

PRIDE Progress

Newsletter of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE

2007, Issue 1



Printed with recycled paper

Calendar

April 7-21	PRIDE Spring Cleanup
April 30	2006 SuperGrant final reports & final reimbursement requests due
May 1	2007 Education Grant applications due
May 1	Regional Wetland Restoration Institution applications due
May 18	2007 Community Grant applications due
May 31	2006 Education Grants expire
June 15	Spring Cleanup Score Sheets due
June 30	PRIDE 10th Anniversary Celebration & Envi Awards
June 30	2006 Education Grant final reports & final reimbursement requests due

PRIDE Volunteers of the Month

January

Pam Isaac, City of Louisa

February

Gilmer Slone, Knott County

March

Shauna Turner & Alisha Turner, Breathitt County

April

Sycamore Homemakers Club, Pike County

Education Projects of the Month

November

Hummingbird/reading garden by Mt. Vernon Elementary School PRIDE Club

January

Recycling program by Carr Creek Elementary School PRIDE Club

February

PRIDE oral history project by Corbin Middle School PRIDE Club

March

Hiking program by McCreary County Middle School PRIDE Club

www.kypride.org

A Decade of Difference: PRIDE Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

In 2007, the PRIDE initiative celebrates ten years of transforming the landscape of southern and eastern Kentucky. Since 1997, hundreds of thousands of people — from students to elected officials — have worked together to make a visible difference in the scenery and measured gains in water quality. From a simple, yet courageous beginning, the initiative now is poised to reverse decades of abuse and neglect of the region's unique environment.

“War Against Pollution”

In 1997, illegal dumps and untreated wastewater were major pollutants in southern and eastern Kentucky. These problems, which emerged over decades, were largely due to inadequate infrastructure for handling ever-growing amounts of solid waste and wastewater.

On June 30, 1997, the region's elected officials gathered to face these problems. The meeting at Hazard Community College was called by Congressman Hal Rogers (KY-5) and the late General James E. Bickford, the former Secretary of the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet (now the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet).

Natives of the region, Rogers and Bickford realized that dumps and untreated sewage were obstacles to prosperity. They presented a “battle plan” for “declaring war against pollution” in the region. Their vision was to encourage citizens to take responsibility for protecting their environment and provide the education and resources needed to do so. Their campaign would promote PRIDE, or “Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment.”

Rogers pledged to secure federal funding for PRIDE. Bickford would mobilize the state's resources and enforcement authority. They asked local officials to stand together to fight the region-wide problem and commit to rallying citizens to action. With humility and vision, every official in the crowded auditorium accepted the call to be “generals” in the war.

That day, the historic PRIDE initiative began. The region declared war on pollution and attacked on three fronts:

1. Improving water quality.
2. Cleaning up illegal dumps and other solid waste problems.
3. Promoting environmental education and awareness.

Building on Success

Since 1997, progress has been made on all three fronts. To improve water quality, more than 7,000 septic systems have been installed and sewer service has been expanded to another 20,000 homes. 2,200 illegal dumps have been removed. More than 486,000 students have benefited from hands-on environmental education projects, such as outdoor classrooms.

Though we have advanced on the battlefield, the war is not yet won. We must now build on the momentum of the last ten years so victory finally may be declared. PRIDE will continue to support the people of southern and eastern Kentucky in their war against pollution.



Secretary James E. Bickford and Congressman Hal Rogers presented their “battle plan” for “declaring war against pollution” to the media during the historic launch of the PRIDE initiative June 30, 1997.

2007 PRIDE Board of Directors

The PRIDE Board of Directors held its annual meeting Jan. 29 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. The board consists of an executive committee and local PRIDE Coordinators.

PRIDE Executive Committee

The PRIDE Executive Committee members meet monthly to establish guidelines for PRIDE programs, review applications for PRIDE grant programs and approve the organization's budget. The committee has nine members, who are volunteers.

The 2007 PRIDE Executive Committee officers are:

- **Chair** — Jean Dorton, Community and Legislative Liaison for the Big Sandy Community and Technical College.
- **Vice Chair** — Maurice Moore, Pulaski County.
- **Treasurer** — A.L. Sinclair, Adair County Solid Waste Coordinator.
- **Secretary** — Sandy Gay, Program Coordinator for the Lee and Owsley County Conservation Districts.

