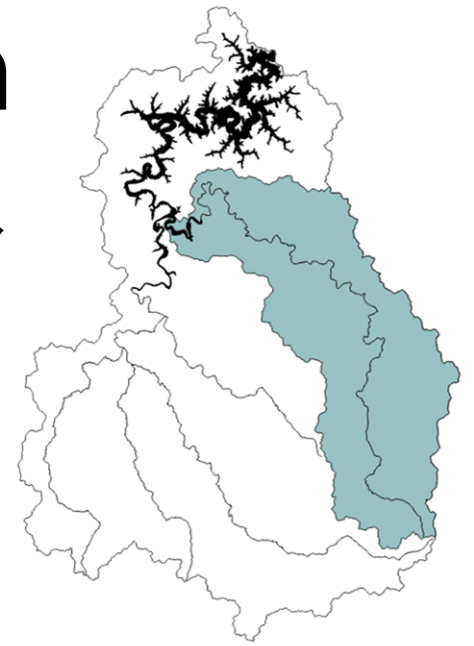


# War Eagle Creek Riparian Management Education & Demonstration Project

Project FY14-300



Bryant Baker



BEAVER  
WATERSHED  
ALLIANCE



# Project Overview

- Project goals/objectives:
  - *Raise War Eagle Watershed streamside residents' awareness and knowledge of the importance of riparian areas and engage them in adopting individual best management actions through public outreach, education, and demonstration programs.*
- October 2014 – September 2016
- Watershed demonstration
- Project costs: \$279,605 (55% federal, 45% state/local)



# Our Approach in the Beginning

- Informational community meetings were held
  - Each meeting geared toward one of 12 subwatersheds
  - Very low attendance. Why?
- 6 bimonthly newsletters sent to over 1,700 landowners
  - Resulted in people checking in and requesting site visits
- Established key connections early
  - Huntsville High School
  - Madison County Farm Bureau
  - State Parks





# Learning as We Went

- Watershed has a reserved population
- Majority of landowners do not like being told what to do
  - *But* they really value land and water quality
  - Voluntary is a very important word
- “Why should I care about Beaver Lake?”



# Building Connections

- Network of landowners slowly began to build
  - Everyone knows each other
  - 1 connection = 3+ connections
- Free Tree and Shrub Program
  - 17 landowners utilized our bare root seedling giveaway
  - Several volunteers helped plant trees
    - 4H Clubs, student groups, and landowners
    - Residents from other watersheds



# Successful Programs

- Streamside Landowner Workshop in March
  - 25 participants listened to presentations from ADEQ, AGFC, UACES, WCRC, and BWA
- Three major cleanups
  - War Eagle Creek Cleanup
  - Town Branch Cleanup
  - War Eagle Appreciation Day
- PAT and Riparian Mgmt. Demo
  - 10 participants learned about using herbicides in riparian areas





# Supplemental Rain Garden Program

- BWA offered rain garden mini-grants to landowners
- Rain garden installation demonstration in Huntsville
  - Low-cost demonstration: \$150 for plants and gravel, City of Huntsville dug the hole, and mulch left over from previous rain garden project was used
  - Local 4-H club installed and adopted the rain garden



# Supplemental Rain Garden Program

- Four were installed in public areas around Huntsville
  - Two at high school, one at primary school, and one at Madison County Water Facilities Board
  - Each cost < \$1,000 to install
  - The City of Huntsville and Madison County Water Facilities Board helped dig the holes, volunteers helped plant them
- Two were planted on private properties for < \$250 each





# Community Presence

## Rain garden demo to be held at Mitchusson Park

The Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) is hosting a Rain Garden Demonstration on Wednesday, July 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at Mitchusson Park as part of Lakes Appreciation Month.

Because 1 in 7 Americans get their water for drinking from Beaver Lake, including just about every community from Harrison to Weaville, Okla., BWA is carrying out several different events for Lakes Appreciation Month to increase awareness about the importance of taking care of Beaver Lake and its watershed.

"Rain gardens are landscaped depressions designed to capture excess rain water runoff from impervious sur-

## Cleanup at War Eagle Creek



Participants in the War Eagle Creek cleanup are shown here.

## BWA begins work with streamside landowners in War Eagle Watershed

The grant's focus fund outreach to stream landowners in the War Creek Watershed to investigate the health of its surface waters, and value to maintain and improve them.

Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) was recently awarded a \$279,000 grant from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to help streamside landowners in the War Creek Watershed to investigate the health of its surface waters, and value to maintain and improve them.

The grant's focus fund outreach to stream landowners in the War Creek Watershed to investigate the health of its surface waters, and value to maintain and improve them.

