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Sharing Success Conference Promises Insights, Information

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

The last two months have been two of the coldest, most inhospitable months weather-wise I can remember in the Ozarks. With ice storms, tornadoes, some snow and lots of just plain cold, winter's grip has been suddenly softened with the coming of March. While the respite is more than welcome this year, I worry about the old adage that when March comes in like a lamb, the lion of winter's return is likely before the month ends. And I think the famous groundhog saw his shadow a month ago, so we'll delight in the milder days when we get them even as we keep winter coats and gloves handy for a few more weeks.

March is also the month when the Foundation will be holding its regional conference in Rogers, Arkansas. The conference, "Sharing Success: Lessons from Effective Watershed Organizations," is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 27th and 28th. The conference program is set and we are receiving registrations and inquiries daily. If we have not heard from you yet, we look forward to receiving your registration for what will be an interesting and informative program.

I wrote some weeks ago about how much can be learned by visiting other organizations with similar interests, priorities and programs. My experience in this regard was honed by regular field trips our staff took to visit other colleges when I worked in higher education. We always came

home with lots of ideas, gleaned from the schools we visited, about ways we could do our own business better. In the case of the "Sharing Success" conference, we are bringing the experience of effective watershed organizations to our region, saving us the time and expense of traveling around the country to look, listen and learn.

Let me briefly highlight the presentations on the agenda.

John Ross, an outdoor writer and communication consultant, is an avid hunter and fisherman with a deep commitment to conservation. His passion for cold water fisheries has led him to leadership in Trout Unlimited and numerous projects to protect and restore spring creeks and other cold water trout habitats. As chair of Virginia's chapter of Trout Unlimited, Ross has not only been involved in watershed restoration and protection projects there, but as an outdoor writer, he has worked with volunteers nationally and has authored such books as *The 100 Best Trout Streams in America* and just being published, *Rivers of Restoration*. His presentation is entitled "Stakeholders for Success: Trout Unlimited's First 50 Years."

Richard Fox, the National Director of Trees, Water and People, has served as the president of the Colorado Watershed Assembly (CWA), a coalition of some 60 collaborative watershed groups working throughout Colorado to protect the state's water resources. From his unique perspective with the CWA,

Continued from page 1

Fox will be sharing his observations about the most successful practices of their constituent organizations with relevance to groups and organizations in the Ozarks.

Drew Koslow, with the South River Federation in Edgewater, Maryland (near Annapolis in the Chesapeake Bay watershed) will bring a presentation about his organization, recognized as one of the most effective in that region. The Federation has developed a "South River Scorecard" and has been actively engaged in shoreline and oyster restoration projects as well as water quality monitoring. Although we don't have oysters in the Ozarks, our native mussels need good water quality to prosper too! This promises to be, like the others, an excellent presentation.

We don't have to go far afield to find useful models for effective watershed organizations and the presentation by Holly Neill, executive director of the James River Basin Partnership (JRBP) will prove the point. Neill will highlight the growing range of public oriented programs and the expanding membership base in telling the story about the JRBP's work to protect one of the major sub watersheds in the upper White River basin.

Likewise, the presentation by Dr. Bob Morgan with the Beaver Water District (BWD) will highlight watershed protection efforts by one of Arkansas' largest public water supply organizations. Although the business of the BWD involves treating raw water drawn from Beaver Lake for distribution to the cities of Northwest Arkansas, they have an essential commitment to the protection and good health of the larger watershed which supplies their raw product. BWD offers an exemplary model for a business with an exceptional conservation commitment and Morgan will present this story.

Brief presentations on the resources available at the University of Arkansas' Water Resource Center and Missouri State University's Ozark Environmental and Water Resource Institute will be informative. And a final panel from state and federal regulatory agencies will bring the conference up to date on priorities, programs and concerns from the perspective of the EPA, ADEQ and DNR. Region 7 EPA administrator John Askew will be on the panel, along with Floyd Gilzow (our Foundation's first executive director) and now deputy director for policy at Missouri's DNR, and Ellen McNulty, Watershed Coordinator for Arkansas' DEQ.

