



November 2007

THE LICKING LEDGER

Serving the Entire Licking River Region

Thank You Volunteers

By Yvonne Meichtry

JOB WELL DONE! I extend a hearty thank you to all who contributed to the 2007 sampling season. After 10 years, this volunteer organization is still going strong. Yes, that's right - this year marked the 10th anniversary of the Licking River Watershed Watch. It is quite a milestone and one we can all be very proud of.

The heart of our 501c(3) organization is the volunteers. You are the

ones out there on the front lines armed with your sampling bottles, chemistry kits, and other equipment needed to collect your samples. Without these samples we have no data to analyze or interpret, no patterns to dis-



Photo by Doug Doerfeld

Low flow conditions on Laurel Branch

cover which can lead to further studies, education, and regulatory action, and no need for regional meetings and an annual conference. This year, your combined efforts resulted in the sampling of 88 sites in May, 99 sites in July, and 77 sites (lots of dry streams) in September. THANK

Mark Your Calendars!

LRWW Annual Conference

Blue Licks Battlefield State Park
<http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/bl/>

<p>February 22 5:00-10:00 PM Refreshments & social networking</p>	<p>February 23 9:00 AM-4:30 PM 2007 Sampling Results What's Shakin' in the Basin Speakers: Restoration Efforts in the Watershed And more....</p>
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Celebrating our 10th Anniversary!

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Thank You Volunteers

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YOU volunteers for your diligence and commitment to water quality monitoring in our watershed.

Thank yous are also extended to the area coordinators, science advisors, and steering committee members - your hard work and commitment are truly amazing. Thank you to:

Rita Wright, our sampling co-

ordinating, facilitating the regional meetings this year;

Tim Guilfoile for his role as newsletter editor;

Larry Varney for his role as webmaster

Although our sampling is done for 2007, our continued efforts and important work will continue. Read more about these events and projects in this newsletter:



Photo by April Haight

North Fork below Wal-Mart Downstream

counties of the watershed

Don't miss out on these events and opportunities! It is an exciting time! The momentum we created in our first decade together is strong. I hope you will all continue to be a part of the team that carries this momentum into our second decade.



Photo by Jack Randall

Gunpowder Creek at Utterback Confluence • 3

ordinator, for the timely and efficient analysis of data after each sampling event;

Chris Lorentz and Rita for their role as science advisors during the regional meetings;

Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar for managing our data and for starting, coordinating and

regional meetings in November to discuss the September sampling results

- The annual conference in February
- Northern KY Sanitation District No. 1 Consent Decree funding for the northern



Photo by Rick Stegeman

Low flow conditions on Phillips Creek

Regional Sample Results Meetings Held

By Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar

In an effort to provide more timely feedback to volunteers, Licking River Watershed Watch (LRWW) has begun holding Regional Sample Results meetings in different areas of the watershed to discuss the lab results of samples collected at each event during the sampling season. The first meetings were held in August in Winchester, Morehead, and Crestview Hills. These meetings were well attended and provided volunteers an opportunity to meet with other volunteers and learn more about LRWW in general and

their sites in particular.

At each meeting, the data manager, Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar, gave a short presentation with an overview of our organization, sampling goals and methods, and the types of information we gather and why. In addition, she provided handouts of the sampling results for the May and July events. A LRWW science advisor, either Rita Wright or Chris Lorentz, was also available at each meeting to discuss the results and answer the volunteers' questions about their specific site.

The meetings to discuss the results of the September sampling event are scheduled as follows:

