



# PRIDE Progress

2012  
Issue 2

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## Nearly 27,000 Spring Cleanup volunteers showed PRIDE in region

We congratulate Southern and Eastern Kentuckians on a remarkable 2012 PRIDE Spring Cleanup Month.

In April, 26,711 volunteers picked up litter across our region's 38 counties. They removed 50,042 bags of trash from our ditches and shorelines.

Our counties and cities collected a total of 3,037 tires, 3,000 tons of trash, 81



Volunteers cleaned Hwy. 90 near Cumberland Falls State Resort Park during the Spring Cleanup Kick-Off.

tons of recyclables, and 9.5 tons of appliances during the Spring Cleanup.

"What a great way to celebrate the 15th anniversary of PRIDE," said Tammie Wilson, PRIDE Vice President/Chief Financial Officer. "We've come so far in 15 years, it's no wonder that communities want to build on this momentum and continue moving forward."

Since 1997, PRIDE cleanups have removed 2,875 illegal dumps, 176,175 tons of trash, 42,455 tons of junk appliances, and 961,430 old tires from our hillsides and waterways. 387,625 PRIDE volunteers have picked up another 750,334 bags of trash.

The annual Spring Cleanup contributes greatly to that progress. Local governments organize Spring Cleanup events.

PRIDE offers volunteer T-shirts, cleanup supplies, and funding assistance.

The 2012 Spring Cleanup was funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and by Waste Connections of Kentucky (Gold Sponsor); Outdoor Venture Corporation (Silver Sponsor); and New Horizon Graphics, Lightyear Network Solutions, and Owens Auto & Truck Parts (Bronze Sponsors).

To sponsor the 2013 Spring Cleanup, please call Tammie Wilson at 888.577.4339 (toll free).

[Spring Cleanup awards: Page 10](#)

[Spring Cleanup photos: Page 12](#)  
and <http://facebook.com/EasternKentuckyPRIDE/photos>

## New PRIDE programs to train and assist water and waste operations

We look forward to unveiling two new PRIDE programs this fall, thanks to two grants from USDA Rural Development.

With a total of \$195,798, Rural Development has charged PRIDE with providing technical training and assistance to local officials, operators, and management personnel involved in operation and maintenance of water and solid waste disposal facilities from cities and towns with populations of less than 2,500 within our 38-county region.

These new water and solid waste programs will:

- Reduce solid waste pollution of local water resources.

- Support advances in management, operation, and maintenance of water and waste disposal facilities.
- Identify best practices for replication across the nation.

"We appreciate Rural Development entrusting us with this opportunity," said PRIDE's Tammie Wilson. "We will draw upon our unique experience and excellent relationships formed while working with these leaders over the past 15 years."

Both programs will run for one year, starting Oct. 1, 2012. We will announce details and workshop schedules soon.

Please watch for announcements at <http://kypride.org>.

### CALENDAR

- Sept. 29 National Public Lands Day (<http://publiclandsday.org>)
- Oct. 1 PRIDE launches new water and solid waste programs (see story above for details)
- Oct. 31 PRIDE Clubs: Registration and budget forms due
- Nov. 15 America Recycles Day (<http://americarecyclesday.org>)

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# Good News Across the Region

## Owsley County's Homegrown Kentucky community garden

Owsley County students and residents now enjoy a community garden, thanks to the innovative Homegrown Kentucky project, which seeks to expand into other counties.

The garden is located at Owsley County High School, where there is a substantial amount of tillable land. The garden serves educational, economic, and public health purposes.

Students work in the garden, which allows for hands-on learning activities in subjects ranging from home economics to agriculture to math.

It provides fresh produce for the elementary, middle, and high school, with surplus food taken home by students.

Community members may apply for a plot and then receive seeds, guidance, and access to equipment at no cost.

Community members and older students are encouraged to make money by selling produce at the farmers market.

The agencies partnering to develop the garden are:

- University of Kentucky's Homegrown Kentucky student group.
- Owsley County Board of Education.
- Eastern Kentucky PRIDE.
- Owsley County Conservation District.
- University of Kentucky Extension Service.

The UK Homegrown Kentucky group initiated the project and has spearheaded fundraising, raising \$2,000 so far through grants and a bake sale. The Board of Education provides the land. The other partners provide technical and organizational support.

For their leadership in the project, the Owsley County Board of Education and Homegrown Kentucky were awarded PRIDE's Volunteer of the Month Award. The award recognizes outstanding community service related to environmental education and cleanup efforts in the region.

