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Newstreams

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

ACTION ALERT Stream Buffer Rule Comment now!

Jason Flickner

On August 24th, the US Department of the Interior (DOI) released a proposed rule that would reduce protection of intermittent and perennial streams nationwide. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of proposed revisions to the Excess Spoil Minimization-Stream Buffer Zones Rule will expand the coal industry's ability to bury (eliminate) streams and make it easier to perform some of the most destructive mining practices — mountain mining and removal.

Your comment letters are needed immediately.



Appalachian stream fill. Photo by Bob Gates from OVEC.

A sample letter is included inside this issue. You can sign and send it, or use it to develop your own comments. If you have the time, we urge you to personalize the letter before

you submit it. A Public Hearing on the rule is planned for Hazard, KY on October 24 from 6-9 pm.

(Continued on page 8)

Variance Obtained to "Relocate" Beargrass Creek

Poe Companies' plans move forward

Jason Flickner

In a recent US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit application, Poe Companies, a real estate firm, proposed moving and shortening a portion of Louisville's Beargrass Creek to enhance development of the River Metals

site for a mixed-use commercial development. In late September, the Metropolitan Sewer District in Louisville approved a floodplain variance for Poe Companies to construct structures in the Beargrass Creek floodplain along Lexington Road in Louisville.

Last January, KWA submitted comments along with a technical review report by Dr. Art Parola, professor of fluvial geomorphology at the University of Louisville and an expert on Beargrass Creek.

(Continued on page 11)

Events

September 19-October 18 – World Water Monitoring Day. Held annually, WWMD engages communities from around the world in monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams, estuaries and other water bodies. Information at: <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>

October 17 – North Elkhorn Creek TMDL meeting. 3-4 pm USDA-NCRS Office, 771 Corporate Drive, Ste 210, Lexington, KY. Information: corrine.mulberry@ky.gov (502) 564-3410 x 348.

October 19 – Open House at KWA's new Louisville office. 5-8:30 pm, Bakery Square, 120 Webster Street, Louisville, KY 40206. (502) 589-8008 Directions: www.bakersquare.com See more on p. 5.

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KWA Membership Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City / State / Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS:

\$100 Watershed Angel
 \$100 Watershed Guardian
 \$ 50 Supporter
 \$ 35 Family
 \$ 25 Individual
 \$ 12 Student/Low Income Senior

GROUP MEMBERSHIPS:

\$1000 Business Benefactor \$500 Business Sponsor
 \$ 200 Business Supporter \$100 Business
 \$ 35 Non-Profit Group Other _____

Enclosed is \$ _____

Your donations are tax deductible! Mail to KWA, 107 E. Court St., Greensburg, KY 42743

JOIN KWA

From the President Bruce W. Scott

By the Numbers With the 2008 General Assembly

Two waterways issues postponed by last year's regular session will confront the 2008 General Assembly when it meets this January. I'll describe them with the help of some numbers.

This summer, a legislative committee heard the Transportation Cabinet's request to modify the Wild Rivers Act so that I-66 can cross the Rockcastle River. The Cabinet failed to sneak a bill through the final days of last year's session after the attempt was daylighted by the Kentucky Resources Council and KWA, so this summer's hearing prepares the way for a bill this winter.

The 114 miles in Kentucky's Wild River System represents *less than two-tenths of a percent* of the 89,400 river miles of Kentucky.

So far, the Cabinet has made no concessions to the significance of the Rockcastle River. For example, the Cabinet so far plans only the legal minimum of safeguards against sedimentation during construction and afterwards, and has not reduced the number of interchanges (including one each for the Pulaski county hamlets of Stab and Squib, *five miles* apart).

Kentucky should not accept the degradation of one of its Wild Rivers by this arguably unnecessary stretch of interstate highway. If runaway highway planners must prevail, legislators should require stringent design and construction safeguards. They should also order the Transportation Cabinet to pur-

chase lands from willing owners and install canoe landings to complete the Rockcastle Wild River corridor. And the host counties should implement planning, zoning, and stormwater authorities.

Also gobbling Kentucky river miles, and at an estimated *ten miles per year*, is the state's surface mining industry.