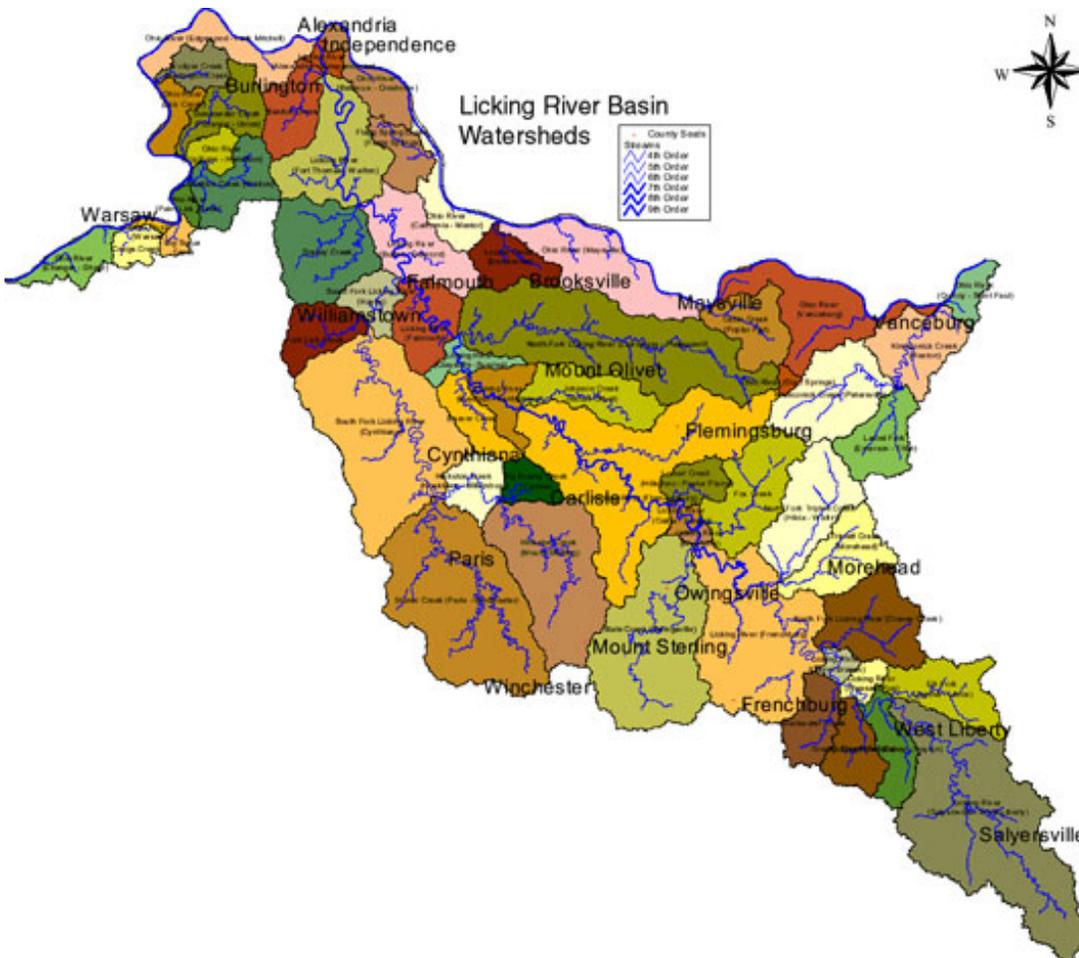
Crestview Hills - Wednesday, **November 14 at 7:00**, at Thomas More College in Rm S417 on the top floor of the science building – park between the science building and the Five Seasons Country Club.

Paris - Monday, **November 26 at 6:00** at the Bourbon Co. Cooperative Extension Office (603 Millersburg Rd., Paris, 859-289-6010).

Morehead – Tuesday, **November 27 at 6:00** – at the Coffee Tree Bookstore conference table.

Call Lajuanda at 502-564-3410 Ext. 510 or 502-330-7393 for further information

There will again be a brief overview presentation about LRWW and the September sampling results will be available. A science advisor will be available to answer questions and discuss results. Light refreshments will be provided. Come on out and join us at any or all of the meetings.



SD1 Consent Decree Funding for LRWW

By Yvonne Meichtry

The LRWW has been awarded funding in the amount of \$70,000 by Northern KY Sanitation District No. 1 as part of the Consent Decree Funding Agreement. These monies will be distributed over the next 4 years on an annual basis for watershed monitoring activities in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties (the service area of SD1).

In addition to using these funds for our regular monitoring activities in May, July, and October, we will be doing focus studies of streams where data indicate a problem or to document the effectiveness of pollution control efforts.

All of our data will be made available to SD1 for use in their planning, monitoring, and assessment



programs. The LRWW will be working directly with Mindy Scott as our contact at SD1. Mindy will also be serving on our Scientific Advisory Panel for the project. She is a graduate of Morehead State University, so she has been working in the Licking River Basin for a long time! This is a wonderful opportunity to advance the work of the LRWW while partnering with SD1 to make improvements in our watershed.

