



# Channels

January–February 2010

**4103**  
**Stream Teams**  
**Strong!**

Information for and about Missouri Stream Teams

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## REMINDER

If not previously reported, 2009 Activity Reports are due by February 1.

See page 8 for more information.

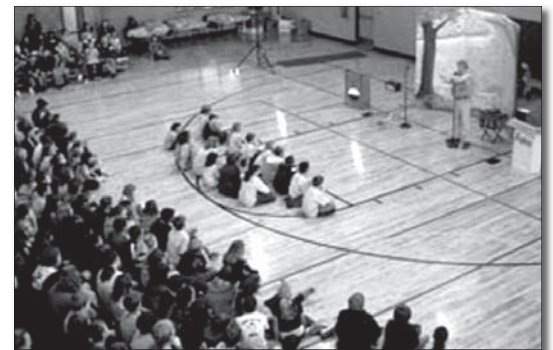
# James River Basin Partnership

## Helping to Make Clean Water Kids

By Kat Lackman, Stream Team Program Assistant

The James River Basin Partnership's (JRBP), Stream Team #1365, annual "River Rescue" has become a keystone event for stream improvements in the Springfield area. Last year's event was their best ever. According to Melissa Bettes with JRBP, they had over 160 participants that brought in more than 5.5 tons of trash and 32 tires, adding to their seven-year total of over 15 tons of trash and 452 tires.

Even with the weather turning colder, this time of year is not the time for sitting around at JRBP. With the clean-up totals in the books, it's time to gear up for another important event in the area. February marks the start of county-wide watershed festivals. These day-long events are open to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and offer an opportunity to learn ways to protect water



Above, students watch the "Fishin' Magicians" to finish off a day of watershed activities.

resources through hands-on activities led by local experts.

JRBP teamed up with the City of Branson and University of Missouri Extension to host the first Christian County watershed festival in 2005, and assisted with the Taney County festival which was already in place. Today they help to sponsor festivals in 5 different counties: Christian, Stone, Taney, Greene, and Barry, with 11 days of activities for over 2,100 students.

By incorporating fun, participants barely notice they are learning at the same time! Examples of activity stations include *Building a Watershed*, an activity that teaches students all about their watershed; and *Macroinvertebrate Mayhem*, a

See "JRBP" continued on page 2.



A group of students participate in the "Building Your Watershed" activity.

Did you know ...?

Continued on page 2

# Make a difference as a Mentor

By Chris Riggert  
VWQM Program Leader



**S**tream Team Mentoring can help a new Stream Team get their feet wet (literally!) and help them to meet other Teams in their area. A mentor is someone who takes a special interest in helping another person or group develop successfully by providing them with guidance and support. Mentors become two things: **advisors**, willing to share their knowledge, and **supporters**, who give emotional and moral encouragement.

You may feel a little intimidated being asked to mentor, but both parties truly benefit and learn more than expected from the mentoring process. It could be as simple as providing guidance on things to consider when conducting a litter pickup, or maybe accompanying a new Volunteer Monitor on his or her first sampling event. You probably have tremendous experiences that new Teams would be happy to learn from.

Would you be interested in mentoring new Teams and sharing your passion for our Missouri stream resources? If so, please contact any of the Stream Team staff at 800/781-1989 (voice mail) or [streamteam@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:streamteam@mdc.mo.gov) and let us know that you are willing, in what types of activities you can offer your expertise, and how far you would be willing to travel.

Growing numbers of Teams make it necessary for us to rely on your help to achieve our potential. Please consider lending a hand! If you have questions, don't hesitate to talk to your Stream Team Biologist.

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**"JRBP" continued from page 1.** frenzied game of tag which teaches about point and non-point source pollution and how aquatic macroinvertebrates (stream insects) in our streams can be used to tell the condition of our water by categorizing them according to their sensitivity to pollution.

Students have been evaluated after the festivals and on average scored 50% on a college-level water quality test. These events prove to be an excellent outreach opportunity to get our young stewards interested in water quality and to help ensure water protection for the future. Like most programs, these events are dependent on funding and volunteers to make them run. If you are interested in helping or would like information on getting one started in your area, contact Tiffany Frey at JRBP at 417/836-6183 or [tfrey@missouristate.edu](mailto:tfrey@missouristate.edu). To learn more about JRBP, go to [www.jrbp.missouristate.edu](http://www.jrbp.missouristate.edu).

