KRWW’s Fall Sampling Event - Nutrients and Metals

Over the weekend of September 19-20, KRWW samplers visited their chosen sites to collect water samples for analysis of nutrients and metals at Kentucky’s Geological Survey laboratory in Lexington.

Ninety-three sites were analyzed for nutrients, and 33 sites were also assessed for metals. Since metals have historically been more of a concern in Eastern Kentucky, most of the metals analysis was conducted from sites in that region.

Nitrogen - Of the 93 sites assessed for nitrate-nitrogen, 20 sites exceeded the unofficial KRWW Aquatic Life water quality criteria of 3 mg/L. (There are no current official state standards for nutrients.) The greatest reading of 12.9 mg/L was recorded for Site 753 on Clark’s Run in Boyle County, and the 2nd highest reading was 12.3 mg/L from Site 3144 on South Elkhorn Creek in Scott County.

Phosphorus - Of the 93 sites assessed, 30 exceeded the unofficial KRWW Aquatic Life standard for phosphorus of 0.3 mg/L. The greatest readings of 1.41 mg/L (Site 3144) and 1.13 mg/L (Site 765) were both detected from samples from South Elkhorn Creek in Scott County.

Metals - Of the 33 sites analyzed for metal concentrations, there were no water quality standard exceedances, except for iron. Iron levels at 11 sites were above the Drinking Water Supply standard for source waters, and were greater than the chronic Aquatic Life standard at 3 of these sites. The sites of greatest concern for iron were Site 321B (unnamed tributary of W. Hickman, Fayette), Site 3224 (unnamed trib in Wolfe Co.) and Site 832 (Red River in Powell Co.).

Expect a full summary of the sampling results by e-mail soon.

Generous Donations Provided for David Gabbard Memorial Tree

Thank you to all of the KRWW members and others who gave donations in remembrance of David Gabbard. Donations totaling nearly $1,300 will enable the dedication of a memorial tree in David’s honor at the UK Arboretum. Along with these donations, several people included kind stories and words about David’s dedication and passion for protecting water quality in Kentucky.

He will be missed for his abundant energy and enthusiasm. The tree at the Arboretum, as well as all of the trees planted through Reforest the Bluegrass, will serve as a cherished living legacy for those who knew him.

Upcoming Events:

> November 14, 10 am - 2:30 pm
Kentucky River Water Trail Conference, Irvine (see p.2)

> November 16, 10 am - 2 pm
Kentucky River Basin Summit, Lexington (see p. 2)

> November 16, 3-6 pm
Kentucky Waterways Alliance Annual Meeting, Lexington (see p. 4)

> January 18th—
KRWW Annual Conference, Midway

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Kentucky River Basin Summit planned for November 16th

A Kentucky River Basin Summit is being planned to assist anyone interested in beginning or continuing their water quality protection and improvement efforts. The Summit will serve as an information and networking opportunity. Organizers also hope to facilitate helpful partnerships for stakeholders at various stages of watershed planning or implementation. Technical experts, as well as representatives of local organizations and relevant government agencies, will be on hand to provide guidance and answer questions.

In order to help create the most helpful Summit agenda, responses to an online survey are being requested from potential participants. The survey can be found at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N7D99PZ. Survey responses are requested by Friday, October 11th.

To register for the Summit, please contact Christie Oliver at Christie.oliver@uky.edu or 859-257-8637. There is no registration fee, and lunch will be provided. Register deadline is Wednesday, November 6th.

UPDATE: Watershed Watch Database

KRWW organizers, along with those from the statewide Watershed Watch in Kentucky organization, have been working diligently with the Kentucky Division of Water to construct a new and improved storage site for volunteer-collected water quality data. This new database will allow for consistent data entry by all data managers from each of the eight basin-specific Watershed Watch organizations. The sampling results will then be displayed at a shared website in a common format. Newly developed data interpretation functions will help volunteers understand and use their sampling results to educate others in their respective communities and effect change, if needed.

Once field and laboratory sampling results are entered after a sampling event, volunteers will be notified via e-mail that they are available for online viewing. Look for an e-mail as soon as this new database is available for public viewing—hopefully by January 2014!

Kentucky River Water Trail Alliance Conference - November 14

Efforts to create a Kentucky River Water Trail continue from Pool 1 in Carroll County to Pool 14 in Beattyville. The National Park Service has been providing technical assistance for river assessments and trail enhancements, and a host of partners has been collaborating to translate the plans to reality along the river—from new boat ramps, to detailed trail user maps, to boat portage routes.

Once again, trail proponents will gather for a networking conference. The conference will be held on Thursday, November 14th at Rice Station Church in Irvine.

