



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

[An Autumn Walk by a Stream](#)

This program is an overnight natural resource and water education leadership retreat that challenges local leaders, residents, and students to assess and address water quality issues. This program was started by the Elliot County Extension leaders to develop community partnerships and coalitions at the local level that could recognize and address water quality issues. It evolved through the following steps: (1) simply having an autumn walk along a stream in Elliot County, Kentucky; (2) to offering informal instruction while walking during the autumn months; (3) to asking participants to express what they saw in writing or art; and (4) currently having a full fledged retreat for participants of all ages to assess and address water quality issues. These hands-on educational sessions are inquiry and experiential based for reaching all learning styles. The program is now offering retreats for residents, students, teachers, and others interested in addressing water quality issues. During one phase, participants produced a calendar using art developed during these "autumn walks". This program has become a model to challenge local leaders, teachers, and students to interact and is to be expanded to other watersheds across Kentucky.

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