

KINGS RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

STREAM LINE

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KRWP ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

The January Annual Meeting of the Kings River Watershed Partnership attracted over 55 people with a broad range of interests and backgrounds. Election of Board members was quick as Walter Karnes, Ray Warren, and James Sanders ran unopposed, each gladly accepting another three year term. James Sanders remains KRWP Board Chair, in compliance with the wishes of the other Board members. Sam Davis reported on the ongoing chemical tests that he and other volunteers have completed at 19 sites on the Kings River and its tributaries. For a summary of these water quality results, check out Page 2.

The highlight of the evening was Andrea Radwell's compelling presentation on the importance of biological assessment of our rivers and streams. Radwell has worked in assessing many streams of the White River Basin, including the Kings and the West Fork of the White River. Radwell's work on the West Fork exhibits the biological changes that have occurred as land use has intensified in the watershed and along the stream banks. A comprehensive biological assessment considers the number of different fish and invertebrate species present, as well as shifts in the abundance of species

over time. A rise in the number of tolerant species versus sensitive species could mean that the water quality of a stream is being degraded.



Yoke Darter
(Photo provide by Fishes of Arkansas)

In 1963, the West Fork had a plethora of darters, a sensitive species, and a very low number of tolerant sucker species. By 2002, the darter population had significantly dropped while that of sucker species had skyrocketed. The streams' quality had degraded to such a degree that very few sensitive species could be found at all. This research is important now in order to protect our endemic species, those that are not found outside of the White River Basin.

Continue story on Page 3....

WHERE DID THE KINGS GET ITS NAME?

According to historic record, three men named Thomas Cunningham, John Coulter, and Henry King of Lauderdale County Alabama made a prospecting expedition into the Kings River valley in 1827. King died along the way (this being the first death of a white man in the county) and was buried on the bank of the stream that bears

his name. Historical records do not give a cause for King's death, but some old timers in the area have said that he died of a head injury that occurred when his horse ran away with him. If you have more information, tell the friendly ladies at the Berryville Historical Museum.

Upcoming Events

There is a lot more than just water in that stream! If you are interested in learning about scientifically testing the components of the Kings River and its tributaries, please join us for a water quality testing workshop given by our own excellent teacher; Sam Davis. Learn how to test for pH, hardness, alkalinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and phosphorus and what all these tests mean to water quality. Don't worry, it isn't rocket science and anybody with a willingness to learn can do it.

Saturday, Feb. 26

11:00 AM

*C.R. 306 Osage River Bridge
(C.R. 306 heads west between the Hwy. 62 Kings River Bridge and the Hwy 143 turnoff)*

*For more information call
Sam Davis at*

(870) 423-4261

See you on the river!



WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA FOR DECEMBER

	Site 1- Upper Osage above Berryville	Site 2 – Lower Osage below Berryville	Site 3 – Kings R. just above Osage confluence	Site 4 – Upper Kings, Hwy 74 bridge south of Kingston	Site 5 – Kings R. at Stoney Point below Grandview
Date	12/16/2004	12/18/2004	12/18/2004	12/15/2004	12/28/2004
Depth (meters)	1.4	0.45	.55	0.75	1.20
pH	7.7	8.8	7.9	7.3	8.5
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	11.8	8.4	12.5	11.3	16.0
Turbidity (FAU)	7	0	1	4	1
Nitrates (mg/L)	0.7	1.7	1.1	0.7	2.1
Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.50	0.27	0.19	0.51	0.36
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	90	136	114	25	122
Hardness (mg/L)	120	240	160	40	140
Alkalinity (mg/L)	100	180	140	40	140
Air temp. (degrees C)	4	13	11	5	14
Water temp. (degrees C)	6	6	7	5	8

Membership

We need your help! Please consider becoming a member of the KRWP to help insure the health, purity, and economic viability of the Kings River Watershed. We welcome any individual, business, or organization that supports the purpose of the Partnership to become a member. Membership dues are \$20 per year.

Contact Shawna Miller for more information.
(479) 981-1172
kingsriver@earthlink.net

Thanks to Sam Davis, Claire Allison and all the volunteers who bravely faced freezing temperatures to get this important data. For a copy of all monitoring data contact Sam Davis: mrd_72616@yahoo.com

LOCAL FARM RECEIVES RECOGNITION

The Kings River Watershed Partnership would like to publicly recognize Triple K Farms of Green Forest for receiving the Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award at the 2005 International Poultry Exposition. Triple K Farms is owned by Gerald King and his two sons Bryan and Jerry King. Although this farm is not located in the Kings River Watershed, we believe that their dedication to nutrient management planning and their awareness of environmental impacts can serve as a great example to farms and businesses nation wide.

The Triple K Farms has taken a number of steps that reduces their impact on the environment. They treat their poultry litter with alum, which has been shown to improve bird performance as well as reduce soluble phosphorus runoff. Phosphorus, in runoff water from fields fertilized with poultry litter, is believed to be one of the many factors affect-

ing water quality in Arkansas. Triple K Farms does not stop there. They have also constructed three pond embankments that catch storm water and reduce nutrient runoff. Holding ponds are an extremely useful way to allow runoff from either urban or agricultural lands to be naturally treated before reaching our streams and rivers.

