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## NEWS RELEASE

# Volunteers Needed Aug. 29 for Secchi Day Lake Monitoring; Or Build Your Own Rain Barrel, Registration Limited!

For immediate release: July 15, 2009

The fourth annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at the East and West Shelters near the boat ramp at Prairie Creek on Beaver Lake. (The location at the park has changed this year to make it easier for participants to drive up in boats and enjoy the water.)

Teams in boats will become citizen scientists as they depart at 8:30 a.m. from four launch sites to collect water samples and record Secchi depths (clarity measurements) at about 30 sites throughout the lake. To volunteer, send an e-mail to Amy Wilson, Beaver Water District's Director of Public Affairs, at [awilson@bwdh2o.org](mailto:awilson@bwdh2o.org) or call 717-3807. Educational activities will include pontoon boat tours of lake habitat and birds, demonstrations using Secchi tubes and Secchi disks, and a children's tent with activities for all ages.

"In addition to relocating activities to the shelters by the boat dock, we also are offering two workshops where individuals can make rain barrels and take them home that day," said Amy Wilson, Director of Public Affairs for Beaver Water District. "In the past, we've conducted rain barrel building demonstrations, but we found that people want to build their own barrels and take them home."

Space is limited and pre-registration and payment of \$37 is required in advance. Workshops will be held at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Call (479) 271-1060.

"As usual, we will serve lunch to the first 250 attendees beginning at 11:30 a.m. We'll have burgers and chips. We hope folks who've come in the past will join us again this year. We also invite newcomers to come see what it's all about. Bring the children. We'll have fun activities for all ages," she said.

Northwest Arkansas citizens rely on Beaver Lake for drinking water, so it is important to educate the community about this resource and how to maintain good water quality and plentiful water quantity for years to come. Secchi Day on Beaver Lake is a great activity for youth clubs and groups such as scouts and explorers, science clubs from local schools, home schoolers, civic and business organizations, chamber members and anyone who wants to take part in keeping our water quality good for generations to come.

Audubon Arkansas, Beaver Water District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Beaver Lake, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service are co-sponsors of Secchi Day on Beaver Lake. Beaver Water District's mission is to serve our customers in the Benton and Washington County area by providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all federal and state regulatory requirements in such quantities as meets their demands and is economically priced consistent with our quality standards. For more information, visit [www.bwdh2o.org](http://www.bwdh2o.org).