

NewsStreams



A publication of Kentucky Waterways Alliance: Working to protect and restore Kentucky's waterways. *Special Annual Report Edition*

Two Great Cleanups - One Great Cause!

By Kelly Cook

Kentucky Waterways Alliance and The Nature Conservancy had a fantastic turnout at both of our clean-ups this year. We broke record numbers for the Green River Fest and beat the weather to successfully carry out the Clean the Green. **Thanks to everyone who participated in the cleanups - we cleaned over 40 miles of the Green River this year!**

Green River Fest

Over 150 participants came to scour 30 miles for the Green River Fest this year in Munfordville! Tons of trash and record numbers of tires - over 150 - were removed from our river. Participants received KWA water bottles, event tee shirts, sack lunches provided by the local IGA, and one lucky volunteer, Scott York, won a kayak from **River City Canoe & Kayak**. The **Hart County Rescue Squad** was onsite to ensure the safety of our volunteers and to provide heavy machinery for removing large items stranded in the river. **Western Kentucky University** and the **WKU Upper Green River Biological Preserve** were kind enough to offer their canoes and aquatic restoration expertise. And of course, a big thanks is also due to our partners **The Nature Conservancy, Big Buffalo Crossing Canoe & Kayak**, and **Hart Co. Solid Waste!**



From left to right: Jeff Sole & Doug Lally (the Nature Conservancy), Judy Petersen (KWA), Scott York (kayak winner), Doug Davis (KWA board member and owner of River City Canoe & Kayak), and Kelly Cook (KWA): Photo by Cameron Unverferth

“Fun is always had by all on the river, even though we are there to accomplish a serious end, CLEANING!!!” - participant



Photo by TNC staff

Clean the Green

Over 100 participants showed up on August 4th to clean the Green River in Greensburg, removing tons of trash and tires. All tires were picked up and recycled free of charge by **Bridgestone** tires as part of their One Team, One Planet Spent Tire Program with **River Network**. Ryan Pennington was the lucky winner of a perception kayak from **River City Canoe & Kayak**. There was live music by Greensburg locals, **The Foster Children**. Plus, the **Cattlemen's Association** cooked up volunteers some warm food on the grill. A great day was had by all and the river is cleaner for it!



KWA member Michael Kuhl met us through the first cleanup we partnered with TNC on in 2009. He joined us as a member and has been on every “Clean the Green” since. It’s been great seeing him and his brother Anthony Kuhl, year after year. Photo by Anthony Kuhl

Special thanks to our partners at **The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky** and to our sponsors: **Green County Solid Waste, Hometown IGA, Green County Cattlemen’s Association, Bridgestone Tire, American Rivers, Green River Paddle Trail, Western Kentucky University, The Foster Children band and Replica Screen Printing.**

Of course, we cannot thank our volunteers enough. Nearly 300 volunteers supported the combined cleanups, covering over 40 miles of the river, removing about 10 tons of trash and scrap metal, and over 200 tires! Some people came to both cleanups like Michael Kuhl (pictured left). Our dedicated volunteers are inspirational. Come do it again with us next year!

Water: Too Much - Not Enough - and Climate Change Politics

Message From the President

As we swelter through the hottest summer on record, our state and federal leaders are ignoring and avoiding any discussion of what we should be doing to avoid the consequences of extreme weather. Our leaders' lack of action is due, in part, to the few industry-paid "scientists" who continue to deny the connection between our recent weather and predicted climate change models. We are hotter, and in over half the country much drier. We are only beginning to realize the consequences of this year's drought conditions. At a minimum we will all pay more for food, and water suppliers will pay more attention to the impacts of water shortages.

But the consequences for our water resources and the environment are much more profound and long-term. Already water suppliers are talking about new ways to exploit dwindling water resources to meet demands of growing cities and industries. In the media we see dried up lakes and failing corn crops, but there is little discussion about consequences to the ecosystem and aquatic habitat damage from extreme droughts. Runoff from vast forest fires is also a major pollutant in affected areas. KWA and others will need to step up even more to make sure the water ecosystems have a voice in the dialog to increase use of water resources for drinking water, industry, power generation, and agricultural uses.

We already know the discerning consequences of resource exploitation in our state. The rhetoric that coal jobs trump environment and water protection is all we hear from most of our elected "leaders." We are certain to hear this argument even more in the future as national water demands increase in the face of current and future droughts.

The flip side of not enough water is too much water. The concern of a few years ago that extreme rain events are becoming more frequent is now a statistical reality. Extreme rain events often result in extreme flooding events and ravaged watersheds, especially in urbanized areas. Outdated engineering standards for flood plains and predicting "100 year storms" are obsolete and we need new science based approaches to evaluating climate change risks and threats. We can only do this if our elected leaders wake up and see that ignorance is not only bliss, it is life threatening.