Attendees will hear reports on the progress of the Kentucky River Water Trail, a related website and field guide, and planned River Events. The event will also feature a Ribbon Cutting for Pools 11-12 and a tour of Lock 12. Participation in the Conference will support efforts up and down the river and keep the momentum going.

To pre-register for the conference please contact Francine Bonny: thb@irvineonline.net. Conference fee of $15.00 can be paid at registration; fee includes morning coffee and cakes, lunch and materials.
KRA Watershed Grant awards in 2013 were given for the following projects:

**Trout Unlimited** - Classroom instruction related to water quality and trout habitat, continuous monitoring of aquarium conditions, field trip to release trout hatchlings in natural stream.

**Headwaters, Inc.** - Cost-match for watershed coordinator position through federal Americorps/VISTA program

**Kentucky Waterways Alliance** - Community outreach day, with stream cleanup, intro to water testing, and kid’s art contest

**The Nature Conservancy** - Canoes and children’s life vests for river cleanups and educational activities

**King Middle School** - Purchase of water quality monitoring kits for student sampling effort at 4 separate sites on Kentucky River

**Pathfinders** - Cost-match for watershed coordinator position through federal Americorps/VISTA program

**Kentucky Riverkeeper** - Funding support for trail reconnaissance and mapping, printing of brochures, website development, celebration event

For the 12th straight year, the Kentucky River Authority is offering watershed grants of up to $3,000 for projects within the Kentucky River Basin. Projects can include:
- Educational projects
- Cleanup projects
- Stream restoration
- Water sampling
- Pollution source identification
- Local advocacy
- Startup costs for nonprofit group formation

Applications can be submitted by any nonprofit organization, including schools, local governments and watershed organizations. The 2-page application form is available online at www.krww.org, under Using Your Results or by contacting Malissa McAlister at mmcalister@uky.edu. Applications are due by December 15, 2013.

Students from St. Johns Elementary School in Georgetown enjoy a field day at their newly restored wetland area. A 2012 KRA Watershed Grant provided partial funding for the wetland restoration project.

Boaters of all varieties can enjoy a trip along the Kentucky River between Pools 3 and 4 in Frankfort. The Kentucky River Authority has repaired the locks along this section of the river to allow this recreational opportunity on weekends through October 27th. Hours are Fridays, Saturday and Sundays between 10 am and 7:30 pm.

Repair work on Locks 1 and 2 is currently out for bid, and the KRA hopes to open these locks as well by mid to late summer 2014.

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2014 Kentucky River Authority Watershed Grants Available

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The Advancing Green Infrastructure in Lexington Conference, held in Lexington on October 10th, attracted about 70 people interested in learning more about the potential for increasing the use of more natural, green infrastructure as a way of handling and treating urban stormwater.

The Conference was opened by a welcome from Hank Graddy, conference organizer, and Joe Norman, the director of the host facility, Locust Trace Agriscience Farm, a net-zero energy facility that provides agricultural education for Fayette County high school students. Lexington Mayor Jim Gray then kicked off the discussion about Green Infrastructure by describing Lexington’s efforts to better handle stormwater quantity and quality through a variety of low impact approaches, including permeable pavement, grass swales, rain gardens and rain barrels, and tree trenches or planter boxes. (More info about these practices on LFUCG website.)

“Green Infrastructure is working with nature and not against it” - Scott Southhall, CDP Engineers

Morning sessions provided an overview of county and state Green Infrastructure projects Susan Pleuger, of LFUCG’s Division of Water Quality, discussed Lexington’s history of stormwater management and its recent adaptation to using greener approaches following the Consent Decree settlement with the USEPA. The city’s Water Quality Projects Incentive Grants have been very successful in encouraging innovative, effective approaches throughout the community. Afternoon discussions encouraged participant input on ways to increase use of green infrastructure throughout the central Kentucky region. The USEPA’s Water Quality Scorecard, the Natural Resources Defense Council’s “Emerald Cities” concept, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology’s Green Infrastructure Portfolio Standard were all suggested as ways to entice communities to implement these lower impact strategies.

Kentucky River Watershed Watch is part of a statewide organization, Watershed Watch in Kentucky, which is a citizens monitoring effort to improve and protect water quality by raising community awareness and supporting implementation of the goals of the Clean Water Act. The organization hopes to encourage people to venture out into the Kentucky River Basin to see, first-hand, the condition of their local streams and rivers.

Kentucky River Watershed Watch is a membership organization. To help pay for equipment, mailing of sampling packages, volunteer communications, and the annual conference, we rely on our corporate sponsors and the support of our members.

Learn more about KRWW at www.krww.org or visit KRWW on Facebook!