

The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a group of people, including children and adults, standing on a wooden bridge that spans a rocky stream. The scene is set in a dense forest. The entire image has a dark blue overlay. The text "2016" is centered above "ANNUAL REPORT", flanked by two wavy lines.

2016

ANNUAL REPORT

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Area school children learning about water quality by discovering aquatic critters at the Watershed Center

Cover Design by Aaron J. Scott

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OUR MISSION

To sustain and improve the water resources of Springfield and Greene County through education and effective management of the region's watersheds

OUR SPONSORS

City Utilities of Springfield

Greene County

City of Springfield

OUR PARTNERS

Drury University

Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District

Missouri Master Naturalists Springfield Plateau Chapter

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri State University

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

Springfield-Greene County Park Board

This report covers our fiscal year: [January 1-December 31, 2016](#)

Dear Friends,

Every day that I walk into the Watershed Center I take a deep breath, look around, and am thankful. After spending our first full year together as a staff at the Watershed Center, we are continually realizing what a blessing the Watershed Center is, and the synergy that comes from working with a remarkable group of people in an inspiring setting. One of the best parts is the visitors who drop by and share knowledge, excitement, and passion. The Watershed Center is a great gift, and working to maximize the investment and effort to reach our fullest potential is in my mind every day. We are headed in that direction—check out the graph on page 7!

We want to be the best possible land and water stewards, and also teach others about our efforts in hopes they may be widely replicated. The addition of Jeff Bircher to our staff, with his wealth of educational experience, is a great asset to the organization. Another very satisfying thing this year was the beginning of some watershed stewardship projects at the Watershed Center. Demonstrating land use and restoration is so important, because after all, the vast majority of the watersheds which provide our drinking water are privately owned. A grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation allowed us to hire a part-time habitat improvement specialist (Ben Parnell). We have made more progress in improving the health of the land at the Watershed Center and grounds in the last 6 months as in the last six years combined.

The work we accomplished in 2016, summarized in this report, was significant and reflects a team effort from our staff, board, sponsors, volunteers, and partners. We began the important conversation about what a world-class water and environmental education program looks like in our community, and we are thinking more strategically about how to encourage citizens of our community to value water. We look forward to the continued and amplified pursuit of our mission, and another successful year. And hopefully, we'll even have time to catch a few more fish along the way!

Kind Regards,



Mike Kromrey
Executive Director



Preface

At the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, our mission focuses the organization and directs the work that we do. The work of watershed protection is complex, but a compass, with four cardinal directions, helps categorize what it takes to achieve our mission. Our north and south represent education and outreach and projects and management. These directions are the real work of water protection. East and west represent funding and people. These are the resources necessary to accomplish the work.

In the center of the compass, the place from which everything radiates outward, is our mission. The accomplishments of 2016 contained in this report are organized in this manner, so our compass can be your guide. Please take joy in these accomplishments because none of this could happen, or is even possible, without supporters like you.





Education and Outreach

Wonders of the Outdoors Learning Facility (W.O.L.F.) students on a field trip at the Watershed Center

Education and Outreach are at the core of our mission. In order to protect our resources, citizens must understand where our water comes from, what can positively and negatively affect our resources, and what actions can be taken to protect them. We strive to connect “kindergarteners through engineers” with the information they need to help keep our water clean and plentiful.

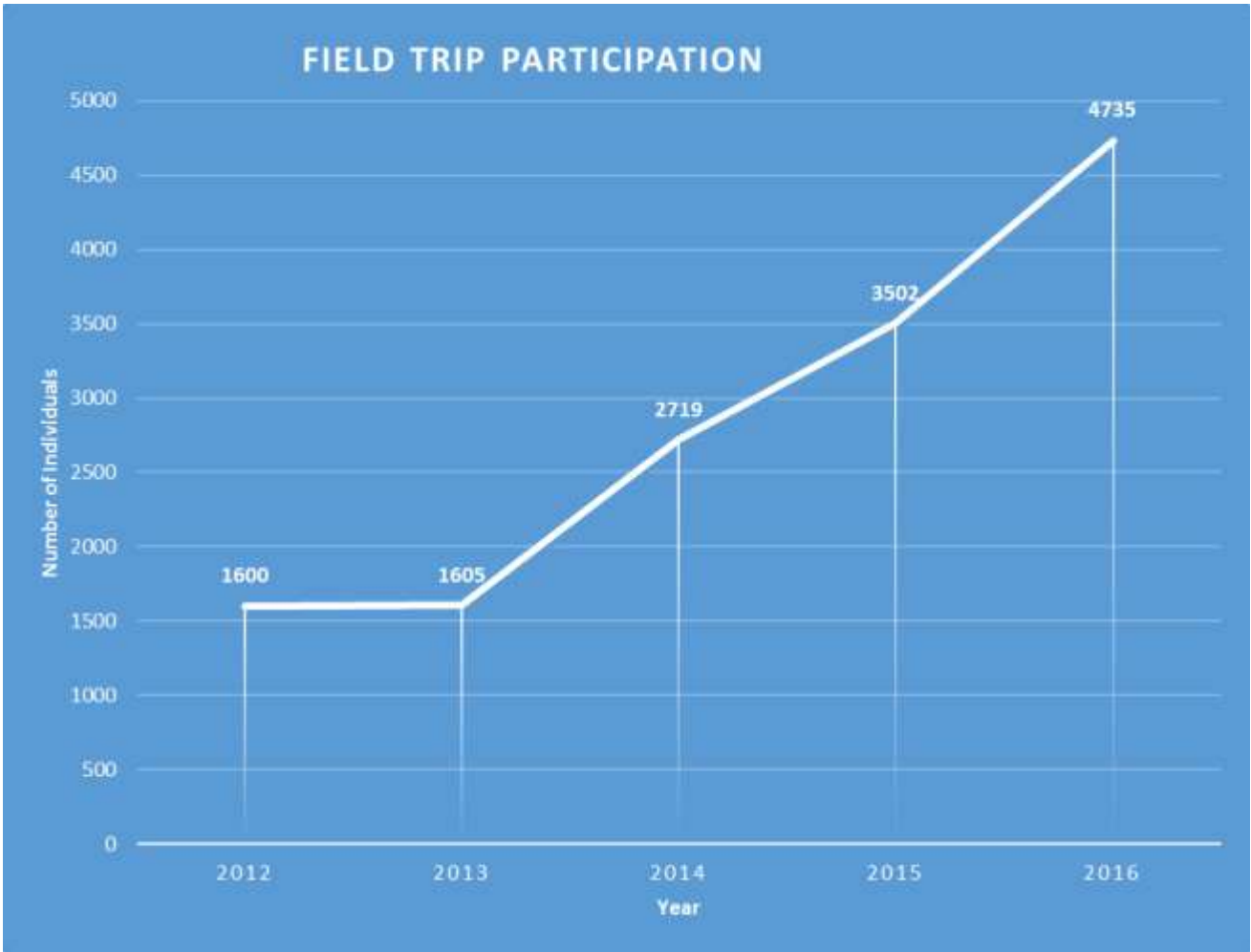
Watershed Center Education and Outreach

Once again, 2016 shattered previous records for involvement with a **29% increase in program participants** at the Watershed Center. Returning classes, new partnerships like with Springfield Public School’s Splash! program, and word-of-mouth advertisement are attributing to our growth. It is a welcome challenge to keep up with demand and keep this trend going!



