
❖ The Water Line ❖

Newsletter for the Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program

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Great Plains Limnology Meeting

You are invited to attend the 26th consecutive meeting of a group without dues, officers or bylaws. This meeting will be held in the Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. This conference will give you the chance to learn more about streams, rivers and lakes from people doing research in the mid-west. A keynote address, contributed papers, open discussion session, posters and a presentation by the Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program will be featured on Saturday, October 23, 1999 with an informal gathering on the evening of Friday, October 22. For more information, please contact Lorna Gilliland at 573-882-3436 or gillilandl@missouri.edu.

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*The Lakes of Missouri Volunteer
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Table Rock Fish Kill *By Fran Pope*

During the first week of September, I eagerly agreed to spend two lovely late summer days assisting one of my colleagues with his project on Table Rock Lake. Looking forward to continuing to learn the different areas of the lake from first hand experience (and admittedly happy to be in a boat and out of the office for a while) I set out to help take lake water samples. As we were motoring to different areas of the lake, we began to notice dead fish, mostly largemouth bass, floating in the lake. On my return to the office, I had a message from one of the LMVP volunteers alerting me to a news story about a fish kill on Table Rock Lake.

I called a fish pathologist from the Missouri Department of Conservation in the southwest region to find out more details. It appears that fish were dying due to a complex chain of events. In the lake there is a type of naturally occurring protozoa that filters organic material, such as algae, out of the water for food. An increase in organic matter could mean more food and therefore an increase in the population of protozoa. This protozoa attaches to fish and uses them as a type of "anchor" or host, but do not directly kill the fish. They do create a sore or an opening for bacteria to invade the fish and the fish ultimately die from bacterial infection. It is not known why largemouth bass are more susceptible to this bacterial invasion than other types of fish.

Although initial field studies show that approximately 150 to 200 largemouth bass died, there does not appear to be an immediate threat to the overall largemouth bass population in Table Rock Lake. But I personally believe that events like this fish kill continue to be wake up calls to all of us to continue to be diligent in our efforts to protect and preserve the water quality of Missouri lakes.

Watershed Stewardship: Whose Responsibility?

By Joe Dillard

This is a critical question about an increasingly important topic. First, definitions: “Watershed” is the land area that water moves across or under while flowing to a stream, spring, well, pond, lake or river (it can be a small one only encompassing a part of a field, or it can be as big as the Missouri River watershed that stretches all the way to Montana). “Stewardship” is loosely defined as taking care of things, “responsibility” hopefully needs no further definition.

Watershed stewardship then can be defined as simply taking care of our natural resources (air, water, soil). If we take good care of our air, water and soil, we will have healthy watersheds.

Healthy watersheds provide:

- Safe, clean drinking water
- Long-term, productive agriculture
- Sustainable natural resources for future generations
- Economically healthy communities
- Long-term solution to flood prevention and last but not least,
- Places to fish, recreate and have fun

(This last benefit is often overlooked, but becoming ever more important in our rapid-paced society!) The values and benefits of healthy watersheds are enormous. The consequences of unhealthy watersheds are devastating and can be quite expensive.

Who is responsible for “taking care” of our natural resources? You, me, and thee or our government? My personal bias is that we all should be involved. Each of us has a role in conserving and protecting our three basic natural resources - soil, water, and air. After all, we are totally dependent upon them for good, healthy food to eat, safe clean water to drink, and fresh clean air to breathe. We do good by them, they are good for us.

At a 1996 conference entitled “Watershed Stewardship in Missouri: Status and Opportunities” a majority of the participants identified a need for easier access to existing information about watershed stewardship. The University of Missouri Outreach and Extension Division responded to the need by developing the Missouri Watershed Information Network (MoWIN), a partnership of state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private industry.

MoWIN’s

- * Mission: To assist in locating and accessing information relative to Missouri watersheds
- * Goal: To increase Missourians' knowledge about current watershed conditions and best watershed management practices
- * Vision: More Missourians taking action to protect, conserve and enhance their shared natural resources

MoWIN’s Desired Outcome is: “Healthy watershed with sustainable soil, water, plants, animals and air resources as indicated by improved water quality.”

The underlying principles of MoWIN are: everyone lives in a watershed, most people will do the right thing if they know what to do and the consequences of doing it (or not doing it). There is more information available than is being used. It would be better for each of us to individually assume responsibility for the health of our watersheds rather than leaving it up to local, state and federal government.

