

PRIDE Progress

Quarterly Newsletter of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE

Summer 2005

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Calendar

June 20 WYMT-TV (Hazard) broadcast
of the 2005 PRIDE Envi
Awards, 7 pm ET

June 28 KET broadcast of the 2005
PRIDE Envi Awards, 9 pm ET

June 30 2004 PRIDE Environmental
Education Grant final
reports and final reimburse-
ment requests due

July 12, 2005 PRIDE Environmental
19, 22 Education Grant training

July 18 PRIDE Picnic and Spring
Cleanup Celebration, London

July 22 2005 PRIDE Wastewater
Construction Grant applica-
tions available

July 29 2005 PRIDE SuperGrant
progress reports due

2005 Volunteers of the Month

March

Jeff Pennington (Leslie County)

April

Phil Krummrich (Rowan County)

May

Larry Bryant (Floyd County)

June

Bo Simpson (Harlan County)



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Schools, volunteers honored at PRIDE Envi Awards

Teachers, students and volunteers took center stage at the 2005 PRIDE Envi Awards May 16 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. Nine schools, five individuals, a head start program, electric cooperative and homemakers club were honored for their contributions to the environment of southern and eastern Kentucky.

Elementary School Campus of the Year Award

Boston Elementary School (Whitley County) won the award for promoting environmental education through hands-on learning opportunities with an outdoor classroom, nature trail, wetland and school-wide recycling. Finalists for the award were Prestonsburg Elementary School (Floyd County) and Southside Elementary School (Lee County).

Middle School Campus of the Year Award

North Laurel Middle School (Laurel County) earned this award for its expansive outdoor-classroom projects, aquaculture studies, mentoring program, school-wide recycling program and participation in local cleanups. Meece Middle School (Pulaski County) and Corbin Middle School (Whitley County) were finalists.

High School Campus of the Year Award

Southwestern High School (Pulaski County) won for its outstanding environmental education facilities, community education projects, participation in local cleanups and unique Raptor Rehabilitation Program. Finalists were Foothills Academy (Clinton County) and Magoffin County High School.

College/Community Project of the Year Award

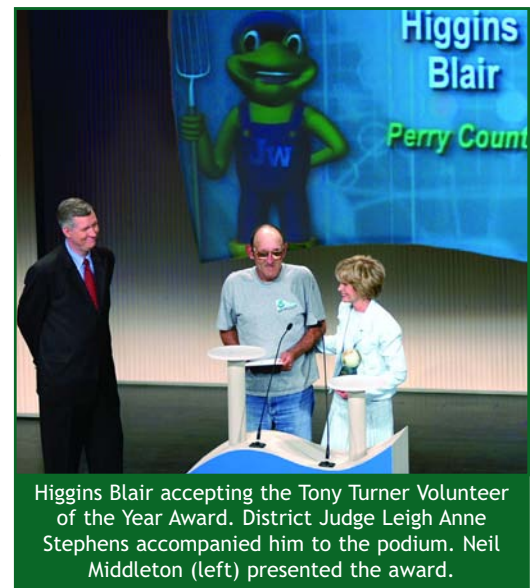
Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency Head Start was recognized for teaching Head Start students in 10 counties about the environment in fun ways, such as planting flowers in local parks and meeting "Curby, the Recycling Robot."

Tony Turner Volunteer of the Year Award

Higgins Blair (Perry County) earned the award for the dedication he displays volunteering 30 hours a week, despite chemotherapy treatments, to transport and supervise community service workers as they collect roadside litter. Darlene Thacker (Pike County) and Robert Proper (Rockcastle County) were finalists.

Rogers-Bickford Environmental Leadership Award

Whitehouse Homemakers Club (Johnson County) received the award for heading up local cleanup and environmental awareness efforts, including offering a scholarship to college-bound students who volunteer in their annual PRIDE Spring Cleanup. Finalists were Cindy Ham (Pulaski County) and Jackson Energy Cooperative (serving multiple counties).



Higgins Blair accepting the Tony Turner Volunteer of the Year Award. District Judge Leigh Anne Stephens accompanied him to the podium. Neil Middleton (left) presented the award.

Continued on page 4

PRIDE of the Cumberland christened

Efforts to keep Lake Cumberland clean recently got a big boost. The *PRIDE of the Cumberland*, a work boat that will remove trash and wood from the lake, was christened April 11 at the Waitsboro Recreational Facility in Somerset.

Congressman Hal Rogers and Lt. Colonel Byron Jorns christened the boat. Rogers directed \$700,000 in federal funding to design and build the one-of-a-kind vessel, as part of his ongoing efforts to encourage environmental cleanup and economic development. Jorns commands the Nashville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which built and operates the boat.