Students connect with nature and learn about water resources at the Watershed Center

Watershed Center Field Trip Participation 5-Year Trend



Year at a Glance-Education and Outreach

	2014	2015	2016
Field Trip Participants at the Watershed Center	2,719	3,502	4,735
Watershed Center Field Trips	71	86	116
Booths at Community Events	11	13	15
Jordan Creek Tours	19	20	19
Volunteer Hours Logged	2,705	1,813	1,523

K-12 School Visits to the Watershed Center

Academy of Exploration	Greenwood Lab Summer School	Republic Elementary Schools
CALO High School	Harrison Elementary	Republic Middle School
Careers in Conservation	HAWK (Honoring Urban Ecosystems and Acting with Knowledge)	Rountree Elementary
Chocolate University	Hickory Hills Elementary School	Springfield Schools EXPLORE! Program
Classical Conversations - Nixa	Logan-Rogersville High School	Stockton Middle School
Classical Conversations - Ozark	Morrisville Elementary	Summit Preparatory Middle School
Classical Conversations - Springfield	Mountain Grove Middle School	Taneyville Elementary
CSTAR program	Niangua	Twain Elementary
Division of Youth Services	Nixa Junior High	U School
Drury Gifted Academy	Ozark Upper Elementary Schools	Westport Elementary
Drury Summerscape	Parkview High School	Wilder Elementary
Field Elementary	Parkview High School Green Team	Willard North Elementary
Finley River School	Pershing Elementary	WOLF (Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility)
GO CAPS (Greater Ozarks Center for Advanced Professional Studies)	Pierce City High School	
Green County Youth Academy	Reeds Spring Elementary	

Splash! Participating School	June	July	Grand Total
Bowerman Elementary School	30		30
Boyd Elementary School		18	18
Campbell Elementary School	29		29
Cowden Elementary School		27	27
David Harrison Elementary School		75	75
Delaware Elementary School		36	36
Field Elementary School		35	35
Gray Elementary School		60	60
Hickory Hills Elementary School	62		62
Holland Elementary School		27	27
Jeffries Elementary School	58		58
Mann Elementary School	39		39
McGregor Elementary School	50		50
Pershing Elementary School		33	33
Pittman Elementary School	56		56
Portland Elementary School	30		30
Sherwood Elementary School	80		80
Truman Elementary School		29	29
Watkins Elementary School	44		44
Weaver Elementary School		24	24
Williams Elementary School	35		35
York Elementary School		31	31
Grand Total	513	395	908

*Note that each Splash class visited the Watershed Center 4 times

Splash! – A Springfield Public Schools Partnership

The Watershed Center was thrilled to partner with Springfield Public Schools to offer Splash! as part of their summer Explore Program. Third grade students in the Splash! course explore the role of watersheds in the water cycle and the health of our drinking water supply. Hundreds of students from 22 different elementary schools participated in the June and July sessions. Students were able to make four weekly field trips to the Watershed Center to participate in a variety of hands-on experiences. The course culminated in a fishing trip to Valley Water Mill Lake. It was wonderful to see the level of excitement and engagement in the students. As one student exclaimed, “Best field trip ever!”



Students learning about aquatic life

This successful collaboration has led to the creation of another partnership program. In the spring of 2017, a pilot program involving 7th grade students from Carver, Reed, and Pleasant View Middle Schools will begin. These students will be participating in an outdoor education project-based learning unit that will include four field trips to the Watershed Center over the course of six weeks. Students will be able to make connections between their school’s outdoor learning environments and the facilities at Valley Water Mill Park.

Jordan Creek Tours

We continue to offer a unique educational experience with our Jordan Creek tours, in which we hike members of our community through the big box culvert that forms the artificial cave running beneath downtown Springfield. In an educational experience like nothing else, we can clearly see the many complex relationships between homelessness, folklore, urban design, local history, and water quality. While many participants come along for the thrill of exploring these concrete catacombs, most leave with a stronger sense of the big picture. As we walk, we point to the wide-open storm drains, familiar from the street, but new and surprising from our vantage point in the creek, clearly demonstrating the fact that stormwater is directly connected to our streams and rivers. While our new headquarters office is no longer located on the banks of Jordan Creek, we are still happy to guide tours for interested groups. Please call 866-1127 or email jeff@watershedcommittee.org for more information or to book a tour.



Drury Communication students taking a Jordan Creek tour

Medicine Take-Back Event

As part of a nationwide campaign by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Ozark Area Pharmacy Association hosted two medicine take-back events on Saturday, April 30 and Saturday, October 22, 2016 in collaboration with the Greene County Sheriff's Department, City of Springfield, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, SafeKids Springfield, and local pharmacies. The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks assisted by providing volunteers and local water quality information to participants of the event. The Spring and Fall Medicine Take-Back events combined collected 3,274 pounds of unused medicine. Proper disposal of these medications helps to prevent possible misuse while also keeping them from harming our drinking water supply.

Educational Partnerships

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) has always worked hard to foster partnerships and our educational programs are no exception. With our water friends and many other organizations that support education, we have been able to have our most successful year yet, and we owe a great deal of gratitude to the people and groups including:

Ozarks Technical Community College
Missouri State University
Drury University
Springfield Public Schools
The Springfield Art Museum
Careers in Conservation
Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility (WOLF)
Honoring Urban Resources and Acting With Knowledge (HAWK)
Springfield Greene County Park Board
The Botanical Center
The Discovery Center of Springfield
James River Basin Partnership
The City of Springfield Environmental Services
The Springfield Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
Greene County Health and Human Services
The State of Missouri Health Department
The Missouri Master Naturalists, Springfield Plateau Chapter
Interpreters Coalition



Jeff Birchler and Christa Gammon
accepting the MEEA Service Award

The **Homeschool Outdoor Fair**, which showcases local, educational resources like the Watershed Center, continues to grow in popularity. In the first few years, it was a challenge to get a few families to participate. Now, we have to cap pre-registration at 300 people and we still end up turning people away! It's been a joy to work with such great organizations as The Springfield Conservation Nature Center, Springfield Botanical Gardens, Springfield Greene County Park Board, Bull Shoals Field Station, and see this event become such a success.

As in years past, the Watershed Center has hosted **Stream Team Water Quality Volunteer Trainings**. We love having the Stream Team crew out at our site and it is always a joy to partner with them on cleanups and field trips. **Darlene Haun**, a Stream Team superstar, has settled in Springfield and has been a valuable asset helping with school field trips, Watershed Center work days, monthly meetings, and anything else water related.

The Watershed Center also hosted the **Project Learning Tree workshop**. Facilitators **Erica Cox and Tammy Trantham** do a fantastic job providing local educators with hands-on activities that can be used in the classroom. We also appreciate Erica and Tammy for the numerous times they stepped in to help with school field trips and other educational opportunities.

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and James River Basin Partnership received the **Missouri Environmental Education Association Service Award** (MEEA) to a Community-based Organization. MEEA helps educators inspire Missourians to care about, understand, and act for their environment.

The North Springfield Betterment Association awarded WCO a **Betterment Award** for improvements at the Watershed Center and their positive impacts on Springfield.

Colleges

Local universities and colleges provide many benefits to our community, infusing this Midwestern town with energy and vigor in a way that only young, excited, and expanding minds can. Our local students often improve the trails that we enjoy at the Watershed Center, teach the kids that come through on field trips, reduce the presence of invasive species, and spread the message of water conservation and sustainability farther than we ever could on our own. It is always a pleasure to work with these students in the classroom and in the field, and we are happy to continue hosting them as they use the Watershed Center as a classroom, learning about streams, forests, and sustainable design.

Drury University continues to use the Watershed Center as a classroom for ecology classes. This year, we got the chance to work with them directly on a habitat restoration project. For the past few years, we have had the chance to work with the incoming freshman students on a service project, usually involving Jordan Creek which runs near the Drury campus. This project serves as a unique way to engage these new students in the local world of community service and environmental stewardship. Some of these students go on to join the Think Green Team at Drury. This group is already self-sufficient with service projects and cleanups, needing only bags and trash pick-up support from us here at the Watershed Center.

The WCO also entered into a unique collaboration with Dr. Jonathon Groves' media class. Teams of students developed marketing strategies to better reach a targeted audience of people ages 30-45 in the Ozarks region. The semester concluded with each group presenting their marketing campaign strategies to the WCO. We were very impressed with the creativity and professionalism of each group. After a great deal of discussion and feedback, the winning proposal was determined. Dr. Groves' and his students will be working to implement this marketing campaign during the upcoming spring semester.