On steep slopes, it's impossible to put all the rock blasted off of coal seams back where it came from—it "fluffs" up. So what can't be put back on the mountain—as much as *forty percent*—gets dumped in the nearest hole. In southeastern Kentucky, that's at the head of a valley.

There's increasing evidence that earlier studies of impacts from valley fills were wrong. The effects on stream hydrology and biology from the extensive mining now underway in targeted coalfields are mounting and irreversible.

Over the past few sessions, a growing number of legislators in the House have co-sponsored the "Stream Saver" bill, introduced by Rep. Don Pasley of Winchester. The bill, which would prohibit valley fills, has never had a hearing. Its number is up.

Lobbyists and legislators say the magic number is "*six*." That's how many contacts from constituents it takes before a bill gets on a legislator's radar.

Don't be bashful. Call your representative about the Wild Rivers Act and the Stream Saver bill. And ask *five* of your neighbors to do the same!

Newstreams

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Riparian Buffer Project at Lake Linville

The public is invited—October 23rd

Deb Bledsoe

The public is invited for a field day to watch the installation of a groundwater wetland at Lake Linville in Rockcastle County. A-SPI (Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest) service learning students, along with City of Mt. Vernon, the Rockcastle NRCS and Cumberland Valley RC&D, and Tom Biebighauser of the USFS, will install a groundwater wetland at the Mt. Vernon City Park on Renfro Creek at Lake Linville. Funds for the project were donated by the Alcoa Foundation.

Work will begin on October 23 early in the morning and continue until the project is completed. People can see what the project is all about, watch the excavator and earth moving, help with the planting, etc. Additional work may be done on October 24 if necessary.

The team has already installed a riparian buffer in the same area. This is an educational project and will ultimately have signage installed to explain the environmental services provided by intact riparian zones and natural drainage patterns to the big picture of clean water.

Beargrass Creek (continued from page 1)

Dr. Parola's report raised several alarming concerns about Poe's proposal and the potentially destructive effects on the stream and floodplain if the stream is relocated. Poe Companies attorney's tell KWA that they intend to address Dr. Parola's concerns in the final plans for the development.

Nonetheless, KWA is troubled by the decision of the Floodplain Board to allow the Poe Companies' floodplain variance before Dr. Parola's concerns have been addressed.

The development still needs a Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers in Louisville.

KWA believes that Poe has offered no real mitigation in the 404 permit application. Furthermore, the currently proposed development on the River Metals site should:

- incorporate green infrastructure and have enough on-site stormwater retention to completely offset all impervious surfaces under most rainfall conditions;
- if the stream is relocated, all toxins should be removed from the stream and soil on the River Metals site and an effective TMDL should be developed;
- Poe should provide mitigation through economic investment in the Beargrass Creek Watershed upstream and downstream of the River Metals site and;
- other Irish Hills neighborhood association concerns should be addressed.



Photo by Brad Craig, KWA Annual Meeting

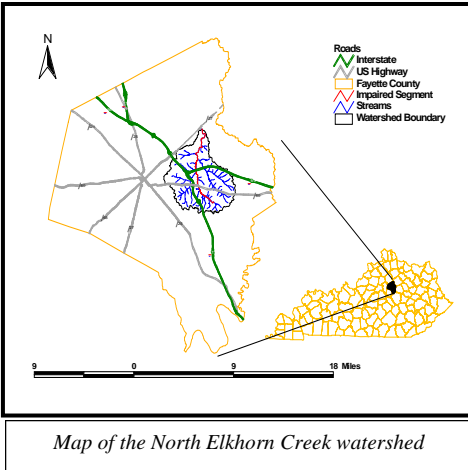
KWA Annual Meeting—September 29

Kentucky Waterways Alliance held its Annual Meeting at Pennyryle State Park near Dawson Springs. KWA members, staff, and the Governing Council had an excellent time sharing information on water issues in Kentucky, dining together, and enjoying the beauty of the State Park.

Gordon Garner, Vice-President of KWA's Governing Council and Consultant for CH2M Hill, gave a presentation on the possible effects that global warming will have on Kentucky's waterways. He urged the audience to think of what KWA's role should be in guiding the conversation on global warming to include water issues. Thanks to all who made the Annual Meeting a success!

