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# Butler County Stream Team

## May News - 2015

Volunteer Stream Monitoring in Southwest  
Ohio  
*Next Sampling Day - May 9*



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### Can't Sample?

If you can't sample on Saturday, please let us know in order to have someone else grab your samples. Whether it's the night before and you are feeling unwell, or if you know that you are going to be on vacation in August. We can be reached at the following cell numbers.

- Lynn White - [513-615-2538](tel:513-615-2538)
- Teresa Barns - [513-706-8991](tel:513-706-8991)

### Lab Sign Up

Remember to sign up at <http://doodle.com/8xwapepucesena4t> for the months you are interested in helping at the lab.

### Extra Sample Bottles

If you don't have a spare bottle, grab yourself one when you are dropping samples off at a cooler. We had a

### Stream Team Sampling Dates

May 9  
June 13

### Stream Team Upcoming Events

#### Macroinvertebrate Class.

May 16, Hopefully Indian Creek Preserve

#### Whitewater River Sweep.

June 20, Brookville, Indiana. [Contact Heather Wirth](#) for more details

#### Canoe / Kayak

**Outing.** June 27 on the Great Miami near Middletown

**Fishing Trip** - we need to plan a date

#### Creeking in the Parks programs for families.

If you would like to bring family members feel free. If you would like to help Lynn email her.

Forest Run MetroPark June 17, 10 am

Sebald Park, June 24, 10 am

Indian Creek, July 15, 10 am

Gov Bebb Park, July 22, 10

weird number of bottle caps escaping people in March. With no spare bottles on hand there were no spare caps, which led to some interesting methods of transporting bottles.

## Change of Cooler Location

We are losing the Oxford Farmers Market cooler. With the lab having moved across campus to Pierson, this is only a few blocks from the farmers market. If you currently use the uptown cooler, please start dropping your samples off at Pierson Hall. The cooler is inside the loading dock on the east side of the building on Patterson Dr.

The other coolers are remaining the same.

## Which Cooler Do you Use?

Do you always use the same cooler? When our coolers are picked up, we are never sure if all of the samples have already been dropped off. We would like for the cooler pickup people to be able to tell if all of the samples are there before they head off to lab. Can you please email Teresa [barnest@bceo.org](mailto:barnest@bceo.org) and tell her which cooler you use. If you move between two coolers such as Liberty Firehouse and Barn n Bunk, let her know.

## Biological Sampling AKA Critter Checkin'

**May 16, 10 am - 2 pm**  
**Indian Creek Metropark**

Join Lynn to learn about the critters in the creek and how to conduct Biological Sampling for Stream Team.

We will meet at 10 am at Indian Creek Preserve in Reily Twp. Please be aware that there are two entrances to the park and we will be at the lower entrance that runs along the creek. This entrance is off of St Rt 732 / Oxford Reily Rd.

The plan is to learn about the animals, eat lunch, then go and get wet and sample. We will not be incorporating microscopes. Instead, we will focus on the methods that you can use in the field as a stream team volunteer. We

am

## Canoe / Kayak Trip

Join Beth and Lynn for a float down the Great Miami. We think that we will do the section from Franklin to Middletown, but are willing to mix it up if anyone has any fun ideas. We have a few boats that people can borrow, or feel free to bring your own. If you bring your own, we can transport it from the end point to the start point upstream so that your car will be waiting for you at the end.

If you are interested in joining us, please email lynn with the following

- Number of people
- Whether you will bring a boat or borrow one of ours (limited supply)
- If you have had any experience canoeing or kayaking in the past.

## Other Events

### Wildlife Habitat

### Workshop: Wild for Wetlands

Saturday, June 27 at the Upper Valley JVS in Piqua, Ohio. [Find out more.](#)

### Holiday In the Parks

Chuck Holliday, and friends, organize many different days out in the parks, from volunteer events to

will be in the water after lunch using nets to collect our critters, then head back to dry land to sort and identify them.

**Please pack a lunch.** Please be aware, that there is a rest room at the park, but no facilities beyond that. Nope, not even a picnic shelter in this portion of the park, although there are picnic tables. So be warned. If its wet out, then yes we will be wet. Saying that, last time we were at this location Lara Askill from Metroparks and Donna got very creative with a mouse eaten tarp!

Please email Lynn to register or ask questions.  
[whitelr@butlercountyohio.org](mailto:whitelr@butlercountyohio.org)

## 2015 Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit: Cities, Businesses Strut Their Stuff

By Mary Cullum

This past Friday I attended the 2015 Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit. This was a day long conference designed to share "the latest ideas and best practices in environmental sustainability..." The Summit connects regional governments, businesses, and non-profits with resources and solutions to creatively solve sustainability challenges they face in their communities. It was a great way to find out the status of environmental sustainability efforts throughout our tri-state area.



I was truly impressed by the efforts being made in the

educational wildflower hikes.

Last weekend, over 40 volunteers helped pull Garlic mustard from Dudley Woods. This filled over 94 bags with garlic mustard! Special treat from Bill Walker and his culinary expertise, we even sampled some of our plant. Awesome results, thanks so much!

