



# Channels

**6072**  
**Stream Teams**  
**Strong!**

Information for and about **Missouri Stream Teams** • January/February 2020

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### 1st Quarter Prizes

- ◆ Digital USB Microscope 4.3 inch LCD 10X-600X
- ◆ Silent Spring books
- ◆ 4 Nature Card sets by Gail Rowley
- ◆ 100ps First Aid Kit
- ◆ Waterproof backpack
- ◆ Finch Feeder - Outdoor Bird Feeder
- ◆ Youth Prize: Planet Earth & Frozen Planet Gift Set



Please keep sending us your Activity Reports... You might win NEXT!

## What's the **SCOOP** on Sediment?!

By Molly Vannoy, DNR VWQM Coordinator

Winter is a good time of year to assess your stream's vulnerability to sediment pollution. Sediment is soil particles or gravel that wash into and suspend in the water column or settle at the bottom of rivers, lakes, and streams. Winter and early spring bring weather such as rain, snow, ice, wind, and flooding, which can accelerate the erosion of exposed soil and increase sedimentation in waterways.

In urban areas, runoff from construction sites and streambank erosion downstream of these sites are major sources of excess sediment. In rural areas, runoff from removal of streamside riparian corridors, autumn plowing, and intense livestock grazing can result in stream sedimentation.

EPA states that sedimentation is the leading cause of impaired water quality in rivers, and the third leading cause for impairment in lakes. Excess sediment clouds the water, making it difficult for aquatic species to find food. It reduces habitat availability for macroinvertebrates and fish by filling the streambed's interstitial spaces. Sediment can increase water turbidity, which influences water temperature and dissolved oxygen.

Pollutants such as nutrients, metals, petroleum products, and bacteria bind to soil particles. When sediment is washed into a stream or lake, pollutants hitch a ride and deposit in the surface water. Contaminants can enter the food chain and bio-accumulate in aquatic species, making them unsafe for human consumption.

So, what can we all do about sedimentation in streams and lakes?

- 1) Reduce wintertime soil erosion by placing compost or weed-free mulch on any bare soil in your lawn or garden.
- 2) Leave no less than a 30-foot vegetated riparian buffer at the edges of streams, which allows plant roots to stabilize the streambank. Avoid mowing or clearing trees within this zone.
- 3) If you see sediment entering streets, stormwater drains, or streams near a construction site, notify your local government officials or DNR regional office.
- 4) Band together with other Stream Teamers to monitor water quality or plan a project on your local stream to reduce sedimentation.

One of the best ways to keep soil in place, especially near waterways, is to plant trees! Looking for an opportunity to volunteer for a tree planting event? The Big Piney River Stream Team Watershed Association (Team 4623) will be planting 1,550 tree seedlings along the Big Piney River on March 7, 2020. They would love your help to accomplish this goal. Visit the Stream Team calendar at [mostreamteam.org](http://mostreamteam.org) to learn more.



Field bordered by native vegetation; designed to capture sediment in runoff.



Sediment fence that is inadequate to control sediment movement at this site.



# MONOFILAMENT RECYCLING - A SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE GESTURE

By Check Gebbia, Lazy Pelican Stream Team 5869

Not everybody has the physical ability or equipment to do large scale river/stream cleanups. My wife and I are in this category. We love our rivers and streams and float them often. We always pick up what we can from the boat, and around the launch areas, but we wanted to do more. After talking with several people from Jefferson City, we started really looking into the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP). The program is one in which we place recycling bins at public boat launches and fishing areas close to our home and then monitor, maintain, and manage the fishing line that we collect. Seems simple enough, and it is.

About once a month or so, my wife and I drive around to the three bins that we placed during the summer of 2019 and give them a quick check to see if there's any line in them and to ensure they haven't been vandalized, broken, or stolen. We're happy to report that all have been very well received, unharmed, and fruitful. Over the course of the summer, we recovered in excess of 20 spools of fishing line from the bins to be recycled. That's 20+ spools that won't be getting caught in a boat's propeller or catching the wings of a bird. 20+ spools that won't end up in our landfills and aren't scattered on the ground at our parks.



In the beginning, there was a bit of hesitation from a few of the locations where we wanted to deploy them. Some thought that they wouldn't be used enough to warrant them, that they'd be destroyed or stolen, or that they'd be vandalized "within hours." Each time we went to the bins, we met some of the nicest people. They thanked us for helping keep fishing line out of the water and off the ground. Some told us that they found line on the ground, picked it up, and placed it in the bin because it was there. We look forward to 2020, where we will continue to check the bins and hope to expand the program in our area.

For more information on the MRRP program, visit

[mostreamteam.org/activities.html](http://mostreamteam.org/activities.html) or contact your Stream Team coordinating biologist.



