



PROCEEDINGS
Environmental/Conservation Education Summit
held August 15, 2008
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@springfieldmo.gov
Kimberly White Assistant to Facilitator	City of Springfield Solid Waste Management Division	kwhite@springfieldmo.gov
Carrie Lamb	City of Springfield Storm Water	clamb@springfieldmo.gov
Cara Shaefer	City Utilities of Springfield	Cara.shaefer@cityutilities.net
Pamela Herd	Dickerson Park Zoo	pherd@dickersonparkzoo.org
Laurie Duncan	Discovery Center of the Ozarks	lduncan@discoverycenter.org
Doug Neidigh	Drury University—Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions	dneidigh@drury.edu
Charles Burwick	Greater Ozarks Audubon Society	ozarkbirder@gmail.com
Vanessa Brandon	Greene County Resource Management	vbrandon@greencountymmo.org
Tim Davis	Greene County Resource Management	tdavis@greencountymmo.org
Shae Johnson	Greenwood Lab School - Mo. State University	ShaeJohnson@missouristate.edu
Holly Neill	James River Basin Partnership	hneill@missouristate.edu
Melissa Bettles	James River Basin Partnership	melissabettles@missouristate.edu
Lois Detrick	League of Women Voters	ldetrick@mchsi.com
Pat Stevens	Master Gardeners of Greene County	Pstevens03@yahoo.com
Janet Wreath	Master Gardeners of Greene County	wreathj@yahoo.com
Dr. Jill Black	Missouri Environmental Education Association—MEEA	ablack@missouristate.edu
Erica Cox	Missouri Project W.E.T. (Water Education for Teachers)	Erica@missouristate.edu
Robert Hamilton	Missouri Solid Waste Management District "O"	robertchamilton@centurytel.net
Alexander Wait	Missouri State University	alexanderwait@missouristate.edu
Jeff Brown	Missouri State University	jbrown@missouristate.edu

Dr. Janice Greene	Missouri State University—Bull Shoals Field Station	janiceGreene@missouristate.edu
Dr. Melinda Gutierrez	Missouri State University—Geology	mgutierrez@missouristate.edu
Jess Whitson	Missouri State University—Ozarks Environmental & Water Resources Institute	jwhitson@gmail.com
Lindsey Berger	Missouri State University—Students for a Sustainable Future	studentsforasustainablefuture@missouri.edu Lindsey202@missouristate.edu
Jay Barber	Mo. Dept. Conservation and Springfield Plateau Missouri Master Naturalists	jayBarber@mdc.mo.gov
Paul Vitzthum	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources	paul.vitzthum@dnr.mo.gov
Carrie Smith	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources	carrie.smith@dnr.mo.gov
Jonathan Bledgett	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources	jonathan.bledgett@dnr.mo.gov
De De Vest	National Resource Conservation Service	Dede.vest@mo.usda.gov
Lori Tack	Ozark Greenways	lori@ozarkgreenways.org
Jennifer Ailor	Ozarks Friends of the Environment	jennifer.ailor@hotmail.com
Mary Norman	Partnership for Sustainability	marynorman@partnershipforsustainability.com
Gina Wyckoff	Phelps Elementary	gwyckoff@spsmail.org
Cynthia Andre	Sierra Club White River Group	Csandre1@aol.com
Carla Klein	Sierra Club White River Group and The Energy Savings Store	carlatklein@sbcglobal.net
Linda Chorice	Springfield Conservation Nature Center	Linda.chorice@mdc.mo.gov
Nancee Dahms-Stinson	Springfield-Greene County Libraries	nanceed@thelibrary.org
Melvin Johnson	Springfield-Greene County Park Board - Outdoor Initiatives	mjohnson@ci.springfield.mo.us
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
Jeff Barber	University of Missouri Extension	barber@missouri.edu
Loring Bullard	Watershed Committee of the Ozarks	loring@watershedcommittee.org
Misty Mitchell	Wonders of Wildlife	mmitchell@wondersofwildlife.org
Velynda Cameron	4-H—University of Missouri Ext.	Cameron@missouri.edu
Becky Fay	4-H—University of Missouri Ext.	fayr@missouri.edu

Facilitator and event coordinator Barbara Lucks opened the Summit by welcoming the attendees and giving a brief review of previous recommendations and progress made.

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.

Self-introductions and organization reports followed. Each delegate was given the opportunity to introduce themselves and their professional or voluntary role, the organization they are representing and to 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 organization report.

Organization Reports

Choose Environmental Excellence; Show Me Yards and Neighborhoods; City of Springfield Public Works Department - Stormwater Management and Solid Waste Management - Barbara Lucks - Barbara gave reports on the following:

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.

