



PROCEEDINGS

Environmental/Conservation Education Summit held August 10, 2007 at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center

Attending (full organization profiles are included in the EE/CE Directory)

Name	Organization	E-Mail
Barbara Lucks Facilitator	Choose Environmental Excellence; Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods; City of Springfield Public Works Dept.—Storm Water Services Division and Solid Waste Management Division	blucks@ci.springfield.mo.us
Kimberly White Assistant to Facilitator	City of Springfield Solid Waste Management Division	kwhite@ci.springfield.mo.us
John Waitman	City of Springfield Sanitary Services	jwaitman@ci.springfield.mo.us
Dave Fraley	City Utilities of Springfield	Dave.fraley@cityutilities.net
Michelle Garand	Community Partnership of the Ozarks	mgarand@communitypartnership.org
Pamela Herd	Dickerson Park Zoo	pherd@dickersonparkzoo.org
Emily Fox	Discovery Center of the Ozarks	efox@discoverycenter.org
Wendy Anderson	Drury University	wanderson@drury.edu
Linda DuBrul	Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails	outdoorprogram@dogwoodtrails.org
Alice Counts	Greater Ozarks Audubon Society	alicecounts@att.net
Tim Smith	Greene County Resource Management	tsmith@greenecountymo.org
Shae Johnson	Greenwood Lab School - Mo. State University	ShaeJohnson@missouristate.edu
Holly Neill	James River Basin Partnership	hneill@missouristate.edu
Melissa Bettes	James River Basin Partnership	melissabettes@missouristate.edu
Lois Detrick	League of Women Voters	ldetrick@mchsi.com
Donna Bergen	League of Women Voters	dbergen3@sbc.global.net
James D. Lubbers	M.D.N.R. Field Services Division -- Jefferson City	jim.lubbers@dnr.mo.gov
Jan Weaver	Mo. Environmental Education Association and University of Missouri - Columbia	weaverjc@missouri.edu
Russ Traphagan	McBride Elementary	rtraphagan@spsmail.org
Dr. Janice Greene	Missouri State University	janiceGreene@missouristate.edu

Jay Barber	Mo. Dept. Conservation and Springfield Plateau Missouri Master Naturalists	jayBarber@mdc.mo.gov
Kristen Pattinson	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources	kristen.pattinson@dnr.mo.gov
Carrie Smith	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources	carrie.smith@dnr.mo.gov
Victoria Lovejoy	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources	victoria.lovejoy@dnr.mo.gov
Tina White	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources	tina.white@dnr.mo.gov
De De Vest	National Resource Conservation Service	Dede.vest@mo.usda.gov
Elizabeth Aull	Nestle Purina PetCare Company	elizabeth.aull@purina.nestle.com
Jennifer Ailor	Ozarks Friends of the Environment	jennifer.ailor@hotmail.com
Gina Wycoff	Phelps Elementary	gwyckoff@spsmail.org
Cynthia Andre	Sierra Club White River Group	Csandre1@aol.com
Linda Chorice	Springfield Conservation Nature Center	Linda.chorice@mdc.mo.gov
Doug Neidigh	Springfield-Greene County Health Department - Air Quality	dneidigh@ci.springfield.mo.us
Melvin Johnson	Springfield-Greene County Park Board - Outdoor Initiatives	mjohnson@ci.springfield.mo.us
Gopala Borchelt	Table Rock Water Quality, Inc.	gopala@lvbw.net
Bridget Dierks	Tree City U.S.A. / Stewardship Ozarks / Community Foundation of the Ozarks	bdierks@cfozarks.org
George Van Hoesen	U.S. Green Building	george@usgreenbuilding.com
Mike Kromrey	Watershed Committee of the Ozarks	mike@watershedcommittee.org

Facilitator and event coordinator Barbara Lucks opened the Summit by welcoming the attendees and asking each attendee to introduce themselves and the organization they were representing.

