



Watershed Watch

A Publication of the Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group

Visit us online at www.awag.org

Volume 7 ♦ Issue 2 ♦ Summer 2008

2008 AWAG/Stream Team Watershed Conference Announcement



*Come join us October 30—November 1, 2008 in Little Rock, Arkansas
at the newly renovated Hilton Little Rock Metro Center
for the 2008 AWAG/Stream Team Watershed Conference.*

*Don't miss this opportunity to network with environmental professionals and volunteers
working to protect, conserve, and restore Arkansas's water resources.*

INSIDE — 2008 AWAG/Stream Team Conference Offers Something for Everyone
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2008 AWAG/Stream Team Conference Offers Something for Everyone

Something New For 2008

The *Arkansas Stream Teams* and the *Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group (AWAG)* are partnering to host the 2008 AWAG/Stream Team Conference. In years past, the Arkansas Stream Team and the Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group have held biennial conferences every other year. The two organizations will co-host the 2008 Watershed Conference in an effort to conserve resources and also in the hopes of demonstrating to watershed groups and Stream Teams alike that the two groups work well together.

The 2008 AWAG/Stream Team Conference will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas at the newly renovated Hilton Little Rock Metro Center. The training offered at this conference will be useful to anyone living in Arkansas and surrounding states. The conference will offer workshops, presentations, a watershed tour, discussions and a poster session for its participants. Over a three day period, environmental experts, watershed group and stream team leaders, science education instructors, and natural resource specialists will provide information to equip communities with leaders that have the skills necessary to guide their community in making informed decisions about their water resources.

The AWAG is a "working group" of representatives of 45 agencies, organizations, and citizens interested in promoting the watershed approach in Arkansas. AWAG is hosted and funded through the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The Arkansas Stream Team program is housed at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) and has 950 stream teams in the state. Stream Teams have cleaned rivers, monitored water quality, as well as provided landowners with advice and resources to restore and stabilize stream banks. Both organization's programs empower local governments and citizens to take the initiative in safeguarding their land and water for future generations.



Stream Team member Mindy Boyles enjoys a day on Crooked Creek.

Watershed Tour and Pre-conference Workshops will be held on Thursday, October 30th. These sessions are designed to offer specialized training to various individuals attending the conference. Space is limited in the workshops and watershed tour so please register early to reserve your training slot.

AGFC Stream Team Watershed Tour and Training

Fourche Creek Watershed Tour offers a variety of sites where stormwater BMPs have been installed as well as streambanks restored. AGFC Stream Team Coordinators and Audubon Arkansas have planned a morning full of fascinating "show and tell".

The USEPA Funding Workshop can give you the tools to take a strategic funding approach in six steps. You will learn how to set funding priorities, assess your organization's capacity, choose relevant funding options, and develop a realistic, sustainable funding plan. Along the way, you will also learn about relevant finance tools, case studies, and resources that can save time and equip your organization for a changing funding environment.

Projects WET, WILD, and Learning Tree are award-winning environmental education programs designed for formal and non-formal educators working with students in pre-K through grade 12. The programs are a source of interdisciplinary instructional activities that focus on the natural environment. The curriculum provides educators with activities which directly correlate with Arkansas State Education Frameworks. Up to 8 hours of in-service hours are available upon completion of this workshop.

Conference Keynote Speakers

Conference Keynote Speakers will open the conference with a holistic explanation of the watershed approach followed by a local perspective. Our keynote speakers include Tom Davenport, Region 5 USEPA. Tom is known as the National Expert in USEPA's Non-Point Source Pollution Program. Gene Dunaway is the past president of the Friends of the North Fork/White River (FNFWR). Gene's local perspective of the watershed approach will address local watershed issues as well as highlight their successful combination of a watershed group using stream teams to monitor the health of the North Fork and White Rivers.

The Plenary Session topic is *Climate Change, Drought and Water Conservation*. Conference participants will hear from a variety of speakers with expertise in addressing climate change and the effects on our water resources. Other topics will include *Natural Gas Exploration, Pharmaceuticals in Arkansas's Waters, Local Watershed Protection, Water Rights, Protecting*



Tom Davenport of the USEPA, Region V, recipient of the 2007 Secchi Disk Award will be a Keynote Speaker at the 2008 AWAG/Stream Team Conference. (The Secchi Disk Award is given annually by the North American Lake Management Society to honor an individual who has contributed the most to achieving the mission of NALMS.)