Public Input Needed—for North Elkhorn Creek TMDL

The Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) has drafted a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address pathogen problems for **North Elkhorn Creek** in Fayette County. A meeting has been scheduled to provide an overview of the water quality problems, TMDL process and TMDL results to agencies, localities and citizens on **October 17th at 3:00 pm** at the USDA-NRCS Office on Corporate Drive in Lexington.



Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend. It is essential to have representatives from the watershed participate in the meeting. Understanding the water quality problems in North Elkhorn Creek and the TMDL process will improve KDOW's ability to identify and implement effective solutions to make the creek safe for swimming and primary contact recreation once again.

What is a TMDL? Once a stream is identified as not meeting water quality standards due to a pollutant, Kentucky usually must determine the source of the pollutant. Information is gathered that describes the stream characteristics, including: pollutant concentrations in the stream, stream flow, and possible sources of the pollutant. The data is analyzed to determine the pollutant amount (or load) coming from different sources and the amount of pollutant that must be reduced from each source so that stream is able to support its uses (e.g. Total Maximum Daily Load).

Public Comment Sought on 15 Upper Green River TMDLs

Comment Period ends November 7th

The Division of Water is seeking public comment until Nov. 7 on proposed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for 15 stream segments of the Upper Green River drainage area. The fifteen stream segments are:

1. Big Creek of Russell Creek in Adair County
2. Big Pitman Creek in Green and Taylor Counties
3. Big Reedy Creek in Butler and Edmondson Counties
4. Billy Creek of Valley Creek in Hardin County
5. Butler Fork of Russell Creek in Adair County
6. Casey Creek in Adair County
7. Claylick Creek in Warren County
8. Glens Fork of Russell Creek in Adair County
9. Little Barren River in Green and Hart Counties
10. Nolin River in Hart, Hardin and Grayson Counties

11. Pettys Fork of Russell Creek in Adair County
12. Popular Grove Branch of Big Brush Creek in Green County
13. Russell Creek in Adair County
- 14/15. Valley Creek of Nolin River in Hardin County (2 different sections)

Comments should be sent in writing to Andrea Fredenburg, Division of Water, 14 Reilly Road, Frankfort, KY 40601 or by e-mail to andrea.fredenburg@ky.gov.

See related article above for background on TMDLs and why it is important that the public provide input to the Division of Water. These TMDLs also seek to make the streams safe for swimming by reducing pathogen loads in the streams.

Events

Continued from page 4)

November 15 – Tradewater and Lower Green Rivers Watershed Watch's Annual Conference 6-9 PM cst. Mount St. Joseph, Maple Mount, Kentucky. Contact: scott.vanderploeg@kctcs.edu

November 16 – Little Miami River Partnership Symposium, "The Dollars and Sense of TMDLs." City of Wilmington, OH City Hall. Info: 513 695-2542.

December 8 – KWA Governing Council meeting. Clark County Extension Office, Winchester, KY. For details contact director@kwalliance.org 270 524-1774.

May 2-6, 2008 - River Rally 2008 – Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, OH. Start planning now to attend the premier river networking, training event of the year! See brief item, p. 9. Online at www.rivernet.org

KWA has new Watershed Program Director

Welcome, Katie Holmes!

Katie Holmes is the new Watershed Program Director for KWA.

In her new position, she will focus most of her time working on a grant funded by the US EPA and the Kentucky Division of Water to create a new Watershed Planning Guidebook and use it to produce plans for four small watersheds in Fleming, Harrods, Strodes, and Triplett Creeks.

Katie will also work with local watershed groups throughout the state to increase their sustainability. Katie graduated from Guilford College with a BA in Environmental Studies and History. In her former job she worked to develop and facilitate many local groups, and is excited to put this experience and her background in Environmental Studies to use for KWA.



KWA Membership Assistant Kelly Craig (left) and Katie Holmes (right) smile for the camera at KWA's 2007 Annual Meeting.

Photo by Hilary Lambert

ORSANCO Telephone Survey Starting Soon

Study of Ohio River Recreational Use and Fish Consumption

In 2006 Kentucky Waterways Alliance helped to lead a coalition of groups, rallying public opposition to a proposal by the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) to lower water quality standards and allow higher levels of pathogens in the Ohio River while people are using the river for recreation. Public opposition was so vocal and overwhelming that ORSANCO tabled the proposed revisions.

