

NewsStreams

Because Clean Water Can't Wait



Judy Petersen
Executive Director

First Cleanup On The Elkhorn

Aaron Sole - Communications Director

On September 17th, we had the fantastic opportunity to get out on the water with our good friends at Canoe Kentucky, The Explore Kentucky Initiative, and all of our wonderful volunteers for the First Annual Cleanup on Elkhorn Creek near Frankfort. We sent almost 60 volunteers down two sections of the creek, cleaning trash from Nights Bridge down to the Canoe Kentucky shop in Peaks Mill and from the shop on down to the 127 overpass.

All in all, we covered six miles of the Elkhorn, and pulled enough trash from

it's water and banks to fill an entire 20 foot dumpster with tires, bottles, fast food bags, and all of the other refuse that makes its way into our waterways.

The event was a resounding success. There are already plans in the works to hold the cleanup on the same weekend next year, and to possibly add a second cleanup in the spring. Be the first to hear about cleanups and other volunteer opportunities. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and subscribe to our online newsletter at kwalliance.org.

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Backyard Habitats

Jessica Kane
Community Engagement
Director

These days we seem to be inundated with bad news and dire situations. Most of us want to know how we can help and what we can do to make a difference, to stop talking about the problems and start fixing them! We have an answer: gardening! Kentucky Waterways Alliance has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation on their Certified Wildlife Habitat program and we want to help you certify your yard. This small step improves habitat for local wildlife, increases pollinator populations, and improves water quality, all while making your yard beautiful.

In order to certify your yard, you need 4 key components:

1. Food: Native plants form the foundation of the food chain. They can provide nectar, seeds, fruits, nuts, berries, pollen, and attract insects that bring a variety of wildlife.

2. Water: Wildlife needs clean water for a variety of reasons. These include bathing, drinking, and habitat; some amphibians and insects make their home in the water.

3. Cover: Wildlife need places to find shelter from weather like heavy rain or snow and also from predators. Ground

cover, dense shrubs, or a rock wall work well to provide cover.

4. Places to raise young: Creating wildlife habitats are about helping species to survive and thrive. An important part of this is a safe place to raise their young. This can include nesting boxes, mature trees, or host plants for caterpillars.

Once all of these things are in place, we come to the most important part of the process: how we maintain our beautiful new certified habitat. Using only native species, removing any invasive plants, and eliminating the use of chemical pesticides is key to maintaining a healthy habitat and to help improve water quality. Capturing rain water from your roof is another great way to maintain your garden and help make our streams cleaner!

If you would like more information on how to certify your wildlife habitat, please email jessica@kwalliance.org.



Slow & Steady: Bacon Creek BMP's

Tim Joice - Watershed Program Director

Throughout 2016, and into 2017, we are continuing to install agricultural and septic best management practices in the Bacon Creek watershed. The agricultural practices installed so far include heavy use pads, fencing out livestock from streams or riparian areas, and livestock waterers. We've already installed a handful of practices, and we hope to double that with the remaining funds.

We also have money for septic system pump-outs, repairs, or replacements. Thus far, two pump-outs have been completed, but we expect to do several repairs or replacements, and more pump-outs as well.

This is now our third grant in the Bacon Creek watershed. We have targeted our efforts on the upper portion of the watershed, in hopes that over time, we'll see clear improvements in water quality in that area.



Red River Gorge Project

Tim Joice
Watershed Program
Director

Back in 2013-2014, we partnered with the U.S. Forest Service, stakeholders, and citizens on the development of a watershed plan for a portion of the Red River Gorge watershed. Recently, the Forest Service received a grant to begin implementation efforts outlined in the watershed plan. KWA's role in the partnership will focus on the community outreach, engagement, and education components. We'll help hold watershed meetings, plan community workshops, and hopefully help with incentive programs for green infrastructure and septic system improvements. Over the next several months, be on the lookout for more information as we resume this important work to clean up the Red River!

Board of Directors

Executive Committee: Gordon Garner - President, Ward Wilson - Vice President, Pamla Wood - Treasurer, Hugh Archer - Secretary, Beverly Juett - Immediate Past President

Basin Delegates: Scott Vanderploeg - Lower Green River, Richie Kessler - Upper Green River, Virginia Lee - Salt River, Tom Vierheller - Big Sandy River, Bob Johnson - Jackson Purchase, John Niland - Licking River

Emeritus Board Member: Frank Elsen

At Large Delegate: Kay Harker



New Faces

Doris Holland
Bookkeeper

I was delighted to join the KWA team this summer.

As a lifelong resident of Louisville, I have witnessed and been concerned about the degradation of our local waterways. I feel privileged that KWA has allowed me to utilize my twenty-five years of accounting and finance experience to help promote its mission. I have worked as a bookkeeper as well as a volunteer for non-profit businesses for the past several years and I share with our organization a passion to protect and restore Kentucky's waterways for ourselves and future generations. I am excited to quite literally get my feet wet in this endeavor!

