

NewsStreams



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

Wild & Scenic

Are you looking for a “wild” time? Then look no further than the 7th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival! This year’s festival will be held on **Friday March 13th at the Clifton Center in Louisville.**

The reception will be held from 6:00-7:30 pm, and films will run from 7:30 until approximately 10:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased on our website (kwalliance.org) in advance and picked up at will call, or purchased at the door the night of the event. KWA members get a \$10 discount!

This year’s theme is “A Wild Life.” 13 short films will take you to new destinations and introduce you to fascinating people who are making a difference in their communities.

Discover a gorgeous protected river in Fiji. Hear the songs of the amazing birds of Yellowstone. See how one man brought together adventure and science into one successful organization. Get advice from someone who gave up the rat race for a life of simplicity. Experience the beautiful colors of Monarch butterflies.

Bring your friends out for a fun-filled evening! We’re holding a reception before the films with fabulous food, great beer, an opportunity to mix and mingle with hundreds of like-minded people, and a chance to win a kayak!

Special thanks to this year’s sponsors: **Quest Outdoors, Wiltshire Pantry, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisville Metro Government, National Wildlife Federation, C&H Audio Visual, Founders Brewing, and the Aveda Corporation.**



WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL

A WILD LIFE



7TH ANNUAL **MARCH 13, 2015** Reception 6:00PM
 Films 7:30 - 10PM
 CLIFTON CENTER 2117 PAYNE ST LOUISVILLE

FILMS DRINKS FOOD RAFFLE FRIENDS



TICKETS & INFO @ KWalliance.org 502.589.8008

Message From the Director

Onward and Upward - 2015 and Beyond

Happy 2015 everyone! I hardly know where to begin - 2015 looks to be busier than ever for the staff, board, and for me.



On the staff side, we're working hard every day to make sure our underfunded, understaffed state agency does its job in protecting our water. We're challenging new pollution limits we believe are a step backward or don't protect our water. We're reviewing permits and again pushing the state agency, the EPA, and the Army Corps to write better, more protective permits that don't pollute our precious water. And we continue to push at both the state and national level for limits on the nitrogen and phosphorus pollution that causes the Harmful Algal Blooms in our state reservoirs where so many of us go to fish, swim, boat or just enjoy nature.

We continue to work with local groups on watershed plans – the blueprints to cleanup and protect our rivers and streams. With funding from the Clean Water Act and other sources, we persevere in directly cleaning up problems such as failing septic systems and cattle in our streams. Meanwhile, we continue to support Beargrass Creek Alliance in our own backyard and all the great education and outreach efforts they provide.

We're once again planning several river cleanups, so make sure you look for those opportunities to pitch-in and help while enjoying a great day on a Kentucky waterway. We're trying even harder to get out to more events and let more people know about our work and how they can be involved. We're exploring how we can best work with the National Wildlife Federation as the new Kentucky affiliate to take advantage of the increased visibility the partnership affords us.

Finally, as we mentioned in the cover article of our last newsletter, our board of directors is about to engage in a new Strategic Planning effort to look forward to how we can better meet needs now and in the future to keep Kentucky's waters as clean as possible. Don't forget to give us your input to help guide us or to volunteer to join us in some capacity! As a start, we've put together some brief information and a survey at kwalliance.org/who-we-are/our-board/2015-strategic-planning/ – we need to hear from you! Thank you.

On behalf of a healthier Kentucky,

Judy Petersen

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Jessica Kane, Community Engagement Director
Tessa Edelen, Watershed Program Director
Tim Joice, Water Policy Director

Mark Howell
Bacon Creek Agricultural Coordinator

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!**

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Water and “Water Silver” Don’t Mix

By Judy Petersen, Executive Director

FUN FACT: Mercury’s chemical symbol, Hg, comes from its former name hydrargyrum, which translates from Latin as ‘water silver’ and refers to its shiny liquid metallic form. This is also the origin of the nickname quicksilver.