"The *PRIDE of the Cumberland* is the newest tool in our region-wide effort to clean up our lands and waterways," Rogers said. "The boat, which is designed to work year around, will remove wood debris and trash from the water and shorelines, making the lake safer and more enjoyable for everyone."

"The flexibility of this piece of equipment is remarkable," Jorns said. "On board you have two mobile components; the veneer chipper and the large dumpsters which can be removed from the *PRIDE* and used at other sites around the lake. The loader on board is capable of lifting objects weighing more than 2,000 pounds at its maximum reach of 25 feet."

After the boat was christened, Rogers and Jorns took a short cruise. They were joined by elected officials from Pulaski, Russell and Wayne Counties, as well as dignitaries from the Corps of Engineers and Kentucky state government.

Tom Hale, the Corps' operations manager for the Eastern Kentucky Area, hosted the ceremony. The invocation was given by Pastor Jim Kingry of Russell Springs United Methodist Church. Jessica Starnes, an 8th-grader from Meece Middle School in Somerset, led the pledge of allegiance.

About the *PRIDE of the Cumberland*

The *PRIDE of the Cumberland* consists of two 60-foot-long barges pushed by a 26-foot-long tow boat. One barge has a mechanical arm with attachments for skimming debris from the water, sawing logs and lifting heavy debris from the shore or water. The second barge holds a wood chipper and roll-off dumpster. Trucks will meet the vessel at docks around the lake when it is ready to unload a trash-filled dumpster.

The vessel was constructed by Advanced Industrial and Machine Works, which is based in Mobile, Alabama.



The *PRIDE of the Cumberland* was designed to pick up and chip wood debris, such as that seen in the lower right of the above photo, which was taken during the christening ceremony. On the boat were dignitaries from counties surrounding the lake, Kentucky government and the Corps of Engineers. In the lower left are students from the "E-Team" PRIDE Club of Meece Middle School (Pulaski County), who developed the "Adopt-A-Dock" program to encourage other schools and volunteers to help keep the lake clean.

The Corps of Engineers designed the *PRIDE of the Cumberland* to address the challenges of cleaning Lake Cumberland. Created by the Corps in 1952 by damming the Cumberland River, the lake has 1,255 miles of shoreline, is 100 miles long and contains 50,250 acres of water. The river's current pushes wood debris onto the shores, trapping trash.

S.S. KY PRIDE enters 7th season

The *S.S. Kentucky PRIDE*, shown in the photo to the right, was designed to clean Fishtrap Lake in Pike County. A conveyor belt skims wood and trash from the water's surface. Operated by the Corps' Huntington District, the "skimmer boat" has collected 12,261 cubic yard of drift and debris since 1999.



Corps of Engineers Section 531 funding announced

Three sewer projects will receive \$692,250 in funding through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 531 program. The announcement was made at a press conference April 11 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset.

"These projects will extend sewer service to 221 homes, giving homeowners the peace of mind that comes with reliable sewer service," said Congressman Hal Rogers, who authored the federal legislation that created the Section 531 program. "In the end, we will all benefit from these projects by having less untreated sewage entering our waterways."

The following awards were announced:

- \$291,000 to the Perry County Sanitation District toward construction of a regional wastewater treatment plant.

- \$154,650 to the Morehead Utility Plant Board to extend sewer service to Hilltop Estates.
- \$246,600 to the City of Monticello to extend sewer service along Webster Street.

The Section 531 program provides funding to counties, cities and utilities in Kentucky's 5th Congressional District. The funding can be used for innovative wastewater treatment projects, sewer line extensions or treatment plant upgrades in rural areas. The award covers 75 percent of the project cost, and the local entity contributes the remaining 25 percent.

Through this and other PRIDE-related programs, more than \$106 million has been invested in projects that will provide sanitary wastewater treatment service to 25,000 homes in the region.

2005 PRIDE SuperGrants awarded: \$1.5 million to 13 counties

Congressman Hal Rogers announced the 2005 recipients of PRIDE SuperGrants during a press conference April 11 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. Thirteen counties received a total of \$1,523,358 in SuperGrant funds to remove large illegal dumps.

“Almost all of the dumps targeted by the SuperGrants are located on or near waterways and pose a serious hazard to public health,” Rogers said. “Each of these projects is a solid investment in the well being of our people and our communities.”

The SuperGrant program removes large illegal dumps, such as “old town dumps” that have been around for 40 or 50 years. Counties, cities and nonprofit organizations in PRIDE’s 38-county service area are eligible for the grants of up to \$1 million.



