



"Occasional" Newsletter ☺

Volume 3, Issue 4, December 27, 2004

*From the office of Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District
Caroline McColloch, Education Specialist*

In This Issue

1. November 20th Volunteer Meeting
2. Mini-Grant Proposal Submitted to ODNR
3. Montgomery County Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

Fourth Volunteer Meeting of 2004 Held in November

There was a lot of territory to cover in our final meeting of the year. Thirteen Stream Team members attended, and we also had two guests from the Wolf Creek Watershed Partnership (see story #4), Gary Watts and Chris Brooks. Not all topics were covered to the same depth, but here is the list:

- Toxic Spill Report from Division of Wildlife
- Summary of 2004 Monitoring Data
- Safety Considerations for Volunteers
- New Monitoring Equipment
- Wolf Creek Watershed Partnership
- Stormwater Outfall Mapping Project
- Watershed Signs

The final report from the Division of Wildlife regarding the termite pesticide spill and subsequent fish/amphibian/macrobenthic kill has not been completed yet, even though the event occurred last April 24th. I have made many phone calls to the Division offices in Xenia and Columbus, and will continue to follow-up until we can get the official version of the investigation report. It appears to me that the major reason for such a delay is understaffing.

I spent way too much time hand graphing all the data collected at each of the five sites we monitored this year, because I haven't yet become proficient at using the computer program that will do this for you automatically. All that one needs to do is type the numbers into a table, rather than write them on the hard copy, then presto! A visual representation of your data over the season is just a few clicks away. I was lucky enough to hook up with the District's 2004 Scholarship winner, who is an expert in using Microsoft Excel. As we speak, Felicia Schirack is entering this year's data into Excel. Then we will be able to post it on our web site and create graphs easily. Felicia is also interested in possibly volunteering some of her time between classes to assist with some of the Stream Team administrative tasks.

In our spring volunteer meeting, we will be reviewing use of our new Hach colorimeters, and some safety precautions to keep in mind during stream monitoring activities. Portable eye wash

equipment will be added to the kits. As a reminder, any liability incurred during your volunteer work is covered under the Federal volunteer program called Earth Team.

The Wolf Creek Watershed Partnership (WCWP) is making good progress. This is a group of representatives from the six local governments in the Wolf Creek watershed – Clay & Perry Townships, Brookville, Clayton, Trotwood, and Dayton. Our office and several other environmental agencies are working with the Partnership to guide long term efforts aimed at reducing stormwater runoff from developed areas, as well as targeting prioritized sections of Wolf Creek for restoration. Our current work involves formulating a work plan to conduct a study of the watershed. In this manner, problems can be documented before considering possible solutions.

A pilot project of sorts was conducted in October, involving representatives from Trotwood, Clayton, Montgomery SWCD, Miami Conservancy, the Wolf Creek Stream Team and over 40 students from the University of Dayton. We fanned out into eight sections of Wolf Creek to map and document stormwater outfalls from west Dayton to Trotwood and Clayton. It's part of the efforts of these local governments to comply with new stormwater management regulations. We are hoping to make this an ongoing and vibrant partnership.

Rich Barksdale has done some detailed mapping and research to locate landowners in Clay Township where we might be able to install Wolf Creek Watershed signs. This is one of our proposed strategies for overcoming the resistance most local governments exhibit about placing the signs in the road right-of-way.

Mini Grant Proposal Submitted to Ohio Department of Natural Resources

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation at ODNR annually sponsors the Watershed Action to Watershed Awareness (WAWA) grant. I submitted a proposal that if granted, would fund all of our monitoring kit supplies for the 2005 season. We would also be able to purchase nine pairs of hip waders and nine pairs of chest waders in a full range of sizes. They would be kept here at the SWCD office for use by Stream Team members and others involved in the stormwater outfall mapping.

Montgomery County Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

Trish Brechlin made arrangements for a tour of one of the regional County wastewater treatment plants. Gus Kamphaus and Margaret Flinn were able to attend. Interestingly, there was a Miami University graduate student (I worked with her on a watershed research project), who also attended. I'm sure it's quite a bit more involved than the Brookville WWTP. Although my workload didn't permit me to attend, it's likely we could arrange another tour, if enough folks are interested. I just spent an hour trying to insert the photographs Gus took, but their file size is too big for my little computer!

Until next time,
Be well, do good work, and keep in touch!

Caroline