Our ability as a nation and a people to thoughtfully discuss alternatives and plan for the climate change future is a problem that needs attention and leadership. We can only pray that, in the near future, partisan climate change denial funded by conservative causes that are clearly anti-regulation and anti-environment will die of its own overreach and greed.

KWA and our clean water allies must respond to the challenge and continue to find ways to educate, advocate and litigate even more until we can reach a time when our country is willing to have civil dialog about protecting our environment and responding to climate change challenges. We need your help and support to do this.

On behalf of a healthier Kentucky,

Gordon Garner

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Tessa Edelen, Watershed Program Director
Tim Joice, Water Policy Director

Rockcastle River Conservation Program Director
Jim Hays
Bacon Creek Agricultural Coordinator
Mark Howell

Kentucky Waterways Alliance
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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 not necessarily represent the views of KWA or its officers.

KWA's Annual Meeting

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act with KWA!

Be sure to mark your calendar for KWA's Annual Meeting at General Butler State Park the weekend of October 26-28! This year's meeting will be one you won't want to miss, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act with great speakers, intriguing breakout sessions, some fantastic silent auction items, and educational opportunities too good to pass up. Friday night's social will heat things up for a weekend chock full of activities, a fabulous Saturday night dinner, and of course, a chance to mingle with lots of like-minded folks.



View from General Butler
Photo from northcentralky.com

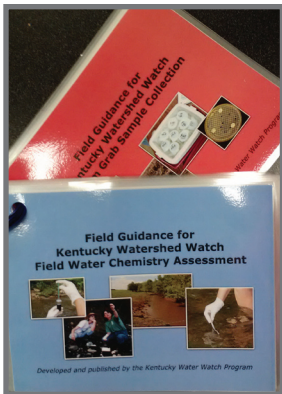
We'll also reveal Board election results at the meeting. Know someone who you think would make a fabulous board member, or want to nominate yourself? We have openings for several basin delegates, and welcome nominations! Please contact Judy at Director@kwalliance.org or Angela at Angela@kwalliance.org for more information. **Nominations are due to our office no later than September 17.**

Keep watching our website as we release more details about the meeting!

Watershed Watch Volunteers Donate \$60,000 toward Effective Stream Monitoring

Guest Article By Pamla Wood

Since many KWA members are familiar with one or more of Kentucky's Watershed Watch organizations, it's not news that dedicated Watershed Watch volunteers understand the health of their adopted streams and collect samples for laboratory analysis. But did you know that Watershed Watch is getting an upgrade? Have you seen the fantastic new stream monitoring flipbooks?

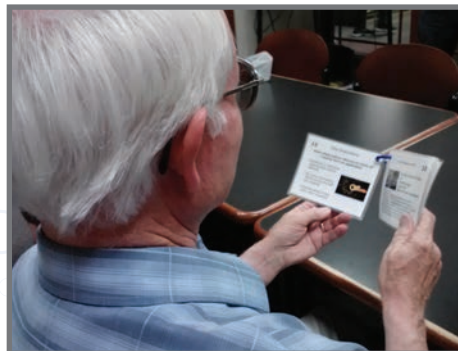


The backbone of Watershed Watch is made up of dedicated trainers who, in the past decade, have imparted stream health knowledge to thousands of Kentuckians. All volunteers take

Introductory, or Phase I training, where they learn the why and the how of measuring and recording dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, temperature, and other water quality indicators, plus how to properly take a sample for lab analysis. Some volunteers go a step further, learning to systematically make observations of other important stream health indicators such as benthic macroinvertebrates (affectionately called "bugs") and habitat conditions.

In recent years, the Watershed Watch statewide coordinating group Watershed Watch in Kentucky (WWKY) has realized

it was time to upgrade Watershed Watch trainings. Scientific monitoring methods have changed over the past decade, especially in monitoring bugs, macroinvertebrates that reflect an enhanced vision of long-term stream health because they live in the stream year round.



Pictured is Don Dampier

WWKY was able to secure funds to revamp training materials so that volunteers will use up-to-date and consistent methods for monitoring and sampling. The funds are supplied from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) in the form of a Clean Water Act, Section 319(h) grant (Grant # C9994861-11). This funding program has also supported multiple KWA projects.

The grant project requires all Watershed Watch trainers and volunteers to attend retraining events. Even though many of the WWKY trainers are experts in their fields, consistency in training methods are necessary to compare sampling results across basins and against data collected by the KDOW.

The grant project is now six months old. What a busy six months it has been! About fifty trainers attended updated training sessions for the Introductory Phase I, and fifty for Phase II. Close to 300 volunteers have been recertified for Phase I monitoring, and close to 150 recertified for Phase II. The value of all that volunteer time and the time for the various steering committees to coordinate training and plan the 2012 sampling season tallied up to about \$60,000! In addition, the project has already spent more than that amount on the revision and printing of new materials and equipment.

