

# NewsStreams



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

## BBQ, Bourbon, & Blues

Mark your calendar for the evening of October 10. You won't want to miss **BBQ, Bourbon, & Blues** – the most fun-filled FUNdraising event of the year! We'll be serving up amazing southern-themed dishes from **Wiltshire Pantry** like appetizer chicken and waffles and house smoked Stone Cross Farm Beef Brisket. We will also be sipping on bourbon cocktails and enjoying the sounds of the **Kelly Richey Band**, fresh from playing at the Great Southern Blues Festival in Australia!

The event will be held at the **Gheens Foundation Lodge in Beckley Creek Park** and will feature a silent auction that includes

adventure packages, signed memorabilia, and more -all with a lovely view of Floyds Fork!

Join us and special guests from the National Wildlife Federation in celebrating our recent clean water successes and our new NWF affiliation! **Tickets for this year's event, which includes your food, drinks, and entertainment, are only \$75, and tables of 8 start at only \$500 (\$62.50/ticket!).** For more information about the event and to purchase tickets, please visit the event web page at: [www.kwalliance.org/gala](http://www.kwalliance.org/gala)



## BBQ, BOURBON, & BLUES

Kentucky Waterways Alliance

10.10.14

Parklands of Floyds Fork, Gheens Foundation Lodge

Featuring the Kelly Richey Band, Wiltshire Pantry Catering, the best bourbon Kentucky has to offer, and a special guest from the National Wildlife Federation.

## Message From the President

### Do Fish Matter?

A recent study by the U.S. Geological Survey found that streams impacted by mountaintop removal mining showed a 50% reduction in the number of fish species.

As reported, "mountaintop mining (MTM) affects chemical, physical, and hydrological properties of receiving streams, but the long-term consequences for fish-assemblage structure and function are poorly understood.....Effects of MTM were not related to physical-habitat conditions but were associated with water-quality variables, which may limit quality and availability of benthic macroinvertebrate prey. Simulations revealed effects of MTM that could not be attributed to random variation in fish assemblage structure."

Source: [www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3927](http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3927)

Pollution sensitive fish populations, including trout and smallmouth bass, were reduced by a measurable amount from levels observed in similar streams nearby that had not been impacted by mining.

Surprising to me is the fact that fish populations in mining areas have not been well studied before. The new USGS study provides scientific evidence of what we have observed for years in our headwater streams in mining country: degradation of water quality due to mining operations, including high levels of selenium and conductivity, is hurting fish communities.

But MTM is not just affecting fish by destructing the physical environment. It is also degrading water quality causing the loss of macroinvertebrates. Fish need macros for food, and macros need clean water to live. Post-mining impacts are disrupting the web of life and destroying the food chain for bass and trout and many other species. **The result is a loss of both the variety of fish species and the total number of fish.**

**This is a serious wake-up call that mining impacts are profound and go far beyond the mining sites.** Long-term impacts are just beginning to be understood, but it appears recovery from impacts could be thwarted by continued water quality problems long after mining is completed, perhaps even permanently.

Fishing licenses and other outdoor recreation fees, including hunting, provide more than half of the operating budget for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, and recreational fishing licenses have been on the rise. **Whether we fish or just want there to be fish for the next generation, we need to take action to stop immoral and illegal mining activities that permanently destroy mountains and reduce wildlife populations.**

Currently, we seem to be stuck in Kentucky with a political mythology about a war on coal. There will be no dialogue about the missing fish and wildlife, or what we, as a state, should do to conserve and enhance our natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations until we move behind this war.

As the new affiliate for the National Wildlife Federation, KWA will add Kentucky's NWF members to our voice in Frankfort and with the public. We need to be vocal, persistent, and loud to get these issues addressed as they should be and must be.

On behalf of a healthier Kentucky,

*Gordon Garner*



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Ward Wilson, Vice President  
Bruce Scott, Treasurer  
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Tim Joice, Water Policy Director

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Mark Howell  
Bacon Creek Agricultural Coordinator

Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
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(502) 589-8008

**Want to be in the know about water-related happenings?**

**Visit our website at  
[WWW.KWALLIANCE.ORG](http://WWW.KWALLIANCE.ORG)  
to check out upcoming events in Kentucky!**

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## The Green River - A Unique Place

Here at KWA, we often talk about what an amazing natural resource the Green River Basin is to Kentucky. Places like this aren't common throughout the world, especially ones so heavily influenced by human impacts. The general health and extreme biodiversity of the Green River is a testament of its' unique geology, history, and importance to local communities.

