



WATERSHED  
COMMITTEE  
OF THE OZARKS



**2017  
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 Dist.

Missouri Master Naturalists, Springfield Plateau

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri State University

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Springfield Public Schools

This report covers our fiscal year: [January 1-December 31, 2017](#)

## Dear Friends,

Dear Friends,

We all know that quality and quantity do not necessarily go hand in hand, but this year the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks achieved a good balance of both. Our team expanded to meet the demand for our growing programs and efforts, and the talent and enthusiasm of the new faces of 2017 made each day exciting and fulfilling. Along with our gratitude for their work, I think each new and returning person was pleased by the unique experiences and connections that Watershed was able to provide in return. These generous volunteers and our staff have all contributed to our success and a record-breaking year for volunteer hours logged and people participating in Watershed Center fieldtrips and programs. These metrics, however, are only a reflection of quantity.

With such a wealth of people-power and talent, we were able to make strides in improving the quality of our educational programs, which are being continually refined, even as new ones are developing. Partnerships with Springfield Public Schools and the Springfield Art Museum involved students from across the area and incorporated varied disciplines and multiple field trips into our programs, which blend more and more with school curriculums. These connections continue to increase the quality of students' Watershed experiences and their learning and retention.

We continue to progress daily on a path of environmental quality to improve the long-term health and resilience at the Watershed Center. The Missouri Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative (MOBCI) and the Community Conservation Grant from the Conservation Department have allowed us to tackle major invasive species infestations that threaten to completely take over our landscape. We have made major strides in ongoing projects and efforts, like our Little Sac Restoration and Improvement project, our Agricultural Demonstration Area, and our Forest Stewardship Plan, which all aim to improve water quality. Along the way, we have learned important lessons, and I think we can continue to amplify the quality and quantity of our work in pursuit of our mission.

In the end, the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is truly a community effort, with all of us working toward our restorative and productive common mission. But we don't want to hog all the fun! There are many ways to be involved, and we are pretty good at matching your time and talent with work related to our mission. Being a board member, celebrating with us at the Gala, or rolling up your sleeves and working on volunteer projects are only a few of the many ways to participate in this exciting, important work. Thanks for your support. We hope you join us for another great year in 2018!

Kind Regards,



## 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. Points 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 2017 contained in this report are organized in this manner, so our compass can be your guide. Please share our joy in these accomplishments, because none of this could happen, or is even possible, without supporters like you.







# Education and Outreach

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 and what can positively and negatively affect our resources, along with 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.

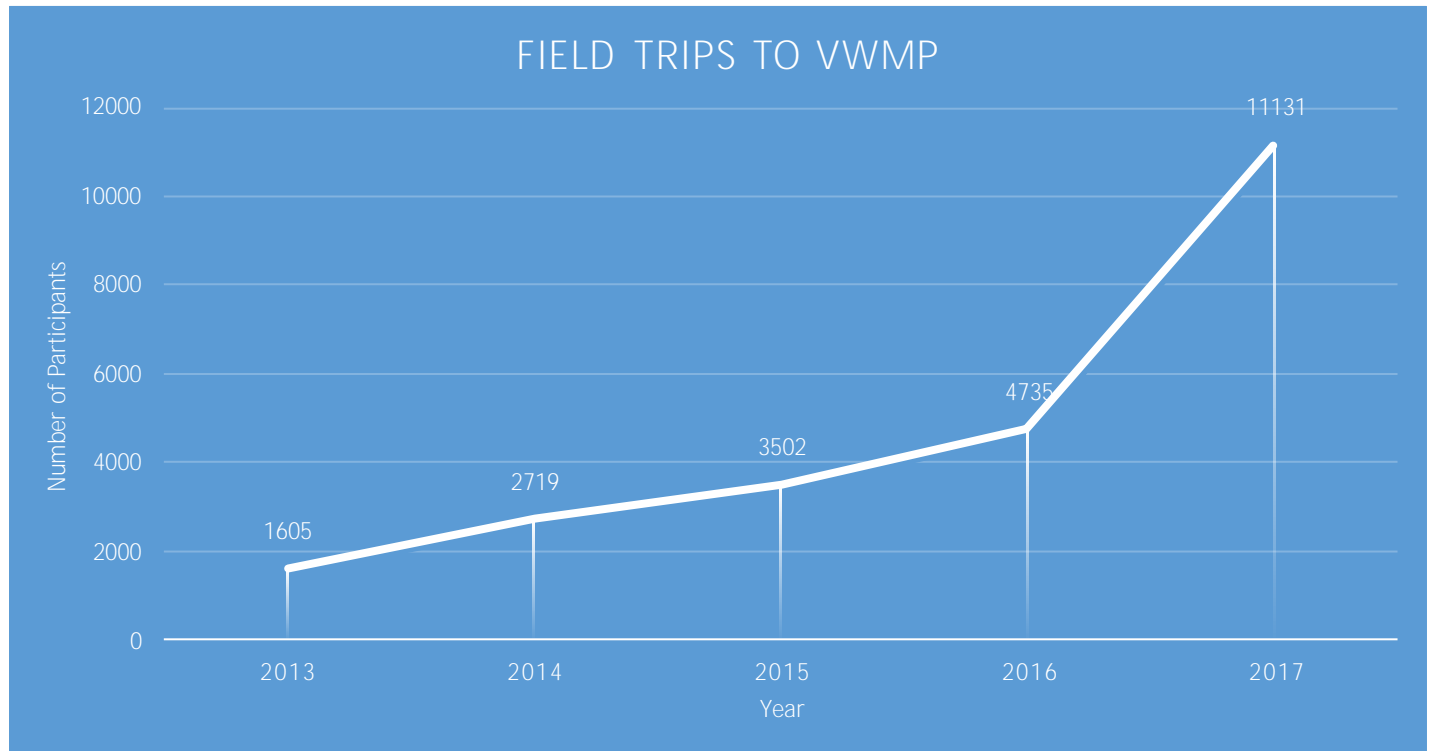
## Watershed Center Education and Outreach

What a fantastic year it has been for our Education and Outreach programs! The number of participants in our educational programs continues to rise, but the numbers don’t tell the full story of our success. We strive to continue to improve the quality of educational experiences we provide. These ever-expanding, unique experiences would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of numerous volunteers and interns.

