



# Channels

**3860  
Stream Teams  
Strong!**

**Information for and about Missouri Stream Teams  
March – April 2009**

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**2** Groundwater & Streams Workshop

Clean Water Act

Tips from the Teams

**3** Team Snapshots

Riffle Review

**4** Team Calendar

Teams in Action

**5** Activity Report

**7** Activity Prize Winners

New at the St. Louis Science Center

S. T. Associations Are Awarded Grants

**8** Happy Birthday Stream Team!

## Missouri River Relief Gears Up For 2009

By Amy Junglaus, Stream Team Biologist

Since 2001, Missouri River Relief (MRR), Stream Team 1875, has proven their dedication to cleaning up the Big Muddy with their steadfast organizational skills, eagerness to work hard and get dirty, and their undying love for Missouri's treasured water resources. MRR is gearing up for their biggest year yet – and you're invited to take part in all the fun!

The group's motivation to keep the organization growing goes deeper than just pulling one or even a hundred more tires out of the mud. "Inspiring others to do something that feels this good, educating people in their communities, and helping our environment" are just some of the reasons Melanie Cheney is committed to their cause. Vicki Richmond, the Kansas City Coordinator for MRR, adds "We have relationships with land managers, levee farmers, the navigation industry, and state agencies – all with a huge stake in the health of our river." As a result, almost 480

tons of trash have been removed from the Big Muddy with the help of over 10,000 volunteers!

MRR has grown into a group concerned with far more than river cleanups alone. For the second year in a row they will be providing safety boats for the Missouri River 340 paddling race (<http://rivermiles.com/mr340/>), an event that Steve Schnarr says "has done more to draw attention

to this amazing river than anything else I've seen." They also have ambitions to continue their big river water quality monitoring efforts, lead river education events, organize tree plantings, and continue exotic species removal.

This fall they will be sponsoring "River Camp," a week-and-a-half long event that will be a hands-on river experience including camping, cleanups, workshops, and networking right

on the sandbar! Details will be posted on their Web site as they develop, so stay tuned to [www.riverrelief.org](http://www.riverrelief.org). While online, check out their blogs, photos, trash tallies from past events, and much more to come from Missouri River Relief in 2009!

### **2009 MRR Spring Schedule**

◆ **March 7: Mari-Osa Dump Cleanup/Part 2.**

Helping friends on the Osage River remove a massive dumpsite near the 54/63 bridge outside Jefferson City.

◆ **March 21: River Otter Day, Kansas City.**

The third annual cleanup of the historic town of Kansas on the riverfront Heritage Trail.

◆ **March 28: Trailnet Cleanup, St. Louis.**

On-the-river support for our friends in St. Louis.

◆ **April 4 - Project Blue River Rescue, Kansas City.**

Back to help out in one of the biggest one-day cleanups in the state.

*Below, A Missouri River Relief boat loaded with trash and volunteers makes its way back to the boat ramp after a hard day's work.*



**Did you know ...?**

Continued on page 2

# Workshop Opportunity

## “Groundwater & Streams”

Saturday, May 30, 2009

Our next Stream Team Academy *Groundwater & Streams Workshop* will be held **Saturday, May 30, 2009 in Columbia**. The workshop will be led by Conservation Department and Stream Unit staff member, Paul Blanchard, PhD. Paul previously worked as an assistant professor of geological sciences teaching courses in geology, geomorphology, hydrogeology, and contaminant transport. Time will be spent in the classroom and on a tour of karst features in the Boone County area (some non-strenuous walking will be involved).

This course will include the basics of groundwater hydrology, how regional groundwater differences are related to the geology and soils of Missouri, and the significance of groundwater/surface water interactions. Material will be primarily applicable to prairie and Ozark streams, but some discussion of groundwater interactions with big rivers will also be included.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Sherry Fischer at [Sherry.Fischer@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Sherry.Fischer@mdc.mo.gov) or 573/522-4115 x 3169 by May 1, 2009.