Stay tuned for further developments through the No. KY regional meet-

ing on November 14, the conference on February 23rd, and the newsletter. We will also keep the area coordinators directly informed so they can communicate updates and opportunities for involvement to the volunteer samplers.

Thank you to Ken Cooke (LRWW Grants Manager), Marie Halpin (Treasurer), and Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar (Basin Coordinator) for their assistance with this funding award!

Restoring Freshwater Mussels in Kentucky

(Reprinted with permission from the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Commissioner's Newsletter. Dr. McGregor will be one of our keynote speakers at the LRWW Protection Conference.)

By Monte McGregor, Ph.D.

Freshwater mussels are the most at risk group of animals in North America.

Kentucky has one of the most diverse mussel populations in North America with 41 genera and 103 recognized species (297 in the US). Twelve mussels are presumed ex-

tinct, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists 22 species as endangered.

With substantial mussel and fish populations in many of the state's river systems, the potential is high to augment existing areas with low population numbers. As part of our recovery efforts, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife established the Center for Mollusk Conservation in 2002 in Frankfort, Kentucky, at the Forks of Elkhorn Field Station.



The primary purpose of the recovery program is to restore rare and imperiled freshwater mussels. In the past five years, we have established the facility with natural river-flow tanks that hold freshwater mussels.

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Restoring Freshwater Mussels in Kentucky

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As of 2007, the center is holding 60 species of mussels (8 endangered). Many of the mussels have reproduced in captivity, providing valuable information into life cycles, number of larvae, spawning period, handling, and habitat requirements. At the Center, biologists conduct research and develop techniques needed for producing juvenile mussels.

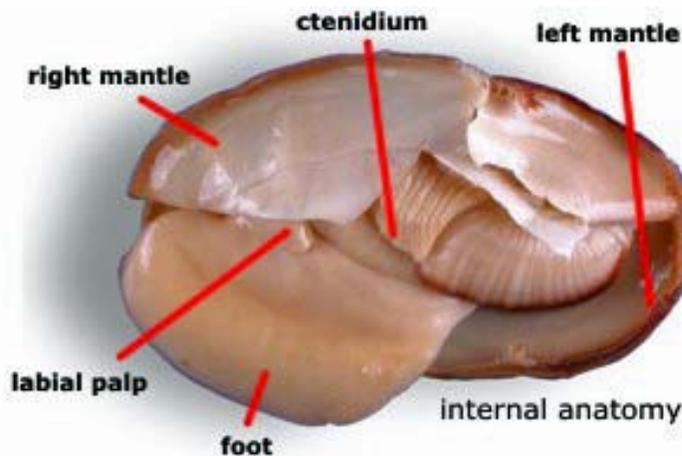
In addition, biologists have developed mussel diets, juvenile nursery systems, and long-term growout systems. The Center's staff is currently culturing multiple species of algae from around the state to feed juvenile mussels.

In the past 3 years, we have been conducting extensive field surveys

in the Licking River, Green River, and other locations throughout the state in an effort to locate and monitor

rare species. In 2007 staff biologists in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency were able to collect adult pink muckets and propagate juveniles for release into the wild.

On July 5, biologists from the Center were able to release 1,100 juvenile pink mucket mussels into the Green River at Munfordville. This site is located in a high priority



Conservation Area (Interior Low Plateau Karst Area) listed in the Wildlife Juveniles of the endangered pink mucket, *Lampsilis abrupta*, released into the Green River in 2007. Action Plan for species of greatest conservation need.

The Green River has 71 species of mussels and 150 species of fishes and is considered one of the most diverse tributaries of the Ohio River system. The Munfordville site has 55 species and is considered to be one of the most diverse sites in the country. The release is the first of many planned for the Green River to augment low population numbers.

We hope that years from now, our efforts will increase population numbers and eventually allow the delisting of many endangered species of mussels.



M. C. Barnhart



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LRWW Annual Protection Conference

February 22-5:00-10:00 PM Social Networking

February 23-9:00 AM-4:30 PM Conference

Blue Licks Battlefield State Park