

**Kentucky Waterways Alliance
Invites You to Show Your Love for
Beargrass Creek!**

**Gallery Fundraiser Set for Friday, Oct 23
at the Garner-Furnish Art Studio in Honor
of Beargrass Creek**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 9, 2009

For More Information: Jennifer Milburn, 502 589-8008 or 270 547-8981

Louisville, KY: Join Kentucky Waterways Alliance (KWA) as we host the “Show Your Love for Beargrass Creek” fundraising party. The party will be a celebration of Beargrass Creek to kick off a new campaign to reclaim this historic and beloved creek.

Like many urban streams, Beargrass Creek has fallen victim to pollution over the years making it unsafe for recreation. KWA’s new initiative for the creek will be built upon the work of those before us, including the Beargrass Creek Watershed Council. It’s a big job, and there is room for everyone to be involved.

“Beargrass Creek has long been neglected and abused, and the task to clean it up definitely requires a community effort. We’re hopeful that those that live around the creek or grew up playing in the stream will recognize the opportunities and possible benefits to the city are enormous for restoring it to health,” said Judy Petersen, KWA executive director.

Party festivities include music, food, and drinks. We’ll also be raffling off the opportunity for one lucky winner to receive the chance to build their own kayak! Skipping Fish Boat School has generously donated the chance for someone to build a frame on skin kayak valued at \$1,500! The gift includes instruction and materials. Skipping Fish Boat School, located on 609 East Washington Street in Louisville, is owned by local outdoor enthusiasts Dennis Pidgeon and Kimberley Hillerich. They offer a range of programs including a summer camp for teens that gives them the opportunity to build a kayak all while learning valuable life skills. Visit them on the web at: www.skippingfishboatschool.com.

Another winner will also enjoy a canoe trip down the Beargrass from local environmental activist, Dr. David Wicks. Dr. Wicks has long been an advocate for the creek, having recently spearheaded efforts to give the annual “Steering the Future Course of The Beargrass Creek Award.” Inspired by the Volkswagen extraction from the creek, this award will be presented annually to an individual and or group that provides the vision, time, and work to ensure that Beargrass Creek becomes a destination for recreation, relaxation, and reflection. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward our efforts to restore Beargrass Creek.

Our work to reclaim the creek will begin in our own backyard. If you’re a local resident in the Butchertown and Irish Hill neighborhoods, we want your help! We hope to engage local residents and businesses to work toward improving water quality in the creek and making it an accessible part of our



city again. Examples of ways we can all work together for better creek water quality include building rain gardens and producing rain barrels, promoting pervious pavement in new development, creek clean-ups, storm drain stenciling, and creek celebration days. The possibilities are endless if we put our minds together to support the creek! Our efforts will bring about change at the local level and will give the creek back to its rightful owners – the community.

You can take the first step toward restoring this historic and beloved creek by joining us at the Garner-Furnish Art Studio to celebrate the Beargrass! Your support is essential as we begin to engage the community to restore Beargrass Creek.

If you're interested in attending and want to RSVP, or if you'd just like to know how to get involved, please contact KWA's Louisville office at: (502) 589-8008.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Friday, October 23

Time: 6:00 – 10:00 pm

Location Address: The Garner-Furnish Art Studio, 642 East Market Street, Louisville, KY

Cost: Admission is free, but we hope you'll wish to support our efforts and maybe purchase a raffle ticket or two to win the chance to build your own kayak! Proceeds from the raffle will go toward future clean-up work on the creek.

Raffle Ticket Prices: \$10/ticket, \$50/6 tickets and \$100/14 tickets. Winners will be announced October 26. Need not be present at the night of the fundraiser to win.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at KWA's Louisville office at 120 Webster Street, Suite 217 or online at www.KWAlliance.org by downloading and mailing our printable registration form to our office with payment included.

For more information: Jennifer Milburn at Jennifer@KWAlliance.org or (502) 589-8008

About Kentucky Waterways Alliance: Working statewide for 15 years, KWA has won better protections for Kentucky's waterways through community-based efforts, advocacy, and educational outreach. With a mission to protect and restore Kentucky's waterways, our work is making a difference in the quality of life for all Kentuckians one victory at a time.