

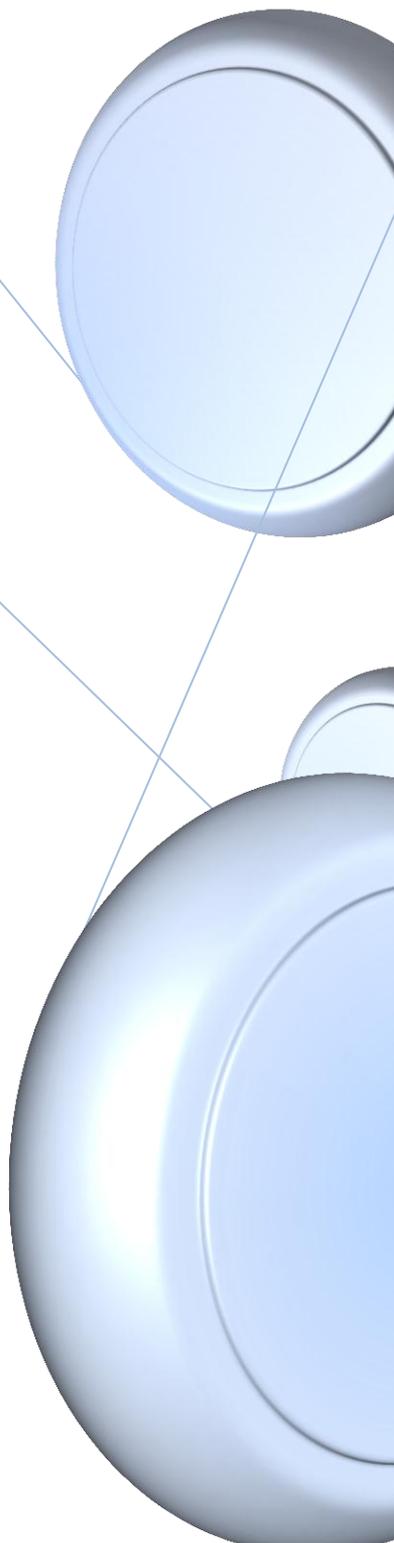
**Kentucky
Environmental Quality Commission**

***Earth Day Awards Ceremony
April 13, 2012***

**Berry Hill Mansion
700 Louisville Road
Frankfort**



Carter Caves State Resort Park, Olive Hill, Ky. Courtesy of the Kentucky Office of Creative Services



The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission Earth Day 2012

EQC is a seven member citizen advisory board created under state law in 1972. Its mission is to facilitate public dialog on issues, monitor trends and conditions, promote partnerships to improve and protect the environment for future generations. Also, to advise state officials on environmental matters, and host public awareness, responsibility and positive action toward a healthy environment.

**Celebrating 40 years
4/13/2012**

Opening

Arnita Gadson, Executive Director
Introduction of Scott R. Smith, Chairman

Welcome and Introduction of EQC Commissioners
and Dr. Leonard K. Peters, Secretary,
Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Jason Delambre, Co-Chair, Frankfort, Ky.
Dr. Kimberly Holmes, Lexington, Ky.
Tom Herman, Louisville, Ky.
Laura Knoth, Grand Rivers, Ky.
Martha Tarrant, Lexington, Ky.
Mark Grisham, Paducah, Ky.

Welcome
Opening remarks
Introduction of Speaker
Dr. Leonard K. Peters

Keynote Speaker

Bobbie Ann Mason



Bobbie Ann Mason was born and raised on a 53-acre dairy farm in Mayfield, Kentucky and despite her doctorate, her novels, and her travels since then, “my folks and their culture were always present in the deepest part of my being.”

Her homeplace near Paducah is surrounded by water, a peninsula of the state shaped by the curve of the great rivers, where the Ohio meets the Mississippi at Cairo, Illinois. She’s a literary expert on the writings of Vladimir Nabokov, but she’d rather talk about the grasslands of the Jackson Purchase or how her late mother loved to fish better than eat cake.