All of this bragging encouraged us to dig deeper. We had heard about some of the unique animals found in the Green River and

wanted to find out just **how many endemics, or species found nowhere else in the world, there were in the Green River Basin.** After asking around, we realized that a complete list didn't exist! So we took it upon ourselves to create it by contacting some of the most renowned biology experts in the area. The results are impressive!

**There are 43 species found in the Green River Basin that are found nowhere else in the world.** Below is the list:

### Fish

- Blackfin sucker, *Thoburnia atripinnis*
- Teardrop darter, *Etheostoma barbouri*
- Splendid darter, *Etheostoma barrenense*
- Orangefin darter, *Etheostoma bellum*
- Highland Rim darter, *Etheostoma kantuckeense*
- Kentucky darter, *Etheostoma rafinesqui*
- Shawnee Darter, *Etheostoma tecumsehi*
- Bluegrass Darter, *Etheostoma jimmycarter*

### Crustaceans

- Kentucky Cave shrimp, *Palaemonias ganteri*
- A Copepod, *Bryocampus morrisoni elegans*
- An Ectocommusal Ostracod, *Sagittocythere stygia*
- Barren River crayfish, *Orconectes barrenensis*
- Bottlebrush crayfish, *Barbicambarus cornutus*,

### Mussels

- Kentucky Creekshell mussel, *Villosa ortmanni*

### Insects

- A Cave Obligate Springtail, *Arrhopalites altus*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Batrisodes henroti*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Batrisodes hubrichti*
- Bold Cave Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus audax*
- Round-headed Cave Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus globiceps*

- Surprising Cave Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus inexpectatus*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus pubescens intrepidus*
- Cub Run Cave Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus simulans*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus transfluvialis*
- A Cave Obligate Springtail, *Pseudosinella espanita*
- A Stonefly, *Soyedina calcarea*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Tychobothrus hubrichti*

### Other invertebrates

- A Cave Obligate Mite, *Belba bulbipedata*
- A Cave Obligate Mite, *Galumna alata*
- A Cave Obligate Pseudoscorpion, *Kleptochthonius attenuates*
- A Cave Obligate Pseudoscorpion, *Kleptochthonius cerberus*
- A Cave Obligate Pseudoscorpion, *Kleptochthonius hageni*
- A Cave Obligate Pseudoscorpion, *Kleptochthonius hubrichti*
- A Cave Obligate Pseudoscorpion, *Kleptochthonius microphthalmus*
- A Cave Obligate Mite, *Macrocheles troglodytes*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Neaphaenops tellkampfi*
- A Cave Obligate Harvestman, *Phalangodes armata*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus darlingtoni*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus menetriesi*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus pilosus*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus striatus*
- A Cave Obligate Milliped, *Pseudotremia merops*
- A Cave Obligate Beetle, *Ptomaphagus hirtus*
- A Cave Obligate Pseudoscorpion, *Tyrannochthonius hypogeus*

## Does that sound like 43 reasons worth protecting the Green River?

We think so! And so do the 200+ volunteers that help us with our annual Green River cleanups.



On June 14 in Munfordville, Kentucky **113 volunteers** joined us for the *Green River Fest*. Despite high water levels, **19 tires, 1 large tractor tire, and over 2,800 pounds of trash** were removed from **26 miles** of the river.



On August 9, **115 volunteers** met in Greensburg, KY for *Clean the Green* to remove **680 pounds of garbage and 36 tires** from a **20 mile stretch** of the Green River.

*Pictured (counterclockwise from the top left) the KWA staff enjoys a day on the Green River thanks to TNC, a volunteer showing off the bounty of trash collected, one of our young volunteers pulled out a vintage washing machine and another learning the value of keeping our waters clean, our winners of the kayak raffles for both events, one of the 8 piles of trash at our take-out locations, and the Kuhl gang who always join us and set a great example for other participants!*





## 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

KWA is your voice in the fight for clean water in Kentucky! Find out what we've been doing lately on behalf of the health of our waterways and communities.

