



## Arkansans Join More Than 6 Million Reached by Imagine a Day Without Water Campaign

Can you imagine waking up tomorrow with no water to drink, make coffee, shower, flush the toilet, or do laundry? Without water, firefighters couldn't put out fires and farmers couldn't water their crops. On Sept. 15th, Beaver Water District (BWD) joined with others from around the world to "Imagine a Day Without Water." The purpose of this annual

event is to raise awareness and educate residents about the value of water.

"Most people can take for granted that when they turn on the tap, or flush the toilet, water systems function exactly as they are supposed to," said Radhika Fox, CEO of the US Water Alliance and Director of the Value of Water Coalition, which originated

*Continued on page 2*



*(From left) Duyen Tran of CH2M, Alecia Patton of Jacksonville Wastewater Utility, Larry Lloyd of Beaver Water District, Jane Hurley of Central Arkansas Water and Jeff Hickle of CH2M.*

*Arkansans Join More Than 6 Million* continued from page 1

the event. “But the systems that provide critical water and wastewater services are aging, and we need to take action before it gets worse. Because a day without water is nothing short of a crisis.”

With that in mind, Beaver Water District (BWD), other Arkansas organizations and the American Water Works Association urged people to get involved and be a part of this awareness-raising event.

“This was BWD’s second year to join in the national day of action by conducting a social media campaign,” said Amy Wilson, Director of Public Affairs for BWD. “We asked our staff and the public to snap selfies drinking water from the tap in a reusable cup, glass or bottle and post the photo to their social media accounts with the hashtag #ValueWater&#ValueWaterAR. It’s an easy way to have fun while also appreciating water.”

On the local level, the Arkansas element came in via the Arkansas Water Environment Association (AWEA), which asked Arkansans to add an additional Arkansas-specific hashtag, #ValueWaterAR, to social media posts to track Arkansas participation, said Jane Hurley of Central Arkansas Water, a member of AWEA.

Other events held in Arkansas included the Northwest District monthly meeting of the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association in Springdale on Sept. 14, where a proclamation was read to recognize the day. Additionally during that meeting, Hurley gave a presentation on “Imagine a Day Without Water.” Then on Sept. 15, the City of Fayetteville and CH2M held an Open House at their West Side Water Resource Recovery Facility. Meanwhile, Mayor Lioneld Jordan of Fayetteville read a proclamation to the public on the Fayetteville Square during the Farmers Market.



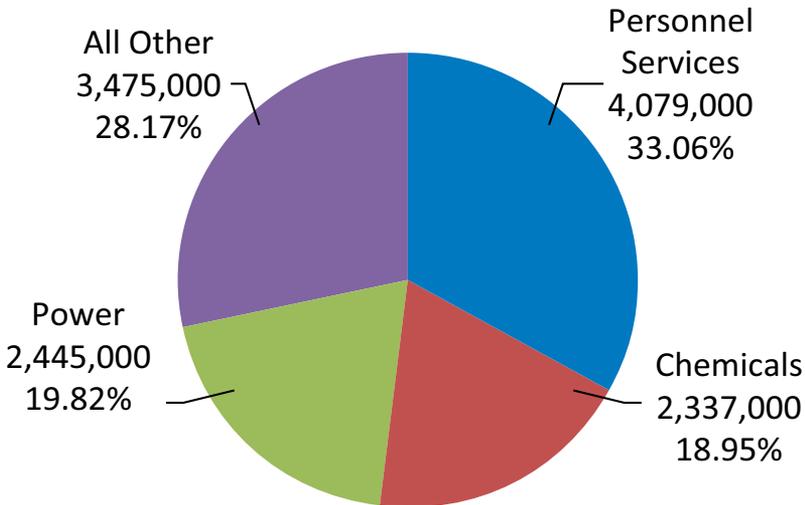
*Central Arkansas Water made coasters to promote the event.*

On Facebook, Beaver Water District metrics revealed more than 30 posts bearing #ValueWaterAR and #ValueWater from organizations as varied as the Ozark Literacy Council to the Benton County Health Unit, Springdale Water Utilities, and Specialized Real Estate Group, to name just a few. Additionally, Wilson participated in a radio interview with KUAF, while also generating television coverage with a news release picked up by several TV stations, including KNWA and 40/29 (KHOG). These radio and TV placements reached more than 90,000 listeners and viewers in Northwest Arkansas alone. BWD’s Facebook posts received more than 1,100 views.

Radhika Fox of the U.S. Water Alliance participated in interviews with 17 local television news programs and nine radio programs to discuss the condition and importance of water and wastewater infrastructure, and highlight the challenges faced by local communities. Collectively, these placements reached more than 6 million listeners and viewers across the country. (Source: [uswateralliance.org](http://uswateralliance.org)).

