

Environmental Report July 2020

Environmental Manager

Teresa Sidwell

Adopt a Road Cleanup – A big thank you to the Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) who organized a cleanup in the Monte Ne area in July. Officer Cervantes collected the waste that was picked up around the lake and disposed of it properly. The BWA was formed in 2011 and works to protect the high water quality of Beaver Lake and its tributaries through voluntary best management practice implementation, outreach and education, and scientific evaluation. The group picked up a couch, a chair, and 16 bags of trash (pictured below left).



County Teaching Garden – Arkansas Ironweed (pictured above right) started blooming at the county teaching garden in July. Ironweed is in the aster family and has purple flowers in large heads that can be more than an inch wide. Ironweeds are perennials that rarely need division. The rusty hairs on the cinnamon-colored seeds may be where it gets its name. Plants tend to grow taller in moist soils. Their bitter-tasting leaves are not liked by most animals. If left in place the seedheads add extra interest in late fall and winter.

Environmental Education – COVID19 put a halt to our Environmental Education program in March. We normally spend time in the classroom or give presentations to community groups every month. We focus on environmental education, programs, and enforcement. I have found that I can educate the public through social media by using the @nwaecofest Instagram account. I have highlighted the importance of proper waste disposal, native plants of northwest Arkansas, and recycling. Take a few minutes to look over this Instagram account. I know that you will enjoy the content and photos.

Staff Training – Officer Cervantes took a 10 hour online course for Domestic Violence through the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute. Officer Filbeck and I went to the Bella Vista gun range to practice in July.



The first annual NWA EcoFest is scheduled for November 6-7. It will be held at the Benton County fairgrounds from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Friday will be a free fieldtrip day for area schools and Saturday will be open to the public. Area businesses and groups will share their message of environmental protection with the public. Exhibitors include;

- *Benton County Environmental
- *Benton County Solid Waste District
- *Rogers Recycling Center
- *Benton County Extension
- *Tricycle Farms
- *NWA Master Naturalists
- *Washington County Extension
- *Artful Kreativi Dee
- * Fayetteville Recycling Center
- *MerMade with Love
- *Arkansas Monarchs
- *Ozark Adventure & Recreation
- *Ozark Natural Science Center
- *Boston Mtn. Solid Waste District
- *Beaver Watershed Alliance
- *37 North Expeditions
- *Woodworx Workshop
- *Keep Arkansas Beautiful
- *Arkansas Native Plant Society
- *Wild Ones, Ozark Chapter
- *Albrecht Fly Fishing
- *Kindness Eco Book Share
- *Woods Homesteading

Please share with potential exhibitors and the public.

  [@nwaecofest](#) on Instagram has a link in the bio to the event [website](#) .

Roadside Cleanups in July – Officer Cervantes and I took the grappling truck out in July to clean up illegal roadside dumps. We removed a mattress and box spring from Lawson Road outside of Siloam Springs (pictured top left), a large sectional couch from North Old Wire Road in the Avoca area (pictured bottom right) and a couch from the side of Readings Road in the Springtown area (pictured bottom left). Officer Filbeck also investigated a roadside dump on Kelly Pond Road in the Decatur area. In the debris (pictured top right) he found evidence and contacted the owner of the household items. The property owner stated that her husband had hired someone to dispose of the waste. They apologized and cleaned up the waste quickly. I have advised people many times over my 10 years with the Environmental Division to pay after getting receipts of proper waste disposal. It can be very costly if you have to pay twice for the disposal of the same waste.



CONVENIENCE CENTER PROGRAM

This program is a collaborative effort between the Benton County Environmental Division and Benton County Solid Waste District to provide recycling and safe disposal of large bulky household items and household hazardous waste. The centers are located in Rogers, Centerton, and Siloam Springs. So far this year almost 12,000 loads have been accepted.