2008 AWAG/STREAM TEAM WATERSHED CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, October 30th, 2008

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Registration**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Pre-Conference
Workshops and Watershed Tour**

Fourche Creek Watershed Tour
Arkansas Stream Team Coordinators
(Bus leaves from Hilton Little Rock Metro Center)

Sustainable Funding for Your Watershed
(Workshop will be held at ADEQ, North Little Rock)
Stuart Lehman, Tim Jones, USEPA and
Bill Jarocki, Environmental Finance Center

WET/WILD/PLT Workshop
(Workshop will be held at the Hilton Little Rock
Metro Center)
Philip Osborne, ADEQ
Pat Knighten, AGFC
Rob Beadel, AFAEF

8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Poster Session set-up**

Friday, October 31st, 2008

7:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Registration**

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **Keynote Speakers**
Keynote Speaker I: Tom Davenport, USEPA
“*Historical Perspective, Current Status, and Future Direction of the
Watershed Approach*”
Keynote Speaker II: Gene Dunaway, Friends of the North Fork /
White River
“*Watershed Groups and Stream Teams Working Together*”

9:45 am to 11:40 am **Plenary Session—**
Climate Change, Drought and Water Conservation
Global Warming—What Is It? - Keith Harris, UALR
Inconvenient Truth Educator - Robert McAfee
Municipalities with Water Conservation Plans - Erica Brown
State Water Plan - Earl Smith, ANRC
State Global Warming Commission - Rob Fisher, ECO

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. **LUNCH—Buffet**

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Natural Gas Exploration and Drilling
Betty Pickett, Arkansas State Representative
Greg Thoma, University of Arkansas
Teresa Marks, ADEQ Director

Pharmaceuticals in Water
Allen Gilliam, ADEQ
Joel Galloway, USGS
Nancy Busen, City of Bentonville

Friday, October 31st, 2008 continued

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

***Conservation Easements, Land Trusts,
and Tax Credits***
Gene Dunaway, Ozark Land Trust
Bill Layher, Bayou Bartholomew Alliance
Joyce Hale, Arkansas League of Women Voters and
Colene Gaston, Beaver Water District

Protecting Water in Our Forests
Michael Crump, Ozark National Forest
Alan Clingenpeel, Ouachita National Forest
Arnold Hameister, Arkansas Forestry Commission

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Poster Session & Reception**
Tim Ernst Slide Show and Book Signing

Saturday, November 1, 2008

7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Registration**

7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast Presentation**
Arkansas Water Rights
Charles Moulton, Attorney General's Office

8:45 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Watershed Projects
Johnnie Chamberlain, Audubon Arkansas
Phil Tackett, U of A Cooperative Extension
Sandi Formica, WCRC

Local Watershed Protection
Shawn Grindstaff, The Forrester Group
Dennis Dunderdale, City of Cotter
Mark Boyer, U of A-Fayetteville

10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Construction and Stormwater
Kim Fuller, ADEQ
Jerry Williamson, AHTD

***Resources and Tools for Watershed Organizations
and Stream Teams***
Tim Jones and Stuart Lehman, USEPA
Bill Jarocki, EFC

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. **Awards Luncheon**
AWAG and Stream Team Awards Presentations

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Watershed Symposium**

***Knowing What We Don't Know:
A Knowledge Gap Assessment***
Bob Morgan, Beaver Water District
Shawn Grindstaff, The Forrester Group

Closing Remarks—Moving Forward
Tom Davenport, USEPA

CONFERENCE CONCLUSION

ABOUT THE ARKANSAS WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP

Mission Statement: *The Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group (AWAG) assists interested citizens and organizations by promoting local voluntary approaches to watershed management and conservation.*

AWAG consists of local, state, and federal agencies; non-profit organizations; and citizen representatives who meet quarterly. In addition to holding regular meetings, AWAG organizes conferences and workshops for interested citizens. AWAG's activities are coordinated through the Watershed Outreach and Education Section of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's Water Division.

For more information about AWAG, visit www.awag.org. The website includes general information about AWAG, a calendar of upcoming events, information about watershed groups in Arkansas, funding information, and much more.

You may also contact Ellen McNulty, AWAG Coordinator, by phone at (501) 682-0022, by email at mcnulty@adeq.state.ar.us, or by mail at:

Ellen McNulty, AWAG Coordinator
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
8001 National Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72209

ABOUT WATERSHED WATCH

Watershed Watch, the quarterly newsletter of the Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group, is published by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's Water Division through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant.

Subscribers to *Watershed Watch* include citizens; local, state, and federal agencies; private organizations; businesses; and county conservation districts, among others.