EVERY DROP

Capturing Every Drop

Tim Joice - Watershed Program Director

As we approach winter, we'll have wrapped up our first season of work under the new *Every Drop* program. In partnership with Louisville MSD and Aveda EarthMonth, *Every Drop* has allowed us to install stormwater runoff reduction practices at residences in the Beargrass Creek Watershed in Louisville. To date, we have installed seven rain barrels, one rain garden, and one native tree. We also have plans to do at least two rain gardens in the spring.

The great thing about *Every Drop* is that it provides homeowners an opportunity to take individual actions that can help Beargrass Creek long-term, but it doesn't end there. Rain barrels harvest free water for homeowners to reuse and rain gardens and trees provide aesthetic and

microclimate benefits to homeowners. Plus, the funding for the program allows us to pay 50% of the material costs for the homeowner (labor is free)!

Every Drop will continue into 2017 and we have plans to build it out further in the years ahead. If you live in the



Beargrass Creek Watershed in Louisville, we'd love to have you and your neighbors apply to the program!



Darby Creek Moving Forward!

Tim Joice - Watershed Program Director

The wait is finally over! The state recently gave us the "all clear" to move forward with implementation work in the Darby Creek watershed. We have until early next summer to spend money on septic system pumpouts, repairs, and replacements. If you live in the watershed, or know of folks living in the watershed, please spread the word! We'll be having a big community meeting in early 2017, so look for more information on that soon!



Why Pollinators?

Jessica Kane - Community Engagement Director

Recently, Kentucky Waterways Alliance partnered with the Louisville Nature Center to help install pollinator gardens at local schools. Pollinators are extremely important to the production of food for both humans and wildlife. Without pollinators, many plants cannot produce fruits and seeds. While the pollinator gardens are helping above ground, they are doing double time below the ground by providing a root system that drinks up rainwater before it gets into the local stream, helping make the stream healthier.

These gardens are also a great way to provide a hands on,

outdoor education experience for our children. We plan to expand our pollinator work in the coming year thanks to funding from Aveda Earthmonth and US Fish & Wildlife. We always need volunteers to help us plant; if you love to garden and have spare time to give, we would love to have you! Please email jessica@kwalliance.org if interested.



New Faces

Bijaya Shrestha
Water Policy
Director

Hello!
my name is Bijaya Shrestha and I started as KWA's new Water Policy Director (aka the new Tim Joice) in June. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Louisville and a Juris Doctorate from NKU Salmon P. Chase College of Law.

I have been an environmentalist since I was a child growing up in Kathmandu, Nepal, where I witnessed first hand what pollution and lax regulations can do to the environment. Moving to the United States opened my eyes to the different ways one can help protect the environment, including becoming involved with KWA. I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to working to keep Kentucky waters clean!



Executive Director - Seeking Applications

After nearly 20 years at the helm of this organization, Judy has announced that she will be retiring once KWA is able to hire a new executive director. The board has formed a search committee and is actively seeking applicants. Look for more details, including how to apply, on our website.



Water Is Life Art Exhibit

Jeffrey Jewel

Development

Director

On October 28th, the Cook Studio and Gallery held an opening reception for their "Water Is Life" art exhibit during the Trolley Hop. Refreshments, including beer and wine, were served and music was provided by cellist and KWA member Bonnie Avery. A portion of the proceeds from all art sales during this exhibition of work will benefit Kentucky Waterways Alliance. The show will hang through late December 2016 and features water-inspired works created by numerous artists including Andy Cook, Debbie Welsh, and Jill Baker. The Cook Studio and Gallery is located at 1832 Frankfort Avenue in Louisville and is open from 6-9 Tuesday through Friday.



PREMIERE SCREENING

BEARGRASS

THE CREEK IN OUR BACKYARD

A NEW DOCUMENTARY BY MORGAN C. ATKINSON

OCTOBER 27TH 2016 AT 7:30PM

DOORS AT THE CLIFTON CENTER OPEN AT 6PM

Beargrass: The Creek In Our Backyard

Jeffrey Jewel

Development Director

On October 27th, after two years of work and much anticipation, Morgan Atkinson's documentary, Beargrass: The Creek In Our Backyard, premiered at the Clifton Center. The evening of celebration and networking included over 500 guests, Councilman Tom Owen received the Steering the Future of Beargrass Creek Award and Councilman Bill Hollander closed out the evening with a toast to the future of the creek. More than 25 different organizations working towards a healthier watershed were present and discussed their work with attendees. Food was graciously provided by Butchertown Grocery and Beargrass Beer from Apocalypse Brew Works.