Students looking for macroinvertebrates; learning about water quality.



## Watershed Center Field Trip Participation 5-Year Trend



### A Closer Look At the Numbers

The large increase in field trip participation to the Watershed Center was due in part to collaborative efforts with Springfield Public Schools (SPS). Many of these programs improve the quality of field experiences by providing repeat visits to the Watershed Center. Each visit builds upon previous experiences and the field experiences are reinforced and enhanced in classroom activities. Almost 1,900 SPS students involved in these field experience courses made multiple visits to the Watershed Center. Of the 11,131 field trip participants, 5,826 were unique visitors to the Watershed Center. These unique visitors represent a significant increase over previous years and we hope to continue this trend.

Our educational efforts extend beyond field trips to the Watershed Center. We were also involved in 59 different Outreach activities that took place off campus. These include booths at community events, classroom presentations, and our popular underground tours of Jordan Creek. Through these outreach efforts, we were able to educate and inform many thousands more individuals of all ages.

### Year at a Glance-Education and Outreach

	2015	2016	2017
Field Trip Participants at the Watershed Center	3,502	4,735	11,086
Watershed Center Field Trips	86	116	201
Booths at Community Events	13	15	14
Jordan Creek Tours	20	19	20
Volunteer Hours Logged	1,813	1,523	2,996

## K-12 School Visits to the Watershed Center

Bolivar Elementary	SPS Academy of Exploration	SPS Portland Elementary
Branson High School	SPS BASE	SPS Reed Middle School
CALO High School	SPS Bowerman	SPS Robberson Elementary
Clever Elementary	SPS Boyd Elementary	SPS Rountree Elementary
Drury Scholars Academy	SPS Campbell Elementary	SPS Sherwood Elementary
Fordland Elementary	SPS Carver Middle School	SPS Study Alternative
Halfway Elementary	SPS Delaware Elementary	SPS Truman Elementary
Homeschool Nature Group	SPS Disney Elementary	SPS Watkins Elementary
HS Coop	SPS Field Elementary	SPS Wilder Elementary
Lebanon GOCAPS	SPS Harrison Elementary	SPS WOLF
Logan-Rogersville Elementary	SPS HAWK	SPS York Elementary
Logan-Rogersville Field Research	SPS Hickory Hills Elementary	Stockton Middle School
LR Click Academy	SPS Hickory Hills Middle School	Summit Preparatory School
Marionville Elementary	SPS Holland Elementary	Taneyville High School
MO Division of Youth Services	SPS Jeffries Elementary	U.School
Nixa High School	SPS McGregor Elementary	West Plains Elementary
Ozark Elementary Schools	SPS Parkview High School	Willard Elementary Schools
Reeds Spring Elementary	SPS Pittman Elementary	Willard Middle Schools
Republic Elementary	SPS Pleasant View Middle School	Wolf Careers in Conservation
Springfield Lutheran Academy		

## Number of students participating in Splash! (each student made four visits)

Splash! Participating School	June	July	Grand Total
Bowerman Elementary	36		36
Campbell Elementary	18		18
Delaware Elementary		46	46
Disney Elementary	72		72
Field Elementary		38	38
Harrison Elementary		77	77
Hickory Hills Elementary		49	49
Holland Elementary		21	21
Jeffries Elementary	76		76
McGregor Elementary		17	17
Pittman Elementary	42		42
Portland Elementary	25		25
Robberson Elementary	34		34
Sherwood Elementary	64		64
Truman Elementary		32	98
Watkins Elementary		25	25
Wilder Elementary	40		40
York Elementary		12	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>724</b>



## Springfield Public Schools Collaborative Programs

There is no substitute for directly experiencing nature. Given the right opportunity, students can create meaningful connections that last a lifetime. We are proud to partner with Springfield Public Schools to offer innovative approaches that provide meaningful educational experiences to area students. The **Splash!** program was first piloted as part of the summer Explore program in 2016. The course allows hundreds of second and third grade students to explore our watershed and develop a deeper understanding about where our water comes from and what can be done to protect it. Students make four visits to the Watershed Center over the month-long course, and they participate in a variety hands-on activities.



Fishing - a favorite Splash! activity.

In spring of 2017, seventh grade students from Carver, Reed, and Pleasant View Middle Schools participated in a project-based learning unit titled **Greener Greenspaces**. Teams of students were given \$500 budgets to make improvements to green spaces around their campuses. Over the course of the program, students made four visits to the Watershed Center, where they investigated best management practices, local threats to our water supply, and the importance of



Carver students building a rain garden.

maintaining healthy ecosystems. Students applied this knowledge in their designs for campus improvements. Students presented their designs to a review committee where winning designs were selected. The school district then provided funding and support to assist the students in installing the winning designs on each campus. This successful program was offered again in fall of 2017 to hundreds of new students, and we hope to expand it to all Springfield middle schools in 2018.

## A Confluence of Science and Art

We are excited to be working with the Springfield Art Museum to offer an innovative program to rural elementary students. The **Placeworks STEAM Residency** provides two classroom visits by Museum and Watershed staff, as well as field trips to both the Art Museum and Watershed Center for participating schools. Students participating in the program are given journals, which they utilize through all four sessions to practice their observation and documentation skills, while exploring nature and art. A journal provides a reliable record of observations and encourages students to focus much deeper than a typical casual observation. Journaling also forces us to slow down and make deeper connections within and between the observable and experienced world. Students participating in the program are encouraged to use all of their senses to explore and observe nature and to make connections between the important work of scientists and artists.



Fordland students journaling.

## Educational Partnerships

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) has always worked hard to foster partnerships, and our educational programs are no exception. In partnership with our water-loving friends and many other organizations that support education, we have had our most successful year yet, and we owe a great deal of gratitude to the following groups and individuals:

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

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. But this year's fall event, held at the Springfield Art Museum, served over 140 families, representing almost 600 people pre-registered for the event! It's been a joy to see this event become such a success and to work with such great organizations as The Springfield Conservation Nature Center, Springfield Botanical Gardens, Springfield Greene County Park Board, and Bull Shoals Field Station.

