

UWRB

Upper White River Basin Foundation

Ozark Waters

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The Upper White River Basin Foundation's upcoming conference *Sharing Success: Lessons from Effective Watershed Organizations*, scheduled for March 27-28, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Rogers, Arkansas, has been cancelled.

Unforeseen circumstances, including multiple conference in both Arkansas and Missouri and the general state of the economy in recent weeks have prompted the Foundation to re-schedule *Sharing Success* for a later date.

The Foundation strongly encourages anyone planning to attend to immediately cancel any travel arrangements.

For more information, please contact Foundation offices at (417) 334-7644.



The Galena wastewater treatment plant after the water crested above the banks of the James River.

—Photo: David Casaletto

BREAKING THE DROUGHT

By John E. Moore, Jr.
Upper White River Basin Foundation

I've often observed that when it rains in the Ozarks, it's cause for rejoicing because we're usually not more than a week or two away from drought. And then there's Mae West, who reportedly once said that "too much of a good thing is simply wonderful."

Last week we actually might have concluded that we were getting too much of a good thing in the record-setting downpour which inundated much of the Ozarks. I measure what is happening to our water by watching the James River at my cabin just above Galena. On Wednesday, the gauging station at the highway bridge reportedly measured the river at 36 feet above normal, an all-time record for that location.

Much of that little village was flooded, including the wastewater treatment plant, which was completely overwhelmed by the swollen river. There were several feet of water in the bank and a number of homes in the south part of town were engulfed by the rising water. The extensive flooding of the rivers throughout the Midwest in 1993 set records with major drainages like the Missouri River filling the historic flood plain from bluff to bluff. The Springfield News-Leader headline last Thursday proclaimed the water in the Ozarks "Just as High as '93 Floods." And this week low lying areas along the lower White River in Arkansas are being warned of flooding dangers as the runoff crests downstream.

For many people directly affected by the flooding we had too much of a good thing last week. Like the Ozarks experienced last week, it was

Breaking the Drought

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periodic major flooding years ago that prompted the original congressional authorization for the construction of the large lakes on the upper White River. The good news in the rainfall last week is that ponds and reservoirs are full, the water table has been augmented and drought-stricken parts of the country southeast of the Ozarks received much needed precipitation. The rivers and streams certainly had a good flushing.

The bad news is the damage and cost of the floods, the disruption of families and businesses beset by rising water and the trash and pollutants washed downstream by flooding watersheds. The wastewater treatment plant in Galena comes quickly to mind in this regard as exemplary of the negative runoff implications of flooding watersheds. I have written earlier about the river bank stabilization project near the bridge at Galena, a project not yet done, but one badly needed as significant portions of that low ground bank were carved away by these most recent flooding waters.

Floods happen and they will happen again. There are some benefits of the rainfall, particularly in this region that often hurts for moisture. There are also costs in damaged property, disrupted families and turbid, despoiled watersheds. We've not yet figured a way to distribute this momentarily excessive rainfall to the often dry summer months when it is needed more. In the meantime we have affirmed the importance of our waters and the crucial stake we all have in keeping them clean and managing them effectively.



Stone County National Bank was engulfed by rising waters on Highway 413 West in Galena.

—Photo: David Casaletto

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27, 2008

SPRINGS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION OF "LAKE LEATHERWOOD"

7 pm, Open to Public

Carnegie Library, 194 Spring Street
Eureka Springs, AR

For information, call (501) 253-8754

March 29, 2008



IRWP RIPARIAN PROJECT

Hosted by the Illinois River Watershed Partnership

8 am to Noon

Four sites in Northwest Arkansas:
Blossom Way Creek, Rogers
Hamestrig Creek, Fayetteville
Sager Creek, Siloam Springs
Spring Creek, Springdale

Join the Illinois River Watershed Partnership as they create riparian buffers along four creeks in northwest Arkansas. Volunteers needed.

For information, call (479) 238-4671 or email deliahaak@irwp.org.



April 5, 2008 TABLE ROCK LAKE SHORELINE CLEANUP

Hosted by Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc.

Visit Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc.'s website to download the sign-up sheet and trash tracking form. trlwq.org/shorelinecleanup.html

For more information call Gopala at (417) 739-4100.