Following opening remarks, Barbara gave an overview of the ground rules for this year's Summit. Attendees were asked to keep the focus of discussions toward education, rather than advocacy of any particular position - remembering that true education provides information to stimulate the desire to investigate and to learn more. Also, this year, rather than going over 2006 recommendations and discussing the progress made, all attendees were furnished with copies of the proceedings from the first two summits, 2005 and 2006, for their own references.

Self-introductions and updates were given next. Each organization was given the opportunity to introduce themselves and their professional or voluntary role, which organization they are representing and highlight any updates they would like to

share. They were also given the opportunity to pass along any handouts at that time to go along with their update.

Barbara Lucks gave reports for those who were unable to attend: Todd Wagner and Carrie Lamb, Springfield Public Works Storm Water Division; Howard Fisk, Boy Scouts; and Misty Mitchell, Wonders of Wildlife Museum.

Following the update session, Barbara Lucks introduced this year's topic "No Child Left Indoors". She shared her thoughts regarding this issue and how important it was to all of the attendees, our communities and all of those who reside in the outdoors -- humans and wildlife. Some of the comments included:

- The positive effects of the outdoor experience for children related to their value of and respect for the outdoors as exhibited later in their adult lives.
- We, as a group, care about and respect the natural environment and we work to help others gain an appreciation of our natural environment.
- In order to protect our natural environment and its inhabitants, we must be responsible for instilling the value of the outdoors in the next generation. As we "hand off" to the next generation, we must prepare them to accept it, value it and share our passion for protecting and preserving it in hopes to pass it along to their children's generation.

The landmark book "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv was cited as the first publication to really put a name on what becomes of those who lose this tie with nature or never develop those ties - "Nature Deficit Syndrome". The writer also puts forth the theory that in order to appreciate and value our natural environment, we must spend time with nature in our childhood - playing, exploring, and bonding with our natural world.

Issues / Brainstorming Session

Attendees then broke into four groups to discuss four aspects of this year's topic "No Child Left Indoors". Issues and comments are as follows:

1. How do we reach the children?

How do we get them outdoors?

Encourage educators to use gardens, hunting, and fishing activities as

learning opportunities
Recognize the difference between Urban and Rural
lifestyles/attitudes

How do we keep their interest outdoors?

Utilize human "guides" in Parks—Formal and informal
Use activities that challenge kids
Use stair-step approach to activity levels

Action Items

- Host an Environmental/Conservation Summit for families and extended family
- Utilize a Clearinghouse of Environmental/Conservation websites with links--(www.ozarksenvironment.com)
- Implement "No Child Left Inside" (Legislation) as a reference
- Contact Legislators—Holistic Environmentally Friendly Communities
- Get the Internet outdoors rather than indoors—Reality vs. Cyberspace
- Promote family activities involving the outdoors

Possible Roadblocks / How to get around them

Outdoor dangers, fears and safety issues—"Hold their hand" and through education and experience, show them it's OK, small steps—how to avoid danger, injury, etc.

Participating Organizations

All Organizations involved with the Environmental / Conservation Education Summit and any others wishing to be involved

2. How do we reach parents and address their concerns?

What makes parents want their children to connect with nature?

- Parents' experiences as children with nature and the outdoors
- Connections with nature and the outdoors are appropriate for all ages
- It's a great way for parents and children to connect with each other
- Builds trust between parents and providers = get to know them personally

What are their concerns? (ex.: predators, bugs, getting dirty)

- Safety concerns such as: heat, strangers, poisonous critters, etc.
- Expense, limited financial resources
- Time—conflicts with work, sports, etc.
- Parents lack of knowledge in particular settings while in front of children—embarrassment

How can we ease them?