The new training materials are fantastic! All retrained and new volunteers receive laminated, stream-friendly flipbooks featuring photos, detailed but simple instructions, pictures of macroinvertebrates to help with bug identification and more. In addition, the grant will enable WWKY to purchase sampling supplies so that each Watershed Watch organization will have equipment available for loan to volunteers for many years in the future.

Because grant payments are made on a reimbursement basis, purchasing sampling supplies has been slow during the spring training and sampling period. However, the more volunteers we have sign up for the WWKY trainings, the more match hours are generated and money received to buy equipment. The next round of trainings this fall (in some basins) and in spring 2013 (all basins) should provide a considerable amount of money for equipment purchases. So, come out and support your basin by attending a new training course!

Clean Water for Cows

By Tessa Edelen

In the Bacon Creek Watershed in northern Hart County, there is a farm that now offers its cows clean water to drink.

A cattle watering facility, otherwise known as a cow water fountain, was installed so that the cows would not have to go to the creek for a drink. The cows get cleaner water and drier hooves, and the creek gets less manure and sedimentation. It's a wonderful solution to a common problem.



A cow self-waterer, photo by Mark Howell

The funding for this cow water fountain as well as a heavy use area came to the farmer through the Bacon Creek Agricultural Best Management Practices program. That's a long way of saying that the Bacon Creek Watershed Council is helping farmers help the creek. Mark Howell, KWA Agricultural Coordinator, is working with local farmers to find projects that improve their farms and improve water quality.

Other Best Management Practices (or BMPs) that can help improve water quality on a farm include heavy use areas, grassed waterways, and riparian buffers.

A heavy use area is a place cows gather to eat that has a concrete pad or gravel surface to prevent soil disturbance that leads to stream sedimentation. Also, the manure can be collected in one spot and aged for use as fertilizer later, instead of running off down the hill into the creek with the next rain.



Covered feeding pad, photo by Mark Howell

Grassed waterways are strips of grass seeded in fields where water concentrates or runs off. This BMP entails the establishment of grass to prevent gully erosion and the formation of gullies in fields. Grass waterways are easier to cross with farm machinery than natural gullies, and the grass may help trap sediment and keep it out of the water.

Riparian buffers are also a boon to water quality. The riparian area is the area immediately next to a creek or river. The NRCS recommends a 35 to 180 foot strip on either side of a waterway where native grasses, trees, and shrubs are allowed to grow. The benefits of riparian buffers include the filtration of nutrients and the containment of contaminants in surface runoff from both surface water and ground water before reaching a stream. Riparian buffers also provide habitat and corridors for fish and wildlife and help stabilize and restore damaged stream banks.

The Bacon Creek Agricultural BMP project is ongoing. If you're interested in learning more, see our Bacon Creek webpage at www.kwalliance.org/baconcreek.

Funding for this project was provided in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Kentucky Division of Water, Nonpoint Source Section and the Kentucky Division of Conservation to Kentucky Waterways Alliance as authorized by the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987, Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant #C-9994861-10.



Fenced off stream

Red Bird River - Outstanding and Impaired

By Tessa Edelen

The Red Bird River is a wild and beautiful river that starts in Bell County, in southeastern Kentucky. It flows north through Clay and Leslie Counties until it reaches Oneida where it joins Goose Creek to form the South Fork of the Kentucky River. For most of its course, the Red Bird flows through a gorgeous landscape of forests and mountains, passing a few small towns along the way.

I have the good fortune to be involved in a watershed planning project in the Red Bird River Watershed. This means that I get to travel to this far corner of our state on a regular basis. It also means that I am charged with gathering and organizing a lot of information about the area. One bit of information that had me stumped is the official designation by the KY Division of Water of the Red Bird River as both an "impaired" waterway and an "Outstanding State Resource Water."

An impaired waterway is one that does not meet its designated uses, thus it is impaired. Designated Uses are ways in which a waterway can be used such as Primary or Secondary Contact, Drinking Water Source, Cold Water Aquatic Habitat, and Warm Water Aquatic Habitat. The Red Bird is impaired for Primary Contact Recreation (otherwise known as swimming or wading) due to too much fecal coliform in the water. This impairment listing means that for at least some of the time, the water has too much bacteria to be safe for human contact. Well then, how is it considered an Outstanding State Resource Water?!

After some digging around and long talks with KWA Executive Director Judy Petersen, I came up with a one word answer: **Antidegradation.**

Red Bird River: Photo by Claudia Cotton



Continued on the next page...

Bacon Creek Farm Field Day!

Save the date: **Saturday, September 29.** Come learn more about the Best Management Practices installed on local farms to help out farmers and improve water quality in Bacon Creek.

Please RSVP to (502)589-8008. More info to come, stay tuned!

