

No. 14 — February 2008

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New Appalachian Network could be LWW's biggest yet; third project area in works

By **BILL BOWMAN**
Network Moderator

LWW's new Appalachian Network is the first in the United States and, in terms of numbers of units, promises to be its largest.

The network arose from an "In Our Backyard" conference held in northeastern Tennessee in November 2007 to explore the water realities in the Appalachia mountains.

Thirty people from across the region gathered to see the nearby Buffalo Creek work and to discuss possibilities for future projects.

Currently there are two community-based projects in the U.S. using in-home water treatment systems, in Viking Mountain and Buffalo Creek, both in Tennessee.

Talking with homeowners in the Buffalo Creek installations, conference participants clearly saw the impact clean water is having on their health and living conditions.

The Viking Mountain project was spearheaded by the late Tom Carroll of Kingsport and later by Harrell Cobb of Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church in Greeneville. Sixteen in-home units were installed after a flood contaminated wells in the area, and three more are planned to finish work at the project site.

Tim Myrick of First Presbyterian in Oak Ridge has also



LWW volunteer Harold Iley (left) of Corbin, Ky., and Buffalo Creek homeowner Donald Shelley squeeze into a well shed to install a water treatment system. The tall tank on the right is a greensand filter, the one on the left a water softener.

worked with Rev. Cobb and has committed some Rotary Club money to help with the project.

The Buffalo Creek project is a partnership arrangement between Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Ky., and the Buffalo Water Project Association. Bill Bowman and Jeff Wagner from Bardstown Road, and Tammy Siler of BWPA have coordinated efforts to install several systems.

To date, nine systems have been installed, and ten more are planned. Tom Carroll also attended several meetings of the group and was instrumental in mapping out

the technical aspects of the in-home systems.

A challenge the Buffalo Creek team has faced, different from Viking Mountain, is that the local wells were contaminated by iron as well as bacteria. The iron has a tendency to turn the water orange, making it unfit for bathing, cooking, or drinking.

To address the iron problems, volunteer Jack Wendleton suggested a "greensand" filter, a material known to remove iron particles and dissolved iron. Adding the greensand filter, along with a water softener, to a board with two "big blue" filters

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Campeche water system operators join hands to aid victims of severe flood in Tabasco

In late October, although our news media scarcely mentioned it, the people of the state of Tabasco in southern Mexico suffered one of the most devastating floods in history. Over a million people were displaced, and the receding waters left behind destruction and contamination that will take years to clean up. And one of the most critical needs, of course, is clean water.

Hearing about the plight of their brothers in the neighboring state, the operators of the Living Waters systems in the state of Campeche, Mexico, decided to produce and send as much clean water as they could transport to Tabasco.

We are often privileged to be in a position to help people in need. But in this case, it is not we but our partners who now have Living Waters systems who are in a position to help. So, Living Waters has become ministry that empowers ministry – what could be better!



Bucket brigade style, water is loaded for Mexican flood victims.

Joanie Lukins new LWW Committee moderator

LWW's governing board, the Living Waters for the World Committee, has a new moderator and five new members.

The first new moderator in four years is one of its most experienced veterans, Joanie Lukins, a Presbyterian elder in Danville, Ky. She already holds two major positions in the organization — both at the same time.

As coordinator of the Yucatan Network, she oversees the largest regional group of community water systems.

That role has led to frequent trips to Mexico, where across the Yucatan Peninsula she is known as "Juanita."

As a lead instructor in Clean Water

U's community health education course, CWU-102, she wrote most of the material for the student manual.

She also assembled most of the worship materials that are used at CWU, and for years she was moderator of LWW's task force dealing with community health education.

Mrs. Lukins assumed the moderator's role at the January 28-29 meeting of the Synod of Living Waters, succeeding Bill Williams of Paris, Tenn.

At that meeting the committee also welcomed two new members serving as presbytery commissioners to the Synod and three elected at large from across the Synod.

The commissioners are the Rev. David Duggan of Versailles, Ky., in Transylvania Presbytery and John Manney of Jefferson City, Tenn., in Holston Presbytery.

Chosen at large were Lynn Kszos of

Knoxville, Tenn., Tim Myrick of Powell, Tenn., and Betty Anne Wilson of Memphis, Tenn. All three have been active volunteers in LWW.

Leaving the committee — but not giving up their volunteerism — were the Rev. Bob Armistead of Decatur, Ga., the Rev. Mary Reed of Lexington, Ky., George Hoge of Louisville, Ky., and Ralph Hall of PeWee Valley, Ky.

At the Synod meeting LWW presented the Monday evening program, with Steve Young showing the video and presenting some additional information. Afterward, he presented Williams a scrapbook of tribute letters from leaders in LWW.

At the meeting LWW also was the beneficiary of an offering at worship, and it was learned there that LWW has received an anonymous \$4,000 gift to convert a standard water treatment board to solar power.