The Watershed Center also hosted the **Project WET 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.



Stacey teaching at the Homeschool Outdoor Fair



Tammy leading a water chemistry station.



## 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 to learn about streams, forests, and sustainable design.

**Drury University** continues to use the Watershed Center as a classroom for ecology classes. 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. In 2017 we were happy to host six of these students. Each student offers help in whatever way we need, but they must also complete a project over the course of the time with us. Also, several students from Dr. Alexander Wait's Sustainability Class spent many 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.



MSU Public Affairs students working on invasive species removal and trail improvements.



## World Class Water Education

City Manager **Greg Burris** challenged WCO and the community to create a World Class Water Education Program. Greg encouraged the group to envision and create the best water education in the country, world, and beyond, by envisioning what success looks like and being intentional about getting there. He made it clear that he and the City understand the value of water and the education of citizens, and Springfield is willing to invest in these efforts.

Many excellent organizations touch on water resource education, and to begin pursuit of this call to action, WCO convened a long list of stakeholders. In the first meeting, the group agreed that in our vision, a World Class Water Education Program creates, as an ultimate outcome, a community that values water. The unified mission of the stakeholders present was, “to equip our community, through education and experience, to love and take care of our home.”

The second meeting of the groups was on May 31, 2017, and the group participated in a facilitated discussion about what programs and initiative are currently underway in pursuit of this endeavor and a Gap Analysis to identify shortcomings. The meeting was productive in that it generated ideas for leveraging and partnering to strengthen the works in progress. The discussion also generated a draft of a document that outlines the foundational knowledge and experiences citizens need to realize the vision and mission. This foundational knowledge will continue to help stimulate partnerships, identify gaps, and form a baseline of indicators to measure change over time.

## Medicine Take-Back Event

As part of a nationwide campaign by the DEA, Ozark Area Pharmacy Association hosted two medicine take-back events on Saturday, April 29 and Saturday, October 28, 2017 in collaboration with the Greene County Sheriff's Department, City of Springfield, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Safe Kids 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 Fall Medicine Take Back event collected a new record total, and the combined amount collected from both events reached a total of 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.

## 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, and most leave with a stronger sense of the big picture. As we walk, we point out 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 (417) 866-1127 or email [jeff@watershedcommittee.org](mailto:jeff@watershedcommittee.org) for more information or to book a tour.



MSU Public Affairs Academy Jordan Creek Clean-up.

## Monthly Meetings

Every first Friday of the month, the WCO continues the long tradition of gathering community members and stakeholders together to learn about water-related topics. In spite of the 7:30 a.m. meeting time, total attendance exceeded 450 in 2017. 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 2017 were:

- **January:** “Water Quality, the By-Product of Soil Health,” Drexel Atkisson, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
- **February:** “Intro to Biomimicry,” Margo Farnsworth, Screen Door Consulting and the Prairie Foundation
- **March:** “Irrigation and Stormwater on Campus (or in Your Yard),” Joe Fearn, Head Groundskeeper, Drury University
- **April:** “Restoring the Green Water Cycle on Western Working Lands,” Molly Walton, Land and Water Program Director, The Quivira Coalition
- **May:** “Grassroots Tourism,” Linnea Lantria, Geotourism Coordinator, Missouri State University
- **June:** “The True and Colorful Tale of the Sac River Revenant,” Dan Chiles
- **July:** “Bass Pro Shops Sustainability Program: A Model of Shared Values,” Dan Hoy, Director of Facilities, Bass Pro Shops
- **August:** “Mayor’s Milkweeds for Monarchs,” Mona Menezes, Environmental Specialist, City of Branson, and Barbara Lucks, former Sustainability Officer for the City of Springfield
- **September:** “The Nature Conservancy: A Shared Conservation Agenda,” Holly Neill and Drew Holt
- **October:** “Watershed Committee Update,” Mike Kromrey, Executive Director
- **November:** “Springfield Community Gardens: Building Neighborhoods with Sustainable, Integrated Agriculture,” Maile Auterson, Springfield Community Gardens
- **December:** “Clear Span Crossings—A Win-Win for Southwest Missouri,” Andy Austin, Missouri Department of Conservation



Holly Neill presenting at the September Meeting.



# Projects and Management

Attendees of the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement workshop

**Projects and Management** is where the rubber meets the road. Source water protection, watershed management plans, stormwater best management practices (BMPs), 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.

## Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project (LSRIP)

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks was awarded a subgrant agreement from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on April 1, 2014 for the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project. On April 1, 2016 a grant amendment was awarded, bringing the total grant funding to \$360,062, with a required \$205,785 in local match. The goal of this project is to improve the drinking watershed of Springfield and Greene County with implementation of best management practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Since the start of the grant, several projects have been completed, including the installation of five prescribed agricultural grazing systems, the installation of three bank vegetative buffers strips, riparian corridor improvements, and continued collection of water quality data at five locations in the watershed. This year a 300-foot section of eroding streambank was stabilized and restored! As part of the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project, on November 6-8 the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks hosted a hands-on educational workshop, which coincided with the construction of a stream stabilization project on the Little Sac River. Forty people participated in the workshop



## Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project continued...

To help construct the Longitudinal Peaked Stone Toe Protection streambank stabilization project, which includes an engineered floodplain bench, bendway weirs, unrooted live pole plantings, vegetated and curved keys, and rooted stock plants. Mr. Dave Derrick, a Potomologist and Stream Stabilization Specialist with over 20 years' experience from River Research & Design, Inc. in Vicksburg, MS, lead the workshop and provided construction oversight.

All of these projects help to reduce nonpoint source pollutants from entering the Little Sac River, which will benefit our drinking water supply for many years to come. We are very thankful to all of our community partners that make these projects possible, including the landowners, the grant steering committee, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Greene County, Missouri Department of Conservation, City Utilities of Springfield, and the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Contributed by Stacey Armstrong Smith, LSRIP Projects Manager



Little Sac River (downstream view) before stream restoration.



