentucky arrow darter's natural movements and developing a forest-wide monitoring program for the fish.

"The Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) is the latest step to proactively address at-risk species throughout the Southeast," said Southern Regional Forester Tony Tooke. "The CCA is another example of the long-standing partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service, which has produced multiple CCAs over the past several years."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will decide whether to protect the Kentucky arrow darter under the Endangered Species Act later this fall. Until then, mapping Kentucky arrow darter habitat and other conservation efforts will be funded in part by the Kentucky Aquatic Resource Fund managed by Kentucky Waterways Alliance.

The proactive effort for the Kentucky arrow darter is part of this collaborative strategy to boost plant and wildlife populations and habitat before they need protection under the Endangered Species Act.



Southern Regional Forester, Tony Tooke, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Deputy Regional Director, Mike Oetker, sign the Candidate Conservation Agreement for the Kentucky arrow darter.



Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future

Historic Day for Clean Water

June 3 will be remembered among the most important days for America's natural resources - the day in which Clean Water Act protections were restored for more than two million miles of streams, millions of acres of wetlands, and one-third of all Americans who receive their water from these sources.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy, and Managing Director of the Council on Environmental Quality Christy Goldfuss visited Earth Conservation Corp's famed pump house facility along the banks of Anacostia River for the unveiling and signing of the final Clean Water Rule (see photo at right).

The announcement was a huge win for wildlife and fisheries, for healthy drinking water and public health, for businesses that depend upon clean water, and for all Americans who love the great outdoors. However, clean water advocacy work is not done. There are still some in Congress that want to prevent the Rule from being implemented. And numerous state attorney's general, including Kentucky's, are attacking the rule in court. Now that the Clean Water Rule is finalized, we are going to need everyone's help defending it! Please take action and tell your representatives to protect clean water! Tell your state leaders you want them to protect your water and enforce the clean water act, not undermine it!

To learn more, please visit <http://blog.nwf.org/2015/>



NWF President and CEO Colin O'Mara speaking at the Clean Water Rule event at Earth Conservation Corp in the District of Columbia.

Content adapted from National Wildlife magazine; additional online content available at www.nwf.org/nw.

Upcoming Events

Sept 26 Vierheller Open House at 5pm in Floyd County, KY. If you are interested in attending to learn more about KWA and seeing the energy efficient updates they have made to their home, please contact the KWA office for further details.

Oct 9 Bourbon Splash

Enjoy cocktails, appetizers and a Muhammad Ali Museum tour from 5:30-6:30 and music, dinner, and the auction from 6:30-10:30. Get your tickets today!



October 17 Beargrass Creek Alliance Fall Cleanup We don't know why people throw trash in our creek, but we do know how to get rid of it! Come out for a quick cleanup at Big Rock in Cherokee Park from 9:30 to noon. Supplies provided, bring your own water bottle. Families and service groups are welcome.

October 17 Darby Creek Storm Water Workshop begins at 9 am at 1815 KY-393 in LaGrange, KY. Learn how you can *Put Nature to Work in Your Landscape* to improve the look

and value of your home while also improving water quality in your community! RSVP to 502-222-9453 or Tessa@kwalliance.org

October 23 Kentucky River Water Trail Alliance Conference

This event will take place at Sugar Creek in Jessamine County.

October 28 Bacon Creek Meeting at Bonnieville City Hall in Bonnieville, KY at 5:30 (EST)

October 30 Lock, Stock, & Smoking Barrels event at Copper & Kings will benefit Beargrass Creek Alliance.

November 21 KWA Annual Meeting In frankfort, KY. More details will be coming soon!

