



Spring Newsletter 2015

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Rob Hunt, *Watershed Center Coordinator*

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Director's Update

We are honored to have three excellent new members of the WCO board. **Eric Dove, Megan McKenna, and Laura Greene** each bring a passion for water and an excellent set of skills. We have posted their profile pictures and brief biographies on our website so you can learn more about them.

This spring is a transition time for our projects. The Big Urbie project is entering its final months, and has accomplished an astounding number of water quality improvements through the leadership of Stacey Armstrong and the many partners on the project. The Little Sac Restoration and Improvement 319 Project, which works mostly in the rural, agricultural part of our watershed, is in full swing. We are also anticipating the opportunity to begin a major initiative through the Our Missouri Waters Project focusing on the Sac River Watershed.

You can help us in our work for clean water. We are participating in "Give Ozarks Day" organized by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks on May 5th. This one-day online giving blitz will help us raise money to repair the fishing piers and boardwalk at the Watershed Center. Also, as you see on the back page, we will be having a summer event/fundraiser which we are calling the Watershed Summer Gala. We hope you can join us for the best party in town, and if you would like to participate as a sponsor, please contact me at 417-866-1127.

Lastly, as a parting thought, I want to encourage you to take the time to **get outdoors**—especially to our local rivers and reservoirs. They are teeming with life, resounding with beauty, and promise to lift your spirits.

As encouragement, I would like to share this photo that local designer/photographer Aaron J. Scott captured on a recent trip near Stockton Lake.

—Mike Kromrey, Executive Director



Big Urbie Update

Big Urbie Improvements at City Governmental Plaza and Fire Station #1

As the weather warms up, Big Urbie stormwater improvements continue! Phase 2 of the City Governmental Plaza parking lot reconstruction has been reopened for parking, and landscaping will be installed in the next few weeks. The project includes pervious pavement, rain gardens, and a bioswale that allow rainwater to soak into the ground and be used and naturally filtered by soil, plants and trees. The large rain garden at First Baptist Church, located at Elm and Campbell, is nearly complete with native plants to be planted soon. Pervious concrete, a rain garden with native shrubs, and detention basin improvements are also being installed at Fire Station #1 at Grand and Holland. These projects will be completed by May.

All Big Urbie projects help demonstrate ways of managing stormwater that reduce the amount of runoff and pollution that reach our streams. To see more photos of the ongoing projects visit <http://www.bigurbie.org/photolog.php>. Funding comes as part of the Springfield-Greene County Urban Watershed Stewardship Project (nicknamed Big Urbie), a \$1.1 million federal grant awarded to Watershed Committee of the Ozarks in 2011 by U.S. EPA Region 7 through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

—Stacey Armstrong, Projects Manager



City Governmental Plaza almost finished!



Before Big Urbie Improvements at Firehouse #1



During Big Urbie Improvements at First Baptist Church



During Big Urbie Improvements at Firehouse #1

Watershed Center Update

The Watershed Center is a dream come true, and many of you reading this newsletter helped make it happen. As the Watershed Center Coordinator, I wanted to share the list below summarizing the educational events, volunteering endeavors, and site related improvements, because I think it illustrates the range and effectiveness of the Watershed Center. We are living the dream!

Education, Outreach, and Events

At the Watershed Center

Missouri State University Winter Ecology
Project WET and WILD training
Springfield Grotto Annual Banquet
National Park Service Meeting
Wonders of Wildlife Careers in Conservation class visit and field trip
Stream Team Training
Missouri State University Conservation Biology
Class

In the Field

4 Jordan Creek Tours
Ozarks North 5th grade visit
James River Basin Watershed Festivals
Discover Engineering Day
Missouri State University Water Resources
class visit
Marshfield Extension High School Storm Water
Practices Field Trip
Summit Preparatory School Science Fair
Believe in Girls Expo



WCO volunteers at Discover Engineering Days at MSU

Volunteers

Missouri State Community Volunteer Fair
Reciprocity in Practice Volunteer Workshop
New Volunteer Trainings
2 spring interns: Sandy Schulz and Nicole Boucher
2 MSU Citizen and Service Learning Students

Site Work

Prairie Burn
Savannah Trail Building
Honeysuckle Removal
Fishing Piers and Boardwalk Fundraiser planning and video



Volunteers working on the Savannah Trail at the Watershed Center

—Rob Hunt, Watershed Center Coordinator



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SAVE THE DATE~JULY 18, 2015

WHEN: 5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Springfield Art Museum

TICKETS: \$40 per person, purchase online at Watershed-Committee.org, on sale in May.

HIGHLIGHTS: Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Watercolor USA and other fantastic exhibits, silent auction featuring local art, local food and beer, wine and a wine grab, seeing old friends and making new ones.

Please consider sponsoring this event. Sponsors already include Commercial Metals Company, Husch Blackwell, LLP and HDR Engineering, Inc.! If you or your organization would like to become a sponsor, Sponsor Packets are available on the homepage of our website or by contacting Mike Kromrey at 417-866-1127. All proceeds will benefit the Watershed Committee and help us repair the fishing piers and boardwalk at the Watershed Center.