Little Sac River (downstream view) during stream restoration.



Missouri Department of Conservation providing workshop attendees a tree planting demonstration.



Construction of a curved key and live sycamore poles being placed.

## Springfield-Greene County Health Department Sampling

WCO assisted Springfield-Greene County Health Department with collecting voluntary weekly bacteria samples in streams that are public swimming locations during the summer months. After the samples were analyzed, the E.Coli and Total Coliform results were posted on the Health Department's webpage the following day for the public to access. In 2017, samples were collected from May through August, and results are found at <http://health.springfieldmo.gov/2934/Stream-Testing>. 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.



Water sample collected from Wilson's Creek

## Agricultural Demonstration Area

Farming is a major land use in the Sac and James River Watersheds, and nearly all agriculture in these watersheds occurs on private land. Farming operations can occupy a wide spectrum of impact, ranging from land-healing to land-using and abusing. Not all farms are land-healing, but almost no farmer intends to degrade land and water. We find that land-healing farming methods are often adopted once people are exposed to these profitable, productive, effective practices. With the help of City Utilities, local Natural Resources Conservation Services staff, and the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District, we are working to renovate and reopen the Agricultural Demonstration Area (ADA) to provide another way to showcase and share excellent farming practices.

The ADA is located between Fellows and McDaniel lakes. The land is owned by City Utilities, which has leased the parcel to WCO to manage this endeavor. The ADA will showcase riparian protection, prescribed/rotational grazing, warm and cool season pastures, and alternative watering systems. The ADA will be used for classes, tours, and scientific study, and offer sub-leases to local farmers who want to use the land within the restorative farming principals. The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Greene County Soil and Water District will be the primary education partners, and Missouri State and City Utilities will likely participate in the science and research aspects.

Some of the infrastructure from the original project will be re-used, and some of the previous improvements—like a warm-season grass pasture and a robust buffer of trees along the stream—will be valuable assets. Funds from the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project, City Utilities, and a grant from Lucky's Market will help bring the ADA back into working order. We hope to reopen the ADA by the end of the year. A lot of groundwork has been laid in 2017, and we are looking forward to developments in 2018.



Watershed Committee staff accepting check from Lucky's Market.



## The Hydrilla Project

Hydrilla is a highly invasive aquatic plant. In areas of the U.S. where hydrilla is established, it causes great expense to local economies and businesses. It damages ecosystems and water supplies, and it hampers recreational opportunities. 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 Missouri Department of Conservation-led team that includes City Utilities, Greene County, the Army Corps of Engineers, and WCO, cooperates on the eradication effort. Our multifaceted approach includes multi-year chemical treatment of infested water bodies, public education and outreach, inspections, and planning.

**In 2017, hydrilla was detected in five additional private impoundments and was also discovered in the upper end of Fellows Lake.** All but one of the new sites occurred in the Little Sac Watershed. In southwest Missouri, we now have **34 sites**, with a combined infested acreage of approximately **83.8 acres**. Thirteen of these sites are within the Little Sac Watershed. All known sites are under a hydrilla eradication plan and are actively being treated and/or monitored.



Sampling the recently discovered hydrilla zone on Fellows Lake.

The good news is that we are making progress. Several of the older sites will be completing their treatment phase and going to “monitoring only” in the next couple of years. Right now, two of the 34 sites have already made it to this phase because of early detection. We are hoping the 1.8-acre stand at Fellows Lake will follow this same path. To date, 100 sediment cores have been collected within the stand area and zero tubers have been collected. This just re-emphasizes the importance of inspections in our overall battle against hydrilla.

Partnerships and volunteers have been integral to our battle against this invasive and will continue to be the key to success. In 2017, staff and volunteers from various agencies, including WCO staff and volunteers, participated in searching Fellows Lake and McDaniel Lake for hydrilla. This was invaluable. We raked a lot of acres and were able to clearly define the new, developing stand in Fellows Lake. No one group or agency could have done this alone. Another highlight from 2017 was the launch of our new **smartphone application** for submitting inspection results. The “app” is provided to hydrilla training attendees and seems to increase reporting: Almost 80 entries were received in its initial outing in 2017, representing more entries than all e-mail submissions from the previous years combined.

In 2018, treatments will resume in late March or early April, and we also plan to train more volunteers to help search public waters. We will also continue organized inspection efforts at Fellows Lake and McDaniel Lake and will likely expand to the Aldrich area of Stockton Lake. As long as hydrilla is within the watershed, we cannot afford to let up. Diligence is key.

Contributed by Kara Tvedt, Fisheries Biologist, MDC





## Watershed Center Site Projects

Numerous improvement projects have been completed during 2017. These would not be possible without the generous help of large numbers of volunteers.

**Safety and visitor improvements** are continuous. We completed a great deal of trail work throughout the year. We shoveled, pitchforked, wheelbarrowed, and raked many applications of mulch and gravel to help maintain and create safer trails. We installed additional water bars to reduce erosion, and volunteers have cleared branches and controlled poison ivy along the trails.

Park visitors will see **new interpretive signs** located along the trails. The new signs follow National Park Service guidelines, which will allow for improved self-guided interpretive hikes at the park. The 23 new signs provide important information about best management practices, Ozark ecosystems, and maintaining healthy watersheds. The signs are designed to educate and entertain visitors of all ages and backgrounds and were made possible by our Summer Gala sponsors and attendees and donors of our Give Ozarks Day campaign.

A tremendous amount of work has gone into **habitat improvement** and **invasive species control**. With the assistance of **Paul Johnson**, MDC Resource Forester, our staff and volunteers conducted a forest survey. This survey allowed Paul to update our **Forest Stewardship**

**Management Plan**. This plan provides a guideline for all of our habitat improvement projects. **Caleb Sanders** and **Ben Parnell**, with the assistance of a large numbers of volunteers, have worked tirelessly to remove Chinese privet, bush honeysuckle, and eastern red cedar from the park. As a result, 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 that were once dominated by dense undergrowth. The removal of eastern red cedar and other trees crowding the glade areas has already allowed native plants like the prickly pear cactus to reappear. A number of other native plants were reintroduced to the wetland, glade, and savanna habitats. Visitors will notice dramatic changes in these park habitats this spring.