The remaining executive committee members are Jane Eller, Kentucky Environmental Education Council; Neil Middleton, WYMT-TV; Bob Mitchell (ex-officio), Office of Congressman Hal Rogers; Commissioner Steven Robertson, Governor's Office for Local Development; and Mark York, Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet.



Local PRIDE Coordinators

PRIDE Coordinators are volunteers who work with the PRIDE staff to schedule cleanup activities, recruit volunteers and track cleanup results in their communities. They assist local officials with the PRIDE programs, including applying for grants.

PRIDE invites the region's mayors and county judge-executives to appoint PRIDE Coordinators. Nonprofit organizations that receive PRIDE grants also can appoint coordinators. Coordinators serve at the discretion of their appointing official or organization.

The 2007 PRIDE Coordinators are listed below.

Adair Co.	A.L. Sinclair, 270/384-3146, and Lisa Lee, 270/384-4703
Columbia	Carolyn Edwards, 270/384-2501
Bath Co.	Ray Ellis, 606/674-8297
Bell Co.	John O'Boyle, 606/337-3076
Pineville	Ina Robbins, 606/337-2958
Breathitt Co.	Calvin Saum II, 606/666-3818
Casey Co.	Larry Rodgers, 606/787-0703
Liberty	Mayor Steve Sweeney, 606/787-9973
Clay Co.	Chris Reid, 606/813-8949
Manchester	Pam Mathis, 606/598-3456
Clinton Co.	Lyle Norris, 606/387-4449
Cumberland Co.	Judge-Executive Tim Hicks, 270/864-3444
Floyd Co.	PRIDE office, 888/577-4339
Prestonsburg	Brent Graden, 606/886-2335
Wayland	Tommy Robinson, 606/358-2316
Green Co.	Ronny G. Milby, 270/932-4024
Harlan Co.	Lonnie Saylor, 606/573-3219 ext. 15
Harlan	Elizabeth Powell, 606/573-7698
Tri-Cities	Christi Lewis-Yercine, 606/589-5151
Jackson Co.	Barry Spivey, 606/287-7688
Johnson Co.	Lillian Wheeler, 606/789-2550
Knott Co.	Roger Hicks, 606/785-4115
Knox Co.	Bruce Mills, 606/546-6192
Laurel Co.	Jim McDaniel and Missy Moore, 606/878-6845
London	Steve Edge, 606/864-5521
Lawrence Co.	Raymond Dixon, 606/638-9600
Louisa	Mayor Teddy Preston, 606/638-4050
Lee Co.	Neeley Back, 606/464-4126, and Sandy Gay, 606/464-8480
Leslie Co.	Ronnie Melton, 606/279-4567, and Angela Muncy, 606/672-4103
Hyden	Kay Hendrix, 606/672-3464
Letcher Co.	Josh Wampler, 606/633-9461
Fleming-Neon	David Vanover, 606/855-7900
McRoberts	Mike Vanover, 606/855-9194