Antidegradation. It's a confusing and complicated part of the Clean Water Act. While our Executive Director is an expert in this little known corner of the Act, most of us tend to cringe at the word. But Watershed Planning is all about education, so I persevered with my research.

In the old days, when a high quality waterway like the Red Bird River was determined to be impaired for any of its uses, it lost its special Tier 2 status. Tier 2 is an antidegradation category in the Clean Water Act that maintains and protects high quality waters. This meant that if the Red Bird was found to be impaired for primary contact, then it would have its Tier 2 protections stripped. The bacteria problems would negate its extra protection for other uses like throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

This would typically lead to even worse water quality problems because it would then be legal to pollute the waterway even more. Here's



Red Bird River: Photo by Claudia Cotton

the thing though - just because a river has too much bacteria for humans doesn't mean it is not good habitat for aquatic species (who, incidentally, don't mind a little bacteria).

Antidegradation laws give us the legal authority to protect against further reduction in water quality or value where pollution levels are already above the legal limit for some parameters in otherwise high quality waters. It helps us to maintain the current designated uses and quality of special state surface waters.

The Red Bird River does have a bacteria problem and great aquatic habitat, all at the same time. A river has many uses, and they don't all cancel each other out. The old regulations got changed back in 2004 to acknowledge this reality.

So that's how you get a river that is both an impaired waterway and an Outstanding State Resource Water. Calling a river bad because of one problem is just too simple.

USGS Finds MTR Toxins

The United States Geological Society has released preliminary findings showing high levels of toxic compounds in soil and water around mountaintop-removal sites in Appalachia. Although this has been documented by activists for years, the non-regulatory unbiased nature and esteemed reputation of the USGS makes this report extremely important. The next step will be connecting these preliminary results with the documented regional health crisis in Appalachia. This is one more step towards the coal industry confronting the reality of their works' consequences.

Combined Federal Campaign

Kentucky Waterways Alliance is proud to be a part of the North Central Kentucky Combined Federal Campaign. If you are a federal employee in the North Central Kentucky, Southern Indiana, or Fort Knox CFC regions, the easiest way for you to make the most of your gift is through payroll deduction, using the code 58726. A small amount each week can add up to a gift that can benefit Kentucky's water in big ways. In addition, the CFC accepts cash and can help retirees set up automatic transactions to the CFC. Just contact their office at (502) 292-6137 to discuss your options!

One Team, One Planet

Bridgestone Americas and River Network have teamed up to help local watershed groups dispose of tires removed from our waterways for free! The "One Team, One Planet Spent Tire Program" was designed to ensure that for every tire Bridgestone-Firestone retailers sell, one used tire will be reused for a valuable purpose. This program has already proved itself to be of great value to our clean-ups and we encourage other groups to take advantage of this generous program as well. Thanks to Bridgestone Americas and River Network for providing this unique service!

KWA Welcomes our new Communications Director

In June, we welcomed a new Communications Director to the staff. Read on to learn a little more about Will Willis!

Tell us a little about your background.

My undergraduate degree is in Human Nutrition, and I got my Masters in Environmental and Occupational Public Health. I'm a country boy by heart, but a city boy by nurture.

What's your favorite Kentucky Waterway?

I grew up in Shelby County on Plum Creek, and I probably have my richest memories of water from there. But really, I love being on water in general - fishing on the Cumberland River, canoeing on the Elkhorn, camping on

Laurel River Lake, spending time at Nolin or just sitting by a small farm pond.

What do you hope to accomplish at KWA?

First and foremost: Work on our new website! I also want to broaden the reach of KWA across the state and help engage the Commonwealth's citizens to become more active in our mission to protect and preserve our immense amount of waterways.

Anything else we should know about you?

I'm excited to be getting married in September, and I'm the proud father of two dogs. My favorite flavor of ice cream is cookies and cream. Mmmmm mmmm!!!



KWA Works Everyday on Behalf of Our Families for Clean Water

POLICY ROUND-UP: what we're doing to protect your water resources

By Tim Joice

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!

Coal News

Coal is nothing short of a divisive issue here in Kentucky, and that division was on display again in June at the recent EPA hearings on their objections for 36 coal discharge permits. KWA attended the hearing in Frankfort, and listened as politician after politician and miner after miner spoke out in support of the coal companies and against the "war on coal" and EPA's regulatory onslaught. It was difficult to watch because clearly the coal country residents are concerned about their jobs, maybe more so than their health and well-being, and it was clear that politicians and coal companies are feeding a misinformation campaign by which coal company employees are forced to abide.



Amidst the deception from the coal industry and politicians, KWA and like-minded organizations and citizens spoke up with facts, and supported the EPA's objections. KWA spoke about the research on water quality impacts from surface coal mining and the recent research on health impacts from surface mining regions. KWA believes we should all be united on this – even coal miners want better water quality for their families.

