

**Upper Cumberland River Watershed Watch (UCWW)
January 2008 – December 2008
Carol Cox – Steering Committee Chairperson**

The UCWW Annual Conference was held on February 9th in Somerset with approximately 25 volunteers attending. The morning session included:

- Presentation of 10 year service awards,
- Review and discussion of the 2007 sample data
- A session on microbial source tracking presented by University of Kentucky researcher, Tricia Coakley.

The afternoon included:

- Presentation on basin activities
- Presentation on the World Wildlife Fund grant that UCWW received.
- Session on who to contact if a citizen has a complaint.
- Board meeting to elect officers.

The UCWW Steering Committee met on March 29th to set the 2008 sample schedule which included basin wide grab sample events on May 3rd, June 28th, and September 27th. All sample events included field chemistry and a grab sample for e coli bacteria.

In the spring, UCWW submitted the final report for the World Wildlife Fun, Southeast Rivers and Streams grant project. The project funded UCWW activities in 2007 and 2008 to train and equip 20 volunteers to conduct habitat and biological assessments. To date approximately 22 volunteers have completed training thru the project. UCWW submitted an additional application for funding to WWF in the fall of 2008 to continue funding monitoring activities.

New volunteer (Phase I) workshops were held in April with 3 new samplers being trained and fully equipped.

For the 2008 sample season, a total of 236 samples were collected and analyzed thru the three events. Data was distributed in a timely fashion to all volunteers via electronics reports. In 2008, UCWW continued a relationship with the McCreary County Water District. The district has been gracious in analyzing all bacteria samples from the Big South Fork watershed.

The UCWW Steering Committee convened on September 23rd to review the years' issues and accomplishments and to set up the Annual Conference, which will be held on February 9, 2009.

In addition, the UCWW Website Committee was re-initiated and tasked with updating the website. The website committee met on November 25 and developed recommendations for changes to the sites location and design.