



January 2011

THE LICKING LEDGER

*A Joint Publication of the Licking River Watershed Watch and the Sierra Club Northern Kentucky Water Sentinels
Serving the Entire Licking River Region*

2011 LRWW Annual Conference at Blue Licks State Resort Park

SAVE THE DATE!

Plan now to attend the LRWW Annual Conference on **Saturday, February 19, 2011**. This year's focus is on agriculture and the tentative agenda is as follows. Please note that the **Friday night reception (February 18, 2011)** location has changed from prior years—this time it will be held at one of the cabins. Also this year, no food is provided by the lodge for the reception so refreshments are “pot luck”. You can inquire at the Lodge for directions to the cabin.

WEEKEND AGENDA:

Friday, Feb. 18, 2011
3:00 to 5:00 pm -- Watershed Planners/Managers Meeting.
Location: At a cabin being rented by Sara and April
5:30 pm to ? -- Licking River Watershed Watch Social at the cabin. Please bring food and/or spirits to share. All are welcome.

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011 Arlington Room

8 - 9 am Registration, coffee, tea, and fruit
9:00 am Results of the 2010 sampling: Chemistry/Habitat, Chris Lorentz; Bacteria/Nutrients, Mindy Scott
10:45 am Break/stretch
11:00 am Bacteria Source Tracking Basics, Geoff Gearner
11:30 am Shakin' in the Basin, Barry Toning and Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar
noon Lunch (included)
1:00 pm Volunteer Awards
1:20 pm Agriculture Issues, Funding, and Best Management Practices in the Watershed: Curtis Rosser, NRCS District Conservationist & Emily Anderson, Fleming County Watershed Coordinator
3:00 pm Recertification opportunity: Grab sample, Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar, and Conductivity training, Tim Guilfoile.
3:20 pm Business Meeting
4:00 pm Close

REGISTRATION:

Everyone is encouraged to preregister for the conference. The Lodge appreciates knowing how much food to prepare for the included lunch.

To register for the conference go to www.lrww.org and click on the “Register Now” link OR go directly to KY Division of Water site at <http://eppcapp.ky.gov/Watersheds/WSWLogin.aspx>. If you plan to attend the reception, check that box as well.

Be sure and check the appropriate box if you are already a volunteer and input your Associate ID number. This will link to your information already in the database. All active volunteers of record should have received a mailing from Joanne Palmer with instructions and your Associate ID #.

If you are having trouble registering or have questions please contact Pamela Kutscher at 859-654-1051 or pjkutscher@att.net

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Conference continued:

LODGING

As in previous years, Blue Licks State Resort Lodge is holding a block of rooms for people who wish to stay overnight . Be sure to mention that you are with the LRWW Conference when you make your reservations. The number for the Lodge is: 859-289-5507 or Toll Free: 800-443- 7008. Website: <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/bl/>

A Bulletin on the 2010 Drought

All drought declarations ended

Above-normal precipitation expected this winter

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 6, 2010) – The Office of the State Climatologist and the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, in coordination with the Kentucky Drought Mitigation Team (KDMT), are lifting all drought declarations across the entire Commonwealth. This includes the 50 counties under a Level 2 drought declaration and the 43 counties under a Level 1 drought declaration.

Several storm systems have made their way across the Commonwealth during the past two weeks. These systems have provided widespread, heavy rains. The heaviest amounts have been concentrated in the southeastern counties and along the Ohio River . In some locations, the rainfall totals over the past two weeks were greater than totals from the previous three to four months.

While many areas are still below normal for rainfall since the drought developed, many of the impacts from the drought, including the wildfire threat, have been drastically reduced. Some long-term agricultural issues will continue to be felt, including low hay supplies and pasture health. Small lakes and ponds used for livestock watering will also need additional rainfall to return to normal levels.

With a La Nina circulation strengthening in the Pacific and expected to persist into the spring, seasonal outlooks indicate an enhanced probability for above-normal precipitation for the region throughout the winter. The KDMT will reassess drought vulnerability across Kentucky in early spring.

More information about drought declaration criteria can be found in the Kentucky Drought Mitigation and Response Plan at http://water.ky.gov/wa/Documents/State%20Plan_Final.pdf .

What follows is a response by Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar to the preceding news release

Hi everyone,

Although the drought declarations have ended, we must keep in mind the ongoing problem of **decreased recharge of groundwater aquifers**. Everyday we pave and build over more and more of the land where rain and snow melt can soak into the ground and reach the groundwater storage areas. Even in rural areas there are increasing built- and paved-structures such as roads, long driveways, homes, barns, and

other outbuildings.