Missouri State University (MSU) has a program in which students can earn extra course credit for participating in a local organization's work for 40 hours over the course of a semester. We are happy to host two or three of these students each year. Each student offers help in whatever way we need, but they must also complete a project over the course of the time with us. We also had a number of students from Dr. Alexander Wait's Sustainability Class. Each of these students spent a total of 40 hours helping with trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and habitat restoration. Aside from volunteers, students in the Science and Education departments stay busy out here learning native plants, macroinvertebrates, and how to teach the Discover Nature Schools Curriculum.



Students from MSU clearing the savanna of invasive species

Monthly Meetings

Every first Friday of the month, the WCO continues the long tradition of gathering community stakeholders together to learn about water-related topics. In spite of the 7:30 a.m. meeting time, attendance exceeded 400 in 2016. The meetings also serve as a networking opportunity, and a time for participants to share announcements and upcoming events. These meetings are truly a great tradition of the Watershed Committee, and we are thankful to all our participants and presenters. Our topics for 2016 were:

- **January:** Meeting cancelled in observance of New Year's Day
- **February:** "Sustainability at Missouri State University," Jordan Schanda, Sustainability Coordinator
- **March:** "United States Geological Survey, Missouri Water Quality Update," John Schumacher, United States Geological Survey
- **April:** "Big News from Ozarks Water Watch," David Casaletto, Director, Ozarks Water Watch
- **May:** "A Long-Term View of Watershed Health and Threats," Joe Kokloski, District Ranger, Mark Twain National Forest
- **June:** "2016-The Year of the Trail," Terry Whaley, Director, Ozark Greenways
- **July:** "Overflow Control Plan," Errin Kemper, Assistant Director, Dept. of Environmental Services, City of Springfield
- **August:** "Guiding Principles of Sustainability of NPS," Ted Hillmer, Superintendent, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
- **September:** "Protect, Preserve and Provide: How Youth Education and the Parks, Soils and Waters Sales Tax Support Missouri," Rob Hunt, MO Dept. of Natural Resources and Holly Neill with the Nature Conservancy
- **October:** "Watershed Committee Staff Update," Watershed Committee Staff
- **November:** "Sustainable Forestry and Watersheds," Greg Iffrig, L-A-D Foundation
- **December:** "Source Water Monitoring at City Utilities," Kari Wolken, Water Quality Analyst, City Utilities of Springfield



WCO Monthly Meeting at the Midtown Carnegie Library



WCO October Monthly Meeting at the Watershed Center



Projects and Management

Facilitated meeting with the Sac River Watershed Advisory Committee in Greenfield, MO

Projects and Management is where the rubber meets the road. Source water protection, watershed management plans, stormwater best management practices, and policy recommendations are water protection techniques important to all members of our community. Support from our sponsors allows us to operate and apply for additional resources to fund projects that improve our community's water resources.

Our Missouri Waters

On May 1, 2015, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources awarded the Our Missouri Waters Collaborative Project for the Sac River watershed to the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. The goal of this project was to gather local input and identify water resource priorities through community meetings. Community meetings were held to reach citizens living and working in the Sac River watershed, asking them to voluntarily serve on an advisory committee to identify and develop resources to achieve those priorities. Citizens, community leaders and elected officials in the watershed were invited to participate in this process to share how they use water and what is needed to continue protecting and enhancing the Sac River watershed. The summary and recommendations of the process are outlined in the Sac River Healthy Watershed Plan. The plan will be a living, working document to help maximize resources and focus watershed priorities over the next five years. To learn more about the Our Missouri Waters statewide initiative, visit <http://dnr.mo.gov/omw/>.



Our Missouri Waters (Continued)

The Sac River watershed encompasses portions of Cedar, Dade, Lawrence, Greene, Polk, St. Clair, Vernon, Barton, Christian, and Hickory counties and includes the towns of Springfield, Republic, Bolivar, Willard, Ash Grove, Greenfield, Stockton, and Walnut Grove. In an effort to engage members from all these areas within the watershed, informational meetings were hosted in different geographic locations throughout the watershed. Community meetings were held on November 17, 2015 in Stockton, December 15, 2015 in Greenfield, and January 12, 2016 in Willard, with a total of 142 meeting participants. Of those participants, 66 completed and submitted surveys during the meetings with most couples submitting one survey together. All the information provided through the survey was shared by email with all the meeting attendees that submitted contact information.

The survey asked participants if they are interested in voluntarily serving on the Sac River Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC). The only requirement to serve as a WAC member is to be a resident or property owner in the Sac River Watershed. Twenty-four of people volunteered and committed to serving on the WAC. The committee went through a facilitated and educational process that allowed each person to share their thoughts and discuss the resource concerns for the watershed. From that process, the committee created a list of watershed priorities to be the focus for the next five years and listed possible solutions to those problems. The complete list of survey results, watershed priority rankings, and details about the project can be found in the Sac River Healthy Watershed Plan at www.watershedcommittee.org.

Springfield-Greene County Health Department Sampling

WCO assisted Springfield-Greene County Health Department with collecting weekly bacteria samples in streams that are public swimming locations during the summer months. After the samples are analyzed, the E.Coli and Total Coliform results are posted on the health department's webpage the following day for the public to access. The health department does not regulate these sites in any way, and these samples are not required to be collected under any state or federal rules. The information is provided as a community service. Samples were collected from May 24 till August 30, 2016, and results can be found at <http://health.springfieldmo.gov/2934/Stream-Testing>



Sac River Watershed Map



Sac River Watershed Advisory Committee touring Hammons Walnut Farm

Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project (LSRIP)

In March 2016 the Missouri Department of Natural Resources awarded WCO an additional \$104,512 to the original \$255,551 in federal funding, for a total of \$360,063. A nonfederal match amount of \$205,785 is being provided by the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, bringing the total project cost to \$565,848. The budget and project periods will be extended from March 31, 2017 to April 30, 2018.

The purpose of the project is to implement best management practices (BMPs) to improve water quality, decrease soil erosion, and improve aquatic life in the Upper Little Sac—a watershed that is very important to our drinking water supply. The project will also include updating the EPA nine-element Upper Little Sac Watershed Management Plan, water quality monitoring, and non-point source/project-specific educational activities.

The portion of the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12 watershed in Greene County (Upper Little Sac River) is the project focus area and includes the following activities:



LSRIP Target Area

Best Management Practices:

- One Demonstration of Longitudinal Peaked Stone Toe Protection Practice of approximately 850 feet in length
- Three Prescribed Grazing Systems
- Vegetative Buffer Strips (quantity depends on size of practices and funding available)
- Stream Restoration Practices (quantity depends on size of practices and funding available)

Water Quality Monitoring:

- Weekly samples May through September at a minimum of 5 sites on the Upper Little Sac River and its tributaries by City Utilities of Springfield
- Quarterly samples October through April at a minimum of 5 sites on the Upper Little Sac River and its tributaries by City Utilities of Springfield
- WCO to provide a watershed map marking where monitoring will occur

Project Focused Education:

- One project-specific HUC 12 watershed factsheet
- Three developed press releases and newsletters
- One non-point source BMP workshop, one public meeting
- One project webpage, and one project specific sign located at the Watershed Center
- Two canoe tours for county, city, and WCO officials to see before and after effects from projects

This project is off to a good start, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our project partners. City Utilities of Springfield is conducting the water quality monitoring portion, the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation Department has been instrumental in providing expertise for the agricultural best management practices, and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has provided biological monitoring data and cost share support. Three required grazing systems were completed in 2016, and we will be able to do more with the remaining resources. WCO worked with MDC on a riparian buffer expansion project near Fellows Lake, and hosted a Stream Restoration and Stabilization Workshop with national expert Dave Derrick.

The Hydrilla Project

Hydrilla is a highly invasive aquatic plant. In areas of the U.S. where hydrilla is established, it damages ecosystems, water supplies, and hampers recreational opportunities, which causes great expense to local economies and businesses. Hydrilla was first found in Southwest Missouri in 2012. A landowner in the Pomme de Terre River Watershed contacted The Missouri Department of Conservation for assistance because a plant, which was later identified as hydrilla, had “taken over” his pond. Since then, hydrilla has been found in multiple impoundments, including locations in the Little Sac and James River watersheds.

