

In This Issue:

Hazardous Household Waste 2

Community Profile: Alton 3

Buckhannon River Watershed

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D. Gasper
J. Mitchell

**JOIN OR
RENEW YOUR
BRWA
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!**

The Tributary

BRWA's 2011 Annual Meeting

Monday April 18 7:00 p.m.

"NRCS and the Buckhannon River Watershed"

This year our annual meeting will feature guest speaker Mr. Ben Collier. Mr. Collier is the District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He works at its Philippi, WV office and covers the Tygarts Valley Conservation District, which encompasses Barbour, Taylor, Upshur, Tucker, and Randolph Counties. He is a native of Barbour County and graduated from West Virginia University (WVU) with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Environmental Education in 2003. He has been with the NRCS since 2002 and recently returned to Barbour County from Williamstown, WV. The Buckhannon River Watershed lies within his conservation district and is an important natural resource.

The meeting will be held in the Upshur County Commissioners' Room located on the top floor of the Courthouse Annex in Buckhannon, WV. This meeting is open to the public and we hope you will join us. This will also be a great opportunity to renew your membership or to join the Buckhannon River Watershed Association (BRWA). Annual dues are \$5.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for businesses and organizations.

Elections to the BRWA Board of Directors will precede Mr. Collier's talk. Nominations to the BRWA Board from the floor are encouraged, but the nominee must be present to accept the nomination. For more information, please see the BRWA website at www.buckhannonriver.org.



27th West Virginia Maple Syrup Festival

Members of the BRWA were proud to be part of the 27th Maple Syrup Festival held in Pickens, WV on March 19th and 20th 2011. The BRWA participated in the festivities and had an exhibit and informational brochures available for the festival goers. Volunteers from the BRWA took turns sitting at the watershed exhibit and answered questions from concerned citizens about watershed news and issues.

Many people stopped by the informational table and everybody had a question. Some people wanted to know the definition of a watershed, the region or area drained by a river or network of rivers and streams. Other topics that were addressed included; pollutants in the Buckhannon River, concerns about Marcellus activities, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Many people were interested in where the Buckhannon River ended and how polluted the Buckhannon River is, compared to other rivers in the state. People seemed very interested in the watershed and the work being done by the BRWA.



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Proper disposal of trash-garbage, plastics, glass, metal, newspapers, tires, motor oil, paint, unused prescription medicines- is critical to personal health, the health of our streams and rivers, and all of West Virginia. HHW is a

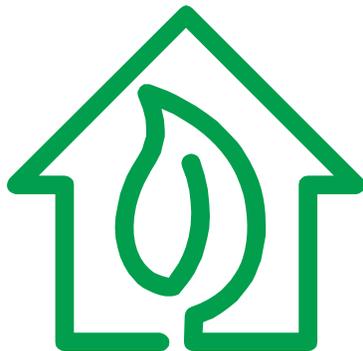


household product that contains corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients. HHW such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, and pesticides contains potentially hazardous ingredients and requires special care for disposal.

Hazardous Products Include:

- **Cleaning Products:** oven cleaner floor wax, furniture polish, drain cleaner, and spot remover.
- **Car care/maintenance products:** motor oil, battery acid, gasoline, car wax engine cleaner, antifreeze, de-ice, radiator flush, and rust preventative.
- **Home improvement products:** paints, preservatives, strippers, brush cleaners, and solvents,
- **Other products** labeled toxic, flammable, or corrosive, or containing lye, phenols, petroleum distillates, or trichlorobenzene.

Dumping of trash or waste on private OR public lands or waterways without a permit is **against the law**.



This information was compiled and published by the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association.

HHW

RULES OF THUMB

- Know how to apply hazardous materials properly, especially how much is sufficient and how to avoid releasing hazardous materials into the environment.
- **Household hazardous wastes should never be flushed down the drain** — drains lead to either a home septic system or a municipal treatment plant, neither of which has adequate capability to remove hazardous chemicals from wastewater. Toxic chemicals might also disrupt microbial processes in septic tanks and treatment plants, reducing their effectiveness.
- Home hazardous products should **never** be poured on the ground, into gutters, or down storm drains where they will eventually be transported untreated into nearby water bodies, including water wells.
- Using alternative non-toxic products instead of toxic substances drastically reduces the presence of toxins in stormwater and receiving waters.

