



Beaver Lake: Help Keep It Clean!

More than 500 years have passed, but time does not change the wisdom of what Leonardo da Vinci famously wrote: “Water is the driving force of all nature.”

In Northwest Arkansas, the primary body of water that is the driving force for our region is Beaver Lake. To recognize the lake’s importance and bring it to the attention of all who venture there and travel nearby, the Beaver Watershed

Alliance has implemented a signage program.

The first sign was placed on July 16th at the Prairie Creek boat launch ramp, a priority site for signage because it is the most frequented boat launch ramp around Beaver Lake. The ramp is located at Prairie Creek Recreation Area about 4 miles east of Rogers off of Highway 12.

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Mick Maggi, a Beaver Watershed Alliance Board member, posed with the first sign installed at the boat ramp at Prairie Creek Recreation Area on July 16th. (Photo courtesy of Flip Putthoff and Northwest Arkansas Newspapers.)

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"Many people are now more exposed to the concept of where their drinking water comes from and that they can have an impact on its quality," said John Pennington, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Several government agencies, such as the Beaver Lake office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, as well as local communities and businesses have made these placements possible."

The Source Water Awareness Signage project was initiated by the Alliance's Awareness and Education Committee and spearheaded by board member Mick Maggi. The committee's

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Beaver Watershed Alliance Board of Directors

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- Vice President, Robert Morgan, Beaver Water District
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- Lonnie Horn, Washington County Farm Bureau and Landowner
- Jay Schneider, Hobbs State Park and Conservation Area
- Will Winn, City of Fayetteville
- Frank Weaver, Madison County Judge

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goal is to encourage patrons of Beaver Lake and its tributaries to prevent pollution into the lake and the streams that provide recreational opportunities, such as swimming and fishing, and serve as a drinking water source for 1 in 7 Arkansans.

"Many people don't believe that they can play an active role in maintaining the water quality of the lake and its watershed," said Maggi. "But that's just not true. Our hope is that their mindset will change when they come across these signs encouraging them to 'Help Keep it Clean!'"

More than 36 signs have been placed, with the first round of signs installed around the lake at boat launch ramps and marinas. The first sign was placed on July 16th at the Prairie Creek boat launch ramp, a priority site for signage because it is the most frequented boat launch ramp around Beaver Lake. Signs also have been placed in a few of the subwatersheds and access points to tributaries of the lake, as far south as Winslow, to emphasize the fact that our drinking water source here in Northwest Arkansas is downstream of area rivers such as the White River and War Eagle Creek.

"What happens in the tributaries also affects the lake, and we want people to know that, even as individuals, they can make a difference in the quality of our region's water. I am very proud of the Alliance Board and committee members that have dreamed up and helped champion this program," Pennington said.

The Source Water Awareness Signage project is part of the Beaver Watershed Alliance's implementation of the Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy, which recommends public education and encouraging community members to adopt Best Management Practices for protecting water quality.

The Beaver Watershed Alliance was formed in 2010 to establish programming to maintain high quality drinking water in Beaver Lake and improve water quality on the Beaver Lake Watershed. The Alliance represents a diverse stakeholder group from conservation, education, water utilities, technical and science, business, agriculture, recreation, and local government groups working together for the cause of clean water. Visit www.beaverwatershedalliance.org.

Mission

To serve our customers' needs by providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements and is economically priced consistent with our quality standards.

Beaver Water District Protects Air Quality: More than \$300,000 Invested In Emission Controls



Beaver Water District installed emission control devices on three, 2-MW diesel-powered generators.

Beaver Water District recently invested \$310,500 to meet Clean Air Act requirements, specifically CAA Section 112, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, also known as NESHAP. This investment helps the District meet regulatory requirements while also limiting air pollution.

These Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations required Emission Control Devices for Beaver Water District's Generators. Specifically, emission control devices are required on the District's three, 2-megawatt (MW) generators by EPA regulation Quad Z. The Emission control devices were installed by May 3, 2013, meeting the EPA deadline. Then, post installation air performance testing was completed within 180 days of installation. In addition to limiting the concentration of car-

bon monoxide in the exhaust and keeping the air clean, the post-installation testing showed no noticeable reduction in generator performance due to the emission control devices. These generators not only provide diesel-powered electricity during times of emergency, they also allow the District to save money during peak electrical power use in the summer months. The generators use ultra, low-sulfur diesel fuel.

