

PRIDE Progress

Quarterly Newsletter of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE

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Calendar

- October Roadside PRIDE Month
- Oct. 28 2005 SuperGrant progress reports due
- Oct. 30 2004 Community Grant final reports, reimbursement requests due
- Nov. 11 2006 SuperGrant applications available
- Nov. 15 America Recycles Day
- Nov. 22 2006 Corps of Engineers Section 531 applications available
- Dec. 9 2005 Environmental Education Grant progress reports due
- Dec. 16 Roadside PRIDE score sheets due

2005 Volunteers of the Month

July
David Vanover, Letcher County

August
Norma Thomas, Owsley County

September
Wanda Ross, Lee County

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100,000 tons of trash collected ... and counting

The PRIDE initiative has surpassed yet another milestone, having netted more than 100,000 tons of trash. Since PRIDE began in 1997, indicators of progress in cleaning up the 38-county region include:

- 101,275 tons of trash and 380,198 bags of trash removed from illegal dumps, waterways and roadsides.
- 2,228 illegal dumps cleaned by volunteers and local governments.
- 863,440 old tires and 152,296 scrapped appliances collected for proper disposal.
- 156,441 volunteers have worked 496,058 hours picking up trash and helping with environmental education projects in local schools.

These statistics include information reported to PRIDE as of July 7, 2005, by local PRIDE Coordinators and recipients of PRIDE grants for environmental cleanup and education projects. PRIDE Coordinators are volunteers appointed by county judge-executives and mayors to organize PRIDE cleanup activities locally.

“The PRIDE initiative is a grassroots movement that is not showing any signs of slowing down,” said U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers (KY-5), who co-founded PRIDE. “Every year, more and more people come together to rid our region of the trash that was dumped on our lands and waterways before we fully understood the repercussions of those actions. We created our pollution problems, but now, thanks to thousands of hard working volunteers and the PRIDE program, we are cleaning up our region and making it a better place to live and work.”

Spring Cleanup Awards

The latest milestones in the region-wide cleanup campaign were announced during a picnic in London in July. PRIDE hosted the event to thank the local officials and PRIDE Coordinators who organized the 2005 PRIDE Spring Cleanup, which took place April 9-23.

PRIDE recognized the city, county and school with the greatest volunteer participation in the Spring Cleanup. Trophies were presented to:

- City of Hyden.
- Perry County.
- West Knox Elementary.

Norma Thomas, an Owsley County resident, was honored as the PRIDE Volunteer of the Month for her contributions to the Spring Cleanup.

PRIDE annually designates a two-week period for a region-wide Spring Cleanup. Local governments organize cleanup events and mobilize volunteers to clean illegal dumps, roadsides and waterways. PRIDE provides gloves, safety vests and T-shirts for the volunteers. Cities and counties can use PRIDE Community Grants to fund their Spring Cleanup activities.



Teacher Jenny Iley accepted West Knox Elementary School's trophy for greatest volunteer participation in the 2005 PRIDE Spring Cleanup from Richard Thomas, PRIDE executive director (left), and Bob Mitchell, PRIDE Executive Committee vice chairman (right).

**2006 PRIDE Spring Cleanup:
April 8-22**

Beattyville celebrates PRIDE sewer project and UNITE anti-drug program

The value of clean water was clear at a unique event in Beattyville on Aug. 8. The community celebrated a sewer project that will reduce pollution in the Kentucky River and kicked off an anti-drug program that teaches kids to get “Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs.”



Dustin Adams, executive director of the People Encouraging People (PEP) Coalition, and U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers presented certificates to the Beattyville Elementary School and Southside Elementary School students who participated in contests to design a fishing hat and a poster that illustrated clean water and fishing. PEP, PRIDE and UNITE sponsored the contests. The students were, left to right, Lacy Hollin, Macy Combs, Madison Combs, LaShonda Ross, Paige Brinegar and Alexandria Noe.