When we get all of our precipitation at once, as we have been lately, then more of the rain runs off and less can soak in in the limited areas of uncovered ground we have left. This means the levels of groundwater stored are decreasing every year. Most streams rely on additions from groundwater to maintain a year round base flow, and we are going to be seeing more and **more streams drying up in times of drought**. In addition, we are going to see **more and bigger floods because of the increasing amount of runoff**.

We must all do what we can to **encourage different ways of building** in our communities that will slow down the runoff and provide places where it can soak into the ground. These different ways of building roads, homes, parking lots, warehouses, etc. are referred to by several terms: green infrastructure, low impact development, green construction, and sustainable development. However, the basic principle is the same; **manage rain and snow melt runoff in place by slowing it down and soaking it in**. If you need information or ideas for accomplishing this in your community, please let me know. I will be happy to help in any way I can.

Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar

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SD1 Update

Mindy Scott

Sanitation District No.1 (SD1) is responsible for the collection and treatment of Northern Kentucky's wastewater, as well as regional storm water management. SD1 is the second largest public sewer utility in Kentucky with a service area that covers approximately 220 square miles, encompassing more than 30 municipalities and unincorporated portions of Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties.

In 2007, SD1 entered into a federal court order with the U.S. EPA, the Kentucky Environmental Public Protection Cabinet and the U.S. Department of Justice, requiring an estimated \$1.2 billion investment over the next 20 years to address sewage overflows in Northern Kentucky.

SD1 voluntarily agreed to undertake certain environmentally beneficial projects known as State Environmental Projects as part of the federal court order in exchange for mitigation of the penalty to be paid for alleged unauthorized discharges from the combined and separate sewer systems.

The Licking River Watershed Watch (LRWW) was one of the identified projects that SD1 agreed to provide funding for in exchange for the advancement of water quality goals and the protection of water quality in SD1's jurisdictional area.

SD1 set aside \$70,000 in an interest-bearing escrow account that was dispersed upon application and Board approval.

The projects funded by this program are intended to provide support for monitoring and analysis of water quality based on the following eligibility requirements :

SD1 Update (cont.)

- 1) Funds must be used for monitoring and analysis of in-stream water quality within the four watershed study basin areas identified in the federal court order.
- 2) Funds must be used for equipment and supplies necessary for such activities.

The LRWW received two installments of the funds. The first installment was received in September 2007 and the final installment was dispersed in May 2010.

LRWW Awarded Grant

April Haight

The LRWW was recently honored with a grant award from NKU students. The grant award was part of the Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project which started in 1999. The purpose of the project is to teach students about nonprofits and philanthropy, with the belief that hands-on learning in these fields would produce NKU graduates who are more likely to remain life-long community stewards.

Mayerson classes are given a sum of money each semester through a grant funded by the Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation and asked to evaluate nonprofits and then invest in those they think will make the most effective use of the funds.

Funding for Mayerson courses can also come from individual donations or through the "Give a Buck" program, or by making an individual donation online through the development website.

LRWW Grant (cont.)

The LRWW was selected for the \$2,000 award by Dr. Rebecca Kelley's Protecting Water Resources (ENV 220-001). The money will be used to support our ongoing sampling efforts in the Licking River Watershed Basin.

Ed Wilcox attended the ceremony on behalf of LRWW to receive the award check.

Thank You to Our Supporters!

Besides SD1 and the Mayerson Grant, other LRWW supporters—past and present—are Virginia Environmental Education Foundation (VEE), Morehead State University's Triplett Creek Committee, Boone County Conservation District, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Kentucky Division of Water, Sierra Club Water Sentinals, Watershed Watch in Kentucky, Marc Hult, Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar, Barry Tanning, and Friends of Stoner Creek.

Hinkston Creek Watershed Planning Project

Visit the web site for photos, history, assessment information and more:

www.hinkstoncreek.org

Views of the Licking

This page is devoted to your photos of the Licking River Watershed.



Above three photos were taken by April Haight during her 2010 Awareness Paddle down the length of the Licking River.



Thaxton's war canoe on the Licking at Blue Licks State Park during a prior year conference



South Fork of LR at Hwy 27 bridge in Falmouth on May 3, 2010 during spring flooding



South Fork of LR at Hwy 27 bridge in Falmouth on October 8, 2010 at low water during drought

We need your photos for future issues! Please send your favorite photos (editor contact info at right) taken of your favorite stream in the Licking River watershed, whether they be of scenery, wildlife, recreation or festive events. If possible, let us know who took the photo and where it was taken (name of stream and area) and anything else about the photo you want to say. Please be aware that any photos may be used by the LRWW to promote the organization and to raise awareness of the watershed issues.

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