Eradicating hydrilla from our drinking water watersheds is our goal. A team, led by the Missouri Department of Conservation, and including City Utilities, Greene County, the Army Corps of Engineers, and WCO, cooperates on the eradication effort. The multifaceted approach includes multi-year chemical treatment of infested water bodies, public education and outreach, inspections, and planning.

In 2015, progress was made on many fronts, but the summer floods presented some extreme challenges. The year started off with the Hydrilla Working Group hosting a hydrilla workshop during the Missouri Natural Resources Conference at Tan-Tar-A. It was attended by a variety of resource personnel from around the state. The working group also hosted a hydrilla booth at the Springfield Lawn and Garden Show. Other outreach efforts included crafting two hydrilla fact sheets, one for Stream Teams and the other for the general public.

Tuber monitoring in March revealed that our 2014 treatment efforts were successful in the prevention of new hydrilla tubers. Biomass monitoring also showed that the amount of hydrilla produced in ponds undergoing their second year of fluridone treatment was considerably less in 2015. These results are very encouraging in this long-term battle. On the flip side, the excessive flooding made it difficult to maintain aquatic herbicide concentrations in many of the hydrilla ponds. Staff devoted more time during the summer months monitoring the on-going treatment process to ensure that season-long control was maintained. For many hydrilla impoundments, an additional treatment was required.

The record flooding was also severe enough to remove aquatic vegetation from local impoundments, presenting yet another challenge in our long-term battle. We are hoping that our May and early June treatments kept hydrilla biomass at a level where it was less vulnerable to movement. Only intense inspection efforts in 2016 and 2017 will reveal the full impacts of the 2015 floods.

In 2016, no new infestations were located in Southwest Missouri, even with a more robust monitoring program than ever. In our region hydrilla has been found in a total of **27 water bodies with a combined area of 66 acres**, all of which are treated and monitored. The good news is, with diligent planning and treatment, there was no known tuber production in any of these bodies of water. Although we have a long way to go to eradicate the plant, we are headed in the right direction.

City Utilities of Springfield received another **Source Water Grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources**. Hydrilla control and outreach efforts in the upper Little Sac and James River watersheds were just some of the items included in the Source Water Protection Plan updated with these funds. This will definitely be beneficial to our ongoing efforts, especially hydrilla locations in the Fellows Lake Watershed. Staff from the Missouri Department of Conservation intensified inspections in the immediate area of the new find and detected four more impoundments with hydrilla. These ponds started the five-year treatment process in May 2016. (Contributed by Kara Tvedt, MDC)





MDC Habitat Restoration in Progress sign and the habitat restoration project area.

Watershed Center Site Projects

Watershed Center improvements are continuous. A great deal of trail work was completed throughout the year. Many applications of mulch and gravel have been made to create a safer trail. Additional water bars have been installed to reduce erosion. Throughout the year volunteers have cleared branches and controlled poison ivy along the trails. New signage has been added to the trail. During 2017 all existing signs will be replaced with updated signage. The new signs will follow National Park Service guidelines which will allow for improved self-guided interpretive hikes at the park.

Springfield Greene County Parks continued the repairs and improvements to the boardwalk and fishing piers. Their skilled tradesmen removed the damaged surfaces, reinforced the structure, and resurfaced the decks of the fishing piers.

A tremendous amount of work has gone into **habitat improvement** and **invasive species control** following the guidance of plans created by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Ben Parnell, our Habitat Improvement Specialist, facilitated large numbers of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to remove crown vetch, sercia lespedeza, Johnson's grass, bush honeysuckle, and eastern red cedar from the rain garden, prairie, glade, and savanna areas. Each of these areas showed noticeable improvement throughout the year. The native plants are especially flourishing in the micro-prairie and rain gardens. Large expanses of the savanna are now open so the huge post oaks and shagbark hickory are easily visible. In time native grasses and wildflowers will cover these areas once dominated by dense undergrowth. The removal of eastern red cedar and other trees crowding the glade areas have already allowed native plants like the prickly pear cactus to reappear.



Repair work on the trails



Ben Parnell removing invasive species



People

Land Ethic Leaders workshop attendees before tackling invasive species in the savanna area

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is **People**—people who are dedicated to protecting our water resources now and for the future. Our board, staff, sponsors, volunteers, partners, and supporters are a group of dedicated and dynamic individuals who make our mission possible. This chapter is about those people.

Staff Development and Professional Involvement

The Staff and Board of the Watershed Committee are dedicated to the betterment of the organization through professional development, networking, and community involvement opportunities. Each staff member grew and flourished over the past year.

Stacey received a scholarship for Springfield Chamber of Commerce Leadership Springfield Class 31. Leadership Springfield is a program for leadership development in the Ozarks designed to provide participants a deeper understanding of community and self. Stacey started the program in September 2015 and graduated in June 2016. Stacey is currently serving on Leadership Springfield's Impact Committee which helps find opportunities to apply leadership to meet the needs of the community.

Stacey attended a **four-day stream management workshop** in Sedalia, MO which was provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation Stream Unit. The workshop explained managing instream and riparian habitats in Missouri. Primary topics included **impacts of watershed and stream channel alterations**, stream erosion diagnostics, structural aspects of stream bank failure, stream stabilization, BMPs, engaging stakeholders in watershed work, watershed

Staff Development and Professional Involvement (continued)

management in Missouri, and stream ecology/hydrology connections.

Stacey also participated in a **Missouri State University panel about women in STEM** on September 23, 2016. She attended Congressman Long's Agricultural Tour along with Mr. Kromrey, and hosted a WCO booth at the Wilson's Creek Solar Car Challenge. She attended the MSU Civic Engagement Conference on September 14, 2016.

Kelly is currently working on **MSU's Certificate in Non-Profit Management**. She was recently appointed to the Tree City USA Advisory Committee to serve a three-year term. She attended the Land Ethic Leaders two-day workshop at the Watershed Center and the day-long **MSU Civic Engagement Conference**. Her important contributions also included a website overhaul and social media presence and upgrades.

With Rob Hunt becoming the Natural Resource Education Coordinator with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, **Jeff Birchler was hired as Watershed Center Coordinator in May**. Jeff took advantage of several professional development opportunities as he adapted to his new role. In June Jeff traveled to Wisconsin to participate in a **Land Ethic Leaders Program**. While establishing a collaborative network with colleagues, he gained new ideas and facilitation skills to inspire others to become land ethic leaders here in the Ozarks. Please refer to the Grants section to read more about the Land Ethic Leaders Program held at the Watershed Center in November.

While having many years' experience as a formal educator, Jeff continues to learn new skills as an informal educator. Working with groups like the Missouri Environmental Education Association and the Interpreters Coalition has provided unique insight into improving the

Watershed Center's outreach and education processes. Jeff also attended a **Project Learning Tree Workshop** where he acquired a variety of activities and wonderful suggestions to use with class field trips and presentations.



Leadership Springfield Class 31



Jeff in the famous Aldo Leopold Shack

Watershed Summer Gala

We are excited to announce that our second Watershed Summer Gala raised over \$32,000, exceeding our fundraising goal of \$20,000. These funds have helped us make much needed repairs to the trails and update the interpretive signage at the Watershed Center and will help us keep pace with the growing demand for our education programs. At the event, the food was fantastic, the art was exceptional, and the Springfield Art Museum venue was cool, both literally and figuratively on the hot July Day. Several attendees expressed similar comments: that this event is quickly becoming a favorite because of the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new people with similar interests—and it is laid back and fun. Thank you to our silent auction donors, the sponsors, bidders, and partners and all who attended. Next year the Gala will be at a new location. Put Saturday, July 15 on your calendar for 2017!



Give Ozarks Day

The Watershed Committee participated in Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) Give Ozarks Day, a one day online fundraising event for agency partners of CFO. Our goal was to raise funds to help repair the trails and replace the interpretive signage at the Watershed Center. We had 66 donors, many of them new donors, and raised over \$4,500. This event was a fun, unique way to raise funds for our project and overall was highly successful. We plan on being a part of Give Ozarks again on Tuesday May 9, 2017 raising funds for the Watershed Center Fellowship Program.



