



We Care About Water

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

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks-Spring Newsletter 2011

Watershed Center Nearly There!

The Watershed Committee just received word that we would receive a 2010 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Not only will this allow us to complete the hard surface interpretive trail on the east side of the reservoir at Valley Water Mill Park, it will also provide funding for a portion of the trailhead parking lot, which will also serve the Watershed Center Main Education Building.

This LEED Gold, water and energy efficient building, with a wonderful, naturally lit public meeting room featuring a variety of recycled materials (courtesy of a Solid Waste District O Grant), is nearly complete, with work wrapping up now on the adjacent public restrooms and attached roof. Construction on the building should be completed by May, and the parking lot should be done within a few months of that time.

With the announcement of receiving an RTP grant, we are at the 95 yard line on the project, at least. It is exciting to see over ten years worth of planning, sweat, and fund-raising finally come to fruition! This is a good time to once again thank our sponsors (city of Springfield, Greene County, City Utilities and Springfield/Greene County Parks) and the many donors (listed on the following page), who believed in the work of the Watershed Committee, this project, and clean water. If you are reading this, and you also support what we're doing, please consider these actions: 1) personally thank the individuals, business, organizations and foundations that have already contributed, and 2) consider making a donation yourself to help us reach the goal line!

Loring



Watershed Center Donations



Springfield Underground \$25,000



3M \$20,000



Titus Foundation \$255,000

We would also like to thank the following donors for their help with the Watershed Center Education Building :

3-M Foundation

Artistic Resources in Action

Barbara J. Lucks & Gregg J. Larsen

Gregg Larsen Landscaping

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Todd & Betty Parnell

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Rain Barrels for Sale

The Watershed Committee has a limited number of Rain Barrels for sale. The Rain Barrel Order Form is located on the homepage of our website, www.watershedcommittee.org. If you have any questions, please call the office at 417-866-1127

Valley Water Mill Fishing Update

Fishing Information for Valley Water Mill Lake Provided by Missouri Department of Conservation

The fish at Valley Water Mill Lake were stocked in December 2008. Typically, it takes three to four years for newly stocked fish to establish self-sustaining populations.

The bluegill population is showing considerable progress. As for the largemouth bass, the latest survey and related data indicate that the numbers are still low.

Given the bass population still needs time to expand, the lake will remain closed to fishing in 2011. MDC Staff anticipates opening the lake to fishing sometime in 2012

If you have any additional questions in regards to the fish populations at Valley Water Mill Lake, please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation Office at 417-895-6881

Fredrick Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Matt Keener presented checks to three recipients of the Fredrick Memorial Scholarship Fund: Mr. Andrew DeWitt (left photo), Mr. Benjamin Young (right photo) and Mr. John Scheer (below).



**Watershed Committee
of the Ozarks**

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Water Quality Improvement Grant: Wastewater Workshop

by: Stacey Armstrong

On Thursday, February 24th, onsite wastewater inspectors and health department professionals attended a free educational workshop at the Library Station to learn about Missouri Onsite Wastewater Regulation updates and future regulations. Six counties from southwest Missouri were represented and local professionals had the opportunity to discuss similarities and differences within the local county onsite wastewater regulations. Stone County health department presented an update on the property transfer ordinance implemented in January 2011. The ordinance requires that a property owner obtain an onsite wastewater treatment system inspection report prior to the sale. Only a few counties in Missouri currently utilized this progressive ordinance that functions as a valuable tool to protect water resources. Free public educational workshops will be held at the Onsite Wastewater Training Center at Valley Water Mill during the spring and summer. The next free workshop is scheduled Tuesday, June 14th at 5:30pm. For more information about the Water Quality Improvement Project or upcoming workshops, please contact Stacey at 866-1127.

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



Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
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