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# Butler County Stream Team

## March News - 2012

Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Southwest Ohio

*Next Sampling Day - March 10th*



A special **THANK YOU** - Despite February's snow and freezing temperatures, 28 volunteers collected samples and 22 folks helped in the lab. **WOW...what a wonderful group!**

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Lots happening this spring!

**March Sampling Day** - Saturday, March 10th

**April Sampling Day** - Saturday, April 14th

A one-day [Adult Education Forum](#) will be held at **Shawnee State Park** on Thursday, April 26th. It will include:

- River Voices documentary about the 1937 flood
- Life Below the Water Line aquarium with Ohio River fish
- a tour of a nearby lock and dam
- a tour of Portsmouth's famous floodwall murals
- an evening viewing of the movie Call of the Scenic Rivers, made for the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act

Click [here](#) for more information. Donna would love to take a few folks down for the day. If you haven't seen the floodwall murals, you should

### Volunteer Highlights

Although both of these volunteers have been spotlighted before, we couldn't resist celebrating their recent accomplishments. We do have a hard-working and talented bunch of volunteers! Congratulations Chelsea and Dick!

#### **Senior Women's Archery Champ - our very own Chelsea Obrebski**

In January, I got a frustrated email on Friday night before sampling day - Chelsea and Jean Ann Obrebski were not going to be able to collect their normal 4 samples because the timing of Chelsea's archery tournament finals had just been rescheduled. Come to find out, Chelsea not only made it to the finals, she won the whole darn thing!

and now's your chance!

**[Rain Barrel Make-and-Take Workshop](#)** -

sponsored by Butler County Storm Water and Soil and Water Districts - May 19. More detail to come.

**[Butler Soil and Water Plant Sale](#)** - Items

include trees, shrubs, groundcover and perennials, many of which are native species. Other items for the yard include rain barrels, compost bins, and blue bird houses. Proceeds go towards the District's education program including college scholarships, forestry camp, and school outdoor classroom grants. The **order deadline is March 23**, with order pick up on April 19-20. Check out available items at <http://www.butlerswcd.org/>.

**[BC Storm Water - Webinar Series](#)**

If you are interested in learning more about how storm water affects streams, don't miss the 2012 webcast series produced by the Center for Watershed Protection, hosted by the Butler County Storm Water District. Each webcast will air from 12 - 2 pm at the Engineers Office, 1921 Fairgrove Ave., Hamilton. Cost to you is \$0! That's FREE! For more info on these titles, click [here](#).

**\*Build This - Stormwater retrofit construction issues**

Wed. April 18th

**\*Stream Restoration: Implementation you can take to the BANK** - Wed. June 20th

**\*Get the Dirt on Stormwater**

Wed. Aug. 15th

**\*Leaving You Out In The Rain - Design and implementation of monitoring projects** -

Wed. Oct. 24th

**\*Customizing Your Stormwater BMP Design for Specific Pollutants** - Wed. Dec. 12th

If you have ideas of things you'd like to see the Stream Team do, please let Donna know at [mccollds@muohio.edu](mailto:mccollds@muohio.edu). For instance, if



Since

I know very little about archery, I'll let her tell you the specifics: *"I won first place in the women's senior recurve at the State Indoor Tournament and also FITA Archers of Ohio Ladies all Around Championship for 2011... (based on) four separate events held over the course of the year."* Very impressive, Chelsea!

Congratulations! We completely forgive you for not being able to sample that day!

**Soon-to-be published author, speaker and life coach - Dick Haid**

I also recently found out that our very own Dick Haid has authored chapters in two books. His chapter in *"Remarkable and Real"*, by Gary Jay, tells the story of his life coaching relationship with Mike Adler. Mike had lost his ability to speak, but not to think, and Dick's guidance helped him move forward through a devastating situation to become the founder of a chain of aphasia (loss of language) centers in the US and Israel. Dick's chapter in *"Live Smart After 50: Life Planning for Uncertain Times"* is titled Power of Purpose, Legacy and Spirituality. This book will be available this spring as an ebook by the Life Planning Network and will be printed this summer.

enough people are interested, we can open the lab up for macroinvertebrate identification again, or run another morning session to get people started knowing what bugs are in our streams.