"The enthusiasm and cooperative spirit shown by all the partners has been incredible, but we thought the UK students and local educators deserved special recognition for their contributions," said Sandy Gay, who presented the award. She is a PRIDE Board Member and the Program Coordinator for the Owsley County Conservation District.

"From the school system, we thank Superintendent Tim Bobrowski, Principal Gary Cornett, and their team," she said. "From UK's Homegrown Kentucky student group, we thank Ben Smith, Patrick Johnson, Luke McAnally, and Adam Meredith. We look forward to working with more UK students as this project grows."

The Owsley County garden is the inaugural project of the Homegrown Kentucky group, which was formed in 2011. The group plans to start community gardens across the Commonwealth. Through summer internships, UK students can assist with the gardens to earn college credit and gain experience in community organization, leadership, communication, marketing, and agriculture.

More information is available at the Homegrown Kentucky web site: <http://wix.com/homegrownkentucky/home>.



On May 24, representatives of the Owsley County Board of Education, the University of Kentucky's Homegrown Kentucky student group, and PRIDE cut a ribbon to ceremonially open Owsley County's Homegrown Kentucky community garden, which is located at Owsley County High School.

## McCreary County finishes sewer project

The McCreary County Water District celebrated completion of a \$1.2 million sewer expansion project that served about 145 homes along Williamsburg Street, eliminating an estimated 50 failing septic systems and 30 straight pipes.

"Every family deserves to have access to sanitary sewer, and today, dozens of communities across our region now have that basic necessity thanks to the partnership between PRIDE and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Congressman Hal Rogers, PRIDE co-founder, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 5.

The project was funded primarily by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 531 program for design and construction of water-related environmental infrastructure in Kentucky's 5th Congressional District. Rogers established the program as part of the PRIDE initiative.



McCreary County – Colonel Robert D. Peterson, Judge-Executive Doug Stephens, Congressman Hal Rogers, Water District Manager and Superintendent Steve Owens, State Rep. Sara Beth Gregory, and Water Board Commissioners

## Pikeville and Salyersville launch water and wastewater projects

Water and sewer upgrades in Salyersville and Pikeville will be funded in part through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 531 program.

"Expanding our water system infrastructure and wastewater treatment facilities is a critical step toward improving our environment and public health and growing our local economy," said Congressman Hal Rogers. He spoke at April 4th ceremonies in both cities.

In Salyersville, Mayor James Sheppard and Colonel Robert D. Peterson, District Commander, Corps of Engineers' Huntington District, signed a partnership agreement on a major upgrade to the city's water treatment facility to fix deficiencies recorded by the Kentucky Division of Water.

Pikeville Mayor Frank Justice II and Colonel Peterson signed an agreement that kicked off a \$16 million project that will increase the city's total wastewater treatment capacity to four million gallons per day.



Salyersville – Colonel Robert D. Peterson, Mayor James Sheppard, and Congressman Hal Rogers

## Pike County PRIDE hosts golf tourney

The Pike County Clean Community Board/PRIDE Committee hosted a golf tournament to raise money for its environmental education and cleanup efforts.

The event, which included a luncheon, was held June 26 at Raven Rock Golf Course. Golfers vied for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place awards and prizes for the longest putt, longest drive, closest to pin, and hole-in-one.



Pike County – Teddy Honaker, one of the tournament planners, and PRIDE's Tammie Wilson



# Good News Across the Region

## Jackson County schools win Energy Oscars

We joined Jackson Energy Cooperative to roll out the red carpet on April 30 for Jackson County students during the Energy Oscars ceremony, which honored excellence in producing videos about the value of saving energy.



The special guests were the students from Annville Christian Academy, McKee Elementary School, Sand Gap Elementary School, and Tyner Elementary School who created the videos, along with their teachers and families.

Each school received a trophy, which was similar in appearance to the Academy Award, and a PRIDE Environmental Education Project of the Month Award plaque.

“You already have influenced thousands of people because 9,763 votes were cast for your videos online,” said Jackson Energy’s Haley McCoy, Energy Oscars co-host.

“You generated that online excitement by inviting your family and friends to choose their favorite video. McKee Elementary attracted the most online supporters, followed closely by Sand Gap Elementary. Thank you all for drawing so much attention to this important topic.”

