



January 2007

THE LICKING LEDGER

Serving the Entire Licking River Region

LRWW Protection Conference: Energize for the Coming Year

By Amanda Moore

The Licking River Watershed Watch Annual Protection Conference will be held on **Saturday, February 24th**, 2007 from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park.

For those that would like to stay Friday and/or Saturday night, hotel

rooms have been reserved at the Lodge for the conference rate of \$59.95. Friday evening, a hospitality suite with drinks and food will be available so that we can all socialize and celebrate both the successes of the past and the what lies ahead in the New Year.

The Annual Protection Conference enables us to come together and

learn what our voluntary efforts have accomplished, learn what new and continuing challenges face us, plan for the future and have some fun together. I very much hope that you will join us at the Conference. Your presence will make a huge difference to our future.

Pictures From Past Protection Conferences



Protection Conference Schedule of Events

Friday, February 23

5:00 P.M. until ??? Celebrate with Good Food, Drink & Company

Saturday, February 24

9:00 Welcome and Introductions

9:30 Science Advisors Review of Monitoring Data

11:00 Break

11:15 What's Shakin' in the Basin

12:00 Election of Officers

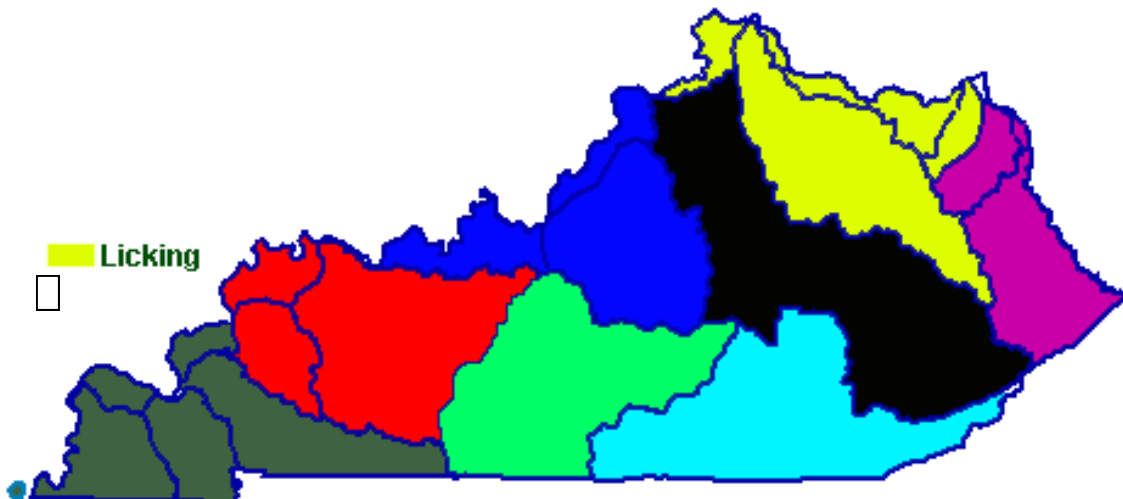
12:15 Lunch

1:30 Growth Readiness: Involving Local Government in Progressive Growth Planning

2:45 Break

3:00 Future Directions for LRWW

4:00 Adjourn



Why and how is the health of the watershed determined?

By Lajuanda Haight-Maybriar

Healthy watersheds produce clean water – water that is fishable, swimmable and drinkable. Watersheds that meet these goals of the nation’s Clean Water Act support a wide variety of aquatic life and are a valuable resource. To support these goals, the Clean Water Act requires states to set water quality standards to protect and manage their streams, lakes, and rivers. In Kentucky, the standards include benchmarks for various water quality measurements like dissolved oxygen, temperature, acidity, and other measurable qualities and are part of our state regulations.

Watershed health can be determined by more than good water chemistry. In addition to chemical analyses, watershed health can be measured by different types of biological analyses. These include bacteria, aquatic insects, mussels or freshwater clams, fish, and algae. Certain species are used as *indicators* of good or bad water quality. Also, habitat is important to watershed and stream health. Vegetation in the

riparian, or stream bank, area - especially shrubs and trees - provides food and cover for terrestrial and aquatic life.

As part of the development of the water quality standards, states must designate uses for each body of water in their state. In Kentucky, the possible designated uses of streams, rivers, and lakes are drinking water for humans, primary and secondary contact recreation for humans, fish consumption by humans, and aquatic habitat for plants and animals that live in water.