ORSANCO made it clear however that they were still gathering information that would support their proposal to lower recreational standards. One of the ways in which ORSANCO will gather information is via a telephone survey. The survey will be conducted by Responsive Management, a Virginia-based public opinion and attitude survey research firm, and could start as early as November 2007.

If you are called, it is very important that you participate in the survey and help document recreational uses and fish consumption on the Ohio River.

Important news from the IRS for small/medium nonprofits!

The IRS is offering one-day workshops for small and mid-sized tax-exempt organizations beginning in October 2007. Locations, dates and topics are online at www.irs.gov/ under "Charities."

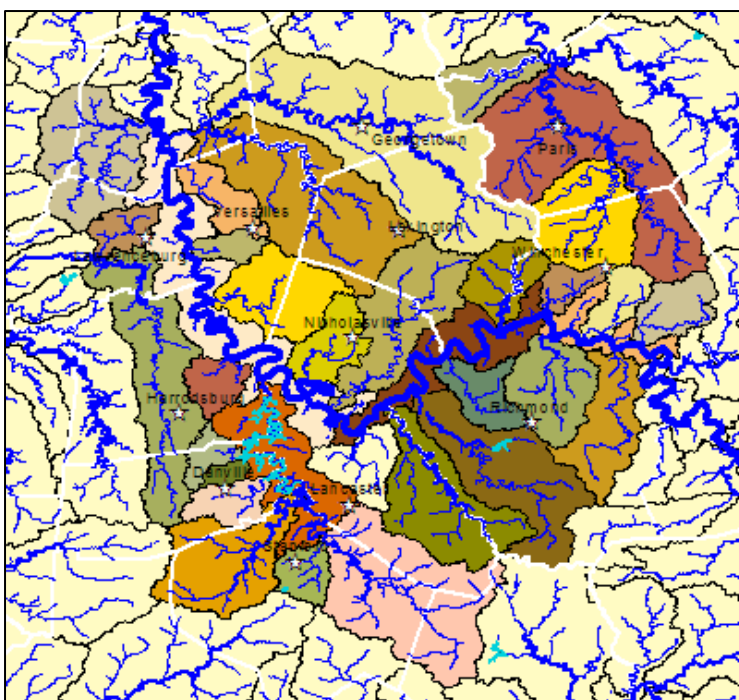
Look for a letter from the IRS to your small nonprofit (\$25,000 or less gross receipts) with a reminder of the new requirement to file Form 990-N beginning in January 2008. Parent organizations of smaller groups will also be contacted.

Bluegrass Watershed Summit

Join a gathering of local level watershed groups

6:00 PM Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Crossroads Christian Church, Lexington, KY
Pre-Registration/RSVP requested for dinner seating



If your watershed is on this map, you need to attend!

Over dinner, engage in facilitated topical discussions on science, finance, outreach, restoration and organizing taking place in watersheds across the region. Reconvene over dessert with others from *your* watershed to strategize future plans.

You'll receive resources, contacts, and follow-up support.

Seating is limited, please make reservations or RSVP at:

<http://www.kywater.net/bluegrass/>

or call 1-800-928-0045 x 473

Events

(Continued from page 1)

October 20 – Kentuckians For The Commonwealth Open House Street Festival. 12 noon-4 pm, 901 Franklin Street, Louisville, KY. Online at www.kftc.org

October 20-21 – 6th Annual Bacon Creek Heritage Days. 10-3 cst Sat, 1-3 cst Sun. City Hall on 31W in Bonnieville, KY. Sponsored by the Bacon Creek Watershed Council. Contact: hilary@kwalliance.org mismayor@scrtc.com

October 23 – Bluegrass Watershed Summit 6 pm Crossroads Christian Church, Lexington, KY. Info at <http://www.kywater.net/bluegrass/> or call 1-800-928-0045 x 473. (See article this page.)

October 23-24 – Groundwater Wetland installation, Lake Linville in Rockcastle County. See brief item on p. 11. Contact: debcaves@yahoo.com

October 24 – Public Hearing on Stream Buffer Zone Rule, 6-9 pm, Hazard, KY. Details available soon at: www.osmre.gov, more information on p.1 and p. 8.