Ripple Effect

Low Impact Development Conference
May 7-8, Springfield MO (click for registration & information)

May 7-8, 2008

RIPPLE EFFECT: LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



Hosted by the James River Basin Partnership

Ever-increasing demands on natural resources have created new challenges for builders and developers. As awareness of environmental issues rises, so does the demand for greener, low impact building techniques. Whether driven by tighter regulations designed to protect our natural resources or customer demand, conscientious development decisions are a must to stay competitive and protect our resources.

To learn more about how low impact design affects water quality, register for Ripple Effect by visiting the James River Basin Partnership website:

www.jrbp.missouristate.edu



The wastewater treatment plant under water in Galena, Missouri.

—Photo: David Casaletto

BASIN NEWS

Boozman, Blunt receive ideas on poultry litter use

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

<http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/220251>

A southwest Missouri farmer told two congressmen on Wednesday he's using the age-old practice of bartering to find a new answer for poultry litter. Bill Harvill, who raises chickens for Tyson Foods Inc. near Stark City, Mo., trades poultry litter to a Lamar, Mo., farmer in exchange for corn. Harvill then trades the corn again for wood pellets.

Geologist cautions against altering karst hydrologic patterns

The Lovely County Citizen

<http://www.lovelycitizen.com/story/1319213.html>

"We can't have a complete picture of the underground," Parks and Recreation Springs Committee member and petroleum geologist Jim Helwig told a group March 13. "We can't be sure how water is traveling. Because we are uncertain, we have to be cautious in disturbing natural systems."

Reviving Riverdale: Energy expert envisions 'net-zero carbon footprint community' along Finley River

Springfield Business Journal

http://www.sbj.net/enews_article.asp?IID=99&SID=100&CID=i&AID=48498805.636619.1045304.723852.3073068.458&AID2=80399

Van Hoesen, an energy-efficiency consultant who owns US Green Building LLC, has drawn up a development plan that would resurrect the once-thriving Christian County milling town as a subdivision the likes of which are hard to come by in the Ozarks. And he wants to use Riverdale's defining attribute—a small hydroelectric dam on the Finley River—to offset the community's energy use.



Beaver Lake Dam after recent rains forced the Corps of Engineers to open flood gates.

—Photo: Barb Kerbox

WATER NEWS

Flooding hits sewer

The Joplin Globe

http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/local_story_082223703.html

Heavy flooding on the Elk River broke open a temporary sewer pipe owned by the city of Noel.

Peru tribe battles oil giant over pollution

BBC News

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7306639.stm>

Last year the Achuar tribe living in the Amazon rainforest of north-eastern Peru filed a class action lawsuit against oil giant Occidental Petroleum.

Drugs in water hurt fish and wildlife

The Post and Courier

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PHARMAWATER_II?SITE=SCCHA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Pharmaceuticals in the water are being blamed for severe reproductive problems in many types of fish.

Coca-cola aims for 'water neutrality'

GreenBiz.com

http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=55786

The report, "Drinking It In: The Evolution of a Global Water Stewardship Program at The Coca-Cola Company" follows the company's efforts to achieve "water neutrality" across its worldwide operations while facing challenges from global water quality, availability and access.

Ethanol presents fire challenge

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

<http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/220730/>

The alternative fuel flowing into the nation's gas tanks is presenting a new challenge for Northwest Arkansas firefighters.

Unlikely allies: Auto industry and ethanol advocates fight key environmental legislation at Legislature

MinnPost

http://www.minnpost.com/stories/2008/03/24/1238/unlikely_allies_auto_industry_and_ethanol_advocates_fight_key_environmental_legislation_at_legislature

Marquee environmental legislation that would require the auto industry to curb tailpipe emissions in Minnesota beyond federal rules has crashed into an unsuspected roadblock in the Legislature: the state's ethanol producers.

Environmentalists give up carbon for Lent

NPR.org

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88846376>

Instead of giving up chocolate or alcohol for Lent, this year some Christians are trying to reduce their "carbon footprint." That means turning off electric lights, hanging laundry on a line to dry and eating only locally grown food in the 40 days before Easter.