



Sat, August 10

is our next sampling date

Reminder to contact [Lynn](#) 513-615-2538 or [Teresa](#) 513-706-8991 if you cannot sample, or if you have any issues while sampling.

Sampling Reminders

- Coolers are in place from 8 am - 10:30 am.
- Please remember to wear your safety vest.
- Please mark the time and date on your labels of when you collected the sample. None of the sample times should be the same unless you are a time traveler :)
- Remember to sign in your samples in the lock box then place your sample in the cooler. Both coolers use the same code.
- Sign your sample into the cooler with the drop off time.
- Keep the cooler lid closed as much as possible
- Remember to grab bottles for the following month. It's always helpful to have a spare bottle in case one accidentally "jumps" into the creek.
- If there is not enough water to sample, fill out label saying dry, or too low to sample, then attached to a bottle and place in the cooler.
- **Duplicate samples** - when you sign them into the cooler, put the number "2" next to the sample ID.

We are on a Bottle Hunt

Does anyone have a hoard of bottles? Somehow with 300 bottles, we are having trouble having enough for each sampling day. We typically use 100 each month, with a 100 replacement being put out in coolers for you to pick up. I know I'm terrible at math, but we should have some left over. We always recommend that you keep one spare, just in case you loose one, drop a cap, or need to pick up a duplicate. If you have more then one spare, can you adjust the number you pick up this month.

Lab Sign Up

You can sign up for a shift at the lab through Doodle.

<https://doodle.com/poll/rfkdvqgt4dz6bbq7>

Remember, if you sign up then find out you cannot make a date, please update the doodle signup. We limit the spaces each month to make sure we don't have you wasting your time and gas driving to the lab and finding out there is nothing to do. However, if several of you sign up then don't show up, not only does it make us sad not to see your smiling face, but it leaves us short in the lab.



Kayak Trip

September 7
Bellbrook, Oh

Bob has arranged for us to kayak with a livery on the Little Miami River with Bellbrook Canoe. The portion of the river will be just over 5 miles long and we will finish at their facility where shelters are available for us to have a picnic lunch.



Please [let me know](#) if you plan on attending. Weather/river conditions could impact this date, so if you sign up, make sure Lynn has your cell number.

There is hardly a price break for them to transport our boats compared to renting theirs, so if you have your own boat we are just as well to leave it at home.

Thank you to the Von Gostomski's for joining us for our cleanup along the hydraulic canal in July.

Stream Biology

...BEST Volunteer Project for August
Sat, July 27 from 9 am - 12 noon
Dudley Woods Preserve, Hankins Rd, Liberty Twp
(don't get it confused with Dudley Park on Yankee)

Each month, The Butler Environmental



Stewardship Team (BEST) picks a different environmental volunteer project in the county to focus on. In August, we are offering a training on biological sampling of our creeks. Join us to learn about the creek critters, then we will get in the creek to collect a sample. We then will identify the bugs. The species diversity will then be used to assess the health of Gregory Creek

Sign Up: Either contact Lynn and Maddie at butlerswcd@butlercountyohio.org,

Citizen QHEI (cQHEI (Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index)

Midwest Biological Institute is offering a Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index workshop.
Sat, Oct 5, 10 am - 3 pm
Shale Hollow Park, Lewis Center

Maddie and I plan on attending, so if you think you may go, let us know and perhaps we can carpool.



<https://midwestbiodiversityinst.org/education/courses/citizen-qualitative-habitat-evaluation-index?>

Run the Riffles Event

September 28, 2019.

This full day Mile Fun Run on the Mill Creek Greenway Trail and Mill Creek

Mile Fun Paddle, a kayak race between two former low-head dams surrounding Salway Park. The afternoon will include a Mill Creek urban hike and mini urban stream adventure . A full day festival at Salway Park surrounding the events will include local food trucks, beer from a local brewery, games, music, and a keynote speaker. The day will conclude with an interpretive “ Space Walk ” on the Mill Creek

Greenway Trail, in conjunction with Great Outdoor Weekend. Details of all five events are attached to this

flyer.