We are grateful to these educators who guided the students in this project: Carol Madden, Annville Christian Academy; Angie Carol, Tyner Elementary; Nina Ingram, Sand Gap Elementary; Jenny Wilson, McKee Elementary; and Wonda Hammons, Jackson County PRIDE Environmental Education Liaison.

The students’ videos may be viewed at <http://myjacksonenergy.com>. They also have been broadcast by PRTC on the local cable channel 9.

The Energy Oscars is an environmental education program created in partnership by PRIDE and Jackson Energy Cooperative.



Annville Christian Academy students accepted awards during the Energy Oscars.

## Wolfe County, Forest Service and PRIDE team up to clean up



We are pleased to announce a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Wolfe County Fiscal Court that will improve the quality of water flowing from Campton toward the Red River Gorge.

Together, we will remove trash along Swift Camp Creek, a tributary of the Red River. The four-mile cleanup will begin near the city’s water plant. The fiscal court already cleaned the creek up to that point.

“This will be really important to Wolfe County and the Red River Gorge since the stream drains directly into Clifty Wilderness, one of only two nationally designated wilderness areas in Kentucky,” said John Walker, Hydrologist with the Daniel Boone National Forest. “It will make a big difference in what that stream looks like.”

“We are honored that the Forest Service invited us to help with this cleanup, which will be so important to the environment and tourism in this area,” said PRIDE’s Tammie Wilson.

“We did a similar project with the Forest Service in Clay County last year, and we have partnered with communities to remove 2,875 dumps over the past 15 years,” Wilson said.

“We appreciate John Walker, Wolfe County Judge-Executive Dennis Brooks, and Wolfe County Solid Waste Coordinator Ashley Bowman for their teamwork on this project,” Wilson added.

The Forest Service awarded a partnership agreement to PRIDE to manage the cleanup project and dispose of the trash. The Forest Service and PRIDE will contribute in-kind services, staff time, and expertise. The fiscal court will provide the equipment and inmate labor.

## Rogers Scholars and Rogers Explorers from 42 counties volunteer with PRIDE

This summer, 150 students from 42 counties volunteered with PRIDE during The Center for Rural Development’s elite Rogers Scholars and Rogers Explorers programs.

Two classes of Rogers Scholars, with a total of 66 students, picked up trash and debris along the shores of Lake Cumberland on one of their five days in Somerset.

Three classes of Rogers Explorers, each with about 30 students, picked up litter near the colleges where they spent three days and two nights — Lindsey Wilson College, University of the Cumberlands, and Morehead State University.

The Rogers Scholars program nurtures leadership and entrepreneurial skills in rising high school juniors. Rogers Explorers are rising ninth-grade students who are interested in careers in science, math, and technology. Both programs include a PRIDE cleanup as a lesson in community service.

“The community service project begins building long-term commitment to the students’ communities,” said Delaney

Stephens, The Center’s Youth Programs Coordinator and Community Liaison.

“We appreciate the Rogers Explorers and Rogers Scholars for their willingness to get their hands dirty to help the environment,” said PRIDE’s Tammie Wilson.



This class of Rogers Explorers picked up 20 bags of trash and two tires along the Green River near Lindsey Wilson College.

## Walmart Distribution Center donates \$5,000 to PRIDE

We thank Walmart Distribution Center 6097, which is located in London, for donating \$5,000 to PRIDE.

The donation was a monetary match for hours volunteered by the distribution center’s associates during the 2012 PRIDE Spring Cleanup.

During the Spring Cleanup Kick-Off, 27 associates volunteered for a total of 135 hours to pick up roadside litter near Cumberland Falls State Resort Park.

At the Laurel Lake Cleanup, 29 associates volunteered 174 hours. The distribution center rented two pontoons to take them out on the lake to pick up trash, and several associates brought their own boats.

“We are grateful for both the \$5,000 donated by the Walmart Distribution Center and for the hours volunteered by its associates,” said PRIDE’s Tammie Wilson.

“When good corporate citizens step up, like the Walmart

Distribution Center has done in this case, then the entire community benefits,” Wilson added. “It is the best possible scenario for a community when its businesses support local service projects and encourage employees to do the same.”



Greg Byrd, Human Resource Manager, Walmart Distribution Center 6097, presented a \$5,000 donation to Mark Davis of PRIDE.



# Environmental Education

## 36,825 students in 22 counties learned with PRIDE liaisons in '11/'12

We appreciate the sponsors, superintendents, principals, teachers, and PRIDE Environmental Education Liaisons who made possible the PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program during the 2011/2012 school year.