- Truthful information on threats and how to overcome them
- Clear organizational policies:
 - Background checks for staff and volunteers
 - No kids alone with staff members
 - Staff trained in First Aid and CPR
 - Staff trained in Risk Management / Lawsuit cases
- Scholarship opportunities
- Media Literacy—To reduce over exposure of negatives and not enough exposure to the positives
- Educational information for parents to study before outdoor experience—“mini workshops” for parents/adults

Action Items

- Websites on safety issues for organizations and parents
- Accurate information for parents on subjects such as ticks and how to deal with them
- More promotions on scholarships available—organizations sharing and promoting each others' scholarship information as well as communicating with the parents
- More scholarship sources (Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Stewardship Ozarks)
- Interest inventory or Needs Assessment to determine barriers
- “Send the Story Home with the Kids”—scrapbook, etc. from activities they have explored—talking about their experiences can make the parents feel good about their decision to let the child get involved—can also help achieve “word of mouth” promotion
- Connect with others such as Parents as Teachers, Foster Parents, etc. and give access to educational programs and training

Possible Roadblocks / How to get around them?

- Time - Work within other existing programs

- Expense - Look at scholarships; check-out materials, gear, grants, etc.

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3. How can we support ongoing efforts?

What are some of the ongoing efforts?

- Missouri Department of Conservation Field Trip grants for elementary through middle school
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources - Targeting grants for High School students
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - Core Data (Website)
- Legislation - HR 3036 - Bill - No Child Left Behind Act of 1965 - NAAEE supporting "No Child Left Inside" legislation as an alternative to NCLB
- Watershed Festivals offered free of charge
- Higher Education / Student Service Learning- more opportunities for students to work with non-profit agencies and take their experiences back to the school
- Note: Refer to the Directory of Environmental/Conservation Education and the Community Resource Guide (available on www.ozarksenvironment.com) for information on existing programs, efforts, etc.

What can we do to help each other? Action Items

- Forward any updates or new information to each other/organization represented here at the summit as well as others—also www.ozarksenvironment.com
- Spread the word using organizations as mentioned last above - Student Service Learning, etc.
- Utilize www.ozarksenvironment.com as a clearinghouse or center for funneling information for families
- Prepare a simple 1 page "quick start" literature to get attention, get started, etc.
- Offer workshops (WET, WILD, etc.) for Teachers (most 6 hours—possibly offer shorter)

- Spread the *Community Resource Guide*, *Environmental/Conservation Education Directory* and other guides to further audiences - more groups, organizations, individuals
- Format guides and directories to be searchable by subject, grade level, or possibly even age

Possible Roadblocks / How do we get around them?

- Student Service Learning not always available
- Time - teachers do not have the time
- Budgets for continuing programs - easy to get start up financing but hard to keep sustained

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4. How can we fill the gaps where programs / projects do not exist?

What are some of those gaps?

- Media coverage of activities - the need for more media coverage before the actual event to increase attendance
- One comprehensive community calendar—possibly on www.ozarksenvironment.com
- Nature activities to younger children (Pre-K, Kindergarten)
- Nature activities in urban settings
- Involvement with Foster Children Programs
- Achieving Sustainable funding support

How can we address them?

- Help parents become more comfortable with the outdoors (see previous discussion)
- Revise schoolyard landscape practices to be more natural - open with trees, etc. = experience outdoors at school without the need for "trips"
- Provide camping equipment for families to check out as well as proper training in how to use the equipment - possibly Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts could help with this
- Apply for grant funding to purchase check-out gear, equipment, etc.

Action Items

- Speak to media outlets about lapse in coverage as well as community calendars
- Provide activities for younger children such as pre-k and kindergarten
- Bring nature into the urban settings through outdoor classrooms, gardens, etc.
- Make an extra effort to get all available information regarding programs and opportunities to the Foster Parent Programs and Groups
- Community based WOW school - smaller, but in more locations - focus on 2-3 things - inexpensive (example: \$10 statewide) - or even smaller - neighborhoods (example: Roundtree Neighborhood Sun. 2-5 pm)

Possible Roadblocks / How do we get around them?