Mason holds degrees from the University of Kentucky, the State University of New York and the University of Connecticut. She has been a professor, a short story writer, a novelist, and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. She has received both National

Endowment for the Arts and Guggenheim fellowships.

But the best thing she does is carry the flag for her home state and its people, describing eloquently their journey in a shifting society. Her novels include the critically acclaimed *In Country*, *Feather Crowns*, *Spence + Lila*, *An Atomic Romance* and, most recently, *The Girl in the Blue Beret*.

It's Dr. Mason's memoir *Clear Springs*, however, in which she details Kentucky's highly specific glories. Not everyone in the world is lucky enough to have forsythia, dogwood and damson pie, the author says, so it's best for us to treasure them and take care of them.

Significance is embedded in our very ground, she writes. Spending time on a pond, for example, can make you feel that your life is your own no matter what other pressures come to bear.

The landscape of her Western Kentucky childhood and its people are her true sources, a wellspring that deserves protection and care. According to the author, we celebrate that legacy today, every redbud of its long, languorous generosity, a springtime that has no end.

**Presentation of EQC Earth Day Awards
Arnita Gadson, Executive Director
EQC Commissioners and Secretary Peters**

The Commonwealth of Kentucky recognizes the following for significant contributions toward environmental stewardship:

City of Greenville, Ky.

The birth of a park in Greenville's business district began as a way to preserve the only wooded parcel in that part of town. Consisting of 12 acres, it provides walking and jogging trails, a pond, a stream, an outdoor classroom and a preserve for wildlife habitat.

Tom Brizendine, a resident of the community donated \$100,000 toward the purchase of the land, presently known as Brizendine Brothers Nature Park. Additional tracks were donated by landowners. A \$50,000 grant was secured from the Recreational Trails Program to provide signage for tree identification, wooden bridges, fencing and bird feeders.

The project is the epitome of a public/private partnership. Local vendors provided various materials and services, Road Builders & Parkway Construction, for example, donated materials to create the trails and Ray Jones Trucking provided hauling.

Further initiatives include:

- Designing and installing a water feature
- Purchase and placement of interactive wildlife signage
- Creating an outdoor theater/classroom for use by schools and scout troops

Other partners include Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court, Muhlenberg County Conservation District, Muhlenberg County Humane Society, 4-H, Tourism Board, Pennyrile Resource Conservation & Development Council, Muhlenberg County

School District, Wendell Ford Training Center and Kentucky Division of Conservation.

John Gagel, Lexmark International Inc.

John Gagel is a sustainability manager at Lexmark International Inc. He holds credentials in industrial hygiene, and in his spare time, likes to protect watersheds and participate in reforestation. One such project was to clean up Cane Run Creek, which runs through Lexmark's Shadybrook Park. The waterway had been placed on Kentucky's official list of impaired streams due to invasive honeysuckle and accumulated waste.

He persuaded colleagues to tackle the environmental degradation, clean up the stream and plant native species along its banks. Since that time, the creek has been returned to improved standards. The clean-up is now an annual event in which volunteers remove items such as carpeting, bicycles, municipal trash bins and shopping carts. Leading by example, John Gagel and Lexmark colleagues returned the watershed to its natural state for the benefit of the entire community.

Partners: the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Fifth Third Bank, EcoGrow and CBRE.

