

»» SUMMER NEWSLETTER ««



Watershed

Clean Water for Life.™



Pictured: Watershed Summer Gala

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Mike Kromrey

Working with water and people never gets old, but occasionally, something comes along to add inspiration and/or change the way we look at things. This weekend Mary and I visited the Exquisite Creatures exhibit at Crystal Bridges. Artist Christopher Marley creates truly exquisite works of art using items from nature, such as insects and shells. He proposes we all have a propensity to “biophilia” or love of nature, which relates to stewardship. He makes the connection this way:

“To aid us in fulfilling (our) obligation, we have within us an appreciation, an empathy, and an affection for the life systems around us. Thankfully, it is a symbiotic relationship. The more we grow in understanding and appreciation of the natural world and the more we invest in it, the greater the peace, satisfaction, and joy we receive from our association.” Well said Mr. Marley, and thanks for the inspiration. We look forward to working with you as biophilia driven stewards.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



We had an amazing time at the 2024 Watershed Summer Gala! The night was filled with joy, community spirit, and support for our mission as we celebrated 40 years of Watershed. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$53,000! Attendees enjoyed a first look at the conceptual design for possible expansion of the Watershed Center and participated in engaging activities like the duck race and square game. The silent auction featured amazing items from local artists and businesses, and the evening was filled with live music by the Lake Fellows, tasty tacos from Simply Delicious Catering, and beverages from Wire Road Brewing, 4 By 4 Brewing, and the Homebrewers Association. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported us as sponsors. You propell our mission to new heights!



EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

Summer is always a vibrant time for field trips to the Watershed Center, with more schools offering summer programs in June. This bustling period means our calendar fills up quickly, and unfortunately, we can't accommodate all field trip requests due to schools' limited schedules. Veteran educators know to book their preferred dates early in the spring to secure a spot.

Students excited to explore the stream



Johnathan guides a hike



As July and August roll around, we typically see a shift toward private and home school groups, making it an ideal time for collaborative programs. One standout event is Fantastic Friday, a joint effort with the Springfield-Greene County Library. Each Friday, their Mobile Library visits a new location, with the host organization providing additional activities. This year's "Wet and Wild" theme invited guests to explore the critters that rely on clean water. Despite rain-shortened festivities, the event was a great success with 174 participants.

Clarissa welcoming field trip guests



DAY OF CARING

United Way's Day of Caring was a huge success again this year. Day of Caring is typically the largest one-day volunteer event in Southwest Missouri. Local businesses and organizations assemble teams to support area nonprofits. We had three projects posted on the United Way site. We are fortunate that much like our field trips, the available slots for volunteers filled up.

Volunteers from Bass Pro, Springfield Contractors Association, and John Deere Remanufacturing assisted us with Valley Water Mill Lake clean-up, trail maintenance, and a variety of projects at Fellows Lake.

We could not accomplish our mission to protect and improve the region's water resources without the help of dedicated volunteers!

TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT:
WATERSHEDCOMMITTEE.ORG/GET_INVOLVED/





WATERSHED natives

Watershed Natives began the summer with a full lineup of wetland planting projects. Our interns gained valuable hands-on experience working with partners at various sites in the area. Our spring plant sales were a great success and we created space for meaningful education, outreach, and connections along the way!

FLOATING WETLANDS



This summer has been lively! Led by the **Missouri Department of Conservation**, the Floating Wetlands Project is a collaborative effort including City Utilities, City of Springfield, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri State University, Ozarks Technical College, and the James River Basin Partnership.



◀◀
*Interns
plant
wetlands
at Fellows*

Together, we designed and developed artificial wetlands without plastic components, by using recycled glass aggregates and aquatic plants to aid in stormwater runoff, filter contaminants, and absorb excess nutrients in our drinking water. These man-made “islands” have been placed in Fellows and McDaniel’s Lakes, furthering our mission by improving the water quality and providing educational opportunity.



NURSERY GROWTH

This spring, we launched a full schedule of sales at our new nursery location, adjacent to the City’s Yard Waste Recycling center.

This location has enhanced our community engagement and accessibility to native plants for both homeowners and community restoration projects.

In our second year of a Cooperative Agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation, we focused on office space development, constructing more aquatic growing ponds, expanding our tree nursery, and preparing the foundation for a new greenhouse.

Thanks grants from the HDR Foundation and FORVIS, we are installing a new greenhouse at the Nursery. Site preparation began in June, and construction will start later this summer. The heated greenhouse will extend the growing season for aquatic plants and tree seedlings.

FALL SALES

Fall is an ideal time for planting natives, as perennial wildflowers, grasses, and trees can concentrate on root development, ensuring their success the following year with minimal maintenance.