Mercury and water don’t mix. They can’t — mercury isn’t water soluble. Mercury is a pollutant that often comes from fossil fuel pollution. It stays as mercury or methylmercury in water, until it is either consumed by aquatic life, or volatilized into the air. Ultimately, it’s a toxic legacy pollutant, and discharges of mercury into our water need to meet the established ORSANCO (Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission) limit of 0.012 ug/L, a number scientifically established to protect human health. Yet, this spring, ORSANCO will once again open the door to continued discharges of mercury into the Ohio River in excess of the current limit. How? “Mixing zones” allow dischargers to use a designated portion of the river to mix the discharge, diluting the concentration of the metal or chemical down to the legal limit.

Back in 2003, ORSANCO adopted a rule that would ban the use of mixing zones for discharges of chemicals that bio-accumulate in the environment, such as mercury, into the Ohio River after October 2013. Industry was given a decade to figure out how to reduce the concentration of these chemicals in their discharge to the legal limit without use of a mixing zone.

Then, in 2012, ORSANCO approved a variance to the mixing zone ban, and proceeded to give PPG Industries (now Axiall Corporation) in Natrium, WV a five-year extension to meet the discharge limit of mercury. In 2013, anticipating an inability for industry to conform to their standards, ORSANCO extended the deadline for compliance with the mixing zone ban to October 2015.

In a comment period that will begin this spring, ORSANCO will be proposing to extend the deadline indefinitely. They’ll be asking that mixing zones for mercury and the 21 other bio-accumulating chemicals on the list be phased out “as soon as is practicable,”

and asking individual states to make the decision on allowance of mixing zones. They are also proposing to grant a second variance for a mercury mixing zone to First Energy in WV. And there are now two more requests for mixing zones on ORSANCO’s web site.

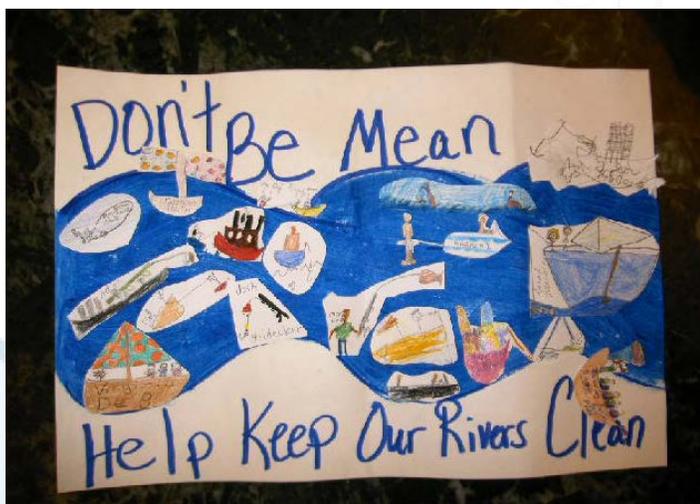


What’s the problem with this? The Ohio River is 981 miles long. Kentucky’s northern border includes 664 miles of that total. The Ohio River, from Jefferson County downstream to Ballard County (367.3 miles), is already listed as impaired for mercury – i.e. fish have high concentrations of mercury, and can only be consumed in limited amounts and only by some people!

Some of the elemental mercury industries discharge into the Ohio converts into methylmercury as it moves down the river – and the lower portion of the Ohio River already has too much mercury! No one should be allowed to continue to use mixing zones to discharge these higher levels of mercury to the river.

If the ORSANCO proposal moves forward, it will set up a very unequal permitting scenario along the Ohio. Not all states allow mixing zones, and states have different limits for mercury. So for example: an industry on the northern side of the river might not be allowed a mixing zone by their state when one directly across the river on the southern side might be granted one. This is unfair to businesses, unfair and unsafe for the public and the continued consumption of fish from the Ohio River. It’s also unsafe for birds and other animals within the river ecosystem.