Though no admission was charged, generous donations at the door brought in funds that will be split between Beargrass Creek Alliance, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, and Salt River Watershed Watch. The evening also served as a kick-off event for the 2016 Sustainability Summit, as Louisville Metro Government Office of Sustainability, Louisville Sustainability Council and guests joined us as partners for the event.



Beargrass Creek Fall Cleanup

Tim Joice - Watershed Program Director

Everyone loves a creek cleanup on the creek, but we also like to emphasize that everything that happens on the land leads to the water. This year we had a great Fall Cleanup in the Irish Hill neighborhood, picking up trash along the streets and bridges so that it didn't end up in Beargrass Creek. Volunteers came out on a beautiful (and chilly) fall morning to help pick up all sorts of trash such as cigarette butts, cans, bottles, random clothing accessories, and more. We had some new volunteers join us from Bellarmine University as well as several of our loyal volunteers. In total, we collected 12 trash bags of trash. That's a lot of trash not in our creek!

Mussel Survey In The Green River - Aaron Sole - Communications Director

This fall KWA went on a scientific expedition to the Green River just outside of Munfordville. We were joining our friends from the Center for Mollusk Conservation (CMC) in an annual survey of Mussels, a type of freshwater mollusk, that acts as an important indicator of the health of our waterways.

Kentucky is known to be the home of 103 separate species of mussel. Unfortunately these fascinating creatures are extremely sensitive to toxic chemicals, which has led to a sharp decline in



Kentucky's mussel population. Of our native species 20 have completely disappeared from our waterways and 36 more are rare or endangered.

Founded in 2002, and run by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, the CMC is located in Frankfort. They are

leading the charge to conserve and restore Kentucky's native mussel population. The CMC breeds native species of mussel, which are released into their original environments such as the Green, Ohio, and Cumberland Rivers.

KWA is proud to support the Center for Mollusk Conservation through the Kentucky Aquatic Resources Fund, and we were thrilled to have the opportunity to join in this year's survey. For more information on the CMC and other KDFWR programs check out fw.ky.gov



New Madrid Levee Update

Bijaya Shrestha - Water Policy Director

KWA continues to work with partner groups in its work to oppose the St. Johns Bayou - New Madrid Floodway Project proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The \$165 million project, benefiting a small number of landowners, includes a massive new levee and enormous pumping plants that will cause substantial, irretrievable losses of nationally significant fish and wildlife resources. The same landowners were paid by the Government for the flowage rights 70 years ago. The project, if approved, will cut off the last remaining area where the Mississippi River connects to its backwater floodplain in the state of Missouri, eliminate the most important backwater fisheries habitat in the Middle

Mississippi River, and drain more than 50,000 acres of wetlands – an area larger than the District of Columbia.

During major floods on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, flood waters must be diverted in a timely manner into the New Madrid Floodway to prevent levees and floodwalls from overtopping in dozens of communities in Illinois, Missouri, and Kentucky. The health, safety, and well-being of communities of color and low income populations are at particular risk, including Hickman, KY, where more than 34% of residents are African American and more than 26% of residents live below the poverty level, and Paducah, KY, where almost 24% of residents are African

American and almost 24% of residents live below the poverty level.

In mid July, KWA partner groups participated in a Stop the New Madrid Levee Washington, D.C. Fly-In, during which they met and discussed the Project with senior leadership at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of the Interior, as well as with staff from the office of Senator Kirk (R-IL) and Senator Durbin (D-IL). They also had opportunities to connect with local advocates. Recently, KWA helped obtain the support of the Kentucky NAACP for the fight against the Project.



Thank You

Jessica Kane Community Engagement Director

We have the best volunteers! From serving beer, to installing rain barrels and planting gardens, to cleaning our rivers and streams, our volunteers never cease to amaze us with their willingness to give their time and support to clean water. We want to say THANK YOU for your time, your enthusiasm, and your support for Kentucky Waterways Alliance. YOU are making the difference in our work.



Why Give?

Judy Petersen - Executive Director

Fall is in the air. My favorite time of the year. Before we know it, the holidays will be here and every worthy cause will be asking for your support. So why should you support Kentucky Waterways Alliance? What makes KWA stand out? Well only you can answer how much you value clean water and a clean environment but KWA is working every day to protect and restore this place we call home. I think it's pretty important to keep our beautiful waterways clean for us and our families, for all the wildlife and critters, for good jobs who need clean, abundant water now and in the future.

There are some things that are worth fighting for and clean water, healthy communities, and abundant, diverse wildlife are certainly a few of them! So I intend to make my gift to KWA the largest donation I make again this year. I hope you will too.