Magoffin Co.	Devon Allen Helton, 606/349-2313
Martin Co.	Mike Crum, 606/298-2800, and Christi Kirk, 606/298-2086
Inez	Susan Moore and Mitchell Williamson, 606/298-4602
Warfield	Tom Evans, 606/395-6509
McCreary Co.	Linda Babb, 606/376-2556
Menifee Co.	Cathy Mettey and Linda Smallwood, 606/768-3356
Metcalfe Co.	Heather Hurt, 270/432-7270
Edmonton	Dawn Devore, 270/432-2811
Monroe Co.	Sheryl Conkin, 270/487-5505
Tompkinsville	Tom Baker, 270/487-6776
Morgan Co.	Linda Rose, 606/743-7817
Owsley Co.	Ronnie Callahan, 606/593-6800
Perry Co.	Rosa Couch, 606/439-0149, and Tony Lewis, 606/436-4513
Hazard	Charlie Hammonds, 606/436-3171, and Tammi Gorman, 606/439-0329
Pike Co.	Jimmy Dale Sanders, 606/432-6245
Pulaski Co.	Joe Dungan, 606/423-5211, and Gerald Hines, 606/677-0320
Burnside	Amy Foutch, 606/561-4113
Ferguson	Melody Jones or Janie Ping, 606/679-6800
Lake Cumberland	Dudley Hosch, 606/561-4399
Rockcastle Co.	James Renner, 606/256-1902
Livingston	Mayor J.C. Griffin, 606/453-2061
Mt. Vernon	Wayne Bullock, 606/256-0344
Rowan Co.	Bob Wells, 606/784-6345
Morehead St. U.	April Haight, 606/783-2455
Russell Co.	H.M. Bottom, 270/866-5197
Taylor Co.	Frankie Graham, 270/849-4588, and Debra McNear, 270/465-7729
Wayne Co.	Andrew Parmley, 606/348-8522
Whitley Co.	Judy Brimm, 606/549-6000
WC Schools	Heather Stewart, 606/549-7001 ext. 2913
Wolfe Co.	Carlton Lacy, 606/668-7811

PRIDE Program, Calendar and Staff Updates

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 531 Program

In March, Congressman Hal Rogers announced that \$1.4 million had been secured for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 531 Program.

“With this funding, our ongoing campaign to eliminate straight pipes and failing septic systems and provide more of our citizens with safe, sanitary wastewater treatment services can continue,” Rogers said. “The Corps of Engineers has been a valued partner throughout the ten year history of PRIDE, and I am pleased to see this relationship continue.”

PRIDE Homeowner Septic System Grant Program

PRIDE currently is not accepting applications for the Homeowner Septic System Grant Program (HSSGP) due to budget constraints. The only septic systems still being installed are those for which the installation bid was awarded before the program was temporarily suspended.

As soon as funds are available, PRIDE will begin accepting HSSGP applications again. When that time comes, PRIDE will advertise widely that applications are available.

PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program

The PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program — which features a network of liaisons to assist schools in the counties they serve — wrapped up operation for this school year, as of March 16.

As soon as funding is secure, PRIDE will resume normal operation of the outreach program. In the meantime, PRIDE is asking city and county leaders and school administrators for their support in providing the program for the 2007-2008 school year.

PRIDE would like to thank the Environmental Education Liaisons for their service, as well as the local governments and school systems that supported the liaisons in their community.

Environmental Education Grant Application Deadline

In the 2007 PRIDE wall calendar, the grant application deadline was listed as April 13. Please disregard that deadline. Grant applications are now due May 1. To print a grant application, visit www.kypride.org/doclib/Education-Grant-Application.pdf.

PRIDE Envi Awards Date and Location

In the 2007 PRIDE wall calendar, the date for the PRIDE Envi Awards was May 7. Please disregard that date. To coincide with PRIDE’s 10th Anniversary Celebration, the Envi Awards ceremony has been rescheduled to June 30 and moved to Hazard. As details become available, they will be announced at www.kypride.org/envi/.

PRIDE Staff

Jennifer Johnson is now the PRIDE Environmental Education Director. Our educators know Jennifer from her years on the PRIDE education staff, most recently as the Education Grants Specialist. Jennifer replaced Karen Deaton, who stepped down as Education Director but continues as the Riverwoods Executive Director on a contract basis. Jason Nally, Education Coordinator, also left PRIDE to join the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Our best wishes to Karen and Jason in their new endeavors.



Jennifer Johnson

2006 Roadside PRIDE Awards Presented

More than 5,000 volunteers helped their communities compete in the fourth annual “Roadside PRIDE” campaign in October 2006. In that month, 5,493 volunteers donated 13,534 hours to pick up litter. They collected 20,095 bags of trash, 1,654 old tires and 620 junk appliances along 1,972 miles of the region’s roadsides.

The region-wide cleanup totals were announced at the Roadside PRIDE Awards ceremony Jan. 29 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. Trophies were presented to the communities that won the friendly competition to recruit volunteers and pick up roadside litter.