## Robotics team finishes in top half at national competition

Was second year for Huntsville High School EAST team to compete

By PHAROAH DICKLITZ and then put pool noodles in



The Huntsville High School EAST Robotics team members are shown here.

## AST Club, Water Alliance partner to restore War Eagle Madison County Recycling Center

Volunteers clean up creek

TERESA MOSS  
BWA/AMERICAN/AGGREGATE

WAR EAGLE — An ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION grant is helping to bring awareness about the pollution here.

The creek is important because it meets with the White River before flowing into Beaver Lake, Baker said.

The watershed also contains 21,079 acres, according to the alliance. It states the watershed contains 468 miles of streams and 664 miles of roads.

Baker said it's the first time the alliance has held a cleanup at War Eagle Creek. He said events have been held in other locations such as Hobbs State Park near Rogers in the past.

"I want them to get in the habit of volunteering," Baker said. "It also goes both ways from the TV."

Recent Baker, Beaver Watershed Alliance program coordinator and the event was focused on cleaning trash. It also was a way to bring awareness to the watershed.

"Trash is a form of pollution," Baker said. "It can be problematic for wildlife. Animals get caught in it, so we want to get rid of it."

The grant will cover educational brochures in the area.

Volunteers were assigned a location on the creek as they cleaned in a War Eagle Mill at 9 a.m. Saturday. Volunteers wore safety vests and maps were given to the volunteers as they worked.

Isaac, Baker's son, wandered near War Eagle Mill. He said he likes "helping out the environment."

"If a bird eats some trash he might die," Isaac, 8, said. Further upstream Mikah Park tied a bag onto a canoe before launching into the creek near a bridge on Oak Hole Road. Track said she came to the event with friends and family.

## BWA to feature several cleanup sites for War Eagle Creek in county

The Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) is planning several cleanup sites for War Eagle Creek in Madison County.

## Garden caretakers



Participants in the rain garden project are shown here.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015

## Streamside Landowner Workshop

When? Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Where? Carroll Electric, 5056 U.S. 412 Business, Huntsville, AR

What? A workshop to provide needed information for streamside landowners and land managers.

Why? Many landowners want and need to know more about maintaining a healthy riparian buffer zone. Understanding stream processes and restoration projects, along with regulations on on-stream work, can be very helpful to landowners interested in slowing and preventing erosion. Information on stream basics, streambank erosion, available assistance for streamside problems, riparian corridor management, and other best management practices will be discussed. Landowners will also be able to pick up seedlings ordered through Beaver Watershed Alliance's Free Tree and Shrub Program.

## Planting for the future



Participants in the tree-planting activity are shown here.

## HHS students clean up community



Huntsville High School students are shown here participating in a community cleanup.

## War Eagle Creek Cleanup

Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Check-in Stations:

War Eagle Mill (Event Headquarters)

Withrow Springs State Park

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Check-in & Cleanup

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch & Door Prizes

Volunteers will be given cleanup supplies (gloves, bags, etc.) and sent to various sites.

## Watershed Alliance to host workshop in Huntsville for streamside residents

The Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) will host a streamside resident workshop for streamside residents of the Beaver Lake Watershed on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Carroll Electric facility in Huntsville, located at 5056 U.S. 412 Business.

The workshop will provide needed information for streamside landowners and land managers. Many landowners want and need to know more about maintaining a healthy riparian buffer zone. Understanding stream processes and restoration projects, along with regulations on on-stream work, can be very helpful to landowners interested in slowing and preventing erosion. Information on stream basics, streambank erosion, available assistance for streamside problems, riparian corridor management, and other best management practices will be discussed. Landowners will also be able to pick up seedlings ordered through Beaver Watershed Alliance's Free Tree and Shrub Program.

## Cleaning up the creek



Participants in the creek cleanup are shown here.

## Commission OKs regulations for mobile vending

Will still need to be passed by city council

By MARY SHERIDAN

Record follow

The Huntsville Planning Commission at Monday's regular meeting adopted regulations for mobile vending operations in the city.

The proposed regulations will still have to be reviewed by the city council, but they stipulate what kind of vendors will be allowed, where they can be located, and the permit process.

The commission proposed a proposed document with separate regulations for different vendors, such as ice cream trucks, and all other mobile vendors.

The document defines a mobile vending unit as "any motorized or non-motorized vehicle, trailer, kiosk, pushcart, stand or other device designed to be portable and not permanently attached to the ground which is used to sell goods, wares, merchandise, or food." Mobile vendors are defined as a "person selling or displaying food, goods, merchandise or services from a vehicle or other contraption on the streets of Huntsville."