### Nutrient Pollution and Harmful Algae

On August 2nd, the city of Toledo issued a warning to its residents, suggesting that the city-provided drinking water was unsafe to drink. Why? An algae bloom had settled in right around the city's water intake, and resulted in the release of unsafe levels of the toxin microcystin into the drinking water. Unfortunately, unlike bacteria



*This is what algae in our water can look like.  
Photo from the Ohio Wetlands Association*

or other pollutants, this toxin can't even be removed by boiling the water. You just can't drink it, period. It's not just unsafe to drink, though. Harmful algae blooms that become toxic can also cause breathing issues and rashes for anyone recreating in or near those bloom-infested waters, and can kill pets. These blooms also can kill aquatic species, or simply prevent aquatic species from living in bloom-infested areas.

The worst part of all this is that we know the primary causes of these algae blooms - nutrient pollution from agricultural runoff, wastewater plant discharges, and urban stormwater runoff. Yet, very little is being done right now to sufficiently deal with these problems. U.S. EPA has done little to require states to reduce nutrient pollution. Many states, like Kentucky, don't have limits for nutrients. This prevents any substantial reductions by states themselves. KWA has been working on nutrient pollution for several years, warning of the potential impacts. We'll continue to push Kentucky's Division of Water on this, particularly since the past two summers have revealed harmful algae blooms at many recreational lakes in Kentucky, including Taylorsville, Barren River, Nolin, Green River, Rough River, Guist Creek, Willisburg, Carpenters, and Beaver Lakes. Learn more about harmful algae blooms by visiting our new webpage: [www.kwalliance.org/toxic-algae/](http://www.kwalliance.org/toxic-algae/)

### Coal General Permit

From May through early July, the Kentucky Division of Water accepted comments on draft "general permits" for water discharges from surface coal mines and processing facilities in eastern and western Kentucky. General permits are often used by regulatory agencies for activities that occur frequently, and have minimal impact on water resources. KWA commented on those permits, along with many of our partner organizations. Our comments

focused on the lack of limits on pollutants of concern, and concerns about enforceability. General permits are not appropriate for covering the variety of pollutants from surface coal mining and processing facilities. Citizens of this state should no longer have to tolerate the levels of pollution that come from these facilities. Permits must have more strict limits that protect water quality and the public's health!

### Brownies Creek

Nally & Hamilton recently proposed a surface mining project in Harlan and Bell Counties with discharges into small streams. This particular mine is important because the proposed discharges would flow into tributaries of Brownies Creek, and both Brownies Creek and its tributaries are listed as Outstanding State Resource Waters (OSRWs) due to the presence of Blackside Dace, which is a listed Threatened and Endangered species. This means those waters receive additional protections to ensure the water quality and aquatic habitat are not unnecessarily degraded by activities on the land.

Even more alarming was that this project included a valley fill. The vast majority of data available suggest long-term water quality impairments below valley fills. If constructed, there's little doubt that Brownies Creek would be degraded, and Blackside Dace populations could be significantly reduced. Thanks to all those who voiced their concerns to the state with us!



*The Blackside Dace is found only in small (wadeable) streams in the Upper Cumberland Basin including Letcher, Harlan, Bell, Whitley, Knox, McCreary, Pulaski and Laurel counties. Image from conservationfisheries.org*

## KU E.W. Brown Generating Station

Earlier this spring, KWA learned through Open Records Requests to the state Division of Waste Management that the KU Brown Plant, near Danville and on Herrington Lake, had been illegally discharging wastewater from an unpermitted pipe into the lake. This wastewater contained **arsenic levels over 100 times the safe drinking water limit**, and other significant heavy metal concentrations. After this discharge occurred, the Division of Water issued a Notice of Violation, and has since been working with KU to make sure they cease the discharge and redirect the wastewater to another treatment pond. But that's not the end of it. KU needs to deal with ongoing "seeps" from the coal ash pond, and it needs a new permit that accurately reflects the activities and wastewater discharges from the facility into Herrington Lake and the Dix River. KWA is working with Sierra Club on this issue to make sure our waterways are protected from illegal and toxic discharges.



Photo of orange-stained rocks from E.W. Brown's discharge point into Herrington Lake, which is used as a recreational and drinking water source.

