

WOLF CREEK STREAM TEAM

Stream Team Times

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Margaret demonstrates her commitment to stewardship

Newest Member Completes First Year

Meko heard about the Stream Team from a 2005 article in the Brookville Star, and attended her first volunteer meeting in June. She is a life-long member of the Brookville area, whose family has a tradition of community service. She has always had an interest in environmental issues and felt that getting involved in the Stream Team would be a good way to fulfill this interest, while giving back to the community.

She received initial training in stream monitoring from the program coordinator (yours truly) in the summer and fall, later joining Steve Krieg and Rich Barksdale to observe and assist at the Westbrook monitoring site. Starting with the spring season this year, Meko helped out at the Heeter Rd. site in April and May,



Stream Team member Meko and husband Brent Boose, also a member of the Brookville Planning Commission

finishing out the season helping me at the West Dayton site.

Meko says she has had much fun while learning a lot. Her love of outdoor photography has nicely complimented the opportunities at the various monitoring sites, and we have used her photographs for various promotions. Although not comfortable "doing science" she has

really enjoyed being outside for the stream monitoring, finding out that the science involved is, in fact, quite doable for the average citizen. Some of the other benefits of being involved in the Stream Team include knowing that the many contributions of each member create a positive, cumulative impact in the watershed. We have raised public awareness and established credibility with local governments as stewards of Wolf Creek. We learn how natural resources are involved in our everyday decisions and political life; in short, you could say that Stream Team members exemplify what it means to be a better informed voter. Congratulations Meko!

Two Veteran Members Moving On

As they say, all good things must come to an end, and the same is true for volunteer work. Nancy Bain and Margaret Flinn both joined the Stream Team at the very beginning, attending the workshops conducted in the summer of 2002. They each gave four years of dedicated service, for which we're thankful.

Nancy Bain is a retired English teacher who has been very involved in many community groups and events that support natural resource conservation and stewardship—Native Plant Society of the Miami Valley, Greenways of Greater Dayton, and others. Nancy has decided

to pare down her commitments to so many groups ("Yes Virginia, there is such a thing as volunteer burnout"! ha ha).

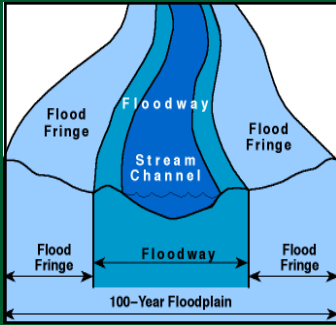
Margaret Flinn is a retired Nun associated with the Maria Joseph Catholic order. Her diligence in attending volunteer meetings and completing scheduled stream monitoring sessions was impeccable. She was also involved in several of the River Cleanup events sponsored by Five Rivers Metroparks.

Many friendships were formed through Nancy's and Margaret's activities in the Stream Team. Best wishes to you both !



Nobody likes being stereotyped, but Nancy gives the term "tree hugger" a good name !

Floodplains: Jurisdictional No-Man's Land ?



Floodplains are an essential feature of healthy streams



Rain Gardens: water-loving plants in a depression area that receives runoff



Green Roof: plants act like sponges— water slowed & filtered



Pervious Pavers

I recently received a phone call from a Trotwood resident complaining about trucks dumping fill dirt at the edge of Wolf Creek just east of Snyder Rd. “ Aren’t there regulations against this?” she inquired.

Well, to be perfectly honest, it seems like there should be, but I didn’t know, and perhaps I should, as an employee of a soil and water conservation district... 🤔

I have noticed over the years that the average citizen generally assumes the “Government” (local? Township? Federal?) has regulations to prevent bad things from happening to the environment. This isn’t always the case.

The good part of the story is that if I don’t know about something, I can usually find someone who does (AKA networking); So commenced more than a few phone calls:

1. Local resident with related Experience
2. Miami Conservancy District
3. Army Corps of Engineers
4. Montgomery County Building regulations Dep’t.
5. ODNR’s Division of Water
6. The City of Trotwood

And here is what I’ve learned so far. Ohio has very weak or non-existent (state-wide) regulations over flood plains, unlike Indiana, for example; floodplain regulation is unique to each state.

Miami Conservancy District has jurisdiction only over floodplains where they maintain the flood control levees (i.e. near downtown Dayton)

Ohio EPA has jurisdiction only if there is a toxic spill involved. If it’s solid waste dumping, then the Health Department or the Solid Waste District has authority.

The Army Corps of Engineers is usually involved in permitting the relocation of a stream channel i.e., filling in the old stream channel and creating a new one. This is the so-called 404 permit process (referring to a section of the Clean Water Act)

Wouldn’t it be nice if we had a single government department in charge of (all aspects of) streams and rivers? Maybe we could call it the Watershed Department....

Typically, the Corps does not have jurisdiction over floodplains on private property. *However, it does have authority if the stream features, its tributaries or wetlands are involved.*

In this case, a 404 permit might be required. Sometimes there is a ‘general’ permit issued for a large geographic area, called the Nationwide permit. In the case of the Trotwood site, we checked the Corp’s data base and found no record that a general permit had been issued.

Meanwhile, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Water, issues model language for floodplain regulations; each local government is subsequently responsible for the adoption and enforcement of some version of the suggested regulations, as well as designating a floodplain manager. Failure to do so disqualifies that local government from receiving emergency funding for damages resulting from flooding.

