

*Restore and Protect
Watersheds through Environmental*

EDUCATION

*Community Outreach, Partnerships, and
Collaboration*



**Mission to restore and protect watersheds
through environmental education, community
outreach, partnerships, and collaboration**



on the cover

CPR: Communities Protecting RiversSM
participants at Chestnut Avenue, Kansas City,
Missouri location

Photograph by Lynn Youngblood



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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www.brwa.net

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

The past year has seen tremendous growth of Blue River Watershed Association (BRWA), which is a testament to the commitment of staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, members, educators, partner agencies and community stakeholders. What I witness makes me excited about our future and impact in the communities in which we serve.

On behalf of the Blue River Watershed Association's Board of Directors, thank you for supporting the Association for the past 21 years. We are honored by the faith you continue to show and strive to exceed your expectations.

Every donation of time, resources, and capital is strategically invested to yield the greatest impact on the community members we serve in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. I would like to acknowledge and thank our large corporate donors, Honeywell, Cargill, and General Motors Fairfax for their longtime and generous support. Without their substantial funding, the Association simply would not be able to achieve mission-oriented successes such as community outreach with CPR: Communities Protecting Rivers, and providing undeserved schools with BRWA's environmental education programs, T.R.U.E. Blue and Macroinvertebrates, and Eco-Kids Club, respectively. For more information on this project and programs be sure to read the Executive Director's letter.

The Association's reputation and water quality programs sets the benchmark for quality environmental programming in the region. Realizing the growth, need, and service demands of the organization and its supporters, the Board continues to hire qualified staff to meet these needs. In the last few years, the Association has increased its staff to a total of eleven employees, including the executive director, director of development & communications, project manager, four water quality educators and four watershed education assistants. The Board continues to keep its finger on the pulse of staffing needs and is poised to hire additional staff if the need, and funding arises. All educational programs offered by the Association meet both Kansas and Missouri Departments of Education Science standards.

The Association continues to increase its efforts to be more transparent to community stakeholders by launching the new website in 2016, realizing more than 3000 visitors a year; increase presence with social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn); increase financial accountability, earning GuideStar's 2018 Gold Seal of Transparency; and working with legal counsel to protect the Association's intellectual property, programs, and innovations.

BRWA recognizes there is still work to do and schools and communities to reach. We are excited to find new ways to fund programs and inspire more people to take action to protect and restore local waterways. The Association invites you to be a part of this important work. Volunteer to assist with a small group of four students as they test water quality beside a creek (we provide training!), help staff at the office, or staff a booth at a community fair or conference. There are so many ways to make a positive impact about water quality with youth, or in communities.

I hope you take the time to read through this 2018 Annual Report to learn more about the lives and communities you've helped impact. Thank you again for your continued, generous support of BRWA programs. I am excited for the coming year, the work we accomplish together, and the positive effect on generations to come.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Jacka-Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jennifer Jacka-Taylor, PE, ENV SP, M. ASCE
Board President



2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Jennifer Taylor

Vice President Cale Wilson

Treasurer Timothy Morgan

Treasurer -Elect Jeff Doudrick

Secretary: Cassandra Stubblefield

Director Claudine Lamb

Director Ann DeAngelo

Director Blake Koger

Director Todd McCabe

Director Josh Tinkey

Director Stephanie Valencia-Cortes

2019 NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBERS

Director Hannah McSpadden
Edward Jones

Director Ryan Murdock
Cargill

BOARD OF DIRECTOR RETIREMENTS

Director Timothy Morgan
HNTB Corporation

*many
thanks*

Learn more about the Board of Directors
at www.brwa.net/who-we-are/board-staff.html



BRWA Board of Director Members Unite!
Jennifer Taylor, Cale Wilson, Jeff Doudrick



Revolving Green Around the Blue
Ann DeAngelo, Board; Jim Benz, BRWA Founder;
Lynn Youngblood, Exec. Director



BRWA Presidents - Past and Present
Dr. Mike Strohschein (16-17), Jennifer Taylor (current),
David Poirier (14-16)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Blue River Watershed Association continued its path of success in 2018 and closed the year in a whirlwind! In all, 118 programs were conducted in Kansas and Missouri including, T.R.U.E. Blue SM (Teaching Rivers in an Urban Environment SM) Macroinvertebrates, Waterfestivals, Eco-Kids Clubs in schools; and CPR: Communities Protecting Rivers SM to local communities. This work could not have occurred without the generous funding from BRWA's partners, Honeywell, Cargill, General Motors Fairfax, Terracon, Clay County Missouri, Johnson County Kansas, KC Water Missouri, Lenexa Kansas, Overland Park Kansas, and the United Government of Wyandotte County.