Brinegar won the poster design contest, and Noe won the fishing hat design contest. They received trophies and fishing kits, which were donated by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

“Everything we do today to clean the river and clean up drugs means a better future for these young people,” explained U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, who founded PRIDE and Operation UNITE, the regional initiatives that made possible the sewer improvements and anti-drug program.

Rogers commended local officials and citizens for working together to improve the quality of life for their children. “Your city council and fiscal court cooperate on important projects, PEP is giving kids alternatives to drugs, and your schools are teaching Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment.”

Mayor Charles Beach III hosted the event, which was held on the new fishing pier at the city’s boat ramp. Other speakers were Lee County Judge-Executive L.C. “Bub” Reese, Kentucky Director of Fisheries Benjy Kinman, and Betty Lewis of the Future Fisherman Foundation.

Sewer project

To symbolize that the city’s sewer project will lead to less water pollution, 65 members of the Beattyville and Southside elementary school PRIDE Clubs released channel catfish into the Kentucky River. The Lower Creek Sewer Extension Project improved or established sewer service to 46 homes. The \$791,000 project was funded by a PRIDE grant, which was administered by the Morehead office of USDA Rural Development.

Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs

Students and adults at the event were invited to join Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs. This Future Fisherman Foundation program pairs adults as mentors to children who want to learn a fun pastime while gaining conservation and social skills. UNITE introduced the program in the region, and the PEP (People Encouraging People) Coalition sponsors it in Lee County.

PRIDE Education Grants, Community Grants awarded

Environmental Education Grants

No. of grants awarded: 98

Total amount awarded: \$439,733

Types of projects funded:

- Constructing or improving rain gardens, outdoor classrooms, greenhouses and wetlands
- Purchasing books and other educational materials
- Hosting environmental field days or conservation days

About the Environmental Education Grant program:

- Grants worth up to \$5,000 each are awarded annually to schools, local governments, other public entities and non-profit organizations for hands-on learning projects that foster environmental awareness, personal responsibility and community service
- 25% match required
- \$2,840,166 awarded since grant program began in 1998
- Next grant applications available Feb. 17, 2006

Community Grants

No. of grants awarded: 54

Total amount awarded: \$2,033,168

Types of projects funded:

- Removing illegal dumps
- Disposing of trash collected during community cleanup events
- Training and equipping Watershed Watch volunteers
- Constructing wetlands

About the Community Grant program:

- Grants worth up to \$50,000 each are awarded annually to counties, cities, other public entities and nonprofit organizations for environmental improvement projects
- 10% match required
- \$15,634,127 awarded since grant program began in 1998
- Next grant applications available March 3, 2006

October is Roadside PRIDE Month

When tourists travel to southern and eastern Kentucky in October to enjoy fall foliage at its peak, they also will see the region's civic pride at its best. Volunteers will be picking up trash along roadways, helping their city or county win a Roadside PRIDE Award.

The month-long Roadside PRIDE campaign uses friendly competition among the region's communities to clean up roadside litter. PRIDE will pay to dispose of the trash collected, up to \$2,000 for counties and \$1,000 for cities, and provide cleanup supplies, such as trash bags and safety vests.

"At sporting events, most of us cheer from the sidelines, but in the Roadside PRIDE competition, anyone who can volunteer can help the home team win a trophy," said Richard Thomas, PRIDE executive director.

"The best part of this competition is that everyone wins," added Vicki Kidd. "Even if your town doesn't win a trophy, you will enjoy cleaner roads." Kidd is the executive director of SEKTDA, the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association, which co-sponsors the Roadside PRIDE Awards.

Let the games begin

Throughout October, the region's cities and counties will compete to recruit volunteers and pick up roadside litter. To ensure a level playing field, cities and counties are divided into four classes, based on population.

Cities and counties will earn points for volunteers, volunteer hours, trash bags, road miles, tires and appliances. Score sheets must be submitted to PRIDE by Dec. 16.

