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Butler County Stream Team

October News - 2010



Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Southwest
Ohio

*Next Sampling Day - October 9th -
tomorrow!*

**Remember - Coolers are picked up by 10:30:
Boyd cooler is available until 11:30**

Great Month of Activities!

September was a very busy month, with the Great Miami River Days festival, our first Stream Team canoeing trip, and a field trip to the lab for an area high school group. e out some nice pictures of the [festival](#) and [canoe trip](#) here.

The **Great Miami River Days** is one of the largest water education events in the country and was attended this year by **tens of thousands** of interested citizens. The Stream Team booth attracted a lot of attention, especially on Saturday afternoon when we set up all our lab equipment (well, almost all) to analyze about 60 samples.

For New Volunteers

Some Things to Remember:

Five coolers are placed around the county for you to pick up bottles and instructions or drop off water samples. **Locations:**

Oxford - Uptown Farm Market
Trenton - Barn N Bunk
Hamilton - Engineers Office
Milville - Ross Twp fire station

Oxford - Boyd Hall
You need to **take your sample on Saturday morning** and get it to the **cooler by 10:30**, when someone will pick up the cooler and transport it to lab. If you'd like to bring your sample to lab and help analyze samples, put it in the fridge and bring it with you around 11:30 to room 203 Boyd Hall on MU's Oxford campus. We'd love to have you join other volunteers in lab!

Thanks in advance for your help!



About 30 people signed up to get the newsletter each month (Thanks for your interest!) and a few dozen kids made the trek down to the dock on the Great Miami River to collect a water sample to analyze. Hopefully, we created a few budding scientists and lots of people interested in Butler County streams.

The **first canoe trip** was a great way to spend a beautiful fall day! Seven volunteers accompanied Lynn White (Butler Soil and Water) and Donna McCollum (IES) for 3 or 4 hours down the Great Miami River, from MU Hamilton to near Ross.



We stopped along the way to learn how to collect bugs that spend at least part of their lives in the river (aquatic macroinvertebrates to some) at a riffle near Joyce Park. We turned that stop into a lunch break, too --- perhaps a bad idea as the dragstrip

Volunteer Highlight

IES Students as Volunteers

You may remember that the Stream Team is coordinated by three partner organizations: the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability (IES) at Miami U., Butler Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) and Butler County Storm Water District (BCSWD). Part of IES's contribution is to run the lab. Each year as a new crop of IES students enter the program, we initiate them by having them "volunteer" to do the analyses at River Days. As you can see by the photos below, they enjoy the duty as well as become acquainted with how the Stream Team works.



across the river was getting busy for their evening activities! But it was fun, just the same. We decided we should do this again, and maybe even go a bit farther afield to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota if a few people are interested. Donna is a veteran BWCA traveler and would jump at the chance to hit the wilderness!

Finally, on September 27th, **Edgewood High School** agricultural students enjoyed bringing and analyzing samples, hearing about the Stream Team, and trekking down to a local stream to collect and learn about macroinvertebrates. These students spend several weeks each year learning about water issues.

Hopefully they will continue to care about their local sources of water, our streams and aquifer.

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



All these students are enrolled in a 2-year Master of Environmental Sciences program (M.En.). They are preparing to enter environmental careers at mid-level management levels. These careers may include anything from environmental education to environmental science editing to regulation or policy-making.

IES has been in existence for 40 years, with over 600 graduates to its credit. The program is very interdisciplinary, as are all environmental concerns, so the students spend their first year learning some of the basics about environmental measurements, problem-solving methodologies, policy, statistics, law, and current issues. The second year is focused on the particular student's area of interest, such as conservation and applied ecology, environmental communication, management and policy, resource analysis or technology. Each student finishes with a professional experience, either an internship with an existing

at mccollds@muohio.edu.

firm, a practicum project, or a thesis.

Kudos to these young men and women who are dedicating their lives and careers to making a difference environmentally!

Mark Your Calendars!

October Sampling Day -
Saturday, October 9th

Nothing else is coming up immediately, but if you have ideas of things you'd like to see the Stream Team do, please let Donna know

at mccollds@muohio.edu.

For instance, if 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.

If you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions, please contact us at mccollds@muohio.edu.

Butler County Stream Team Monthly Newsletter

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