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Butler County Stream Team

October News - 2011

Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Southwest Ohio

Next Sampling Day - October 8th



Recent Activities

Recently Stream Team has been busy! In September, as many of you know, we held our normal sampling event at the **Great Miami River Days**. This is always a fun event, and this year it was made especially great by wonderful weather, a new "*Butler County Creek Critters*" board our lab team put together, and several generous volunteers who talked to



new volunteers (Thanks Dick, Carol, Chelsea, and IESers!). For a few views of how it went, check out some [pictures](#).

And on October 1st, several people braved the cold weather to canoe down the Great Miami River from the lowhead dam near Miami Hamilton campus to Heritage Park near Ross.

Wow, what a great day! Maybe our expectations were low (cold, dreary day), but it really couldn't have been much better. Once on the water we were sheltered by the bank vegetation and it wasn't really cold.



About halfway down river we got a really sweet look at a bald eagle, who was returning the stare! And along the way we saw about a zillion great blue herons, belted kingfishers, ducks and even a

Kermit frog!! (Thanks Jacob!)

A big thanks to those who made this happen: Misty and Andrew Duff, with Rivers Unlimited, donated their time and the use of the canoes - so folks were able to go without the usual charge. Bob Lentz, with Butler Storm Water District, donated "goodies" to go with our sandwiches after our morning on the water.

Fall Rains

Well, this summer has been unbelievable, huh? I'm putting a few graphs here that show Ohio precipitation, just for comparison with this year. The first one (from ODNR), average precipitation over about 50 years, shows that our wet season is March to June, with

our dry season



Volunteer Spotlight

New IES Lab Managers

Well, it's October, and we have some newcomers in the organization of the lab. I hope you will join me in welcoming 3 new IES students who are stepping to the plate to make our 2nd-Saturday sampling efforts run smoothly!

Marion Wells is a 2011 Miami U. graduate with a B.S. in Zoology and Environmental Science and a Geology minor. For the last 2 years she has conducted physiological ecology research in Dr. Paul Schaeffer's lab, focusing on the metabolic ability of birds in various climates to adapt to climate change. She also has studied the effects of climate change on butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies as a wildlife research intern at a MA wildlife sanctuary and conservation center. She is extremely excited about becoming a part of the Stream Team, welcoming the opportunity to combine her love of science with monitoring stream quality and education. Her interests for the future include restoration, conservation, and habitat management.

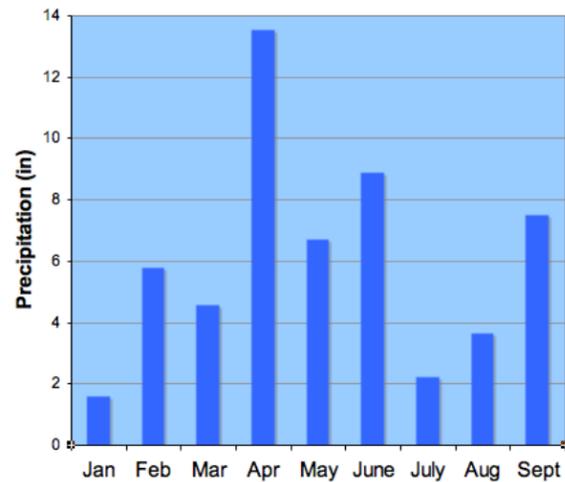
Jeff Babb is a MI native who graduated in 2011 with degrees in Chemistry and Environmental Science from Lake Superior State University. Jeff's interest in science led him to college but he had no plans in pursuing more than a Bachelor's degree until he was selected for an REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) internship at Jackson State University in summer 2010. There, Jeff realized his focus should be on graduate school... so now he gets to join us! Jeff not only helps with Stream Team, but also is in charge of Miami's weather station.

Angela

Defenbaugh graduated from Drake University in 2011 with a B.S. in Environmental Science and minors in Biology and Environmental Policy. While at Drake, she was able to participate in

beginning in July and continuing through October. OK, nothing new there.

If you check out this year's rainfall, you see that the general trend is about what we might expect, but our wet



season was really wet and our dry season particularly dry. April's record rainfall of almost 14" is almost 4 times the norm. And July's 2" is about half of the expected 4".

That said, as a stream person, I am really happy that this fall rainfall has picked up. After the last few years of extensive drought, these fall rains are important for letting water soak into the ground, for supporting the fish and invertebrate populations over the winter, and for letting the normal surge of nutrients (from our autumn leaf fall) get "chomped" by the invertebrates and decayed by the microbes that live in all our streams. In spring, these nutrient, invertebrates, and microbes form the basis for the whole food web that exists in an Ohio stream. So as far as I'm concerned let it rain!

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 and 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 the problems have been reported to us, we can pass it along to the appropriate agencies. Thanks again for all you do for Butler County Stream Team! Crisis Spot emails can be sent to Donna McCollum at mccollds@muohio.edu.

research that focused on invasive species management, avian breeding patterns, and efficiency of herbal medications. She plans to put her experience in environmental education to work with Stream Team, on a road that combines her passions and experience towards a career in environmental consulting.

Creativity Corner ...

Two wonderful quotes ... for water and our great volunteers ... THANKS for all you do!

The world is mud luscious and puddle wonderful.

– E.E. Cummings

"Everything you do makes a difference. What can you do to make a positive difference?"

–Philippe Cousteau

Do you have a favorite poem, picture or article you'd like to pass along to our fellow volunteers? Do you write poetry, stories, or articles or create pictures - even better!

To contribute to our next Creativity Corner, email Donna McCollum at mccollds@muohio.edu

Mark Your Calendars!

October Sampling Day -
Saturday, October 8th

November Sampling Day
- Saturday November 12th

For comments, concerns, or suggestions, please contact us at mccollds@muohio.edu

Butler County Stream Team Monthly Newsletter

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Our mailing address is: 102 Boyd Hall, Institute of Environmental Sciences, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056

Phone: 513-529-5811
Fax: 513-529-5814

E-mail: ies@muohio.edu / Website: www.butlercountystreamteam.org
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