

PRIDE Progress

Quarterly Newsletter of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE

Winter 2005

Volume 8, Issue 4

In this issue

- From the directorPage 2
- Lake Cumberland CleanupPage 2
- Wastewater Construction Grants awardedPage 3
- Greensburg celebrates sewer project with fish releasePage 3

Calendar

- Dec. 18 KET-2 broadcast of *Cumberland Kids on the Bay*, 3:30 pm ET
- Jan. 11 2006 PRIDE SuperGrant applications due
- Jan. 26 2006 Corps of Engineers Section 531 applications due
- Jan. 27 2005 PRIDE SuperGrant progress reports due
- Jan. 30 PRIDE Board of Directors Annual Meeting & Roadside PRIDE Awards Luncheon, Somerset
- Feb. 17 2006 PRIDE Environmental Education Grant applications available
- March 1 PRIDE Envi Award nominations due
- March 3 2006 PRIDE Community Grant applications available

2005 Volunteers of the Month

October

Kiwanis Club of Paintsville, Johnson County

November

Great Salt Petre Cave Preserve Spelunkers, Rockcastle County

December

Barbara Cann, Knox County



Printed with recycled paper

New look for kypride.org

Site now features photo gallery and tools for citizens, teachers and kids

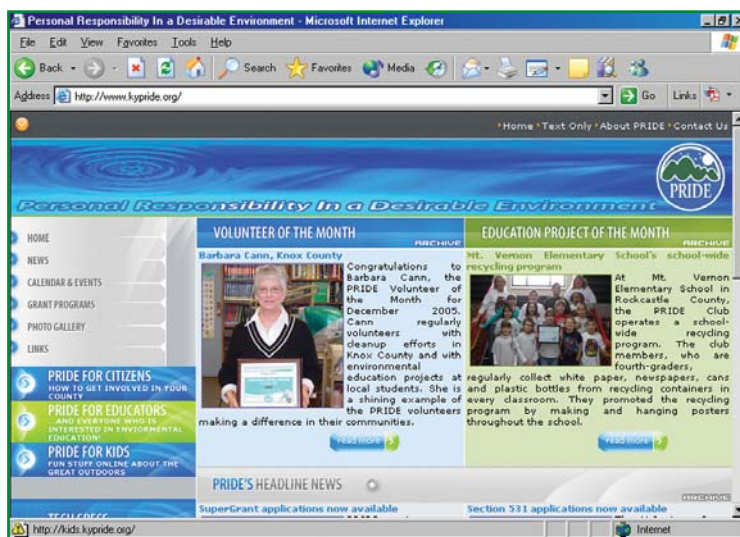
If you have not stopped by kypride.org recently, expect a surprise on your next visit. The web site of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE has a new look and new features.

“Only the address stayed the same,” said Richard Thomas, PRIDE executive director. “We completely overhauled the site. We believe the site is now a useful tool for the region’s residents who want to learn about and take responsibility for their environment.”

PRIDE grant programs, news and event listings are prominently displayed. New features include a gallery of PRIDE photos, county-specific PRIDE information, environmental education resources and interactive games.

Photo gallery

“The story of PRIDE is told in these pictures of smiling volunteers and students and restored dump sites,” Thomas said. “The online photo gallery will show the world the good things happening in southern and eastern Kentucky.”



With the “e-card” option, visitors can design and send electronic post cards featuring any photo. “The photo e-cards will be a fun way for PRIDE Coordinators to thank volunteers, and students no doubt will enjoy sending pictures of themselves to friends and family,” Thomas said. “Teachers could even send photo e-cards to parents to show off their kids at work.”

“PRIDE for Citizens”

This section encourages citizens to join in the historic transformation of the region’s environment. They can learn how to get involved locally by clicking on their county on a map.

Citizens will find the phone numbers for their county’s PRIDE Coordinator, solid waste coordinator and Watershed Watch program, as well as a summary of local PRIDE grant activities. PRIDE plans to work with PRIDE Coordinators to offer other information of interest in their county, such as a schedule of cleanup events and local disposal sites for oil and tires.

“PRIDE for Educators”

“Teachers will be pleasantly surprised by the kypride.org makeover,” said Karen Deaton, PRIDE education director and Riverwoods executive director. “The old site offered them very little. Now, I think the site will be a starting point when they go online for environmental education.”

The education resources cover topics related to PRIDE Environmental Education Grant recipients, such as native plants and wetlands. New articles will be posted regularly by PRIDE education coordinators, teachers and Saving Appalachian Resources liaisons.

Continued on page 4

From the director: Thanks for another successful year

By Richard Thomas, PRIDE executive director

Before 2005 ends, I want to say thank you for another successful year for the PRIDE initiative. Looking back, we accomplished a lot by working together to care for our environment.