BRWA's highly qualified education staff, the Water Quality Educators and Watershed Education Assistants worked tirelessly to insure each student received a quality E-STEM experience (Environmental, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Two hundred and twenty-four trained volunteers assisted with these programs and contributed over 428 hours of their time to the residents of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties in Kansas and Jackson & Clay Counties in Missouri. BRWA simply could not do what we do without the generosity of these funders and volunteers! Through their efforts BRWA was able to make nearly 6,000 student impacts with a project-based, hands-on E-STEM education outdoor field experience! Thank you!

Of special note was a new endeavor with a partnership with Honeywell in 2018. Honeywell has been a partner of BRWA since its inception in 1997 and in 2018 they increased their support by sponsoring a community with CPR: Communities Protecting Rivers SM. Honeywell and BRWA together partnered with Marlborough East Neighborhood Association and cleaned a total of six contiguous vacant lots and repurposed them into usable space for the community. As part of CPR SM, BRWA subawards Urban Ranger Corps, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing at-risk inner city youth for responsible and productive futures through disciplined work experience and service in their community. The Rangers assisted these older residents in removing dump sites, cutting trees and brush, pulling old fence, and installing rain gardens, native plantings, a natural playground, and picnic area. Honeywell employees came out in force, week after week, to assist, as well as BRWA board members with their families. The final result was a beautiful green space in which the community can be proud.

Blue River Watershed Association also planned its first Wild and Scenic Film Festival as a new fundraiser. Short films focused on water and environmental stewardship were chosen to create a unique film festival to inspire audiences to action. More stakeholders were reached by hosting the Festival on both sides of the state line. The hope is to grow this exciting event each year with new films year after year. Look for it in September 2019.

Life as a nonprofit in these ever-changing times continues to be challenging – but BRWA is up for the challenge! With friends like you, BRWA cannot fail! Please read through this report and see the successes of 2018, then check out the website (www.brwa.net) to see how you can support the cause. Thank you for all that you do!

Warm Regards,

Lynn Youngblood
Executive Director



MEET THE TEAM



Executive Director Lynn Youngblood

Director of Development & Communications Dr. Mike Strohschein

Project Manager Janay Davis

Water Quality Educator Sandy Fitzwater

Water Quality Educator Dee Ann Wilson

Water Quality Educator Jill Meyer

Water Quality Educator Susan Muhidin

Watershed Education Assistant Brittany Martinez

Watershed Education Assistant Patrice Gonzalez

Watershed Education Assistant Chloe Wells



Learn more about the Team at
www.brwa.net/who-we-are/board-staff.html





FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Blue River Watershed Association has a responsibility to the community and its donors and strives to ensure long-term financial sustainability of the organization.

Association earned a **Gold Seal of Transparency** from Guide Star for their financial accountability in 2018. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. More than 8 million visitors per year and a network of 200+ partners use GuideStar data to grow support for nonprofits.

Condensed Financial Information

For year ended December 31, 2018

2018 Monthly Revenue/Expense Summary

Month	Payroll	Expenses	Deposits	Month-End Balance
January	(\$10,199.11)	(\$4,028.52)	\$35,225.00	\$104,101.37
February	(\$8,932.16)	(\$4,528.29)	\$41.15	\$90,682.07
March	(\$8,681.94)	(\$2,464.12)	\$33,311.42	\$112,847.43
April	(\$11,468.53)	(\$7,095.03)	\$35,316.59	\$129,600.46
May	(\$15,682.39)	(\$6,250.18)	\$5.00	\$107,672.89
June	(\$14,645.49)	(\$3,496.72)	\$103.50	\$89,634.18
July	(\$12,472.55)	(\$3,079.30)	\$1,066.46	\$75,148.79
August	(\$11,140.07)	(\$4,885.28)	\$259.88	\$59,383.32
September	(\$13,251.17)	(\$5,217.59)	\$16,955.62	\$57,870.18
October	(\$17,395.66)	(\$2,325.14)	\$867.03	\$39,016.41
November	(\$14,641.54)	(\$14,918.45)	\$14,728.33	\$24,184.75
December	(\$14,746.57)	(\$14,404.54)	\$35,345.76	\$30,379.40