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, is now available at www.ozarksenvironment.com.

Opportunities—The Environmental Collaborative meets at the Community Partnership of the Ozarks on the 2nd Friday 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

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, "wish lists", volunteer opportunities, special events, etc. to Barbara for posting. They are also encouraged to promote the site as a local bulletin board.

City of Springfield Storm Water Services - Carrie Lamb - Carrie reported on the following updates:

- Storm Water Design Criteria Manual - Revision of current criteria and expansion of water quality requirements city-wide on new developments, increased emphasis on "bioengineering" (i.e. less concrete, more vegetation), stream buffers, preservation of natural channels, better site planning with natural contours/drainage, low impact development.
 - Series of 10 weekly seminars completed in fall 2007 for engineers, architects, others.
 - New criteria in use now on trial basis with finalization and official adoption soon
- Land Disturbance Program - Implementing permit program for land disturbance 1 acre or more with new erosion and sediment control manual and requirements.
 - Training seminar completed in fall 2007; more training planned
 - Program launch soon
- Continue to partner with JRBP, MDC, and others on demo rain garden projects (3 completed, 2 in progress) and rain barrel program (over 500 sold)
- "What Goes Down Does Come Around" campaign w/ JRBP - billboards, bus wraps and benches, movie ads, radio PSAs, print pieces.
- Partial funding of Project WET/Storm water educator position (Erica Cox) - will include storm water curriculum development

For more information, log onto www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater.

City Utilities of Springfield - Cara Shaefer - Cara Shaefer reported that since October 1, 2006, City Utilities has implemented 14 new rebate and incentive programs to encourage customers to make energy and water efficient improvements to their homes or businesses. These include:

Rebate and Incentive Programs

ENERGY STAR Programmable Thermostat Rebate, Residential Insulation Rebate, Commercial Lighting Rebate, Building Operator Certification Rebate, Irrigation System Rain Sensor Rebate, Efficient Toilet Rebate, ENERGY STAR Central Air Conditioner Rebate, ENERGY STAR Natural Gas Furnace Rebate, ENERGY STAR Air-Source Heat Pump Rebate, ENERGY STAR Geothermal Heat

Pump Rebate, Preseason HVAC Tune-Up Rebate, ENERGY STAR Home Rating Service, EnergyWise Grant Program, and Green Building Rebates. This is in addition to our existing programs and resources. All program information and applications are located on our website at www.cuenergywise.com.

Carbon Sequestration Project

City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, and electric utilities across the nation face the challenge of reducing carbon emissions in a safe, effective, and economical manner. Nationally, the Department of Energy has established seven regional partnerships to begin addressing carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration, and \$200 million has been allocated for these projects.

DOE projects include deep geological basins which are ideal for regional sequestration, but the distance to these locations from Missouri utilities presents transportation issues that would make their use economically infeasible. To address the needs of electric utilities that are not located near these regional basins, City Utilities of Springfield has proposed a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility of onsite carbon sequestration in shallower geologic formations.

The pilot project will involve drilling, coring, and characterization of the Southwest Power Station site and, if results prove favorable, injection of food grade carbon dioxide at a depth of approximately 2,000 feet. This injection will be followed by long-term monitoring and evaluation, which is expected to last two years. The unique location and geological qualities found at City Utilities' Southwest Power Station make it the ideal demonstration site for this pilot.

The information and data derived from this pilot project will help to determine if this area, and others like it in Missouri and the United States, might be suitable for shallow carbon sequestration.

Due to the unique challenges and opportunities this project presents, City Utilities is partnering with AmerenUE, Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., Aquila, Inc., The Empire District Electric Company, and Kansas City Power and Light. Combined, these companies represent the majority of electricity produced in Missouri. Additional research partners include Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

For More information, contact Gary Pendergrass, City Utilities Manager-Environmental Compliance at 831-8501 or Gary.Pendergrass@cityutilities.net.

Resource Leadership Task Force (RLTF)

The Resource Leadership Task Force (RLTF) is an internal committee formed in 2007 to review City Utilities business practices for sustainable and environmental responsibility. RLTF members were appointed by the Executive Committee. The RLTF has been given a broad mandate to look at everything from office paper policies to our renewable energy programs. Our mission is to "cultivate CU

leadership in the responsible use of Utility and Community resources". The RLTF is committed to working with all departments and employees to achieve this goal.

For more information regarding City Utilities, log onto: www.cityutilities.net

Dickerson Park Zoo - Pamela Herd - Pam reported that the Zoo now has a new logo and Education brochure. The education brochure will cover: Field Trip Mini-Classes—designed to provide students with optimal learning during their field trip to the Zoo; Behind the Scenes Tours; and Distance Learning—Videoconferencing.