# The Clean Water Act

## *Voice your concerns!*

The Clean Water Act of 1972 provided effective guidelines with the strength needed to protect streams within the United States. Over the years, the original intent of the Act has been eroded away, allowing more negative impacts to the stream resource.

During the last legislative session, the Clean Water Restoration Act was developed in Congress in an attempt to return to the original authority provided under the Clean Water Act. Although this bill did not pass, a similar effort is beginning with the new Congress. If you'd like to learn more, please visit the list-serve sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri at [www.confedmo.org](http://www.confedmo.org), click on Programs/Activities, then Clean Water Summit. Please remember that as a informed citizen, voicing your concerns and support (or lack there-of) has tremendous power with your legislators!

... the Stream Team ...

Continued on page 3

Submit your tips or questions to  
[Sherry.Fischer@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Sherry.Fischer@mdc.mo.gov) or call  
573/522-4115 x 3169.

## Tips from the Teams

**Q:** How can I encourage media coverage of my Stream Team event?

**A:** Our rivers and streams need some attention. One terrific newspaper article or television clip can generate terrific momentum for stream projects. A press campaign can pay great dividends over time. Here are some suggestions for getting the media involved:

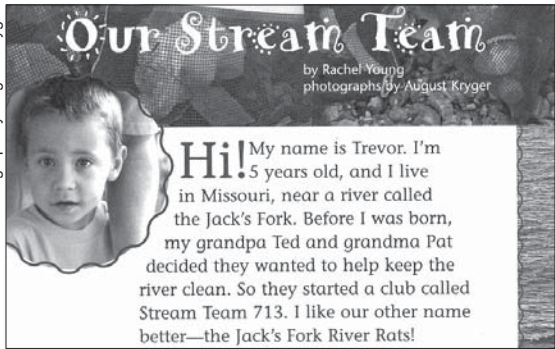
- Often your local Chamber of Commerce can provide a list of media contacts. Send press releases (who, what, when, where, why) to these contacts several times before your event.
- In the weeks ahead of your event, make phone calls to environmental reporters at local media outlets. Most will take a few minutes to hear your story. Personal contact makes a huge difference.
- Develop a relationship with reporters. These relationships, cultivated over time, produce stories through the years. You may even receive calls from them later as stories about your adopted stream come to the press room.
- Assign one person from your Team to make final reminder calls the day before or early on the day of the event. It's a good idea to have that same person ready on-site to give interviews when media arrive. This person should prepare "sound bites," brief information-packed descriptions of the day.
- Follow up to your contacts with your results. Even if they didn't make it to your event, the next day may be a slow news day and you may get the coverage then.
- Send a personal note or e-mail thanking reporters for any coverage you received. Everyone likes to be thanked!

# Team Snapshots



Team 3231, the Gasconade Mudpuppies, are now trained in water quality monitoring and using those skills (plus more) on the Gasconade River in Pulaski County.

Photograph by August Kryger



Kids from Team 713 were recently featured in "Click," a national magazine! The article was written from Trevor's perspective.



If you've spent any time cleaning up rivers, you've probably seen something similar to this (submitted by Team 3527, Off-Road Camping Club). Isn't it nice to see how diligent nature is?!



Members of Team 1656 at Fort Zumwalt West High School are keeping Belleau Creek in St. Charles County in better shape with trash pickups and water quality monitoring.

# The Riffle Review

a bi-monthly glimpse of Stream Team activities

Since our last issue of Channels, Stream Team members reported:

- 466 total activities
- 193.8 tons of trash collected
- 9,378 total participants
- 158 water quality monitoring trips
- 47,679 total hours
- 3,602 trees planted

Check out more highlights below . . .

**Team 211** The Arnold Stream Team never rests! Last fall they removed 35 tires, a 55-gallon drum, gas cans, a 10-gallon bucket, and other trash between Green Tree Park and the Jefferson County bridge on the Meramec in St. Louis. They also had a booth at the Herculaneum bicentennial fair.