(\$153,257.18) (\$72,693.16) \$173,225.74

\$83,104.00 2017 Year End Balance
(\$52,724.60) Annual Gains/Losses
\$30,379.40 2018 Year End Balance
\$42,148.19 Current Balance (End of Jan)



To access full financial statements, visit
brwa.net/accountability.



ECO-KIDS CLUBSM is an 8-week, 8 session (2 hours per session) after-school program designed for underserved students in grades 3rd – 5th. This hands-on, STEM experiential learning program focuses on watersheds, stormwater runoff, causes of water and chemical pollution, and point and nonpoint pollution. The focus of ECO-KIDS CLUB is to introduce young students to scientific method and inquiry.

ECO-KIDSSM Lessons include:

- Watershed Activity,
- Litter Investigation,
- Non-Chemical/Chemical water testing,
- Macro Invertebrate lab, and
- Field Trip



Program Funded by General Motors Fairfax & Unified Government of Wyandotte County

Learn more about ECO-KIDSSM by visiting www.brwa.net/education

A stylized graphic of flames in shades of orange, yellow, and blue, located in the top left corner of the poster.

*get fired up about
water quality*

WATER BALL 2018

**A night of celebration, recognition,
and support for Water Quality!**

A photograph of the Museum at Prairie Fire, featuring a colorful, geometric facade with panels in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The building is set against a clear blue sky.

**Friday, November 2, 2018
Museum at Prairie Fire
Overland Park, Kansas**



WATERBALL

Photo Review

SAVE THE
DATE

11.01.19

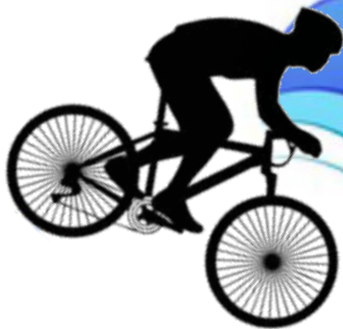
WATER
BALL 2019



Video in Review of Water Ball can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/blueriverwatershedassociation/videos/2248087585477165/>

Revolving Green Around the Blue



BLUE RIVER
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

Revolving Green Around the Blue was established by the Association in 2014 to restore and protect watersheds through environmental education, community outreach, partnerships, and collaboration.

The 5th Annual Revolving Green Around the Blue event was held on September 22, 2018 at Watts Mill Shopping Center near Indian Creek.

The event provided community members the opportunity to participate in three different stewardship activities (invasive honeysuckle removal, native planting, and picking up litter). Participants utilized Water Reporter mobile application to document their service by uploading photos of their stewardship activities throughout the day.

A bicycle safety and maintenance workshop was provided before participants took off on an optional 5-mile bike ride to Alex George Wetland Area for lunch and entertainment.

Funded by

MARC
MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Water Quality Education Committee



*CONQUER THE COMMUNITY
LITTER PILE!*

Become the Hero You Are!

*BRING A FRIEND, OR
MAKE A NEW ONE!*

Like-minded Souls Gather!



*BIKE MAINTENANCE &
SAFETY WORKSHOPS!*

Be Safe!



*RELAX TO A FREE LUNCH
FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS!*

Perfect Way to end a Morning!





17TH ANNUAL



WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL

WHERE ACTIVISM GETS INSPIRED

50TH

Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act in the United States! The Wild & Scenic Film Festival was started by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) [pronounced 'circle'] in 2003. Blue River Watershed Association (BRWA) partnership with this film festival provided unique selection of the 2018 Award Winning films each dedicated to the celebration of rivers, nature, and the outdoors. They are all independently produced making them especially unique and intimate.

Learn more about the film festival by visiting www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org and help us congratulate the 2019 Award Winning Films!

