



## Spring Newsletter 2013

### Cause Momentum

Recently, the Watershed Committee embarked on a Cause Momentum fundraiser. Cause Momentum is a crowd-sourced giving platform designed by The Marlin Company Advertising Agency and funded by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. This online tool connects donors to organizations and projects, much like the popular Kickstart.com and is designed to be distributed through social media outlets.

As part of the campaign, we outlined levels of giving and what each level would help us fund. For example, it costs us about \$18 to run an E. coli test, and about \$200 to staff a Watershed Center Field Trip. We also offered the incentive of engraved bricks (a pervious paver of course) which will be placed in the walkway of the Watershed Center.



The campaign plugged along, but so did the clock, and with four days left, we were only halfway there. Nearing the buzzer, however, something amazing happened. The last minute reminders and “sharing” of the Board and staff sparked the generosity of our friends, family, and brand new supporters and pushed us over our goal of \$12,000!

This is the largest fundraising success through Cause Momentum so far, and yes, that means we set a new “high water mark.” Thank you to those who were part of this project. If you didn’t have a chance participate this time don’t worry, there are plenty of ways to participate in the quest for clean water.



Mike Kromrey  
Executive Director

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## Long-Term Forecast

The Climate Prediction Center recently released the June/July/August prediction, calling for a hotter than average summer, and a high level of uncertainty with respect to rainfall. Impending drought, OR NOT, there are several ways to improve our long-term water forecast, and your help and attention is needed. The stormwater task force is wrapping up, and they will be recommending a sales tax at some level to pay for the programs that keep our water clean and our community meeting the federal water quality guidelines. To become a real solution, this will require the support of the County Commission first, and then the support of the voters.

Water conservation is always good practice, and taking advantage of City Utilities rebates for high-efficiency toilets is a great way to start. If you need a low-flow shower head, sink aerator, shower timer, toilet water displacement device, or leak-detecting tablets, just give us a call. In addition, encouraging friends or neighbors to participate in the odd-even watering program can also make a difference.



Mike Kromrey  
Executive Director

## Get Connected

We love to get connected with our community. Recently, WCO staff and volunteers helped James River Basin Partnership with a tree planting, we partnered with the City on cleanups and projects, we attended Learning Community sessions with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, and we have been making the rounds on the Earth Day circuit (MSU, Drury, Mercy, Discover Center, Habitat ReStore, etc.). The beauty of this connectivity is that we have the chance to partner and serve our local schools, businesses, non-profits, and agencies. At the same time, our connections grow stronger, new ideas emerge, and excitement grows as we find that we are all making progress together. It is very important to us that we get to share these opportunities with our friends, supporters, and volunteers.



Whether you would like to invest money or time, we need help from volunteers and community members to continue our education and watershed management efforts. If you would like to volunteer with us, on field trips, workdays, or greeting visitors at the Watershed Center, contact me, Rob Hunt, at 417-833-8525 or [rob@watershedcommittee.org](mailto:rob@watershedcommittee.org)

Rob Hunt  
Watershed Center Coordinator

## Watershed Center Update

In the moments that I haven't been enamored with spring's splendor around me, I have had the opportunity to host many field trips and a few events. So far we have seen students from Robberson, Summit, Rountree, Parkview, Missouri State University, and Ozarks Technical Community College, all out at the Watershed Center. We have also been able to visit the WINGS program, as well as Missouri State Students in the classroom. Aside from school field trips, I was able to present a session on stream ecology and watershed impacts to campers at the Wonders of Wildlife Schools at Ritter Springs Park, and host a WCO table at Discovery Center's Earth Day Celebration, Missouri State University's Ecopalooza, Drury's Earth Day event, and Mercy Hospital's Earth Day Fair where I distributed more than one-hundred home water conservation kits! The weather has been a challenging factor this year, but the events have been successful, and you'd be surprised at how much fun a kid can have outside, even when it is cold and rainy.



The spring volunteer season has also been very fruitful. The Bear Service Team from MSU made another appearance on a Saturday in April and completed some pretty hard work, picking up rocks, hauling dirt, and laying out mulch. However, even at the end of a long day, the students were all smiles and scrapes, none the worse for the wear and happy to see what they had accomplished. We are very grateful to them. More recently, a group of close to seventy fraternity and sorority members from MSU organized and mobilized to clean up Jordan Creek around the west end of downtown. They bagged up dozens of bags of trash, and the City of Springfield picked them up for us. We owe a big thank you to those students, to Kellie Herman of James River Basin Partnership, and Carrie Lamb of the City of Springfield for help in the planning and execution of a great cleanup.



As we look forward to the summer months, we must be aware that water conservation now is especially important to our water availability later. Imagine how much rainwater your rain barrel would have captured this spring. Hopefully, you had yours out already. If you don't, there is still plenty of time and a few more rainstorms in our future, so visit our website to find a helpful brochure on building your very own! See [www.watershedcommittee.org/Publications/How to Make a Rain Barrel Brochure](http://www.watershedcommittee.org/Publications/How to Make a Rain Barrel Brochure).

Rob Hunt  
Watershed Center Coordinator

## Big Urbie Update

Big Urbie successfully planted 290 native seedlings along South Creek at the William H. Darr Agricultural Center in Springfield on April 11th. A special thank you goes out to Missouri State University, Ozark Greenways, and Tom DeWitt and his dedicated group of students! As these seedlings grow they will protect and improve the health of the stream for many years.

Also Big Urbie partner Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is **offering a two-day course** at Missouri State University June 18th and 19th that will focus on the importance of stormwater management and engineering and its application in the classroom. To register for this class or to learn more about current Big Urbie projects, visit [www.bigurbie.org](http://www.bigurbie.org)

Stacey Armstrong  
Projects Manager



Springfield-Greene County Urban Watershed Stewardship Project Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant



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