We will need you to help us make sure Kentucky officials, and ORSANCO knows “no more mixing zones for mercury”. We’ll have more on the issue in the next newsletter and will likely have e-action alerts and other notices as well. Be on the lookout this spring – and please take action. We can’t emphasize enough the seriousness of this situation. Mercury persists in the environment for a long time so this problem is likely to get worse for years, maybe decades before it gets better.



Mercury pollution is an immediate threat to public health and a persistent threat to future generations. Photo credit to www.sierraclub.org

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

Fracking in KY

KWA has been keeping tabs on fracking for a while, but just recently we became aware of a new threat. As industry locates and fracks, or mines, the easy to reach fossil fuels, more sophisticated extraction methods are developed to reach elusive fuel sources. Several eastern Kentucky counties sit above a deep geologic formation called the Rogersville Shale. Recently, this formation has been researched and explored by Kentucky Geological Survey and industry for its potential to produce fossil fuels. With this slight bit of interest, land agents have gone roaming through the area, attempting to persuade residents to sign land easements for potential oil and gas exploration.

This exploration is particularly concerning because this shale formation is conducive to hydraulic fracturing, a more resource intensive and destructive method than the nitrogen fracking we typically see in Kentucky.

To counteract and oppose the pressure from land agents, residents banded together to form Frack Free Foothills. The group has been working to spread the truth about hydraulic fracking to their friends and neighbors and has set up a website for additional information: www.frackfreefoothills.net.

On the heels of this recent news, the Kentucky General Assembly will be considering a bill (386 in the House) as a measure to update and expand existing oil and gas drilling regulations to account for hydraulic fracking methods. The bill also includes a new program to deal with abandoned chemical storage tanks related to the oil and gas extraction industry. Overall, this would be an improvement of the existing regulations, but it falls short of actually providing Kentuckians the protections they deserve. You can read more about it on our blog!

House Bill 376: The Land Conservation Tax Credit Bill

The Kentucky House will be considering a bill that will provide an incentive to landowners who would like to donate an eligible portion of their land to conservation. The bill outlines criteria for the land conservation tax credit, and the process for landowners interested in participating. We're really excited about this bill. It provides

incentive to landowners who may not normally consider preserving the riparian buffer along the stream reach that they own or that pocket wetland on their land. It represents a tangible and long-term positive action towards protecting our waterways and protecting our ecosystems.

#4cleanwater

Hey Kentuckians: we need you to speak up! Join the #4cleanwater social media campaign to continue to build awareness and support for the Clean Water Protection Rule. Write letters to the editors of your local paper, write to the EPA, and to your Senators and Representatives, tell them you want them to protect your water.



For more resources to take action on this critical issue, check out www.ilovecleanwater.org

Trimble Power Plant Ash Pond Issues

For several years, KWA has been engaged with issues at the LG&E Trimble County Generating Station on the Ohio River. We are plaintiffs in a lawsuit regarding Kentucky Division of Water's failure to follow proper regulatory requirements and restrict pollution from the facility's coal ash wastewater. We are currently fighting a proposed coal ash landfill that would impact miles of streams and be built on caves. And now, LG&E has documented that the existing coal

ash ponds are contaminating monitoring wells with pollutants, like arsenic. In December 2014, the Division of Waste Management let LG&E know that the current failures are unacceptable, and that LG&E needs to do more to adequately protect human and environmental health. But will they? Will LG&E do more to protect water quality, even while they are applying to destroy miles of streams for another coal ash landfill? We'll keep you apprised of the situation.

Paging: Water Issues and Policy Gurus

Over the next year, KWA will be changing some of our governing documents. For the longest time, KWA staff has had committees of board members who have provided advice and directive on staff work. As part of our upcoming strategic changes, KWA staff will be looking to have KWA members and supporters help populate these committees instead. For the policy and advocacy work we

do, our Water Policy Director will be assembling a new Waterways Protection Council. If you have expertise you'd like to lend (and have time) or have a passion for water and an interest in being a voice for your local watershed, get in touch with Tim at Tim@KWAlliance.org.