• The total price of the purchase and installation of the emission control devices is as follows:

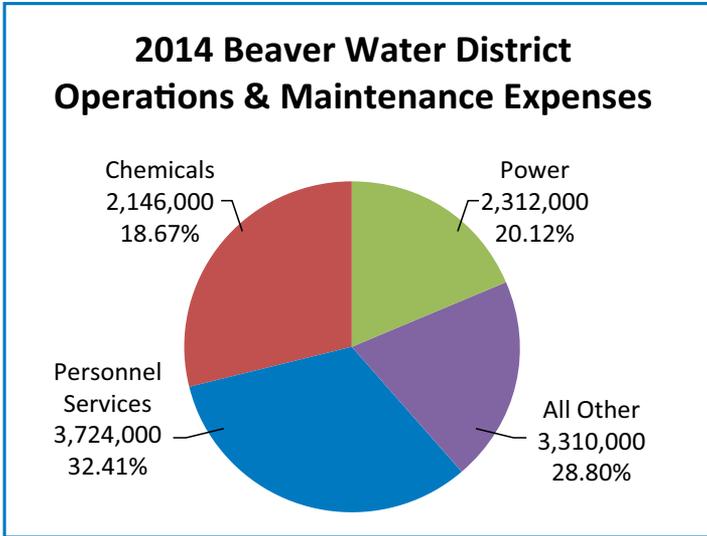
• Equipment cost	\$171,500
• Pre-installation air testing	\$ 7,900
• Installation cost	\$92,000
• Post Installation air testing	\$8,600
• Engineering Fees	\$30,500
• Total cost	\$310,500

HOW TO REACH US

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Board Approves 2014 Budget



Beaver Water District's Board of Directors met Aug. 15 and approved a fiscal year 2014 budget which includes an operations and maintenance budget of \$11,492,000. The overall increase to the Operations & Maintenance Fund is slightly less than 7% and is due almost entirely to increases in chemicals, power, and personnel.

"We feel very positive about this budget and wish to thank our staff for their continued diligence in maintaining the overall costs of our product," said Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., CEO.

Fortenberry added that chemical costs increased significantly as a result of the District switching to an alternative pre-disinfectant (chlorine dioxide) to meet revised federal requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The budget for power increased as the result of a rate increase from the District's power provider, Carroll Electric Cooperative. One new position added to the staff for next year is the Education Coordinator that the Board approved at its July meeting. This staff person will be in the Public Affairs

Department and will assist the Public Affairs Director with matters related to public outreach, education, events, design and publications, as well as media and other communication tools such as the website and social media.

Woody Bassett of Fayetteville (Washington County) moved to accept the budget as presented. Cathy Foraker of Fayetteville (Washington County) seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

"We are anticipating a shortfall in revenue this year due to the impact of weather on our water demands," Fortenberry said. "This results in our reserve funds not being funded to the budgeted level."

Fortenberry noted that all departments evaluated budget areas very critically.

"Our goal has always been to manage ratepayers' money wisely while providing high quality, economical water at the best price we can. We will continue to look for ways to work smarter and reduce expenses."

Estes Takes 1st Place in Beaver Lake Photo Contest



Melissa Estes, 14, of Cave Springs, Ark., took 1st Place in the 4H Division of the 2013 Beaver Lake Photo Contest. The contest was held for the fourth year in conjunction with the 8th Annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake and the Benton County Fair. Melissa is the daughter of Michael and Dana Estes. She has been competing in the contest for several years. Previously, she took 2nd place in the 2011 competition and 1st place in the 2012 competition. Melissa received recognition and a cash prize, and her photo was displayed at Prairie Creek

Recreation Area on Aug. 17th during Secchi Day. Her photo is featured on the Beaver Water District's Facebook page.

