

Stream Team Annual Report

2008

promoting citizen
awareness and involvement
in river and stream conservation



Student representatives from Reeds Spring High School (Stream Team 432) traveled to Washington D.C. to receive the EPA Presidential Environmental Youth Award. It was presented by President Bush and the First Lady. Congratulations to an amazing Stream Team!

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

The Stream Team Program continued to steadily march forward during 2008. Volunteers are capitalizing on their experience and putting into action more and more of their plans to improve and protect Missouri streams. The Program continues to grow and inspire more citizens every year; this year we signed on 356 new Teams.

Stream Team accomplishments become addictive and many volunteers find themselves wanting to do more and more! One volunteer recently said it best when he described Stream Team as a family. Within this family you'll find a kindred spirit. More and more often, groups are working together and helping each other reach their goals. Teamers are proud of their accomplishments but rarely satisfied enough to consider the job done. New goals are set and the battle continues! Successes and accomplishments were noteworthy amongst Stream Team volunteers during 2008. Some of the highlights included:

- ◆ Understanding Streams, Fish Identification, GPS, Plywood Canoe Building, and Aquatic Entomology Scientific Drawing workshops were held as a part of our Stream Team Academy.
- ◆ 546 storm drains were stenciled for community awareness and education.
- ◆ Over 1,000 trips were made to monitor water quality.
- ◆ Volunteers spent 92 hours mentoring new recruits.
- ◆ \$ 2.6 million worth of volunteer labor was dedicated by volunteers.

- ◆ 681 tons of trash were removed from rivers and streams.
- ◆ 16,929 trees were planted.



Stream Team is sponsored by:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri



Team 3530, the "Awesome Stream Cleaners" of McDonald County High School, cleaned Big Sugar Creek. They collected trash, tires, and a car door!

Accomplishment

Water Quality Monitoring

is one of the most important components of our Program. Although this is the only Stream Team activity that requires training, we continue to be challenged with meeting the overwhelming demand from citizens. This year 560 volunteers attended 30 workshops. Sixteen introductory workshops were held; eight Level 1s, four Level 2s, and one Level 3. 437 volunteers monitored at 556 different sites around the state. Many sites were monitored multiple times which allows for consistent sets of trend data to be gathered over time.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	16	370
Level 1	8	139
Level 2	4	50
Level 3	1	1
CSI	1	2
Total	30	562

Cooperative Stream Investigations (CSI), which involves specialized monitoring in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources; watershed management committees; and volunteers continued in 2008. Monitoring investigations continued in several areas for *E. coli*. In addition, data loggers were set in several cold-water streams so that temperatures could be tracked to look for possible changes in stream temperatures related

to changes in climate. Several years of data will be needed from these sites in order to verify a trend.

Volunteer data is used regularly in several ways. It is included in annual reports to the EPA and incorporated with agency collected data for requests by cities, counties, etc. The Department of Natural Resources also conducts periodic reviews of data collected by volunteers trained to Level 2 and above. These reviews have resulted in extended protection and follow-up monitoring on streams with low water quality scores.

Stash Your Trash is the portion of our Program that offers support to Float Outfitters around the state by providing them with trash bags. Over 304,000 red mesh litter bags were sent to 122 participating outfitters. Many of these vendors show their support by offering discounts to Stream Team members renting from them. These discounts are featured every year in our Float Outfitters Discount Directory.

In addition, over 43,000 bags were supplied for Stream Team events. Bags are available in three sizes to accommodate the needs at different types of events. Donations received this year from Wal-Mart and REI were used to help purchase the versatile, mid-sized green mesh bags.

Regional Meetings continue to be a great way to get members together to learn and reflect on accomplishments in their areas. This year a meeting was held in Kansas City and featured presentations on Local Geology and Geomorphology, Stream Cleanup Planning and Details, Local Chloride Monitoring Efforts, Missouri River Habitat and Management, Blue River Water Quality Research, and updates from local watershed groups. Professionals from various agencies as well as expert volunteers led the presentations.

A bi-annual meeting of the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition (MSTWC) was held later in the day in order to better involve Kansas City Associations with this group. MSTWC is comprised of representatives from Stream Team Associations throughout the state and works towards offering advice and support for Associations and Stream Team groups.

Stream Team Awards were revamped and revved up this year. Outstanding Teams among three regions of the state were chosen for Ambassador Awards based on their accomplishments in the Program's goal areas of education, stewardship, and advocacy. An overall Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer was recognized



Stream Team members used microscopes to identify and learn the details of macroinvertebrates at a Stream Team Academy workshop.

2008 Fast Facts

During 2008, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **681** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **16,929** trees
- ◆ stenciled **546** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **1,074** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **661** presentations to other groups
- ◆ conducted **88** education projects
- ◆ reported **137,488** total volunteer hours

Enthusiasm



Kids and creek critters—a great mix! Team 3550 has been busy on Breton Creek near Potosi.

as well. Also, the previous year's financial donors were recognized with a Benefactor Award.