Waste Brought to Convenience Centers								
CENTERTON	# OF LOADS	HHW VISITS	APPLIANCES	ELECTRONICS	FURNITURE	METAL	PLAYGROUND	TIRES
January	767	152	149	537	793	641	50	299
February	819	168	155	493	987	733	113	211
March	475	104	104	293	626	638	27	177
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	1318	211	200	677	1980	2348	237	108
June	1334	210	187	783	2150	2457	191	482
July	1126	204	177	577	1335	1286	268	468
2020 YTD	5839	1049	972	3360	7871	8103	886	1745
ROGERS	# OF LOADS	HHW VISITS	APPLIANCES	ELECTRONICS	FURNITURE	METAL	PLAYGROUND	TIRES
January	737	126	369	563	859	966	61	347
February	854	122	288	468	804	849	107	166
March	412	77	70	245	380	421	59	296
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	1351	280	263	905	1805	1895	266	349
June	1158	240	388	733	1490	1528	151	340
July	1113	207	244	773	1359	1216	275	425
2020 YTD	5625	1052	1622	3687	6697	6875	919	1923
SILOAM SPRINGS	# OF LOADS	HHW VISITS	APPLIANCES	ELECTRONICS	FURNITURE	METAL	PLAYGROUND	TIRES
January	96	37	19	135	49	72	7	157
February	94	34	22	88	78	45	0	102
March	56	30	13	36	41	24	5	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	22	5	6	26	34	11	0	54
June	81	24	18	93	79	49	1	57
July	71	27	4	62	31	49	6	111
2020 YTD	420	157	82	440	312	250	19	481
SITES COMBINED 2020	11884	2258	2676	7487	14880	15228	1824	4149

NOTE: # of appliances, electronics, furniture, metal, playground equipment, and tires are based on number of items collected. HHW is based on the # of visits, not the # of items brought per visit.

2020 Expenses for Waste Disposal										
2020 County Expenses	Bulky Waste Centerton	Bulky Waste Rogers	Bulky Waste Siloam Springs	Attendant's Wages**	Household Hazardous Waste	Advertising	In-house recycling	Roadside Cleanups	Nuisance Cases	TOTALS
BUDGET	\$58,739.00	\$40,380.00	\$11,000.00	\$51,598.89	\$30,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,780.00	\$6,572.11	\$34,680.00	\$ 242,750.00
ACTUAL COSTS										
JANUARY	\$ 3,253.26	\$ 4,142.04	\$ 101.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68.81	\$ -	\$ 7,565.30
FEBRUARY	\$ 4,529.80	\$ 2,281.46	\$ 818.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18.81	\$ -	\$ 7,648.48
MARCH	\$ 2,530.76	\$ 2,583.10	\$ 101.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,214.96
APRIL	\$ 495.05	\$ 866.53	\$ 462.94	\$ 12,524.00	\$ -	\$ 5,294.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 23,193.05
MAY	\$ 6,593.48	\$ 4,782.64	\$ 104.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,480.44
JUNE	\$ 8,573.85	\$ 4,016.25	\$ 821.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 110.73	\$ -	\$ 13,522.38
JULY	\$ 6,904.60	\$ 5,042.95	\$ 462.97	\$ 12,524.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9.90	\$3,300.00	\$ 28,244.42
SPENT Y-T-D	\$ 32,880.80	\$ 23,714.97	\$ 2,872.48	\$ 25,048.00	\$ -	\$ 5,294.53	\$ -	\$ 208.25	\$ 6,850.00	\$ 96,869.03

*BCSWD will use up to \$30,000 of their budget for HHW before billing the County. **Attendant's wages billed quarterly.

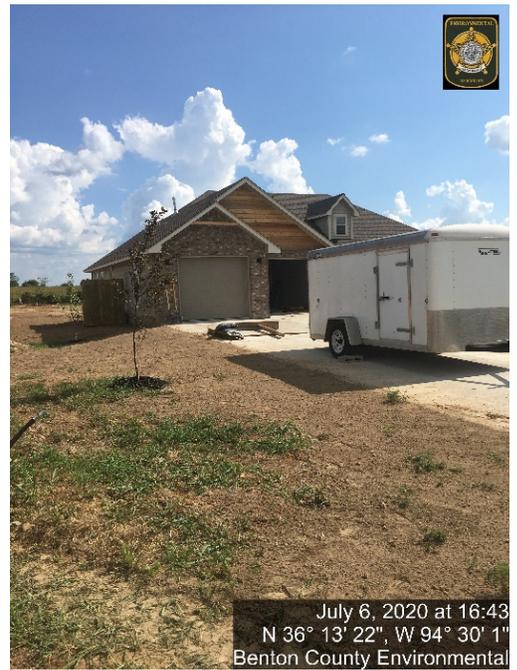
Tim Filbeck
Environmental Enforcement Officer