Media

We strive to reach as many people as possible with current issues, ideas, and topics related to our mission. A high quality website and social media presence have become increasingly important platforms for education and outreach in our society, and we have responded. Here is a summary of WCO's media outreach in 2016:

- Increased Facebook "likes" to 1,169 during the year and twitter followers to 273.
- Wrote over 58 blog articles which were posted on our website, Facebook and Twitter.
- Updated our website.
- Published the WCO Quarterly Newsletter which increased circulation to 424 subscribers.
- "Rising Tide" article in 417 Magazine addressed local water issues. Interview with Executive Director, Mike Kromrey.
- KY3 story "Heavy rains impact local waterways." Interview with Projects Manager, Stacey Armstrong Smith.
- KSMU story "Understanding Local Water Conditions: What Officials Are Testing For." Interview with Projects Manager, Stacey Armstrong Smith.
- STEM Spots interview with Projects Manager, Stacey Armstrong Smith, "Every Drop of Water...Is a Precious Resource."
- KY3 played WCO PSA during the 2016 Rio Summer Olympic Games.



Photo of Mike Kromrey taken by 417 Magazine for the Rising Tide article

Choose Environmental Excellence Awards

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks seeks to recognize accomplishments which assist in the Watershed Committee's mission to protect the area's water resources. This year, the Watershed Committee presented its Choose Environmental Excellence Award to Jon Williams for his lifetime service of involvement with major projects and decisions related to Springfield, Missouri's water resources.

Volunteering

Volunteers are an integral part of the WCO. This year we have continued to rely on both old and new volunteers. We are fortunate to have two workers, **Levi Decker** and **Crawford Bassack** who show up regularly to help us complete one project after another. They are a huge help to Jeff with recording volunteer, education, and outreach data, recycling efforts, and keeping the building and grounds looking great.

Throughout the year numerous individuals and organizations donated their time and energy to make this a very successful year. Students from **Missouri State University, Ozarks Technical College, and Drury University** contributed over 500 hours of volunteer time as they removed invasive species, collected native plant seeds, maintained the trails, and helped in many other ways. **Girls Scout and Boy Scout troops** spent hours cleaning up local watersheds.

We continue to improve our new approach to service days, combining volunteer work with reflection and education, modeled after our experiences with the Leopold Foundation. Along with a general fulfillment of community service, we aim to instill in the volunteers a sense of purpose by helping them understand their role in the task of protecting our precious water resources and by connecting them with nature. One result of this effort has been a great return on investment as students who come out for a single work day make their way back as longer-term volunteers.

Interns

Danielle Hopkins is an undergraduate student at Saint Louis University studying Biology. Her emphasis is in ecology, evolution, and conservation. She spent many a hot summer day working with Ben to eradicate invasive species throughout the prairie, savanna, glade, and rain garden habitats.

Kayla Gunn is a Missouri State graduate. In addition to assisting with habitat improvement projects, Kayla was a tremendous help with the record number of field trips to the Watershed Center this year.

Clarissa Hatley is a graduate student at Missouri State University. Her previous volunteer experience made her a tremendous asset throughout a very busy summer. Clarissa was instrumental in getting the Explore Splash Program off to a great start. She also was instrumental in the significant improvements made to our habitat areas.

Both **Sandi Schulz** and **Nicole Boucher** have been invaluable in helping Jeff with the record number of field trips and outreach activities. Sandi's experience with pre- and post-trip activities have proven very useful in curriculum development. Nicole's many years of experience as a Watershed intern have provided Jeff a wealth of knowledge and insight about school programs and activities.



Nicole Boucher at the MSU Community Engagement Fair



Danielle Hopkins, Clarissa Hatley, and Ben Parnell after tackling invasive species on a hot summer day

Volunteering (continued)

The United **Way's Day of Caring** was a huge benefit to the Watershed Committee this year. Over 50 volunteers tackled numerous projects. Volunteers from the engineering firm **Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly, Inc.** constructed two picnic tables and a tool storage shed. **Bass Pro Shops** employees brought their kayaks and canoes for a clean-up of Valley Water Mill Lake. Once the lake was clean, they mulched and weeded the rain garden. **Master Naturalists** coordinated construction of two Chimney Swift towers. **Greene County** employees made significant improvements to the savanna habitat, removing a tremendous amount of brush and invasive plant species.

Earlier in the year, we met a man named Jim Fossard with a passion for birds--especially a small bird called the Chimney Swift. He explained the incredible journey of Chimney Swifts from the Amazon Jungle to the Canadian woodlands, their decline and habitat loss, and their unusual habit of forming a "bird tornado" before descending into their roost. And if you have the right habitat, they will come. The right habitat can be made by creating a chimney swift tower, and Jim graciously offered to donate the materials for two of the structures. The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society and Missouri Master Naturalist, Springfield Plateau Chapter rallied volunteers, and Jeff Birchler and Mike Kromrey oversaw the construction. Two Chimney Swift towers are now standing at the Watershed Center.

Adopt-A-Spring

Adopt-A-Spring is a volunteer water quality monitoring program. Since the program began over seven years ago, trained volunteers have collected quarterly water samples from many of the major springs in Greene County. Over the years, this program has assimilated a large data set that can help locate groundwater problems and track changes over time. The results of the nitrogen, phosphorous, and bacteria tests are kept on a spreadsheet and can be easily shared with interested parties.



Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly, Inc. employees building picnic tables and outdoor storage lockers



Greene County employees removing invasives and improving the savanna



Jim Fossard and the Chimney Swift tower Construction crew

Volunteering (continued)

Our Board

Eric Dove, Chair

Eric Dove is a professional engineer and has an extensive technical background solving problems related to surface water supply and water quality in streams and lakes. Over 20 years ago, Eric fell in love with the Ozarks while on a vacation with his wife. Since moving to the Ozarks, Eric enjoys taking his wife and three sons to the local lakes, streams, and mountain biking trails. Eric has dedicated his career to the protection and enhancement of our precious water resources. He has published and presented at national conferences on a wide variety of water resources topics such as the value of using natural approaches to stabilize Ozark streams. Eric's educational background includes a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering with an emphasis in water resources.

At-large, 1st Term Expires December 2017



Laura Green, Vice Chair

Laura Greene is an attorney in the Springfield office of Husch Blackwell, LLP. She grew up in the Midwest, spent several years in the Northeast, and then moved to Springfield over nine years ago. Since making the Ozarks her home, Laura has enjoyed exploring the waterways, hiking trails, and lakes of this beautiful area. She also loves indulging in her newly-discovered passion for fly fishing. Laura is a past Board Member of Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks, serves as the Chair for the American Heart Association's Springfield Circle of Red, is the founder of Springfield Women of Influence, and is in Class 30 of Leadership Springfield. Laura spends as much time as possible outdoors with her husband, Chuck, and their three children, Andy, Abby, and Sarah. She believes in the mission of conserving the pristine natural resources of the Ozarks for the enjoyment of generations to come.

City Utilities Appointee 1st Term Expires December 2017



Dan Hoy, Secretary

Dan Hoy's passion for the Ozarks water resources date back to the early 70's when he began floating and fishing the areas' lakes and streams. This passion inspired Dan's personal values of caring for creation and resource conservation. He's put these values to work in his career of more than 30 years as Bass Pro Shops Director of Facilities. Maintaining Bass Pro Shops facilities throughout the country, overseeing energy and waste management, and providing for environmental compliance sustain Dan's inspiration in conservation causes. In addition to the WCO Board membership, Dan is active with the James River Basin Partnership, involved with his church, St. Elizabeth Anne Seton, and other boards and community outreach opportunities. Dan conspires every spare moment to pursue the passions of his youth in the great outdoors with his childhood sweetheart and wife, Diane.