| COMMONLY USED PRODUCTS & SAFER ALTERNATIVES | |
|---|--|
| Aerosol | Use pump-type or non-aerosol products. |
| Art supplies | Purchase water-based paints or inks that do not contain lead or other toxic materials. |
| Batteries | Buy rechargeable batteries which are a cost-effective alternative to disposable batteries. Recycle ALL batteries. |
| Chemical fertilizers | Compost yard clippings and food scraps. Manure is another alternative to chemical fertilizers. |
| Motor Oil | Use re-refined motor oil. |
| Pesticides | Keep homes and gardens tidy to reduce the food supply for insect pests and avert the need for pesticides. Onion, garlic, and marigold plants help keep garden pests at bay. Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions to save money and minimize pollution. |



Community Profile: Alton, West Virginia

The community of Alton is located along the Buckhannon River in Upshur County. Alton is a beautiful place to go fishing, swimming, take a hike, or just enjoy the scenery. Like many small towns within the Buckhannon River Watershed, this community is both historically and culturally significant.

According to Mr. Tim Grimes, President of the Alton Community Action Group (ACAG), "Alton was once a booming town when the railroad was running back and forth to Pickens. There were lumber companies, grist mills, and many stores." Over time the timber industry slowed and businesses in Alton started disappearing. The ACAG was formed in the 1960's and meets once a month at the old Alton School House. Mr. Grimes said the school house was in use from 1927-1969. Today the school house is maintained by the ACAG and used for meetings, bingo, community functions, and socials. The ACAG uses any funds raised to maintain the school house and to make donations to charitable organizations. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Alton you can visit the Buckhannon Historical Society on Tuesdays.

Several areas in Alton were also mined for coal and some of the mines were either abandoned or forfeited to the state. Acid mine drainage (AMD) from these abandoned and bond forfeited sites are managed by the WVDEP and its many partners (including the BRWA). Some other water quality issues to consider are effects of Marcellus drilling, disposal of pharmaceuticals and overall watershed health. The Buckhannon River and its tributaries located in the Alton area are extremely desirable for both habitat and recreation and are important places to be protected and enjoyed. If you have never been to Alton, you should definitely plan a trip this spring or summer!



"Springtime on the Buckhannon" Photograph courtesy of Alan Tucker 2010. Taken near Alton, WV.

www.buckhannonriver.org

BRWA is a tax-exempt, 501(c)3 organization based in Buckhannon, WV. It is dedicated to pre-serving, conserving, and monitoring the health of the Buckhannon River Watershed and promoting our West Virginia river heritage through public awareness.

BRWA has received federal and state grant funding to cap a coal refuse pile, to reduce metal-containing acidic drainage into Mud Lick Run, and to capture and neutralize acid mine drainage on Smooth Rock Lick Run.

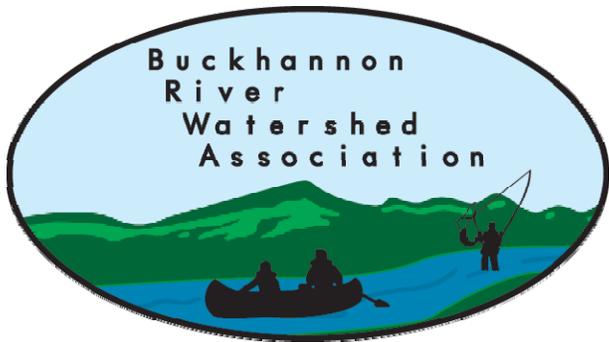
BRWA is a Community Engagement Partner of West Virginia Wesleyan College.

For information about the watershed or BRWA, contact G. Paul Richter at 304-472-3317 or at brwainc@3wloginc.net.

www.buckhannonriver.org

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| Email address: | |
| | |
| ADDRESS | |
| | |
| NAME | |
| | |
| Clip this out and mail to join the BRWA | |
| Individual memberships \$5.00 / year Business memberships \$25.00 / year Mail to: BRWA, 112 Fayette Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201 | |
| Become a BRWA Member Today! (or give a gift membership) | |
| The Buckhannon River Watershed Association Telephone: (304) 472-3317 | |

BRWA
 112 Fayette Street
 Buckhannon WV 26201



Time to renew?

A RED dot indicates that your membership expires with this issue.
 A BLUE dot indicates you are not a BRWA member.