### Spring rain and green grass - don't get carried away with fertilizer...

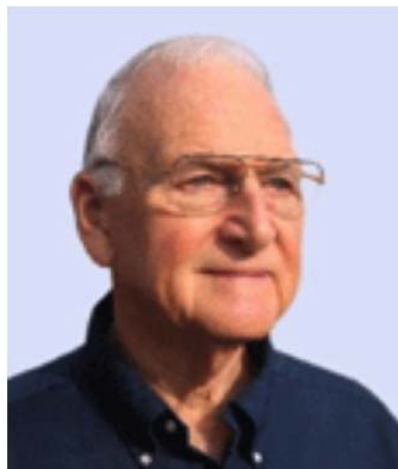
As we head into spring ... (even though we hardly had a winter!) ... everyone's thoughts are probably turning to what their yards will look like this summer. I just attended a full day at the Cincinnati Zoo where numerous knowledgeable people talked about a relatively new idea called "[sustainable landscaping](#)". This style of landscaping strives to decrease the input of fossil fuels and other resources into lawns while increasing the value of our lawns and gardens to our ecosystems and wildlife. The ideas include, among other things, philosophies like:

- decreasing the size of your lawn;
- when possible, choosing native species that thrive in our climate for beds and trees/shrubs; and
- managing watering, pesticides and fertilizers to minimize runoff, keeping nutrients and nasty chemicals out of our streams.

For streams, the last item is of great importance, since nutrient-laden runoff winds up in our streams and lakes, spurring the growth of algae.

If you want to learn more, [here](#) is a great new resource from the USEPA. Meanwhile, below are several things you can do to limit your nutrient loading.

- [Before fertilizing, test your soil.](#) [Butler Soil and Water Conservation Service](#) has information about soil testing on their web site, complete with a link to the OSU



Dick is also speaking at / instructing six sessions of Miami Hamilton's [After Dinner Academy](#) this spring.

The After Dinner Academy is for presenting programs of interest to the general community. It is held at [Miami Hamilton Downtown](#), 221 High Street. Dick's programs will be in his area of expertise, as a Professional Certified Life Coach and Adult Mentor. He will tackle three topics in the six sessions:

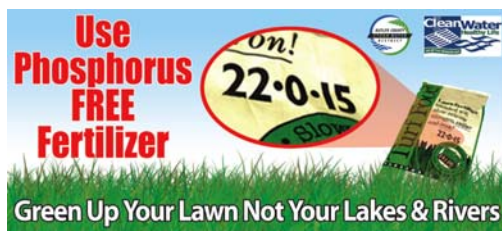
- **How to develop a plan B for your career and your life!**
- **Is there life after business .. including family business?**
- **How to tap into the abundance of the third quarter (of life)!**

Although I have never seen Dick teach, I can only imagine he would be great - because he not only teaches these ideas, he lives them! He likes to note that he received his doctoral degree and his Medicare card within two years of each other!

Since stepping down from a CEO position to answer a "call" to help people discover their passions in the "third quarter of life", he has continued to learn, speak, volunteer and organize workshops to help other people continue to live life fully.

Extension form that would need to be filled out.

- Fertilize only when needed, as determined by soil tests, not by the folks who make money fertilizing your lawn! In the case of fertilizer, some is good, but more is not necessarily better.
- Choose fertilizer contents based on those soil tests; adding nutrients that are not needed wastes money and hurts our streams. Many cities and states have banned phosphorus in lawn fertilizers, since one dose of phosphorus lasts a long, long time. Butler County does not ban phosphorus on lawns, but the Storm Water and Soil and Water Districts have contributed several news articles and bulletin boards to educate the public.



- Water your lawn properly. Don't overwater, which allows nutrients to run off or leach deep into the soil, unavailable to turf. Set your sprinklers to provide water to your plants .. not the sidewalk!
- Apply fertilizer to the lawn, not the sidewalk. That bit that goes onto the sidewalk has no chance of being absorbed by your plants, but instead generally goes straight into our streams.

### **Wetland Hike Recap**

Hays and Donna had a great group of folks out to enjoy a tour of their conservation efforts in February!

We had a beautiful sunny day and a good turnout of 8 people, 10 if you count Hays and me. Our wetlands and praires are a wonderful "spongy" buffer that absorb nutrients from runoff before they hit the waterways.