Although the objections to these permits have yet to be resolved, and even as KWA continues to support the EPA's objections, a recent district court ruling in the District of Columbia may have implications for these permits. In a court case brought against EPA by the National Mining Association and the states of West Virginia and Kentucky, a judge ruled that EPA circumvented the legal framework for implementing new water quality regulations through the issuance of guidance on conductivity, and then through

attempts to enforce that guidance on state regulatory agencies.

Unfortunately, this is not good news for the EPA, but regardless of the ruling, the science behind EPA's guidance is not only still valid, but it is also continues to be supported by the slow and steady release of new research studies. KWA has no desire to cause our coal country communities to enter into further economic crisis, but we do believe fervently that protecting our state's waterways is necessary for the future of our state, and for the possibility of economic prosperity in coal country.

The Outlet Shoppes of Louisville

Back in April, KWA submitted comments on a Corps of Engineers 404 permit application for an outlet mall in Shelby County, just south I-64 at Simpsonville. Horizon Group Properties, a nation-wide outlet mall development company, has proposed to completely cover an existing farm pond that has wetlands around its perimeter, and also cover some short segments of existing ephemeral streams.

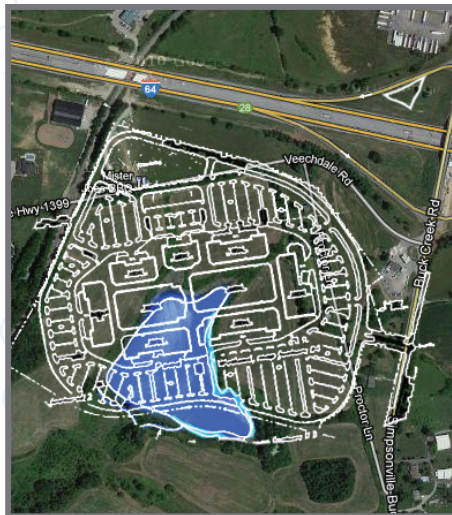


Photo is an aerial with the proposed site plan in white, the pond in blue and the wetlands in cyan.

In late June, the developer held a public meeting to present the project to the public, and try to answer questions. KWA attended the meeting, and although we

didn't speak, we heard plenty of other local community members speak up in opposition of the proposal. Local concerns included the water resource impacts, the increase in traffic that would result from the development, the historic track record of outlet malls, and the reality that there are better alternatives. In fact, many of these concerns have been brought up through articles and opinion pieces over the last several months in The Sentinel-News, a Shelby County newspaper.

Before the project can proceed, first, the developer must get a zone change for part of the land on which the development is proposed. The developers must also acquire the 404 permit, and KWA recently learned that Kentucky Division of Water has approved a 401 Water Quality Certification for the water resource impacts. KWA will continue to support local community efforts to oppose projects that cause negative impacts to our state's water resources, and that do not adhere to the public's interests.

KDOW Triennial Review

The Kentucky Division of Water conducts a review of its water quality standards regulations every three years, and is currently conducting its 2012 Triennial Review. The DOW is technically a year behind schedule on this, since the next triennial review will be in 2014. This triennial is focusing on updating some of the different tables in the standards that list certain water bodies of the state and their uses; revising the criteria for designating a water body as an Outstanding State Resource Water; proposing more water bodies as Outstanding State Resource Waters and Exceptional Waters; and some general updates to the water quality criteria, including revisions to the definition and criteria related to eutrophication.

KWA has provided input on prior triennial reviews, and will be doing so for this one as well. We'll support most of the DOW's recommendations, and may suggest a few additional modifications. Once the public notice period opens up, keep an eye out for an action alert to submit comments!

Policy Round-up continued on the next page...

Ohio River Happenings

A lot has been happening in the Ohio River Basin lately. The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) accepted public comments on proposed revisions to their Pollution Control

Standards. KWA submitted comments, along with many of our members around the state. Several of the proposed revisions were a little troubling, including changes to the E.coli criteria, and removal of acute selenium criteria, but others made a lot of sense, such as the addition of April to the recreational season. Thanks to all those who submitted comments to ORSANCO!



Lucent Dreams Photography

Another significant Ohio River issue that resurfaced in the last couple months was the PPG Industries variance request to continue discharging mercury through a mixing zone into the Ohio River. Since PPG's application in November, ORSANCO requested additional information several times. In June, ORSANCO released their preliminary decision to approve the variance request, with some requirements. KWA remains extremely disappointed with the preliminary decision. We continue to assert that PPG's request is unwarranted, and we also feel the requirements fall well short of providing enforceable protections. We submitted comments, and thanks to all our members for submitting comments, too!

Photo (left) by Lucent Dreams

Upcoming Events



Lake Pennyrile Moonlight Canoe Float

Saturday September 1. Invertebrate training starts at 2 pm, dinner at 5 pm and then we go to the dock at 7:30 for the float. Canoes will have glowsticks attached but please bring your own headlamp. The cost is \$20 per canoe or \$10 if you bring your own boat.