More info will be posted at www.themillcreekalliance.org once available



Asian Carp at Barley Dam in Kentucky

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources used electro-fishing equipment to stun and collect invasive Asian carp for a population sampling study.

<https://www.cbs17.com/news/video-asian-carp-fish-stunned-in-electrofishing-experiment/>

Good News for our Rivers and Groundwater: Flushing of Hazardous Pharmaceuticals is Prohibited by U.S. EPA

For years, the disposal method for excess medications for hospice and other healthcare groups/facilities was to flush the meds down the toilet. Our wastewater systems are not designed to remove these chemicals and they would end up in our rivers. A new U.S. EPA's final rule for 'Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals' prohibits healthcare facilities and reverse distributors, as defined by U.S. EPA, from flushing, pouring, or draining hazardous pharmaceutical wastes down a toilet, sink, tub, or other drains as a disposal option. This new rule will become effective in Ohio on August 21, 2019.

Webinar: Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals Sewer Ban Thursday, August 8, 2019 10:00 am

This webinar will explain the sewer prohibition portion of the rule and identify the alternate management requirements that are applicable to healthcare facilities and reverse distributors. Presenter: Kristie Shipley, Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR).

We will use the audio broadcast feature in WebEx. You will listen to the audio portion of this event using your computer speakers or headphones. You may chat in questions during the event at any time.

<https://ohioepa.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=ohioepa&service=6>

North American River Otter (*Lontra Canadensis*)

***By Tessa Farthing, Butler County Storm Water
District***



River otters are semi-aquatic mammals and the largest member of the Mustelidae family, which makes them related to weasels, skunks, badgers, and mink. Unfortunately, in the early 1900's fur trading was rampant, and river otters were subject to



hunting for their dense fur that ranges from black to a brown-red. The species was completely extirpated during this time; however, due to reintroduction efforts of the Ohio Division of Wildlife, river otters are once again a wide-spread and thriving species. Today, they can be seen in almost two-thirds of Ohio counties!

Because of their semi-aquatic nature, river otters need to be equipped with many features that give them the ability to spend a significant amount of time in the water. They have webbed toes and a flattened, muscular tail that help to propel them through strong currents. River otters also have eyes located near the top of their skull to help them see over the surface of the water and a nictitating membrane to cover those eyes when they are submerged under water. Their stiff whiskers are imperative for locating prey while they are swimming.

River otters are well-adapted to many different aquatic environments and can live in marine or fresh water, which allows for a wide-spread distribution. Slow moving and highly vegetated aquatic areas are the most ideal for river otters to live, breed, and feed. Typically, river otters will reside in abandoned dens and burrows constructed by other animals.

Minimal human disturbance and low pollution are crucial to successful watershed ecology. Pollutants discharged into storm water systems flow directly into larger watersheds where river otters reside. These pollutants may have the capacity to degrade the health of the otters as well as the fish and other prey that the otters feed on. Furthermore, disturbing the natural meander of rivers and other human ecological interference can also have a major impact natural habitats and food chain status.

Fun fact: the North American river otter is in the top of its ecological food chain in the Indian River Lagoon system.

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/species-guide-index/mammals/river-otter>

https://www.sms.si.edu/irlspec/Lontra_canade.htm

<https://www.freeimages.com/photo/otter-1377102>

<https://www.freeimages.com/photo/otter-1362541>

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/species-guide-index/fish/rainbow-darter>

http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Etheostoma_caeruleum/

Water & Other News

Algae bloom advisory in Caesar's Creek State Park.....

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/local/water-quality-advisory-remains-effect-area-beach/Wi8qFXTaMrhLe1hiP6hc3H/>

Giant algae bloom returns to Lake Erie, threatens drinking water

<https://www.wxyz.com/news/giant-algae-bloom-returns-to-lake-erie-threatens-drinking-water>

Mighty sturgeon spawning in cleaner Cuyahoga River?

<https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2019/07/mighty-sturgeon-spawning-in-the-cuyahoga-river-sewer-district-studies-the-possibility.html>



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