Another Tar Sands Project

Almost two years ago, we found out about a tar sands mining project proposed for Logan County roughly five miles north of Russellville. We pushed back on a permit for the project, but it was ultimately granted, and the operation moved forward. At the time, the company was seeking to mine a second site but had not applied for the necessary permits. Now, two years later, the permit that would allow

the company to impact streams and wetlands at the second site is out for public comment.

We're preparing comments and want you to submit your own! Check out our webpage for more information! <http://kwalliance.org/tar-sands-mining-in-kentucky/>



Site 1 of the tar sands project in Logan County is well underway, as you can see from the aerial imagery to the left. Site 2, which is larger and borders multiple waterways, is now open for public comment.

Watershed Updates

By Tessa Edelen, Watershed Program Director

Bacon Creek

The Bacon Creek Watershed Council is working to implement the watershed plan completed in 2013 through agricultural and wastewater Best Management Practices. The Council's next meeting will be April 22.

Beargrass Creek Alliance

The Beargrass Creek Alliance recently partnered with Bellarmine University's School for Environmental Studies to sponsor a Community Meeting with Louisville Sustainability Director Maria Koetter. The meeting was held at Bellarmine and featured a presentation by Ms. Koetter with a question and answer period afterwards. Thanks to Bellarmine and the Office of Sustainability.

Upcoming BCA Events include an Invasive Plant Removal event at the Louisville Nature Center on Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m.

Darby Creek

The Darby Creek project is now officially underway. The first task is to update the existing watershed plan, and then the implementation can begin. The first planning meeting will be March 18 at 3 p.m. at the John Black Community Center in Buckner. Everyone is welcome!

Red River

The first iteration of the Watershed Plan for the Red River project is nearing completion. Project partners have secured a follow up grant to implement the plan! This will include a local watershed coordinator and on-the-ground projects for local communities.

Harrods Creek Watershed Project

The watershed team has picked an official name and logo: The Harrods Creek Alliance.

A first rough draft of Chapter 2 can now be found on the Harrods Creek Watershed project page www.HarrodsCreek.org

Stay tuned for upcoming events!



HARRODS CREEK
ALLIANCE

For more information on all projects, please see our website www.KWAlliance.org/what-we-do/watershed-planning/

April is Earth Month

WHEN YOU PROTECT WATER YOU PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE

AVEDA EARTHMONTH2015

The graphic features a blue background with white text and icons. On the right side, there are icons of a child in a life preserver, a glass of water, a plant with flowers, a fish, and birds.

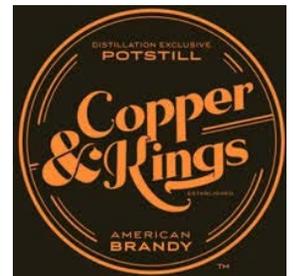
KWA is proud to announce that we have been chosen as the 2015 Aveda Earth Month partner for the state of Kentucky! During the month of April (and in some instances, March), Aveda salons and stores across the state will be holding fundraising events to support our work. To find a participating salon, just check the “Earth Month

Leader” box when searching for a local salon at Aveda.com. Check our website regularly for updates about events you can participate in - you’ll find fashion shows, concerts, “cut-a-thons” and more. **Join us for Earth Month and pamper yourself while supporting a great cause!**

Copper & Kings Donor Appreciation Event

The great folks at Copper & Kings, Kentucky’s new brandy distillery, opened their doors to us one frozen Thursday evening this February and helped some of our supporters shake off their cabin fever by offering us a chance to sample their wares. The distillery, which began production last fall and just a short walk away from the KWA office, takes sustainability to a whole new (and very fashion-forward!) level. Believing that it’s “better to walk than talk,” they have repurposed shipping containers for retail and event space, planted a large monarch butterfly garden, and installed solar panels for clean energy on the roof next to the tasting room.

Also a believer in locally sourcing as much as possible, they use Woodford Reserve barrels to age their brandy and distill it in copper pot stills crafted just down the street.



Copper & Kings contacted KWA shortly after opening to ask how they could help support our work. Their “Lock Stock and Smoking Barrels” event during Craft Beer Week last fall brought attention to Beargrass Creek Alliance, and their staff is always seeking ways to better our community.