## LG&E Trimble Landfill

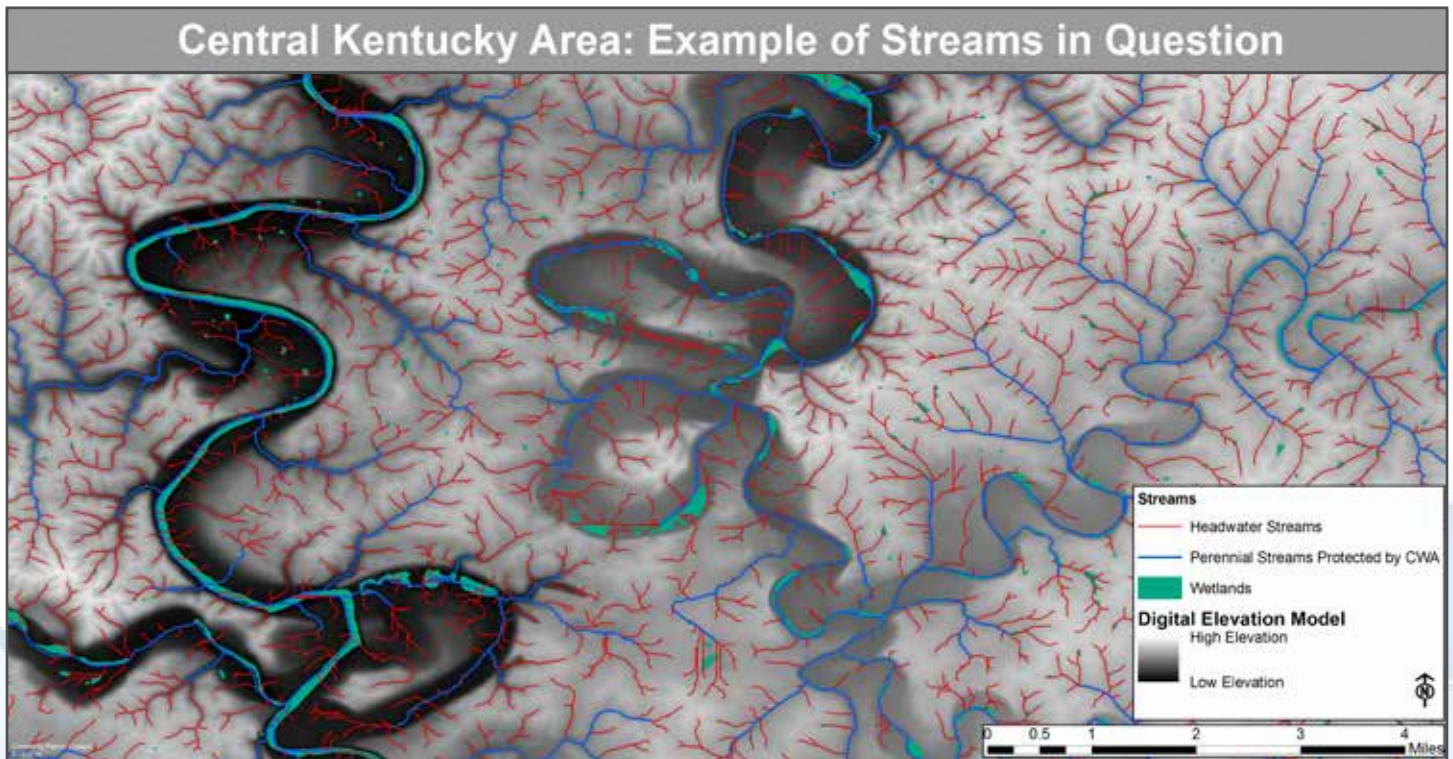
As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the LG&E recently reapplied for a Clean Water Act permit to construct a coal combustion residuals (coal ash) landfill in a ravine adjacent to their Trimble County Generating Station. The Trimble station is on the Ohio River, and this ravine, just above the generating station, has high quality waters, as well as a cave system and more karst geology.

In short, it's a really bad location for a coal ash landfill. EPA even agrees with us, having submitted comments that suggest the project is poorly located, and has not fulfilled federal requirements to be granted the permit. KWA will continue to fight permitting of projects that do not follow federal and state requirements, and that do not protect our high quality waters.