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 - Fur, Feathers and Scales (Animal Coverings), October - Eye to Eye (Animal Eyes), November - Home Sweet Home (Animal Habitats), December - Baby, It's Cold Outside (How Animals Survive Winter). Other events to look out for: Year of the Frog and Eagle Days.

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 - Laurie Duncan - Laurie reported that LEED Gold Certified Green Building continues to be an educational resource. Signage throughout the building educates visitors about sustainable practices utilized, plus ways to incorporate a similar practice at home.

CFO grant funds have been used to fabricate 3 additional exhibits to support "Environmental Pathway" program—a self-guided tour throughout the green building. "Intelligent Lighting" demonstrates different energy use of 4 different light bulbs, "Build-A-Lunch" will provide opportunities to create a lunch with the least amount of waste, and "Pervious Concrete" will allow visitors to compare/contrast pervious concrete to regular concrete. Grant funds are also being used to add a "green" portion to the DCS website. An Environmental Pathways field trip for 6th grade students at Study, Reed, and Pipkin middle schools was also part of the grant. The pathway can be accessed online at www.discoverycenter.org/teachertools.php.

Staff do monthly recycling runs of materials collected from throughout the center. DCS also is a collection site for plastic soda rings and printer cartridges, which are then recycled.

Staff continues to promote sustainable living practices within the culture of the organization. Staff has made a personal commitment to using cups or personal water bottles, and refilling at the DCS water cooler during work hours, and to reduce personal water bottle use at home. Vending machines were eliminated from the DCS lobby to discourage unhealthy snack/beverage choices. Recycling bins are

located throughout the center, thanks to a District O Solid Waste grant. Visitors and rentals are encouraged to recycle.

DCS invested in a set of glass plates, drinking glasses, and silverware to discourage use of disposable plates, cups and utensils. Reuseable dining ware is used whenever DCS hosts an event in which food is served. DCS dining ware is also available for use by rentals if requested.

DCS and Choose Environmental Excellence continue to co-host Earth Day. Sponsorship allows the event to be offered as free admission. Last year's sponsor was J. Howard Fisk Limousines Inc. Over 20 community venues set up informational tables and provided visitors with access to information about environmental resources within the community. Approx. 1800 visitors attended Earth Day 2008.

For more information, visit their website at: www.discoverycenter.org

Drury University - Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions - Doug Neidigh -
Doug gave each of the attendees a brief summary of OCSS which included:

Services available

- Pollution Prevention Technical Assistance
 - Source Reduction
 - Clean Technologies
 - In-process recycling
 - Pollution Prevention Internships
 - Energy Efficiency
- Management Strategies (I.E. Environmental Management Systems, Pollution Prevention Programs)
- Promotion of Alternative Fuels and Necessary Infrastructures
- Environmental Performance Evaluations
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Collaboration with Existing Resources
 - Work with Partners to bring existing resources to clients as needed (I.E. Watershed Center, Environmental Collaborative, Partnership for Sustainability, Transportation Groups, Recycling Programs, etc.)
- Informational Resource Library
 - Identification and communication best practices
 - Technology library
 - Local Resources
 - Award/Recognition for regional best practices
- Public Education/Outreach
 - Educational Curriculum for schools
 - Public initiatives/projects

For more information, contact Doug Niedigh, Program Manager at dneidigh@drury.edu or call 417-873-7641.

Drury University - Dr. Wendy Anderson - Wendy sent in her report with the following:

In 2007-2008, Drury implemented several initiatives to promote sustainable operations and sustainability in the curriculum.

Operations:

1) Expanded the recycling program (more materials and more locations) and helped develop the Central Street Recycling Coalition, which we support with a central recycling center on the Tindle Mill property on Central Street; Participated in the national Recyclemania contest; 2) Installed a geothermal heating/cooling system in the historic Stone Chapel; 3) Appointed a Vice President for Operations and Sustainability and an office to support sustainability initiatives; 4) Committed to building the O'Reilly Family Events Center to LEED Silver certification standards.; 5) Began assessing and planning for implementing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which we signed in early 2007.

Academics:

1) Included sustainability-related topics, units, and class projects in at least 25 courses across the general curriculum and majors.; 2) Established two new courses specifically on sustainability: Psychology of Sustainability and the Science of Sustainability; 3) Developed a "Sustainability Pathway" through the general education curriculum; 4) Began redesigning the Environmental Studies and Environmental Science Program.; 5) Developed a new emphasis on green/LEED design in the Hammons School of Architecture; 6) Three architecture studios designed and built a "sustainable house" for Habitat for Humanity, which earned a LEED Platinum certification this summer.; 7) Hosted a day-long Focus the Nation event on global warming solutions.