The PRIDE initiative surpassed two milestones this year. First, the region's cleanup campaign has netted more than 100,000 tons of trash since 1997. Second, more than 150,000 volunteers pitched in with PRIDE in that same period. Other indicators of PRIDE's progress since 1997 are shown in the table on the right.

Local officials, PRIDE Coordinators, business and community leaders, educators and volunteers deserve the kudos for these achievements in environmental cleanup and education. Together, you are working hard to care for your community, and your efforts are paying off. Thank you for your commitment.

As always, PRIDE partners were critical in 2005, and I appreciate their unique contributions to the PRIDE initiative. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' new *PRIDE of the Cumberland* made a big dent already in Lake Cumberland's trash (see the article below). With Operation UNITE and SEKTDA, we celebrated the value of clean water in Beattyville and Greensburg (see the article on the facing page). Excellent grant administration was provided by USDA Rural Development, Area Development Districts, and Resource Conservation and Development Districts.

Internally, the PRIDE staff grew in 2005. This summer, Jason Nally came on board as our second education coordinator. In December, we welcomed Tammie Wilson as the new PRIDE deputy executive director and chief financial officer. Karen Deaton's title became education director and executive director of Riverwoods, the future PRIDE environmental education center.

Thank you all. I hope you enjoy safe and happy holidays.

PRIDE progress since 1997	
Goal: Clean the region's waterways	
6,493	Septic systems installed
19,037	Homes served by sewer projects
25,375	Total homes with access to sanitary wastewater treatment
Goal: Remove illegal dumps & clean up solid waste	
2,228	Illegal dumps eliminated
101,275	Tons of trash collected
380,198	Bags of trash collected (not included in tons of trash)
863,440	Old tires recovered
152,296	Junk appliances recycled
Goal: Promote environmental education & awareness	
676	Environmental Education Grants awarded
311	Outdoor classrooms built
82	Greenhouses built
47	Nature trails built
32	Wetlands & rain gardens built
30	School recycling projects launched
Goal: Personal responsibility	
156,441	Volunteers participated
496,058	Volunteer hours worked

16th annual Lake Cumberland Cleanup: Less is more

2005 was a record-breaking year for the annual Friends of Lake Cumberland Cleanup. For the first time since 1990, volunteers collected less than 3,000 bags of trash, or about 2,000 bags fewer than average.

460 volunteers participated in the 16th annual Lake Cumberland Cleanup, which was held Sept. 17. They collected 2,220 bags of trash and 450 tires. Since 1990, the cleanup has netted a total of 76,249 bags of trash and 12,401 tires.

"Breaking a record usually means pushing a number higher, like points scored in a game, but when the record involves trash, less is definitely more," said Richard Thomas, PRIDE executive director. "I congratulate the Friends of Lake Cumberland for this achievement and commend them for their commitment to cleaning the lake year-round. I know they were glad for the help provided this year by the *PRIDE of the Cumberland*."

Friends of Lake Cumberland

The lake cleanup is coordinated by the nonprofit, all-volunteer Friends of Lake Cumberland. Individuals and businesses supported the cleanup with monetary and in-kind donations. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service and PRIDE co-sponsored the event.

"On behalf of the Friends of Lake Cumberland, I want to thank

the volunteers who participated this year and the sponsors who made the event possible," said Gary Brown, president of the Friends of Lake Cumberland. "Pulling off an event of this size takes everyone, from the marinas that donated pontoons to the kids who spent their Saturday picking up trash."

With 1,200 miles of shoreline, organizing a cleanup of Lake Cumberland was a large undertaking. There were eight registration sites in three counties and two volunteer appreciation picnics. Volunteers competed for a total of \$3,200 in cash prizes.



During the 2005 Lake Cumberland Cleanup, volunteers gathered trash to be transported by pontoon boat to the nearest of eight collection sites.

Wastewater Construction Grants awarded: \$3.8 million to six communities

Six communities will expand their sewer systems with funding awarded through the 2005 PRIDE Wastewater Construction Grant program. Congressman Hal Rogers announced the grant awards during a press conference Oct. 17 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset.

The six grants, which totaled \$3.8 million, will improve or expand sewer service to 788 homes in the region. About one-third of these homes currently rely on malfunctioning septic systems, largely due to poor soil conditions, or “straight pipes,” which send untreated sewage into nearby waterways.

“Most people associate PRIDE with volunteerism and cleaning up illegal dumps, and those are important campaigns,” Rogers said. “In reality, the majority of PRIDE funds are invested in replacing the straight pipes and failing septic systems that pollute our waterways. We are working to provide every homeowner in the region with access to adequate wastewater treatment options, either a septic system that works properly or public sewer service. Given our rocky, hilly terrain, this is an expensive undertaking, but it is money well spent considering the health and economic benefits of these projects.”