Watershed Watch is provided at no cost.

To be included on the mailing list for *Watershed Watch* or to begin receiving the newsletter via email, contact Ellen McNulty at the Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality by phone at (501) 682-0022, by email at mcnulty@adeq.state.ar.us, or by mail at:

Ellen McNulty, Watershed Coordinator
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Dr.
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

Watershed Watch is printed on recycled paper.



Please recycle. To find a recycling center near you, visit the Arkansas Recycling Markets Directory online at:

www.adeq.state.ar.us/solwaste/branch_market_dev/mkt_dev.asp

CONFERENCE LODGING

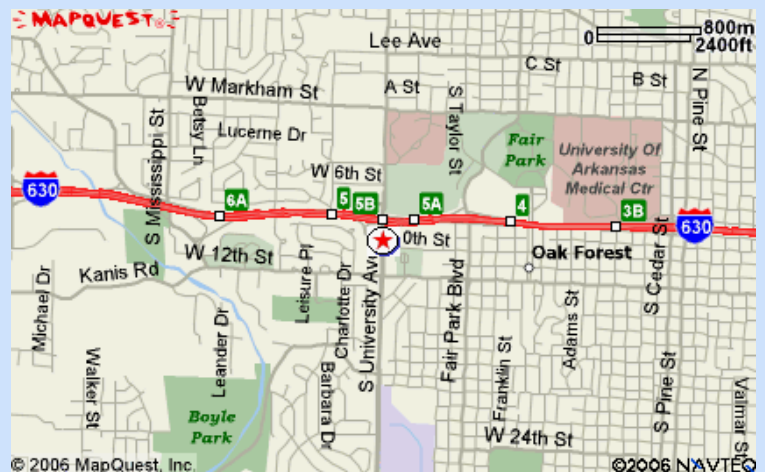
The registration fee *does not* include lodging. **The Hilton Little Rock Metro Center**, Little Rock, Ark. is offering guest rooms at a *special rate* of **\$82.00 per night**. This room rate applies for Wednesday, October 29 through Saturday, November 1. Conference participants must make their own room reservations at the Hilton by calling **(501) 664-5020**. Guests must request the **Arkansas Watershed and Stream Teams Conference room block** to reserve a room at this special rate. The deadline to make reservations at this rate expires on October 3, 2008; afterwards, the room rates will be at regular price.



The Hilton Little Rock Metro Center

Hilton Little Rock Metro Center
925 S. University Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
(the intersection of I-630 and S. University)

From I-630 West, Exit 5B (South University).
From I-630 East, exit University Avenue.



Registration Form



SCHOLARSHIPS A limited number of scholarships are available for qualified applicants to help offset lodging costs and registration fees. The registration fee must be paid prior to attending the conference then scholarships will be awarded to reimburse applicants after attending the conference. Please check the box if you are interested in receiving scholarship information.

Yes, please send scholarship information !

Registration Fee: Please check which fee you are paying

- \$35.00 per person by October 10
- \$50.00 per person after October 10
- \$50.00 for family registration by October 10
- \$70.00 for family registration after October 10
- \$15.00 for student registration

Complete the registration form and mail a check or money order payable to **AFAEF** (Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation), to:

AWAG/Stream Team Watershed Conference
 C/O AFAEF
 410 South Cross St. Suite C
 Little Rock, AR 72201

Please fill out one registration form for each participant

NAME _____

ATTENDING AS A FAMILY? NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS ATTENDING? _____

AGENCY or ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

COUNTY _____

AFFILIATION: (please check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/
Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry
Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
Teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned Citizen | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City/County Govt. | <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency | | |

Please complete both sides of the registration form

Page 2 of Registration Form...

Please help us with conference planning by checking the activities that you plan to attend. The selections are not binding but do help us plan the amount of food ordered and facility space needed. Be sure to fill out the information for each family member. Children and youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-Conference Workshops and Watershed Tour

Will you be attending a pre-conference workshop or the AGFC Stream Team Tour of Fourche Creek Watershed? _____yes _____no

If yes, please indicate your preference: (Space is limited)

- ____ *Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree*
 ____ *Sustainable Funding Workshop for Watershed Groups and Stream Teams*
 ____ *AGFC Stream Team Tour of Fourche Creek Watershed*

Will you be attending the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, November 1st? ____Yes ____No

Will you be attending the Reception and Poster Session on Friday evening, October 31st? ____Yes ____No

Pre-conference Questionnaire (Check all correct answers that apply)

Check true statements that apply to the watershed approach.