## Monitoring Minute

### Macroinvertebrates.org

By Molly Vannoy, DNR VWQM Coordinator

Shake off those winter doldrums by diving into the intriguing world of freshwater aquatic ecosystems! Stream macroinvertebrates provide valuable clues to discovering the water quality at your stream site, and how it's changing over time, so we're excited to tell you about a fantastic new tool to identify and study the macroinvertebrates in your stream! Check out [macroinvertebrates.org](http://macroinvertebrates.org) to take a closer look at the fascinating critters found in the freshwater streams of eastern North America. By clicking on an Order, such as "Ephemeroptera-Mayflies," you can view high-resolution photographs of many of the different families, and even species, of mayfly nymphs. Click on a particular photo to enlarge the specimen, and you will see black markers located on the body of the macroinvertebrate to read identifying characteristics, interesting facts, and explanations of morphology. By using the photos, you can identify an organism that you're unfamiliar with—or, you can learn more about those you commonly find in your stream.

Play around with the "Navigational Views" located in the Menu on the top left corner of the page, to find which way you prefer to view the page. On the "Resources" part of the Menu, you can even take a Practice Quiz to improve your identification skills (especially if you are preparing for a Level 2 workshop!). There are several other training resources available as well, including an identification key to level of Order, printable information for insect Orders, a printable poster, and other resources that are useful for volunteers, teachers, and students! Under the "Help" section, you can view quick videos to learn your way around the website.

Identifying macroinvertebrates at your site using this webpage will be even more helpful if you make a reference collection (instructions located on the Stream Team website), or take photos of organisms in your net sets. As always, if you are struggling with identification, feel free to send a photo to Stream Team staff, and we'll do our best to help.

# The Riffle Review

a bi-monthly glimpse of Stream Team activities

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

- 613 total activities
- 96.48 tons of trash collected
- 6,758 total participants
- 364 water quality monitoring trips
- 22,662 total hours
- 140 trees planted

Check out more highlights below . . .

**Team 510** Last fall marked the 25th anniversary of Mike Diel's monitoring of Mussel Fork Creek in Macon County. His love of streams began with the Eleven Point River, but still finds simple beauty in the stream he has been monitoring since 1994. Thank you for your 25 years of valuable data!

**Team 1083** Lakes need love, too! The Mississippi Valley Team took advantage of a cool October day to pick up around Lake Girardeau, clearing along roads and access areas near the campgrounds.

**Team 1816** The Millers made the most of a five mile trip on the Blackwater River, picking up 14 bags of trash, 10 tires, and a refrigerator, while observing all the wildlife Missouri has to offer including gar, otter, snapping turtles, deer, fox, and countless turkeys. "We have been a Stream Team for 19 years and it keeps me and my wife young," said Greg Miller.

**Team 1995** Distracted from his deer stand on firearms opening weekend, Tom Mazurek decided to walk to the creek and saw the first tire. Two hours later, he went to get his truck and had 15 tires loaded up to take to Dobbs Tire. All in all, a productive day!

**Team 3117** The numbers from the 14th annual Niangua River Cleanup are in! About 125 volunteers helped remove more than half a ton of debris from the river with the help of canoes provided by local outfitters. Topped with a barbeque and fresh root beer from a keg, much fun was had by all and a job well done.

**Team 3331** The Ben Jones Team spends quite a bit of time in their little slice of heaven in Benton County, where they clean up along Deer Creek regularly. Sometimes, though, the edible finds are the most rewarding. "We found paw paws!" said Ruth Jackson. "Love Missouri for everything it has to offer," she added.

**Team 4784** Webster Groves High School and Boy Scout Troop 303 held their fifth annual cleanup on Deer Creek in St. Louis County, filling a trailer full of old bottles, discarded lumber, shoes, a drainage pipe, plastic bags, and old balls. Last year, even a wallet was found by one of the participants that was turned in to the Webster Groves Police Department, hopefully returned to a grateful owner!

**Team 5026** The St. Louis Zoo Stream Team conducted a bit of summer water quality monitoring, taking note of all the aquatic critters around them. "We found bryozoans, water boatmen, and lots of fish," said Tiffany Evans.

**Team 5250** In addition to trash pickup, students participating in a service learning project at St. Louis Community College also gave back to the ecosystem along the unnamed stream on the south side of campus by removing invasive honeysuckle.

**Team 6033** The Trash Queens are off and running, picking up while floating the James River and holding a fun Labor Day litter pickup on South Dry Sac Creek in Greene County. Finding what appeared to be an old dump site, there's still quite a bit of old metal to pick up, but the kids found a few old marbles to keep as trash treasures. Welcome aboard, Team!