For more information, visit: www.drury.edu

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society - Charles Burwick - The Greater Ozarks Audubon's primary educational focus is through Audubon Adventures. They are currently developing bird identification workshops, their Birding 101 series, the first of which was held in spring 2005. A sparrow workshop will be held November 9 this fall and one on warblers next spring. They are partnering with the Springfield Conservation Nature Center to present programs to youth involved in the Conservation Kid's Club and Conservation Teen Club. GOAS also offers a variety of slide and Powerpoint programs to the public and groups interested in landscaping for birds and wildlife, bird identification, and other topics, such as wildflowers.

Conservation & Education

GOAS conservation projects and education and outreach activities are related to our mission. Members and the public are connected to nature through GOAS projects in our community and throughout the southwest Missouri region. If you would like to volunteer with GOAS members or learn more, click either conservation or education on the sidebar at left to link to specific activities that GOAS sponsors.

GOAS Chapter hosts a variety of other activities throughout the year. These include:

- Springfield Christmas Bird Count
- Taney County Christmas Bird Count
- Birdathon
- Provides volunteers for Project Feeder Watch at the Nature Center
- Vulture Venture at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery
- Great Backyard Bird Count
- MDC Naturescaping Symposium and Grow Native
- MDC Great Outdoors Day at Bois D' Arc CA
- Bird Inventories at Roaring River State Park, Bull Shoals Field Station, Valley Water Mill, and Close Park
- Important Bird Areas project development

For more information, log onto: www.greaterozarksaudubon.org

Greene County Resource Management - Vanessa Brandon - For current activities programs and information, log onto www.greencountymo.org

Greenwood Lab School - Missouri State University - Shae Johnson - For more information, log onto: www.education.missouristate.edu/greenwood or contact Shae at <http://courses.missouristate.edu/ShaeJohnson>

James River Basin Partnership - Melissa Bettes - Melissa reported on the many projects underway and completed by the James River Basin Partnership. Projects include:

- Clean Water Kids Program - works with public school teachers and community groups to provide educational opportunities to teach Ozarks kids more about water resources—
- Get-Pumped Program - Cost-share for pumping out septic tanks for individuals living in the James River Basin. This also includes an educational site visit so homeowners can learn more about septic tank maintenance.—Free Soil Test Program -

- Free soil test sampling and analysis for homeowners' lawns living in the James River Basin. A four year nutrient management plan is provided to the homeowner to promote fertilizing responsibly.—
- River Rescue - Annual event including: River Clean-Up, and Benefit Concert—
- Stormwater 319 - Project focused on education/outreach efforts and implementation projects throughout the watershed including:
 - Rain Barrel Reveal-local artists transforming ordinary barrels into functional and beautiful works of art.
 - Countywide Watershed festivals-educating 5th grade students about water quality and conservation issues with hands on activities.
 - Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc. (TRLWQ) 319: On-site septic system identification & remediation project which is a cost share for replacing 22 failing systems to surface water.
 - Riparian Corridor Easement 319: Starts 2009 with partner Ozark Greenways.
 - Implementing rain gardens and rain barrels to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff.
- WQIP - Education/outreach to development community on implementation and assistance on Green Circle low impact development which includes: cistern, green roof and permeable concrete. Providing workshops for low impact developments.—
- Watershed Management Plan - Stakeholder driven planning process to better manage the James River basin. For more information, log onto: www.jrbp.missouristate.edu and www.jamesriverbasin.com

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

Master Gardeners of Greene County - Pat Stevens - Master Gardeners continue educational programs in Springfield and Greene County. A new and successful event this year, "Young Sprouts", was targeted to children and their parents to introduce and encourage gardening. The event is planned to repeat next year.

Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA) - Dr. Jill Black - Jill gave an update on MEEA which included: 2008 Conference will be held at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis on December 5-7, 2008. The conference theme is Sustainability. A number of Southwest Missouri environmental educators are among the presenters. See details on the MEEA website. They hope to see you

there! Please tell educators, formal and informal, and others about their conference!

Their biggest 2009 news: MEEA is planning to hold the 2009 MEEA Conference in Southwest Missouri, and they are hoping for support among the Environmental community in our area! They originally had hoped to hold the conference at the Valley Mill Watershed Center (and may another year!), but now are looking at the new OTC Richwood Valley campus in Ozark. They are hoping to hold it in the fall to allow for outdoor activities and field trips. Please contact Jill Black or Melvin Johnson if you have ideas or would like to help.

