



Ozark Waters

VOLUME II, ISSUE 7

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

**CONTENTS**

FEATURE ARTICLE	PG. 1
UPCOMING EVENTS	PG. 2
BASIN NEWS	PG. 3
WATER NEWS	PG. 3

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- PETER HERSCHEND**  
PRESIDENT  
Herschend Family Entertainment
- MARTIN MacDONALD**  
VICE PRESIDENT - MISSOURI  
BASS PRO SHOPS
- TODD PARNELL**  
TREASURER  
DRURY UNIVERSITY
- PAUL CARTER**  
ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING GROUP, INC.
- LEON COMBS**  
RETIRED BUSINESSMAN
- ALAN FORTENBERRY**  
BEAVER WATER DISTRICT
- JACK HERSCHEND**  
HERSCHEND FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
- PAUL LAWRENCE**  
CARGILL MEAT SOLUTIONS
- JOHN L. MORRIS**  
BASS PRO SHOPS
- BEN PARNELL**  
RETIRED BANKER
- JOHN TYSON**  
TYSON FOODS, INC.
- JOE WHITE**  
KANAKUK KAMPS
- FOUNDATION STAFF**
- JOHN E. MOORE, JR.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MOORE@UWRB.ORG
- SARAH PADGETT**  
OFFICE MANAGER / PROJECT ASSISTANT  
PADGETT@UWRB.ORG

***As the Twig is Bent***

By John E. Moore, Jr.  
Upper White River Basin Foundation

If promoting awareness and understanding is essential to keeping our rivers, lakes and streams clean, then education, particularly of youngsters, must be a priority. Learning about watersheds---what they are, how they work, and how they can be threatened by runoff---is the substance of a series of "watershed festivals" conducted by the staff and volunteers of the James River Basin Partnership.

These day-long, hands-on workshops are offered to fifth grade youngsters from schools in Christian, Stone and Taney Counties. About 1,500 students will participate this year and next year the program will be expanded to include some 3,000 students from three additional counties, Webster, Greene and Barry. All six counties are within the James River basin.

Sarah Padgett, our office manager and program assistant at the Foundation, has been helping conduct sessions for this year's watershed festivals and last week I spent several hours observing the workshops and the substance of what the youngsters were learning. The setting was the Nixa Community Center, an inviting building with gymnasium and classrooms that was nearly ideal for accommodating a half dozen bus loads of active and energetic youngsters.

Fifth grade students come in all shapes and sizes, with girls and boys tending to



Watershed Festival participants create rain on a model demonstrating sources of pollution.

stick together separately in clusters of school chums. They are bright eyed and eager to have their daily routine disrupted by a diversion like a watershed workshop. They're eager to learn as well, but don't respond well to top down, self-consciously didactic lectures about new concepts like watersheds. Acknowledging these developmental characteristics, the workshop planners have emphasized active, hands-on learning exercises which engage the youngsters, working in groups of a dozen or so, in the subject at hand.

By crumpling a piece of paper, students create a rough topographic section, and then after using markers to color the high ground, they observe where water flows when rain (via a spray bottle) washes the color off the peaks and ridges into the valleys. Likewise, table top models of landforms constituting a typical watershed are used to demonstrate how rain, again via spray bottles, can create runoff which carries nutrients, soil and

## As the Twig is Bent

Continued from page 1

even septage (all sprinkled onto the model) into ditches, streams and finally into a lake. The youngsters, of course, do the spraying and respond to key questions prompted by the workshop leader. Other workshop sessions deal with macro invertebrates and how their presence indicates the biological health of streams.

The accompanying pictures suggest the rapt attention the youngsters gave to the workshop sessions. A special printed t-shirt was the prize for every youngster attending and it will be a reminder of all that they learned. An end of session survey quiz is administered to all the youngsters as a way to assess how much they have learned. A typical question (of 28 questions) is the following: "The gradual wearing down of land by water, wind or melting snow is called: a. erosion, b. pollution, c. watershed, or d. groundwater." The surveys have consistently shown significant gains in understanding about watersheds and the threats to maintaining water quality.

The watershed festival was taking place even as the community center was being used by adults, many of them seniors, for exercise. Many of these adults watched what was going on with considerable interest and I overheard an older gentleman say to his wife, "I wish they had some program like this for us, it's really quite fascinating." If we had programs like these for everyone who lived in the Ozarks, and if the learning impact were as powerful as it is for fifth

grade students, we would be way ahead in our efforts to assure the quality of our water resources. Let's hope the youngsters tell their parents about all they have learned.



Students create a watershed model during "Build Your Watershed."

For more information on the James River Basin Partnership's annual Watershed Festival, visit their website [here](http://www.jrbp.org).

## REGISTER ONLINE!

Planning to attend *Sharing Success: Lessons from Effective Watershed Organizations*? You can download the registration form, agenda and hotel information from our website [uwr.org](http://uwr.org).

Questions? Call us at (417) 334-7644 or email to [info@uwr.org](mailto:info@uwr.org)

## Water Warrior Nominations

Know someone whose work exemplifies commitment to water quality in the Ozarks? Nominate them for the Foundation's first annual Water Warrior award!