As of press time, the City of Trotwood had issued a stop work order, and further investigation by the Corps of Engineers is still a possibility.

It’s common sense that if you fill in the floodplain, the flow patterns will be changed, quite possibly in a way that is harmful to one’s neighbors, which includes the stream’s aquatic community. The challenge that will ever be before us is, how do we as concerned citizens deal with land owners who do not understand this or refuse to

Low Impact Development Update

Progress is being made in Brookville to get urban conservation on the ground. Tom McCoy, a local developer, is building ten new homes in a wooded area next to the new Brookville Schools campus. Mr. McCoy is a conservation-minded person and had worked extensively to design lots and homes that preserved existing natural features, such as forest areas, while enhancing them with additional landscaping. Partnering with the Miami

conservancy District (MCD) and EnvisionWorks, Inc., a local company that specializes in conservation design, McCoy Homes Inc. expanded the project to include low impact land use practices that reduce stormwater runoff and increase infiltration to the aquifer. With funding from a Targeted Watershed Grant that MCD received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2004, each home will have a rain garden and a driveway made of pervious pavers. These

practices will reduce the amount of runoff that would have otherwise flowed to Brookville’s municipal storm sewer. The runoff will now infiltrate through the pervious pavers and rain gardens into the ground, filtering out pollutants and replenishing the aquifer. Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with MCD are pleased to see the City of Brookville work with a local developer to begin implementing innovative land use practices.

Creature Corner : WATER PENNY

The Lovable Water Penny

“How do I love thee?” says the hypothetical stream enthusiast... This may sound kind of hokey, but I have heard more than one Stream Team member get positively smitten with Water Pennies! Maybe because they’re so easy to identify, or because of the way they so diligently move across that rock you looked under. Plus the word penny, reminds us of a modest, sometimes sentimental part of our economy. Like the Panda as poster child for the World Wildlife Federation, the Water Penny seems to be the poster child of the aquatic macroinvertebrate world.

It’s scientific name is *Psephenus herricki* - the most common species, occurs only in the eastern part of North America. They have flat, flexible plates on the dorsal (or back) side, but underneath, on the ventral (belly) side, you can observe three pairs of legs, a distinct head / thorax / abdomen, and external gills.

When feeding, they’re adapted to scrape off the thin film of algae and diatoms (microscopic animals) on the rock surfaces. Their jaws have a thin, sharp inner edge, much like a paint scraper. The cupped shape of the jaws, along with hairs at the bases, help push the dislodged material into their mouths.

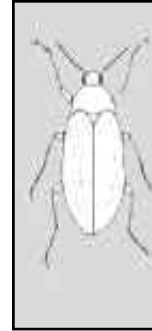
Water Pennies take 1 or 2 years to complete their



Dorsal View



Ventral View



Adult

Order: Coleoptera

Class I: Pollution sensitive

They are usually observed on the sides and bottoms of rocks and logs just above the water surface in riffles, where they congregate for mating in Summer. Females enter the water to deposit their eggs in small patches (about 5 x 7 mm) on stones. Each patch contains 400-600 bright yellow eggs in a single layer.

Like most clingers, Water Pennies can’t tolerate rocks that acquire a thick layer of algae, fungi, or inorganic sediment.

Life Cycle. Mature larvae crawl out of the water a short distance to pupate in protected locations on rocks. Little is known about the adults. They are thought to be short lived and probably do not feed.

Issues of Concern

Other than the floodplain issues mentioned on the previous page, no other issues have come to my attention recently.

So I’d like to use this space to describe some thoughts I had while corresponding with the Trotwood citizen mentioned earlier. You might say this is an editorial of sorts.

Government exists to maintain community services and

undertake projects too large or complex for individuals to address. Citizens as taxpayers are entitled to expect these services. However, citizens also have a responsibility to work with their local governments to help shape the kinds of communities we want. When we encounter a natural resource issue such as floodplain management, it is often very complex. For those

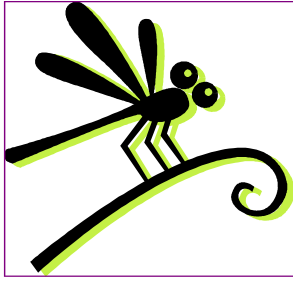
concerned enough about it to take action, here’s my suggestion:

1. Educate yourself about the issue.
2. Identify other people in the community who share your concern
3. Get to know your local government officials and work with them to address the issue



Problem Solving Begins with Asking Questions.

Ideally, we want to be looking at problems before situations become deadline driven and contentious. This kind of proactive involvement is in everyone’s best interest, including the natural world we love.



Wolf Creek Stream Team

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*The Wolf Creek Stream Team is **citizen stewards** joined by our common concern for the health of the Wolf Creek watershed. We are committed to providing long term monitoring data and learning opportunities to the communities of the Wolf Creek Watershed.*

*We are working to **raise public awareness** of and involvement in **water quality issues**, in order to protect, restore and enhance our common water resources for public health, recreation, and wildlife habitat.*



Next Quarterly Volunteer Meeting Friday December 8th

- **Time: Friday, Dec. 8th, 6:30 pm**
- **Place: District Office, 10025 Amity Rd. Brookville**
- **Dinner — chip in for pizza or potluck (?)
To Be Announced**
- **Agenda to follow, but will include report from Brookville Biology student on analysis of our stream data to date, 2003-2006**