We look forward to having you join us at the end of March for this conference when winter will certainly be behind us with the softness of the spring season making daily gains. Registration information is available on the Foundation's website at uwrb.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7, 2008

WATERSHED COMMITTEE OF THE OZARKS
MONTHLY MEETING

Midtown Carnegie Library, 397 E. Central
Springfield, MO

Presentations:

Peter Gleick, NPR—Looming Water Crisis
Missouri DNR Update

March 7—9, 2008

CARING FOR CREATION CONFERENCE

Mount Sequoyah Conference & Retreat
Center, Fayetteville AR.

Contact Marilyn Braswell (800)760-8126 or
programs@mountsequoyah.org or visit
www.mountsequoyah.org

REGISTER ONLINE!

Planning to attend *Sharing Success: Lessons from Effective Watershed Organizations*? You can download the registration form, agenda and hotel information from our website uwrb.org.

Questions? Call us at (417) 334-7644 or email to info@uwrb.org



Just over 11,000 people came out on Saturday for the opening day of trout season in Missouri, according to a report by Springfield's KY3 News:

- At Bennett Springs roughly 3,040 anglers arrived.
- Montauk, near Salem, was second in the state with 2,900 tags sold.
- Cassville's Roaring River saw 2,100 anglers fishing.

Thanks to the sunny conditions, and a fully stocked stream, almost every bait worked.

For the full report, go to KY3.com or click [here](#).

BASIN NEWS

Science key to Oklahoma's poultry litter case

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

<http://nwanews.com/adg/News/218608/>

A key part of Oklahoma's effort to ban poultry litter in the Illinois River watershed hinges on a developing, often-doubted science known as microbial source tracking.

Sampier: Put marsh near plant

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

<http://nwanews.com/adg/News/218134>

A wetland area would fit well adjacent to a regional sewer plant, the director of the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority said Wednesday. John Sampier said he's long envisioned but never talked publicly about using the conservation authority's property west of Lowell for a marsh.

Caution ahead

Missouri Ruralist

<http://missouriruralist.com/index.aspxascxid=fpStory&fpsid=32520&fpstid=2>

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources will advise the Clean Water Commission at its next meeting that regulation changes are needed quickly to avoid U.S. Environmental Protection Agency objection to permits issued to concentrated animal feeding operations.

A second industrial revolution?

Benton County Daily Record

<http://nwanews.com/bcdr/News/59196>

As much momentum as green-minded efforts and awareness have gained in recent years—not only in northwest Arkansas, but across the country—the United States still has quite a ways to go.

Festival teaches kids about water

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008802290328>

Teaching with action—hands-on and personal—was the style last week when more than 200 fifth-graders filed into the Nixa Community Center for a countywide Watershed Festival.

OPINION

Re: "What a load of manure"

Two agencies better for process

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008802250310>

WATER NEWS

The serious side of a Tennessee-Georgia border war

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/shared_blogs/ajc/politicalinsider/entries/2008/02/24/the_serious_side_of_a_tennesse.html

Booming growth raises idea of dams

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

<http://nwanews.com/adg/National/218599>

The future is green

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008803020314>

Home Depot settles (stormwater) case for \$1.3 million

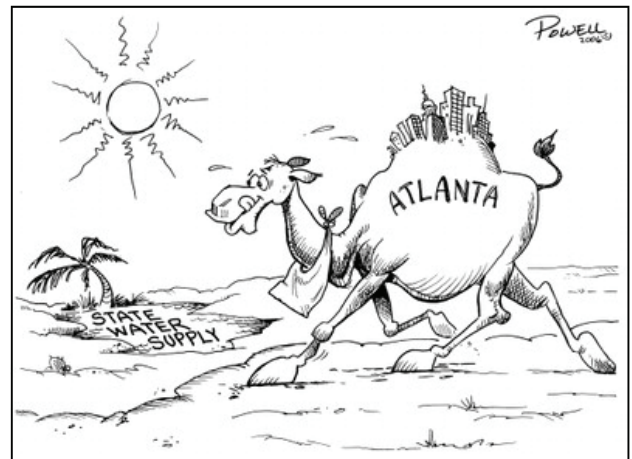
Forbes

<http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2008/02/26/afx4698638.html>

Report: ethanol production brings economic boost

Farm News

<http://www.farmnews-iowa.com/News/articles.asp?articleID=5772>



CROSS CURRENTS : Doing things for change

Northwest Arkansas Times

<http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/Editorial/62575>