Be on the lookout for an event there in March supporting our work in conjunction with Aveda’s Earth Month activities. They also plan to support Beargrass Creek Alliance again this fall for their second Craft Beer Week event. Copper & Kings loves to show off all of the great work they are doing in the Butchertown neighborhood, so stop by for a tour and thank them!



Our guests hearing from Executive Director Judy Petersen before sampling the delicious brandy and watching the sun set over the Louisville skyline.



*Inspiring Americans to
protect wildlife for our children's future*

Protecting Wildlife Habitat and the American Landscape

Americans share ownership of approximately 600 million acres of land and water in the United States. These "public lands" include federal designations like national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and monuments, as well as state and local areas owned by the public.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is committed to safeguarding these special places that provide habitat for amazing wildlife and endless opportunities for people of all ages to connect with our natural world. NWF is helping to gain support for new public lands protections, such as Brown's Canyon in Colorado and Boulder White Clouds in Idaho by establishing them as National Monuments under the Antiquities Act. In addition, NWF defends special places from fragmentation and development, including working to prevent oil and gas drilling in the iconic Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

On January 26, 2015, in a significant moment for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Obama administration became the first in history to make a Wilderness recommendation for the Refuge's Coastal Plain. This recommendation holds the promise

of protecting a vast range of species including arctic fox, caribou, polar bears, and grizzly bears, as well as hundreds of thousands of birds that gather each year from around the globe. The next step is for Congress to pass Wilderness legislation.

*An Arctic fox
blends in with
the snowy
landscape.
Photo by
National
Wildlife
Federation
Photo Contest
entrant, Isobel
Wayrich.*



To learn more, please visit <http://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Protect-Habitat/Public-Lands.aspx>

Upcoming Events

March 9 Kentucky Water Resources Annual Symposium at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington, KY featuring technical sessions, oral presentations, and a poster session on a range of water and water related environmental topics.

March 13 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Beginning at 6 pm with a reception featuring Wiltshire Pantry food and Founders beer, the films will start at 7:30 and last until 10 pm. Come ready to be inspired by another great lineup of films to change your world.

March 16 BCA Meeting 7 pm at the Crescent Hill Public Library. Newbies are welcome!

March 18 Darby Creek Meeting 3 pm at the John Black Community Center in Buckner, KY.

March 27-29 National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting Join NWF President Collin O'Mara, Board Chairman Deborah Spalding, and affiliate leaders from around the country in Shepherdstown, WV to discuss important conservation issues at regional round table discussions.

April Aveda Earth Month Aveda has set aside the entire month of April to love, celebrate, and raise money for the Earth and its peoples. Once again, KWA has been chosen as the state partner for Aveda salons in Kentucky so show your support for KWA by pampering yourself at your local Aveda store.

April 4 BCA Invasive Plant Removal Day Join us at the Louisville Nature Center at 10 am to pull some honeysuckle and wintergreen. Tools will be provided; dress for the weather.

April 22 Bacon Creek Meeting Join us for this quarterly meeting at Bonnieville City Hall at 4:30 pm (cst).

May 1 River Rally Join water lovers from across the nation at the Tamaya Resort on the Rio Grande situated between Sante Fe and Alubuerque for this years Rally.

May 2 Cumberland River Paddlefest From 8:30 am - 2:30 pm at 133 Sanders Ferry Road, Hendersonville, TN 37075.

June 20 Green River Fest Back for another year, we will meet at Thelma Stovall Park in Munfordville, KY.

August 8 Clean the Green This annual Green River cleanup will meet in Greensburg, Kentucky and registration will be provided by our partners The Nature Conservancy.

October 9 BBQ & Bourbon Bash KWA's third annual gala event will be held at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY overlooking the Ohio River.

October 17 BCA Fall Creek Cleanup At Big Rock in Cherokee Park at 10 am.

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



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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 to join us in the pursuit of healthy waterways today.**