BRWA will host the 2019 Wild & Scenic Film Festival with two viewings.

Sept. 17, 2019 Tue. 6:00pm
Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, Kansas City MO

Sept. 18, 2019 Wed. 6:30pm
Glenwood Arts, Overland Park KS

For More Information and to Get Tickets: Check Out: www.brwa.net/events



COMMUNITIES PROTECTING RIVERS (CPR)SM

CPR is an innovative environmental education program that immediately changes lives for urban citizens today and for generations to come.

CPRSM: *Communities Protecting Rivers*SM is a program designed to meet Community Outreach goals of BRWA's mission. Through this program communities near the Blue River, or its tributaries, or other significant rivers in the Metro Area are targeted for outreach efforts. As the Blue River is the main artery of Kansas City on both sides of the State Line, CPRSM is the lifeline for declining neighborhoods pumping revitalization and energy into communities.

Through corporate or grant funding, BRWA assists communities in identifying vacant lots, cleaning up these lots, and repurposing the lots into native plantings, rain gardens, orchards, and natural playgrounds. Unlike similar types of programs, CPRSM actually provides the funds for communities to realize the results of their planning.

BRWA subawards other nonprofit partners such as Urban Rangers, to assist project communities in these efforts. BRWA calls on its network of municipal, for-profit, and nonprofit partners to assist in CPR.SM

Additionally, alternate partners may be brought into the project partnership on a case-by-case basis such as Home Depot, or Giving Grove.

CPR'sSM end result is complete transformation of a community. By removing dumpsites, overgrown vegetation, and at times vacant homes, communities are revitalized and invigorated to continue in its healing and progress. More residents become active in community efforts and events, home values increase and homes begin to sell in the area, and the neighborhood becomes safe, and more livable. The end product for the river is that stormwater runoff entering the Blue River is reduced, and water quality is improved.

COMMUNITIES PROTECTING RIVERS (CPR)SM





TEACHING RIVERS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT (T.R.U.E. BLUE)SM

T.R.U.E. BlueSM has impacted more than 200,000 K-12 students, teachers, community members, and educators since 1997

T.R.U.E. BlueSM (Teaching Rivers in an Urban Environment) is a watershed literacy, water quality monitoring curriculum targeting students in 5th grades and up.

T.R.U.E. BlueSM is a four-day, four lesson curricula taught by Blue River Watershed Association staff, which are state certified teachers or have advanced science degrees. This Environmental, Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics (E-S.T.E.M.) BRWA curriculum has been implemented by BRWA for 22 years and impacts an average 10,000 plus students and educators a year.

T.R.U.E. BlueSM trains and equips area teachers, students, and community members to establish school- based learning teams that monitor water quality throughout Kansas City watersheds.

Students and their teachers are trained in the classroom to perform ten chemical and nonchemical tests, using proper safety and procedural protocols.

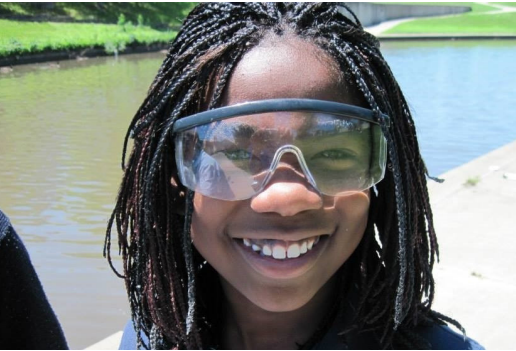
The Association provides a combination of staff, community members, state and municipal professionals who serve as mentors to small groups of students stream-side. Mentors are critical to the success of this program. To mentor please volunteer at www.brwa.net/volunteer.

Learn more about about the lessons, to schedule a program or volunteer at www.brwa.net/education/trueblue.html

If your business, or corporation would like to sponsor T.R.U.E. BlueSM, or other BRWA environmental education programs, please contact the Executive Director: youngblood@brwa.net

E-S.T.E.M. Outdoor Education at its Finest!

TEACHING RIVERS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT (T.R.U.E. BLUESM)





STAY CONNECTED



@blueriverwatershedassociation



@brwakc



@brwakc



<https://goo.gl/TQ4Uqq>

Call. 816-462-5199

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