Thanks to an outstanding team effort by these partners, nature came to life in classrooms across our region.

Together, we sent 15 environmental education liaisons into schools in 22 counties (including all independent school systems in those counties), reaching a total of 36,825 students between September 2011 and May 2012.

Teacher evaluations of the liaisons were excellent and showed great interest in continuing the program.

Liaisons were commended for creativity and enthusiasm as they collaborated with teachers to present fun, hands-on activities that reinforced core science concepts and environmental stewardship skills.

Liaisons also helped with special projects in their communities. For example, the McCreary County liaison, Amanda Wilson, helped the county launch its recycling program by visiting all schools to demonstrate why and how to recycle.

The 2011/2012 liaisons were:

- Alger Jent – Knox County.
- Amanda Wilson – McCreary and Whitley Counties.
- Beth McDaniel – Laurel County.
- Cindy Looney – Perry and Pike Counties.
- Deborah Gay – Leslie County.
- Derrick Howard – Magoffin County.
- Kody Christian – Lee and Owsley Counties.
- Linda Rose – Morgan County.
- Mary Hampton – Harlan County.
- Monica Walker – Pulaski and Russell Counties.
- Paul Flowers – Lawrence County.
- Sarah Talley – Bell County.
- Shellie Kendall – Taylor County.
- Sue Christian – Breathitt and Menifee Counties.
- Wonda Hammons – Clay, Jackson, and Rockcastle Counties.

PRIDE offers the outreach program in 38 counties of southern and eastern Kentucky. In each county, local leaders pay a fee, based on student population, to enroll their schools.

We are grateful to the local governments, school boards, utility companies, and others who sponsored the program in their counties last year.

If you want to invest in your students and environment, then please consider enrolling your school systems in the program for 2012/2013. Please call us, toll free, at 888.577.4339.



PRIDE liaisons collaborate with teachers on many topics and activities, such as recycling.

**CSX donates \$2,500 to PRIDE for environmental education across the region**

We would like to thank CSX for awarding PRIDE a \$2,500 grant. The funds will be used to support environmental education efforts in 38 counties of Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

It is our privilege to support our region's educators as they nurture the passion, knowledge, and skills our young people need to take personal responsibility for the environment, while honing valuable life skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork.

We appreciate CSX for investing in this important work.

## PRIDE Environmental Education Projects of the Month

We lift up these projects as creative, effective ways of promoting environment awareness and stewardship. Learn more at <http://kypride.org/category/news/project-of-the-month/>. Nominate at <http://kypride.org/nominate>.



January – Clay County's Goose Rock Elementary decked class doors in energy conservation themes.



April – Four Jackson County schools shared the award for the Energy Oscars (see story on page 4).



February – Owsley County Elementary's door-decorating contest focused on recycling themes.



May – Russell County Middle School added Vending Misers to cut energy used by vending machines.



March – Science Hill Independent School got creative with environmental topics for March Madness.



August – Green County High School FBLA launched a recycling campaign in schools and the community.



# PRIDE Volunteers of the Month

We, along with TECO Coal Corporation, thank these volunteers for their outstanding service. Read more at <http://kypride.org/category/news/volunteer-of-the-month/>. Nominate at <http://kypride.org/nominate>.



January – The Garland Bend Homeowners Association has volunteered to clean the Garland Bend area of Pulaski County for two decades, restoring its scenic beauty.



April – Foothills Academy, a Clinton County residential program for troubled boys, regularly volunteers for local PRIDE events, such as the 2012 Dale Hollow Spring Cleanup (above).



July – Bob Pack, a Paintsville businessman and civic leader, organizes and volunteers for local cleanup activities, including spearheading the Paintsville Lake Cleanup.



February – Amir Ahmadi, a student at Morehead State University, started the MSU Environmental Eagles PRIDE Club and Eco-Olympics, and he inspires others to take pride in the environment.



May – Associates of Walmart Distribution Center (DC) 6097, located in London, volunteered for local Spring Cleanup events and the DC donated items for the events.



August – KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc., has recruited 3,000-plus Spring Cleanup volunteers, mostly Head Start students and their families, in six counties since 2009.



March – Mackenzie Walden, a Corbin Middle School 7th grader, helped recruit thousands of volunteers by winning the contest to design the 2012 Spring Cleanup T-shirt.



June – Owsley County Board of Education and Homegrown Kentucky, a University of Kentucky student organization, led creation of a community garden (see story on page 2).



