



A project of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks



We Care About Water

Preserving and Improving Springfield and Greene County Water Supplies Since 1984.

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks-Newsletter-Spring 2009

Watershed Center Update

- The trail extension is complete.
- Grading Work for the parking lot and main building is completed.
- The heat source pumps are being installed for the Watershed Center building.
- Hundreds of students have experienced nature hands-on at Valley Water Mill this spring!

Watershed Center Update by Loring Bullard

A veritable beehive of activity-that describes the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park over the past few months. Right now, Sunbelt drill rigs are set up and working near the site of the Watershed Center main education building, installing a series of wells and loop systems for the ground source heat pumps. Funding for this component is being provided through a \$50,000 grant from the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority, a special funding arm of the Department of Natural Resources that assists and promotes green initiatives. These geothermal wells, which will serve the heating and cooling needs of a very energy efficient building, provide another great example of green technologies at work.

More importantly, Valley Water Mill Park is receiving a lot of visitation by the public. Hundreds of school children have attended field trips and special water events there, utilizing the trails and the learning stations already in place at the wetland, spring, stream, forest and lake. Kids have searched the streams for “critters” and measured flows and performed water testing. Many people are walking the two and one-half mile trail that loops around the entire site, along the way enjoying an inspiring view from the recycled steel bridge over the spillway. And outdoor education programs of the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department are in full swing, with two employees permanently in offices at the Parks Outdoor Initiatives building.

What has become apparent over the last few months is the need to finish the indoor education facility, public restrooms and additional parking. With the completion of the energy and water efficient main education building and the adjacent “green” parking lot, with native vegetation and runoff filtration features, these needs will finally be met. If you have not done so already, please give serious consideration to helping us complete the long-awaited project through a generous donation to the Watershed Center. We, and clean water, surely need your help.

Architectural rendering of the Watershed Center building



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Watershed Festival by Mike Kromrey

The Greene County Watershed Festival was held at Valley Water Mill Park May 5th and marked the first event of our 25th Anniversary celebration series. About a hundred 5th grade students came out to learn about water resources. Volunteers ran four demonstrations: a macro invertebrate exploration, a groundwater flow model, the Enviroscape model, and a walking tour of the watershed and green building features at the park.

Watershed Festivals are a great tool for reaching a lot of students at one time but they take careful planning and preparation. The Watershed Committee, James River Basin Partnership, Project WET, and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks collaborated to make this event a success. Another festival is planned for this fall.



Valley Water Mill Trails Update by Matt Keener

Recently a trail section was completed connecting the existing hard surface trail on the west end of the dam to the culvert beneath Valley Water Mill Road. Towe Construction and McDaniel Excavating were contracted to grade the trail surface and install a small portion of the concrete trail. Volunteer assistance from Greene County Resource Management, Northside Rotary, Pipkin Middle School, and MSU students helped complete the 400 linear foot section of trail. This portion is considered a BMP (Best Management Practice) for stormwater runoff because it is pervious. The trail is composed of base rock and a geo-grid called Gravel Pave that is anchored into the base rock, all covered in 3/4" pea gravel. Funds to complete the project came from a MDNR Recreational Trails Grant.



WCO Staff in the Field (stream sampling, teaching kids, planting trees)



Little Sac Management Plan Field Day by Kyle Kosovich

The Little Sac Watershed Management Planning Grant will fund a Watershed Plan Field Day for all who live in the Little Sac Watershed at 6:30pm on July 21st at the Lakeside Learning Station at Valley Water Mill Park. At this meeting, we will be handing out a draft of the Little Sac Watershed Management Plan. We will also tour Valley Water Mill Park while we discuss the different best management practices that can be incorporated into a business or home located in the Little Sac Watershed. This will mark the beginning of the public comment period on the draft Little Sac Management Plan. It will end with a the Final Stakeholder meeting on August 11th, when comments on the draft will be heard. If you live in the Little Sac Watershed and are interested in participating or need more information on this project, please call Kyle Kosovich, 417-866-1127



Portland Conference by Matt Keener

Watershed Committee staff joined James River Basin Partnership staff in Portland, Oregon for the 5th National Conference on Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Outreach. This week-long conference focused on excellent examples for educating the public, industry and policy makers. At the conference, staff were able to meet and learn from experts across the country who work daily on water sustainability issues. The conference proved extremely informative and the WCO staff returned re-energized and excited about implementing new education and outreach programs.



H2Ozarks Video Premier by Stacey Armstrong

A short film about clean water in the Ozarks, called H2Ozarks, premiered at the Moxie on April 23rd. The event was open to the public and FREE. The half-hour film focuses on water quality efforts in Southwest Missouri accomplished through the Water Quality Improvement Project. This project was managed by Environmental Resources Coalition and included work by several area watershed groups, including Elk River Watershed Improvement Association, James River Basin Partnership, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Table Rock Lake Water Quality Inc., Shoal Creek Watershed Improvement Group, and Upper White River Basin Foundation. Funding was made possible by Senator Kit Bond and former Senator Jim Talent. The event featured music by Mark Bilyeu & Cindy Woolf in the lobby, and photography by Josh Mitchell. If you were unable to attend the premier or would like to have a copy of the DVD to show other groups, please contact Stacey at 866-1127.

Monthly meetings of the Watershed Committee are held the first Friday of each month.

**7:30 a.m. at the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library
397 E. Central Springfield MO**

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

2009 Board

Dr. William Cheek, *Chair*
Leslie Carrier, *Vice Chair*
Robin Melton, *Secretary*
Ted Hillmer
Stuart Murr
Michael Bridges

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Loring Bullard, *Director*
Matt Keener, *Operations Manager*
Mike Kromrey, *Education Outreach Coordinator*
Stacey Armstrong, *Projects Coordinator*
Kelly Guenther, *Office Manager*
Kyle Kosovich, *Projects Assistant*

1984-2009

The Watershed Committee Celebrates 25 years!

We may not look a day over twenty, but the Watershed Committee is actually turning twenty-five this year. The fact that we have been able to serve our citizens and work on behalf of clean water for all these years may be attributed to our tight focus on the original mission-protecting the community's public drinking water. The longevity is also a tribute to the visionary individuals with the city of Springfield, Greene County and City Utilities, who, in the early 1980's, could see that development and unwise land use practices posed potential threats to water quality. They knew that government played an important role in keeping our water clean, but was only part of the answer. What was needed for lasting protection, they realized, was a citizen-driven organization that could work across political boundaries with good science to educate citizens and promote commonsense practices and policies. To the lasting credit of our Board and Staff, we have done exactly that. Our big celebration will be on Saturday, September 12, 2009. Please watch for details and by all means, join us as we celebrate this amazing milestone!



Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is sponsored by:
City Utilities of Springfield, Greene County & City of Springfield

For more information about the Watershed Committee, Watershed Center,
Our Projects and Upcoming Events, please visit our website at:
www.watershedcommittee.org



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