

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**, to promote, protect, and enhance our common water resources for public health, recreation, and wildlife habitat.



Next Quarterly Volunteer Meeting Friday March 2nd

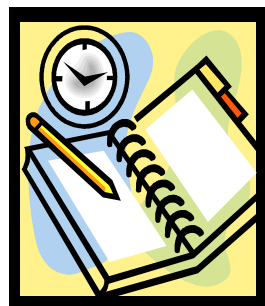
Time: 6:30 -8:00 pm

Place: Montgomery SWCD Office

Dinner: Pizza / Potluck

Agenda:

1. Schedule Monitoring Dates
2. 2007 Plans
3. Data Analysis
4. Wetland Regulations Update



Mark Your Calendar!

Please RSVP if you're not able to attend.

WOLF CREEK STREAM TEAM

Stream Team Times

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WINTER 2007

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Proposed 2007 Goals

Spring is approaching as the Wolf Creek Stream Team begins its fifth year of stream monitoring. Some of the proposed ideas for 2007 goals will be discussed at the first quarterly meeting on March 2nd. The other scheduled meeting dates are: June 1st, September 7th, and December 7th. Each meeting will be on a Friday night, 6:30-8:00 pm at the District office. We traditionally share a pizza and potluck dinner.



Five goals are being proposed, encompassing public outreach and program development. The possible outreach activities are 1) procure and distribute a brochure about non-point source pollution, with a printable version on the Stream Team web site; 2) Stream Team news published in local municipal newsletters, and 3) publication of stream quality data analysis.

Program development items include watershed mini-grant funding for kit supplies, and helping members attain the Qualified Data Collectors certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each year, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation (of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) has modest funding available for local community watershed groups. This program has helped fund stream kit supplies in the past. It is interesting to note that the value of the time put in by volunteers in 2006, totaled \$4,260. This was based on a total of 184 hours donated by 10 volunteers. Each of our five sites are monitored once per month from April through October. Volunteer time counts on grant applications as 'in-kind' services. New to the kit this year will be test sets for Coliform bacteria. The source of Coliform bacteria in streams includes failing septic systems, leaking sewage pipes, livestock manure or pet wastes washed into storm drains.

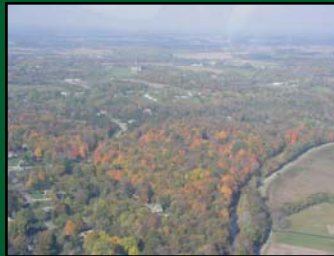
Ohio EPA has established guidelines for three levels of expertise regarding stream data collection. Level 3 involves college course work and certified testing by EPA; Level 2 requires certain college courses as well as monitoring experience in the field and laboratory. Level 1 certification means that the group is affiliated with a local organization that supports surface water monitoring that maintains long-term data collection, and that the members have been trained through a certified monitoring program. The Wolf Creek Stream Team members will be looking into becoming Level 1 Qualified Data Collectors

Anyone with an interest in water quality and community involvement is welcome to attend any of the quarterly meetings or contact Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District for more information. You can also get information from the Stream Team web site, www.wolfcreekstreamteam.org, or the District site at www.montgomeryswcd.org. Other volunteer jobs are available besides stream monitoring.

Ohio Watershed Coordinator Program



A 3 Dimensional Drawing of a Watershed



Riparian Areas - Stream Channels Buffered by Trees or Vegetation- are Critical for Protecting Water Quality



Crop Residue, Woodland and Wetlands are Islands of Natural Habitat in the Modern Landscape

A community-based group such as the Wolf Creek Stream Team has a 'cousins' in the form of the State-supported Ohio Watershed Coordinator Program. This article will describe the program, so you'll have a broader perspective on your work.

Beginnings
In 2000, the Ohio Watershed Coordinator Grant Program was established by Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Conservation (wouldn't it be easier to say ODNR-DSWC?), with partnership help from conservation agencies such as Ohio EPA and other ODNR divisions. Initially, the program funded 18 watershed coordinator positions state-wide. As of 2006, 29 watershed coordinators receive support from this program.