Requirements for mobile vendors include obtaining a permit from the city clerk, not exceeding 140-square feet in size, maintaining a minimum of three parking spaces designated for their use, and having a valid business license.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015

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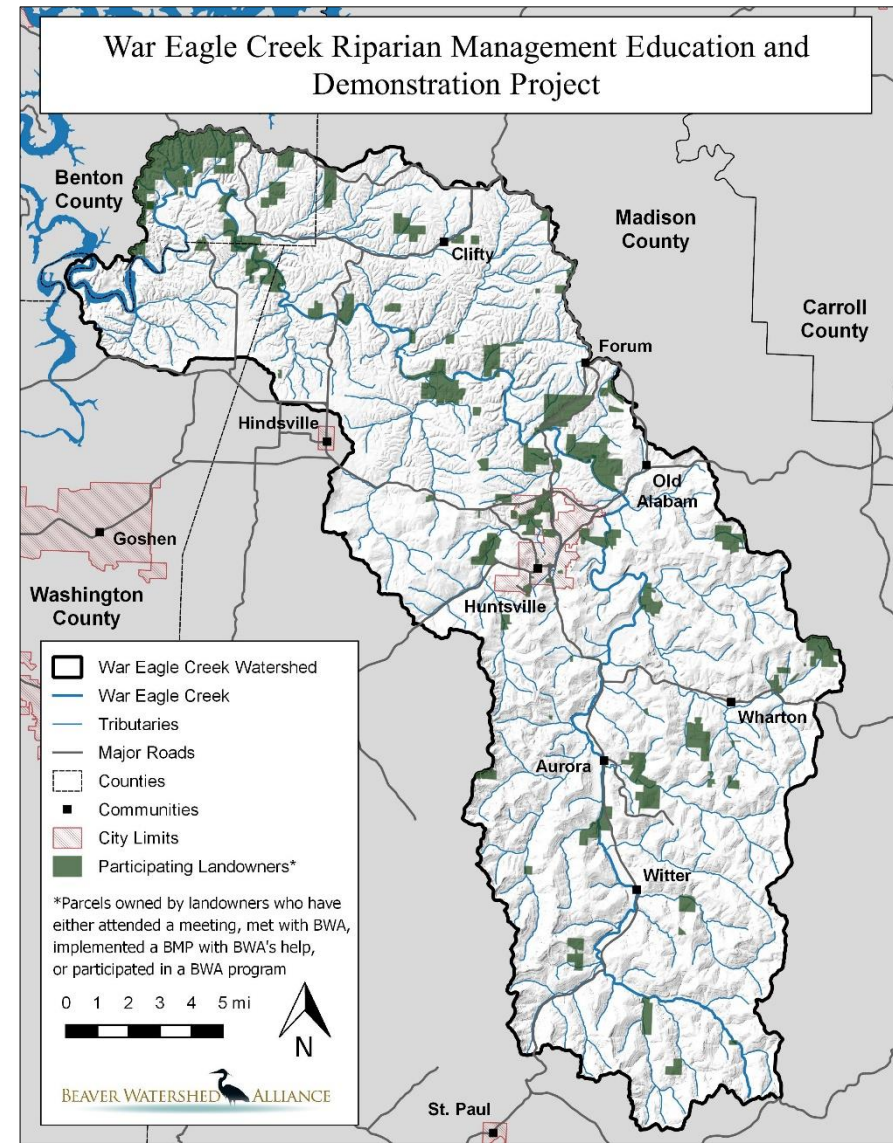
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# Project Numbers So Far

- 90 participating landowners
  - 16,700 acres of land (8% of the War Eagle Watershed)
- 50 site assessments
- 24 BMPs implemented
  - 1,963 ft of buffers established
  - 1,316 ft of buffers enhanced
  - 5.2 acres of land reforested
- 12 demonstrations





# Project Numbers So Far

- 1408 volunteer hours
  - $\approx$  \$32,000 of \$30,000 needed
- 10 special interest meetings
- 11 cleanups and water quality days
  - EAST Program is monitoring two creeks
- 6 newsletters and 10 mass mailings
- 2 workshops with youth programs





# Big Issues





# One Year Left...

- Ramping up demonstrations
  - Will host demos at BMP sites
- Snowball Effect is occurring
  - More people checking in
- Other programs planned:
  - Watershed Lunch 'N Learn Series
  - Dirt Road Management Workshop
  - Streamside Landowner Workshop
  - Free Tree and Shrub Program



# Thanks to Our Partners & Sponsors:



Beaver Water District



Boston Mountain  
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