## The Clean Water Protection Rule

As mentioned in our May Newstreams, the EPA recently proposed a rule to clarify exactly what waters are protected by the Clean Water Act - we're calling it the Clean Water Protection Rule. The Rule is important because the EPA is attempting to ensure that certain waters that have an impact on downstream water quality are provided the protection that they historically received.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation out there about the rule. The EPA even started a campaign called Ditch the Myth in an effort to make sure the public have the correct information. You can read more on our webpage, and remember, the EPA is accepting comments on the rule until October 20th! For all the information visit: [www.kwalliance.org/wotus](http://www.kwalliance.org/wotus)



**Water: It's all connected. If all the streams in red on this map are left unprotected, what will happen to the larger rivers and streams?**



## Red Bird River Watershed Plan, Done!

By Tessa Edelen, Watershed Program Director

It started as a broad discussion about collaborative project ideas for the southern Appalachians by U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and partners in 2011. The group narrowed the effort to addressing potential watershed-based restoration efforts for the region. From the very beginning, Clay and Leslie community leaders and residents asked that the focus be on improving water quality and tourism opportunities in and around the Red Bird River.



Image by Lynn Garrison

USFS reached out to Kentucky Waterways Alliance to author the watershed plan using the model that has been successful in other communities, *The Watershed Planning Guidebook for Kentucky Communities*. Consultant Lynn Garrison, born and raised in Clay and Leslie Counties, contributed expertise in project facilitation and brought much knowledge of the local community to the effort. USFS also contracted with Eastern KY PRIDE to deliver environmental education programs and organize river cleanup efforts.

Three years later, the first iteration of the Red Bird River Watershed Plan is complete. It is meant to be a resource and a guide for the community. Want to know what kind of soil is dominant in the eastern part of the watershed? Check the Natural Features

section. Curious about the impacts of land use on water quality? Turn to page 80. Looking for specific solutions that will work in local communities – Chapter 6 has got it covered. See it all here: [www.RedBirdRiverWatershed.com](http://www.RedBirdRiverWatershed.com)

**Now that the plan is complete, it is time to implement it.** USFS and project partners like the Red Bird Mission and Eastern KY Pride and others have already signed up to help! Implementation tends to be the fun part – to get to see the plan in action, putting project ideas on the ground to help people and the river. This first implementation phase will consist of work installing residential wastewater systems, trail and road improvements, and watershed education. A part-time Watershed Coordinator will be hired to guide the project locally.

Many partners worked together to make this project a success. At its best, watershed planning is an inclusive and collaborative process. It's also iterative which means that we're not really ever finished. As always, everyone is invited to be involved, no prior experience or special knowledge required. **All you need is a desire to be a part of the solution for a cleaner, safer Red Bird River. There is more work to be done, and the Red Bird needs you now more than ever.**

Many thanks to the participants and volunteers who came from all over the Commonwealth to participate in the community meetings and cleanups. A special thanks to Clay County Judge Joe Asher and Solid Waste Coordinator Chris Reid, Leslie County Judge Executive James Sizemore and Solid Waste Coordinator Angie Muncie, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Division of Water, Big Creek Elementary School, Big Creek Mission, Red Bird Mission, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, US EPA, Office of Surface Mining, ARRI, Heartwood, MACED, Cumberland Valley RC&D, and the many individuals representing private and community interests across the Region; too numerous to name in fear of leaving out someone. This plan will be the conduit for securing grant funding, volunteer efforts and other means to implement the actions across the Red Bird River Watershed for years to come. It could not have been completed without your assistance. Thank You!

## Bacon Creek Watershed Council is Back in Business!

The Bacon Creek Watershed Council is continuing their work with KWA to improve septic systems and agricultural operations in the upper part of the watershed. **New septic systems or agricultural Best Management Practices will be offered at a greatly reduced cost to qualifying applicants.** The funding comes from a grant to improve water quality in Bacon Creek from the KY Division of Water and KY Division of Conservation. The eligible watershed area is southern Larue County and north central Hart County, including the communities of Magnolia, Hammonville, and Upton. Bonnieville is not in the project area. Agricultural Coordinator Mark Howell is in charge of working with area farmers to find Best Management Practices that will help farmers and the creek. Watershed Program Director Tessa Edelen is handling the septic system work.