City Appointee 2nd Term Expires December 2019



Karen Spence

Karen Cordes Spence is the Associate Dean of the Hammons School of Architecture at Drury University. Growing up in Fayetteville, Arkansas, her family was active in the Ozark Society's efforts to save the Buffalo National River and spent considerable time hiking, canoeing, and camping. Karen is an architect with degrees from the University of Arkansas, the University of Cincinnati, and Texas A&M University. She has always been interested in building that complements rather than competes with the natural environment. Karen is the first LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified faculty member at Drury University and co-chairs the President's Council on Sustainability. She is also involved as a board member for AIA Springfield and has served on numerous committees for the City of Springfield and Springfield Public Schools. Karen and her husband Rod enjoy gardening and the outdoors, hiking, and kayaking in the Ozarks with their two daughters, Sarah and Lauren.

At-large, 1st Term Expires December 2018



Volunteering (continued)

Our Board

Bridget Dierks

Bridget Dierks is the Director of Nonprofit Services at the Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO), where she works with the CFO's nonprofit agency partners in fund development and educational programming. Bridget is a Cabool, Missouri native and a lifelong Ozarks resident. She completed undergraduate degrees in communication and professional writing and was a technical writer before joining the CFO staff. Bridget earned a graduate degree in communication, having partnered in developing new research in the field of collaborative leadership. Bridget is currently on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of SWMO and a member of the Network Advisory Board of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Missouri State Public Affairs Committee and served six years on the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee. Bridget and her husband Andy spend spare time traveling but always return home with a greater appreciation for the Ozarks.

At-Large 2nd Term Expires December 2018



Megan McKenna

Megan McKenna is a Senior Human Resources Generalist for Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Springfield, Missouri. Megan grew up in Omaha, Nebraska and relocated to Missouri to complete her undergraduate and graduate business degrees with a focus on the field of Human Resources. A graduate of the Springfield Chamber's Leadership Springfield program, she has previously served as a Leadership Council Member for the Chamber's Network organization, a Member of the Advisory Board for the Missouri Mentoring Partnership and maintains her professional certification and memberships with the Society of Human Resource Management and Springfield Area Human Resource Association. Megan's passion for the outdoors originated from her time spent on a family farm. Over the years, she has developed a deep appreciation and respect for the environment and its wildlife and remains committed to preserving our natural resources for the next generation.

Greene County Appointee 1st Term Expires December 2017



Jason Hainline

Jason Hainline is a design associate with Dake Wells Architecture, a design-centered practice with an emphasis on progressive and sustainable design solutions. While attending Drury University, Jason began his career in the Design Development Department of Bass Pro Shops. Following, Jason moved to Boulder, Colorado and joined a nationally recognized environmentally sustainable architecture consulting firm, ENSAR Group, led by the late Greg Franta, FAIA, co-founder of the American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment. With a move back home to the Ozarks, Jason joined EMSI, an international green building consulting practice that established green building consulting in China. Jason's experience in sustainable design includes site and landscape planning, energy efficient architectural design and analysis, daylighting, material selection, and LEED™ coordination. He has been active in a wide range of projects in the US and abroad that include facilities for each branch of the military, the National Park Service, private retail developments, low and high-rise offices, laboratories, educational buildings, restaurants, and private residences. Jason has worked in numerous countries, including Brazil, Egypt, Dubai, Poland, Czech Republic, India, Vietnam, as well as throughout China. Currently he is serving as a board member of the Springfield Component of the American Institute of Architects. In the fall of 2013, Jason was selected into the 2013 Class of LEED Fellows for his contributions to the green building movement.

Greene County Appointee 1st Term Expires December 2017 (completing Megan McKenna's 1st Term)



We owe a special thanks to our Board Members, who volunteer about 300 hours each year, helping us with major decisions, monthly meetings, and guiding us as we move forward into our 33rd year!

Funding

Funding is necessary to accomplish the work of protecting our water. **Our sponsors—City Utilities of Springfield, Greene County, and the City of Springfield provide our core operational funding.** This three-way agreement is a powerful fund leveraging mechanism for each sponsor. Grants, donations, and in-kind contributions are also vital to advancing our mission. As an example, the Watershed Center project was made possible by \$659,222 in private funds.

Long-Term Fund

Recently, the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks developed a Long-Term Fund, with the assistance of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. The Fund is treated as an endowment, with the added benefit of being unrestricted so it can be accessed (with Board approval). As this fund grows it will provide interest that can be reinvested or applied to projects or personnel to further our mission. With the help of our gracious donors, this fund balance was over \$93,000 at the end of the year.

Watershed Summer Gala & Give Ozarks Day

The Watershed Committee raised over \$38,000 in 2016 through the Watershed Summer Gala event, participating in Give Ozarks Day through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, and individual donors.

Endowment Fund

The Watershed Committee established a restricted Endowment Fund in 2008 held at the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Thanks to some donations and interest accrued, this year the endowment fund has surpassed the \$10,000 mark required to be a vested account.

Watershed Center Rentals and Programs

We continue to have demand for the C.W. Titus Education Facility and the Onsite Wastewater Training Center. Many area organizations have utilized the Watershed Center including Missouri State University, Springfield Plateau Grotto, MO Mycological Society, Springfield Fire Dept., The Kitchen, MoDot, Missouri Smallflows, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Stream Team, Ozarks Water Watch, and the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Sustaining Donors

The Sustaining Donors program is a new avenue for people to invest in the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. One-time donors are fantastic, but building relationships with people and businesses that lead to yearly commitment is even better. **Commercial Metals Company** has the honor of being the Watershed Committee's first sustaining donor.

Community Conservation Grant

The Missouri Department of Conservation awarded the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) \$10,000 to continue a second year of the Community Conservation Grant (CCG). The CCG goals are to:

- Provide support for terrestrial and aquatic habitat improvement in urban areas,
- Coordinate efforts among similar organizations which share the common goal of improving urban habitats and supporting community conservation efforts,
- Train partner organization staff in native habitat restoration and long-term management practices of sustaining natural landscapes, and
- Engage the public through conservation education and volunteer opportunities.

With these goals in mind, the funds allowed us to hire Ben Parnell in 2016 as our Watershed Center Habitat Improvement Specialist. Ben has been working to improve the ecological health of the Watershed Center site through removal of invasive species, implementation of the Forest Stewardship Management Plan, and other work to improve the visitor experience. Ben also incorporates volunteers and creates educational opportunities. The new grant will begin in the spring of 2017 to continue this successful project. WCO is thrilled about the opportunity to enhance our stewardship efforts at the Watershed Center.

Community Innovation Grant for Land Ethic Leaders

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks awarded Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and the Missouri State University Bull Shoals Field Station (BSFS) an \$11,000 Community Innovation Grant to bring the Leopold Foundation to the Watershed Center and for BSFS to hold a Land Ethic Leaders Workshop. The workshop will help participants develop their own land ethic and explore tools and methods for fostering conservation in communities locally and across the state.

The workshop was held in November of 2016. Based on Aldo Leopold's own teaching method, "observe, participate, reflect," the two-day program prepared participants to connect wider audiences to Leopold's land ethic, and helped participants deepen their own understanding of this idea. Attendees left with new relationships, tools, ideas, and facilitation skills for articulating their vision, bringing their values into action, and inspiring others to do the same. The watershed Center and sunny, warm November days, powerful and insightful readings and discussion, expert facilitation, and an incredible group of participants made the workshop valuable and memorable. We should continue to see positive ripples from this event for years.



Land Ethic Leaders participants experienced a unique and valuable workshop from the Leopold Foundation, made possible by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks

Our Generous 2016 Donors

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who donated their financial resources, time, talent, and good heartedness to the Watershed Committee this past year.