# Team Snapshots



Teams 401 and 4660 along with some enthusiastic first-timers teamed up to tackle Joachim Creek with the plan to float to Festus City Park, but they were obstructed less than halfway down their route by a fallen tree. It didn't really matter because at that point, they had already collected 153 tires and 15 cubic yards of trash, adding up to more than three tons in just one mile of stream. Incredible!



Did you know that high school fishing clubs can apply for grants from MDC to pay for equipment or travel needs? One way they can provide a deliverable outcome from the grant is by conducting Stream Team activities. The Fulton High School Fishing Club Team 5610 is up and running, cleaning up at Moore's Mill access on Auxvasse Creek. Thank you, Team! Learn more about these grants at <https://mdc.mo.gov/>.



Besa and Chris Schweitzer (Team 3745) show their creativity with a cozy homemade quilt made of Stream Team t-shirts at the 30th Anniversary Gala held at Echo Bluff State Park.



The Gearin Family Team 5742 had six new volunteers join them on Big River at Washington State Park to do their macroinvertebrate sampling. "Our family has been going to Washington State Park for over 20 years now. We are making Stream Team part of our annual trip," said Jeanne Gearin. Water quality monitoring is a great bonding activity for families!

# Level 2

## Water Quality Monitoring Workshops

are open for registration.

**Sign up NOW!**

Register online at [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org)

**Intro and Level 1 Workshops are a prerequisite.**



Water Quality  
Volunteer



### WORKSHOP LOCATION

#### KIRKWOOD:

Powder Valley Nature Center  
11715 Cragwold Road

#### SPRINGFIELD:

Southwest Regional Office  
2630 N Mayfair Avenue

#### LEE'S SUMMIT:

DNR Kansas City Regional Office  
500 NE Colbern Road

#### JEFFERSON CITY:

DNR ESP Lab  
2710 W Main Street

### DATE & TIME

**Saturday, January 11**

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Register by Thursday, January 2

**Saturday, January 18**

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Register by Wednesday, January 8

**Saturday, January 25**

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Register by Wednesday, January 15

**Saturday, February 1**

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Register by Wednesday, January 22

**Attendance will be limited to 15 people per workshop.**

**Lunch will not be provided.**

**Please bring a sack lunch.**

**Bring all chemical and biological monitoring equipment.**

**You are encouraged to bring your specimen collection for ID verification and use during invertebrate exam.**

**Registration confirmation and directions to the workshop will be mailed to registrants prior to the workshop.**

**For questions about the workshop, contact Molly Vannoy (DNR) at 573-526-1156.**



# COALITION CORNER

News from Stream Teams United

## Join the AmeriCorps VISTA Team with Stream Teams United!

By Mary Culler, Stream Teams United Executive Director

Stream Teams United is serving as a sponsor of an AmeriCorps VISTA project for the period of September 2019 through August of 2022. We are seeking enthusiastic and motivated individuals to serve on an AmeriCorps VISTA team with the goal of expanding water education programs to benefit low-income youth and their communities.

VISTA member positions are available for 12-month terms with the option to serve additional years. VISTA member benefits include a living allowance, end-of-service award, Non-Competitive Eligibility with employment with federal agencies, and other benefits listed at [vistacampus.gov/members](http://vistacampus.gov/members). VISTA member positions are a great opportunity for individuals who have recently completed an associate's, undergraduate, or graduate degree and are looking for a way to build their resume and career, and are also perfect for anyone interested in serving their community during retirement or any phase of their life.

As part of this project, we are partnering with regional healthy water organizations including the [Watershed Committee of the Ozarks](#) in Springfield, [Blue River Watershed Association](#) in Kansas City, [Little Blue River Watershed Coalition](#) in Kansas City, [Missouri River Relief](#) in Columbia, and another non-profit – the [Northeast Communication Action Corporation](#) in Shelby County, Missouri. These organizations serve as sub-sites where AmeriCorps VISTA members will be placed. The availability of positions at these sites will change throughout the next three years as members are recruited and fill the positions. To find out if a VISTA position is available at a sub-site, contact Mary at [mary@streamteamsunited.org](mailto:mary@streamteamsunited.org) or 573-586-0747. Also, check out our website at [streamteamsunited.org/ameri-cops-vista.html](http://streamteamsunited.org/ameri-cops-vista.html). To apply for member positions, visit the website: [my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/search.do](http://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/search.do). When you reach this website, search **1.)** Program Type: AmeriCorps VISTA, **2.)** State: Missouri, and **3.)** Program Name: Stream Teams United. This should result in a list of the VISTA member positions, including descriptions of the service assignment and information on how to apply.

AmeriCorps VISTA is a federal assistance provider. The mission of AmeriCorps VISTA is to strengthen organizations that alleviate poverty through volunteering and the mobilization of resources.



Laura Waldo-Semken was selected to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA member at Missouri River Relief in Columbia.