# Board Approves 2017 Budget

## 2017 Beaver Water District Operations & Maintenance Expenses



Beaver Water District's Board of Directors met Aug. 18 and approved a fiscal year 2017 budget of \$24.6 million. The total budget includes debt service, source water protection, reserve funding and operations and maintenance. The operations and maintenance budget portion is \$12.3 million (see illustration here). The overall increase to the Operations & Maintenance Fund is 3.64%.

David Short of Bentonville (Benton County) moved to accept the budget as presented. Woody Bassett of Fayetteville (Washington County) seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

"The overall increase to the O&M Fund is minimal, which speaks to the

concerted effort of BWD staff to hold anticipated costs down as much as possible," said Adam Motherwell, BWD's Chief Financial Officer. "Our biggest savings is that we have paid off the original Beaver Lake water storage contract. This saves us about \$51,000 a year."

Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., BWD's CEO, added that "the staff did a great job with their continued diligence in maintaining the overall costs of drinking water."

This year's budget is predicated on anticipated sales of about 18.8 billion gallons of water in the next fiscal year, at the updated wholesale rate of \$1.31 per thousand gallons.

# StreamSmart welcomes largest class of new volunteers!

By *Angela Danovi*

The StreamSmart Volunteer Program is a watershed-wide volunteer water quality monitoring program to assess baseline water quality of the streams and rivers that flow into Beaver Lake. The program guides local volunteers through a standardized process of quarterly water quality monitoring throughout sites in the watershed each February, May, August, and November. Volunteer teams are normally comprised of three to four people, but some teams have as many as 10 people on the team who are trained to collect water samples and take field measurements. The data is collected, compiled, and reported.

Over the past several weeks, I have been spending a lot of time talking and thinking about StreamSmart. I have been heavily focused on this program in preparation for our annual StreamSmart training. The StreamSmart training is a daylong introduction to the StreamSmart program and training for new volunteers who are interested in helping us monitor the water quality of the creeks, streams, and rivers of the Beaver Lake Watershed.

My planning efforts culminated on Saturday, July 16, when our largest class ever joined us at the Center for Nonprofits for our annual StreamSmart training! This year's class of 25 attendees was especially unique because at least half of the group was new to water quality monitoring. I was really pleased to see how eager some of our community members were to learn about protecting water quality.

I opened the training with an introduction to the concept of watersheds and the geography of the Beaver Lake Watershed. Erin Scott from the Arkansas Water Resources Center (AWRC) gave a brief presentation about how and why we collect water samples and the special partnership AWRC has with the StreamSmart Program.

Brad Austin, who also works for the University of Arkansas and the AWRC, taught the group about assessing habitat and collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates as part of the regular assessment of



stream health. I led the group through the basics of measuring stream discharge and my colleague, Gopala Borchelt, finished up the morning by talking about how we use a process of repeat photography to document site conditions over time.

Our volunteers enjoyed a catered lunch and then we headed out to Prairie Creek below Lake Atalanta Dam to put into practice the skills we learned during the morning sessions. The volunteers enjoyed a couple of hours out in Prairie Creek on Saturday afternoon kicking for macroinvertebrates, measuring stream discharge, assessing the stream habitat, and learning to take water samples in preparation for becoming full-fledged StreamSmart volunteers!

By the end of the day, teams of volunteers had adopted three new sites and several other volunteers joined existing teams who needed additional support for future monitoring. Overall it was a really successful training and a fun day for new volunteers to learn about water quality monitoring and join our growing StreamSmart team!

If you missed the training but are interested in joining StreamSmart, contact Angela Danovi at [adanovi@ozarkswaterwatch.org](mailto:adanovi@ozarkswaterwatch.org) or call 479-295-7717. Also, you may visit <http://www.beaverlakesmart.org> for more information.

*Reprinted with permission from July 25, 2016, Ozarks Water Watch/Beaver LakeSmart newsletter. Angela Danovi is the program director for Beaver LakeSmart and a regional projects director for Ozarks Water Watch. As the LakeSmart program director, Angela manages the StreamSmart volunteer monitoring across the Beaver Lake Watershed and the Beaver Lake Volunteer Program, monitoring the water of Beaver Lake. Danovi has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Soil Science and a Master of Science in Geography with an emphasis on water. She recently appeared on the Tavis Smiley show on September 9, 2016, on PBS/AETN.*

# Beaver Water District Recognized as Watershed Guardian



*On July 28, 2016, Beaver Water District (BWD) of Lowell, AR, was recognized as a Beaver Lake Watershed Guardian for achievements relating to voluntary protection of Beaver Lake, Northwest Arkansas' source of drinking water. The Watershed Guardian Award program is a stewardship recognition effort carried out by the Beaver Watershed Alliance to recognize individuals, businesses, organizations, and agencies in the Beaver Lake Watershed community who have demonstrated, supported, or achieved water quality protection efforts within the watershed. Cathy Foraker (right), BWD Board Member, and Dr. Bob Morgan, Manager of Environmental Quality, accepted the award on behalf of BWD.*