Audubon Arkansas, Beaver Water District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Beaver Lake, the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Hobbs State Park, Arkansas Master Naturalists, the Association for Beaver Lake Environment, Beaver Watershed Alliance, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, and Ozarks Water Watch are co-sponsors of Secchi Day on Beaver Lake.



Back in the spring, thousands of fans showed up for the Razorback Baseball Game held on May 11th during Drinking Water Week. Beaver Water District was a sponsor and provided reusable, co-branded water bottles to the first 1,000 fans.

Carson Crosswhite (2nd from left) threw the first pitch. He's pictured here with brother Cole and parents Mindi and Danny Dearing. Mindi is Manager of the Laboratory at Beaver Water District. Danny is an Engineering Technician at the District.

Rain Gardens in Northwest Arkansas-Update



The Rain Garden installed at Sonora Elementary School in Sonora this past July is blooming nicely in this photo.

Two years ago this past July, Northwest Arkansas made a commitment to install 60 rain gardens in the next three years throughout the region. Becky Roark, Rain Garden Specialist for the Northwest Arkansas Rain Garden Project, reports that since that time, hundreds of volunteers have been digging in all over the area to reach the goal and make a difference in the quality of water in our region. A rain garden is a landscaped depression that is 4" to 8" deep. It captures stormwater runoff, cleans and filters pollutants, and provides habitat for wildlife.

The project got started on July 1, 2011, when the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded two grants totaling \$350,000 to build rain gardens to improve water quality. Beaver Water District was awarded \$139,000 and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) received \$211,000 to build gardens in the West Fork-White River/

Beaver Lake-White River Watershed and the Illinois River Watershed. By the end of this year, 48 gardens will be in the ground.

These rain gardens, constructed at schools, churches and public institutions help to educate the public about the numerous benefits of this alternative stormwater management approach. In addition to building gardens, Fall and Spring Rain Garden Academies train individuals on how to install gardens and how to apply for grants that can provide financial assistance. The goal is to improve water quality in the region and to encourage homeowners and private business to consider landscaping using this technique. In addition to being low-maintenance and cost effective, the gardens are planted with species that are native and thrive in this part of the country. The plantings also aid in improving wildlife habitat and food sources for insects and birds and other creatures. For more information, visit www.bwdh2o.org or www.irwp.org.

Secchi Day on Beaver Lake

Thank You to Volunteers & Participants!



On Aug. 17th for the 8th year in a row, Beaver Water District teamed up with committed partners and volunteers to do a mass sampling of Beaver Lake and its tributaries, which included getting Secchi depth measurements and water samples from 35 sites. Additionally, a water science education festival was held on shore at Prairie Creek Recreation Area near Rogers, Ark., with more than 25 stations manned by trained volunteer educators, engineers, college students and others. All told, about 600 people participated this year, an increase of about 150 people over last year's numbers.

PARTNERS: Audubon Arkansas, Beaver Water District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Beaver Lake, the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Hobbs State Park, Arkansas Master Naturalists, the Association for Beaver Lake Environment, Ozarks Water Watch, Beaver Watershed Alliance, and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission.

SPONSORS: Harps, Hiland Dairy, Commercial Audio Systems, Cook's Natural Market, and Arkansas & Missouri Railroad.

MEDIA SPONSORS: Power 105.7, Hot Mix, KUAF, KNWA, KFSM, Univision Arkansas & NWA Media.

SPECIAL THANKS: Participants, volunteers who helped with event coordination and execution, citizen scientists with boats, volunteer educators & exhibitors including Arkansas Department of Health Benton County Unit, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Beaver Lake Foundation, Benton County Master Gardeners, Benton County Office of Environmental Services, Friends of Hobbs, Illinois River Watershed Partnership, New Design School, Northwest Arkansas Land Trust & Watershed Conservation Resource Center.

A full report on the results of this year's Secchi Day event is posted on the District's website. A report also will be published in an upcoming issue of this newsletter. For more information, visit www.bwdh2o.org.

Put Aug. 16, 2014, on your calendar now for the 9th Annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake! Join us next year!



Beaver Lake. You drink it every day!



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