**Team 463** The Greenway Network in St. Louis has been active monitoring water quality including 17 sites on Dardenne Creek for World Water Monitoring Day. They also accomplished a habitat improvement project on Perouque Creek in St. Charles County.

**Team 509** The Missouri Smallmouth Alliance is starting a 2009 recruitment drive/Stream Team awareness effort. Their intention is to recruit new members and issue cleanup bags for them to use. Great idea! They've also been busy with water quality monitoring and adopt-an-access.

**Team 1062** Wendy Dalton reported the City of Wentzville Stream Team successfully completed their 10<sup>th</sup> annual cleanup on McCoy Creek. The group is made up of water, wastewater, and service department employees who have been active since 1998!

**Team 1570** Jesse Marshall and the "Crawdady" Team reported lots of flood-related cleanup on the Meramec in Crawford County. Items removed included lumber, a picnic table, tires, and an ice machine. Thanks for your dedication!

**Team 1986** Paula Pettig took Environmental Studies students from Francis Howell Central High on field trips to Dardenne Creek in St. Charles County. They took inventories, monitored water quality, and stenciled storm drains. They also spent time checking out resources at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).

**Team 2609** The Black River Rats sponsored their first litter pickup for the residents of Valley Springs Youth Ranch. The Black River in Reynolds County will be better off because of them!

**Team 2803** Sims Marine Stream Team collected five bags of trash and scrap metal from Gravois Creek in Morgan County. They also discovered waste dumping and reported it to DNR. Thank you!

**Team 2945** Eric Ferrell had a display about water quality monitoring with full-size posters of macroinvertebrates, local vandalism, and recent flooding at the La Russell City Picnic. He recruited five new members for the Team!

**Team 3419** The Kabul Waterdogs dressed up as Stream Teamers and held a cleanup for Halloween!

. . . Program is . . .

Continued on page 4

# Stream Team 3381

## OFF TO A GOOD START!



**B**rian Vent leads Team #3381 at Malden High School in Malden, Missouri. This new Team is off to a great start with over 100 students expressing an interest in getting involved! So far they have elected officers, hosted a video conference on aquatic ecosystems, started a recycling program for the school, and held annual

litter pickups. The group is learning about the history of their adopted area, Chalk Bluff Trail, and invited a presenter to their last meeting to teach the students about Missouri wetlands.

As Stream Team Biologist Mark Van Patten said, "One of these days these students will be law makers and business people who will be making decisions that will have an impact on our streams. With our guidance today they will make better decisions tomorrow."

Keep up the good work, Team!



*Malden High School Stream Team 3381 stayed busy cleaning the Chalk Bluff River Access, recycling paper and plastic at school, and is enthusiastically making plans for future Stream Team projects. We're impressed!*

... 20-years old this ...

Continued on page 7

# TEAM CALENDAR

## March

- 7 **Missouri River Relief Mari-Osa Cleanup near Jefferson City.**  
Contact Sherry Fischer at 573/522-4115 x 3169 or [www.riverrelief.org](http://www.riverrelief.org).
- 21 **River Otter Cleanup Day, Kansas City.**  
Contact Vicki Richmond at [vicki.richmond@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:vicki.richmond@mdc.mo.gov).
- 26 **Review Session Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, St. Charles.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 27 **Intro Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, St. Charles.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 28 **Intro Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, St. Charles.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 28 **Trailnet Cleanup, St. Louis.**  
Contact Mark Van Patten at 573/522-4115 x 3892 or [www.riverrelief.org](http://www.riverrelief.org).