# ADEQ Staff Tours Beaver Water District



*On Aug. 3, 2016, staff from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) visited Beaver Water District (BWD) in Lowell, Ark., for a tour of the drinking water treatment facilities, as well as meetings. Featured in the photo are (from left) Bill HagenBurger, BWD Plant Engineer; Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., BWD CEO; Larry Lloyd P.E., BWD COO; Dr. Bob Morgan, BWD Manager of Environmental Quality; Becky Keogh, ADEQ Director; Julie Chapman, ADEQ Office of Law and Policy, Senior Associate Director; Colene Gaston, BWD Staff Attorney; and Caleb Osborne, ADEQ Office of Water Quality, Associate Director.*

# 11th Annual Secchi Day 2016 Attendance Grows by 8%

About 600 people attended the 11th annual Secchi Day this year. That's an approximate 8% increase of participation over the 2015 event, which is not bad, considering the stormy weather that was on its way into the area that day. The sky broke open with pounding rain at Prairie Creek on Beaver Lake in Northwest Arkansas (Rogers) at about 12:45 p.m., just as staff and volunteers were taking down exhibits and loading up. Fortunately by that time, all boats and volunteers had checked in.

Beaver Water District originated the first Secchi Day event in 2006. Each year on approximately the same Saturday in August, citizen scientists take clarity readings with a Secchi Disk measuring device and collect water samples for testing from 35 sites on Beaver Lake and its tributaries. Additionally, several hundred people and volunteers enjoy a host of hands-on educational and fun activities lakeside at Prairie Creek.

The water samples are tested for various parameters annually and Secchi depth readings are recorded and shared with a national database that is maintained by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS).

One person who's been on board with the event for many years is Dan

Skoff, Chief Meteorologist with KNWA.

"We presented Dan with a plaque to recognize the eight years he has served as volunteer emcee with Secchi Day. We also gave him a thank you card signed by lots of folks and a commemorative photo," said Alan D. Fortenberry P.E. CEO of BWD. Skoff (center) posed for a photo with Fortenberry to his left, and Dr. Robert Morgan, BWD's Manager of Environmental Quality. Skoff attended the University of Oklahoma and achieved his Bachelor of Science in Meteorology. He joined KNWA as the chief meteorologist in June 2006. He is a member of both the National Weather Association and the American Meteorological Society. He also holds the prestigious AMS television Seal of Approval.

Secchi Day on Beaver Lake Partners include BWD, 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, Ozarks Water Watch, One Community, NALMS, and Girl Scouts Diamonds.

Harps Foods, Hiland Dairy, Cook's Natural Market, and Golden Corral/Pleasant Grove Road made snacks, lunch and ice cream possible. Cabela's donated the Grand Prize Kayak; Outdoor Cap donated Secchi Day commemorative caps and visors for everyone in attendance this year. Arkansas State Parks-Hobbs State Park donated a door prize (a stay at a state park) and the Arkansas-Missouri Railroad donated train tickets to the drawing. KNWA is the television media sponsor. Other businesses

*Continued on page 6*



*Partners Work Together* continued from page 5

and organizations contributing resources and in-kind donations for the event included Hog Radio, La Zeta Radio, KUAF 91.3, KFSM, B-Scene Media, Univision Arkansas, Commercial Audio Systems, and the Rogers Optimist Club.

Beaver Lake is the water supply for one in seven Arkansans. Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to more

than 300,000 people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. The District's mission is 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. For information, [visit bwdh2o.org](http://visit.bwdh2o.org).



# Estes Takes 1st Place in Beaver Lake Photo Contest For Fifth Year in a Row!



Smith, 17, of Pea Ridge, son of Kathleen Jones, took 2nd place. Haleigh Jernigan, 10, of Bella Vista, daughter of Shannon and Alisha Jernigan, took 3rd place. The contest was held for the seventh year in conjunction with the 11th Annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake and the Benton County Fair. Estes has been competing in the contest for several years. Previously, she took 2nd place in the 2011

Melissa Estes, 17, of Cave Springs, Ark., took 1st place for the fifth year in a row in the 4H Division of the 2016 Beaver Lake Photo Contest. Estes is the daughter of Dana and Michael Estes. Justin Holmes-

competition and 1st place in the 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 competitions. She received recognition and a cash prize, and her photo was displayed at Prairie Creek Recreation Area on Aug. 20th during Secchi Day.



# Cydney Lipinski of Fayetteville draws ticket for Cabela's Kayak Grand Prize

Meteorologist Dan Skoff (left) poses with Damon Lipinski of Fayetteville and children Cydney, 6 (who held the winning ticket and is sitting in the kayak), Bialy, 5, and Casimir, 9. The grand prize kayak was donated by Cabela's to the 11th Annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake, held on Aug. 20th.