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For immediate release:



Conch Republic And Dublove Headline Schedule at River Blast

LEXINGTON, Kentucky—It's going to be a blast down on the Kentucky River when Conch Republic, a "Trop Rock" beach band, and the reggae sounds of Dublove headline a new festival called River Blast, presented by Kentucky American Water, at Fort Boonesborough State Park Saturday August 16 from Noon – 10 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, however a \$5 donation is suggested for parking.

Organized by the Kentucky River Water Trail Alliance and benefiting Bluegrass Tomorrow and the Kentucky Riverkeeper organization, River Blast will include the "blast" component Fireworks, presented by the Kentucky Office of Adventure Tourism at 10 p.m., "Water Fire" a bonfire on the Boonesborough Beach beginning at 6 p.m., and live entertainment all day.

The high energy 9-member Conch Republic show will begin at 7 p.m., preceded by Dublove at 4 p.m. Conch Republic received top honors and national recognition by receiving the Rising Star Award for Top Beach Band in 2001 from GigMasters.com. Their high-energy, colorful shows complete with beach balls and conga lines, limbo and more, perform beach and party tunes from artists like the Beach Boys, Jimmy Buffett, Bob Marley, Zac Brown, Toby Keith and more, featuring steel drums, congas, bongos, sax, guitars and a variety of percussion.

The Schedule of Events:

- 8:00 a.m. 21 mile paddling race from Boonesborough to Valley View
- Noon Official Opening of River Blast at Shelter #1 at the Boonesborough Beach
Ice Man’s “Cruise In” Car Show in front of Boonesborough Beach Bath House
6-mile paddling race from Boonesborough to Clays Ferry
All Concessions, Food Vendors, Exhibits, Arts & Crafts & Beer Garden Open
Entertainment at main stage begins featuring Mike Archer
Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Fort, with special \$5 admission all-day.
- 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dublove reggae band performs.
- 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. “Water Fire” bonfire on the beach
- 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Conch Republic “Trop Rock” beach band performs
- 10:00 p.m. Fireworks Spectacular

The goal of the event is to create major public awareness of the Kentucky River resource, and watershed, and the Kentucky River Water Trail Alliance. The Alliance has been working with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails Conservation Assistance Program over the last several years to create more access to the river, developing “Blueway” water trails, and is working with the Kentucky River Authority to open locks from Frankfort to the Ohio River.

“We really don’t celebrate our river like many other communities do,” said Rob Rumpke of Bluegrass Tomorrow who is chairing the event, “River Blast gives us the opportunity to bring the public back to the river at a site, the Ft. Boonesborough Beach, where thousands flocked to enjoy the water in the 60s & 70s. We want to create that kind of enthusiasm for river recreation again. We hope all of the river communities on the river embrace this event, and it’s certainly a great regional celebration of the river for Fayette, Clark and Madison countians.”