The PRIDE Wastewater Construction Grant program pays 100 percent of the cost to install new sewer lines. The program is intended to replace straight pipes and failing septic systems by making sewer service available to more people. Cities, counties and public utilities are eligible for the grants, which are awarded once annually. USDA Rural Development administers the grants on behalf of PRIDE.

Through this and other grant programs, PRIDE has invested \$111 million to provide sanitary wastewater treatment service to more than 26,000 homes in the region.



Pineville Mayor Stanford Bruce Hendrickson accepted a ceremonial check for the city's first PRIDE Wastewater Construction Grant from Congressman Hal Rogers and Richard Thomas, PRIDE executive director.

Grant recipient	Service area	Grant amount
City of Pineville (Bell County)	75 homes in Dorton Branch area	\$700,000
City of Prestonsburg (Floyd County)	68 homes in Town Branch area	\$686,210
City of Lynch (Harlan County)	City-wide	\$271,200
City of Beattyville (Lee County)	95 homes along Highway 52	\$841,500
City of Science Hill (Pulaski County)	63 homes in Maple Lane and Frog Hollow Road areas	\$600,000
City of Mt. Vernon (Rockcastle County)	35 homes along the shore of Lake Linville	\$750,000

Greensburg students released fish to celebrate sewer to 57 homes

Local students helped the City of Greensburg dedicate the city's new sewer lines and the Green River Paddle Trail on Oct. 18. Forty students from Greensburg Elementary School and Green County Middle School released thousands of channel catfish at the paddle trail's boat ramp.

The fish release symbolized that the city's sewer project would lead to less water pollution. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources provided the fish.

The city used a \$602,000 PRIDE grant to extend sewer lines to 57 new customers, replacing 19 failing septic systems in the Goose Creek watershed. Because the septic systems were not treating sewage properly, they were contributing to Goose Creek's high levels of dangerous bacteria found in human and animal waste, such as E. Coli and fecal coliform.

“We're hoping to see an improvement in water quality in Goose Creek because of this project,” said Richie Kessler, Green River Director for The Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the diversity of life on Earth. “Ultimately, that will lead to a cleaner Green River, which is important for people who use the paddle trail.”

Also during the dedication ceremony, Mayor George C. Cheatham II accepted a ceremonial check for \$13,500 from Vicki Kidd, executive director of the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association (SEKTDA). In addition to this

funding, SEKTDA has provided approximately \$60,000 for development of the Green River Paddle Trail, including a feasibility study, signs, paddle trail enhancement and redbud trees. The SEKTDA Community Development Fund Program allows communities to apply for funding to assist, develop and promote tourism throughout southern and eastern Kentucky.



Greensburg Mayor George C. Cheatham II helped students release young channel catfish into the Green River, which will be cleaner now that a PRIDE-funded sewer project is complete.

New look for kypride.org (continued from Page 1)

“PRIDE for Kids”

PRIDE for Kids is a portal to “JW’s Place,” a distinct web site designed to appeal to children. “Kids will want to visit this innovative and engaging site,” Deaton said. “The site will stimulate their excitement and awareness about the environment.”

JW’s Place is colorful and interactive. Kids can submit artwork for display, print coloring pages, watch short videos about environmental topics A to Z, and go on adventures with the Environmental Discovery Unit, or E.D.U. Crew.

About the redesign

The Center for Rural Development hosts kypride.org, and the Center’s web development staff designed the site’s new look.

“Our goal is to give rural businesses and nonprofits a chance to compete in an electronic world,” said Larry Combs, the Center’s director of business services. “As with video production, the initial objective of website production was to offer a service that was not professionally available in rural areas. As these service gaps are addressed, we realign our commercial service offerings.”

JW’s Place was designed by Somerset-based Kirby Stephens Design, Inc. The web designer was Bill Jones, who is also the illustrator of PRIDE mascot J. Waterford.

“We work on a variety of web sites, and I must say JW’s Place has been the most fun of any of them for me,” Jones said. “We



tried to make things as visually interesting as possible without losing site of function. The ‘menu switch-a-roo,’ for instance, had a basic function to make space for larger and more visually appealing buttons. But, we knew the younger users would find it fun just to click the thing and get a new set of buttons to use.”

Work in progress

“Any web site is a work in progress, and we will continue to make improvements to kypride.org,” Thomas said. “I invite everyone to visit the site and let us know how we can make it more informative and user friendly.”



Eastern Kentucky PRIDE
The Center for Rural Development
2292 S. Hwy. 27
Somerset, KY 42501

Phone: 888/577-4339
E-mail: PRIDE@centertech.com
Web: www.kypride.org

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE is a nonprofit organization funded by federal grants to encourage and assist individuals, local governments, schools and others in 38 counties of southern and eastern Kentucky to:

1. *Improve water quality.*
2. *Clean up illegal dumps and other solid waste problems.*
3. *Promote environmental education and awareness.*



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