There are many ways to give. Have you thought about becoming a sustaining member and giving a small amount each

month? Many people spend \$4 a day or more on coffee or soda. That's \$1,460 a year. Could you donate a quarter of that to KWA? That's only \$1 a day! How about giving gift memberships to friends and family who might not know about our work? Did you know that when you donate shares of stock, bonds or mutual funds that have appreciated over time to KWA directly, you get a significant tax advantage? Maybe your employer offers a gift matching program and you can double the value of your donation.

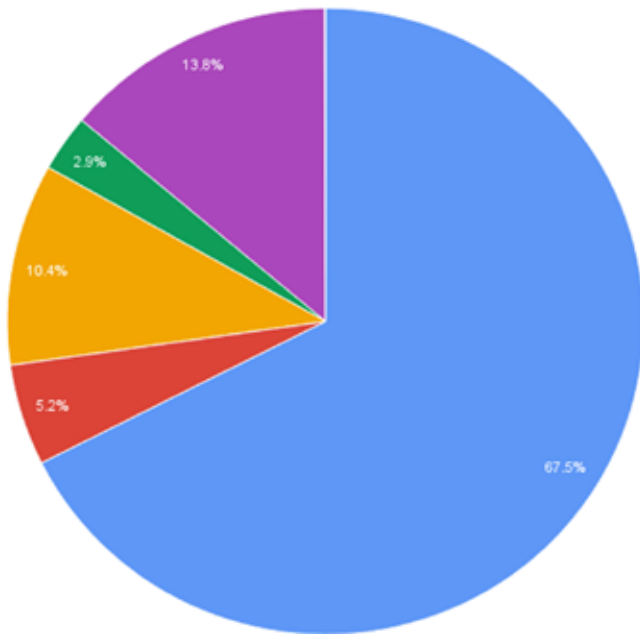
Long term there are other ways to give as well. I have KWA written into my will. It cost me nothing now, but hopefully will leave a legacy to this cause I believe in so strongly. Because there's no place like home and there are few places on this earth with better cleaner water or more freshwater aquatic biodiversity than Kentucky. That's worth fighting for – and worth your support! Thanks.

Judy Petersen
Executive Director

2015 Annual Report

A Publication of Kentucky Waterways Alliance

2015 Income



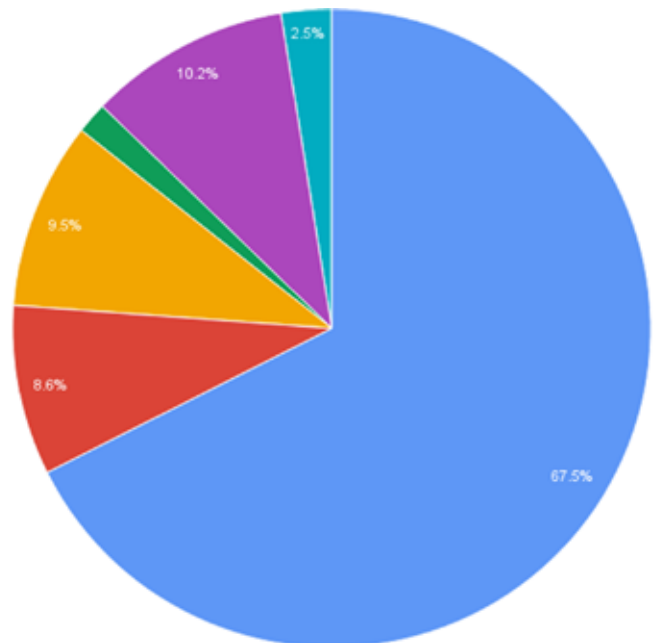
- Kentucky Aquatic Resources Fund - \$924,705
- Government Grants - \$71,642
- Private Grants - \$142,575
- KARF Management Fees - \$40,000
- Membership/ Donations - \$189,566
- Other - \$741

Total Income = \$1,369,229

2015 Expenses

- Kentucky Aquatic Resources Fund - \$924,705
- Watershed Planning - \$117,890
- Water Policy - \$130,000
- Other Programs - \$21,753
- Admin Expenses - \$140,034
- Fundraising Expenses - \$34,862

Total Expenses = \$1,369,244



2015 Assets

Total Assets: \$7,159,277

Total Liabilities: \$6,883,880

Net Assets: \$275,397

2015 By The Numbers

All Of This Was Made Possible By Your Support

50
Miles
of Rivers & Creeks Cleaned



350
Volunteers Helping To Protect And Restore
Kentucky's Waterways



6
Septic & Agricultural BMPs Installed In the
Bacon Creek Watershed



1,200
Storm Drain Markers Applied in
the Beargrass Creek Watershed



1,967
Petition Signatures For No More
Mercury in the Ohio



7th
Annual Film Festivals Hosted





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 Healthy communities.

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