Open to all organizations and residents living and working in the upper White River basin, the Water Warrior award will honor both an individual and an organization for their commitment to keeping Ozarks water clean. Nominations are open to the public.

Letters of nomination should include details on contributions, leadership qualities and accomplishments an individual or organization has made toward preserving water quality in the upper White River basin area. Supplemental and supportive material may be submitted with the nomination letter.

Submit your nominee by February 29, 2008 to the Upper White River Basin Foundation, Attn: Water Warrior Award, PO Box 6218, Branson, MO 65615.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 21, 2008

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NACA) MONTHLY MEETING

First Security Bank Annex, 100 W. Emma Street, Springdale, AR.

Call (479) 586-3122 or [info@nwaconservation.org](mailto:info@nwaconservation.org) for more info.

### February 22 & 23, 2008

OZARKS NEW ENERGY CONFERENCE  
Springfield, MO

Visit [ozarksnenergy.org](http://ozarksnenergy.org) for more info.

### March 7, 2008

WATERSHED COMMITTEE OF THE OZARKS  
MONTHLY MEETING

Midtown Carnegie Library, 397 E. Central  
Springfield, MO

#### Presentations:

Peter Gleick, NPR—Looming Water Crisis  
Missouri DNR Update



## ***THE RIPARIAN PROJECT***

***Fayetteville – Hamestring Creek  
Rogers – Blossom Way Creek  
Siloam Springs – Sager Creek  
Springdale – Spring Creek***

***Saturday, March 29***

***8 am to Noon***

### ***What is a riparian buffer?***

*A riparian buffer is the area of land next to a creek, stream, or river - the streambanks and floodplain area. In nature, riparian buffers can include trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers.*

### ***Why are riparian buffers important?***

*Riparian buffers decrease streambank erosion, filter sediments and pollutants commonly found in runoff, provide stormwater storage, increase wildlife habitat, provide cooler water and air temperatures, and increase groundwater infiltration. Riparian buffers provide environmental and recreational benefits to creeks, streams, and rivers, and improve water quality and downstream land areas.*

***Partners: Springdale Tree City USA, ABC 40/29, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership, Siloam Springs Advisory Commission, Boy Scout Troops 84 and 122, Cub Pack 46, NOARK Girl Scouts***

**Contact Us: [deliahaak@irwp.org](mailto:deliahaak@irwp.org) 479-238-4671**



## BASIN NEWS

### **Oklahoma cries foul at litter for fertilizer**

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

<http://www.nwanews.com/adg/National/217012>

Edmondson is seeking a preliminary injunction to ban poultry litter from farm fields in the Illinois River watershed. A seven-day hearing starts Tuesday at U. S. District Court in Tulsa, where Edmondson and private attorneys hired by Oklahoma hope to convince Judge Gregory Frizzell that the watershed needs a litter moratorium.

### **Poultry growers, companies say lawsuit could hurt livelihoods**

The Morning News

<http://nwaonline.net/articles/2008/02/16/news/021708azpoultrylawsuit.txt>

Poultry farmers in the watershed could lose from \$39 million to \$77 million in the first year if the judge rules against them, said Jackie Cunningham of the Poultry Community Council, advocates for the poultry industry.

### **Poultry litter lawsuit opening up**

The Oklahoman

<http://newsok.com/article/3204464/1202965349>

"We can show that fecal bacteria from poultry waste is reaching the surface water and groundwater," Edmondson said. "We can point to areas where the bacterial count in runoff water from poultry waste disposal fields were similar to those found in raw, untreated human sewage."

### **Senate bill to repeal village law progresses**

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008802170380>

Lawmakers say they overlooked and passed the "village law" at the end of last year's session. It allows even a single landowner to create a village, independent of county regulation including planning and zoning laws previously approved by county residents.

### **Group raising funds for lake study**

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

<http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/217038>

The Northwest Arkansas Council, a nonprofit group that pushes economic development projects for the region, sent copies of a letter in September asking its members to help raise the \$500,000 needed to hire a consulting firm to complete a watershed management plan.

### **Senators question fee hike for water permits**

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008802160370>

Some senators are blocking a proposed 50 percent fee increase on clean water permits that has been promoted as a way to improve Missouri's water pollution control efforts.

## WATER NEWS

### **Freshwater supply is under stress**

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008802190321>

### **EPA pressured states on mercury**

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008802170348>

### **Lawmakers take on fish disease fight**

South Washington County Bulletin

[http://www.swcbulletin.com/articles/index.cfm?id=26916&section=outdoors.outdoor%20news&property\\_id=23](http://www.swcbulletin.com/articles/index.cfm?id=26916&section=outdoors.outdoor%20news&property_id=23)

### **Innovators see ocean as next wave in energy**

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

<http://www.nwanews.com/adg/Business/217232>

### **Stormwater runoff No. 1 in Puget Sound pollution**

The Wenatchee World

<http://wenatcheeworld.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080218/NEWS03/931470030>

## OPINION

### **MODERN TIMES : The coal rush**

Northwest Arkansas Times

<http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/Editorial/62288>

### **Undo the mischief of 'Jetton's Law'**

Lake Sun Leader

<http://www.lakesunleader.com/articles/2008/02/18/opinion/01.txt>

### **What a load of manure**

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080219/OPINIONS02/802190332>