Larry Griffin, International Paper Inc., Henderson Mill

The Henderson Mill employs 85 people and manufactures 100 percent recycled containerboard for corrugated boxes. Accomplishments include:

- Landfill reduction

- Waste water and electricity reduction
- Planting hardwood trees

Henderson Mill looks for ways to reduce and reuse at all points in the production process and the beating heart of this vision is Environmental Manager Larry Griffin. We honor him and all the people at the mill as they light the way on a plan to develop renewable fuel from discarded wood fiber and plastic. With leadership, the following strides have been made in energy conservation and stewardship:

- Since 1996, the mill has diverted 2.6 million tons of discarded boxes from landfills and made the solid waste into containerboard for new corrugated boxes.
- Diverted approximately 5 tons of wooden plugs from the landfill by the return from customers to be reused in the paper mill.
- Installed new water filters in the mill to reduce consumption of fresh water by 400,000 gallons daily.
- Developed compost from waste sludge via dewatering bags.
- A dedication to energy reduction has resulted in a 50 percent drop in gas and electricity needed to produce a ton of containerboard over a 10-year span. This also reduces the mill's carbon footprint.
- Developed an Environmental Kiosk at John James Audubon State Park in Henderson, Kentucky in collaboration with park staff. The kiosk describes plant and animal life found in the park, and gives guidance on "LEAVE NO TRACE" principles.

Partners: John James Audubon State Park, Girl Scouts of America, Newman Park Girls Softball League, United Way, Henderson County School District, Chamber of Commerce, Newman Recreational Park, Henderson Girls Softball Association, Henderson Junior Achievement and state government's EXCEL program, which encourages environmental stewardship.

Richardsville Elementary School, Warren County

Kentucky claims the nation's first public school designed to be net zero. Richardsville Elementary in greater Bowling Green was designed to consume a minimal amount of energy and in fact, its additional energy is sold to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Unique design features include:

- 2,700 solar panels producing 2,500 kilowatt hours of electricity on a sunny day, enough to energize 50 homes;
- Clerestory windows that bounce sunlight onto curved ceilings to flood classrooms with natural light;
- Solar tubes on the second floor that act like drinking straws poked through the roof to pipe additional sunlight to learning areas with prisms;
- Stained concrete floors eliminate the need for waxing and buffing and provide an opportunity to use cleaning methods that do not produce fumes;
- Geothermal heating and cooling;
- Classrooms surround the kitchen and gymnasium, the areas that consume and release the most energy through exterior walls; and
- Laptops charged by the sun.

Richardsville's ingenuity has dramatically reduced its carbon footprint. The district chose to turn the school into an energy museum and living classroom for students.

Partners: Warren County School District, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence in the Energy and Environment Cabinet, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Green Buildings Council, National Energy Education Development.

Kentucky Division of Forestry

Established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1912 to protect forests from wildfire and depletion from over-harvesting, the KDF is proud to celebrate its 100th year of service to Kentucky citizens. Its legacy includes:

- A corps of county forest wardens to protect forests from wildfire.
- Technical aid to public and private landowners about invasive insects, disease and invasive plants.
- Two nurseries to grow native tree seedlings for reforestation.
- Ten state forests managed using ecosystem management techniques.
- An urban forestry program to address importance of urban trees for social, environmental and economic benefits.
- A forest health program to assess issues with insects, disease and invasive plants.
- A Master Logger curriculum to train, license and regulate master loggers for the purpose of ensuring clean water.

Educational programs such as Smokey the Bear fire prevention, Arbor Day in Kentucky, reforestation projects, Project Learning Tree, Forestry in the Classroom and Kentucky Firewise.

Division of Forestry policies touch all aspects of our existence--water, air, soil and natural habitat. Through best management practices for timber harvesting operations, the division protects water quality in streams and rivers, reduces fire risk, prevents erosion and prevents over-harvesting of forests.

Partners: American Chestnut Foundation, Arbor Day Foundation, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts, Kentucky Chapter of American Chestnut Society, Kentucky Division of Conservation, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, National Association of State Foresters, Society of American Foresters, Southern Group of State Foresters and Tree City USA.

American Synthetic Rubber Co.

American Synthetic Rubber Co. manufactures synthetic rubber for the tire industry. It has made significant improvements in reducing waste to the landfill and reducing air emissions from its processes. Not only have improvements been made to address direct environmental impacts, but also outside of the core business, to make improvements in the community. Greater than 98 percent of the manufacturer's waste is recycled, or beneficially used.