Volunteer Morgan seeding the savanna with native plant seeds.



Ben Parnell talking to volunteers about removing invasive species.

## Forest Stewardship Management Plan Update

Forest Stewardship Management Plans, developed by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), help landowners and managers achieve and maintain a healthy and productive forest. The first management plan for the Watershed Center and Valley Water Mill Park was drafted in 2007. Many of the tasks from our first plan were accomplished, and new developments—for example, a near-exponential growth of invasive species—necessitated an update of the management plan. WCO worked with MDC Forester Paul Johnson to build a new management plan around these goals, which stem directly from our mission:

- Manage for long-term ecosystem health and resilience
- Use land management activities to demonstrate good practices and teach others how to replicate
- Use science and professional guidance to improve water quality and habitat for native plants and animals
- Increase the aesthetic value of the property/park for visitors, and showcase the diverse habitats on the property

Two grants, volunteer resources, and our Watershed Center Fellowship allowed us to make great strides on the specific tasks of the management plan in pursuit of these goals. We are thankful to not only explain but enact watershed stewardship, and the aesthetic improvements we have seen are a great bonus for all visitors to the Watershed Center.



Forest survey being completed by interns and MDC staff.

## Burn Plans, Permissions and Permits

The use of prescribed fire as management tool to achieve a healthy watershed has been a topic of long-term study and preparation for WCO. A robust body of scientific research and the professional guidance of the Missouri Department of Conservation and the National Forest Service have encouraged WCO to pursue planning and permission for this endeavor. This year, in partnership with City Utilities and MDC, burn plans were created for the highest priority burn areas at the Watershed Center. A brush pile burn plan was developed to help alleviate the large amount of fuel generated by the invasive species removal efforts. MDC biologist **Ashley Schnake** helped us develop burn plans for the “parking lot prairie” restoration/ demonstration near the Watershed Center building, and for the Savannah habitat parcel west of the Valley Water Mill Lake Dam. Safety is paramount, and the plans outline the appropriate weather conditions, personnel and equipment needs, and safety measures to achieve successful burns. These plans lay the groundwork for a highly productive year of physical watershed stewardship efforts in 2018.



First fire—December 19, 2017.



## Missouri Department of Conservation Community Conservation Grant

In 2017, The Missouri Department of Conservation granted the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) a \$10,000 extension to the Community Conservation Grant (CCG) awarded in 2016. 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.



WCO and partners work to demonstrate habitat improvements at the Watershed Center.

With these goals in mind, WCO will use the grant funds to continue funding the Watershed Center Fellowship Position. This year, we funded the position occupied by Ben Parnell through Missouri State as a Graduate assistantship. We are thankful for this opportunity, because it has helped us towards our management goals, engaged volunteers, and provided educational assistance for Ben and the volunteers.

## Missouri Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative at the Watershed Center (MOBCI)

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is committed to sustaining and improving the water resources of Springfield and Greene County through education and effective management of the region's watersheds. The respective branches of this binate mission often converge for us at the Watershed. For instance, one would be hard-pressed to find one of Stacey's management projects that didn't have an explicit educational dimension. And Jeff's innovative educational curriculum is never devoid of a discussion of what "best management practices" are and the means by which to achieve them. (And, frankly, usually you'll see school groups leave piles of pulled-up invasives behind them, which should leave little question about the proclivity of Jeff's pedagogy to produce pragmatic results).



Trumpeter Swans on Valley Water Mill Lake.

It's this ability to subsume both effective management and education into all avenues of our business that led us to believe that we would be uniquely qualified to enact the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MOBCI), which aims to "get people excited about birds through pursuing and enacting integrated, all bird conservation." So, in the spring of 2017, together with our partners, we applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from MOBCI to restore diverse native habitat at the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park in order to better serve the over 190 species of birds that can be found on our site. To achieve this end, we would implement our Forest Stewardship Management Plan, provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation, to conduct Invasive Plant Removal and Timber Stand Improvement. We also committed to match the funds of the grant with 1000 hours of volunteer work and education. Now in our seventh month of the grant, our progress has been definite and the effects visible. Over 300 volunteers have logged nearly 2,000 hours toward the grant, through direct, hands-on work that complies with our Forest Management Plan. Using a variety of methods, we've conducted invasive plant removal in every part of site.



## MOBCI continued...

Currently, we have treated 70% of our respective stands for the seed-bearing, woody-invasive species (3+ years old), such as bush honeysuckle, Chinese privet, autumn olive, burning bush, and multiflora rose. Removing mature plants that produce seed will allow us to use foliar herbicide in the spring to treat the young sprouts that will grow from invasive seed, which, in some species, have a shelf-life of 10 years in the soil. In this way, we'll disrupt the perpetual cycle of germination and further infestation by invasives.

Though much more pervasive and even more difficult to manage, we have also treated 15% of our invasive woody vines, winter creeper, and vine honeysuckle. We have used manual removal as a treatment method in sensitive areas, but a foliar application of Garlon 3A is the only effective method to remove these species. The effects of such treatment may take 12-18 months to become evident, but we trust that our fall/winter treatments will show results in the following year.

In conjunction with the removal of non-native invasives, we've planted bird-preferred native flora in treated areas. This is important for several reasons. Acting as a form of direct competition, the planting of native species helps to deter further infestation of the invasives that we've been removing. It also serves to replace food sources for wildlife (many of our non-native species here are a food source for wildlife, after all). To this end we have purchased and planted a great deal of native seed and live plants in all of the natural habitats that can be found at Valley Watermill Park.

These tasks, while explicitly physical in nature, carry with them an inherent educational dimension. For within every respective project associated with the MOBCI grant, there is also a demand to explain what is happening and why we are doing the work. This opportunity for educational experiences extends not only to our dedicated volunteers, who need the education as a means by which to understand the work, but also to our field-trip groups and park visitors who see the definite traces of our work, the piles of cut and pulled invasives, our burn scars, the newly planted vegetation and trees. And it is for this reason that the MOBCI grant will prove to be so effective: Not only has it provided us with the means by which to begin to manage our own site in a way that is better for the birds, but it has provided an educational opportunity to the thousands who have worked at or visited our site this year, so that they, too, can take steps to improve habitat, within and beyond the park.