Healthy Foods, Local Farms Conference 2012

The theme is "No Water, No Food" and will include a wealth of expert speakers. October 12, 6pm at the Bashford Manor Bed and Breakfast. As always, local foods will be served. October 13, 9 am-5:30 pm at Kentucky Country Day School.



Brews for Beargrass

October 20 from 3-7. The Louisville Whole Foods Market will be hosting a benefit for Beargrass Creek Alliance. Tickets will be \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door, which includes all of the brews.



Important Dates

Pennyrile Moonlight Canoe Float - September 1
Advancing Green Infrastructure - September 13
Bacon Creek Farm Field Day - September 29
Healthy Foods Local Farms Conference - October 13
Whole Foods Brews For Beargrass - October 20
KWA Annual Meeting at General Butler State Park Oct 26-28



Advancing Green Infrastructure in Louisville

A full-day conference at the University of Louisville
September 13, 2012 9am-4pm.

The conference will bring together diverse stakeholders from the public and private sectors to collaborate and explore new opportunities for expanding the use of green infrastructure in Louisville. These green techniques can be used to address the city's wet weather pollution problems while beautifying our communities and saving money.

Panel discussions will evaluate Louisville's progress with green infrastructure to date, provide a national context for this progress, identify technical and policy barriers to the use of green infrastructure in Louisville, discuss "lessons learned" from a design and engineering perspective, and explore opportunities for future collaboration and coordination.

Registration:

- \$20 prior to September 10, 2012, \$25 at the door; scholarships available
- Lunch will be provided
- Register by following the link on our website: <http://kwalliance.org/event/advancing-green-infrastructure-louisville>

For more information, please contact hank.graddy@gmail.com.



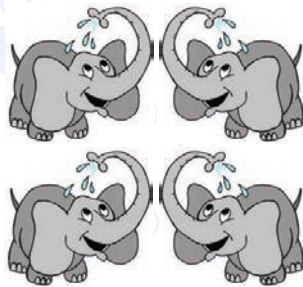
2011 Year in Review

With your help we were able to...

- ◆ Restore over 7,000 feet of Town Branch Creek in Winchester, KY, through a partnership with federal, state and local agencies.
- ◆ Hire a contract Agricultural Coordinator to help farmers make positive changes that will combat pollution in the Bacon Creek watershed in central Kentucky.
- ◆ Grow our Beargrass Creek Alliance's volunteer base through the formation of a Neighborhood Creek Project, which spreads educational information about nonpoint source pollution in one of the most urban watersheds in our state.
- ◆ Reach out to communities surrounding the Red River Gorge, a large outdoor tourism destination for the state, to help address past abuses and begin the process of developing a strategic plan for protection and restoration.
- ◆ Lay the groundwork for a comprehensive ecological restoration plan for the Red Bird River watershed in Eastern Kentucky.
- ◆ Attend public hearings and voice the concerns of our members regarding EPA's objections to 36 discharge elimination permits (for coal mining waste) issued by the Kentucky Division of Water.
- ◆ Together with the Mississippi River Collaborative, bring a lawsuit against the EPA for their failure to address a critical water pollution problem in the Mississippi River basin that they have acknowledged for decades.
- ◆ Follow the progress of the current Farm Bill through congress, urging our members to comment on key points.
- ◆ Remove tons of trash from state waterways!

2011 River Cleanups a HUGE Success!

What do a gray whale and four African elephants have in common?



Both weigh less than the combined total of trash KWA volunteers removed from streams and rivers in 2011! Thanks in part to a generous donation from Aveda and an anonymous corporate sponsor, we were able to offer more opportunities to volunteer for cleanups than ever before, resulting in **more than 300 volunteers** and **25 tons of trash removed** from Beargrass Creek and the Green and Cumberland Rivers!



Our army of volunteers!



Local scouts clean the Cumberland

2011 Annual Report

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



2011 Donors

We'd like to express a heartfelt "Thank You!" to all of our 2011 donors. Without you, our work for cleaner waterways and healthier communities would not be possible. Thank you for your voice, your time, and your faithful support. We could not do this important work without you! See our website soon for a complete list.