Not all brownfields remain brownfields. Some are reclaimed, reimagined, repurposed and restored to health. This is the case with a landfill owned by the

American Synthetic Rubber Company in Louisville's Rubbertown neighborhood. The firm has given new life to a 55-acre closed landfill there near the Ohio River. Partnering with Waste Management Inc., who added an additional 20 acres, the firm developed a Certified Wildlife Habitat there as specified by the Wildlife Habitat Council. It was certified in 2009 and recertified in 2011.

American Synthetic Rubber Co. employees helped to plant native trees and wildflowers and install and maintain two honeybee hives. Fifty students from Farnsley Middle School made a field trip to the apiary in 2011.

Partners: Waste Management Inc., Rubbertown Community Advisory Council, Greater Louisville, Inc., Farnsley Middle School, Cane Run Elementary School, Citizens of Louisville Organized United and Together (CLOUT), Supporting Our Community Kids School, Kentucky Girls S.T.E.M. Collaborative, University of Louisville chemistry department, University of Louisville Speed School, Operation Brightside, Kentucky Institute for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Stewardship Action Council, Kentucky Department of Waste Management, Redwing Environmental, National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District and its Kentuckiana Air Education (KAIRE) program, Rubbertown Community Advisory Council and state government's EXCEL program, which encourages environmental stewardship.

Robert and Adriana Lynch

Robert and Adriana Lynch of Whitley County operate a farm that is respectful of the earth and its systems. They do so by employing best practices such as riparian buffers, fencing off forests from livestock, improving and protecting water sources, and planting trees and grasses that prevent erosion.

The Lynchs planted 4,000 hardwood trees on their property and “honey bee” trees that are friendly to pollinators. They gave seedlings away to encourage other property owners in Whitley County, to boost the bee population. Because of the environmental benefits that bees provide, this measure improves crop health for neighbors in Corbin and beyond. They open their farm for tours, estimating hosting 2,000 guests over the years.

Whenever challenges arise on the farm, such as wind and pond damage or the emergence of the Georgia Pine Beetle, the family draws on technical aid available to pursue solutions that are environmentally friendly.

Partners: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Committee, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Whitley County Conservation District, Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation District, United States Department of Agriculture, American Chestnut Foundation, National Resource Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club Foundation, National Arbor Day Foundation.

Marshall County Conservation District

For the past five years, Marshall County Conservation promoted Earth Day by providing free seedlings, energy saving light bulbs for those who sign energy conservation pledges, and e-scape recycling, collaborating with the Marshall County Refuse Coordinator. Along with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, the district participates in local recycling. Paper, plastic and cardboard are collected weekly.

The district provides landowners with dead animal disposal through a grant from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission which is very beneficial to farmers.

The organization assists landowners with agriculture water quality plans throughout the year. In partnership with Marshall County Fiscal Court, the district is assisting with best management practices for water at Mike Miller Park.

Other projects:

- Annual Agricultural Day for fourth graders
- Nature trail surrounding Lakeland Wesley Village
- Enviroscape and River Table educational models for use in schools
- Tree identification and land markers

Partners: Kentucky Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Marshall County Fiscal Court, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, Land Between the Lakes, Lakeland Wesley Village, Marshall County School System, Marshall County Arts Commission and Marshall County Refuse Coordinator.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dean and Nina Cornett, Eco-Post Inc.

The Cornetts of Letcher County have a long list of environmental achievements to their credit.

They cleaned up a one-acre dump and turned it into a park and chaired clean-up efforts to remove 100 tons

of trash in Blackey, Kentucky. They arranged for Berea College, University of North Carolina and Duke University interns to bring water systems to Letcher County to restore wells, and planted trees along the railroad to help filter coal dust from railcars.