September – Ashley Bowman, Wolfe County Solid Waste Coordinator, has increased local volunteer efforts since he became the Wolfe County PRIDE Coordinator, a volunteer position.

## All-volunteer Speakers Bureau recruits PRIDE volunteers

For 15 years now, PRIDE has been empowering Southern and Eastern Kentuckians to transform their communities, and volunteers are still needed to maximize the benefits of the PRIDE environmental cleanup and education campaign locally.

That was the message shared this spring by our all-volunteer PRIDE Speakers Bureau. The speakers reached a total of 2,286 people about PRIDE's 15th anniversary and Spring Cleanup Month.

The Speakers Bureau members who completed this latest public outreach campaign were:

- Lisa Greer, Adair County.
- Courtney Lacey Jenkins, Menifee County.
- Angie Muncy, Leslie County.
- Judge-Executive Ann Melton, Adair County.
- Brendia Moses, Knox County.
- Tim Bell, Wayne County.

We appreciate this team of PRIDE ambassadors, who are dedicated to increasing participation in PRIDE activities in their counties.

If you want to learn more about how to bring PRIDE to your community, then schedule a PRIDE Speakers Bureau presentation for any age group, from scouts to churches to civic clubs. Call our office, toll free, at 888.577.4339.



Courtney Lacey Jenkins, a member of the PRIDE Speakers Bureau, spoke to Menifee County residents about PRIDE.



# 2012 PRIDE Spring Cleanup Awards

## Congratulations!

### Volunteer Recruitment Awards – Schools

Corbin Primary, 1st Place

Corbin Elementary, Runner Up

### Greatest Volunteer Participation – Nonprofit Organizations

Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency, 1st Place

KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Runner Up

### Greatest Volunteer Participation – County

Wolfe County, 1st Place

Pulaski County, Runner Up

### Volunteer Recruitment Award – County

Taylor County

### Greatest Volunteer Participation – City

Greensburg, 1st Place

Pineville, Runner Up

### Volunteer Recruitment Award – City

Jenkins



Corbin Primary School – Ms. Robin Ingle’s kindergarten class, which is very active in caring for the school’s outdoor classroom



Wolfe County – PRIDE’s Tammie Wilson, Wolfe County Judge-Executive Dennis Brooks, Wolfe County Solid Waste/ PRIDE Coordinator Ashley Bowman, and magistrates



City of Greensburg – Greensburg PRIDE Coordinator Jerry Cowherd, PRIDE’s Tammie Wilson, and Greensburg Mayor Lisle Cheatham



Corbin Elementary School – Third and fourth-grade students with Jeannie Helton, Principal Chris Webb, and PRIDE’s Mark Davis



Pulaski County – Pulaski County Judge-Executive Barty Bullock, PRIDE’s Tammie Wilson



City of Pineville – Pineville Mayor Sherwin Rader and Pineville PRIDE Coordinator Ina Robbins surrounded by the members of the Pineville City Council



Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency – LCCAA staff involved in the Spring Cleanup with PRIDE’s Jennifer Johnson



KCEOC – KCEOC President/CEO Paul Dole, KCEOC’s Brendia Moses, and PRIDE’s Mark Davis



Taylor County – PRIDE’s Tammie Wilson, Taylor County PRIDE Coordinator Debra McNear, and Taylor County Judge-Executive Eddie Rogers



City of Jenkins – PRIDE’s Tammie Wilson, Jenkins PRIDE Coordinator Mason Tackett, and Jenkins Mayor G.C. Kincer

## 2012 PRIDE Spring Cleanup

Clockwise from top right:

Dale Hollow Spring Cleanup

Spring Cleanup pep rally, Pine Knot Primary School

PRIDE Clean Sweep of US 27, McCreary County

PRIDE Clean Sweep of US 27, Pulaski County

Laurel Lake Cleanup



PRIDE's Mark Davis worked with Letcher County's Beckham Bates Elementary School PRIDE Club (below) and Mt. Vernon Girl Scout Troop 276 to construct 35-gallon rain barrels, which can be used to reduce water bills and benefit the environment.

Visitors to Cumberland Falls after Aug. 20 weren't distracted by trash in the scenery, thanks to this team of students (below) who participated in Union College Freshmen Volunteer Day. Photo submitted by Pam Gibson.



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To be alerted when new editions of PRIDE Progress are posted online, send your e-mail address to [PRIDE@centertech.com](mailto:PRIDE@centertech.com).

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