Other news:

- Southwest Missouri regional MEEA member meetings: MEEA hosted two meetings this spring for members in this area to have a chance to meet with each other, share ideas, and offer suggestions for making MEEA more relevant and useful to them. They all enjoyed meeting new people with a shared interest in EE! Non-members interested in EE are also welcome, so please contact Jill Black if you are interested - They are hoping to hold more of these get-togethers.
- The national Environmental Education Group, NAAEE (North American Association for Environmental Education) is holding its annual meeting in our "back yard" - in Wichita, Kansas! This is an opportunity for those interested in EE to attend a national conference without traveling too far. The dates are Oct. 15-18, with the Research Symposium Oct 13-14 (at which Jill Black be speaking).
- MEEA has just completed a member survey on many EE issues, as well as a Certification survey. From this, they are hoping to make some changes, and the Certification Committee has come up with recommendations to make the Certification process more "user-friendly." Thanks to MEEA Board member Melvin Johnson for his work on this!
- MEEA is trying to involve university and college students - have had students (including future teachers) attend and give a presentation at a Board meeting and invited several to speak at our conference.
- MEEA representatives have presented at STOM (Science Teachers of Missouri) and AMI (Association of Missouri Interpreters) conferences. They are planning an increased presence at DESE's Interface Conference next February for K-12 Missouri science and math teachers next February.

For more information, log onto: www.meea.org

Missouri Project W.E.T. (Water Education for Teachers) - Erica Cox - Erica introduced Missouri Project W.E.T. to the group and gave her update.

Statewide: The summer newsletter went out to all Project WET facilitators and Erica has been hearing back from them and tracking down others. ☺ Two facilitator "reunions" scheduled for December 2008 in St. Louis and February 2009 near the Lake of the Ozarks. She is working with the Missouri Department of Conservation's Project WILD and Learning Tree state coordinator to offer a Three Project Facilitator's workshop over a weekend this coming winter. She will be presenting at several state-wide conferences this fall and winter. The emphasis will be to continue the 6-hour workshops, but to also provide educators time to consider implementing Project WET into their existing curricula or programs and to renew their use of Project WET. She has been in contact with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Science Consultant and will be involved with projects that integrate the Ecology Strand and Environmental Education.

Locally: There is a Project WET workshop scheduled for Springfield Public Schools elementary teachers on Saturday, September 13. She will then be working with them additionally 3-4 times throughout the school year, with continued professional development to help them implement Project WET. They will be scheduling other WET workshops for area educators—October or November 2008 and April 2009.

For more information regarding Project W.E.T., feel free to contact Erica at 417-836-4337 or e-mail her at EricaCox@MissouriState.edu.

Missouri Solid Waste Management District "O" - Robert Hamilton - Several important changes occurred for District O in the last year; most importantly was the increase in our annual allocation, which was a direct result of the new funding formula found in Senate Bill 225. As you can imagine, our workload has increased as well. In fact, paperwork associated with the District Grant Program has nearly tripled! As a result, the Executive Board voted to change the part-time Administrative Assistant position to a full-time Associate Planner. We now have two full-time staff to serve the District O region.

Please note: the 2009 District Grant Cycle is about to commence! District O will advertise for recycling/diversion project applications in early October, and they will be accepted until December 31, 2008. Projects which are approved by the Executive Board and MNDR will begin in the spring of 2009.

For more information or to request a grant application package, please contact Associate Planner Ronda Gulley at 417.868.4197.

Missouri State University - Alexander Wait - Alexander reported on the numerous events, speakers and issues related to sustainability which Missouri State University has coming up. The dates and events are as follows:

- 8/20/08—Showcase on teaching: Sustainability in the Curriculum
- 9/4/08—David Orr.—Speaker—Plaster Student Union--Theater
- 9/15-18/08—Public Affairs Week
- 11/2008—Allan Savory—Visit local HS/Lunch with local farmers—Eve. Talk
- 10/4 & 11 & 25/08 & 11/15/08—Sustainability Demonstrations at Bearfest Village
- 2/5/09—Focus the Nation
- 2/20/09—Keynote speaker on social aspects of sustainability
- 2/27-28/09—Ozarks New Energy Conference
- 4/21-24/09—Public Affairs Conference: Sustainability. (an international conference on the MSU campus)

<http://publicaffairs.missouristate.edu/conference>

For more information on events for MSU, log onto www.missouristate.edu or e-mail Alexander @ alexanderwait@missouristate.edu

Missouri State University - Dr. Janice Greene - For information and activities, feel free to log onto: www.bullshoals.missouristate.edu/ .