- Transportation Issues - Utilize Outdoor Classrooms
- Children do not know how to have free time to enjoy the outdoors - everything seems to be so structured
- Liability issues at schools and childcares for taking children away from structured site
- Achieving sustainable funding support

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Surprise Door Prizes

A new item at this year's summit included door prizes that were given away at the end of the Summit: 4 copies of "Last Child in the Woods" donated by Barbara Lucks, and "Environmental Education Materials: Guidelines for Excellence" from NAAEE donated by James Lubbers, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

A Brief Review of Updates

During Self-Introductions, attendees also reported on these activities, which related to their organizations and discussions of the 2007 Summit.

Choose Environmental Excellence; Show Me Yards and Neighborhoods; City of Springfield Public Works Department - Storm water Management and Solid Waste Management - Barbara Lucks - Barbara gave reports on the following: *Wonders of the Outdoors Learning Facility (WOLF School)*—This is a new 5th grade program from R-12 Springfield Public Schools and will be taking approximately 35 students. This is not a gifted program. The students will spend their entire 5th grade year in this program. It will be housed at the Wonders of Wildlife and is anticipated that students will have multiple field experiences each week. Two teachers will be hired to create curriculum and implement the program. Projected start date will be Fall 2008.

Interpreters Coalition—The Interpreters Coalition of Springfield/Greene County just completed their annual Freewheelin' Friday event which was a great success. Their newly updated Community Resource Guide is now available at www.ozarksenvironment.com.

Eco-Tips/Events—Each organization was asked to send Barbara 30 days worth of daily environmental/conservation factoids or tips for publishing in a new feature in the Newsleader. She also asked for dates of significance to their organization, such as America Recycles Day, Earth Day, etc.

State of the Environment Report—The 5 year project that includes an assessment, public surveys, and recommendations is now complete. Organizations are invited to become a part of the implementation process. The completed report, including opportunities, will be available at www.ozarksenvironment.com.

Opportunities—The Environmental Collaborative meets at the Community Partnership of the Ozarks on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:30am. Leaders and representatives from these attending organizations are invited to attend.

Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Inc.
330 N. Jefferson • Springfield, MO 65806
(417) 888-2020 • (417) 888-2322 fax

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks meets the first Friday of each month at 7:30am. From time to time there are vacancies on this board. Members are appointed by City Utilities, City of Springfield, and Greene County. If you have an interest, contact Loring Bullard for more information at: 866-1127 - Meetings are open to the public.

The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board now has open spots available. Members are appointed by the City of Springfield and Greene County. If

you have an interest you may contact Karen McKinnis at: 864-1623 - Meetings are open to the public.

www.OzarksEnvironment.com --Barbara reminded the attendees that the website www.ozarksenvironment.com was created following the recommendations from the first Environmental/Conservation Education Summit in 2005. Organizations are welcome to send news items, "wishlists", volunteer opportunities, special events, etc. to Barbara for posting. They are also encouraged to promote the site as a local bulletin board.

www.springfieldmogov.org/showmeyards

www.springfieldmogov.org/cee

www.springfieldmogov.org/recycling

City of Springfield Sanitary Services - Wastewater Operations - John

Waitman - John reported on how Wastewater Operations is assuming a proactive, good stewardship role in protecting and preserving our water quality resources: Closed Circuit Television for Sewer Main Inspections; Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Rehab / Repair; S.C.A.T. Program - Sewer Capacity Assurance Team; Industrial Pretreatment; Wastewater Treatment; Education. While the City of Springfield Wastewater Operations is undertaking these initiatives, each user of the wastewater collection system has a role in making sure these tasks are adequately completed. He reminded us that the stream basins in Springfield - Jordan Creek, Wilson Creek, Galloway Creek, Sac River, South Creek, Fasnigh Creek, Pea Ridge Creek, and Lake Springfield are used by city residents and visitors to observe or directly access these natural resources for many different uses. Countless species of wildlife depend on the quality of these streams. For more information, log onto:

www.springfieldmogov.org/egov/publicworks

City Utilities of Springfield - Dave Fraley - Dave Fraley reported that customer participation in CU's rebate program has been encouraging. The program began October 1, 2006 and has offered rebates on compact fluorescent light bulbs, Energy Star® rated programmable thermostats, and home insulation. The next round of rebate offerings will focus on water conserving devices. Details of the new program are available on the CU website, www.cityutilities.net. CU has also completed installation on new emission control equipment on two generating units at the James River Power Station. The advanced burner design will reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by about 40%. Additional burner controls will be installed on the largest James River unit later this year. That will be followed by an even more effective control device on Southwest Power Station Unit 1 in 2008.