Watershed Angel

\$500 +

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Blugrass Wildwater Association
Bert Lyons & Maggie Brandt
Christy Brown
C.E. & S. Foundation
Robert De Angelis
Eco-Tech Consultants Inc.
Frank Elsen
Forecastle Festival
Gordon Garner
Tim Guilfoile
Gary Hackney
Marc Hult
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Catherine Sewell
Snowy Owl Foundation
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Craig Kaviar & Frances Weinstock
Agnes Whittington

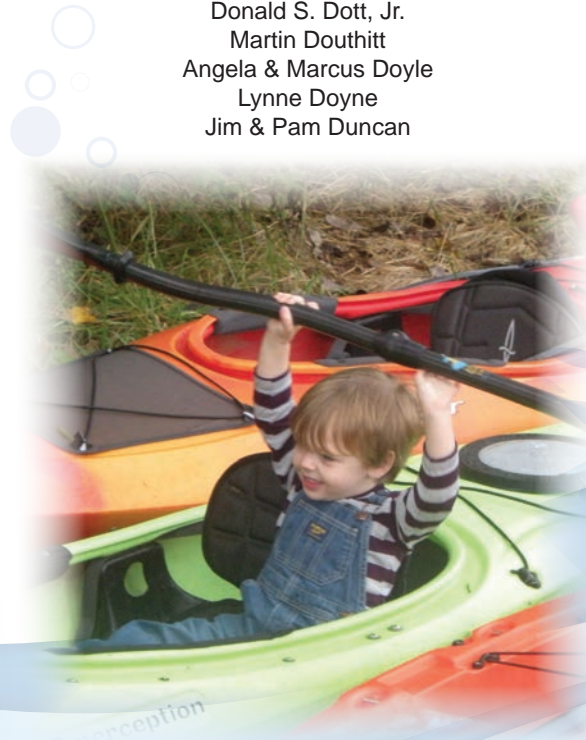
Jack & Angene Wilson
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Watershed Guardian

\$100 - \$199

21st Century Parks
Mary Alexander
Ed Allgeier
Mary Ann Sanders
Samuel & Bonnie Avery
Sophie Bayer
Sharon Bidwell
Kenny Book
Carmel Bowman
Brownsboro Alliance
Matthew Burke
Sheila Calovich
Cody Campbell
Canoe Kentucky
Mary Carletta
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Jim Coffman
Bruce Cohen
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Commonwealth Office of Technology
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Cultivating Connections
William Curry
Gene Davis
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Angela & Marcus Doyle
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La Grange Animal Hospital
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David Wicks
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David & Sue Wimsatt
Mark & Jill Young
A. Denise Zeydel



KWA's 3rd Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival

SYRCL's WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL

We'd like to extend a heartfelt "Thanks!" to everyone who sponsored, volunteered or participated in last year's festival. With more than 250 people in attendance, a record number of sponsors, and Louisville radio personality Kyle Meredith as emcee, the event was a huge success. Special recognition goes to our sponsors:



Supporting Partner:

Bluegrass Wildwater Association

Community Partners:

Louisville Climate Action Network
21st Century Parks
Canoe Kentucky
Crescent Hill Chiropractic
Green Earth Outdoors
Greater Louisville Sierra Club
RKX Consulting
The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky
Sheltoewe Trace Outfitters

Friendship Partners:

Cultivating Connections
Dropseed Native Plant Nursery
KAEE
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Jackson Purchase RC&D
Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Kentucky State Nature Preserves
Commission
Viking Canoe Club

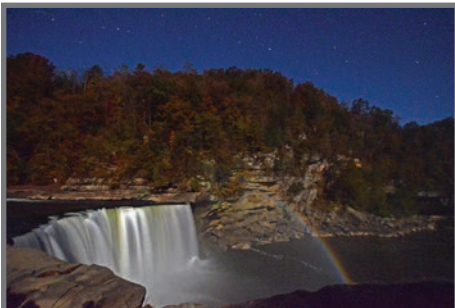
In-Kind Sponsors:

Kentucky Ale
21c Museum Hotel
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Skipping Fish Boat School

National Festival Sponsors:

Sierra Nevada
Clif Bar
Kleen Kanteen
Patagonia
Osprey
Grist

Annual Meeting



Cumberland Falls Moonbow Photo by Marc Hult

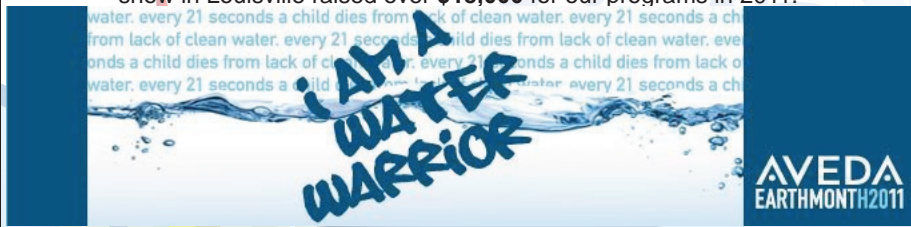
Halfway to Forecastle



Beargrass Creek Festival



Thanks again to everyone at Aveda for making the second year of our Earth Month partnership so successful! Events ranging from concerts in Lexington to a fashion show in Louisville raised over **\$18,000** for our programs in 2011.



Water is Life at St. Andrews



Mayor's Hike, Bike and Paddle & Harrod's Creek Earth Day Paddle

2011 Annual Report

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

Thanks to all of our volunteers! Without you, none of our events would be possible!!!