Missouri State University - Lindsey Burger - Lindsey's reported that aside from the many voluntary recycling efforts so far, their first major event is EcoPalooza. Wednesday, October 8 from noon-10PM. Live music and entertainment will rock out the North Mall of the Missouri State Campus. Alternative Energy resources such as a solar-powered trailer will power 2/3 of the concert's energy needs. Over 20 local businesses and organizations will have tables set up with demonstrations and information on their sustainable practices. More information will be provided soon. However, she can confirm that Chipotle will be donating for the event, boasting their ever-conscious free-range chicken and meat! YUM!! For more information, feel free to e-mail StudentsforaSustainableFuture@missouristate.edu or Lindsey at Lindsey202@MissouriState.edu.

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

Missouri Department of Conservation. Jay reported on the Discover Nature Schools. They have developed a conservation education program that helps please everyone from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the squirmiest middle-school student. It's the Discover Nature — Schools program. Discover Nature — Schools is based on the notion that the best place to learn about nature is outdoors. Whether you teach science, math or language arts, you'll find the Discover Nature — Schools program's outdoor experiences enrich your students' classroom work. The curriculum packages take into account Missouri

state GLEs, and the Discover Nature — Schools program includes funding for field trips, equipment and outdoor classrooms that will place your students in real live ecosystems as they learn about natural Missouri and how to conserve it.

Grants

Apply for one the Department's five education grants: Discover Nature — Schools, Conservation Field Trips, Outdoor Classrooms, United Sportsmen's League Wildlife Conservation or Missouri's Archery in the Schools.

Curriculum Development Opportunities

We're still building parts of the Discover Nature — Schools program, and we need teacher input. If you'd like to help shape and test an Discover Nature — Schools curriculum or topic, please contact Education Program/Curriculum Supervisor Regina Knauer at regina.knauer@mdc.mo.gov or call her at (573) 522-4115, ext. 3829.

To participate in the Discover Nature — Schools program, contact your local education consultant or outdoor skills specialist or log onto: www.mdc.mo.gov

Master Naturalists:

Major Emphasis Areas: The Springfield Chapter provides resource management work when volunteer time is available, plans to develop monitoring projects to assist in assessing trends in nature in the Springfield area, provides conservation/environmental education to the Springfield area citizens and students, and has ongoing training to enhance volunteers' knowledge of the flora and fauna and other natural resources in the Springfield area.

Volunteer Hours: 2275 hours since 2006 with 37 active members.

For more information, log onto: www.monaturalist.org or e-mail Jay Barber at Jay.Barber@mdc.mo.gov.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources - Carrie Smith - Carrie spoke about a wonderful new program kicking off this year. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Center for Safe Schools and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have joined together to create the 2008 Missouri School Chemical Cleanout Project. The school chemical cleanout project will remove outdated, dangerous and unstable laboratory and other instructional use chemical from elementary, middle, vocational and high schools in Missouri. This project will provide a wonderful opportunity for schools throughout the state to dispose of their unsafe chemicals at very little cost. This project will not only ensure a safe learning space for Missouri's students, but also a safe environment.

For more information regarding this program or other programs offered by MDNR, log onto: www.dnr.mo.gov/

National Resource Conservation Service - De De Vest - De De gave an update

Regarding the 2008 NRCS Farm Bill Conservation Programs—Highlights and Announcements—The conservation provisions in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) will provide conservation opportunities for farmers and ranchers for years to come. The new provisions build on the conservation gains made by farmers and ranchers through the 1985, 1996 and 2002 Farm Bills. They simplify existing programs and create new programs to address high priority environmental goals. Conservation programs under the 2008 Farm Bill:

- Agricultural Management Assistance Program
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program
- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
- Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program
- Conservation Reserve Program (Farm Service Agency)
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Innovation Grants (EQIP)
- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program
- Grassland Reserve Program
- Healthy Forest Reserve Program
- Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program
- Wetlands Reserve Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

For more information regarding the Farm Bill 2008 or the type of assistance provided by NRCS, log onto: www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/

Ozarks Environmental & Water Resources Institute (OEWRI) - Robert Pavlowski - The Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute (OEWRI) is in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences at Missouri State University. The institute supports efforts to protect and restore water quality and supply in the Ozarks Region of southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. Its mission is to provide a hub for science-based monitoring and assessment of water and sediment quality trends, watershed function and disturbance, and land use/land cover change in the Ozarks. In addition, it will initiate and support research programs aimed at solving environmental problems by working in partnership and cooperation with university researchers, environmental groups, and governmental agencies.