Community Partnership of the Ozarks - Michelle Garand - Michelle reported that the CPO continues to support the Environmental Collaborative.
www.commpartnership.org.

Dickerson Park Zoo - Pamela Herd - Pam reported that new classes are scheduled to begin this fall and will be fun for all ages as well as get those involved outdoors everyday. Themes include: September - Make New Friends, October - Who's that Lurking in the Shadows, November - Animal Enrichment, December - Felines at the Zoo. For further information or to checkout other classes and upcoming events the Zoo has to offer, visit them on the web at:
www.dickersonparkzoo.org.

Discovery Center of Springfield - Emily Fox - Emily reported that the Discovery Center's new expansion is complete and has earned LEED Gold Certification. The entire building serves as an environmental/conservation education experience with exhibits and kiosks showcasing the buildings "green" features. In addition, a special activity (similar to a scavenger hunt) calls attention to these features. For more information, visit their website at: www.discoverycenter.org

Drury University - Wendy Anderson - Wendy reported on the Environmental Sustainability Initiatives for 2005-2007:

Oversight—Establishment of ad hoc Sustainability Council (2005); Formal establishment of President's Council on Sustainability (2006); Recommendations for establishing a Director of Campus Sustainability to begin fiscal year 2007—Established position in 2007; Policy recommendations for all new construction and major renovations to meet LEED certification standards; President John Sellars publicly signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (January 24, 2007), and was part of the leadership Circle of the first 25 presidents who signed this.

Academic—Convocation Series and Campus Theme of Sustainability for 2005-2006; Faculty Development Workshops for Sustainability in the Curriculum—disciplinary majors and programs, and Global Perspectives curriculum; development of on line library resources on sustainability topics; numerous courses focusing on or addressing environmental issues and other issues on sustainability.

Operational—Expansion of campus recycling program; hiring of part-time student recycling coordinator and a student recycling assistant; exploration of possibilities for food service food waste composting; development of campus-wide energy management plan with Trane; exploration of alternative energy sources or generation; ongoing replacement of old shower heads, sink faucets, and toilets with newer water conserving styles; conversion of paper supplies to minimum 30% post-

consumer recycled paper; reorganization of office supplies ordering system to order less frequently and in bulk to reduce supplies costs, minimize packaging, and decrease transportation costs, including associated greenhouse gas emissions from such transportation.

For more information, visit: www.drury.edu

Girl Scouts - Linda DuBrul - Linda reported on the many upcoming events and opportunities going on with the Girl Scouts. For more information on events and opportunities, visit www.dogwoodtrails.org. Reports were also given regarding the number of Girl Scouts recycling phone books has doubled this year.

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society - Alice Counts - Alice reported that the Audubon Society is an advocacy group creating habitats for native plant species as well as for birds. They now have an educational kit, Audubon Adventures, for school teachers to check out provided free of charge in hopes to get students outdoors more. She has started a Native Plant Nursery that will be seasonal. Many of the plants may be viewed this fall at the Nature Center. For more information, log onto: www.greaterozarksaudubon.org

Greene County Resource Management - Tim Smith - Tim reported that the City and County is currently upgrading their construction design standards and they will be conducting seminars beginning in September, every Thursday for ten weeks. A comprehensive groundwater study is underway—last done in the mid 80's. This will give information to ascertain changes in groundwater levels. Best management practices for building and developing are exhibited in projects at Ward Branch and Habitat for Humanity's Legacy Trails Low Impact Development. The Greene County campus will be doing an extensive energy audit in 2008. For more information, log onto www.greencountymo.org