October 29– Mississippi River/ Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force public meeting, 1-5 pm, Westin Hotel, Cincinnati, OH. The Task Force is seeking public comment on its' draft Action Plan. Contact: Goodrich.kristen@epa.gov or gia.grier@tetratech.com, 404 356-8993 for more information. Hotel information at: www.Westin.com/Cincinnati

November 9 – Bacon Creek Watershed Community Roundtable. 6-9 pm cst. Hart County Extension Office, 509 A.A. Whitman Lane (Community Center) Old Fairgrounds, Munfordville. Contact: hilary@kwalliance.org

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KWA Supports Environmental Working Group's Conservation Compliance Report *Trouble Downstream: Upgrading Conservation Compliance*

Jason Flickner

The Environmental Working Group, a Washington DC-based nonprofit research organization, and 12 groups throughout the Mississippi River Basin, including Kentucky Waterways Alliance recently released "Trouble Downstream: Upgrading Conservation Compliance." The report highlights the successes and shortcomings of USDA's Conservation Compliance policy and sheds light on the nationwide problem of agricultural soil erosion. In the 1985 Farm Bill, Congress began requiring farmers who receive federal farm subsidy payments to control soil erosion on highly erodible lands used to grow subsidized crops.

Common erosion reduction practices include: rotating crops, minimizing tillage, leaving soil covered with crop residue after harvest, installing grassed buffers, etc. This program was called the Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) Compliance provision, shortened to "conservation compliance."

The report concludes that conservation compliance should be expanded and strengthened to help reduce the additional soil erosion and nutrient pollution associated with the increase in agricultural biofuels production. Soil erosion and fertilizer runoff are degrading Kentucky's waters and contributing to major problems in the Ohio River, Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico. Conservation Compliance is an established program in the Farm Bill that should be used to benefit farmers who responsibly protect our waters through proven conserva-

tion practices. Most states have more applications for funding than can be served in the program and compliance with the program's requirements is seldom verified in the field at present.

EWG's full report and Kentucky-specific information can be found at <http://www.ewg.org/reports/compliance>.

Trouble Downstream Key findings

- Due to lax standards and implementation problems, the conservation compliance program is missing cost-effective opportunities to make further, substantial reductions in soil erosion on U.S. cropland.
- Without corrections to policy design constraints and adequate staff funding to effectively implement the program, conservation compliance will not reduce soil erosion on the majority of U.S. cropland to rates considered "sustainable."
- Since geographic areas heavily associated with crop subsidies are linked with high levels of agricultural nutrient pollution, current conservation compliance policy misses an opportunity to prevent or reduce pollution that may be subsidized by farm programs.
- Conservation compliance is a valid eligibility requirement for farmers receiving commodity subsidies since the current voluntary, financial assistance approach to solving agricultural environmental problems leaves 75 percent of farmer applications unfunded.

ATTENTION KY Watershed Groups! Plan ahead for 2008: *River Rally and the Ohio River Watershed Summit*

River Network's 2008 National River Rally will be held May 2-5 at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, OH. Plan to attend this informational and inspirational get-together. Watch for KWA updates and support to KY watershed groups.

The Ohio River Watershed Summit will be held August 1-2 at Greenbo State Resort Park, KY. Friday features information and discussion on the Ohio River Water Quality and the future. Saturday offers training workshops for watershed groups. Stay tuned to KWA for more information.

Stream Buffer Rule ALERT!

(Continued from page 1)

The Stream Buffer Zone Rule was created in 1983 and prohibits coal mining activities from disturbing areas within a 100-foot buffer of an intermittent or perennial stream, unless a company can prove that water quality and quantity will not be adversely impacted. The rule was created to assure that surface mining activities are consistent with implementation of the Clean Water Act. Surface mining law (SMCRA) states clearly that nothing in it “shall be construed as superseding, amending, modifying, or repealing” the Clean Water Act or “any rule or regulations promulgated there under” (30 U.S.C. 1292).

The proposed changes to the Stream Buffer Zone Rule would exempt those very mountaintop removal activities that are most destructive to streams, including “permanent ex-

cess spoil fills, and coal waste disposal facilities”—in other words, valley fills and sludge-filled lagoons! Furthermore, in the required study of alternatives, US DOI did not even consider simply enforcing the current law. All of the proposed alternatives in the draft EIS simply legalize the current illegal practice of filling in streams.

