



## Summer Newsletter 2014

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## Director's Update

### 30th Anniversary Event

Things are getting better! How often do we get to say or hear that? With respect to our local water resources, many areas have shown great improvement in the last 30 years. Wilson's Creek isn't black anymore. Fellows and McDaniel Lakes have not caused a stinky drinking water episode in a long time. Our treatment system is more resilient and redundant, and there is a concerted focus on source water protection. We still have work to do for sure, but we have inherited a legacy of leadership, partnership, and collaboration that will carry us to meet the challenges of the day.

On July 12th, our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was as much of a celebration of the past as it was a harbinger of things to come. The evening at the Springfield Art Museum was a lively combination of people, art, food, and purpose. New sponsors came on board with us, and new faces joined our circle. We had so much fun, we just might do it again! We thank all supporters and attendees!

—Mike Kromrey, Executive Director



## Big Urbie Update

### Stormwater Improvements and Planting Days at MSU and Drury

This summer, WCO and City Staff have been busy managing the construction of two detention basin retrofit projects on the Drury University and Missouri State University campuses to make water quality improvements as part of the Big Urbie grant. To “retrofit” a detention basin is to make changes to it that will improve the water quality in the system. In these cases, the concrete channels were removed and replaced with a meandering rock swale, and native vegetation will be planted along the rock swale in each basin to slow down and filter runoff, and allow it to soak into the ground. The general contractor Carson-Mitchell, Inc. did an outstanding job on these unique projects that required much attention to detail.

To finish the project, we will be planting at MSU on Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 7:30 am and at Drury on Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 am. We have a lot of plants to get in the ground and could use some helping hands! If you are interested in signing up to volunteer please contact Stacey at (417)866-1127 ext. 125 or by email at [Stacey@watershedcommittee.org](mailto:Stacey@watershedcommittee.org).

This project was partially funded by The Springfield-Greene County Urban Watershed Stewardship Project (Big Urbie) water quality grant, with matching funds and in-kind assistance provided by the City and County. Big Urbie is a \$1.1 million federal grant awarded to Watershed Committee of the Ozarks by U.S. EPA Region 7 through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under section 319 of the Clean Water Act in 2011. For more information visit [www.bigurbie.org](http://www.bigurbie.org). —Stacey Armstrong, Projects Manager



**Before** Big Urbie Improvements-MSU detention basin



**After** Big Urbie Improvements!

## Busy Summer at the Watershed Center

About 1500 students and adults have been involved in Watershed Center Field trips already this year! It has seemed extra busy because snow days pushed the school year late into May, and our spring field trips ran right into our summer camp season. We have developed a great partnership with the Ozarks Regional YMCA, which brought over 330 summer day-campers to the Watershed Center. Each group got to explore the trails during scavenger hunts and create unique artwork based on natural objects found outside. Other local and regional schools came too, like the Republic elementary summer school who enjoyed nature hikes and hands-on experiences. These day camps and summer school groups were a new experience for me, but I had really good interns and volunteers to work with, and we had a lot of fun with them!  
(contd.)



## Busy Summer at the Watershed Center—Cont.

This year, the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center and the Watershed Center developed educational partnerships. Each week throughout the summer, 6 to 10 students would take a hayride from the Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center to the Watershed Center and spend a couple of hours with staff and volunteers. Each student borrowed a backpack equipped with binoculars, magnifying glasses, bug nets, and more (backpacks donated by Bass Pro Shops) and we would set out together on the trail. Walking by sinkholes and springs, catching dragonflies and butterflies, and resting in the shade, we had the chance to tell these kids the story of how both the Watershed Center and the Equestrian Center protect our water resources.

The two parks are located on either side of the South Dry Sac river which, through underground karst features, feeds Fulbright Spring on the northwest side of town. This spring is a critical part of our drinking water supply and protecting the water in the streams that feed it allows us to protect the spring itself. With big, responsibly managed parks sheltering a section of the stream, we were able to help the kids make that connection.

—Rob Hunt, Watershed Center Coordinator



MSU students accomplished a lot of work like sealing the wood on the building, weeding the gardens, and working on the trails.



Watershed Center Coordinator Rob Hunt with the Watershed Center summer interns (left to right): Devon, Haley and Kelly.



Watershed Center Coordinator, Rob Hunt, gave the Midtown Carnegie Library staff a tour of Jordan Creek



City Utilities staff participated in United Way's Day of Caring by spending a hot summer day volunteering at the Watershed Center



320 N. Main Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65806

## Watershed Center Family Fun Day

Join us at the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park for a morning full of family-friendly activities:

Fishing	Camp Cooking Lessons
Scavenger Hunt	Hiking Opportunities
Pony Petting	Door Prizes & T-shirts
Nature Education	Live Music
Water Drop Cookies & Lemonade	

**When:** Saturday, October 4, 2014 9:00 am-Noon

**Where:** Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park  
2450 E. Valley Water Mill Rd., Springfield, MO 65803



**Thanks again to all of our 30th Anniversary Sponsors:** Presenting: Bass Pro Shops; Gold: Dave Coonrod; Silver: KRAFT; Bronze: Arvest Bank, City Utilities of Springfield, Commercial Metals Co., Mother's Brewery, MSU, Pinnacle Sign Group, Ryan Lawn & Tree; Supporters: Bill and Maret Cheek, Brown Derby, Mike and Mary Chiles, Associated Electric Cooperative Inc., GeoEngineers, Inc., Tea Bar & Bites, Ollis & Company, Lawrence Photo & Video; Friends: Barak Hill, Bob Ranney, Brian Todd, Jon and Karen Jones, Mike, Mary & Eli Kromrey, Tim and Sally Smith.