



## We Care About Water

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

### Watershed Committee of the Ozarks-Newsletter-Fall 2009

#### Watershed Center Update

- The trail extension is complete.
- Audubon Bird Blind Open for Wildlife Viewing.
- The ground source wells have been installed for the Watershed Center building.
- Hundreds of students experienced nature hands-on at Valley Water Mill Park this year!

#### Here's to Another 25! by Loring Bullard

As many of you know, the Watershed Committee celebrated an historic event this past September—our twenty-fifth anniversary—not that long for a family business, maybe, but certainly a good long run for a watershed organization. When the Watershed Committee was created in 1984, in fact, watershed organizations were rare beasts indeed! Many people didn't even know what a watershed is—much less how to protect one. But look how far we've come since then. There are now a half-dozen watershed organizations in southwest Missouri alone!

Many organizations reach a plateau or even drop off in activity as they grow older. I am proud to say that this has not happened to us. Instead, the Watershed Committee continues to be an active and positive force for improving water quality in the region. Our dedicated and involved Board and Staff take their charge of protecting watersheds very seriously. That is exactly the reason why our organization began working to build the Watershed Center over a decade ago.

The Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park, in fact, represents not only the culmination of over two decades of watershed work; it also signifies the critical nature and relevance of water education to our water future. Now, at long last, we are approaching the time when we may be able to complete one of the most important components of the project, the main education building, with its public meeting spaces and long list of water and energy demonstration features. We are still going for LEED Gold to make a statement about sustainability, a particularly relevant subject in today's economically difficult times (when energy and water conservation are, after all, more important than ever).

Can you help us? If you have not already done so, please consider a pledge (spread over several years, if that helps) to help complete the Watershed Center and make sure that water quality protection remains a high priority in southwest Missouri for at least the next twenty-five years!



View from Parkside Looking Southwest  
THE WATERSHED CENTER

#### Inside this issue:

25th Anniversary Pictures 2

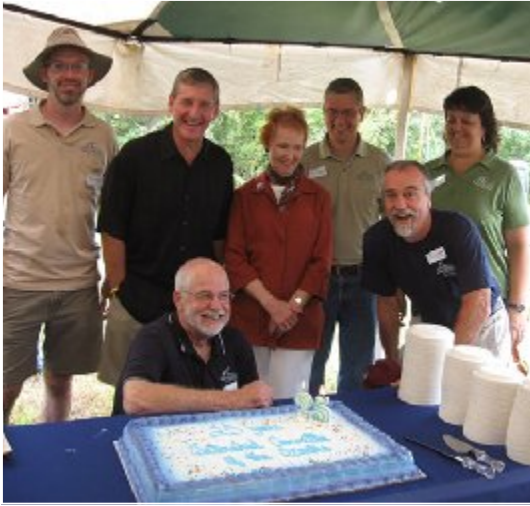
WQIP: On-Site Wastewater Remediation Projects 3

Toxic Parking Lots? 3

Onsite Wastewater Training Center as Film Location 4



# 25th Anniversary at Valley Water Mill



## WQIP: On-Site Wastewater Remediation Projects by Stacey Armstrong

The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) has completed fourteen residential septic remediation projects. The project provides cost-share for failing septic systems that are highly connected to surface or groundwater and have site conditions where advanced on-site wastewater treatment is needed. The most recent completed project was located in Shell Knob next to Table Rock Lake. Space was limited given the close proximity of the home to the lake so an advanced on-site wastewater treatment system was installed that consisted of a FAST 1500 gallon combination tank with time dosed drip irrigation lateral lines. The last two remediation projects will be completed in the next two months, dependent upon weather conditions. After these projects are completed, all the WQIP sites will be utilized for demonstration and training workshops in 2010.

To learn more about these or other WQIP projects, please contact Stacey at 417-866-1127



## Toxic Parking Lots? by Mike Kromrey

Would you paint your parking lot with a product that the EPA classifies as hazardous waste? Recent research shows that in Springfield and cities across the Midwest we do, and in a big way. The problem is a group of chemicals found in coal tar based pavement sealants, called PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons). Several PAHs are human carcinogens and also cause harm in our aquatic environment. PAHs affect fish, amphibians, and benthic macroinvertebrates. For some perspective, the U.S. Department of Health and Senior Services ranks PAHs as number eight on its CERCLA list—a list which ranks chemicals based on their toxicity and the likelihood that people will come into contact with them. It's above asbestos, chlordane, creosote, and other familiar hazardous substances. The United States Geological Survey has identified parking lots with coal tar sealants as point sources of pollution to waterways. The Springfield/Greene County Environment Advisory Board (EAB) estimates that we likely apply over a million pounds in the greater Springfield area annually.

Fortunately, a concerned citizen brought this water quality issue to our attention. A lot of research has been published about the sources and effects of PAHs. The Watershed Committee is working with the EAB, the City of Springfield, City Council, Greene County and City Utilities to examine the issue and find ways to keep this hazardous substance off of our streets and parking lots.

**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

### 2009 Staff

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

## Onsite Wastewater Training Center as Film Location

The Onsite Wastewater Training Center at Valley Water Mill was recently utilized as a filming location to make an informational maintenance video. The James River Basin Partnership and Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc. are creating the video to be available at local county health departments and local watershed organizations.



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

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



**Watershed Committee of the Ozarks**  
320 N. Main Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65806