**In 2006, 177 permits received Stream Buffer Zone Variances.
63 variances completely eliminated the buffer zone, allowing mining and fill in the stream.**

Perhaps one of the most important qualities of a stream buffer zone is its ability to control erosion and prevent sediment pollution. According to the 2006 *Integrated Report to Congress on Water Quality Kentucky* prepared by the Kentucky Division of Water, sedimentation is the leading cause of degradation of Kentucky’s waters, impacting 2,551 miles of streams and rivers.

An adequate buffer zone of thick vegetation along a stream acts as a natural filter, binding and trapping soil and silt particles before they can enter the stream channel. The buffer zone also prevents stream bank erosion and helps control downstream flooding.

The US Army Corps of Engineers already allows generous exemptions from the existing Stream Buffer Zone Rules to allow valley fills in its 404 permitting process. In 2006, 247 of these permits were issued for 312 valley fills in Kentucky. 177 of the permits received Stream Buffer Zone Variances, with 63 variances completely eliminating the buffer zone and allowing mining and fill in the stream.

Even though the draft EIS documents that nearly 2000 miles of streams have already been damaged or destroyed by mountaintop removal mining, the relaxed buffer zone rule would greatly enhance the ability of coal companies to widen the scope of their wholesale destruction of coal-country waterways.

We’re GROWING! Announcing the opening of our second office!

In addition to our Greensburg office, Kentucky Waterways Alliance has a new office in Suite 222, at Bakery Square in Louisville.



Come to our OPEN HOUSE!

Join KWA staff and Governing Council members on October 19 to celebrate our growth, and the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.



- WHEN?** Friday October 19th from 5:00 – 8:30 pm
- WHERE?** Bakery Square, 120 Webster Street, Louisville, KY 40206. (KWA new office phone) 502-589-8008
Directions online at: www.bakersquare.com
- DRESS?** Casual – weather permitting we’ll be outdoors in the courtyard in the center of the building.
- WHY?** Beer, wine, soda, light snacks provided; good company; music by John Gage (acoustical set).

If you can’t come by on the 19th, please plan to drop by sometime soon.

New KWA Web site coming soon

It’s been a long time coming, but it will soon be here. We’ll have a fresh look with easy access to KWA comments, back issues of newsletters, Action Alerts, events and membership renewals, and an entire section devoted to an interactive statewide Watershed Groups Online Community. We’ll also be linked to a site where you can order your own KWA-logo decorated T-shirts, coffee mugs and tote-bags!

Keep an eye on www.KWAlliance.org

Act Now to Save the Stream Buffer Zone!

Please sign and submit the enclosed comment letter or write your own.
Get your comments in by October 23!

By mail: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; RIN 1029-AC04
Administrative Record, Room 252-SIB
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240

By the Internet: Through the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.
Please identify the comments by including docket number RIN1029-AC04 in the subject line.

PLAN TO ATTEND Oct. 24, 6-9 pm, Hazard, KY

Public Hearing on Stream Buffer Zone Rule—details available soon at: www.osmre.gov

Please ask for comments from friends, churches, organizations and others who care about water!

Floyds Fork Environmental Association Stays Busy *Middletown Festival and Gaslight Festival*

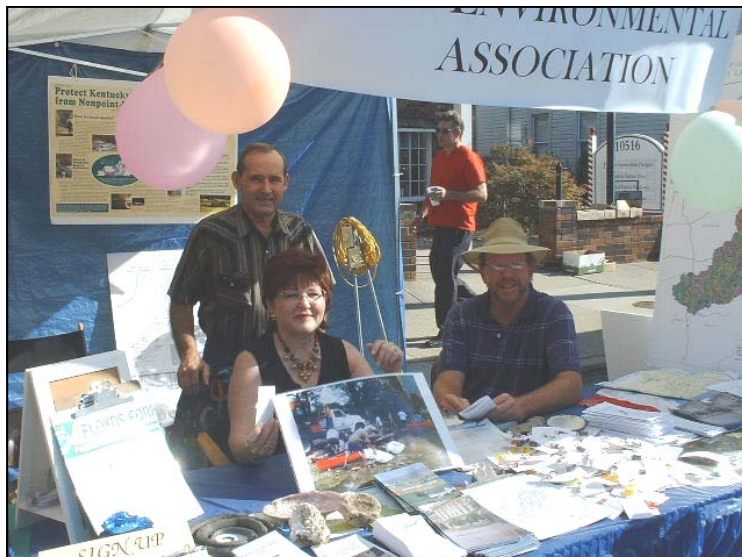
Teena Halbig
 Co-Chair, Floyds Fork
 Environmental Association

