



President John Roush, Centre College- Education Vision Award



Craig Williams, KY Environmental Foundation- Environment Vision Award



P.G. Peeples – Josephine Abercrombie Award

Annual Meeting & Vision Awards Breakfast E-News Report, Donor Report & Education Day with General Assembly *by Rob Rumpke, President CEO*

Porter G. Peeples of the Urban League of Lexington, Luther Deaton of Central Bank, President John Roush of Centre College, Marian Guinn formerly of God’s Pantry, and Billy Van Pelt of the American Farmland Trust are among the honorees at Bluegrass Tomorrow’s Vision Awards Breakfast January 31 at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort in Lexington.

The annual Vision Awards Breakfast is a time—honored tradition paying tribute to the best of the 18—county Bluegrass Region each year, related to improving quality of life and place, Bluegrass Tomorrow’s mission.

The two highest awards that Bluegrass Tomorrow bestows: the Bluegrass Legacy Award was

presented to Luther Deaton for his over 20 years of service to Bluegrass Tomorrow and the Bluegrass Region; and the Josephine Abercrombie Award, presented to P.G. Peeples for his long—time work with the Urban League, since 1972, in job training, housing, education, human rights, and advocacy.

Billy Van Pelt was presented the Robert N. Clay Award for outstanding service to the region and Bluegrass Tomorrow. Van Pelt was the founding CEO of Woodford Forward and was the director of the LFUCG Purchase of Development Rights farmland preservation program for over 10 years where he worked to conserve 27,571 acres of our world renowned rural landscape.

Pictured Left to Right: Luther Deaton, Billy Van Pelt, and Marian Guinn



Other Vision Award Winners include:

Education—President John Roush, Centre College;

Environment—Craig Williams, Kentucky Environmental Foundation;

Human Services—Marian Guinn God's Pantry and YMCA Black Achievers;

Equine Agriculture—Meg Jewett Walnut Hall Farm;

Preservation—Perryville Battlefield;

Young Professionals Entrepreneurship—Country Boy Brewing.

President John Roush of Centre College was honored with the Vision Award for Education as he leaves the co-chair position of the Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium of which he was a founding member and his 19 years of excellence at Centre with "previously unimagined success."

There are two Vision Awards in Human Services this year: Marian Guinn, formerly of God's Pantry and the University of Kentucky Hospital, a tireless champion for feeding those in need in our Bluegrass region; and the YMCA Black Achievers Program, one of the best college and career awareness programs in the region.

Craig Williams of the Kentucky Environmental Foundation wins the Environment Vision Award for his over 30 years of unheralded work to ensure the safe disposal of chemical weapons at the Bluegrass Army Depot and around the world.

The Equine Agriculture Vision Award was presented to Meg Jewett owner of Walnut Hall Ltd, and gift store LV Harness, and known for her tireless and unheralded efforts on behalf of unwanted horses with her Equine Friends Program and helped in the founding of the Kentucky Equine Humane Center.

The Perryville State Historic Site wins the Preservation Vision Award with the preservation of 70 more acres at the battlefield site and now a

total of 1,027 total acres preserved, the site of Kentucky's largest and bloodiest Civil War battle.

And Country Boy Brewing, and its partners Jeff Beagle, Daniel D.H. Harrison, and brothers Nathan and Evan Coppage, takes home the Vision Award for Entrepreneurship for their successful craft beers and microbrewery business and promoting the Bluegrass Tomorrow philosophy of "developing an environment in the region where creative talent, young professionals, diversity and entrepreneurship will thrive."



First Education Day a Big Hit at the General Assembly

The Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium's Academic Leadership Academy, facilitated by Bluegrass Tomorrow, hosted its first-ever Education Day with the General Assembly on February 14, at the State Capitol, and 38 delegates participated, to rave reviews from participants and legislators.

The goal of the program is to give emerging academic leaders an exposure and understanding of state government, how it works, and an update on current legislation being considered. The group heard updates on Charter Schools, Higher Education Performance Measures, and a general overview of the landscape of higher education in the General Assembly.

The group heard from a high powered group of legislators including Senate Majority Floor Leader Sen. Damon Thayer, House Minority Leader Rocky Adkins, Chair of the Senate Education Committee Mike Wilson, Sen. Steve West who sits on the Senate Education Committee and the Budget Review Sub-Committee on Post-Secondary Education, and Rep. James Tipton, chair of the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education and the House Education Committee.

The private college association, AIKCU (Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities) was a partner in planning and facilitating, and its President Gary Cox organized an opening session which also included the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Community & Technical Colleges System. During a final discussion and Q & A period the group was honored by an impassioned impromptu presentation by Morehead State University President Wayne Andrews, who was at the State Capitol lobbying for higher education.

The group was introduced in Senate Chambers during the afternoon session, by Sen. Damon Thayer.

We Need Your Feedback on our New Vision, Mission and Overview Language

Members: following is the new Vision, Mission and Overview information for Bluegrass Tomorrow, which was drafted by the Executive Committee after the two strategic planning sessions last year. The language was approved at the Annual Meeting by the full board with the caveat that we continue to vet the language with members and a few focus groups which are being developed by the Public Relations/Branding Committee. Let us know if you have feedback on the new Vision/Mission by responding to rob@bluegrasstomorrow.org.

Bluegrass Tomorrow – A Quality of Life & Place Organization: Connecting-Creating-Sustaining-Renewing-Visioning

Formed in 1989, Bluegrass Tomorrow promotes expanded regional cooperation toward a strong sense of place and a high quality of life throughout our 18-county Bluegrass/Central Kentucky Region.