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:** Our Team has cleaned up the same area several times, but it keeps getting trashed. Any suggestions?

**A:** **Go to the source of the litter!** Many Teams face this problem; areas that have commonly been used as dumps, or areas that naturally collect litter because of incoming stream flows, are a challenge to litter cleanup Teams.

To work on dumping areas, let local law enforcement know about your struggles and encourage them to frequent the area and write citations. Let the Prosecuting Attorney know your Team would like to see these charges taken seriously. You can also contact DNR's Solid Waste Department. They can provide signs to discourage dumping and, in problem areas, may install video surveillance.

If most of your litter seems to be from nearby stores or businesses, approach them to partner with you. Together you can come up with solutions to reduce litter and improper disposal. See if they would be interested in sponsoring your efforts by helping with expenses or providing food or supplies.

In areas that naturally collect trash because of stream flows, start upstream from the problem site to help find the sources of trash. By reducing upstream litter inputs, backwater areas downstream will eventually hold less trash.

Finally, don't get discouraged, and pat yourself on the back for realizing that cleanups are not the only solution to stream trash!

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... there are ...

Continued on page 3

# Team Snapshots



Blue River Rescue in Kansas City last spring was a resounding success AGAIN! Above are only a few of the hundreds of volunteers who collected tons of trash.



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



It's amazing what you can see under a microscope! Eager-to-learn Teamers studied aquatic macroinvertebrates up-close at one of our Stream Team Academy Scientific Drawing Workshops.



One of our newer Boy Scout Groups, Stream Team 3891, held a fun and successful cleanup on Flat Creek in Franklin County. Keep up the good work!

# The Riffle Review

a bi-monthly glimpse of Stream Team activities

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

- 901 total activities
- 86.01 tons of trash collected
- 8,321 total participants
- 554 water quality monitoring trips
- 27,168 total hours
- 1583 trees planted

Check out more highlights below . . .

**Team 27** With the help of Team 211, 2103, and Lay-Z-Day campground, the Devil's Elbow Hellbenders held their annual Big Piney cleanup. Over 40 volunteers pitched in to remove 19 tires and countless bags of trash and scrap metal. Way to work together!!

**Team 41** The Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> year of cleaning rivers with a 3-day float and cleanup event on the Niangua. More than 60 participants cleaned 16.7 miles of river to bring home over 90 bags of cans, 90 bags of trash, and 30 tires. Outstanding!

**Team 463** The Greenway Network held their Annual Fall Dardenne Day Monitoring event in which all 27 miles of Dardenne Creek is monitored in one day to provide a snapshot of what's going on in their creek. They also submitted this information for World Water Monitoring Day.

**Team 1421** Lincoln Intermediate Stream Team hosted a field day for 90 fifth graders on the St. Francis River. Students sampled aquatic macroinvertebrates and learned about stream dynamics through a stream table demonstration. Way to reach the kids!

**Team 1617** A dozen volunteers from Howardville Jumpstart participated in an environmental presentation called "We All Live In A Watershed," during the community's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Return to Howardville celebration.

**Team 2409** The Reed Middle School Science Club conducted their first ever water quality monitoring on the Little Sac River in Greene County. The kids were excited to find lots of critters! Congratulations!

**Team 2991** Bob Coffing has been busy as always in the LaBarque Creek Watershed. In addition to his many monitoring activities, he also attended the Stream Team Academy mussel and groundwater workshops.

**Team 3128** After moving out of state for 1½ years and now returning, the Blue Jasper Water Stream Team is picking things up right where they left off, conducting litter pickups and recruiting new members. Great Work!

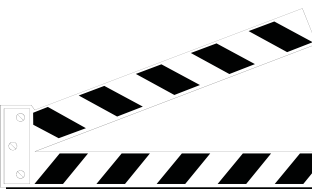
... many different ways ...

Continued on page 4

# Stream Team #3

## Tackles Tires!

By Sherry Fischer, Stream Team Biologist



Teams in  
action!

Stream Team 3 on the Bourbeuse River is used to dealing with tires. Every year at Operation Clean Stream they remove hundreds of tires from local streams. Now they're trying to get a step ahead of the problem by partnering with Ameren UE. Last April they hosted their first "Tire Collection" where Franklin County residents could bring clean rimless tires from cars and light trucks. Other sponsors of the event included the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Open Space Council, and Union Kiwanis Club.

