Stream Team Annual Report 2009

promoting citizen
awareness and involvement
in river and stream conservation

From Stream Teams who started 20 years ago, to those who are just starting out now (like the kids above helping Hinkson Clean Sweep), our volunteers are an inspiration to us all!

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

Remember the excitement we all felt as kids when that special day was approaching. That day you didn't have to share with anyone! It was your day, YOUR BIRTHDAY! Some things continue to grow older and continue to generate excitement; one of those is the Stream Team Program.

This year Stream Team turned 20-years-old, and our Stream Celebration Weekend held in Waynesville (home of Stream Team #1) during June helped us commemorate 20 years of significant accomplishments. In addition, we added our 4000th Team, another milestone worth celebrating! A total of 266 Teams joined throughout the year, putting us at a grand total of 4115 Teams statewide.

To document our first 20 years, a 28-minute film was developed by Stream Team 1875 member Jim Karpowicz and featured Teams, events, and tons of volunteer dedication. Not only was the DVD a success amongst our volunteers, it has received the Earthwatch Institute's "Film of the Year" award and has been nominated for an Emmy.

It has been an exciting 20 years and the ownership belongs to our dedicated volunteers! We did more than celebrate our past during 2009 though. Here are some of the accomplishments:

- 869 tons of trash were removed from Missouri waterways.
- 1,369 water quality monitoring trips were completed.
- 17,546 trees were planted.
- 412 storm drains were stenciled.
- 62 habitat improvements were completed.
- Stream Team Academy hosted *An Introduction to Mussels* and *An Introduction to Groundwater & Streams*.
- $2.5 million dollars worth of volunteer labor was dedicated.

Marty King (Stream Teams 31 & 421, and a member of the original Rivers & Streams Committee) still enjoys sampling on river!

MISSOURI STREAM TEAM

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

Dedication & Enthusiasm

Water Quality Monitoring

This Stream Team activity attracts many of our volunteers to become involved with the Program. By monitoring their own adopted streams, they can make a real contribution to the work being done throughout the state by providing data that otherwise would go uncollected. During 2009, 485 volunteers attended 40 workshops.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	8	214
Level 1	7	64
Level 2	5	73
Level 3	1	1
Macroinvertebrate Drawing	4	56
Review Sessions	15	77
Total	40	485

We have trained nearly 6,700 volunteers since the activity was introduced in 1993, averaging over 400 volunteers attending these workshops annually. The water quality workshops are structured to offer different levels of involvement so each volunteer can determine how much time and effort he or she wishes to put forth. However, a large majority of those from whom we don't hear back after receiving their initial training, just need a little help getting started. This is the group we began to make a concerted effort to mentor. With a bit more assistance after a workshop, they should have more confidence in their own abilities and feel better-equipped to monitor on their own. Changes implemented during 2009 will increase a volunteer's confidence in his own abilities, encourage individuals to submit much needed data on our Missouri streams, and attend the more advanced levels of training so their data is more often utilized.

In order to provide this kind of mentoring, we reduced the number of workshops offered each year and began holding review sessions at field locations across the state. During "odd-numbered" years, we will hold a reduced number of Introductory Level workshops in order to make us more available in the spring for sessions designed for reviewing invertebrate collection and identification as well as stream discharge. During the "even-numbered" years, we will hold a reduced number of Level 1 workshops in order to hold review sessions demonstrating chemical monitoring procedures, conducting a visual survey, collecting and identifying invertebrates, and stream discharge methods.

In addition, for individuals who have successfully completed the Level 2 QA/QC workshop, we will have specific projects available. These projects will be based on needs of DNR and/or MDC. Each project will include:

- A three-year minimum commitment
- A sample plan based on data needs
- A mechanism that allows us to provide feedback to the volunteer (in report form) at specified increments

These projects will be voluntary, but do require additional commitment from volunteers. However, it will provide opportunities for volunteers to work on specific projects and provide quality data that will truly be used to meet the needs of the sponsoring agencies; this should lead to a higher retention of volunteers.

By implementing these changes and requiring more participation before monitoring equipment is dispersed, we can save the Program money, better train our volunteers, and end up with more and better quality data!

Stream Team Awards

Four lucky Team members received our Stream Team Ambassador awards. Although unplanned, three of the awards were given to Stream Teams representing Associations. It was great to see the dedication and accomplishments of these groups rewarded. A Benefactor's award was also given to businesses showing support of the Program through their generous donations.

Stream Team Ambassador Awards

- Stream Team 1617–Vannessa Frazier of Howardville Jumpstart
- Stream Team 41–Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club
- Stream Team 3308–Dee Ogle of Glendale Fork Stream Team

VWQM Ambassador Award

- Stream Team 978–Jim & Dianne Darlington of Kayakswarm

Benefactor Awards (donations)

- Walmart Stores
- Pat Jones

Malden High School Team 3381 stayed busy cleaning the Chalk Bluff River Access, plus recycling paper and plastic at school. We're impressed!

2009 Fast Facts

During 2009, Stream Teams have . . .