Lukins

Fall 2007 classes at CWU — Nos. 12 and 13



The September 2007 Clean Water U class had 32 students from 10 states and one foreign country.



The October 2007 class was CWU's largest to date: 62 students from nine states and two foreign countries.

Crews complete work on new CWU building — hark! no generators roaring in the woods

When the CWU-103 class sets to work in March, something big will be added to their water training facilities in “the boonies” and something big will be missing.

The addition is the second water training building, called the “Mississippi” building for its wooden board-and-batten construction, contrasting to the concrete construction of the original “Mexico” building.

What’s missing will be the roar of generators. Thanks in large part to a major gift from Second Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Ky., the water training site will have electric power through an underground line.

Since the October 2007 session of Clean Water U, a host of volunteers have worked in a series of construction episodes to have the new building ready.

The final burst came in a week of labor in early February.

Randall Swan made his third major trip from Kansas City just to work on the building, accompanied for the second time by Vern Hertzberg.

Bubba Martin came early to direct electrical operations, preparing for Northeast Power Association to install the buried service line into the water buildings, rewiring the Mexico building, finishing the wiring in the Mississippi building, digging 250 feet of trenches, etc.

The power line snakes across the northeast Mississippi terrain from the county road across the Lower Lake Andrew dam and up to the Bryson-Lawler campus where the buildings are located.

Mark Tew started even earlier, working with Wil Howie to get new elevated tank stands in place.

The Advent Church water

boys, led by Harlon Mills and Floyd Groves, were joined by Joel Lewis, John Jackson and Doug Thompson. Jim Levenier from Idlewild PC in Memphis came as well.

Ralph Young and George Plouffe did a variety of hard work, mostly aimed at designing, building and testing the two new ROS designs - the Yucatan-ROS and the Transportable-ROS boards.

Dave Howell from Lebanon, Tenn., and Kevin Robinson from Oxford, Miss., were there as well as Jerry Goode from Laurel, Miss., who tackled the plumbing for the two tanks on the elevated tank stands as well as building and testing two new “settling buckets” that will allow pre-treatment of surface water that has high sediment loads.

Darren Ashmore, site manager for Camp Hopewell, was a partner and worker throughout.

“So much fine work has been poured out at the Bryson-Lawler campus of CWU that it would be impossible adequately to describe it all,” Howie said. “However, without all of these amazing volunteers it would not have happened.”

We’ve got a plan —

LWW works on long-term ‘road map’

Living Waters for the World recently completed the initial work on a new strategic plan, creating a road map for taking the organization forward over the next three years.

Using the services of a facilitator provided by the Center for Non-profit Management based in Nashville, the planning sessions involved 30 of LWW’s key volunteer leaders and the staff.



CWU-103 instructor Mark Tew (left) and his grandson, Lee Lewis, work on an elevated tank stand at the new “Mississippi” building at Camp Hopewell.

“This is a significant step forward for Living Waters for the World,” said Steve Young, administrator of LWW.

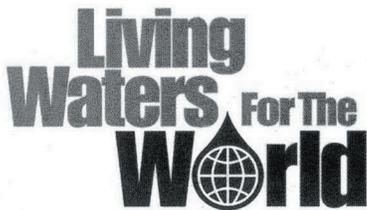
“The plan provides a clear path forward, allows us to prioritize and focus on key functional areas, and perhaps best of all, creates a greater sense of ownership among all of our key volunteers.”

As part of the output of the new plan, LWW has restruc-

tured organizationally into work teams that track with the key results areas of the plan.

Those teams are Administration, Field Operations, Education, Technology, and Development & Awareness.

These teams report to the Living Waters for the World Committee and are charged with carrying out the tasks associated with the strategic plan.



I want to support Living Waters for the World.

Believing that all of God's children need clean water, here's my gift or pledge to help in the work.

My name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Amount enclosed or pledged \$ _____ (Pledge to be paid by date: _____)

Given in memory of or in honor of _____

Please send acknowledgement to: _____

Mail to: Living Waters for the World, 318 Seaboard Lane, Suite 205, Franklin TN 37067
or send by E-mail to: infolww@livingwatersfortheworld.org
For more information: www.livingwatersfortheworld.org or phone 615-261-4008



System operators hold second Yucatan seminar

On November 2 and 3, about 80 operators of LWW clean water systems in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico gathered at Monte Moriah Presbyterian Church in Campeche, Mexico, for continuing education and sharing of information.

It was the second such gathering in what is becoming an annual event.

The men and women represented 26 of the 36 existing systems in the peninsula, plus representatives from several that are scheduled to receive systems in the near future.

Highlights of the meeting:

- Instruction by Carlos Castilla, a local equipment supplier, on water characteristics and the operation of the softener and reverse osmosis equipment.

- Information about health department requirements; sharing of problems and solutions.

- Discussion of their vision for the future.

The women of the church

served four meals to the group; participants slept in hammocks hung in the church building and the nearby seminary building.