Greenwood Lab School - Missouri State University - Shae Johnson - Shae reported that "going green" has spread through the Greenwood Laboratory School. Examples include recycling of paper each day by the 8th grade students. Shae also reported that they are in the process of teaching the students how to be service oriented with service learning projects. Seniors are encouraged to participate in a capstone activity and community service project. For more information, log onto: <http://courses.missouristate.edu/ShaeJohnson>

James River Basin Partnership - Holly Neill - Holly reported on the many projects underway and completed by the James River Basin Partnership. Projects include: Completion of the James River 319 Grant Project (five year project) -

Clean Water Kids; River Rescue; Project Participant Meetings; Promotion of Smart Growth; Websites and Toll-Free Hotline; Public Outreach and Education; Television Public Service Announcements; Current Newsletter and Informational Brochures; "Get Pumped" (Septic System Testing Incentive) and "Get Tested" (Urban Soil Test Program) Campaign; Riparian Corridors; Well Closings; Agricultural Better Management Practices - Woodland Protection, Agricultural Nutrient Management Plans, Pasture Improvement and Planned Grazing; Rain Barrel Rebate with Greene County, City of Springfield Public Works and City Utilities of Springfield; EPA Poultry Grant; Stormwater 319 Grant; Environmental Stewardship Project - Community Foundation Grant with City of Springfield Stormwater Services Division and Solid Waste Management Division; Water Quality Improvement Project; Finley River Bacteria Study; River Rescue Event - Annual Bass Pro Garage Sale for Conservation, River Clean-up, Benefit Concert; and County Wide Watershed Festivals. For more information, log onto: www.jrbp.missouristate.edu and www.jamesriverbasin.com

League of Women Voters - Lois Detrick - LWV continues to support environmental sustainability efforts. For more information, log onto: <http://lwvsqf.home.mchsi.com/>

Missouri Department of Natural Resources Field Services Division—Jefferson City - James D. Lubbers - James reported on a recent project sponsored by DNR. The project revolves around field trips and environmental career awareness and is targeted at high school teachers and their students who are enrolled in Environmental Sciences/Studies classes. For more information, log onto: www.dnr.mo.gov/

Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA) - Jan Weaver - Jan shared information regarding ways to use the Missouri Resource Assessment 1998 Spectral Diversity Map of Missouri prepared by MEEA. She also encouraged those present to join and support MEEA. Their annual conference will be held December 1, 2007 in Kansas City. For more information, log onto: www.meea.org

McBride Elementary - Russ Traphagan - Mr. Traphagan reported on his efforts to incorporate the outdoors in his work with students. He is working with the Park Board and their many outdoor activities (including SPARC), which involve children of all ages—elementary, middle school and high school. Along with his outdoor efforts, he is also teaching children about bike and scooter safety, nutrition and heart disease. Upcoming events include "Are You Faster than a Fifth Grader?" to be held September 15, 2007. For more information, <http://sps.k12.mo.us/mcbride/>

Missouri State University - Dr. Janice Greene - Dr. Greene reported that the University has a lot going on with the new school year beginning. They are currently working on renovations to improve their energy use. The Bull Shoals Field Station renovations are well under way with two houses having the ability to sleep ten, as well as camping accommodations. Fundraising plans have been made for this fall to help with the future expansion of the "Mincy House" dormitory/education center. Dr. Greene also reported that the University is looking for Student Learning opportunities for their students for the semester. Janice also announced that Missouri Project WET (water education for teachers) is now being hosted by Missouri State in cooperation with the City of Springfield, Greene County and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. For more information, log onto:

www.missouristate.edu

Missouri Department of Conservation / Springfield Plateau Missouri Master Naturalists - Jay Barber

