

Jackson Purchase RC&D Foundation, Inc.

August 2017



Summer 2017 News

5th Annual Summer Conservation Series held in Paducah

Only have a small space to grow your veggies? Having trouble with erosion in your yard? These questions and more were answered this summer during our annual Summer Conservation Series. JPF partnered with McCracken County Cooperative Extension, McCracken County Conservation District and the City of Paducah to hold the annual summer conservation series in Paducah this summer. The JPF annual conservation series, dubbed "The Summer Series", is held each year in a different city within the Jackson Purchase region. JPF works with conservation partners to host events that will educate the public on issues such as conservation, gardening, erosion, native plants and soils, and more. The 2017 Summer Conservation series, held in Paducah at the McCracken County Cooperative Extension office, consisted of three workshops. In June, the "Be Green—Lawn Care Management workshop allowed participants to learn about earth friendly ways to

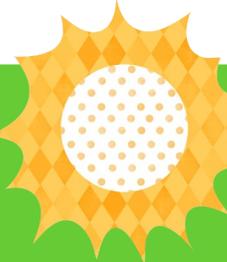
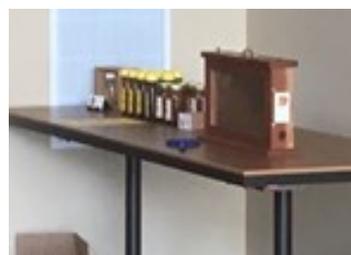


manage their yards including erosion control practices, soil testing, proper fertilization, pond and water management, and yard waste. A small space gardening workshop, the second in the series, was held in July and included learning about alternative gardening methods for small spaces. Pallet & straw bale gardening alternatives were presented, along with a container gardening station. Rain barrels were highlighted and discussed as well. The third workshop in the series, the Pollinator Workshop, was held in August.



Attendees learned about bee keeping, pollinators, and the importance of native plants for pollination. Local honey was

available from the Bee Barn in Paducah and native plants from Ironweed Native Plant Nursery.



Upcoming Events

- 9/29/2017-9/30/2017
ORSANCO
Aquarium at
Paducah's BBQ on
the River festival
- 9/29/2017
JPF Fall Board
Meeting
10:30 am
- 10/21/2017
Annual Clarks
River Family Float
9:00 am
- 11/2/2017
Four Rivers
Watershed Watch
Annual
Conference

Have an idea for a project in your area? Let us know! We'll be happy to work with you!

ORSANCO Aquarium Coming to Paducah



Get those taste buds ready! BBQ on the River is coming soon! The festival just wouldn't be the same without the giant ORSANCO Aquarium, brought to Paducah by the JPF and our many wonderful donors! We can't wait to see you all as we educate our community about "Life Under the Water Line", clean water, and much more! Visit our booth next to the aquarium for information and giveaways! Donor names will be added to a sign posted on the aquarium itself and at the JPF booth. We appreciate all our donors!



WAVE River Counties Ag Day



"Let's Grow With It" was the theme of the 1st annual WAVE River Counties Ag Day held in Wickliffe, KY on July 13th, 2017. The event was an effort of four western river counties to celebrate agriculture, ag business, and the hidden beauty of the area. Activities included a breakfast at Fort Jefferson Memorial Cross complete with speeches by local officials, awards for farmers and agricultural organizations, and a visit from the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture which included a moving speech and a ribbon cutting event. The day continued with a festival for families with music, bounce houses, and booths from local agriculture related organizations and companies. The JPF was honored to have three representatives attend and to have a booth sharing educational information to the community. We look forward to next years event!



Clean Water for Kentucky

Four Rivers Watershed Watch

Rivers, lakes, creeks, and ponds abound in Western Kentucky. Water is a way of life here. Whether being used for hauling freight, for providing fish to be eaten, providing drinking water, or for pleasure boating and swimming, we want and expect our waterways to be clean and safe. Four Rivers Watershed Watch is a group with that vision in mind. JPF serves as fiscal agent and JPF employee Maggie Morgan serves as the Watershed Watch coordinator for our region.

Watershed Watch is a group of volunteers that conduct stream quality surveys on streams, rivers, and lakes in the Four Rivers Region of Kentucky. They encourage all individuals to know about their waterways, since the condition of our streams and rivers is an indicator of the health of our water and communities. Through the groups efforts, citizens are provided with the training necessary to scientifically explore and provide a snapshot of their own stream quality. Four Rivers Watershed Watch volunteers collect samples three times per year, May, July, & September. The data collected by volunteers is used to help develop plans to enhance the streams for fishing, swimming, wildlife habitat and drinking water supply.

Four Rivers Watershed Watch held a training session for new and returning volunteers in July, and volunteers sampled 52 sites in May. Sites were sampled again in July, and will be sampled in September.

In addition, Four Rivers Watershed Watch has started a new program, the Lakes Monitoring Program, allowing volunteers to collect data that is used by the Kentucky Division of Water to monitor for harmful algal blooms. One training session was held in August.

If you are interested in becoming a Watershed Watch Volunteer, please contact Maggie Morgan at maggie.morgan@jpf.org.



Wildlife, Heritage & Outdoor Festival (WHO Festival)

On October 20 and 21, the Friends of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge will host the first annual WHO Festival at Mike Miller Park in Benton, Kentucky, bringing local communities together to celebrate and promote the outdoor legacy unique to our area. JPF is proud to be a partner in this festival, hosting our annual Clarks River Family Float in conjunction with this festival and helping with the planning of the festival. Make plans to come see us and support the Friends of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge!



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