As filmmakers, the Cornetts have educated thousands about bears, chestnut trees, sustainable living practices, the Kenai, Alaska Peninsula and living gently on the earth.

They brought attention to state government about timber theft in the Commonwealth. Trees such as walnut, maple, oak, hickory, and cherry are irreplaceable, and are targets for illegal harvesters.

Victims are often absentee, elderly owners who are left with environmental damage and loss of property. Nationwide, this is an estimated loss at a rate of \$1 billion annually. State Representative Leslie Combs of Harlan has introduced a resolution to explore stricter laws on the topic. More information can be found at <http://timbertheft.weebly.com>

As grant writers, the Cornetts have helped:

- Elderly neighbors replace a failed septic system that was polluting the North Fork of the Kentucky River
- The Eastern Kentucky region secure an evacuation helicopter service

The Cornetts' generosity extends beyond the borders of the Commonwealth. They live in Kentucky in winter and Alaska in summer. In Alaska, they work

to protect Coho Salmon and reduce logging in federal forests.

Partners: Sustainable Berea, Berea College, PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment), Heartwood, the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund, National Resource Defense Council, Center for Biologic Diversity, University of North Carolina, Duke University and Wayne State University, Alaska Center for the Environment.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Floyd County Conservation District

Serving residents of Floyd County, Kentucky since 1950, the Floyd County Conservation District employs two full-time employees who address not only the environmental education needs of the county, but provide technical expertise to local groups and landowners to implement best management practices.

The district conducts workshops on topics like ginseng and hay production, and has given out thousands of seedlings. These efforts promote district goals, such as:

- Erosion prevention
- The restoration of wildlife habitat
- Providing programming that is specific to rural populations and crops

The district serves as work-based learning location for the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center. As such, students from across the United States have an opportunity to work there to earn credit in vocational studies with a curriculum that offers grounding in

environmental and agriculture issues. The district also assists the Elkhorn Environmental Education Park.

Partners: Floyd County Farm Bureau, University of Kentucky Extension Service, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Division of Conservation, Floyd County Extension Service, Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center, Elkhorn Environmental Education Park, Big Sandy Resource Conservation & Development and PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment).

Congratulations to all of our winners.

Closing Remarks
Arnita Gadson, Executive Director

**Pictures and reception immediately
following program.**

EQC wishes to thank Horace Brown of Shelbyville, Ky. for providing the cardinal portrait for our Lifetime Achievement winners each year. Mr. Brown is a former Chair of the Commission and a devoted friend to the agency since its inception in 1972.

EQC is celebrating its 40th year of service to Kentucky.

A Moment of Reflection

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized and explained "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

That's right, they didn't have the green thing in her day. Back then, they returned milk bottles, Coke bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

In her day, they walked up stairs because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she's right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed baby diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right, they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV or radio in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza dish, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they

packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty, instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink, instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus, instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But that lady is right. They didn't have the green thing back in her day.

**Environmental Quality Commission
Requests Nominations for 2013 Earth Day Awards**

Awards recognize environmental stewardship

The annual awards are presented to individuals and institutions who have demonstrated deep concern or activism on behalf of the environment. Citizens and organizations statewide are encouraged to submit names of champions of clean air, clean water, pollution control and other elements vital to healthy ecosystems.

Honors will be bestowed in celebration of Earth Day in April 2013.

This effort is to encourage all Kentuckians to take responsibility for building a web of life that is healthy for people, plants, animals, watersheds, air and soil systems.

Nomination forms for EQC's Earth Day Awards can be found on the web at <http://eqc.ky.gov> or by calling Janet Pinkston at 502-564-2674 or e-mailing Janet.Pinkston@ky.gov

The deadline for nominations is Jan. 15, 2013.
Nomination forms can be sent to Pinkston electronically or by mail to:

Environmental Quality Commission
Energy and Environment Cabinet
500 Mero St.
12th floor, Capital Plaza Tower
Frankfort, Ky. 40601