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Butler County Stream Team September News - 2011



Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Southwest Ohio
Next Sampling Day **AT GREAT MIAMI RIVER DAYS -**
September 10th

GREAT MIAMI RIVER DAYS

Let us know if you can help! We especially need a few people for Saturday afternoon.

Did you know that

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

... this year's events feature a battle of local bands, the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, and fireworks?

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

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

The festival is a celebration of the historical and current uses of the Great Miami River. It's goal is to generate appreciation and awareness of the Great Miami and it's many roles through the years. The two days are filled with things to do or see ... or eat (funnel cake anyone?). It just seems a logical place for a group like the Butler County Stream Team to hang out, doesn't it?

So don't miss this year's Great Miami River Days celebration! Times are 9:00 am - 10:00 pm on Saturday and 9:00 am - 6:00 pm on Sunday. Parking is in the MU Hamilton parking lot, with shuttle transport to the festival (in a hay wagon!). Click [here](#) for more information.

As usual, **we may need extra help at the River Days**

Volunteer Spotlight

Elisa and Emma Jones

It's always nice to see people come to lab because it's fun! And it's really great to make it a family affair! Two of our newer volunteers fit both of those criteria.

Emma Jones started collecting samples last spring as part of her Girl Scout troop's silver award project. She is a 7th grader at St. Joseph consolidated school in Hamilton who plays the piano in her spare time. We have put her to work on many different stations in lab as she has become comfortable with the different equipment. And she always seems to "watch and learn" - she's never turned down an opportunity to learn new tasks in the lab and really "enjoys working there". Thanks for your work and interest, Emma!

Elisa Jones is Emma's mom and came onboard around the same time last spring. She is a Xavier graduate with a BS in biology and has been working in the water and wastewater field for 12 years. And get this ... what we do in Stream Team lab she does for the City of Hamilton! Sometimes she goes to work at 4 am on a

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 do analyses or talk to people about the Stream Team**, please let Donna McCollum know at mccollids@muohio.edu. Several Miami University students will be helping out in shifts of 11-2, and 2-6 on Saturday and Sunday, so feel free to come for one time slot or just stay all day!

Oct. 1st Canoe Outing Let us know if you want to go!

We have a canoe outing tentatively set up for October 1st - canoes have been graciously loaned by Rivers Unlimited, so we're all set - thanks Rivers Unlimited! Now all we need is the people to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity ... so, **let us know if you want to go!!** To make it worth the planning and food, **we need to know by the end of the week (Sept. 15th)**. If we don't have 10 people interested we will have to cancel for this time.

So let me inspire you. Check out our [pictures from the June canoe trip](#) to see what a great time it was. Then see how you can become a "child of nature" below ... I think we would be game to starting a "Stream Team Child of Nature Award" - just gotta canoe a hundred miles!

What sets a canoeing expedition apart is that it purifies you more rapidly and inescapably than any other travel. Travel a thousand miles by train and you are a brute; pedal five hundred on a bicycle and you remain basically bourgeois; paddle a hundred in a canoe and you are already a child of nature.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau

Please let us know as soon as possible - email Donna McCollum or Beth Downs by Sept 15th.

Creativity Corner ... Care to contribute ?

As you attend the River Days festival this weekend, think of these inspiring words from some folks you may recognize:

Henry David Thoreau
Who hears the rippling of rivers will not utterly despair of

Saturday and then comes into lab that afternoon ... wow! But what I most like is Elisa's reason for coming ... "I really enjoy being part a group that cares about what is being released into not only our large lakes and rivers but into our smaller streams." I think she has said *perfectly* what all of us work with Stream Team feel. Thanks, Elisa!

Volunteer Educational Opportunities

Two of the opportunities we talked about last month, for learning more about storm water issues, are still available. Also, the Ohio EPA has set two dates to learn how to assess stream habitat using the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI). Since good quality habitat is one of the main contributors to the health of stream communities, wouldn't it be great to get a crew of Stream Team folks who could evaluate the habitat conditions at some of our sampling sites?

QHEI training:

Offered by OEPA in Groveport, OH

Free

2-day training - Sept. 27-28

3-day training - Oct. 4-6

Backup dates for either of the above (for bad weather) will be Oct. 18-20

Rainwater Harvesting as a Stormwater Management Practice:

The Butler County Storm Water District is hosting the 2011 webcast series produced by the Center for Watershed Protection free of charge. Don't miss out! Bring your lunch and take advantage of a great training opportunity.

When: Wed. Sept. 14th, 12-2 p.m.

Where: Butler County Engineers Office

anything.

We go to the river's edge for comfort, spiritual renewal,
meditation, solitude:
we go to the river to feel and know the continuance of life.

Mark Twain (from *Life on the Mississippi*)
The face of the river, in time, became a wonderful book . . .
which told its mind to me without reserve, delivering its most
cherished secrets as clearly as if it had uttered them with a
voice.
And it was not a book to be read once and thrown aside, for it
had a new story to tell every day.

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

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.

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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Research to Practice: Addressing Non-Point Source Pollution in Ohio

The Ohio Watershed Network is
presenting the webinar: **Short
and Long Term Strategies to
Address Harmful Algal Blooms
in Ohio Lakes**: Sept. 21, 12
p.m.

For more information or to
register, visit the [OWN website](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

**September Sampling Day at
Great Miami River Days -
Saturday, Sept 10th**

**Rainwater Harvesting as a
Stormwater Management
Practice webinar**: Wed. Sept.
14th, 12-2 p.m.

**Short and Long Term Strategies
to Address Harmful Algal
Blooms in Ohio Lakes
webinar**: Sept. 21, 12 p.m.

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