

BNWV Conservation Report March 13, 2021

Jerod Harman, Conservation Dir.

Tygart Lake was the site for habitat project work so far this year. Wreaths were collected on two separate days from the WV National Cemetery and the Grafton National Cemetery. Approximately 5,000 wreaths were collected and transported to Tygart Lake.

This year, we pre-constructed cube frames made of PVC pipe to hold the wreaths on pallets in the lake. Phase 1 collection and installation was done on January 20th. Twenty-six wreath pallets were constructed and placed in Wildcat at Tygart Lake. There were 6 volunteers, the WVDNR, a veterans group from Morgantown. Additionally, Matt Gower (MONCO Constructors) provided a man with a truck and gooseneck trailer. He transported several completed wreath cube pallets to the lake from the WV National Cemetery. All the wreaths could not be collected from the cemetery that day, and Henry Chisholm and Paul Isner (along with some of the veterans group) went back the next day, January 21st, to finish picking up wreaths and transport them to the lake.

Then, on February 27th, Phase 2 was installed at the head of Pleasant's Creek at Tygart. There were 32 additional wreath pallets installed. This day, we had help from several volunteers, the WVDNR, and the Boy Scout Troop 135 from Gassaway, and the WVU Fishing Team. Altogether, over 30 people assisted.

Heavy rains brought Tygart Lake to over summer pool level in just a few days at the beginning of March. Unfortunately, some of the wreath pallets lost the battle with Mother Nature. Approximately two-thirds of the pallets had either floated to the shoreline, flipped upside down, on their sides, or were washed downstream from their original placement location. Mike Moore and the DNR closely monitored the problem, secured several of the pallets on high ground, and a plan was made to reinstall them on March 9 2021.

The day before, on March 8th, I went to Tygart to assess the situation. Pallets were up righted. Pipes were drilled to vent out air and water as the lake level changes. One cube was completely destroyed and had to be reconstructed.

Again, Matt Gower came to the rescue with a skid steer loader on March 9th. Mike Moore, Paul Isner, Henry Chisholm, two assistants from the WVDNR, and two men that work for Matt Gower worked to make the Pleasants Creek Phase 2 project actually better than when it was first installed only 11 days prior. Extra blocks were purchased by the DNR. Each pallet now has 4 blocks (up from 2) and several pallets have additional weight from rocks. This part went extremely well.

Then, we went to Wildcat (Phase 1 area). Several pallets had been washed away. They were brought back to a suitable location if possible. Some were destroyed. The wreaths were picked up and placed horizontally to transform into similar structure as we placed in 2020. That was a tough one, but it is complete.

Tygart project expenses 2021

Phase 1 – 26 Wreath Pallet Cubes 1” PVC

1/11/21 Amazon – 1” PVC 3 Way Elbows	327.24
1/11/21 Supply House – 1-1/4” Straps	30.98
1/15/21 Lowe’s - 1” PVC Pipe	153.22
1/15/21 Lowe’s – Glue and Cleaner	47.66
1/18/21 Lowe’s – Screws, washers, glue, gloves	71.63
1/19/21 Harbor Freight – Tarps to keep wreaths on trailer	<u>48.13</u>

(Phase 1) TOTAL: \$678.86

Phase 2 – 32 Wreath Pallet Cubes 1-1/4” PVC

1/30/21 Amazon - Qty. 192 1-1/4” PVC 3 Way Elbows	359.26
1/30/21 Amazon – Qty. 100 1-1/2” Straps	41.04
2/4/21 Amazon – Qty. 96 1-1/4” PVC 3 Way Elbows	183.12
2/4/21 Amazon – Supply House 1-1/4” Straps	34.40
2/4/21 Lowe’s – 1-1/4” PVC Pipe	270.11
2/4/21 Lowe’s – Screws and LP	32.05
2/5/21 – Rite Way Heating and Plumbing - Glue and Cleaner	67.10
2/13/21 – Rite Way Heating and Plumbing - Glue and Cleaner	31.97
2/26/21 – Ace Hardware – Rope, fasteners, PVC Cleaner	<u>55.01</u>

(Phase 2) TOTAL: \$1,074.06

Total material cost: \$1,752.92

Additional Expenses: \$170.47

Gasoline: 1/9/21 \$45.00, 1/11/21 \$30.00, 2/4/21 \$25 = \$100

Volunteer Food: 3/9/21 \$70.47

Reimbursed: Jerod Harman for \$512.48

BNWV Conservation Account

Balance

2/1/21 Balance		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2/1/21 Deposit (BNWV)		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2/8/21 Ck. 385 Jerod Harman		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2/26/21 Service Charge		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2/27/21 Ck. 386 WVU Fishing Team	500.00	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Upcoming Conservation Items in 2021:

- 1- The WVU Fishing Team will continue to clean up the Fort Martin access site on the Monongahela River and are willing to help at any projects when called upon. They have been supplied with trash collection bags that were leftover from our Shimano Project.

- 2- This Summer, I plan to do a BNWV Fundraising event. This will probably be a Two-Day "Cast and Blast" at Stonewall. Tentatively, on Saturday July 31st, there will be a paper tournament at Stonewall Jackson Lake. Teams of anglers will photograph, measure, and release their fish. I plan to start relatively early, and end the tournament by 2pm. It may be pretty warm that day, and participants may want to get some practice in for Day #2.

On Sunday, we will move to Stonewall Sporting Clays. Shooters will try their luck at a round of sporting clays. Shooters will keep their score on how many clays they break of the 100 target round. When the rounds are completed, we will have a catered BBQ dinner, awards for the winners, raffles, auctions, etc. at the Stonewall Sporting Clays Grand Pavilion. Shotguns can be rented and ammo is usually available on site.

I anticipate our cost to be approximately \$100 per person with awards for the weekend's events.