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Butler County Stream Team

September News - 2010

Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Southwest
Ohio

*Next Sampling Day - September 11th
(At Great Miami River Days)*



Great Miami River Days

Did you know that

... the Great Miami River Days is one of the largest water education events in the country?

... there will be more than 20 educational booths, along with food, crafts, historical re-enactments, ski and jet ski shows, music, rowing and pontoon rides?

... 911 will be remembered at 1 pm Saturday with a Team Fastras Ski-Diving Team?

...the world famous Team FMX East will put on 2 motorcycle stunt shows on Sunday?

... the Badgerland Ski Team will attempt to set a Guinness world record by pulling over 50 skiers at once?

... the Butler County Stream Team will be doing their sample analyses at the Great Miami River Days?

So don't miss this year's Great Miami River Days celebration! Times are 11:00 - 8:00 on Saturday and 11:00 - 6:00 on Sunday. Parking is in the MU Hamilton parking lot, with shuttle transport to the festival (in a hay wagon!). For more information, visit <http://www.greatmiamiriverdays.org/index.htm>.

As usual, we may need extra help at the River Days event, since we need people to do the analyses as well as talk to people about what Stream Team is and why it matters. **If you would like to help**, please let Donna McCollum know at mccollds@muohio.edu. Several Miami University students will be helping out in shifts of 11-2,

Stream Team

Volunteers

Carol Jones

One of our most consistent volunteers for the last 2 years is Carol Jones. She samples 10-14 sites each month in the Middletown/Trenton area and brings the cooler from Barn-N-Bunk to lab. **Thanks, Carol!**

Her interest in streams and their stewardship seems NOT to stem from "nature deficit disorder": *"My interest in ground water and streams was born as a child, with my brother and I exploring the 9 acres we grew up on. We spent our childhood overturning every stone in the small stream (run) on the property (not knowing much except tadpoles and such...) We learned all the native trees, birds, etc. I remember crawling through a field tile into the creek on the back of the property."* Carol's parents hosted a 4-H Conservation Club for the neighboring kids that visited the area that would become Acton Lake. *"Most of my Girl Scout badges are animal or nature related"*, Carol says.

Carol is proud that the bulk of her life's work since age 19, aside from family and farm, has been

2-5, and 5-8 on Saturday and 11-2 and 2-6 on Sunday, so feel free to come for one time slot or just stay all day!

Upcoming (and Past) Events:

Macroinvertebrate Identification Training and Canoeing

Five volunteers came on Saturday, August 21st to explore the underwater world of aquatic macroinvertebrates - better known as "bugs". We talked about methods of sampling, took a look at pictures of some of the bugs we might find, and then got to look at these wonderfully adapted critters under the microscopes ... and wow, what a great look! We had to run people out of the lab practically by force!

For more fun, **don't forget to let Sarah know** if you'd like to collect invertebrates in the Great Miami River while canoeing on September 25th (vanfrasc@muohio.edu). We will meet at 9:00 am at GMR Riversports headquarters, 12041 East Miami River Road, across the river from Ross. We will canoe to a suitable spot and stop to collect bugs. **Please let us know no later than next Friday, Sept. 17th!**

The trip will take 3-4 hours, plus time to get safety information and drive to our launch point, so plan on being finished in mid afternoon. **Bring your lunch** and we will stop along the way to eat. Check out more details of our 8-mile trip at www.gmrriversports.com/

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. 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

passing on what she learned from Recovery International, a mental health organization based in Chicago. RI provides weekly self-help, peer-support/training meetings locally, by telephone, and online, to persons suffering from mental and nervous illnesses. Carol leads an RI-Discovery group meeting on Tuesdays, one of five groups in Area 140 Greater Cincinnati/Louisville. In 1999, she became Area Leader, and now is an Area Team member, serving as Contact.

"Thousands of RI members say that participating in this program not only saved our lives, but gave us tools to strengthen our nerve resistance and growth to thrive, in spite of our illness. RI can be an adjunct to professional care, or strictly for self-help. When we become healthy through use of the tools we learn in RI, we enjoy life and make the most of it.

Anyone interested may go to www.lowselfhelpsystems.org; or please call me, 513-379-6233, or email recovinccin@zoomtown.com." So again ... **thanks Carol!**

We would like to continue posting stories about our volunteers... so what's your story?? If you have been involved in any outside activities relating to the environmental sciences, please pass along the information by emailing Donna McCollum at mccollds@muohio.edu

Mark Your Calendars!

September Sampling Day - this Saturday, September 11th.

Please note that all samples will be tested at Great Miami River Days. **Not in Boyd Hall.

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.

[Great Miami Rivers Days](#) - Sept. 11th and 12th

September 25th -
Macroinvertebrate canoe trip - 9 am at GMR Riversports

What's your opinion?

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

Butler County Stream Team Monthly Newsletter

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