They collected 734 tires and had means of collecting 266 more had the community come up with that many! The tires will be recycled by shredding and using them for playground surfaces and components for asphalt mix.

We're so proud that Stream Team 3 was a leader in this community project! By encouraging proper disposal and educating the community, they just may have fewer and fewer tires to deal with during future cleanups.



# TEAM CALENDAR



## January

- 9 Level 2 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Kirkwood.  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 16 Level 2 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Columbia.  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 23 Level 2 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Kansas City.  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 30 Level 2 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Rolla.  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).

## February

- 1 If not previously reported, 2009 activities due. Use form in this newsletter on page 5, or report online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 3-5 Missouri Natural Resources Conference, Osage Beach. See page 7 for details.
- 6 EPT (Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Trichoptera) Workshop, Jefferson City. **CLASS FULL**
- 20 Invasive Species Workshop, Powder Valley Nature Center, St. Louis.  
Contact Mark Van Patten at 573/522-4115 x 3892 or [mark.vanpatten@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:mark.vanpatten@mdc.mo.gov).
- 20 Level 2 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Springfield.  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 27 Level 2 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop, Joplin.  
Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org).
- 26-27 Conservation Federation of Missouri Annual Meeting, Osage Beach.  
For more information, go to [www.confedmo.org](http://www.confedmo.org).

... You Can ...

Continued on page 7





# 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.

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**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           |

## VWQM Level 2 workshops have been scheduled.

(Intro & Level 1 Workshops are prerequisites.)

**Sign up soon!**

(See calendar on page 4.)

## Missouri Natural Resources Conference February 3–5, 2010

The Missouri Natural Resources Conference is an annual meeting sponsored by natural resources professional organizations. It's a great opportunity to learn and meet natural resource professionals from throughout the state. It will be held February 3–5, 2010, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. This year's theme is "Purposeful Risk Taking: Making Decisions in Dynamic Times." For information and a glimpse at the agenda, go to [www.mnrc.org](http://www.mnrc.org).

# Budget Crunch ... How Can You Help?

By Sherry Fischer, Stream Team Biologist

My uncle used to have a saying when funds were running lower than expenditures; he called it "too much month at the end of the money!" Sound familiar?

Everyone is facing challenges during these rough economic times, and our Stream Team budget is not immune. Luckily, our Program is strongly supported by the administrations of our sponsoring agencies and, in anticipation of reductions, we have already been implementing ways to use our funding more efficiently. As budgets are adjusted we will continue to look for areas we can trim without reducing our support and services to Teams as much as possible.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- Re-use trash bags. Once a mesh bag is filled, the trash can be put into larger containers for disposal. Please reuse your bags by filling them over and over again.
- Re-use leather work gloves. Even though these gloves are not high quality, many times they can be used more than once. A good rinsing and time to dry are all that is needed for them to put in another round of service.
- Don't order in excess. Order only the number of supplies and "thank you" items you need for your event.
- Put all unused "thank you" items and supplies back into the Program. If you end up with left-overs, pass them on to another nearby Stream Team event (call us if you need help finding one) or return them to your Stream Team Biologists when they visit your area.
- Turn in water quality equipment going unused. If you are a Volunteer Monitor and are not currently monitoring and do not plan to in the future, consider returning your supplies to us. We can refurbish them and recycle for another Team.

If we all work at finding ways to save our resources, we can still provide the needed supplies to assist you in cleaning and protecting Missouri's rivers and streams. If you have other ideas to help cut corners, send them to us at [streamteam@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:streamteam@mdc.mo.gov).

... help the Stream Team ...

See page 8

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# Stream Team 20-Year DVDs

We still have a few copies of the 20-Year Celebration DVD. To receive a free copy, call 1-800-781-1989 or e-mail us at [streamteam@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:streamteam@mdc.mo.gov).

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... Program save \$ \$ \$.  
See Page 7 for the scoop!

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

Have you reported all your 2009 activities? We need to receive them by February 1<sup>st</sup> in order to include them in our Annual Report. Use the form in this newsletter or our online form at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org). Your information helps drive the program; don't delay!!