We are PROUD of our Teams!

Stream Team Ambassador Awards

- Northern Ozark Rivers Partnership (Stream Team 727)
- Scenic Rivers Stream Team Association (Stream Team 674)
- South Grand River Watershed Association (Stream Team 3757)

Water Quality Monitoring Ambassador Award

- Bob & Judy Jung – Simpson Lake (Stream Team 2746)

Benefactor Awards (donated during 2007)

- Anheuser-Busch
- REI

Activity	Participants	Hours	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	696	2,287	\$44,642.24
Advocacy	103	1,670	\$32,598.40
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	15	40	\$780.80
Association Activities	276	1,523	\$29,728.96
Award Winners	5	48	\$936.96
Display at Fairs, etc.	121	538	\$10,501.76
Educational Projects	2,255	10,651	\$207,907.52
Event Planning	899	3,699	\$72,204.48
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	4	18	\$351.36
GPS Mapping New activity!	18	18	\$351.36
Greenway Development Projects	6	15	\$292.80
Grant Projects	5	48	\$936.96
Habitat Improvement	254	870	\$16,982.40
Inventory	40	68	\$1,327.36
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	20	78	\$1,522.56
Litter Pickups	12,128	67,384	\$1,315,335.68
Media Contacts	81	122	\$2,381.44
Meetings (held or attended)	1,354	2,201	\$42,963.52
Mentoring	26	92	\$1,795.84
Monofilament Recycling Project	37	56	\$1,093.12
Other Miscellaneous projects	367	3,304	\$64,494.08
Planted Trees	470	2,928	\$57,154.56
Photo Point Monitoring	25	53	\$1,034.56
Presentations to Other Groups	2,036	5,368	\$104,783.36
Recruitment (new members)	104	177	\$3,455.04
River Observation (possible pollution events)	13	36	\$702.72
Stream Access Maintenance	19	40	\$780.80
Storm Drain Stenciling	129	770	\$15,030.40
Streambank Stabilization Projects	49	171	\$3,337.92
Watershed Mapping	11	13	\$253.76
Workshops (attended or conducted)	706	5,168	\$100,879.36
Water Quality Monitoring	7,966	28,002	\$546,599.04
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	13	32	\$624.64
Totals	30,251	137,488	\$2,683,765.76

*\$20.25/hour is the current national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

Over \$2.6 million!

19-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **5,969** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **181,650** trees
- ◆ stenciled **12,223** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **19,927** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **2,355** presentations to other groups
- ◆ conducted **3,139** education projects
- ◆ reported **1,490,484** total volunteer hours



Team 509 (Missouri Smallmouth Alliance) cleaned trash and tires from their adopted river accesses: Sand Ford, Sappington Bridge, and Red Horse.

Teamwork

The Stream Team Web Site www.mostreamteam.org

is continually growing and improving and now contains more information than ever. Many volunteers are finding us through our Web site and use it as a resource to retrieve materials and learn about stream-related topics through informational postings.

Teams featured in the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Natural Resources magazines can be found on the Web site under "Stream Team Library." Check them out!

Announcements, articles, and calendar updates are made nearly every day, so keep our address in your "Favorites" for quick access.

2009 Will Be One Of Our Biggest Years Yet 'cuz we are gonna have a Birthday! The Program will be turning 20 and we have special plans in store. More workshops, more

stewardship opportunities, and a special "Stream Celebration Weekend" during which everyone can join in the fun. Information is already available on the Web site. We're featuring Teams that have been active since the beginning and soon will unveil a DVD looking back on all that has been accomplished by our volunteers.

During 2009 we'll also be trying out some adjustments to our Water Quality Monitoring training. We'll be adding "Review Sessions" for Teams who need a bit more experience before they head out on their own. This will require adjusting the number of Intro and Level 1 workshops every other year and will help to assure that quality data is being submitted.

Featured workshops will include *Groundwater and Streams*, *An Introduction to Mussels*, and *Aquatic Entomology Scientific Drawing*.

Stay tuned . . . our volunteers continually amaze and impress us in all that they do. 2009 is bound to be no different!

◆ Education ◆ Stewardship ◆ Advocacy ◆



Sometimes it's the view at the end of a hard day's work that makes it all worthwhile. Tom Corey of Team 3712 sent in this snapshot of the Meramec after his Team's first litter pickup.

Questions?

Please contact us at:

- ◆ Missouri Stream Team
PO Box 180
Jefferson City MO 65102
- ◆ 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail)
- ◆ streamteam@mdc.mo.gov
- ◆ www.mostreamteam.org



The Interact Club from Jefferson City High School cleaned an urban stretch of Wears Creek.



Ted Haviland (Team 713) didn't know he'd end up on TV during the Current River cleanup.



Biology students from Team 907 at Park University collected invertebrates from White Alloe Creek.



Team 3353 (Rocky Point 4-H) stenciled 25 storm drains in downtown Hannibal with the message: "Dump no waste, drains to stream."