Give Ozarks Day Donations

Aaron J. Scott
Abbey Richards
Alina Lehnert
Amanda Stadler
Barbara J. Lucks
Ben Parnell
Bethany Bell
Bill & Maret Cheek
Bob Stephens
Brandi Silvey
Brent Stock
Brett Johnson
Bridget & Andy Dierks
Brynley Edens
Calvin & Barbara Armstrong
Carrie Coleman
Carrie Lamb
Chandler Carlson
Charles Burwick
Chris Dunnaway
Christa Gammon
Clarissa Hatley
Colleen Smith
Dan Hoy
Dawn Sunshine
DeDe Vest
Drew Albert
Ed & Darlene Haun
Elly Shin
Eric Sutton
Gabe Montgomery
Greg & Martha Swick
Harwood Ferguson
Jan Wooten
Janice Greene
Janice Lorrain
Jason DeMate
Jason Ray
Jennifer Dierks
Jill Hays
Jodie Adams
Josiah Cowens
Karl Eggers

Kate Baird
Kelly & Michael Guenther
Laura Greene
Leslie Carrier
Lisa Berger
Lyndsey Strahan
Mike Carlie
Mike Chiles
Mike Kromrey
Mort & Jan Shurtz
Nicole Boucher
Richard Stiefvater
Rob Hunt
Sarah Hough
Scott Bratcher
Sharyn Dawson
Shaun Smith
Stacey Armstrong Smith
Tammy Trantham
Terry Whaley
Tess Hull
Tiffany Frey
Wright Water Engineers

Watershed Summer Gala Sponsors

Arvest Bank
Associated Electric Cooperative
Bass Pro Shops
Bill & Maret Cheek
Brown Derby International Wine Center
Carson-Mitchell, Inc.
Central Bank & Central Trust
City of Springfield, Dept. of Env. Services
Commercial Metals Company
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly
Dan & Margy Chiles
Elite Promotions
Environmental Works
HDR Engineering
Husch Blackwell
Mike & Mary Chiles
Mother's Brewery
MSU College of Applied & Natural Sciences

Plateau Fly Shop
Remo's Casually Gourmet Food
Sunbelt Environmental

Silent Auction Donors

Aaron J. Scott
Alley Cat Design Studio
Bass Pro Shops
Bob Kipfer
Bob Linder
Bryan Yates
Dynamic Earth
Fellows Lake Marina
Gayle Harper
Jason Frantz
Larry Randolph
Leslie Carrier
Linda Regan
Mark Bowers
Mary Ellen Chiles
Matt Keener
Mike Kromrey
Mollyjogger
Nate Luke
Plateau Fly Shop
Shauna Smith Yates
Springfield Hot Glass
Terry Whaley
Wood Turners Guild

Watershed Committee Donations

Bob and Barb Kipfer
Charlie Burwick
Harwood Ferguson
James Fossard
Jonathan & Karen Jones
Laurel Bryant
Linda Palmissano
Michael Stelzer
Springfield Nature Center
Tal & Rosalie O'Reilly Wooten Foundation
Timmy Hogenkamp

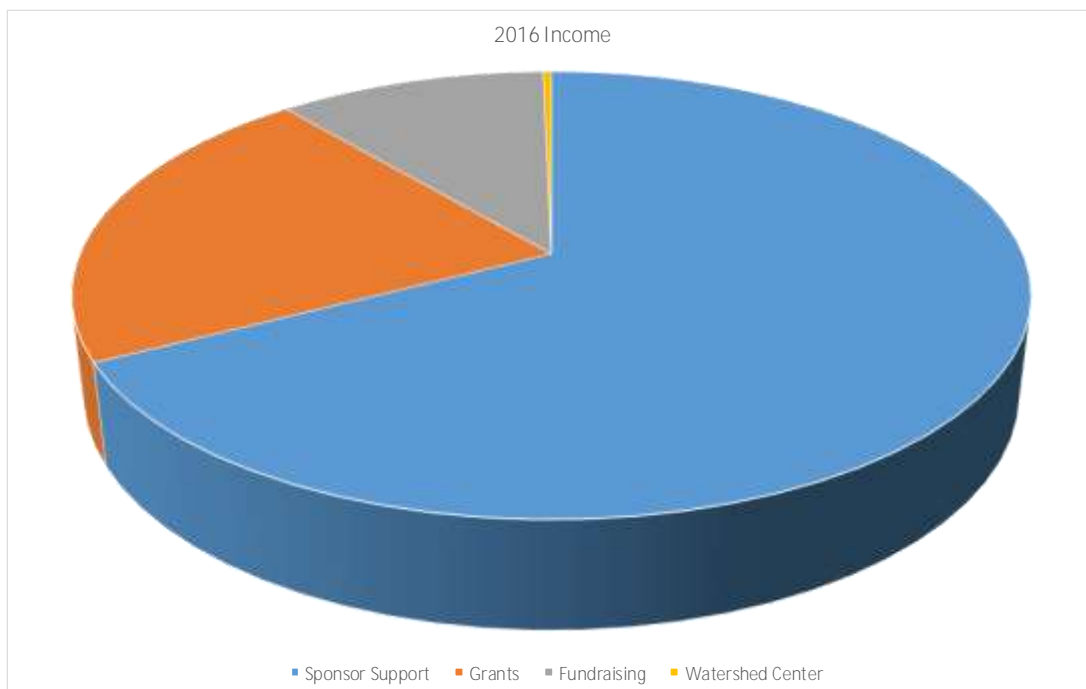
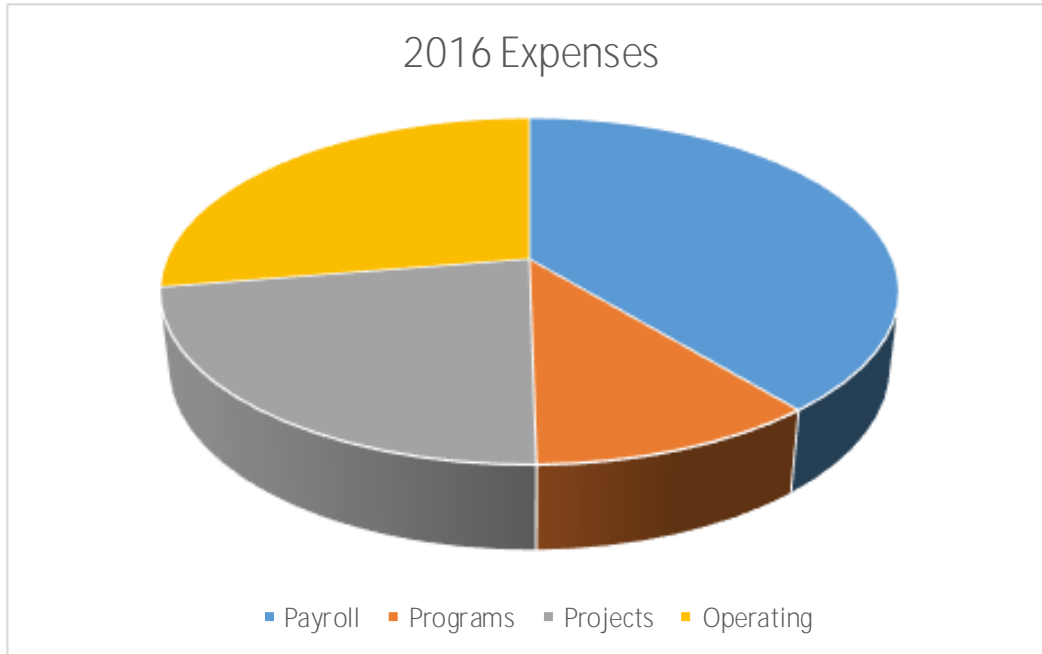
C. W. Titus Education Facility Donors