- collected **869** tons of trash
- planted **17,546** trees
- stenciled **412** storm drains
- conducted **1,369** water monitoring trips
- given **242** presentations to other groups
- completed **446** educational projects
- reported **132,283** total volunteer hours

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	542	2,064	49 accesses	$43,034.40
Advocacy	44	282	282 hours	$5,879.70
Agency Project Participation	22	606	606 hours	$12,635.10
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	44	56	45 articles	$1,093.12
Association Activities	288	2,548	2,548 hours	$49,736.96
Award Winners	4	11	4 awards	$214.72
Display at Fairs, etc.	164	1,416	145 events	$27,640.32
Educational Projects	2,097	5,438	446 events	$106,149.76
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	15	116	9 trips	$2,264.32
GPS Mapping	33	33	16 trips	$644.16
Greenway Development Projects	15	46	3 projects	$897.92
Grant Projects	24	95	6 projects	$1,854.40
Habitat Improvement	329	998	62 projects	$19,480.96
Inventory	27	63	5 inventories	$1,229.76
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	37	108	26 letters	$2,117.92
Litter Pickups	18,242	81,582	869 tons of trash	$1,592,480.64
Media Contacts	51	86	38 interviews	$1,678.72
Meetings (held or attended)	1,448	3,043	1,448 attendees	$59,399.36
Mentoring	137	674	674 hours	$13,156.48
Monofilament Recycling Project	49	142	142	$2,771.84
Other Miscellaneous projects**	2,476	3,663	2,046 projects	$71,501.76
Planted Trees	781	3,353	17,546 trees	$65,450.56
Pre-activity Planning	663	2,374	175 events	$46,340.48
Photo Point Monitoring	74	86	624 trips	$1,678.72
Presentations to Other Groups	821	1,582	242 presentations	$30,880.64
Recruitment (new members)	243	387	192 people	$7,554.24
River Observation (possible pollution event)	7	32	32 hours	$624.64
Stream Access Maintenance	4	26	2 events	$507.52
Storm Drain Stenciling	152	567	412 drains	$11,067.84
Streambank Stabilization Projects	56	584	2 events	$11,399.68
Watershed Mapping	16	55	19 trips	$1,073.60
Workshops (attended or conducted)	658	4,825	658 attendees	$94,184.00
Water Quality Monitoring	6,853	15,331	1,369 trips	$299,261.12
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	8	11	4 trips	$214.72
Totals	**36,424**	**132,283**		**$2,586,100.08**

*$20.85/hour is the current national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).
**Includes projects like Website development, newsletters, scout programs, fund-raising, etc.

Respect

Matt Ousley (Team 3886) has installed four monofilament recycling bins around Binder Lake in Jefferson City.

Teams Working Together

Associations allow Teams throughout a watershed or geographic area to partner up. This allows them to share resources, knowledge, and experience. Several Associations throughout the state continued to gain momentum in 2009.

A regional gathering in southwest Missouri spawned the development of a new Association as well. A meeting was initiated by the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center Stream Team in Joplin, and 25 people participated in a potluck barbeque and received information from Program staff. After the Teams had a chance to meet each other, they decided an Association partnership would help them all accomplish more. The *Southwest Ozarks Stream*

Over $2.5 million!

20-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- collected **6,797** tons of trash
- planted **199,980** trees
- stenciled **12,635** storm drains
- conducted **21,147** water monitoring trips
- given **2,584** presentations to other groups
- completed **3,571** educational projects
- reported **1,598,036** total volunteer hours

Stream Team 3 on the Bourbeuse River decided to get ahead of the tire dumping problem. They partnered with Ameren UE, MoDNR, Open Space Council, and Union Kiwanis to collect and recyle 734 tires!

Accomplishment

Team Association is off to a great start covering the Spring and Elk River Watersheds.

The *Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition* also continued to move forward. This group is comprised of representatives from Associations throughout the state. This year they received a 319 mini-grant to assist in introducing themselves to Stream Teams. They also received a grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation and are looking towards hiring an Executive Director with this funding.

2010 . . . What's Ahead?

More, more and more! We're planning workshops, regional gatherings, stewardship opportunities, fact sheets, and trying hard to keep up with our busy volunteers!

We'll have staff attending the National Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Denver, Colorado. This is an exciting opportunity for us to share what we're doing and learn from other states that have Programs similar to ours. We always come back from these meetings with new ideas and a refreshed appreciation of our members.

Stay with us as we launch into another year of improving and protecting Missouri streams!

◆ Education ◆ Stewardship ◆ Advocacy ◆

Our Stream Team 20-year Birthday Celebration was a huge success! Hundreds attended the canoe float, river cleanup, educational events, and delicious BBQ.

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

Vannessa Frazier's Team 1617 (Howardville Jumpstart) received the Stream Team Program Ambassador Award this year!

Teams studied macroinvertebrates using a microscope at one of our Stream Team Academy Scientific Drawing workshops.

Can you believe the Joachim Stream Team of Jefferson County held their 31st Annual Cleanup this year? Believe it!

VWQM Program Leader Chris Riggert monitored water quality with Team 239, the Warsaw Conservation Club.