Continued on page 4



October proclaimed Roadside PRIDE Month. At a ceremony in his Somerset office, U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers (seated) co-signed proclamations with the mayors and judge-executives from the cities and counties that won the Roadside PRIDE competition last year. In the photo above, left to right, are: Livingston Mayor Curt McHargue, Knox County Judge-Executive Raymond Smith, Monroe County Judge-Executive Wilbur Graves, Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis, Eubank Mayor Frey Todd, Pulaski County Judge-Executive Darrell Beshears, Perry County Judge-Executive Denny Ray Noble, Mt. Vernon Mayor Clarice Kirby and Owsley County Judge-Executive Cale Turner.

Cumberland Kids on the Bay

Twenty students from Pulaski County's Southwestern High School visited Chesapeake Bay to study the environment this summer. PRIDE sponsored the trip as the school's prize for winning the 2005 PRIDE High School Campus of the Year Award.

"The trip was a good educational experience for the students," said James Cox, SWHS teacher. "Hopefully, they can bring back to Pulaski County some of the conservation techniques they learned on the island." Cox went on the trip, along with teacher Cindy Ries and principal Boyd Randolph and his wife, Deana.



Southwestern High School students sorted through oysters that they had dredged from Chesapeake Bay.

The students spent two nights at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Smith Island Study Center in Tylertown, Maryland. The foundation's instructors helped the students explore the interaction between people and the environment. On Smith Island, conservation is a way of life due to limited resources and the 300 inhabitants' dependence on the bay to make a living.

The three-day course emphasized hands-on learning. The students "mucked" in the mud to study marsh ecology, trapped crabs to learn about aquatic life and toured the bay in canoes. They visited local residents to learn about the history and culture of the small island's fishing community.

The trip provided many lessons in personal responsibility, PRIDE's core message. Students lived in two dormitory-style houses, which they kept clean. They prepared their own meals, including making a crab dinner from their fresh catch.

To help conserve the island's small supply of fresh water, the students limited their water use, even foregoing showers. "You really appreciate water when you can't use it freely, and that's good motivation to protect water quality," said Karen Deaton, PRIDE's education director.

SWHS was named the PRIDE Campus of the Year for its extensive environmental education program.

The school's outdoor classroom facilities include a greenhouse, shelter, nature trail, weather station and amphitheater. Students recycle cans, paper and newspapers, test water quality in a local stream, and volunteer during the annual Lake Cumberland Cleanup.

Through the school's unique Raptor Rehabilitation Program, students care for injured birds around the clock, year-round.

Cumberland Kids on the Bay, a documentary about the SWHS field trip to Chesapeake Bay, will air on KET in December

October is Roadside PRIDE Month *(Continued from page 3)*

PRIDE will tally the scores and announce the winners at the annual meeting of the PRIDE Board of Directors in January. The leading scorers in the four classes will win Roadside PRIDE Awards. U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers will present the trophies.

Rogers also will present \$1,000 to the city and county that clean the most road miles within a scenic byway. The cash awards are sponsored by SEKTDA, which promotes the region's scenic byways.

Roadside PRIDE scoring

Using the point system below, PRIDE will tally scores for the cities and counties that submit Roadside PRIDE score sheets by Dec. 16, 2005.

The leading scorers will win Roadside PRIDE Awards. 1st and 2nd Place trophies will be presented to cities and counties within four population-based classes.

- 1 mile of roadside cleaned20 points
- 1 bag of trash recovered5 points
- 1 tire recovered5 points
- 1 appliance recovered5 points
- 1 volunteer participating2 points
- 1 volunteer hour worked2 points

BONUS

- PRIDE Committee participation50 points

To learn more about Roadside PRIDE, including volunteer opportunities in your community, visit www.kypride.org. For more information about enjoying the region's fall foliage, call 511 or visit www.tourseky.com.

★ WANTED: VOLUNTEERS ★

FOR EDUCATION GRANT PROJECTS AND ROADSIDE PRIDE



REWARD: FUN, CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, HAPPY KIDS
CONTACT: PRIDE @ 888-577-4339, WWW.KYPRIDE.ORG



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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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