Here are a few pictures and links to some more. We'll

We're very happy to have part of your fulfillment be volunteering with Stream Team, Dick! Thanks and congratulations on your publications!

I'm sure Dick would welcome your questions at

[dickhaid@adultmentor.com](mailto:dickhaid@adultmentor.com)

### **Lending Library Titles**

We all have lots of books that we would love to share with someone who has similar interests. So we thought this might be a way to share them with people we know like streams! If you have books, DVDs or other things - especially about water - that you would like to contribute, feel free to bring them along anytime. Or, if there are particular books you would like us to buy, let us know and once a year or so we can add a few to our collection.

Here's our list to date:

- \* [A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America](#)
- \* [A Guide to Ohio Streams](#)
- \* [After the Storm](#) - DVD
- \* [An Introduction to the World's Oceans](#)
- \* [Bugs of the Underworld](#): a fly fisher's guide to the natural history of aquatic insects (DVD - available on request)
- \* [Diamonds in the Rough](#) - Ohio's vernal pools (DVD - available on request)
- \* [Exploring the World Ocean](#)
- \* [Fostering Sustainable Behavior](#): An introduction to community-based social marketing
- \* [Guide to Aquatic Insects & Crustaceans](#)
- \* [Gulf Hypoxia: Action plan 2008](#)
- \* [Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans](#) to Restore and Protect Our Waters
- \* [Introductory Oceanography](#)
- \* [Life in the Soil](#): A guide for naturalists and gardeners
- \* Marine Ecology
- \* [Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Management](#) in North America
- \* [Monitoring Guidance for Determining the Effectiveness of Nonpoint Source](#)

do it again in a few months, when the wetlands are prettier!



### Creativity Corner

Although this poem, from the book, "*River of Words*" (in our lending library), is about the Anacostia River, it could easily have been written about any of the rivers in Butler County. And what perfect timing ... Saturday, May 5th is the [Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River](#) ... we do make a difference.

#### The Anacostia River: We Make A Difference

Toiling under the hot sun  
 Our work has just begun.  
 Hands moving rhythmically  
 As sweat pours from our bodies.  
 Piece by piece we make a difference.

We move in rows along polluted shores  
 Where flowers no longer grow.  
 Picking up yesterday's trash

### Controls

\*Oceanography

\*[Ohio Vernal Pools: Diamonds in the Rough](#) (DVD - available on request)

\*[Our Waters, Our Health](#)

\*[Pond and Brook: A guide to nature in freshwater environments](#)

\*[River of Words](#)

\*[Stemming the Tide of Coastal Fish Habitat Loss](#)

\*[Swamp and Bog](#): Trees, shrubs, and wildflowers of eastern freshwater wetlands

\*[The Colorado](#): A river at risk

\*[The Evolution of North America](#)

\*The Face of the Deep

\*[The Mill Creek: An Unnatural History of an Urban Stream](#)

\*[Watersheds: A Practical Handbook for Healthy Water](#)

### Crisis Spot

As you are out sampling or just out for a walk along the waterways and see something wrong, email us. We always want to hear from our volunteers, especially if there is a problem that can be corrected.

You are our eyes in the field, the first line of defense for streams in Butler County when there is a problem. Once a problem has been reported to us, we can pass it along to the appropriate agencies. For instance, Carol Jones's interest in streams led her sister to make her aware of cleared brush in her local creek. When Carol contacted us, Doug Dirksing contacted Duke Energy, who was unaware of the mess and promptly cleaned it up. Success is sweet!

Thanks again for all you do for Butler County Stream Team!

Crisis Spot emails can be sent to Donna McCollum at [mccollds@muohio.edu](mailto:mccollds@muohio.edu).

If you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions, please contact us at [mccollds@muohio.edu](mailto:mccollds@muohio.edu).

Paper, containers, bottles, cans.  
Step by step we make a difference.

We arrive at sunrise  
Black bags in hand  
Determination in our minds.  
We leave behind at sunset only  
footprints and a beautiful place.  
Day by day we make a difference.

Someday the Anacostia River will no  
longer be suffocated by trash.  
Its crystal waters will teem with fish.  
Its banks will be crowded with luscious  
plants.  
And its beauty will stun the world  
Because we have made a difference.

--- Sabrina Snell, age 11



Butler County Stream Team Monthly Newsletter

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