For these reasons, it is clear that the MOBCI grant has already tremendously impacted the well-being of Valley Water Mill Park and the individuals who enjoy its habitats. Ecologically, everything here has benefited from the opportunity. It is also becoming apparent that to properly fulfill the spirit of the grant—to make a definite and sustained impact for bird habitat—future work, beyond the length of the grant, will be required. Unquestionably, without continued management of invasives for the next several years, the treated areas will be lost again. We look forward to what opportunities may arise in the future.

Contributed by Caleb Sanders, MOBCI Technician



The Watershed Center and Valley Water Mill Park, important bird habitat, are now listed on The Great Missouri Birding Trail. Pictures by Becky Swearingen showing Audubon members gathered to observe and band a Rufus Hummingbird.



# People

Day of Caring volunteers.

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.

## Volunteers and Interns

The tremendous successes of this year are due in large part to an amazing group of volunteers and interns. Our volunteer participation numbers almost doubled since 2016. We simply could not continue to meet the growing demand for our services without the help of these dedicated individuals. Volunteers were a mix of both old and new faces. We are fortunate to have two workers, **Levi Decker** and **Crawford Bassack**, who show up regularly to help us complete one project after another—from recycling efforts to keeping the building and grounds looking great. They are also a huge help to Jeff with recording data for volunteers, education, and outreach.

Throughout the year, a number of organizations have provided a great deal of help during scheduled work days. **Nestlé Purina** workers spent a Saturday making significant habitat improvements. A variety of **Missouri State University** groups have dedicated a number of Saturdays working on numerous projects throughout the park. Students participating in **Drury University's Service Plunge** provided much needed help for trail maintenance. The **United Way's Day of Caring** was a huge benefit to the Watershed Committee this year. Volunteers from **Greene County Resource Management** constructed picnic tables to expand an educational station. Thanks to all the groups and organizations that helped out this year!



Outside of scheduled group work days, this year 125 people generously volunteered their time and energy, assisting with a variety of projects ranging from trail maintenance, habitat improvement, and removal of invasive species, to guiding educational field experiences. Many of these individuals volunteered a number of hours per week. The major habitat improvements throughout the park are a testament to their dedication. The following individuals each logged over 30 hours of volunteer time:

Sarah Bateman	Tory Lydy	Anthony Sandoval
Brendan Brothers	Caitlin McCord	Sarah Spence
Kwang Choe	Stephanie Miller-Greer	Cole Tellin
Mallory Durbin	Emily Milton	Alex Walker
Amber John	Carlene Nichols	Morgan Wetzell
Brooke Lawrence	Sarah Oesterly	Hannah Whaley
Ryan Lollis	Spencer Price	Seth Wheeler



Restoring wetland habitat.

## Interns

**Allison Terry** is an Environmental Science major at Stetson University in Florida and an Environmental Sustainability Fellow who is active in the Center for Community Engagement. In addition to assisting with habitat improvement projects, Allison 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 making the second season of Explore Splash! a big success. She also was instrumental in the significant improvements made to our habitat areas.

**Kelly Owens, Jade Pavia, Sandi Schulz, Jordan Murray, Danielle Owens** and **Nicole Boucher** have been invaluable to helping Jeff with the record number of field trips and outreach activities. Kelly, Jade, Jordan, and Danielle are previous volunteers who have proven their expertise and ability to guide students in experiential hands-on activities. Both Sandi's and Nicole's many years of experience as Watershed interns have provided Jeff with a wealth of knowledge and insight about school programs and activities.



Tree planting to restore riparian habitat.



Brooke and Ally teaching the enviroscape during a summer field trip.



## 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 presented at the Nonpoint Source Education Conference at Lake of the Ozarks on March 2-3 and presented on February 23 to a MSU Geography class. She completed MDC Hydrilla Training on June 27 and helped sample lakes at Fellows and McDaniel over the summer months. Stacey also served on the Leadership Springfield Impact/Needs Committee tasked with applying leadership development to

improve our local community and look for opportunities to apply leadership to meet the needs of the community. Stacey and Mike attended the Soil and Water District Soil Health and Grazing Workshop on September 28 in Ash Grove, MO.

Stacey attended Congressman Long's Agricultural Tour on October 6, 2017. The regional farms visited on the tour included Fassnight Creek Farm, GENEX Production Center, Millsap Farm, Maples Dairy Farm, Sam Schaumann Farm, and Crescent Feed Company.

Kelly completed MSU's Certificate in Nonprofit Management. She is currently a board member on the Tree City USA Advisory Committee. She attended the Drury Nonprofit Conference and the MSU Civic Engagement Conference. Her important contributions also include maintaining the website and social media presence and performing upgrades.

In January, Jeff attended the Project WET, WILD, and Project Learning Tree facilitator training at Lake of the Ozarks. The facilitator training allows Jeff to lead workshops for training educators in these projects. In May, Jeff, along with Gloria Gammel and Tammy Trantham, conducted a Project WET workshop for area educators at the Watershed Center.

In June, Jeff and Caleb attended the Building a Land Ethic Conference held at the Leopold Center in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The theme of this year's conference was Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide. Keynote speakers, like Will Allen with Growing Power, Incorporated, provided insight and strategies to support people from diverse backgrounds gaining access to healthy relationships with the natural world.

Mike continues to serve on a variety of committees, including the Sustainability Advisory Committee and Biology Advisory Committee at MSU, and the Environmental Stakeholder Group and State Water Plan Workgroup for the Department of Natural Resources. Mike was invited to contribute an essay to the MSU sustainability anthology project and to present at the Biz 417 Think Summit in 2018. Mike also participated in the 4th annual Carpapalooza and won the Coveted Carp Cup, thanks to the bounty of the Little Sac River.



Stan Temple presenting at the Land Ethic Conference.