Taking Floyds Fork Creek to the masses: In September, 60,000 attended the Middletown Festival in Middletown, KY and 300,000 people passed by our booth during the Gaslight Festival in Jeffersontown, KY. Many people in Jeffersontown were interested since Chenoweth Run is a major tributary to Floyds Fork and is not far from the city.

Our mission was multi-purpose; to educate people about Floyds Fork and the watershed, and to talk about the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant to Kentucky Waterways from the Kentucky Division of Water to develop the **Floyds Fork Watershed Based Plan**.

It was fascinating and amazing how many people stopped to reminisce about fishing, canoeing, playing and living along the creek. Some of the anecdotal stories were heart-warming and others were downright scary!

One man reported the demise in the number of fish and spe-



Volunteers Ed and Teena Halbig and David Kaelin at the Gaslight Festival.
 Photo by Angie Halbig (also Middletown & Gaslight volunteer).

cies over the past 10 years. He saw many fish with sores on them. On two different occasions people said they intended to purchase a canoe but were holding off due to the poor water quality.

Booth volunteers found the public and residents hungry for water quality information. We had handout materials and a map of the watershed to give them. Many took every piece of literature we had on the table!

There was tremendous interest in canoeing the creek but the drought has hampered recreation and worsened

water quality this year. Many were interested in the Floyds Fork Environmental Association Annual Creek Sweep by canoe and on foot and signed up for notification of the event.

Several teachers, scout leaders and church groups took materials. These outreach efforts touched many people who live, work and play in the watershed!

For more information on the Watershed Planning effort underway, contact me or Judy Petersen, KWA Executive Director at Director@KWAlliance.org

Update on Watershed-Based Planning Project

Katie Holmes

In 2004, KWA was awarded a Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Kentucky Division of Water to create a Guidebook for Watershed-Based Planning for the state of Kentucky.

To test and revise this guidebook, the grant calls for KWA to help local groups develop four watershed-based plans in small watersheds around the state.

- Subwatersheds chosen for the project**
- Town Branch in Fleming Creek
 - Darby Creek in Harrods Creek
 - Hancock Creek in Strodes Creek
 - Dry Creek in Triplett Creek.

The areas chosen for the project are: Town Branch in Fleming Creek, Darby Creek in Harrods Creek, Hancock Creek in Strodes Creek, and Dry Creek in Triplett Creek.

Watershed-based plans build on input from the community to create meaningful goals and strategies that will be implemented to protect and/or restore an area's water quality.

Living Lands & Waters Launches "Million Trees Project"

Please COLLECT ACORNS from OAK trees while you are out walking, hiking, camping or working in your yard this fall. Living Lands & Waters is starting a nursery to grow native hardwood trees to plant back in the community and along river shorelines and islands. Their goal is to plant 100,000 trees in the next 2-3 years and 1 MILLION trees within the next 10 years. Log onto <http://www.livinglandsandwaters.org/milliontrees/default.htm> for more information including Acorn Collection Guidelines, Collection Forms, Bag Tags, mailing instructions, and an Oak/Acorn Identification Guide to help you figure out what species of oaks are around your neighborhood. For more information: milliontrees@livinglandsandwaters.org



Bovine vista on Hancock Creek in Clark County.
 Photo by Katie Holmes.

These plans are important not only because they incorporate stakeholders' input and create a road map for change, but also because they allow a watershed to be eligible to apply for EPA funds to implement the plan.

Preliminary meetings with local groups have created great enthusiasm for the watershed plans. Local groups have picked areas to focus on, and are beginning to identify key issues in and goals for their watersheds.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of these watershed-planning teams, please contact Katie Holmes at Katie@KWAlliance.org