Congressman Hal Rogers (left) and Richard Thomas, PRIDE’s executive director (right), presented a ceremonial check to Jackson County Judge-Executive Tommy Slone and Jackson County PRIDE Coordinator Barry Spivey.

Since the SuperGrant program began in 2001, 46 grants have been awarded totaling over \$6.9 million. Through this and the Community Grant program, communities have used \$20.5 million in PRIDE grants to clean 2,095 illegal dumps in the region.

Grant recipient	Grant amount	Dump site
Breathitt Co. Fiscal Court	\$75,000	Big Lovely Hill
Floyd Co. Fiscal Court	\$125,000	Buckingham Mountain
Jackson Co. Fiscal Court	\$275,000	Highway 1209
Lawrence Co. Fiscal Court	\$65,000	Three Mile Creek Road
Leslie Co. Fiscal Court	\$80,000	Beech Bottom
Letcher Co. Fiscal Court	\$56,100	Chissom Road
Martin Co. Fiscal Court	\$100,000	Wolf Creek
McCreary Co. 109 Board	\$61,358	Peel Dogwood Road
Perry Co. Fiscal Court	\$150,000	Cam Johnson Branch
Pike Co. Fiscal Court	\$90,000	Poor Bottom
Rockcastle Co. Fiscal Court	\$150,000	Boone Gap
Rowan Co. Fiscal Court	\$142,950	Coldiron Hollow Road
Wayne Co. Fiscal Court	\$152,950	Elk Springs Creek

North Laurel Middle School wins 2005 PRIDE Club Contest

The winner of the 2005 PRIDE Club Contest was North Laurel Middle School. The NLMS PRIDE Club submitted the best idea for a public service announcement, or PSA, for persuading people to dispose of their trash responsibly.

PRIDE will produce a 30-second TV commercial based on the NLMS PRIDE Club’s winning idea. The commercial will be broadcast on WYMT-TV (Hazard) and WBKO-TV (Bowling Green). PRIDE also will make it available to local cable channels across the region.

About the winner

The winning PSA idea was written by NLMS PRIDE Club members Kelly Stewart and Dustin Ammerman. They conveyed the message that young people can make a difference by sharing what they learn about PRIDE with the rest of the community.

The PSA depicted a child sharing what he learned in his PRIDE Club meetings with his mother. When she threw something out of the car window, her son took the opportunity to educate her about why that was not the proper way to dispose of her trash.

About the contest

The contest was open to registered PRIDE Clubs in 4th-12th grades. Clubs submitted their PSA ideas with VHS tapes, DVDs, audio recordings, story boards, scripts or original songs.

PRIDE sponsors the annual competition to help students learn about their role in fulfilling the PRIDE mission. Last year, in the first PRIDE Club Contest, students submitted designs for a sticker and license plate that best illustrated Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment.



At the Envi Awards, North Laurel Middle School’s PRIDE Club sponsors, Shannon Ball and Mike Bowling, and authors of the winning PSA, Dustin Ammerman and Kelly Stewart, received a plaque from Congressman Hal Rogers. In the photo above, they were applauding the rest of the North Laurel Middle School PRIDE Club members, who were in the audience.

PRIDE Envi Awards (continued from page 1)

Kentucky PRIDE Award

Tom Biebighauser, wildlife biologist with the Daniel Boone National Forest, won the Kentucky PRIDE Award for his leadership in restoring the state's wetlands and his commitment to educating children and adults about wetlands, which are important for habitat and flood control.

About the show

The awards ceremony featured music by the **Kentucky Opry** and six-year-old **Constance Brown**. The **Rhythm Express Cloggers**, a dance troupe of 4th-8th graders from Owsley County Elementary School, also performed.

The guest speaker was **Dave Shuffett**, host of *Kentucky Life*, a weekly Kentucky Educational Television program about the state's interesting people and places.

Congressman Hal Rogers (KY-5) reported on PRIDE's progress during the past year. Rogers co-founded PRIDE in 1997 with the late General James E. Bickford, then secretary of the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet.

"With the Envi Awards, we pay tribute to the most exceptional of you, but there are thousands more out there doing their part to clean up our environment," Rogers said. "There is nothing short of an historic transformation taking place in southern and eastern Kentucky. Thousands of volunteers and community leaders are turning back decades of pollution. And a new generation is learning to avoid the mistakes of the past."

WYMT, KET broadcast Envi Awards

Tune in. Pass it on.



Monday, June 20
7 pm ET

Tuesday, June 28
9 pm ET

*Please spread the word about the
WYMT and KET broadcasts.*

*The Envi Awards ceremony showcases the good
things happening in our region.*

All Kentuckians need to tune in!



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



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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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