In the table below, the winners are listed by population-based class, with Class 1 being for the smallest populations.

TOUR Southern and Eastern Kentucky, a nonprofit organization that promotes tourism in the region, sponsored cash awards for

2006 Roadside PRIDE Awards

Class	Counties		Cities	
	1st Place	2nd Place	1st Place	2nd Place
1	Owsley	Wolfe	Allen	Livingston
2	Jackson	Adair	Lynch	Benham
3	Johnson	Clay	Mt. Vernon	Cumberland
4	Floyd	Laurel	Columbia	Pikeville
	TOUR SEKY Scenic Byway Award: Pike County		TOUR SEKY Scenic Byway Award: City of Mt. Vernon	

the county and city that cleaned the most miles within one of the region’s three National Scenic Byways. Pike County earned the \$1,000 award by cleaning 56 miles along U.S. 23, which is the Country Music Highway. The City of Mt. Vernon received \$1,000 for cleaning 31 miles along U.S. 25, which is part of the Wilderness Road Heritage Highway.

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE sponsored the Roadside PRIDE competition, provided cleanup supplies for the volunteers and reimbursed local governments for trash disposal expenses. Local PRIDE Coordinators recruited the volunteers.



First-time Roadside PRIDE Award winners were Clay and Jackson Counties and the Cities of Allen, Benham and Cumberland. In this photo, Columbia representatives accepted a trophy. Left to right: Ky. Environmental and Public Protection Secretary Teresa J. Hill; Ronda Loy, City of Columbia; Carolyn Edwards, Columbia PRIDE Coordinator; Columbia Mayor Pat Bell; and Jean Dorton, PRIDE Chairwoman.

From Our Founder, Hal Rogers

PRIDE has ten years under its belt and now is a good time to remember why this initiative not only continues to thrive, but is essential to moving our region forward. People understand these days that a clean environment goes hand in hand with a healthy, vibrant economy.

I'm always looking for ways to leverage what makes us special — whether that is our mountain heritage, red-bud trees, scenic highways or our pristine rivers. Our region will sell itself as long as we continue to show the world what makes us special. There is nothing special about trash and pollution. No matter how nice a place is, nobody wants to visit places that are polluted and littered.

First impressions count. When people see a natural area or town square for the first time, what makes a real impact is how clean a place is. For too long, the first impression people had in our area was empty bottles and fast food wrappers strewn along the highway, or in some cases, abandoned appliances, automobiles and junk in an otherwise pristine natural setting.

For those of us who live here, we don't want to live among trash and pollution. Our region has turned the corner. We left behind the southern and eastern Kentucky of the past — one with stagnant economic growth and net outflow of people. We turned it into a region for the future — one where business opens its doors and people move in. Simply cleaning up a place invites people to stay.

PRIDE has produced great benefits to the environment. With modern wastewater treatment systems, there is no excuse anymore to dump raw sewage into our creeks and rivers. PRIDE's sweeping efforts to install modern treatment systems enabled our waterways to thrive with plant and animal life again. No

“What a legacy we have built. When we look back ten years hence, we will see even more progress — a cleaner environment and a stronger region where people want to visit and stay. Thank you to the PRIDE volunteers who believed we could.” — Congressman Hal Rogers

longer do we have moving cesspools creeping through our mountains.

What I like best about PRIDE is the spirit of volunteerism behind it. People caused this litter and pollution problem and now people are fixing it. It is an amazing thing to watch what happens when a community pulls together towards a common purpose. Ten years ago there were skeptics and doubters. Today, in this newsletter, you will see many statistics that demonstrate PRIDE's progress over the last ten years.

Theodore Roosevelt understood the need to protect our natural resources and a short sentence he once said sums up so well the spirit of PRIDE today: “Believe you can and you're halfway there.”

What a legacy we have built. When we look back ten years hence, we will see even more progress — a cleaner environment and a stronger region where people want to visit and stay. Thank you to the PRIDE volunteers who believed we could.

U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers (KY 05)

Please notify PRIDE of address corrections at 888/577-4339 or PRIDE@centertech.com.

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE
The Center for Rural Development
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Somerset, KY 42501



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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