- ____ A watershed approach uses political boundaries to determine the watershed boundary.
 ____ Managing water resources by watersheds is a holistic approach to protecting water quality.
 ____ Local decision making is promoted while addressing federal and state goals and regulations.
 ____ All of the above statements are true.

What is the best way to assure your watershed group or stream team of sustainable funding?

- ____ Apply for all federal funding that is available
 ____ Apply for all state funding that is available
 ____ Depend on private foundation funding to support local watershed efforts
 ____ Use the Arkansas Watershed Funding Directory to research available grants
 ____ Diversify funding efforts of the group

Check all true statements that apply to the Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree programs.

- ____ Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree program activities are used to teach environmental concepts directly correlated to Arkansas State Education Frameworks
 ____ Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree are award-winning national and international education programs that focus on the natural environment.
 ____ Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree educational programs are certified as professional development resources for environmental educators.

Check all true statements that apply to climate change.

- ____ Climate change has not been proven scientifically to be caused by human activity.
 ____ Climate change will only impact those in the cooler regions.
 ____ Climate change will not impact us locally
 ____ We can do something about climate change.
-

.....continued from page 2

WHO SHOULD ATTEND???

Stream Team members
Watershed coordinators
Watershed group participants
State and Federal Agency personnel
Elected officials
Municipal employees
Local government personnel
Conservation districts
Non-profit organizations
School teachers
University professors
College students
Landowners
and
other concerned citizens

Anyone can increase their understanding and knowledge of the environment and the watershed approach by attending **the 2008 AWAG/Stream Team Watershed Conference.**

Water Quality in Our Forests, Conservation Easements, and Sustainable Organizations. The conference will close with The Watershed Symposium, Knowing What You Don't Know – A Knowledge Gap Assessment.

The key to successful watershed management is local stakeholder participation. The past AWAG Watershed Conferences and past Stream Team conferences were instrumental in training local leaders to apply the watershed approach in their communities.

The AWAG/Stream Team 2008 Watershed Conference will continue the AWAG mission of "assisting interested citizens and organizations by supporting local voluntary approaches to watershed management and conservation" by providing a watershed conference that will equip communities with leaders that have the skills necessary to lead the community in making informed decisions about their water resources. About 300 attendees are expected.

Fill out and mail in your registration form today!



Everyone wants to be a Stream Team member!

Conference Sponsors

*Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group
Arkansas Stream Teams
Arkansas Department of
Environmental Quality
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
US Environmental Protection Agency
Arkansas Parks and Tourism
Arkansas Rural Water Association
Beaver Water District
Arkansas Forestry Association
Education Foundation
Watershed Conservation Resource Center
Heifer International*

Scholarships Available To Watershed Groups, Stream Teams, Environmental Educators, and Local and County Government

A limited number of scholarships are available to provide financial assistance to citizens who want to attend the 2008 AWAG Watershed Conference. Applicants must be registered for the conference in order to be eligible.

Attendees traveling less than 50 miles (one way) to Little Rock are eligible for a reimbursement of the conference registration fee (up to \$50.00). Attendees traveling 50 miles or more (one way) to Little Rock are eligible for a **reimbursement** of the registration fee and hotel bill (log on to www.awag.org for additional information).

Scholarship money is available on a first come, first served basis. Preference will be given to Arkansas citizens involved or wanting to become involved in a watershed group or Stream Team. Scholarships are only available to participants above the age of 18.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please check the appropriate box on your registration form (page 6 of this newsletter).

2008 AWAG/Stream Team Watershed Conference Announcement —Please Open Immediately

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Water Division
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ARKANSAS WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP/ STREAM TEAM 2008 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE



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Ellen McNulty, ADEQ
Kevin Atkins, AGFC
Dave Evans, AGFC
Steven O'Neal, AGFC
Pat Knighten, AGFC
Jim Ahlert, AGFC
Sandi Formica, WCRC
Sarah DeVries, ARWA
Dan Smith, ADH
Amy Wilson, BWD

Bob Morgan, BWD
Brad Hufhines, BWD
Philip Osborne, ADEQ
Barbara Miller, ADEQ
Rob Beadel, AFAEF
Heather Richardson, AGO
April Layher, AEEF
Anita Chouinard, APT
Jim Petersen, USGS
Jim Wise, ADEQ
Kristine Spears, AHTD

**2008 AWAG/Stream Team Watershed Conference
Announcement —Please Open Immediately**