## April

- 4 **Annual Blue River Rescue, Kansas City.**  
Contact Sherry Fischer at 573/522-4115 x 3169 or Lakeside Nature Center at 816/513-8960.
- 4 **Marshall Area "Take Pride in Missouri" Cleanup.**  
Contact Sherry Fischer at 573/522-4115 x 3169.
- 4 **Review Session Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Salem.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 16 **Review Session Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Springfield.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 17 **Review Session Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Mount Vernon.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 17 **Review Session Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Kansas City.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 17 **Intro Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Springfield.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 18 **Intro Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Mount Vernon.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 18 **Intro Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Kansas City.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 24 **Review Session Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Houston.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 25 **Intro Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Houston.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 28-29 **2-day Intro Level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Jefferson City.**  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).





# Stream Team Activity Report

## Stream Team Activity 1

Type of activity: (see code list at right) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stream name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity county: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity basin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miles of river covered: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of volunteers involved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hours spent on project: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Measurement** : Please list number of monitoring trips, bags of trash collected, letters written, trees planted, events held, etc. See code list at right.

**Location Description**: Please provide a detailed location for your activity. (Example: 100 yds. upstream from Hwy. 63 bridge.) Include township, range, and section if possible. A good resource for maps can be found at [www.digital-topo-maps.com](http://www.digital-topo-maps.com).

**Project Description**: Please include as much information as you can about your activity. Include facts about the project not covered above. (Example: "Held 4th Annual litter pickup and picnic at Dry Fork Creek.")

## Stream Team Activity 2

Type of activity: (see code list at right) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stream name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity county: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity basin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miles of river covered: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of volunteers involved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hours spent on project: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Measurement** : Please list number of monitoring trips, bags of trash collected, letters written, trees planted, events held, etc. See code list at right.

**Location Description**: Please provide a detailed location for your activity. (Example: 100 yds. upstream from Hwy. 63 bridge.) Include township, range, and section if possible. A good resource for maps can be found at [www.digital-topo-maps.com](http://www.digital-topo-maps.com).

**Project Description**: Please include as much information as you can about your activity. Include facts about the project not covered above. (Example: "Held 4th Annual litter pickup and picnic at Dry Fork Creek.")

## Stream Team Activity 3

Type of activity: (see code list at right) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stream name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity county: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activity basin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miles of river covered: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of volunteers involved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hours spent on project: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Measurement** : Please list number of monitoring trips, bags of trash collected, letters written, trees planted, events held, etc. See code list at right.

**Location Description**: Please provide a detailed location for your activity. (Example: 100 yds. upstream from Hwy. 63 bridge.) Include township, range, and section if possible. A good resource for maps can be found at [www.digital-topo-maps.com](http://www.digital-topo-maps.com).

**Project Description**: Please include as much information as you can about your activity. Include facts about the project not covered above. (Example: "Held 4th Annual litter pickup and picnic at Dry Fork Creek.")

# Stream Team Activity Code List

Activity	Code	Measurement
Litter pickup	LPU	Number of litter bags
Water quality monitoring	WQM	Number of trips
Pre-activity planning	PLN	Number of events
Stream Team meeting	MTG	Number of attendees
Stream workshop attended	WKS	Number of attendees
Education project	EDU	Number of events
Letter written on stream issue	LET	Number of letters
Article written for newspaper, etc	ART	Number of articles
Media contact/interview	MED	Number of interviews
Tree planting	PLT	Number of trees
Presentation to groups	PRE	Number of presentations
ST display at school, fair, etc.	DIS	Number of events
ST Inventory Guide submitted	INV	Number of inventories
GPS Reading <b>NEW</b>	TRP	Number of trips
Zebra mussel monitoring form	ZEB	Number of trips
Storm drain stenciling	SDS	Number of drains stenciled
Monofilament recycling project	MRP	Weight of line recycled
Streambank stabilization project	SSP	Number of events
Habitat improvement	HAI	Number of projects
Advocacy on stream issue	ADV	Number of hours
Photo Point Monitoring	PPM	Number of photos
Greenway development	GRE	Number of projects
Recruited new Team/members	REC	Number of people recruited
Stream Team mentoring	MEN	Team mentored & hours
Stream Access Maintenance	SAM	Number of litter bags/events
Adopt-An-Access	AAA	New Accesses Adopted
Forestkeepers monitoring	FOR	Number of events
ST Association activity	ASC	Number of hours
Award received	AWA	Number of awards
Grant applied/received	GRT	Number of projects
Watershed mapping	WAT	Number of trips
Assisted MDC fish stocking	FIS	Number of events
Other, please describe	OTH	Number of Projects