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MoWIN is located on the University of Missouri Columbia Campus in the Agriculture Engineering Building.

You may contact MoWIN by
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Failing at all of this, you may drop by Room 232 of the Agricultural Engineering Building (really close to Buck's Ice Cream Parlor!) on the University of Missouri campus. Your ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome.

CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT

On October 28 there will be a conference held at the Chateau on the Lake (overlooking Table Rock Lake) entitled "Managing Our Growth - Sustaining Our Future." The conference will feature panel discussions on "Striking a Balance - Economic Growth and Environmental Quality" and "Ozark Mountain Regional Development" as well as presentations on sustainability. The conference runs from 11:30 to 5:00 and includes lunch. For more information contact the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce at 417-334-4084, the James River Basin Partnership at 417-724-0499, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce at 417-862-5567 or the Table Rock Lake/Kimberling City Chamber of Commerce at 417-739-2564. The cost of the conference is \$35 and the registration deadline is October 20, 1999.

LMVP UPDATES

* Sample Season final pick ups have begun. We hope to have all samples collected by mid-October. If you have not been contacted, we will be calling you soon about arranging a pick up time and place.

* A new citizens group is forming called Table Rock Lake Cleanup. They had their first event on September 18 and collected 377 bags of trash, 12 batteries, 70 tires and more. They are planning another clean up for **October 23**. For more information about this group, call Brent Willis at (417) 779-0204.

* LMVP Staff met with two classes at the School of Osage to help teach about water quality. We met with 8th and 5th graders who learned about lakes and had fun in the process! If you would like us to make presentations at your school or to a group, please call us at 800-895-2260 and ask for Fran.

* We have added a new group of volunteers to the program this summer that are collecting only Secchi readings on lakes in their area. Many volunteer programs throughout the country collect only Secchi readings. We felt this was a way to expand our program and still be able to provide good quality data for all of the parameters we sample.

* Dan & I enjoyed getting out with some of the volunteers this summer and collecting water samples. We hope to be able to eventually sample with everyone!

*We will be contacting all volunteers late winter/early spring about setting up data review sessions. If you know anyone who is interested in finding out more about the LMVP or participating in the sample season 2000, please have them contact us (800-895-2260).

Thank you,
Fran Pope

Zebra Mussels Have Invaded Missouri!!

Zebra mussels, the invading mollusks from Europe, have officially been found in Missouri waters. These small mussels can have large impacts on aquatic systems. Currently the best defense against the invasion is education. The zebra mussels are often transported by humans unknowingly. If boaters and fishermen take a few precautionary steps we can limit the spread of these invaders.

If you are moving your boat from one body of water to another, follow these guidelines:

- remove any plant material from the boat and trailer
- wash the boat hull, trailer and engine with a hard spray from a garden hose or a high pressure car wash
- flush the bilge, live well, bait buckets, etc. with water
- dump bait buckets out, away from the water's edge
- let everything dry in the sun for 3-5 days if possible
- if you find a zebra mussel **do not** return it to the water and contact the Department of Conservation immediately

Look for more information about this invading species in the next issue of *The Water Line*. The Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program will be incorporating zebra mussel monitoring into the program next season. Stay tuned for more information.

HOW CAN I HELP THE CLEAN LAKES PROGRAMS?

By Dan Obrecht

Historically, Section 314 of the Clean Water Act was the funding source for Clean Lakes Programs such as volunteer monitoring programs. In the mid-1990's the funding for this portion of the Clean Water Act was dropped and volunteer monitoring programs were left to scramble for money. Some programs were able to secure funding from Section 319, which is designated for non-point source work, while others lost all funding.

Recently the Senate VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Committee acted on the EPA's budget. While separate funding for Section 314 was not allocated the following language was incorporated into the committee's report:

"...Clean Lakes program activities are to be funded through the sec. 319 nonpoint source grant program. The Committee suggests that 5 percent of the section 319 funds be allocated to Clean Lakes and that EPA better integrate the Clean Lakes section 319 programs by incorporating the section 314 guidance into the 319 guidance."

In plain English this translates to ten-million dollars becoming available for Clean Lakes programs. Before this happens, the House and Senate will first have to meet and resolve any differences in their respective versions of this portion of the budget.

A letter, phone call, FAX or e-mail from you can go a long way in helping persuade our Representatives and Senators that they should support this funding for Clean Lakes.

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Remember - a phone call or letter *does* make a difference!!
Thank you for your support.