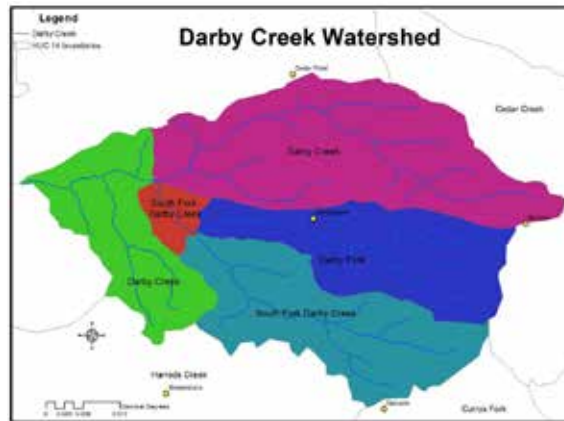
For more information and for applications to apply, see our Bacon Creek Watershed website or call the KWA office at (502) 589-8008. Applications may also be picked up at the Bonnieville City Hall.



## Darby Creek Project is Ready for Action!

KWA has been awarded funding from the KY Division of Water's Nonpoint Source Section to finalize the Darby Creek Watershed Plan and start implementing Best Management Practices! We will get started this fall!

Darby Creek is a watershed in Oldham County on the edge of one of the most rapidly growing urban boundaries in Kentucky. The creek faces water quality issues with bacteria and sediment. The good news is that it is a watershed that can be restored and protected. Preserving intact blocks of forest,



protecting and recreating riparian buffers, and other conservation-oriented measures taken now would create the potential for huge benefits down the road.

Darby Creek is also a watershed with great community support. The Darby Creek Watershed Planning Team met on a regular basis to develop the watershed plan from the fall of 2007 through the summer of 2010. Many members are eager to get back to work! Stay tuned for the first watershed team meeting to be announced soon.

## Combined Federal Campaign Makes it Easy to Support Our Work!

We are proud to be one of the 3,000 approved charitable organizations to which federal employees can designate their donations via payroll deductions! To be approved, we completed a rigorous application process by providing information about auditing, financial, governance, and program functions.

The Combined Federal Campaign will kick off in September. If you are a federal employee in either the Ohio River Valley or Ft.

Campbell CFC regions (these cover most of the state of Kentucky), please look for us in this year's Charity Guide and encourage your co-workers to donate to KWA using CFC campaign number 58726!



## Upcoming Events

**September 11-13 KAEF Conference** The Kentucky Association for Environmental Education will host their annual conference at the Clarion Hotel in Lexington, KY.

**September 14 Lexington Rain Garden Tour** The 8th annual tour will be held from 2-5 pm in the Meadowthorpe neighborhood. See our website for more details.

**September 16-17 Rockcastle River Mussel Workshop**



This two day course is designed to provide attendees with an increased level of knowledge on several aspects of freshwater mussel identification and biology. Register at our website.

**September 27 Amazing Watershed Challenge**

Teams of one adult and one kid will test their knowledge about Oldham County's creeks and watersheds as they compete for valuable prizes in this free event. Registration deadline is Sept. 8.



**October 10 BBQ, Bourbon, & Blues**

Join us in celebrating our 21st birthday at the fundraising event of the year! The event will be held at the Gheens Foundation Lodge at Beckley Creek Park in Louisville, overlooking the iconic Floyds Fork. Come out for great food, great music, and great fun!



**October 14-19 Centennial Festival of Riverboats**

A fun six-day festival of food, bourbon, music and art at the internationally-claimed Waterfront Park in Louisville, KY.



**October 26 For Pete's Sake: A Call to Action at Bellarmine U.** A day of activism in tribute of the legendary folk musician and activist, Pete Seeger.

**November 15 KWA Annual Meeting**

The event will be held at Equus Run Vineyards Event Barn from 10 am- 2 pm and will include lunch. More details to come.

