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Butler County Stream Team June News - 2011



Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Southwest Ohio
Next Sampling Day - June 11

What ARE those cleared areas on the bottom of my creek?



Photo from

<http://www.travbuddy.com/photos/blogs/210405>

As you collect your water samples this summer, keep your eyes open for small cleared areas in the bottom of the stream, like the one above, or a shallow round depression if the bottom is sandy. Although they look like somebody took a vacuum cleaner to the stream bottom, or stuck a bowl into the sand, these structures are really the nests of any of a number of sunfish species.

Male sunfish select an area on the bottom that is just right, then sweep away the silt by fanning their tails.

They will even pick up the rocks in their mouths and move them into just the right places! After the nest is ready, a female will lay thousands of eggs in that

VOLUNTEERS Please Read and RSVP!

Hi everybody. We need to have as many of you as possible attend the Volunteer Appreciation and Training Day on Saturday, June 25th. It's a chance for us to say thanks and to do some of the training and signatures required by the Ohio EPA. Here is the schedule for that day and some other upcoming events.

[June 25th Appreciation and Training Day](#)

Events of the day - [come to any or all events!](#) RSVP please to [Donna McCollum](#) or [Chad Toussant](#)

- **Canoeing** - on Great Miami River, from Trenton to Rentschler Park in Hamilton. PLEASE RSVP YOUR INTEREST IMMEDIATELY so we can finalize details. What we think right now is we will meet at Rentschler Park at 8:45 at parking area directly across from Riverview Shelter. We will carpool to Trenton so we can pick your cars at Rentschler after lunch. Canoes are being loaned by Rivers Unlimited, but we

space. After fertilization, the male will guard the eggs until they hatch or even for some days after hatching.

Males usually hover just above the nest, aggressively chasing away anything that might harm the eggs - including you!

In Ohio streams, we have a beautiful assortment of 6 sunfishes: [Bluegill](#), [Green](#), [Longear](#), [Orangespotted](#), [Pumpkinseed](#), and [Redear](#) Sunfish.

Click on any of the names above to go to Ohio Division of Wildlife's fact sheet, complete with a picture, life history and other great information. But just for fun, let me show you my favorite sunfish, the Longear Sunfish ... what a beauty!



These stream dwellers can get up to about 7" in length if they have good deep pools with clear water to help them find their invertebrate prey and keep it available through our late summer dry times. This is another reason large woody debris is important habitat in streams - not only do log jams help create deep pools that hold water during dry spells, but they provide lots of surfaces for invertebrates to cling to.

All of these true sunfishes (genus *Lepomis*) are joined in the larger family of sunfishes (Centrarchidae) by white and black crappies, rock bass, and the black basses (smallmouth, largemouth and striped). So Ohio is well represented with these delightful creatures!

[Upcoming events](#)

June sampling day - June 11th

July sampling day - July 9th

August sampling day - Aug. 13th

Canoeing and macroinvertebrate sampling - Oct. 1st

[Crisis Spot](#)

As you are out sampling or just out for a walk along

may have to charge a little for transportation. So come join us! RSVP TO [CHAD TOUSSANT](#) ASAP

- **Lunch** - we'll aim for noon at Rentschler Park [Riverview Shelter](#). Butler County Storm Water District will provide ???, but if you're not canoeing, feel free to bring a covered dish!
- **Training and annual report** - one thing we have said we will do to get and keep Level II Credible Data status is to retrain volunteers on how to collect the samples, since you are doing that part on your own. So we will go over that and the first ever complete annual report - w oohoo!
- **Macroinvertebrate hunting** - if you are interested in what living things are in the creek besides fish, come check out some of the "bugs" that spend at least part of their life cycle there. This will be an informal exploration, so be prepared to get your feet wet in a tributary to the Great Miami in Rentschler Park.

[Rentschler Forest](#) is a Butler County Metropark at the northern edge of Hamilton. To get there, take Rt. 4 north to a left on Reigart Rd, just north of the Bypass 4 intersection.

Please join us for a fun day and help us qualify to collect as much Level II data as possible!

[October 1st - Canoeing and macro sampling](#)

This is really just a "save the date" reminder, since we still have to work out the details. But this will be

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.

a most-of-the-day activity - we'll start around nine, canoe for a while, stop for lunch and macros, then finish canoeing. We're thinking about either the Whitewater River or Little Miami River, since we've been on the Great Miami a couple of times. So watch the new newsletters for more details!

[Storm Drain Labeling](#)

Another great volunteer opportunity is the storm drain labeling done by Butler Soil and Water Conservation District. Time and location are flexible, so if you're interested contact [Lynn White](#) for more details.

[What else?](#)

We would love to organize other activities to get our wonderful volunteers together, but you gotta let us know what you'd like to do.

If you have some ideas, let us know. Email

[Donna](#), [Lynn](#), [Bob](#), [Chad](#), or [Beth](#) and we'll see if we can make it happen!

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

Butler County Stream Team Monthly Newsletter

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