Fellowship was an important ingredient of the days, and there was lots of conversation and laughter and sharing. The event culminated with worship and the sharing of Holy Communion.

Our partners there are "taking ownership" of the systems, and many of them are now operating as self-sustaining businesses.



Carlos Castilla (right) explains the maintenance of a water softener to system operators from across Mexico's Yucatan.

LWW's major calendar dates 2008

February 17 - Clean Water Sunday
in most participating churches
March 5-9 -- Clean Water U #14
March 25-28 -- LWW Team meetings
April 9-13 -- Clean Water U #15
April 21 -- LWW Committee meeting
April 30-May 4 -- Clean Water U #16
June 21-28 -- PC(USA) General Assembly

August 12-15 -- LWW Team meetings
August 25 -- LWW Committee meeting
Sept. 10-14 -- Clean Water U #17
Oct. 1-5 -- Clean Water U #18
Oct. 22-26 -- Clean Water U #19
Nov. 11-14 -- LWW Team meetings
Dec. 1 -- LWW Committee meeting

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

A day to remember: World Water Day

The United Nations has designated Saturday, March 22, as World Water Day. It is not a day to celebrate; it is a day to remember.

World Water Day is a day to remember how fortunate we are to have clean water waiting for us when we turn a faucet – whether it's to get a drink of water, to take a shower, brush your teeth, water the lawn, or wash the dishes (or the car or the dog).

It's a day to remember that 40% of the world's population does not have access to clean water and that every year over 3,000,000 people die from water-related diseases and that most of these deaths are children under the age of five.

It's a day to remember that, in some cultures, people do not give their new babies a name until they are over a year old because of the high death rate.

It's a day to remember that, in some parts of the world, people have to walk miles to get water, dirty water at that, water that they will carry home in a dirty container, from a pond or mud hole that must be shared

with animals. This task is generally relegated to the women and girls of the village so it means that girls usually cannot go to school because they have to carry the water for the family.

It's a day to remember that, in many parts of the world, boiling water is the only method of cleaning water and that wood is the only fuel available for this purpose. The resulting damage to the environment caused by deforestation is enormous.

It's a day to remember that 20% of the world's total fresh water supply pours over Niagara Falls.

Take a minute now to circle the date of March 22 on your calendar. When that day rolls around, gather your friends or family around and make a list of all the things you do every day that require water. Think about how your life would change if clean water were no longer available.

Think about this precious resource that God has given us and how we need to conserve it and take care of it.

Join up: E-Learning has 200 enrolled so far

Have you signed up yet?

To date, over 200 individuals have registered to take the Status of Projects (SOP) Database training started in January.

This e-Learning course is provided through a partnership between LWW and Career Currency LLC, a Memphis company. LWW is experimenting with e-Learning as a better way to keep our partners up to date with the latest LWW developments.

The SOP Database training was selected to try e-Learning because it is a computer-based application that needed to reach many Initiating Partners, CWU instructors, and LWW staff.

With over 280 projects in the SOP Database, it was becoming more difficult to track the progress of each project and verify the data. With direct access to the information, IP's can update their own project information quickly and have access to other projects to encourage networking and collaboration.

As LWW develops more networks, collaboration among networks and installations will become an important factor in the sustainability of the mission.

After three weeks, 10 percent of those individuals registered have taken the training and become certified to

update the SOP Database. Another 10 percent have tried the course and either not finished it or have not certified by completing the tests. Even though the results are still very preliminary, e-Learning may be adopted by LWW to service some specialized training needs

in the future.

The e-Learning course will stay open and available until April 2008. At that time, LWW will evaluate the course and determine how well it met its objectives.

To sign up, E-mail Ralph Young at ralph.young@livingwatersfortheworld.org.

Appalachian Network organized

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an ultraviolet light took care of the iron problem as well as harmful bacteria.

Since all of the installations so far have been in single-family houses, nine Buffalo Creek families and sixteen Viking Mountain families are now enjoying clean water. Family members are thrilled with the results, including five-year-old Cassie Partin, who had to ask her mother several times (after being told differently for years) to be sure it was really okay to drink a glass of water from the faucet. The clean water has also alleviated some illnesses and has meant that families don't have to buy expensive bottled water for regular use.

A leadership team for the new Appalachian Network met in January 2008 to review activities and make plans. Mem-

bers learned that the memorial fund established in Carroll's honor has received over \$10,000, and this sum will be used to expand the number of installations in Appalachia.

Besides planning to finish the two existing projects, the team also planned a third installation site, another hollow near the Buffalo Creek location. Although the new site reportedly has similar problems with iron, the team won't be able to design the new treatment systems without extensive analysis of the water quality at the new location.

Fortunately, Living Waters has authorized the purchase of a Hach field testing kit, which can give volunteers accurate water testing results without having to ship samples to an outside lab. The first use of the new kit will be with the water samples from the new hollow.