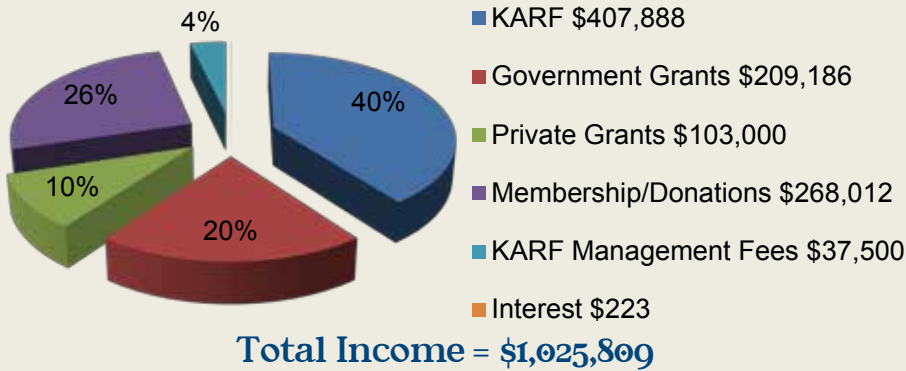
As always, please refer to our website [www.KWAlliance.org](http://www.KWAlliance.org) for a complete list of events!





## 2013 KWA Budget Report

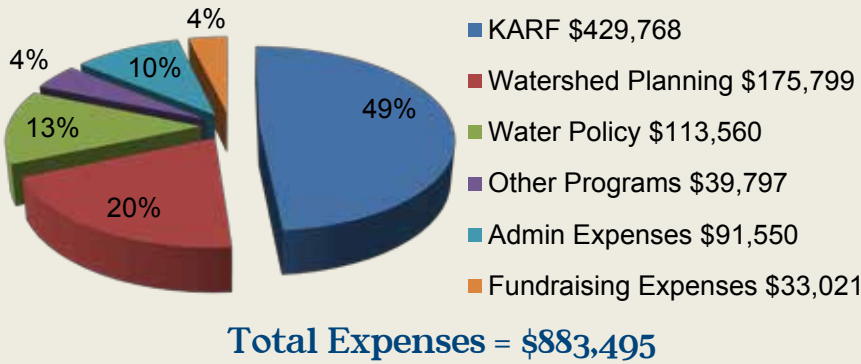
### 2013 Income



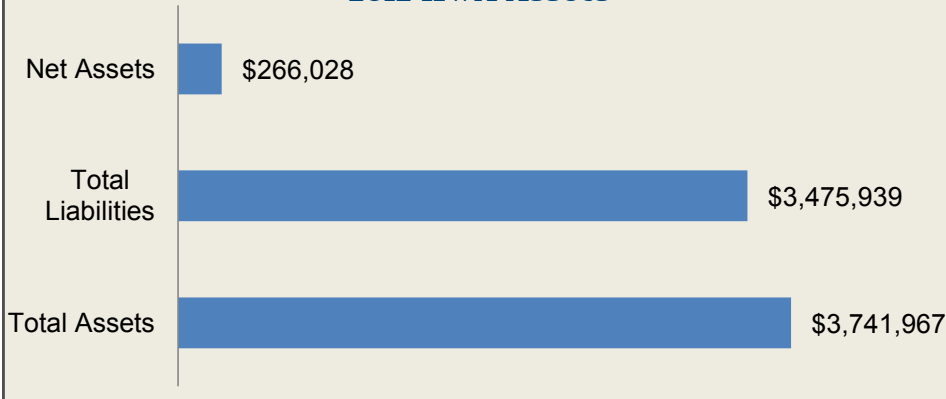
CELEBRATING



### 2013 Expenses



### 2012 KWA Assets



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*





## 2013 Year in Review

*All of this was made possible because of your support!*

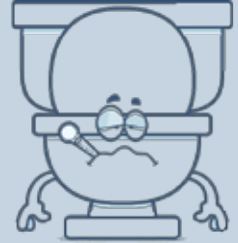
**10,000**

Feet of fencing  
built to keep  
livestock out of  
streams



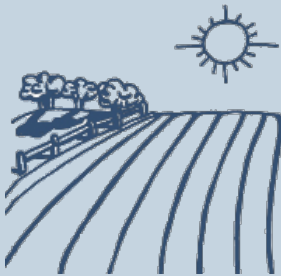
**12**

Septic Systems  
Installed or  
Improved in Bacon  
Creek Watershed



**6**

Agricultural Best  
Management  
Practices installed  
in Bacon Creek  
Watershed



**520**

People who  
volunteered their  
time to keep their  
waterways clean



**12**

Comments on  
USACE permit  
applications

**8**

Comments on  
KDOW water quality  
certifications



**1**

World Record set  
by Aveda Salons for  
Earth Month (Most  
money raised for  
charity by haircuts  
in a 24 hour period!)