Join us for our fall sales:

Watershed Natives Nursery:

- 3452 S Farm Road 119,
- Brookline, MO 65619
- August 31st, September 28th, October 19th
 - 10 am - 2 pm

Wire Road Brewing:

- October 12th
 - 10 am - 2 pm



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT AT
WATERSHEDCOMMITTEE.ORG



*Aquatic
beds at
Watershed
Natives
Nursery*



ON THE WATER

Happy Summer from Dock 66! We have had a great summer so far and we are so grateful to all the families and individual customers who have already made Fellows a part of their summer fun.

As the hot days of July and August descend on the Ozarks, we are happy to see so many folks on kayaks, paddleboards, peddleboats and canoes.

The weekends are still busy with families from across Missouri that make the trip to enjoy some quiet time on the water, but, if you can, sneak away to Fellows after work during the week. Most weeknights, it's almost like a private lake - so peaceful.



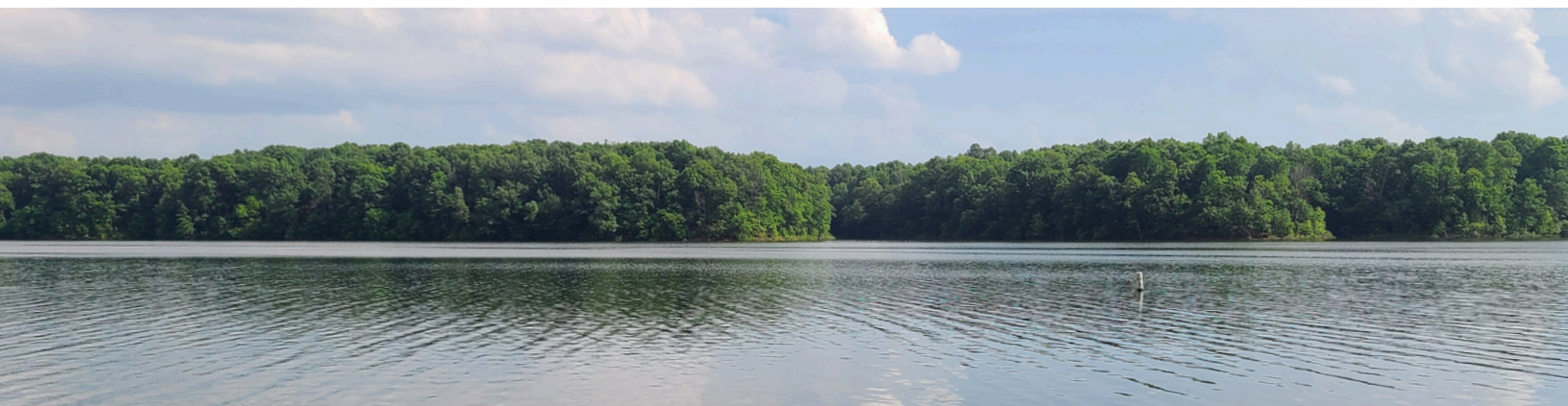
Family enjoys a motorboat



The Springfield Sailing Club has wrapped up two regattas for 2024, and the final regatta will be on Saturday September 7th - so mark your calendars and come watch the action.

Even better, sign up for sailing lessons or for a First Sail where you and three friends will join one of our sailing ambassadors on a 22-foot Catalina for a few hours in the wind!

Serene evening at the lake



FISHING

Our anglers have enjoyed a fantastic summer, reeling in plenty of bluegill, bass, and catfish. The unusually high water levels in July have extended the spring bite well into the summer season. If you're interested in learning the art of fly fishing, Fellows Lake offers an *Intro to Fly Fishing* class. Learn the basics of fly casting and catching with our staff anglers. Call the shop or visit our website for details.



Muskie at Fellows



Stay tuned for an update in our next Newsletter on the 2024 Fall Muskie Season! Lake Director Vince Currao will be leading muskie orientations again. Come chase 50" fish at Fellows!

COMMUNITY CORNER

Summer at Fellows Lake means special events. This season, we were delighted to host Missouri State University's Occupational Therapy Graduate Students for a day of accessible fun on the water for their clients and families. We extend our gratitude to our generous sponsors like The Hatch Foundation, Eric Peterson, and City Utilities for their continued support. For more details and updates, visit our website or contact the Fellows Lake shop

MSU OT Accessibility Event >>>



CONTACT THE SHOP



417-840-2965



FELLOWS-LAKE-LLC.SQUARE.SITE/



ON THE TRAILS

A huge shout out to our partners at Ozark Greenways and their trail volunteers. It has been a wet and windy summer and the trails have taken some hard hits. We are so fortunate to have our OG friends to rely on to keep the trails safe and clear. If you have not yet explored the almost 30 miles of trails at Fellows, you are missing half the fun of the lake. Come hike or ride your bike to experience the beauty of the lake from a new perspective!



Cyclists at MORC's Dirt Crit on Valhalla

FLOATING WETLANDS

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and partners, including Watershed Natives, have recently installed floating wetlands at Fellows Lake! These innovative structures provide habitat and help improve water quality by absorbing excess nutrients.