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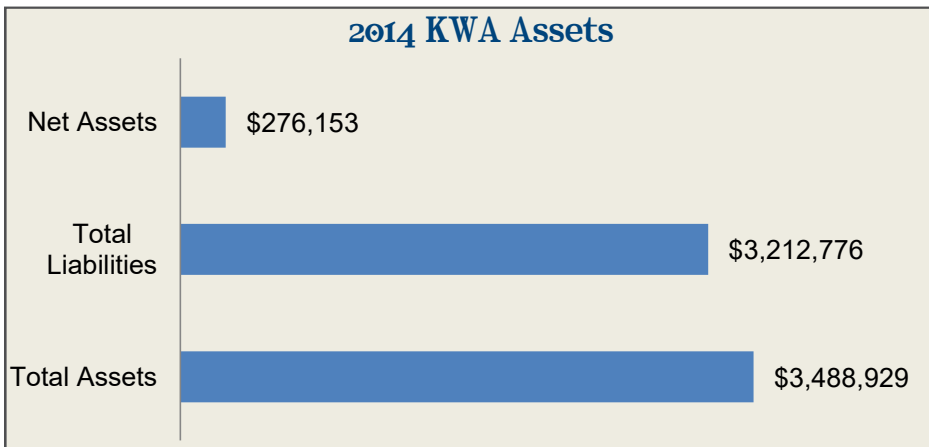
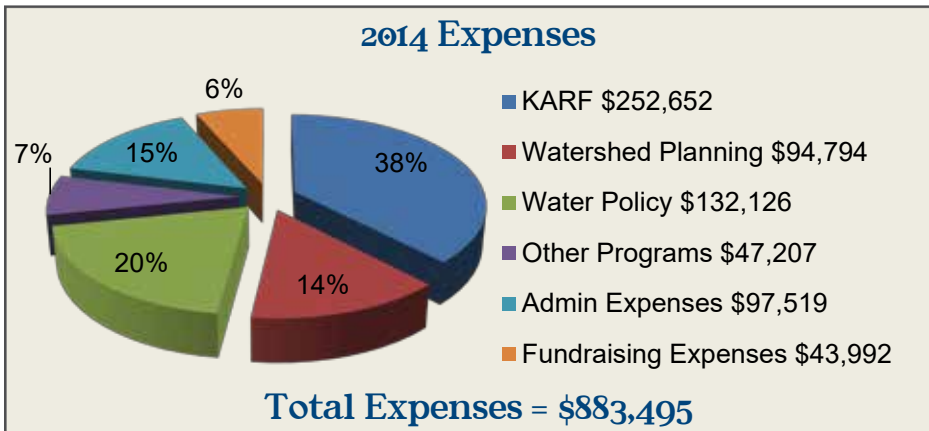
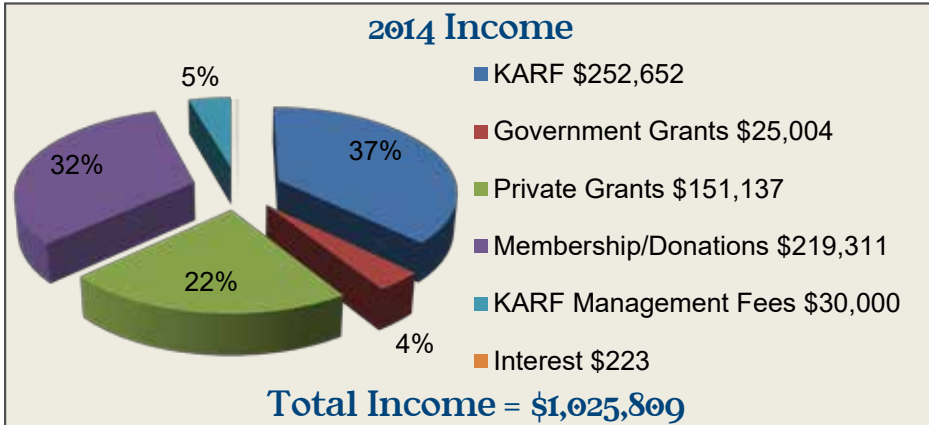
As always, please refer to our website www.KWAlliance.org for a complete list of events!

2014 Annual Report

A publication of Kentucky Waterways Alliance: Working to protect and restore Kentucky's waterways.



2014 KWA Budget Report



From all of our staff at Kentucky Waterways Alliance, we'd like to offer a heartfelt "Thank you!" to YOU - our members, our volunteers, and our supporters, for your help in making KWA's first 20 years a huge success! We couldn't have done it without you!

Judy Lisa Will Jessica Tim Angela



2014 By the Numbers

All of this was made possible because of your support!

450

Volunteers who helped keep Kentucky's waterways clean in 2014



1,500

Storm drain markers applied in the Beargrass Creek watershed



5

Cleanups held on Beargrass Creek



40

Miles of the Green River cleaned in 2014



6

Annual film festivals held as of 2014



26

Red River erosion reduction projects



Memorable Events

Green River Summit

Over 150 people from across the region came together to reinforce the fact that people LOVE the Green River and want to do whatever it takes to preserve this incredible resource for generations to come!