**725**

New people  
reached at KWA  
events!



**20**

Years celebrated at  
the Make a Splash  
Gala!

**8**

River Cleanups  
Organized



**5**

Environmental Film  
Festivals Held as of  
2013



### Volunteer of the Year

Thanks so much to all of our 520 volunteers - you are the ones who make our events possible and help us accomplish our goals! Our 2013 Volunteer of the Year was Ruth Billings. Ruth spent time in our office almost every Thursday morning in 2013, helping us plan the gala, making phone calls, or even just helping us stuff envelopes.

Volunteering for KWA is an easy way to show your support for clean water! We've got lots of opportunities throughout the year - from cleanups to stuffing envelopes, directing people to the theater at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, even serving beer at the Forecastle Festival!



Judy presents Ruth with her Volunteer of the Year Award.

### Nationwide Permit 21



Valley fills like this are no longer allowed under NWP 21.

In 2013, KWA celebrated a long fought and well deserved landmark victory in the protection of rivers and streams. This case, which spent 8 years in a court battle, examined the legitimacy of Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21, issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for projects involving valley fills associated with coal mining. The Sixth Circuit ruling questioned the USACE lack of data on the cumulative impacts of these permits and the extension of 70 permits under old rules. The Court also questioned the USACE assumption that buried headwater streams can be re-created successfully elsewhere.

This particular NWP was the only one with no limits on how many miles of streams could be filled under the permit. Once obtained, the coal mining company was granted federal permission to fill streams and valleys identified in the permit application with mining waste.

The most important outcomes from this win:

1. The USACE must review 70 permits that were granted an extension in 2012.
2. Precedent was set that the USACE must assess cumulative impacts of ALL nationwide permits.
3. **NWP valley fills are now illegal!**

### KWA Makes a Splash at 20 Years

2013 marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of Kentucky Waterways Alliance. We commemorated the occasion with our Make a Splash gala, the most successful event in KWA history! Held at the home of Christy Brown overlooking the Ohio River, it was certainly a night to remember! The event was made that much better with great food, wonderful music, and the appearance of a few local celebrities.

In our 20 years, the EPA estimates that we have been responsible for better protections of approximately 90% of Kentucky's waterways. Now THAT'S something to celebrate!





## Know your Town Branch?

KWA's 2013 annual meeting was held in November at the beautiful Bell House in Lexington. Charlie Martin, Director of Lexington's Division of Water Quality, gave some perspective on Lexington's trend-setting Stormwater Incentive Grant Program.

Our featured guest, author Jason Howard, read an excerpt from his book "A Few Honest Words." The piece, which describes how water connects our lives, both spiritually and physically, brought tears to the eyes of some of our members as it reminded us that "what we do to the water, we do to the people."



## The most fun EVER!



At KWA, we know that the best way to connect people directly to the health of their water is to get them in contact with it. Once you see a beautiful river filled with wildlife you never knew existed, it's something you never forget.

In 2013, we conducted 8 cleanups across the state. In the process, we met lots of new people, helped developed a sense of community around the waterways we helped care for, and most of all, got hundreds of tires and tons of trash out of our rivers and streams. One of our youngest participants proclaimed the Clean the Green "The most fun cleanup EVER!"

## Bringing a creek back to life!

We received a phone call one morning in 2013 from an excited resident in the Bacon Creek Watershed. He found fish in his stretch of Bacon Creek - the first fish he'd seen there in 20 years! We like to think that it is thanks in part to our watershed planning efforts there!

KWA efforts in Bacon Creek have included developing a full watershed plan, and implementation of direct on-the-ground projects such as installation of septic tanks and farm fencing to keep cattle (and their waste!) out off the creek.

The watershed group looks forward to celebrating many more successes in the future.



*A happily fenced in cow and a proud couple showing off their new septic system.*



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Alliance, Inc.  
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## Help Protect Kentucky's Rivers and Streams. Become a Member Today!



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**Yes, I support the mission and goals of Kentucky Waterways Alliance.**

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- \$ 25 Individual
- \$ 35 Family
- \$ 50 Supporter
- \$ 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](http://WWW.KWALLIANCE.ORG) to join us in the pursuit of healthy waterways today.**