## 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 2017:

- Increased Facebook "likes" to 1,377 during the year and twitter followers to 391.
- Wrote over 50 blog articles that were posted on our website, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Published the *WCO Quarterly Newsletter*, which increased circulation to 545 subscribers.
- "Swimming Upstream," by Ettie Berneking, *417 Magazine*, March 2017. This is an excellent follow-up article to "Rising Tide" about improvements in local water resources and the work left to do. Interview with Director Mike Kromrey.
- "SPS Partners with Watershed Commission for 'Green' Pilot," *Springfield-News-Leader*, March 5, 2017.
- KY3 story "Springfield Reduces Mowing along Creeks, Streams," May 18, 2017. Interview with Director Mike Kromrey.
- KOLR 10 story "Springfield's Urban Meadows could Help Reduce Flooding," May 22, 2017. Interview with Director Mike Kromrey.
- "An Interview with Mike Kromrey," KSMU, Michele Skalicky, July 14, 2017.
- "Thanks to Rep. Long for Protecting Water," Mike Kromrey, Executive Director, WCO *Springfield News-Leader*, Letter to the Editor, July 17, 2017.
- KICK 92.3, Morning Show host Steve Largent interviews Director Mike Kromrey about various water topics on October 2 and 16, September 9 and 18, and August 17, 2017.
- Drury University Communication students created a WCO PSA that aired throughout the year on local TV stations.

## Awards

### Partnership Award

Recently WCO was awarded the Partnership and Philanthropy award from the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF). MCHF advances the conservation and appreciation of forest, fish, and wildlife resources by applying financial resources to the priorities of the Missouri Department of Conservation in collaboration with donors and other partners. WCO was honored to receive this award during the conservation-related events surrounding the opening of the Johnny Morris Wonders of Wildlife Museum.



Director Mike Kromrey accepting MCHF Award.

## Our Board

### 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*



### Jason Hainline, Vice Chair

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)*



### Karen Spence

Karen Cordes Spence is the Associate Dean of the Hammons School of Architecture at Drury University. Karen grew up in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where her family was active in the Ozark Society's efforts to save the Buffalo National River. She has spent considerable time hiking, canoeing, and camping in the Ozarks. 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 she 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, hiking, and kayaking in the Ozarks with their two daughters, Sarah and Lauren.

*At-large, 1st Term Expires December 2018*





## 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*



### **Eric Dove**

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*



### **Dan Hoy, Secretary**

Dan Hoy's passion for the Ozarks water resources dates back to the early 70's, when he began floating and fishing the area's 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. Dan's inspiration in conservation causes is sustained by his work maintaining Bass Pro Shops facilities throughout the country, overseeing energy and waste management, and providing for environmental compliance. In addition to his 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*



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

The Watershed Committee raised over \$46,000 in 2017 through the Watershed Summer Gala event, participation in Give Ozarks Day through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, and gifts from 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 the City of Springfield, Springfield Plateau Grotto, MO Mycological Society, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Smallflows, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Stream Team, Ozarks Water Watch, and local businesses.

## 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.

## 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 support our outdoor education programs and Watershed Center Fellowship program. We had 84 donors, many of them new donors, and raised over \$6,400, whereas the year prior we raised around \$4,500. This event was a fun, unique way to raise funds for our programs and it was highly successful, overall.

## Watershed Summer Gala

We are excited to announce that our Watershed Summer Gala raised over \$33,000, exceeding our fundraising goal of \$20,000. These funds have helped us pay for our Watershed Center Fellowship Program and will enable us to keep pace with the growing demand for our education programs. At the event, the local food catered by Chartwell's was exceptional, and the new venue at the Darr Agriculture Center gave us room to grow, move around, and add the Watershed Bag Toss, which proved popular. 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, partners, and all who attended. Next year the Gala will be at a new location. Put Saturday, July 14 on your calendar for 2018!



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SUPPORTING





# Our Generous 2017 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.

## Watershed Summer Gala Sponsors

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## Silent Auction Donors

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## Give Ozarks Day Donations

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Adam DeBacker  
Adrienne Donica  
Allan  
Amanda Stadler  
Andrew Dierks  
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Barbara Armstrong  
Barbara J. Lucks  
Ben Parnell  
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Bill Scorse  
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Bob Belote  
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Carrie Lamb  
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Christa Gammon  
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Gabrielle White  
Greg & Martha Swick  
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Jeff Birchler  
Jack C. Ball  
Jamie Williams  
Janet  
Janice Greene  
Jennifer Dierks  
Jessica Spragg  
Jill Hays  
Jill Lohmeyer  
Jodie Adams

## Give Ozarks Day Cont. -

Jonathan Groves, Ph.D.  
Julie Leeth  
Karen Spence  
Kate Baird  
Kathleen Estes  
Kelly Bussell  
Kerry Tinklepaugh  
Kevin Waterland  
Krista Richardson  
Leslie Carrier  
Lindsay Tobin  
Lisa Berger  
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Tamera Jahnke  
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Terry Whaley  
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Wil & Emily Harrington