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began the public dialogue of decommissioning multiple locks and dams on the Green and Barren Rivers. This would restore over 100 miles of river back to its' natural state.



Teaming up with community groups and other stakeholders in Oldham county, KWA began the Harrods Creek Watershed Planning project to protect the water quality and habitat of Harrods Creek. As KWA Board President and Harrods Creek resident Gordon Garner says, "It's a project whose time has really come."

NWF Affiliation

On July 14, 2014, KWA became the Kentucky state affiliate for the National Wildlife Federation. While we remain an independent nonprofit organization, we will now have access to more resources and an expanded reach to wildlife conservationists, sportsmen, and recreational water enthusiasts. While at the NWF Annual Meeting in West Virginia KWA Executive Director, Judy etersen, took her first ever "selfie" with NWF CEO, Collin O'Mara.



2014 begins...

Stream Buffer Zone

The Bush era Stream Buffer Zone Rule was struck down, requiring the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to propose a new rule, which they are now doing in 2015.

Farm Bill Passed

After two years (or more) of failed efforts and partisan politics, the House and Senate were able to come together and pass the Agriculture Act of 2014! While it wasn't a total "win," it did include re-linking conservation compliance requirements to crop insurance, Swampbuster and Sodbuster provisions, and a provision forbidding farmers from plowing up any native grasslands if they receive federal payments through Farm Bill programs!



For the 5th straight year, Aveda salons and stores across the Commonwealth held events ranging from fashion shows to cut-a-thons to help raise awareness for clean water efforts and funds for KWA throughout April.

Bluegrass Pipeline Suspended Indefinitely

Kentucky citizens won a huge fight on April 29, when the companies in charge of the 500 mile pipeline withdrew their plans.

Gordon Garner - Lifetime Achievement Award

On behalf of the Environmental Quality Commission, KWA's board president was presented with this prestigious award.



From 2014

Banklick Creek Cleanup

On June 7, using resources from the Northern KY University Mayerson Student Philanthropy Award and Aveda salons, KWA partnered with the Licking River Watershed Watch to host a cleanup at Pioneer Park in Covington, KY.

Living Lands & Water

Enthusiastic 2013 CNN Hero of the Year, Chad Pregracke, brought his crew and trash hauling barge to Louisville for the Festival of Riverboats event. KWA recruited volunteers and helped clean up the banks of the Ohio River.



Green River Fest was held on June 14 in Munfordville, KY and Clean The Green was in Greensburg on August 9. 2 tons of trash was removed!



KWA's second annual gala was a sold out event at the Gheens Foundation Lodge in Beckley Creek Park sponsored by Brown-Forman. Guests were treated to a unique auction experience, food by Wiltshire Pantry, and music entertainment by the Kelly Richey Band.

KWA Annual Meeting

Equus Run Vineyards hosted KWA, our guests and guest speaker, KY Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Karen Waldrop on November 15.

Forecastle

The Forecastle Festival was kind enough to have us back again to manage a beer booth. Our volunteers had a great time, raised lots of money for KWA, and got to share our story with thousands of attendees.



On September 27, two-person teams competed for valuable prizes by testing their knowledge about Oldham County's creeks and wildlife.

Tour de Beargrass

KWA board of directors vice-president, Ward Wilson, led a biking tour of the Beargrass Creek Watershed on October 18.



Bacon Creek Watershed Council Awarded

On December 4, the Hart County Chamber of Commerce presented the 2014 Forward Award to the Bacon Creek Watershed Council for their continued work implementing farming BMPs and septic improvements in the community.

2015

Last Red Bird Meeting

After three years of collaboration and hard work from many partners, the Red Bird River Watershed team gathered on July 31 for the final time to celebrate their accomplishments and completion of the watershed plan.

Thank you for a memorable 2014!

With your support, we will continue to achieve more every year!



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- \$ 100 Watershed Guardian
- \$ 200 Watershed Steward
- \$ 500 Watershed Angel
- Other \$ _____

Your donations are tax deductible! Mail to KWA, 120 Webster St., Suite 217 Louisville, KY 40206

**Did you know you can become a member of KWA for only \$ 25 a year?
Visit WWW.KWALLIANCE.ORG to join us in the pursuit of healthy waterways today.**