Special thanks for MetroParks staff for disposing of all the bags! Thought of the day: Think GOATS! Seriously, think GOATS!

Before



After



cities of Cincinnati, Hamilton, Dayton, Cleveland, Covington, and Indianapolis. Even though some initiatives were not exactly new ideas, the fact that these major cities are finally moving forward with sustainability plans is a milestone. The roundtable of city mayors each had an opportunity to report on their city's sustainability efforts. The common theme among the cities was recognizing the benefits of going green that improve the "triple-bottom line" of sustaining the environment, people, and economy of their communities. Some highlights included in Cincinnati's Green City Plan ([cincinnati-oh.gov](http://cincinnati-oh.gov)) are the award-winning efforts of Findlay Market in their sustainable urban agriculture project and food waste composting program; green electricity aggregation and LEED certified projects; and a plan to re-vitalize the Lick Run. The City of Hamilton highlighted their green permitting that has resulted in improvements to their riverfront such as a new amphitheater, clearing of derelict buildings, and repurposed buildings into affordable housing.



Other cities, such as Columbus, put the spotlight on their "Green Spot" initiative to engage businesses, households, and community groups in sustainable actions like conserving energy and water, reduce, recycle and reuse through a volunteer pledge program. Meanwhile, the city initiated environmental regulation compliance audits in some city departments to raise awareness of how employee jobs may impact the environment, what they can do to reduce those impacts, and what to do in an environmental emergency. One community-wide initiative in Columbus' 5-year plan is a tree planting campaign in low-income neighborhoods.



The City of Cleveland's approach in their sustainability plan, Sustainable Cleveland 2019, focuses on a different theme each year. This year is the "Year of Clean Water." The effort this year is collaboration with community partners to implement water education and outreach about the regional asset of abundant freshwater supply. In addition, the Cleveland Water Alliance is promoting water innovation in its "blue economy, ...the next generation of entrepreneurship that respects our ecosystem." Cleveland's other big problem, urban blight, is also an opportunity to reshape its city landscape by creating sustainable communities. By identifying certain areas as eco-districts and inviting the community voice to shape its vision, the city has razed 70% of its vacant buildings and created an Urban Agricultural Innovation Zone. Revitalizing these neighborhoods allows residents to support neighborhood services and businesses which improves the local economy.



Not only did each city have their own plan and develop creative ways for achieving their sustainability goals, they also shared some programs in common, such as tree planting and urban food projects in low-income neighborhoods, bike path projects to connect city areas, and inviting neighborhoods to come up with "green" projects to implement locally. Of course they all have websites that feature detailed information about their plans and partners, as well as ways individuals and companies can get involved.

There was no shortage of innovative solutions from the business community either. In break-out sessions, businesses showcased a wide variety of "green"

solutions, from green rooftops and energy efficient infrared heating products, to on-site filtered rainwater collection systems. There were many more innovative solutions, but unfortunately I couldn't attend all the sessions and didn't make it to all the vendor exhibits. There were just too many!



Cutting Edge Energy Efficiency Technology Breakout Session



Rainwater collection system

Summit presenters also agreed on several core principles that are critical for moving their communities toward an environmentally sustainable future. They all agreed that they accomplish more with community buy-in and participation than through mandating sustainability goals. Through collaboration with community stakeholders, they could make sustainability a cultural norm in their community. And by "open

sourcing” their plan logos, themes, and initiatives, they make it easy to increase community participation. The overriding principle that had unanimous consensus from the presenters was that the best chance of succeeding was to lead by example.

So just how green are these cities? A Star Community rating system for ranking how “green” cities are may help people figure that out. Indianapolis and Cleveland are pilot cities for this program. Judge for yourself. Go to these city’s websites, check out their plans and provide feedback. Better yet, get involved, attend a meeting, tell others, and get in a working group. That way you’ll help move your city forward in its sustainability goals. We have a long way to go and there are still plenty of problems to address. Ultimately, if these plans, initiatives, and innovations can help solve environmental problems, and can demonstrate that sustainability can give businesses an economic edge, then it will be a win-win for the environment and our economy.

*Photos courtesy of Brewster Rhoads.*

## **Floating Treatment Wetlands**

Donna McCollom and Hays Cummins recently installed Floating Treatment Wetlands on their property. Many of you have been invited in the past to visit their awesome property and this is just one more addition to make this area even more unique.

Floating treatment wetlands (FTWs) are a useful tool used to increase water quality of ponds and lakes. FTWs target excess nutrients in water, which are the main contributor to aquatic weed growth in ponds. Adding FTWs to a pond can also increase the biodiversity by providing additional wildlife refuge.

FTWs consist of a buoyant structure, or raft, which supports plants in a growing media over the water column. These plants are perennial, non-invasive emergent plants. FTWs mimic the function of natural wetlands, in that they filter and process nutrients, suspended solids, metals and other pollutants. Opposed to a traditional wetland, the plants will not take root in the soil. In a FTW the roots will stay suspended in the

water column in order for the plants to adjust to any fluctuations in water level without harming the plants.



Butler County Stream Team Monthly Newsletter

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