For more information, log onto: www.oewri.missouristate.edu/

Ozark Greenways - Lori Tack - Lori's update: Ozark Greenways continues to work on a network of greenway trails for public use. They have been slowly expanding

their efforts to promote alternative transportation in Springfield with the annual Bike to Work Week Challenge in May, and the Safe Routes to School program.

Upcoming events include their 11th Annual Fundraising Dinner, An Evening by the Spring. Limited to 120 people, auction items and ideas welcome. Also, Bass Pro's 2nd Annual Outdoor Fitness Festival, marathon, half and 5K/10K will be October 25- November 2, with part of the proceeds going to Ozark Greenways. Volunteers are needed for November 1st and 2nd.

For more information on Ozark Greenways activities, log onto www.ozarkgreenways.org.

Partnership for Sustainability - Mary Norman - Mary gave a report on projects in progress:

- Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce Expo
 - October 2
 - Featuring a green vendor aisle
 - Green Panel luncheon - Sponsored by SMC
 - Meet the Experts booth - one on one time with experts in different areas of environmental expertise
 - Students for a Sustainable Future will be assisting with this event
- Partnering with Drury SIFE and Choose Environmental Excellence to develop a sustainability certification process based on a point system. Certification will be offered to business, churches and organizations. An individual component may be developed. Certification will be offered for different level s of performance which will be reflected by the recognition component.
 - Plan to announce launch at Expo and recruit participants
 - Process will be an internal assessment tool and will include resources to assist in implementation
 - Some existing models will be used, but local organizations are invited to submit
 - Local resources will be featured
 - Certification recognition will be through Choose Environmental Excellence
- Community Dialogue with MSU Communications Department
 - An assessment of attitudes, knowledge and sources of information as well as barriers to sustainability will be ascertained through this process. Survey, polling and focus groups will be used to generate quantifiable data that will be used to target strategic planning
 - Assessments will be October through the first part of November.

- A broad cross section of community is sought for accuracy of data. (Please contact me if you have suggestions for pre-existing groups that could be asked to participate.)
- Sustainability Initiative with Springfield Public Schools
 - A comprehensive systemic program designed to engage staff and students through a certification process
 - Certification includes a green team at the administrative level, green teams in each building, a survey, recycling as mandatory and choice of completion of a number of other criteria from a list of curriculum, activities and practices to implement designed and vetted for this project.
 - Cross curriculum opportunities will be created
 - Responsibility of the individual will be emphasized
 - Process encourages collaboration with external resources including Partnership for Sustainability members and other local and regional resources.

Phelps Elementary - Gina Wycoff - Gina reported that as of August 14th, 2008, a large concrete infinity sign was constructed in their Phelps outdoor classroom. They envision students to be sitting on this structure to sketch, write, or to observe the natural world around them. Their outdoor green space was made larger by eliminating a part of the asphalt parking lot. A shed was purchased for tools, etc. Contributions to their Outdoor Classroom grew during their beginning of the year Ice Cream Social and when they hosted a Trivia Night in October 2007. They had success from their end of year planting day of Missouri native plants. Gina says it was wonderful to see so many actively involved.

Gina also reported that students from Drury's School of Architecture designed and constructed a kiosk for Greenwood. A previous student of WINGS was one of the students. The structure serves as the entrance to their Outdoor Classroom and it displays student work. An Open House was held on May 16, 2008 for the community. The local Girl Scouts, who were also previous WINGS students, did a major project to dedicate places in their Outdoor Classroom for various purposes. They contributed many materials, plants, and hours of volunteer service.

For more information, log onto: <http://sps.k12.mo.us/phelps/>

Sierra Club White River Group - Cynthia Andre - For information about the White River Group or upcoming events, log on to: www.missouri.sierraclub.org/wrg

Springfield Conservation Nature Center - Linda Chorice - 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.

For more information on the Nature Center or upcoming events, log onto: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/springfd

Springfield/Greene County Libraries - Nancee Dahms-Stinson - Nancy reports that the statewide summer reading program theme, *Catch the Reading Bug*, meant children in and around Greene County had lots of opportunities to combine reading and exploring entomology and even entomophagy. Activities and programs throughout the summer explored spiders, insects, metamorphosis, and more.

The Big Read, their month long event focused on encouraging the community to read the same book during April featured the book *View from Saturday*, a story that revolves around four sixth-grade students and their efforts to win the state Academic Bowl. Stirring together environmental, cooking and geography themes, as well as several others, the book sends the message to readers that we all have our own means of realizing their full potential. The Library hosted its own "Brain Bowl," offering community teams to win grand prizes as they answered questions about geography, the natural world and other themes from the book.

