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# Butler County Stream Team

## March News - 2016



**Next Sampling Date: March 12**

Please remember if you can't sample, contact us  
**ASAP**

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### Can't Sample?

If you can't sample on Saturday, please let us know in order to have someone else grab your samples.

- Lynn White - [513-615-2538](tel:513-615-2538)
- Teresa Barnes - [513-706-8991](tel:513-706-8991)

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### Ohio EPA has Accepted our 2015 Data

Great news. The Ohio EPA has accepted our 2015 data as credible. Looks like everyone's hard work is paying off.

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### New Web Database

[www.streambank.info/login.cfm](http://www.streambank.info/login.cfm)

This is the new home of the Stream Team data, along with that of several other monitoring groups in SW Ohio. To look at the data, click the **Enter as a Guest** button. If you select details, it will give all the details of the site, including pictures. You can also create reports and charts with the data.

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### Sampling Reminders

- Please mark the time and date on your labels of when you collected the sample. None of the sample times should be the same unless you are a time traveler : )
- Sign your sample into the cooler with the drop off time.
- Duplicate samples - when you sign them into the cooler, put the number "2" next to the sample ID.
- Keep the cooler lid closed as much as possible
- Provide labels that say dry, or too low to sample, if that is the case.

### Stream Team Sampling Dates

Oct 10

Nov 14

### Great Miami River Cleanup Saturday, October 24, 9 am - 12 noon

The Great Miami River Clean up will be held at various locations along the Great Miami River. See the main article on the left for more info.

### Fall Tree ID Walk October 10, 10 am

Dudley Woods

MetroPark in Liberty

Twp

Jacob Hartman, a former stream team volunteer, is leading a fall tree ID hike. Great park for a short hike as it has an abundance of plants and over the last few years, this park has seen some big changes. These include: as invasive plant removal (thanks Chuck and all his volunteers), a stream bank restoration project, and a revamping of the trail.

### Conservation

- The combination of the cooler lock is 2278 which is BCST if you look at your phone keypad.
- Remember the cooler lock is weird, and that the numbers don't line up along the middle.



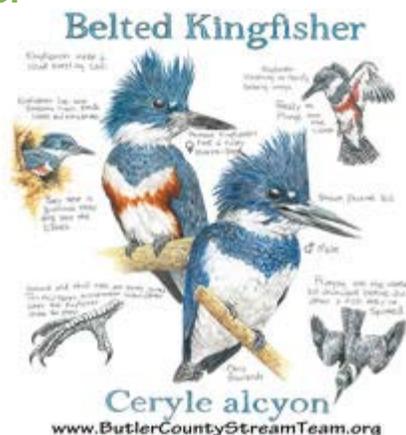
### Biological Sampling Training

We are looking at several possible dates for a training at Dudley Woods Metropark. Nice central location, that we have a few years of data from already. If you are interested, [please mark on the doodle calendar](#) which if the dates you are available. We will pick the date with the most people able to attend.

### Belted Kingfisher

The Banded Kingfishers, an attractive water-side dweller of the moderately temperate U.S. regions, is quite the stand-out, stocky noisemaker. This top-heavy, white and powder blue bird either has a blue and chestnut brown band across its chest indicating a female, or a single blue band for male. Year-round, Kingfishers enjoy the Ohio climate because open water is available for their foraging.

Equipped with an aquatic diet, this bird's thick pointed bill is used to catch small fish seen while hovering over water or from a nearby perch.



When looking for them, listen closely for their rattling call used to run off unwelcome guests in their territory, and also keep an eye on the banks. Male and female Kingfishers burrow for upwards of a week to create a three (3) to six (6) foot deep shelter in pond and river banks.

We have been lucky enough to spot kingfishers on the Great Miami during our annual kayak trip several times over the years.

If you'd like to learn more about birds in our area and bird watching, check out the 2016 Big Week of Birding in Butler County hosted by MetroParks of Butler County and the Miami Valley Audubon from April 30th through May 7th.

Source: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology "All About Birds: Belted Kingfisher"

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted\\_Kingfisher/](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted_Kingfisher/)

Artwork by Chris Rowlands. This is the 2016 Stream Team t-shirts design.

### Invasive Plant of the Month

March: Lesser Celandine

### District's Open House and Hog Roast

**Nov 12, 3- 7pm**

Join Lynn, Beth, and the other SWCD staff at their annual open house. Learn about the many SWCD projects and try the free hog roast.

1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, Ohio ([map](#))

### Conservation Supervisor Elections

**Nov 12, 3- 7pm**

During the open house, county residents can vote in the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District's Supervisor Elections. The Board of Supervisors consists of five county residents that volunteer to serve a three year term. Early voting is possible. More details will be posted on the [Butler SWCD website](#) as soon as they are available.

### Tree Planting at Salamander Run

**October 17, 20, 27, 31 and Nov 7**

11 am - 3 pm

Join Three Valley Conservation Trust and Metroprks of Butler County at Salamander Run for native plantings - trees, shrubs and seeds. Choose once or all five days. Great for individuals or groups. Tools and refreshments will be provided! For more information call (513) 867-5835. [Please register](#) for the date(s)

March is the first month of sampling for Stream Team volunteers, please look for and report any sightings of lesser celandine. Lesser celandine, though listed as invasive in nine Northeast states, is not yet listed as invasive by the Ohio Invasive Plant Council, but is currently being studied as an invasive.

