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Butler County Stream Team May News - 2012



[Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Southwest Ohio](#)

[Next Sampling Day - May 12th](#)

We have a new cooler location!

If you live in southeastern Butler County, we have made it easier for you to collect samples for Stream Team. The new cooler will be available until 10:00 am on sampling days at the West Chester Presbyterian Church, 8930 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd.

[Stream Team Summer & Fall Events](#)

As you all head out over the next few months for places unknown, we hope you'll keep Stream Team in mind. If you are one of our consistent samplers - you sample the same sites every month - we'd appreciate it if you would let us know if you're out of town so we can get someone else to pick up your normal samples. We also have several events planned and I thought I would go ahead and outline them now.

[Sampling Training and Canoeing the Whitewater](#)

[Saturday, June 2nd](#)

Sampling training and brunch - 9-10 am at Indian Creek Metropark. Come for a potluck brunch and to let us certify you as Level 2 samplers with Ohio EPA's Credible Data Program. This is particularly important for our consistent volunteers - folks who sample every month. In order for your samples to be considered Level 2 credible data,

[New T-shirts are in ...](#)

With a great new picture by Chris Rowlands.

[Explore Your Watershed](#)



You never know it, until you row it!

Stop by and pick yours up in the lab or let us know you want us to bring it to you.

[Volunteer Spotlight](#)

we need you to be "trained" on how to collect a sample at least every two years. So if you haven't been to the training yet, or didn't come last year, it would be much appreciated if you could make it this year.

We also plan to have a draft of our 5-year review for Stream Team - a first look at some of the progress we've made and what some of the data we've collected mean.

Canoeing the Whitewater - From Indian Creek Metropark we will carpool over to Brookville, Indiana to canoe down the Whitewater River, which flows through southwestern Butler county before joining the Ohio River. For those of you who have traveled the Great Miami with us, expect a much different landscape in this smaller, higher gradient river.

Twenty spots are being held for consistent volunteers. Any canoes beyond that will cost ~\$35 for the trip.

We will need to have a pretty accurate head count before this day, so please **LET US KNOW** if you plan to come. You can join us for the brunch and training, the canoe trip, or both. **Email**

Marion Wells, our lab manager, at lykinsme@muohio.edu as soon as possible.

Open Lab and Grand Opening of new lab!

It seems we are going to need to move our lab in Oxford from Boyd Hall. We are not quite certain where our new home will be (maybe in Upham Hall with the rest of the IES department), but we hope to make the move over the summer. When we do, we will have an open lab day! **The tentative date will be Saturday, August 25th.** More details to come!

Fall Canoe Outing

Saturday, September 22nd or 29th

We have been trying to do two canoe outings every year to get people out on the rivers. For those of you who joined us on the Great Miami last year, you know how good it feels to be out on the water and seeing the river from a canoe! Many people got a real highlight seeing a wild bald eagle up close and personal. More details to come!

Collect Data for World Water Monitoring



Dave Burcham - ready to head out on the the Great Miami River!

Dave has been such a fun person to have around at Stream Team! He's always has a smile and whenever I send out a plea for extra help, he seems ready to oblige. He has been collecting samples for at least 3 years, has joined the lab crew several times, has attended sampling training to be a level 2 certified Ohio EPA volunteer, and has been a real delight to have along on canoe outings. Here's why ... in Dave's own words ...

"I decided to volunteer with the Stream Team after talking to a Team member at the Oxford Farmer's Market. It seemed to be a great way to participate in a group concerned about water quality in streams where I live. I've been a volunteer now for a more than three years and find it very rewarding.

I graduated with a degree in business from Ohio State University and served three years as an Supply Corps Officer in the Navy off the coast of Vietnam. Following that I returned to Ohio, attended Miami University Hamilton, the University of Cincinnati and became a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). I practiced for 31 years in various southwestern Ohio hospitals, retiring in 2008.

As a nurse anesthetist, part of my job was monitoring patients and their vital signs. I feel that as part

Day

September 18th is the actual day on which people around the world will be monitoring water. But since our September Stream Team day is always at the River Days festival, we decided we should report our October data instead. So come on out and plan to add your sample to a global effort.

Clean Sweep Pictures

I don't know if any of our Stream Team folks participated in the Clean Sweep on the Great Miami last weekend, but it sure looks like there were plenty of folks involved!



These pictures are from the Madison Township site. Now imagine this going on at 11 sites along the Lower Great Miami last weekend ... pretty cool!

When we save a river, we save a major part of an ecosystem, and we save ourselves as well because of our dependence—physical, economic, spiritual—on the water and its community of life.

Tim Palmer, *The Wild and Scenic Rivers of America*

of the Stream Team I am performing a simliar practice - taking the vital signs of the streams. I value my opportunities to work with such intelligent and talented people in the lab and always leave with a good feeling knowing there are smart, motivated people out there caring for the environment where I live. Thanks Butler County Stream Team!"

Dave has been married to his wife, Nancy, "for 40 wonderful years."



They have two grown children; Julie, who lives in Columbus, and Michael, who is a resident of Hamilton. One of the delights of Dave and Nancy's life is traveling; they have visited 25 national parks, including a rim to rim hike in the Grand Canyon.

Dave, it sounds like you have had a wonderful and fulfilling life! We're so glad you've added our Stream Team community to it and truly appreciate all you do!

Mark Your Calendars!

May Sampling Day - Saturday, May 12th

June Sampling Day - Saturday, June 9th

[BC Storm Water - Webinar Series](#)

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](#).

Stream Restoration:

The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river.

Ross Perot

River Reflections

Have you ever thought about how rivers act as an inspiration for music? Across the centuries and around the world, civilizations grew up around rivers and other waterways, so I guess it shouldn't be surprising that rivers are WELL-represented in song. In the US, who can't hear, even without the music playing, a version of *Moon River* in their heads? [Andy Williams](#)'s pops to mind for me... Or who doesn't sing [Down to the River to Pray](#) along with the Sirens in the movie *O' Brother Where Art Thou?*

Maybe rivers are so inspirational because they seem so human. They are moody, constantly changing, strong, independent ... sounds human to me. For the next few months we're going to concentrate on river songs, so if you have a favorite song about rivers, please let me know!

This month, we'll start with a list of river songs posted in honor of **World Water Day** by Jeff Opperman from The Nature Conservancy. To check out some comments about each song on his list below, visit the web link [here](#). I had a blast looking at his commentary, hitting links, and seeing what ordinary folks had to say about their favorite river songs!

A River of Song: Channeling My Top Ten Tunes

Written by Jeff Opperman, Feb. 23, 2012

1. Woody Guthrie: "Roll On Columbia"
2. Randy Newman: "Burn On"
3. Johnny Cash: "Five Feet High and Rising"
4. Adam Acuragi: "Bottom of the River"
5. Aaron Neville: "Louisiana 1927"
6. Emmanuel Jal: "Many Rivers to Cross"
7. Townes Van Zandt: "Texas River Song"
8. Led Zeppelin: "When the Levee Breaks"
9. The Tragically Hip: "Chagrin Falls"
10. Bruce Springsteen: "The River"

Crisis Spot

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. 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.

[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)

*[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

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.

*[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 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](#)

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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