This case was on the north side of Siloam Springs. A house was being built and our Division received reports of illegal burning. The site was cleaned up and the burned debris was properly disposed of.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



This property had a fire in August 2009 where three mobile homes, a large number of pallets, large piles of saw dust, and equipment had burned. It was a very large fire that spread over ¾ of this 6 acre property. At this property the owner had a pallet repair and mulch business. Shortly after, one of the property owners died and their family suffered multiple medical hardships. Two former Environmental Officers worked the case without much success until the case was reassigned to Officer Filbeck in November of 2017. In May of 2018 the Rogers District Court Judge gave the property owner 1 year to complete the cleanup and bring the property into compliance. In August 2019 there was another fire at this property. The Fire Department extinguished the fire and reported that there was a mix of trash and pallets in the fire. After repeated court dates, this case was exactly 4000 days (almost 11 years) old when this property was finally cleaned.

August 2009



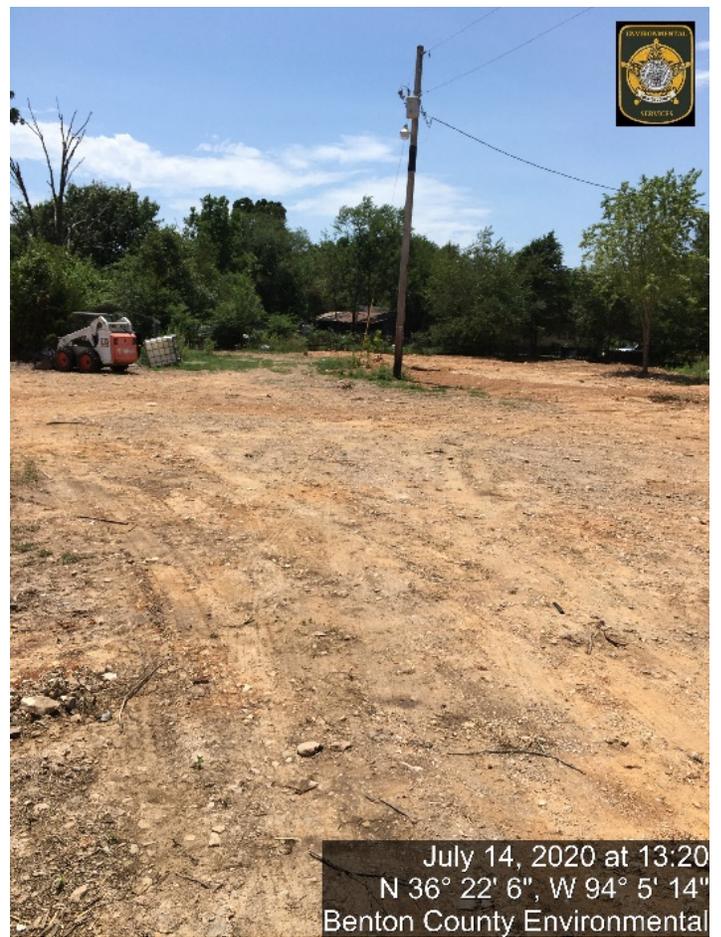
March 2012



Drone photo April 2019



Property cleaned up in July 2020



This case was outside the city limits of Gravette, near Maysville. There was a dispute between neighbors which caused the environmental division to become involved. On the initial inspection there was a lot of animosity because the offender had several bad encounters with law enforcement. The suspect was a middle-aged disabled male with only one leg. His wife and step son created a large dumpsite of household trash and household items while the offender was out of town. The wife and step son vacated the property leaving the mess behind. The offender only received disability money and lacked the financial means to properly dispose of the waste. I provided the offender with trash bags to collect the waste and he made an agreement with another neighbor to permanently use the neighbor's dumpster for his disposal too. Not only was the property cleaned; but the offender was thankful for the cooperation and he said he had a different outlook on law enforcement now.