Funding
Financially, support also comes from local funding within each watershed organization's community partnerships. The 2006 budget for the Watershed Coordinator program was nearly 2.3 Million. Of this total, about 30%, or \$681,000 was provided locally, with the State program partners supplying nearly 1.6 Million. This is saying a lot, considering that the State of Ohio's budget for the last several years has been experiencing

significant shortfalls in revenue. State funding is managed through several legal entities: Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Nonprofit Organizations, Regional Planning Organizations, Park Districts, Community Action Commissions, and Universities. In the long-run, ODNR-DSWC is committed to identifying and obtaining additional secure funding to expand and increase the value of the Ohio Watershed Coordinator Grant Program.

Program Components
The primary activities of a watershed coordinator are related to working with local stakeholders to develop a comprehensive Watershed Action Plan. The overall goal of the plan is maintenance of the watershed's chemical, physical and biological integrity.

The first six years of the program has been to support watershed coordinators and Watershed Action Plan development, which has to go through an endorsement process. This is a rigorous process designed to insure that action steps in the plan result in measurable water quality improvements.

The next phase of the Watershed Coordinator Grant program will focus on the implementation of

endorsed Watershed Action plans. These can be viewed at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/nps/NPSMP/WAP/WAPendorse.html>.

Some plan implementation has already occurred in several watershed organizations. Chagrin River Watershed Partners have purchased riparian conservation easements and several local governments have adopted setback ordinances for streams and wetlands. The Sandusky River Watershed Coalition has raised local funds to help homeowners replace failing home sewage treatment systems. The Friends of the Olentangy River Watershed have established a backyard conservation program to help homeowners implement conservationally sound yard and garden practices.

Although the Wolf Creek Stream Team does not have a full-time watershed coordinator, we have still been able to establish a significant community presence through various public relations initiatives, highlighting our stream monitoring work. By developing a study plan, establishing a Certified Data Collector Status, and publicizing the data analysis, we will continue to build on this good foundation.

Creature Corner : DAMSELFLIES

Order: Odonata



Larval form



Adult form

Both Dragonflies and Damselflies are in the same insect order, Odonata. This scientific name comes from the Greek word *Odon*, which means tooth. This refers to the mouthparts of the adults, the lower jaw of which has many jagged edges.

Damselfly adults have a delicate appearance, and fly sporadically. Hence, they were named for misconception that was widely believed during medieval times: women are frail, fragile creatures.

Almost all larvae live in still waters, hence the larger numbers of Damselfly larvae are found at the Heeter Rd. site, which has the slowest flow regime compared to the other monitoring sites.

Like Dragonflies, Damselflies are engulfer-predators, either stalking or ambushing their prey, attacking with a unique lower lip that has movable parts, which is not found on any other insects, either terrestrial or aquatic. They use them like fingers, leaving all six legs free to maneuver and hold on to the substrate of the stream bottom.

All species will eat any type of prey that they can subdue. The size of their prey increases as the larvae grow. They often feed on zooplankton, then switch to larger invertebrates such as mayflies.

survive without them. Dissolved oxygen can also diffuse across the skin of the entire body and enter the air tubes lying underneath.

Different species of Dragonflies and Damselflies emerge throughout spring, summer, and early fall. Females can lay eggs directly on the water or onto emergent plant leaves. Generally there is one generation per year. They spend about 10 months in the larval stage, shorter if in a warmer climate, and longer if in a cold climate. Adult longevity ranges from 2 weeks to 2 months. They can capture their prey while flying, and have excellent vision because of their compound eyes with almost 10,000 facets and the ability to rotate their head almost 360 degrees.

Damselflies don't have internal gills like dragonflies, but three featherlike gills at the end of their abdomen that look like narrow leaves. These are fragile and are sometimes broken off, but they can

Wetland Regulations

Jim Henderson has been tracking the planning process for Montgomery County Sanitary Engineering's installation of a sanitary sewer line. It is adjacent to his monitoring site on the North Branch of Wolf Creek. Jim is to be commended for his proactive approach in communicating regularly with county officials; they know that he is interested in their planning, and a member of the Wolf Creek Stream Team. I've been helping Jim to research the status of a wetland that might be impacted by the construction project.

We found the wetland officially designated with a geological description on a U.S. Department of the Interior National Wetlands Inventory Map. We are also working on communicating with Ohio EPA to find out if this wetland is jurisdictional, and if so, what specific regulations pertain to it. We'll follow up at the next meeting. Tune in to the next volunteer meeting for an update. Meeting minutes will be going out to members unable to attend.



Problem Solving (or Avoidance) Begins with Asking Questions.