



July Sampling is Taking Place!

July 11, 2020

If you cannot sample, please contact myself at 513-615-2538 or whitelr@butlercounyohio.org or Bob at 937-219-5357 or lentzB@stormwaterdistrict.org

July Sampling & Lab Important Points

New Sample Drop Off Time

8 - 10 am

While we are restricted with numbers in lab, we are changing the sample drop off time to end at 10 am instead of 10:30 am. With only 7 people in the lab instead of the usual 11-14, lab ran really really late. We are hoping by getting the samples to lab a little earlier than usual will mean that we can finish before dinner time. Last month, Tera was in lab until after 7 pm. If you will have issues getting it to the cooler by 10 am, please let me know. I can possibly change the order that we pick up the coolers. Once social distancing is relaxed, and we can have more people in lab, we will most likely move the drop off times back to the traditional 8 - 10:30 am.

Sanitizer Reminder

Not that anyone should need a reminder to use sanitizer and wash hands in the times we are in, but please make sure to properly sanitize your hands between samples. In June, Middletown Waste Water Treatment Plant had an issue and released water that was well above the limits for bacteria. They quickly announced this to the public and have worked closely with the Ohio EPA to resolve the issue. It serves as a good reminder to sanitize right after collecting your sample.

Please Keep Coolers Closed

Make sure to keep the cooler lids closed as much as possible when you drop off your samples. Last month, all of the ice melted in the Engineers Office cooler, which was a little weird. All other coolers, even the one out in the sunshine at Barn Bunk still had plenty of ice. This is especially important with the expected heat this weekend. We need to keep all samples between a certain temperature range..

Please make sure to not only close the cooler, but to also lock the padlock. If the cooler is left open when you leave, then we we break the chain of custody that is required by the Ohio EPA.

Lab Volunteers - Please stay home

Due to restrictions, we still cannot have any volunteers in lab. We miss you, its horribly quiet and boring without you.

Tera, Bob, and myself hope that you and your families remain healthy during these trying times, and we hope to see everyone again soon..



Biological Assessment Training

Saturday, July 18, 9 am - 11 am

At Dudley Woods Park, 5591 Hankins Rd, Liberty Twp.

Please note this is Dudley Woods on Hankins Rd, not Dudley Park on Yankee. Each time I use this location, someone goes to the wrong park.

Registration Required. I am limiting numbers to 10 people to stay within covid guidelines. I am asking everyone to please bring and wear a mask for this training. To register, email me whitelr@butlercountyohio.org and let me know how many are coming.

What it involves: We will meet under the shelter next to the parking lot. I'll talk for a bit and show lots of pictures of different creek critters, and explain the sampling method. Then, we will get in the creek and collect a sample of bugs. For the method we use, we need to collect and identify 200 bugs to make an assessment of the creek.

What to bring: Mask, shoes that can get wet, reading glasses (if you wear them), bug spary, sun protection. If you have a small stool or bucket to sit on it will save your back from hunching over our table of bugs, Unfortunately, the typical folding chairs are too wide with their arms.

I'll Bring: Bottled water, lots of bug ID sheets for you to take home, some buckets to sit on.

Questions, Call or email me 513-615-2538 or whitelr@butlercountyohio.org



Here's another creek critter video, this time of a hellgrammite or dobsonfly larvae. Indian Creek is a great place to find these spiky predators. I've been posting random creek critters on the [Butler SWCD youtube channel](#).

Macro Spotlight

Hellgrammite (larva)/ Eastern Dobsonfly (adult)

Corydalus cornutus

The eastern dobsonfly is one of the largest non-lepidopteran insects. Its larvae, known as hellgrammites, also happen to be one of the top invertebrate predators in rocky streams where they occur. Adult male dobsonflies are easily identified by their large sickle-shaped jaws. The dobsonfly is found throughout most of eastern North America east of the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico near flowing streams which provide habitat for its larvae.

Dobsonfly eggs tiny, cylindrical, and light gray. They are laid in approximately 1,000 egg clusters! The eggs are arranged in three layers, and the egg mass is covered with a clear fluid by a brushing motion of the tip of the female's abdomen. The clear fluid dries to a white color, this is why the egg masses resemble large bird droppings. Dobsonfly larvae are light brown and darkened by a covering of dark brown micro- spines and their thoracic segments are covered with hardened, black dorsal plates (Neunzig and Baker 1991). They have a total of 8 abdominal segments, segments 1 through 7 have a pair of ventro-lateral tufts of tracheal gills that absorb dissolved oxygen (Barclay et al. 2005, Hoover et al. 1988). The larvae also have spiracles allowing them to breathe both in and out of water. Dobsonfly pupae are yellow-orange in color with darker splotches on the back side of the abdomen. Male pupae have a small tubercle on the sternum of the prothorax and have slightly larger mandibles and wider head capsules than females. At this stage the male pupae mandibles are still folded up in their exoskeleton. Adult dobsonflies have large bodies and wings. The female has short powerful mandibles similar in size to those of the larva and is capable of drawing blood with her bite. The male has long, sickle-shaped mandibles and is incapable of inflicting a painful bite.

Dobsonfly eggs hatch in 1 to 2 weeks and always at night. The newly hatched hellgrammites are often buoyed by an air bubble and float or swim until reaching a suitable site for larval development. This is an area of a stream this is swift-flowing with a rocky bottom. The hellgrammites live under stones or occasionally on snags where they feed on a variety of soft-bodied insects. Hellgrammites molt 10 to 12 times and require one to three years to complete their development. Upon reaching a suitable site for pupation, the hellgrammite typically digs a cell in the soil with its legs and mouthparts and smooths the interior by pressing the sides of its body against the wall of the cell. After spending one to 14 days inside the cell as a pre- pupa, the hellgrammite sheds its exoskeleton to become a pupa. The pupal stage requires seven to 14 days after which the adult emerges and digs its way out of the cell. Adult dobsonflies are short-lived and it is believed that they do not feed in nature. The males have up to 3 days to live and the females have up to 10 days to mate and lay eggs, to repeat the lifecycle.

Site: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/eastern_dobsonfly.htm

By Samara Ord, 2019 Butler SWCD Intern.



Pollinator Workshop Series

July 21, 7 - 9 pm

Topics: Trees for pollinators, pollinator pests, planting for pollinators.

This is part 3 of a 4 part series. You do not need to have attended any other session to join us for this one. This pollinator series is a partnership between Butler SWCD, OSU Extension, and Hamilton Conservation Corp.

Due to Covid, we are hosting this on Zoom instead of holding an in-person class. Please find the information below to join either through your computer or phone.

Follow this link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87454160958?pwd=ZnczYldMRjI0SERwa0JdjJLZGdyZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5416 0958

Password: 881519

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87454160958#,,,0#,,881519# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,87454160958#,,,0#,,881519# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 874 5416 0958

Password: 881519

Questions, Call or email me 513-615-2538 or whitelr@butlercounyohio.org

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Facebook**

Stay in touch and share your pics and comments on the Facebook site that Tera set up. <https://www.facebook.com>

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