The Clean Water Act, Section 305 (b), also requires states to submit a report to Congress every two years on the quality of the waters in the state that have been assessed. This report combines water quality information from state and federal agencies, watershed groups, and citizen volunteers and tells which streams, rivers, and lakes are or are not supporting their designated uses. These waters are rated as *good* if they *fully support* their use(s), *fair* if they *partially support* their use(s), and *poor* if they are *not supporting* their use(s).

Another report that is required by the Clean Water Act is described in Section 303(d). This report is a list of the impaired (poor, or not supporting, and fair, or partially sup-



porting) streams from the Section 305(b) list of assessed streams that will require a cleanup plan that identifies the types and amounts of pollutants in the water and how they will be reduced. These plans are called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and they determine the amount of pollutants a waterbody can receive and still meet its designated use(s).

These two reports, the 305(b) and the 303(d), have been sent to Congress through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as two separate reports in the past. As of 2006, EPA has directed all states to submit these two reports combined into one report called the Integrated Report. The information will be the same, but it will be packaged differently. This report is available on the Kentucky Division of Water’s website @ www.water.ky.gov, in two volumes. Volume II is available for review and comment through February 20, 2007.



Soil & Water Conservation Districts Assist Monitor Licking River

By Ken Cooke

Licking River Watershed Watch is fortunate to have the support of a number of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the watershed.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are local government entities with an elected board of supervisors who serve without pay. They deal with soil erosion control, water quality, wildlife habitat and forestry issues. These districts have been hard at work on natural resource issues since the 1930's. There is one in every county in the basin.

Licking River Watershed Watch is fortunate to have direct volunteer and financial support from Fleming, Clark, Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Grant, Lewis and Harrison County Conservation Districts and has worked with others in the basin in the past.

Boone County Conservation Dis-



trict provides financial support for 12 monitoring stations in their county. In addition, members of their Board of Supervisors are trained to conduct the sampling at these sites.

Conservation District Staff also helps with coordinating training and sampling logistics. Emily Anderson of Fleming County collects and delivers samples to Morehead State University Labs for all of Fleming County. Mary Kate Dickerson of the Northern KY Conservation Districts assists with training new volunteers in Northern KY.

Melissa Clark of Clark County Conservation District inherited sampling stations from Don Henry in two basins. (Both Licking and Kentucky) Don expanded the reach of the project by taking high school FFA students with him during a number of sampling events.

John Rankin of Grant County Conservation District may be one of our longest term volunteers. We have data from Grant County Watersheds going back to the early 1990's from John. (He was sampling streams on a regular basis before Licking River Watershed Watch was established!)

Monitoring data from Watershed Watch can be used by the districts



to help land owners apply for watershed enhancement funds from federal programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Reserve Programs. Work with Watershed Watch can also help fulfill their Plan of Work components related to watershed education and community involvement. LRWW is fortunate to have the involvement and support from the good folks working and volunteering for these districts.

LRWW Volunteers listed as affiliated with a conservation district:

- **Emily Crain Anderson**, Fleming Co. Conservation District
- **Melissa Clark**, Clark Co. Conservation District
- **Mary Kate Dickerson**, N. Ky Conservation Districts
- **Debra Franks**, Boone County Conservation District
- **Donald S. Henry**, Clark Co Jr

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Soil & Water Conservation Districts Assist Monitor Licking River

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Conservation District

- **Mark Jacobs**, Boone & Kenton Conservation Districts
- **Billy Rehkamp**, Boone Co. Conservation Dist.
- **John Rankin**, Grant County Conservation District

- **Kristin Scott**, Boone, Kenton, Campbell Cons. Dist

- **Larry Varney**, Campbell Co Conservation District

- **James Walton**, Boone County Conservation District



- **Larry D. Whitaker**, Lewis County Conservation District

Tentative 2007 Sampling Dates Set

Tentative dates for watershed wide sampling have been set and they are:

- **May 12, 2007**
- **July 7, 2007**
- **September 8, 2007**

Our traditional sampling dates are the first weekend in May after the

Kentucky Derby, the first weekend in July following the 4th of July and the first weekend in September following the Labor Day holiday.

Please mark you calendars for these important dates in the LRWW calendar. We thank you for your continuing support and we look forward to a productive



year of water sampling.

On the light side



We recently noticed this billboard...



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Mark Your Calendars

The LRWW Annual Protection Conference

Saturday, February 24, 2007

Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park