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Butler County Stream Team

June 2017

Next Sampling Day - June 10



If you cannot sample, contact Teresa on her cell at [513-706-8991](tel:513-706-8991) or Lynn at 513-615-2538

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Still Looking for a New Sampler on East Side of Hamilton

Sad to say that one of our long time samplers has had to step down from sampling, so we are looking for someone to collect samples on the east side of Hamilton. The locations are:

- Rentschler Forest Metropark
- Bike path along Canal Rd, near Allison Ave
- Liberty Fairfield Rd, just south of St Rt 129.

If you know of anyone that could take any or all of these on, [please contact Lynn](#).

Lab Short Staffed this Month

If you are able to help, the lab is a little short on volunteers this month. Please

see <http://doodle.com/poll/y95ptqhpakn6pub> for the lab signup.

Reminder if you help in lab, we are in Shidler Hall in the basement while Pearson is getting a facelift.

Canoe/Kayak Trip will be June 17

10:00 am - ?

The length of the trip will depend upon our efforts and the flow of the water, so a true prediction is hard, but we hope to get to Rentschler Forest by 1pm in time to have a picnic lunch.

Numbers were split fairly evenly between the two dates, so

Stream Team Sampling Dates

June 10

July 8

Aug 12

Sept 9

Oct 14

Nov 11

Rain Barrel Workshop June 21, 6 pm

Mason Grange Hall

Mason Montgomery Road ([map](#))

Make and take your own rain barrel during this short hands-on workshop.

\$35 per barrel

Must register by June 15.

Register by [mailing this pdf](#), or

through [Warren SWCD's](#)

[website](#). Butler is partnering with

Warren for this workshop.

Creeking Programs for Kids

If you have kids in your life that are interested in bugs, salamanders, frogs, etc, Lynn is holding creeking programs around the county each

Thursday. Here is a [list of the](#)

[dates/locations](#).

we selected June 17 as it will give the 24th as a back up if river conditions are too high.

If you have not signed up yet, and wish to do so, please [contact Lynn](#) ASAP.

You can either use your own boat (we will help transport your boat) or we will be working with Jimcos Kayak in Middletown to use his boats.

Please [contact Lynn](#) if you have any questions.

Stream Biology Class/ Biological Monitoring

Thank you to everyone that joined us for the bug class. It was a little cold and wet. Remember that the sampling kits are available for anyone that has been to a class that would like to test a creek near them. Just [email Lynn](#) to set up dates.

Water News

Ohio River Reported as the Most Contaminated Body of Water in the Country

<http://www.tristatehomepage.com/news/epa-reports-ohio-river-most-contaminated-body-of-water-in-the-country/149752570>

MillerCoors' Butler County brewery recognized for environmental efforts

<http://www.journal-news.com/business/millercoors-butler-county-brewery-recognized-for-environmental-efforts/2GC38FypTztAkxYakiYfMN/>

Mid-Ohio River Valley Residents had higher than normal levels of perfluorooctanoic acid

Study reveals that residents of the Mid-Ohio River Valley had higher than normal levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) based on blood samples collected over a 22-year span. The exposure source was likely from drinking water contaminated by industrial discharges upriver.

<http://www.healthnews.uc.edu/news/?/29075/>

MCD has its eye on water

By Mike Ekberg, MCD manager for water resources monitoring and analysis

Did you know Miami Conservancy District (MCD) tracks precipitation, groundwater levels, and flow in rivers and streams? This information helps MCD and its partner agencies with flood forecasting, groundwater quantity monitoring, and understanding water movement into and out of the Great Miami River Watershed.

[Find out more...](#)

Discovering Causes of Feminized Fish

Since the 1990s there have been widespread reports throughout the world of male fish from different water bodies that exhibit female traits. This "feminization", which includes changes to the appearance and reproductive ability of the males, has often been associated with exposure of the fish to chemicals in runoff from animal feedlots and discharges from wastewater treatment plants. Chemicals responsible for feminization are collectively referred to as endocrine disruptors, because of their ability to "mimic" the effects of estradiol, a natural estrogenic hormone that controls endocrine systems involved in reproduction in female animals and humans.

A significant amount of research has been focused on the identity of the estrogenic chemicals causing endocrine disruption, so that their release to the environment might be controlled. A recent paper authored by EPA researchers, "[Re-evaluating the Significance of Estrone as an Environmental Estrogen](#)", showed that the hormone estrone may be a very important cause of feminization of male fish. Estrone is produced naturally by livestock and humans, and is excreted from the body in waste. It has been known for some time that estrone can be present at high concentrations in wastewater discharges, but it has not been thought to be particularly important in causing feminization because it is a weak estrogenic chemical. However, the EPA scientists found that estrone can be changed by male fish to the much stronger estradiol, to a degree sufficient to cause their feminization. This indicates that estrone could be a much more important estrogenic endocrine disruptor than previously supposed. The paper describing this work is featured on the cover of the May 16th issue of Environmental Science & Technology and was recently selected by The American Chemical Society as an Editor's Choice article.

A Plant to Thrill: Gray's Sedge (*Carex grayi*)

By Mark Dilley, Ohio Wetlands Association (OWA) President

From the OWA May Newsletter

A member of the complicated, vast and diverse *Carex* genus (Sedges), Gray's sedge is a fascinating little "grass-like" plant named after botanist Asa Gray. It occurs in a variety of wetland types, but is most commonly found in forested systems, in areas that have dappled shade and experience periodic shallow flooding. Also known as Bur Sedge or Morning Star Sedge, the inflorescence of this plant is its most distinctive feature. With thick-based perigynia (papery sacks in which the seed develops) radiating out in all directions, it looks like a medieval mace! And, wouldn't you know it, Mace Sedge is yet another common name!

The plant is wind pollinated, and like many facultative wetland plants, its seed dispersal mechanism is water dependent (hydrochory). As the seed head disintegrates, the balloon-like, air-filled perigynia fall off and float to new locations during flooding events, allowing the plant to redistribute and spread its population within the wetland or floodplain.



Though wildlife use of the plant is generally limited, Gray's Sedge is a host plant for caterpillars of the Eyed Brown and Appalachian Brown butterflies. It is also grazed on by waterfowl, rails and some songbirds. And muskrats, white-tailed deer and black bears may also occasionally eat it.

I still remember my first encounter with this plant, back in my college days working as an intern for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. I was hiking through a wet woods to access a sample location for ODNR's Scenic Rivers Stream Quality Monitoring program.

Still a "sedge virgin" in those days, I recall my immediate fascination with this plant. It was unlike any I'd ever seen, completely unfamiliar and unusual -other-worldly, in fact. I knew I had to learn what it was, and so began my transition to becoming the "sedge head" that I am today. Thank you, Gray's Sedge, for sparking this interest!

Sampling Reminders

- Remember to sign in your samples in the lock box then place your sample in the cooler.
- 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
- Sign your sample into the cooler with the drop off time.
- Don't put the samples in the bag with the clean bottles
- Keep the cooler lid closed as much as possible
- Provide labels that say dry, or too low to sample, if that is the case.
- Remember the cooler locks are different from each other. See info above.
- **Duplicate samples** - when you sign them into the cooler, put the number "2" next to the sample ID.

- **Duplicate samples** - use the month that is on the label. Remember to talk to Teresa if you will be out of town that month and she can switch dates for you.

Butler County Stream Team Monthly Newsletter

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