In addition, the Library featured programs for adults, teens, children and families that focused on nature, gardening, exploring the outdoors and conservation. This fall, they will work in cooperation with Springfield-Greene County Parks and Recreation Outdoor Initiatives to host a series of presentations on outdoor activities in the Ozarks and the Library Center will feature a presentation by Loring Bullard on Edward Shepard, the famous professor of natural sciences at Drury.

For more information, log onto thelibrary.org.

Springfield/Greene County Park Board Outdoor Initiatives - Melvin Johnson - Melvin reported that the Springfield - Greene County Park Board's Outdoor Initiatives offers numerous educational - recreational programs and skills training in the areas of: Archery, Artifacts & Fossils, Backpacking, Camp & Dutch Oven Cookery, Camping Ed - Rec., Canoeing, Caving Ed. - Rec., Environmental Education, Fishing, GPS & Geocaching, Hiking, Hunter Safety Education, Initiatives - Confidence - Team Bldg, Journaling, Kite Safety Ed, Leave No Trace, Marksmanship Safety, Nature Study, Outdoor Safety, Photography (Basic, Cave, & Nature), Stream - Stream Teams & Water Quality Study, and Trip Camping. Programs are open to Adults, Businesses, Colleges & Universities, Families, Individuals, Schools, Youth, & Youth Organizations. The Caving Education -

Recreation Program draws the largest attention and participation with just under 4,000 participants in 2007.

During the past two years all Springfield R-12 School District 5th Grades had an opportunity to participate hands-on in the "Wonders Down Under" Program at the Giboney Cave Outdoor - Underground Classroom, and the "Wonders of the Watershed" at Valley Water Mill Park. In addition to Outdoor Initiatives and the Springfield R-12 School District, the partnership involved: WOW Museum & Ed. Dept, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Springfield Plateau Grotto, and Springfield Plateau MO Master Naturalist.

While the Caving Education - Recreation Programs may be the cream of the crop, the Youth Trip Camping Program is right on top as well. Trip Camping by its very nature and national standards runs smaller numbers. In addition to the traditional Trip Camping Programs (Camping, Cookery Skills, Outdoor Safety, etc), the O.I. Trip Camping Program includes: Bison, Elk, & Prairie Life Study at Prairie State Park; Caving, Karsts Study, & Native Americans Study at Ha Ha Tonka State Park; Canoeing, Hiking, Stream Study, and Water Quality at Bennett Springs State Park; along with many other opportunities during various years.

For more information, log onto: www.parkboard.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. Current Projects include:

- Tree Surgeon Licensing Ordinance change in progress (in coordination with Mary Decker, City Director of Finance).
- City Utilities tree Trimming Policy under discussion
- Neighborwoods Application being considered
 - Eight neighborhoods have applied this year
 - Applications will be evaluated during the August 21st meeting
- Three committee vacancies to be filled as of December 2008
- Next Arbor Day Poster Contest Theme: "Trees are Terrific...In Cities and Towns!" Packets will be mailed in September.

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 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 on projects underway which include: Riverdale-a zero carbon footprint community, Senior Housing rehabilitation & Educational Training & Speaking-Department of Defense, RC&D, Missouri State Environmental Coalition, Low Impact Development Conference-Little Rock, E Conference-Crowder College, One Conference-Springfield, Missouri.

For more information on Green Building, log onto: www.usgbc.org/

University of Missouri Extension - Jeff Barber - For information and activities, log onto: www.extension.missouri.edu

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks - Loring Bullard - Loring reported on the numerous things happening with the Watershed Committee this year. 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

Wonders of Wildlife - Misty Mitchell - Misty gave an update for Wonders of Wildlife NHF Day Celebration which will be held at 500 West Sunshine Street in the Wonders of Wildlife and Bass Pro Shops complex on Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 10 am - 2 pm. Activities include: Hands-On Activities, Informative Exhibits and Seminars. *A fun-filled day that the entire family will enjoy, and at no charge. *Win prizes. Girl Scout activities and Boy Scout activities, badge information and how to get involved. Drawings held throughout the day and you must be present to win! For more information, log onto: www.nhfday.org

Misty also reported on the 2nd Annual Outdoor Fitness Festival which will be held on November 1st, 2008 from 10 am - 4 pm at Springfield Lake in the outdoor Fitness Village. The festival is a designation event for individuals and families consisting of fitness events, health & wellness activities, outdoor adventures & outdoor skills and wildlife conservation programs.

For more information, feel free to contact Misty at 417-225-1118 or e-mail her at mmitchell@wondersofwildlife.org

4-H—University of Missouri Extension - Velynda Cameron - For information and activities, log onto: <http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/4h/> .