# NEW at the St. Louis Science Center!

In the Omnimax film, *Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk*, river advocate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., takes you on an exhilarating raft trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Kennedy says, "In our film, the Colorado River becomes a metaphor for global water issues, revealing how interconnected our rivers, water supply, and human actions really are." More information and a preview can be found at [www.grandcanyonadventurefilm.com/](http://www.grandcanyonadventurefilm.com/). Tickets and show times are available at [www.slsc.org](http://www.slsc.org).

## Activity Prize Drawing

### Prize Winners:

- ◆ Bob LaRoussa–Raymore, MO  
Team 2542–South Raymore Neighbors
- ◆ Kim Mackey–Urbana, MO  
Stream Team 994–Skyline Science
- ◆ Claire Schosser–St. Louis, MO  
Team 3553–Living Green Watkins Creek
- ◆ Natalie Cohen–St. Louis, MO  
Team 2143–Webster Groves Computer
- ◆ Bud Henson–LaRussell, MO  
Stream Team 2945–LaRussell Access
- ◆ Shelby Palmer–Warrensburg, MO  
Stream Team 3529–APECO
- ◆ Jennifer Fruend–St. Louis, MO  
Stream Team 2790–Rohan Woods School

### Prizes Won:

- ◆ Easy-to-paddle, lightweight, sit-on-top *Pelican Burst* kayak.
- ◆ Dark blue corduroy "Bowl Chair" folds up into its own carry case.
- ◆ Set of two Stream Team stocking caps are fleece-lined and made in the U.S. of A.
- ◆ Show your Stream Team pride with a goody bag stuffed with caps, mugs, etc.
- ◆ Have a hot meal ready after your winter stream events with a Rival-brand crock pot.
- ◆ Listen to your favorite station or CDs on a boombox while cleaning your stream.
- ◆ School/youth group prize: Planet Earth DVD board game for ages 8 and up.

Please keep sending us your Activity Reports . . . YOU might win next!

## STREAM TEAM ASSOCIATIONS ARE AWARDED GRANTS

A Stream Team Association is a group of Stream Teams in the same or adjoining watersheds working together on projects that affect their adopted streams. The Association enables Stream Teams to take on larger projects impacting a greater area. Associations create an advantage for Program volunteers because . . .

- ◆ There is strength in sharing experiences – learning from others about their successes and hurdles gives each group an advantage.
- ◆ There is strength in numbers – banding together can make a seemingly impossible project actually happen.
- ◆ There is strength in diversity – each Team brings their own talents and resources to share with others.
- ◆ There is strength in sharing resources – small funding sources when combined can add up to significant changes on the ground.

Thanks to a generous donation, we were recently able to provide the opportunity for Stream Team Associations to apply for a project or Association development grant. Associations really have the potential to kick all our successes up a notch and we want to help make it possible for them to reach their goals. Congratulations to the Associations that received grants:

- South Grand River Watershed Alliance
- LaBarque Creek Stream Team Association
- River DesPeres Watershed Association

If you'd like to join an Association in your area or are interested in forming a new one, you can find more information at [www.mostreamteam.org/streamassociations.asp](http://www.mostreamteam.org/streamassociations.asp). Or, give us a call; your Stream Team Biologist can tell you more!

. . . year?! Happy Birthday!

See page 8

# Happy Birthday Stream Team!

Our very first Team signed on February 1, 1989,  
AND they're still active! We have accomplished  
a lot, but there is still more to do! Watch your  
mailboxes for more birthday information and  
get ready to help us celebrate!

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