Bluegrass Tomorrow Vision Statement:

Bluegrass Tomorrow envisions the Central Kentucky (Bluegrass) Region as a place where our best agricultural land remains secure and productive, and development occurs deliberately, responsibly, and with environmental sensitivity; it is a place where we celebrate and preserve our unique history and environment; where we enjoy a strong “sense of place” through constructive, connected governance; and where education is deemed the key to all success and is promoted as such.

Bluegrass Tomorrow Mission Statement:

Bluegrass Tomorrow is in the “Quality of Life” business. Our mission is to connect, unify, and motivate the stakeholders of the Bluegrass Region and preserve, protect, and promote those activities in Central Kentucky that positively affect the Quality of Life enjoyed, desired, and deserved by the citizenry and their communities. These include, but are not limited to, our shared natural and cultural heritage and life solutions as they relate to land use, transportation, education, sustainability and recreation, all based on and contributing to a diverse and thriving economy.

Bluegrass Tomorrow Organizational Overview:

- ❖ **Bluegrass Tomorrow is an independent 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization** governed by a geographically, technically, and culturally diverse Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Fifty percent of the Board is from outside Fayette County.

- ❖ **We believe that quality of life and economic development are inextricably linked.** We monitor Quality of Life issues and activities across the region promoting what seems best for the greater good. Because we are an independent non-profit led by key regional leaders, we are nimble and able to change directions quickly as circumstances dictate to address emerging issues and opportunities that are important to region.
- ❖ **“We Connect the Region”** through a variety of strategic programs and projects such as:
 - **The Bluegrass Forever Green Alliance** promotes and enhances conservation, preservation and sustainability activities through an umbrella of initiatives that move us toward environmental sustainability, protects our precious bluegrass soils, and promotes our equine and agricultural industries. Our popular **“Conversations with the Region”** summits, conferences, and networking events focus regional issues, opportunities, and development of strategies to address: Water, Energy, Greenways/ Trails, Transportation, Waste, Food & Agriculture and Land Use/Planning and other quality of life issues. The **Bluegrass Trails Alliance**, provides leadership, coordination, and support for planning and developing greenways and bike, hike, horseback, water, and pedestrian trails connectivity in the region in cooperation with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails Conservation Assistance Program.
 - **Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium** focuses on Education and Human Capital Development through collaboration between 12 Central Kentucky universities for the purpose of exploring regional opportunities that move the Bluegrass Region forward educationally and economically. Our annual **IF (IdeaFestival) Youth Days & Career Maker Faire** events serve thousands of middle and high-school students on college and career awareness;

and our **Bluegrass Academic Leadership Academy**, including an alumni leadership day at the General Assembly, has trained over 150 faculty members in three years to-date thus adding to the cadre of new academic leaders available to the region.

Milestones:

- Created Bluegrass Conservancy which led to development of Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program 1995
- Paris Pike & Bluegrass Corridor Planning Guide (2000)
- Created Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium (2012)
- Bluegrass Trails Alliance Assistance Grants through the National Park Service Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Program (2012-present)
- Various Studies:
 - Regional Development (1994)
 - Regional Economic Analysis (2006)
 - Bluegrass InnoVision 2018 (2008)

BLUEGRASS TOMORROW INC

Profit & Loss

January through December 2016

Income

500 — One year membership contributions — \$22,165.99
505 — Vision Society, Corporate Partners — \$61,000.00
508 — Consulting & Grants — \$3,000.00
571 — Idea Festival Youth Day — \$19,350.00
584 — Bluegrass Forever Green Alliance — \$20,703.49
592 — Celebration of the Bluegrass — \$18,739.47
591 — RiverBlast — \$5,026.00
597 — Meeting Event Sponsorships — \$3,500.00
598 — Academic Leadership Academy — \$19,000.00

Total Income: \$148,271.63

Expenses

799 — Idea Festival Youth Day — \$7,487.88
584 — Bluegrass Forever Green Events — \$4,056.90
797 — Celebration of the Bluegrass — \$4,870.22
7971 — RiverBlast — \$4,499.15
600 — Salaries & Wages — \$104,368.00
601 — Contract Labor — \$1,050.00
602 — Payroll Taxes — \$8,760.49
603 — Interest Expense — \$682.69
606 — Bank Fees — \$69.70
610 — Rent — \$1,200.00
6105 — PO Box Rent — \$228.00
613 — Telephone—Cell — \$2,493.40
6135 — Office Phone — \$1,041.47
614 — Merchant Fees — \$567.05
615 — Taxes & Licenses — \$15.00
630 — Office Expense — \$1,836.85
633 — Copy Expenses — \$3,129.77
634 — Online Services — \$196.74
635 — Postage — \$172.20
636 — Postage Meter Expenses — \$216.00
639 — Dues & Subscriptions — \$140.00
640 — Meetings — \$3,497.56
641 — Insurance — \$3,359.99
642 — Employee Benefits — \$8,124.00
645 — Travel — \$898.22
649 — Professional Fees — \$44.79
651 — Miscellaneous — \$652.51

Total Expenses: \$142,744.43

Net Income: \$5,527.20



YMCA Black Achievers, Vision Award for Human Services



Country Boy Brewing, Vision Award for Young Professionals Entrepreneurship



Meg Jewett Walnut Hall Farm, Vision Award for Equine Agriculture

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