One of our crew members, Kayla, is a student at OTC studying animal sciences. With a growing interest in wetlands, she assists in monitoring the floating wetlands to support MDC. This project has provided Kayla with valuable opportunities to meet professionals and gain field experience.

Fellows Lake Crew on the 4th of July





TRAVELING CREW

Since April, the traveling crew has been actively addressing invasive species across diverse landscapes:

- **Buffalo River:** Surveying the upper stretches by canoe and on foot for invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).
- **TNC's Dunn Ranch, NW Missouri:** Targeted treatment of *Sericea lespedeza*.
- **Pipestone National Monument, SW Minnesota:** Invasive species treatments.
- **Arkansas Post National Memorial, SE Arkansas:** Ongoing invasive treatments.
- **Wilsons Creek National Battlefield:** Focused on invasive treatments and removals within a glade unit in the park.

The Watershed Conservation Corps (WCC) is deep into invasive plant season, tackling a variety of projects across the Midwest. Due to the seasonality of invasive plant management, this time of year is particularly busy for our crews.



*Surveying
Tree of
Heaven
on the
Buffalo*



*Managing
Sericea at
Dunn Ranch*

Later this summer, the crew will head to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in SW Indiana and then wrap up the season in various parks within Arkansas.

LOCAL CONSERVATION

The local crew has concentrated on their existing conversion sites, where they are replacing existing vegetation with a diverse mix of native plants. These sites, seeded over the past winter, are currently in the establishment phase, involving monitoring, brush hogging, and invasive treatments as needed.

The crew is also preparing new conversion sites for seeding this coming winter, working with private landowners and businesses.

The team is actively treating invasive species in the area to promote the health of native ecosystems and preserve our landscape:

- **Ozark Greenways, City of Springfield:** Various parks are receiving attention to control invasive species
- **Private Businesses:** Projects include Bass Pro Corporate HQ and Coca-Cola of the Ozarks
- **Private Landowners:** Assisting with invasive species management
- **Valley Water Mill Park:** Ongoing land stewardship on Watershed's "home waters"

Conversion Site at Springfield Catholic High School



UPPER JAMES RIVER 319 GRANT

On July 9, 2024, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources announced that the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks received a \$400,000 grant for restoration and improvements to the Upper James River. This funding, provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, is supplemented by a community partner contribution of \$266,800. This brings the total project cost to \$666,800. The project is expected to be completed in the May 2027.

The Upper James River Stream Restoration Project aims to design and implement streambank stabilization and to protect, improve, or establish the riparian corridor along the Upper James River. The project will help address the E. coli bacteria impairment of the James River by implementing best management practices outlined in the EPA-approved watershed-based plan, with a focus on critical areas.

Eroding Streambank



ONSITE WASTEWATER WORKSHOPS

On May 2, the James River Basin Partnership, Missouri Smallflows Organization, and Watershed held an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Inspection/ Evaluation Workshop for Real Estate Professionals. Participants visited the Onsite Wastewater Training Center, gaining valuable insights into onsite wastewater treatment systems. The workshop provided continuing education credits approved by the Missouri Real Estate Education Committee.

On June 4, Watershed and Missouri Smallflows hosted an educational onsite wastewater presentation and educational walking tour of the Onsite Wastewater Training Center.



Workshop at the Watershed Center



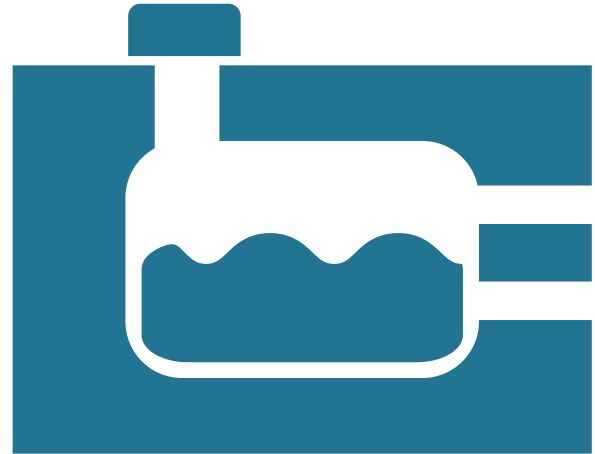
Fourteen homeowners attended the event and learned about how septic systems function and maintenance tips to extend the life of their systems. This workshop was funded in part by the EPA through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Tammy with Missouri Smallflows Organization discusses best septic practices



SEPTIC PUMP-OUT REBATES

Residents with septic systems in the Upper Little Sac Watershed are eligible for a \$60 septic pumpout rebate. This initiative is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. To receive the rebate, residents must fill out the rebate form at the time of pump-out and contact Watershed to confirm the availability of funds. The rebate form can be found at the link below:



TO FIND THE REBATE FORM, PLEASE VISIT:

WATERSHEDCOMMITTEE.ORG/UPPER-LITTLE-SAC-319/