Missouri Department of Conservation: Ongoing conservation education efforts include: Completion of a summer grant program involving five area teachers that were awarded the funds for teaching in an outdoor classroom, giving the children the opportunity to experience nature, leadership. - He is assisting in the discussion of the new Hickory Hills School being a "green" school. For more information, log onto: www.mdc.mo.gov

Master Naturalists: Fall training is soon to begin with mandatory orientations to be held on August 13 and 14, 2007 at the MDC Southwest Regional Office here in Springfield. Training is set to begin in September and end in late October. For more information, log onto: www.monaturalist.org or e-mail Jay Barber at Jay.Barber@mdc.mo.gov.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources - Victoria Lovejoy/Carrie Smith - In lieu of listing MDNR activities, Victoria reiterated MDNR's support for environmental education and expended a willingness to work with the groups attending any way they can. For more information, log onto: www.dnr.mo.gov/

National Resource Conservation Service - De De Vest - De De gave an update regarding the assistance provided to the community. NRCS provides conservation planning and technical assistance to clients (individuals, groups, and units of government). These clients develop and implement conservation plans to protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) within their social and economic interests. For more information regarding the type of assistance provided by NRCS, log onto: www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/

Nestle Purina PetCare Company - Elizabeth Aull - Elizabeth reported on how well the Girl Scouts are doing collecting phone directories with Project Re-Directory (Now Project Pet Litter - phone book recycling). They have doubled their numbers from 2006. She also reported on current recycling partnerships Nestle has which include City of Springfield, Greene County, Discovery Center, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Springfield Public Schools. For more information on Nestle Purina PetCare Company, log on to: www.biggreenbin.com

Ozarks Friends of the Environment - Jennifer Ailor - Jennifer reported on the numerous activities this new organization has completed. A brief overview includes: In February, Dr. Wendy Anderson of Drury University presented "Global Warming 101" at a combined meeting of the Audubon Society and Sierra Club. In April, as part of Earth day, their film festival on climate change featured five films for adults and children shown over two weekends at public venues and at the Discovery Center. The films were then donated to the Springfield Greene County Library to start a "Conservation Collection". In May, they sponsored a booth at ArtsFest and gave away more than 200 Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs to people who had not used them before as well as talking to approximately 1500 people about increasing energy efficiency in their homes.

OFE's key activity of the year will be held on October 9th from 7-9pm at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center called "Ozarks Solution to Climate Change" For more information, please contact: Hank Kimbell at 417-736-9117 or e-mail at hankkimbell@yahoo.com

Phelps Elementary - Gina Wycoff - Gina reported that in January, February and March she will host Public Forum Debates with 5th graders that will be accessible to Springfield Public Schools. For more information, log onto: <http://sps.k12.mo.us/phelps/>

Sierra Club White River Group - Cynthia Andre - Cynthia reported on the activities for 2006-2007 for the Sierra Club. Activities included: Eight monthly programs open to the public on various environmental topics including ethanol plants, groundwater issues in the Ozarks, sustainable lifestyles, using biofuel in conventional vehicles, environmental lobbying and global warming; organization of a coalition of groups with environmental interests (including 5 youth groups!) to work on increasing public awareness of air quality and global warming issues; and organization of a coalition of businesses, organizations, agency staff and individuals interested in promoting green building in our area. They have established a demonstration rain garden at the Watershed Center at Valley Water

Mill Park in partnership with the Watershed Committee and with assistance from MDNR, MDC, Advanced Lawn, Missouri Wildflowers Nursery and the Springfield/Greene county Parks Department. For more information about the White River Group or upcoming events, log on to: www.missouri.sierraclub.org/wrg

Springfield Conservation Nature Center - Linda Chorce - Linda gave reports regarding the efforts of the Springfield Conservation Nature Center to further conservation education on and off site. Annually, they are involved in over 950 programs as well as have over 30,000 visitors. Some of the programs offered for children include Babes in the Woods, Little Acorns, Kids Club and Conservation TEEN Club, Hiking Club, and others. Some current events for August included: Hunter Education—held on August 17, 2007 and Insect - O - Rama—held on August 24, 2007. For more information on the Nature Center or upcoming events, log onto: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/springfd