Congratulations Triple K Farms for this award from the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association in recognition of exemplary environmental stewardship by family farmers. Thank you for doing your part to protect our valuable water resources.

If you know of an individual, business, or organization that has taken extra steps to protect or enhance the environment, please let us know so we can give them the recognition they deserve!



Coming Soon!!!

The Kings River Watershed Partnership will soon be on the web. Get newsletters, current events, monitoring data, and much more at kingsriverwatershed.org



UPPER WHITE RIVER WATER QUALITY SUMMIT

The Arkansas Upper White River Basin Water Quality Summit is being held in Eureka Springs, Arkansas on March 29-30. This Summit, convened by the Upper White River Basin Foundation, is the second chapter in a process designed to increase communication between Arkansas and Missouri regarding the protection and enhancement of the Upper White River Basin. Part one of the process was a Missouri Water Quality Summit held in March of 2004. This Summit produced a list of strategies and solutions to the problems associated with regional water degradation in Missouri. Part three, to be held in 2006, will be a bi-state water quality summit that will allow delegates from both states to discuss their unique concerns and priorities and explore shared solutions.

Participants to the Arkansas Water Quality Summit has been kept to forty people in order to maximize group discussions and individual cooperation. These delegates, nominated by local watershed groups and interested citizens, were carefully chosen to represent a diverse range of backgrounds and interests from the entire Upper White River Basin. The delegates represent agriculture, small business, tourism, development, natural resources, recreation, and local government and come from as far west as Fayetteville and as far east as Yellville, and all the land in between. The Kings River Watershed Partnership is proud

that three of its members will be delegates to the Summit; Page Shurgar, Barbara Harmony, and Ernie Kilman.

If you have not been approached about being a delegate to the Summit, but are still interested in its proceedings, do not despair! In addition to delegates, a number of observers will also be allowed into the Summit meetings. The observers will not be allowed to participate directly in the decision making process, but they can make their concerns known to a delegate. In order to guarantee a seat as an observer, all interested individuals must sign up ahead of time. To sign up as an observer or for more information on the Summit, please call:

Upper White River Basin Foundation
(417) 334-7644.

The repeated collapse of talks between Oklahoma and Arkansas over the quality of waters flowing through the Illinois River has further punctuated the need for cooperation with our neighbors to the north. As a sponsor to the Summit, the Kings River Watershed Partnership, along with the Beaver Lake Watershed Partnership, Leatherwood Creek Watershed Group, and Arkansas Audubon, is dedicating itself to finding solutions to water quality issues based on collaboration and teamwork.

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT CONTINUED.....

Endemic species to the White River Basin include the yoke darter (see on Page 1) and the checkered madtom. If these fish disappear in the White River Basin, of which the Kings is a part, than they will be gone forever. Radwell emphasized the fish and invertebrate species richness that still exists today in the Kings River Watershed and the importance of sustaining its populations.

Radwell encouraged the Partnership to find research on the historical condition of the Kings River in order to set a baseline for a biological assessment in the future. The



Checkered Madtom
(Photo provide by Fishes of Arkansas)

Partnership is taking her advice to heart, and plans to add biological counts to its chemical tests in the near future.

WANTED

Folks bearing the following qualities:

- 1) Loves rivers
- 2) One free afternoon per month
- 3) Not bothered too bad by bugs

If you have any or all of these qualities, you are the perfect person to join our water quality monitoring team
Next training:

**Saturday,
Feb. 26
11:00 am
C.R. 306,
Osage
Bridge**

Come help us learn more about our precious water resources!



Kings River
Watershed Partnership
Board of Directors

*Ann Armstrong
Walter Karnes
Bill Ross
Sam Davis
Ray Warren
Page Shurgar
James Sanders
Duane Coatney
Mike Fitzpatrick*

The Kings River Watershed Partnership is a cooperative effort, organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes; more specifically to protect the health, purity, and economic viability of the Kings River watershed, now and for future generations.

Founded in 2001, the Partnership strives to represent a broad range of watershed stakeholders, primarily utilizing voluntary management improvements and collaborative agreements to protect and enhance water resources.

In October of 2004, the Kings River Watershed Partnership became a certified 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Feel free to give generously; your gifts are now tax-deductible!

Looking for more information?

Shawna Miller

Kings River Watershed Planner

Phone: (479) 981-1172

Email: kingsriver@earthlink.net



KINGS RIVER
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

*P.O. Box 961
Berryville, AR
72616*

WHO WILL ANSWER THE CALL TO THE KING'S ROUNDTABLE?

The search is ongoing to find members of the Kings River Watershed Community to participate in the King's Roundtable, the citizen group that will create our regional watershed plan. The watershed plan will allow our community to set its own goals and priorities in the reduction of nutrients and sediments and long term protection of our waterways. The Partnership believes that proper planning and documentation is the best way to insure that the environment and economy of the Kings River Watershed is protected even in the face of changing policies, regulations, and priorities of federal and state governments, neighboring states, or environmental agencies.

The primary work on the watershed plan will be completed within small subgroups of less than 10 people working on one chosen topic. The time commitment will be minimal, as little as one meeting every two months. No prior experience with watershed planning or water resource issues is necessary. We only ask that you come with an open mind and willingness to engage in discussion and problem-solving for the betterment of your community.

For more information contact Shawna Miller at the number given above.



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