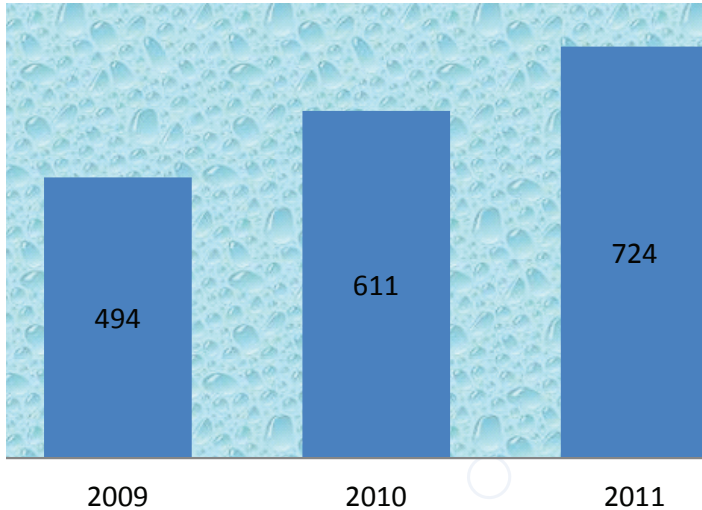
We would like to acknowledge David Wimsatt (left) for being KWA's 2011 Volunteer of the Year!



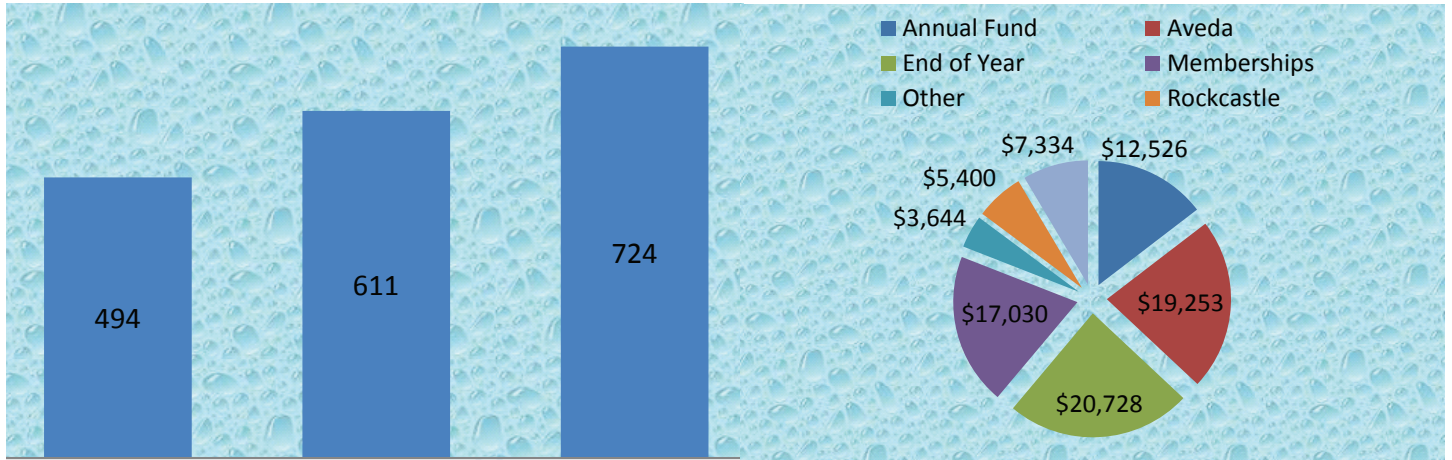
David Coomer with a loaded canoe



KWA Members by Year



Private Contributions in 2011



Grant Funding Sources

Government Agencies:

Kentucky Division of Water
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Louisville Metro Council
 US Fish and Wildlife, Kentucky Field Office
 USDA, Forest Service, Daniel Boone National Forest

Foundations:

McKnight Foundation
 Steele-Reese Foundation
 Snowy Owl Foundation
 Mohn Foundation
 Louisville Community Foundation
 East Tennessee Foundation

2011 Marked KWA's First Ever Gift of Stock



In a year of "firsts," one exciting addition was our ability to accept gifts of stock. During our year-end appeal campaign last year, Frank Elsen, Board Member Emeritus, worked with us through the kinks to become our first ever donor of shares of stock. Thanks, Frank, for letting us test the waters through your generosity!

We've now accepted several stock gifts. If you're interested in learning the benefits of giving a stock gift or would like information about how you can make a tax-deductible stock gift, please contact Angela Doyle, our Development Director, at angela@kwalliance.org or call our office at (502) 589-8008.



120 Webster Street, Suite 217
Louisville, KY 40206

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Kentucky Waterways
Alliance, Inc.



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 to join us in the pursuit of healthy waterways today.