Springfield/Greene County Health Department - Air Quality - Doug Neidigh - The Air Quality Control Division of the Springfield-Greene County Health Dept. has been working with CPO to create a new regional air quality committee. The new program is called the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance (OCCA). This alliance is made up of representatives from area local governments, private businesses, state organizations, non-profit groups and the general public. The purpose of the alliance is to proactively address air quality issues and implement projects/programs to reduce air emissions and improve the air quality in the region. A new website has been developed for this alliance. It can be found at www.showmecleanair.com. Members of the alliance have already begun applying for grants to implement projects to reduce air pollution in the area.

The Air Quality Control Division added a new fine particulate matter air monitor. This new monitor provides real-time information about fine particle pollution in the ambient air. This monitor allows the department to provide daily air quality forecasts for fine particles. Now, both ground-level ozone and fine particle levels are forecasted and posted on www.airnow.gov. Also, the Newsleader posts the daily air quality forecast in the newspaper. Ozone forecasts and monitoring data will be posted on the website from April-October. Fine particle levels and forecasts will be posted on the website all year. For more information, feel free to log onto: www.springfieldmogov.org/health/airQuality

Springfield/Greene County Park Board Outdoor Initiatives - Melvin Johnson - Melvin gave reports regarding the ongoing programs and activities with the Park Board's Outdoor Initiatives Program. He gave an overview of the number of

individuals participating in these various programs and activities with a grand total of 11,033 from fall of 2006 through the summer of 2007. These particular programs and activities include: Cave Science and Adventure Skills, Environmental Education and Literacy, General Utilization of the Outdoor Classroom, and Outdoor Hazards, Safety, and Skills. Other programs and activities available through the Outdoor Initiatives Program include: Caving, Canoeing, Nature Hiking, Camping, Wonders Down Under Cave and Karsts Program and Water Quality Skills. Melvin also mentioned that the Outdoor Initiatives Program will be moving to their new location at Valley Water Mill within 2-6 months. For more information, log onto: www.parkboard.org

Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc. - Gopala Borchelt - Gopala gave a brief project overview: their National Onsite Wastewater Demonstration Project—a \$2 million grant from the EPA to conduct a demonstration project to compare various methods of managing decentralized wastewater treatment systems, such as septic tanks, in their region; Ozarks Clean Water Company—formed through the National Onsite Wastewater Demonstration Project; their Pumpout Program; annual shore-line cleanup in April, and the Americorps Stream Team volunteers they currently utilize. For more information, log onto: www.trlwq.org

Tree City U.S.A. / Stewardship Ozarks / Community Foundation of the Ozarks - Bridget Dierks -

Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee - This is a City of Springfield appointed Committee that advocates for trees and tree related issues. They have been very active in educational issues since the ice storm. For more information, log onto:

<http://www.springfieldmo.gov/egov/publicworks/operations/grounds/treecity.html>

Community Foundation of the Ozarks / Stewardship Ozarks - The Community Foundation of the Ozarks has launched Stewardship Ozarks Initiative as an effort to strengthen regional organizations that are committed to conservation efforts in the Missouri Ozarks. The program includes three main strategies designed to help achieve these goals: Targeted grantmaking, planned giving development, and \$1,000,000 challenge for conservation—an endowment building challenge. For more information, log onto the Community Foundation of the Ozarks website at:

www.cfozarks.org

U.S. Green Building - George Van Hoesen - George reported that the interest in Green Building in Springfield is very strong, evidenced by the Discovery Center's new LEED Gold-level expansion and the Watershed Center's planned Gold-level project. For more information on Green Building, log onto: www.usgbc.org/

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks - Mike Kromrey - Mike reported on the numerous things happening with the Watershed Committee this year including that the Capital Campaign for the new Watershed Center is underway. Several learning stations at the site are now complete and available for tours and group activities. For more information, log onto: www.watershed.committee.org