## Watershed Committee Donations

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Dan and Margy Chiles  
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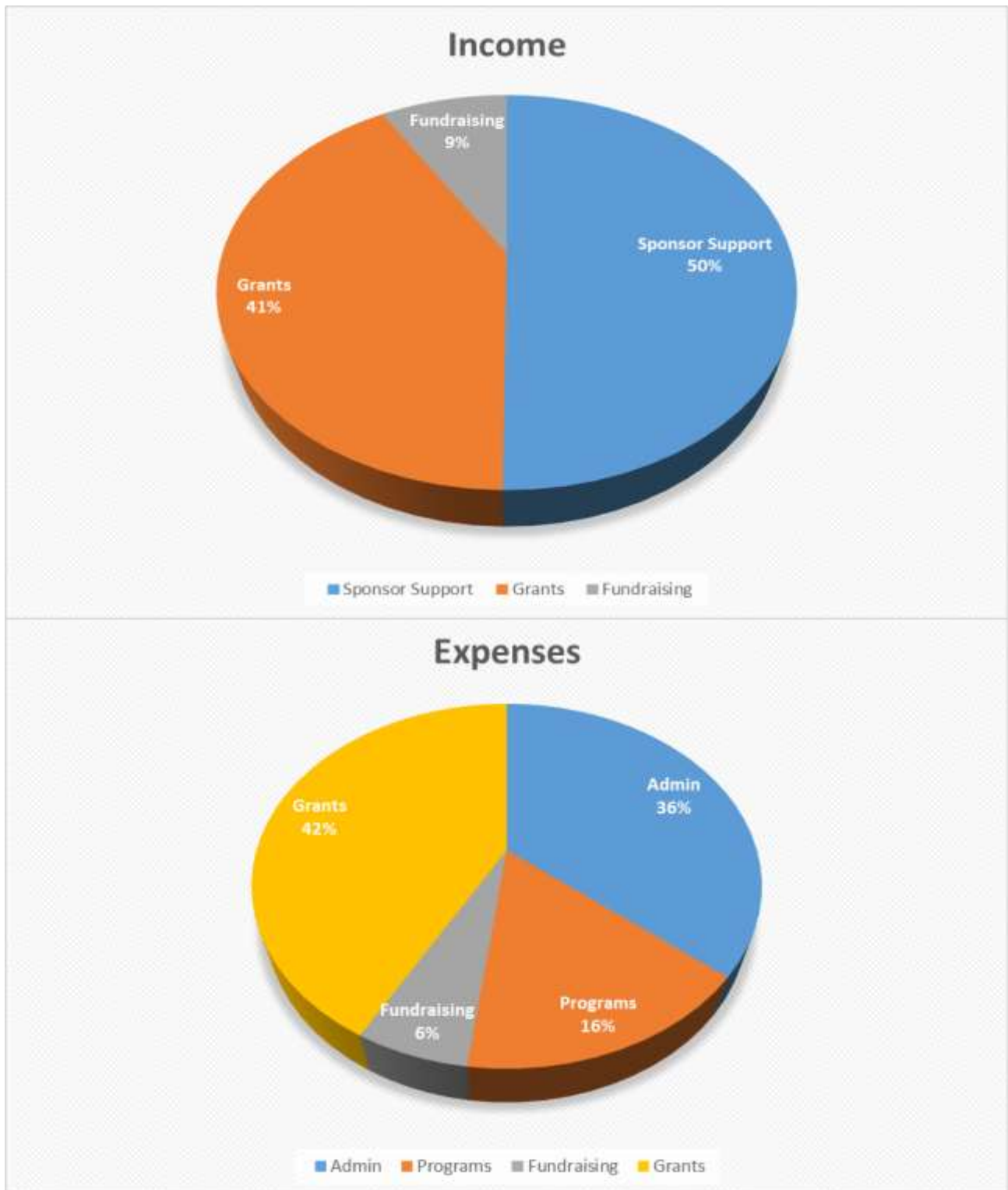
## C. W. Titus Education Facility Donors

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
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CONCO	Jonathan & Karen Jones	Sara Garretson
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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
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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. Income from these sources allows us to fund our education and outreach programs, implement grant work, maintain the Watershed Center, and provide other important services. Last year, 41% of our income came from grants, and this money is restricted to specific projects and programs, such as bird habitat improvements at the Watershed Center and our streambank stabilization project. Unrestricted funds support general operations as well as our education and outreach programs, including our collaborative efforts with Springfield Public Schools. Unrestricted funds also help us maintain and improve the Watershed Center and Valley Water Mill Park.





## Grant Activity

<b>Grant Project</b>	<b>Date initiated</b>	<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>Non-Local Funds</b>
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
<u>Corporate Agency Partnership Program-</u>			
Fishing Piers	2007	\$49,500	\$0
LAD Forestry Learning Station	2007	\$5,000	\$0
CFO Fishing Piers Grant	2007	\$30,000	\$0
Watershed Mgmt Planning Grant	2007	\$15,000	\$0
MO Recreational Trails Grant	2007	\$142,000	\$100,000

## Grant Activity (continued)

<b>Grant Project</b>	<b>Date initiated</b>	<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>Non-Local Funds</b>
Rotary Service Grant-Southeast	2008	\$4,500	\$0
USDA-NRCS CIG Grant	2010	\$100,000	\$50,000
Missouri Solid Waste Mgmt. District O Grant	2010	\$46,350	\$46,350
LAD Foundation	2010	\$4,000	\$4,000
DNR 319 Nonpoint Source Grant	2011	\$1,869,672	\$ 1,100,000
DNR Recreational Trails Grant	2011	\$ 143,090	\$85,000
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks Endowment</u>			
Grant	2012	\$ 1,000	\$0
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks Community</u>			
Response Challenge Grant	2012	\$ 6,000	\$0
LAD Foundation	2013	\$ 2,000	\$0
Source Water Protection Plan Grant	2013	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
DNR 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Amendment	2013	\$166,667	\$100,000
<u>DNR 319 Little Sac Restoration and Improvement</u>			
Project	2014	\$428,461	\$172,910
Missouri Department of Conservation	2014	\$ 6,500	
Our Missouri Waters Project	2015	\$ 64,000	
MDC Community Conservation Grant	2015	\$ 10,000	
<u>Community Foundation of the Ozarks</u>			
Community Innovation Grant	2015	\$ 11,000	
<u>DNR Little Sac Restoration and Improvement</u>			
Project Extension	2016	\$104,512	
Community Conservation Grant (MDC)	2016	\$ 10,000	
Community Conservation Grant (MDC)	2017	\$ 10,000	
Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Grant	2017	\$ 25,000	
HDR Solar Demonstration Grant	2017	\$ 80,000	
Lucky's Market Agricultural Demonstration Grant	2017	\$ 6,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$8,355,025</b>	<b>\$5,333,985</b>

## SPONSOR SUPPORT

<b>Organization</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
City of Springfield	\$45,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$45,000
City Utilities of Springfield	\$188,000	\$188,000	\$188,000	\$200,000
Greene County	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Springfield-Greene County Parks	\$14,300	\$14,300	\$16,000	\$16,000

## 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