

Stream Team Annual Report

2020

promoting citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

2020 was a blur for many of us but Stream Team volunteers still found a way through the hardships of working during a pandemic to make an incredible difference. The Program allowed people to get out and enjoy a respite from all other things COVID and for the year that did not really happen, Program volunteers still dedicated nearly 44,000 hours of volunteer time to our water resources. We also gained an additional 119 new Stream Teams. There are currently more than 6,200 Stream Teams statewide and over 4,900 of them are still active. Here are some highlights from 2020:

- ◆ 245 tons of trash was removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- ◆ 453 water quality monitoring trips were completed.
- ◆ 6,080 trees were planted.
- ◆ Over \$1.1 million worth of volunteer labor was dedicated.
- ◆ Stream Team Academy hosted all new virtual workshops on Mussels, Snakes, Turtles, Wildflowers, and Invasive Plants.
- ◆ Launch of the new Stream Team YouTube page.

Trained monitors submitted over 860 datasheets in 2020 that totaled over 2,900 hours and 1,200 participants. Our tiered VWQM training structure allows flexibility for citizen involvement while increasing education and use of data collected at each level of training.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	2	39
Level 1	2	2
Level 2		
Level 3		
VWQM Validation	5	6
Total	9	47

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing litter bags to Missouri's float outfitters. In 2020, 128 float outfitters throughout the state participated in the Stash Your Trash Program, 85 of which offered discounts to Stream Team volunteers in the *Stream Team Float Outfitters Discount Directory*. More than 290,000 red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the public, preventing countless tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. An additional 30,700 red and green mesh bags and over 3,000 blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams in their cleanup efforts.

Stream Team Awards

The Stream Team Ambassador Awards recognize volunteer accomplishments in the Program's three primary goals of education, stewardship, advocacy, as well as water quality monitoring. Also in 2020, a CSI award was presented for outstanding work with a Cooperative Stream Investigation special project. The 2020 recipients for activities conducted in 2019 were:

- ◆ **Education:** Karen Keck
Stream Team 1847
- ◆ **Stewardship:** Chris Myers
Stream Team 5614
- ◆ **Stewardship:** Jeff Barton
Stream Team 3550
- ◆ **Advocacy:** Emily Tracy-Smith
Stream Team 442
- ◆ **VWQM:** Tim Kirchoff
Stream Team 509
- ◆ **CSI:** Hamilton Creek CSI Project
Steve McCarthy
Stream Team 5099



ST2504 performs biological monitoring on Clear Creek in Boone County while practicing safety protocols due to the pandemic.



ST4540 and Ladue Horton Watkins High School clear invasive honeysuckle from Black Creek in St. Louis County.



ST5863 with their impressive trash haul from Gravois Creek in St. Louis County.



ST728 and a small group of volunteers clean Shelbina Lake in Shelby County.

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	5	31	5 agreements	\$804.76
Advocacy	7	76	65 events	\$1,972.96
Agency Project Participation	74	93	28 events	\$2,414.28
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	32	39	33 articles	\$1,012.44
Association Activities	281	1,289	30 events	\$33,462.44
Award Winners	8	8	8 awards	\$207.68
Display at Fairs, etc.	7	43	7 events	\$1,116.28
Educational Projects	436	1,873	48 events	\$48,623.08
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	7	76	34 trips	\$1,972.96
Grant Projects	2	4	3 projects	\$103.84
Habitat Improvement	93	456	24 projects	\$11,837.76
Invasive Species Monitoring	19	22	10 trips	\$571.12
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	3	14	3 letters	\$363.44
Litter Pickups	6,621	30,851	245 tons of trash	\$801,099.64
Media Contacts	11	14	10 interviews	\$363.44
Mentoring	6	8	4 projects	\$207.68
Monofilament Recycling Project	13	10	44 ounces	\$259.60
Meetings (held or attended)	453	1,067	715 attendees	\$27,699.32
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	818	1,606	57 projects	\$41,691.76
Planted Trees	107	535	6,080 trees	\$13,888.60
Pre-activity Planning	344	1,078	140 projects	\$30,580.88
Photo Point Monitoring	12	8	47 photos	\$207.68
Presentations to Other Groups	728	750	37 presentations	\$19,470.00
Rain Garden/Barrel or Green Roof	55	136	18 projects	\$3,530.56
Recruitment (new members)	31	49	75 people	\$1,272.04
River Observation (possible pollution event)	8	21	5 projects	\$545.16
Stream Access Maintenance	30	107	11 projects	\$2,777.72
Storm Drain Stenciling	33	82	30 drains	\$2,128.72
Workshops (attended or conducted)	105	536	311 attendees	\$13,914.56
Water Quality Monitoring	1,216	2,952	453 trips	\$76,633.92
Totals	11,570	43,942		\$1,140,734.32

*\$25.96/hour is the 2020 Missouri wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

**Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fundraising, etc.



Susan Wrasmann, president of Stream Teams United, receives the MOAFS Lee Redmond Citizen's Award. This award is given to persons not directly employed in the aquatic field who make a substantial contribution to Missouri's aquatic resource.

What's to come ...

After a challenging year for everyone, how will 2021 shake out? As Stream Team Program staff and members adapt and adjust to a “new normal” to accommodate a worldwide pandemic, it seems we must all pick back up where we left off after a year-long standing halt. How we do business, how we continue to support our wonderful volunteers, and how we move forward into a (hopefully) post-COVID-19 era will take a tremendous amount of ingenuity, energy, patience, and most of all, teamwork. We hope to continue making a difference with our hybrid learning and training programs, finding ways to reach brand new audiences with the Stream Team message, and being more creative and committed than ever before in serving our volunteers in this ever-accelerating electronic age. We are all in this together for the protection of our stream resources, because it's team work that makes the dream work!

Questions? Please contact us at:

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2020 Fast Facts

During 2020, Stream Teams . . .

- ◆ collected **245** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **6,080** trees
- ◆ stenciled **30** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **453** water monitoring trips
- ◆ gave **37** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **48** educational events
- ◆ reported **43,942** total volunteer hours

31-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **13,364** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **371,565** trees
- ◆ stenciled **20,939** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **33,152** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **3,427** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **5,745** educational events
- ◆ reported **3,214,518** total volunteer hours