Lesser celandine is an exotic spring ephemeral and a vigorous growing groundcover that forms large, dense patches on the forest floor, displacing and preventing native plants from



***co-occurring***. Lesser celandine occurs in moist forested floodplains and can also be found in and along stream banks and highway drainage ditches. Lesser celandine is an herbaceous, perennial plant in the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae) and is native to Europe. Plants have a basal rosette of dark green, shiny, stalked leaves that are kidney to heart-shaped. The flowers open in March and April, have eight glossy, butter-yellow petals that are 1" wide, and are borne singly on delicate stalks that rise above the leaves. When in bloom, large infestations of lesser celandine appear as a green carpet with yellow dots, spreading across the forest floor.



Lesser celandine is easily located and viewed in our area in the following locations: north bank of the Great Miami River crossing the Liberty Fairfield/Wayne Madison Bridge, Woodsdale Regional Park, Peffer Park in Oxford, Rentschler Forest MetroPark, and Hankins Road and Dudley Woods in Liberty Township (see inset photo).

Acres of the beautiful Cincinnati Nature Center have been devastated by this toxic plant.

Lesser celandine is very difficult to control but can be managed with persistence over time using methods that are site appropriate. While manual methods are possible for some small infestations, the use of systemic herbicide kills the entire plant tip to root and minimizes soil disturbance. Always only use herbicides that are suitable for use in and near our waterways.

Fact Sheet:

[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive\\_plants/weeds/lesser\\_celandine.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/lesser_celandine.pdf)

[www.nps.gov/plants/alien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien)

<http://plants.usda.gov>

<http://www.oipc.info/>

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## 2016 Webcast Series

These webcast at shown at the Butler County Engineers Office on Rt 4 in Hamilton. 1921 Fairgrove Ave.

### Webcast 1: Surviving a MS4 Compliance Audit

**March 16, 2016, 1-2:30 PM EST**

EPA and its regional offices are ramping up efforts to conduct audits of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 MS4 communities. Preparing for and doing well in an audit is not just a matter of "passing the test," but actually improving your program and doing a better job of protecting your receiving waters. In this webcast, you'll learn from various parties on

you are able to volunteer.

## Feeder Watch & Bird Count Training

**Nov 1, 2 - 3 pm**

Forest Run MetroPark:  
FR Welcome Center,  
1976 Timberman Road,  
HAmilton.

Find out about: Nest  
Box Monitoring,  
Monarch Watch, Great  
Backyard Bird Count,  
Feeder Watch,  
Christmas Bird Count &  
more!

Please bring a snack to share.

[Please register online.](#)

what to expect before, during and after the audit, how to best prepare your team for an audit and how to get the most out of the experience.

### **Webcast 2: Education Programs to Enhance Pollutant Removal May 18, 2016, 1-2:30 PM EST**

Non-structural BMPs are an important tool in addressing pollution sources, but are often an afterthought. Most of this is due to the struggle in assigning pollution reduction values to practices that are difficult to monitor, such as pet waste management or lawn care education. In this webcast we will look at some behaviors that are traditionally addressed through public education, methods for calculating pollutants generated by these behaviors, and tips on the messages residents need to hear to get the most “bang for the buck” from education efforts.

### **Webcast 3: Green Infrastructure, Green Jobs: The Latest Trends**

**June 15, 2016, 1-2:30 PM EST**

Many existing workforce development and employment programs are expanding to incorporate installation and maintenance of green infrastructure practices. In order to address this trend, national certification standards for green infrastructure job trainees can serve to ensure quality installation and maintenance practices while enhancing a person's chances for employment in the field. This webcast will feature the latest information on the progress of developing those standards, and will highlight best practices for program development, as well as critical lessons learned.

### **Webcast 4: Incentivizing BMP Installation in Communities with Stormwater Utilities**

**September 14, 2016, 1-2:30 PM EST**

Many communities have elected to create stormwater utilities as a way to fund programs to install and maintain treatment practices. This works well for public properties and new development and redevelopment sites where compliance may be required. But how do we get private property owners to install practices on residential lots and at already-developed commercial or institutional properties? This webcast will look at how communities have addressed the need to have homeowners participate in stormwater management and some incentive and financial methods used to encourage the use of small scale on-lot green infrastructure practices to reduce runoff and pollutant loading.

### **Webcast 5: Retrofitting Revisited: Forward Into the Past October 12, 2016, 1-2:30 PM EST**

This webcast will focus on the restoration of urban and suburban watersheds through stormwater retrofitting. In particular, we will revisit some past case studies highlighted in earlier webcasts and discuss the design and implementation of stormwater retrofit practices, how the retrofits have been performing, and what lessons were learned during the process. The webcast will also provide information about the cost and pollutant removal performance of stormwater retrofits.

### **Webcast 6: Non-Traditional MS4s**

**November 16, 2016, 1-2:30 PM EST**

Some MS4s have their own unique characteristics that make developing a stormwater plan a challenge. Examples of non-traditional MS4s include college campuses, airports, and prisons. This webcast will look at how these special MS4s are treated in the regulatory process, and examine unique considerations for successful planning.

Butler County Stream Team Monthly Newsletter

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