BEFORE:

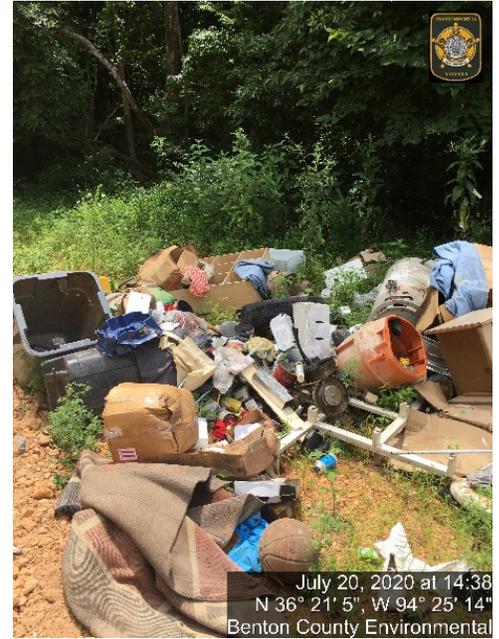


AFTER:



This case was in-between Decatur and Gravette. Someone(s) illegally dumped household debris on the roadside. On the initial investigation there was no evidence found. The same suspect(s) returned to the same location about 4 days later and dumped more debris. On the second day's investigation, I was able to locate evidence. I went to the suspect's house in Gravette. The suspects were given the opportunity to clean the site in lieu of a citation. Before the deadline, the site was cleaned and the debris was properly disposed of.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



Merced Cervantes Environmental Enforcement Officer

This is another case that our Division has received recently in the Lost Bridge area east of Garfield. The bank owned property was cleaned up after a few months and the property looks great. The reporter called to thank Benton County Environmental Division.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



ENVIRONMENTAL CASE DATA

Refer to the charts below for environmental cases received and actions initiated in July.

VIOLATION TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	0
Burn (electronics)	0
Burn (furniture)	0
Burn (general waste)	0
Burn (household garbage)	2
Burn (mobile home)	0
Burn (tires)	0
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	1
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	0
Bury (mobile home)	0
Bury (trees)	0
Dumped by others (appliances)	0
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by others (construction debris)	3
Dumped by others (electronics)	0
Dumped by others (furniture)	2
Dumped by others (general waste)	5
Dumped by others (household garbage)	2
Dumped by others (metal)	0
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	3
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	0
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	4
Dumped by self (construction debris)	1
Dumped by self (electronics)	0
Dumped by self (furniture)	1
Dumped by self (general waste)	1
Dumped by self (household garbage)	2
Dumped by self (metal)	1
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	1
Dumped by self (trees)	0
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	0
Camera/Sign installation	0
Extra Patrol	13
Littering	0

ACTION TAKEN	QTY.
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	0
WARNINGS ISSUED	0
CITATIONS ISSUED	3
WARRANTS	0
COURT APPEARANCES	0
CASE STATUS	QTY.
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	39
CASES CLOSED THIS MONTH	44
TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION	25
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CURRENTLY IN COURT SYSTEM	33
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED YTD	263

Don't Trash our Environment - I have heard it many times, "I'm not the one who littered so why should I be the one to pick it up?" My answer to you is, "What kind of environment do you want to leave for your children and grandchildren?" The most common litter in our streams is plastic. Plastics can be ingested by or strangle wildlife. Most of the plastic trash in the oceans is carried to sea by rivers. If you do nothing this problem will not get better, it will only get worse.

8% of plastic is recycled in our nation and convenience plastics have led to a throw-away culture. Single-use plastics account for 40% of the plastic produced every year. Make efforts to use less throw-away plastics and recycle. Help keep Arkansas the natural state for generations to come.



Trash left behind at Wildcat Creek outside Siloam.