3M Foundation	Greater Ozarks Audubon Society	Mr. & Mrs. Reynaldo J. Gumucio
ARIA Foundation	Greene County	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bachus
Barbara J. Lucks & Gregg J. Larsen	J.D. Slaughter	Neal & Newman, LLP
BKD Foundation	Jan Horton	O & S Trucking
BNSF Foundation	Jeanette Unsell	Palmerton & Parrish, Inc.
Brenda Putman	Jennifer Jones	Patricia Kay Parker Estate
Bruce & Jo Ann Martin	Jodie Adams	Patricia Rea & James E. Jackson
C.W. Titus Foundation	John Black	Paul & Judy McCune
Calvin & Barbara Armstrong	John & Brooke Griesemer	Positronic Industries, Inc.
Carney Cove Boat Dock Association	John & Culah Nixon	Robert & Cynthia Davies
Charles & Mary Beth O'Reilly	John & Jean Twitty	Ron & Leslie Carrier
City Utilities of Springfield	Jon & Becky Treadway	Rosalie Wooten-O'Reilly
Community Foundation of the Ozarks	Jonina & Keith Buterbaugh	Ruth O. Kelley
CONCO	Jonathan & Karen Jones	Sara Garretson
D-4 Investments	KRAFT Foods	Sara Lampe
Dan & Margy Chiles	Kyle McClure	Scott Miller
Dave & Mary Sturdevant	LAD Foundation	Shane Webb
David & Christine Rauch	Larry & Dr. Nancy O'Reilly	Sharon Faulkner
David & Gloria Rolling	Leonard & Kay Million	SMC Packaging Group
David & Kathleen Hutchison	Liberty Bank	Springfield Plateau Grotto
David O'Reilly	Lisa Turner	Springfield Rotary Club
DeDe Vest	Lois & Cleo Hanson	Springfield Underground
Derek Martin	Loring & Carol Bullard	Steak n Shake
Dickerson Park Zoo	Mark & Sharon Gott	Steve Owens
Doug & Rae Nickell	Marla Calico	Stuart Wetzel
Dr. Duane Addleman	Matt & Sara Keener	Sunbelt Environmental Services
Dr. Sally Hubbard	Meeks	Ted & Cathie Gearing
Duane & Anita McConnell	Megan & Sean Terry	Ted & Rachel Hillmer
EIERA	Michael & Jan Wooten	Terry & Jeannene Whaley
Environmental Works	Michael & Kelly Guenther	Todd & Betty Parnell
Erin & Amy Austin	Mike Finch	UMB Bank
Erin Hutchison	Mike & Ann Howell	US Bank
Fred & Jean Palmerton	Mike & Mary Chiles	Wade Stinson
Gail Emrie	Mike & Mary Kromrey	Wal-Mart Foundation
Gary & Marti Buckley	Mike Jungers	Wild Horse Development
Gayle Harper	Mona Menezes	William & Maret E. Cheek
Great Southern Bank	Mr. & Mrs. Ross Ausburn	Wright Water Engineers

These reflect Watershed Center Capital Campaign donations received from the years 2005-2012

Budgeting

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc. is a 501c3 organization that depends on sponsor support, and grant and donor dollars to fund our education and outreach programs, implement grant work, maintain the Watershed Center, and provide other important services.



Grant Activity

Grant Project	Date initiated	Total Grant	Non-Local Funds
Greene County GIS Project	1988	\$325,000	\$235,500
Fulbright Spring Monitoring System	1989	\$40,000	\$20,000
Fellows-McDaniel Lakes 319 Project	1992	\$119,000	\$63,000
McDaniel Lake Remediation Project	1993	\$66,621	\$40,500
Fulbright Spring 319 Project	1996	\$190,000	\$100,000
Splash Exhibit for Discovery Center	1997	\$6,800	\$3,500
Little Sac River Pollution Study	1999	\$145,000	\$140,000
Discovery Center Project	1999	\$205,000	\$125,000
Adopt-A-Spring Volunteer Initiative	2000	\$12,000	\$4,900
Little Sac Restoration 319 Project	2000	\$625,000	\$343,500
Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods	2000	\$8,475	\$4,975
Valley Water Mill 319 Project	2001	\$920,838	\$480,000
Cause Marketing for Clean Water	2001	\$8,334	\$5,000
Radio Promotion White River Basin	2001	\$8,334	\$5,000
Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods II	2002	\$8,350	\$5,000
Time to Come Clean Awareness	2002	\$8,334	\$5,000
Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods Tips	2002	\$8,334	\$5,000
Recreational Trails Program	2003	\$84,500	\$42,500
Jordan Creek Education Event	2003	\$2,315	\$0
Science Based Field Trip Grant	2003	\$4,000	\$0
Watershed Center	2003	\$447,000	\$447,000
Watershed Center	2004	\$994,600	\$994,600
Community On-Site	2006	\$309,650	\$185,750
Water Quality Improvement Grant	2006	\$400,000	\$400,000
LAD	2006	\$5,000	\$0
CFO Streamside Learning Station	2006	\$20,000	\$0
CFO Wetland/Curricula Grant	2006	\$22,288	\$0
LAD Interpretive Signage	2007	\$3,500	\$0
Rotary Service Grant	2007	\$500	\$0
Rotary Service Grant-Southeast	2007	\$1,000	\$0
Corporate Agency Partnership Program-			
Fishing Piers	2007	\$49,500	\$0
LAD Forestry Learning Station	2007	\$5,000	\$0
CFO Fishing Piers Grant	2007	\$30,000	\$0

Grant Activity (continued)

Grant Project	Date initiated	Total Grant	Non-Local Funds
<u>Watershed Mgmt Planning Grant</u>	2007	\$15,000	\$0
<u>MO Recreational Trails Grant</u>	2007	\$142,000	\$100,000
<u>Rotary Service Grant-Southeast</u>	2008	\$4,500	\$0
 <u>USDA-NRCS CIG Grant</u>	2010	\$100,000	\$50,000
 <u>Missouri Solid Waste Mgmt. District O Grant</u>	2010	\$46,350	\$46,350
<u>LAD Foundation</u>	2010	\$4,000	\$4,000
<u>DNR 319 Nonpoint Source Grant</u>	2011	\$1,869,672	\$ 1,100,000
<u>DNR Recreational Trails Grant</u>	2011	\$ 143,090	\$85,000
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks Endowment</u>			
<u>Grant</u>	2012	\$ 1,000	\$0
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks Community</u>			
<u>Response Challenge Grant</u>	2012	\$ 6,000	\$0
<u>LAD Foundation</u>	2013	\$ 2,000	\$0
<u>Source Water Protection Plan Grant</u>	2013	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
<u>DNR 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Amendment</u>	2013	\$166,667	\$100,000
<u>DNR 319 Little Sac Restoration and Improvement</u>			
<u>Project</u>	2014	\$428,461	\$172,910
<u>Our Missouri Waters Project</u>	2015	\$ 64,000	
<u>MDC Community Conservation Grant</u>	2015	\$ 10,000	
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks</u>			
<u>Community Innovation Grant</u>	2015	\$ 11,000	
<u>DNR Little Sac Restoration and Improvement</u>			
<u>Project Extension</u>	2016	\$104,512	
<u>Community Conservation Grant (MDC)</u>	2016	\$10,000	
 Total		\$8,227,525	\$5,333,985

SPONSOR SUPPORT

Organization	2013	2014	2015	2016
City of Springfield	\$ 20,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 20,000	\$20,000
City Utilities of Springfield	\$188,000	\$188,000	\$188,000	\$188,000
Greene County	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$15,000
Springfield-Greene County Parks	\$ 14,300	\$ 14,300	\$ 14,300	\$16,000
(Watershed Center Support)				

For Every Dollar

Keeping our water resources clean and plentiful is the right thing to do for many reasons. Clean water is vital to our personal growth, our community's growth, and our economic growth. Legally, Springfield and Greene County are held accountable for the quality of the water leaving our domain. It is difficult to put a price tag on these important things, but we do know that in the world of water resources, an ounce of prevention is truly worth a pound of cure—local demonstrations of this abound.



Another truism of local water protection is that the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is a very good investment of our sponsors' (citizens') funds. The three-way agreement of our sponsors leverages every dollar spent by each individual organization from the beginning. This basic sponsor support allows WCO to operate and seek other financial resources for water protection. In the last 5 years, WCO has brought home \$818,640 in grant funding to our community (see page 32). If you look at "total grant" dollars and compare it to the financial support from our sponsors over the past 5 years (both values are on the previous page), you can begin to quantify our value to the community. Each City, County, or City Utilities dollar resulted in a return of **\$6.55, \$10.92, and \$0.87 per dollar invested**, respectively. This simplistic equation is impressive, but the real financial value provided would be even greater if we included the efficiencies, the funding leverage of the three-way agreement, partnerships generated, regulatory cost avoidances, and volunteer resources utilized.



OUR MISSION

To sustain and improve the water resources of
Springfield and Greene County through education
and effective management of the region's
watersheds



The WCO—a wise investment with a track record
of achieving successful outcomes