

**WATERSHED**  
NATURE CENTER

**E-Newsletter**  
Summer 2010

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"...to restore and maintain habitats typical of southwestern Illinois and to provide the public with opportunities for environmental education and outdoor recreation."

**My tax deductible contribution is enclosed.**

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- E-Newsletter, please!
- I would like to become a volunteer.
- I would like to know how to make a tribute, memorial, or endowment.
- I would like to know more about legacy giving.

- Eagle (\$1000 and up)
- Blue Heron (\$500 to \$999)
- Sandpiper (\$250 to \$499)
- Bluebird (\$100 to \$249)
- Wood Duck (\$50 to \$99)
- Goldfinch (\$25 to \$49)
- Dove (\$10 to \$24)

**The Watershed News** is an official publication of the **Nature Preserve Foundation, Inc.**, P.O. Box 843, Edwardsville, IL 62025. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation chartered by the City of Edwardsville and dedicated to the restoration and management of the Watershed Nature Center. This newsletter is distributed to all members as a benefit of membership. All contents are copyrighted. NPF Board members are Julie Conley -President, Scott Evers -Vice President, Ed McCarthy -Treasurer, Sarah Cundiff - Secretary, , Rick Schuh, Mike Starr, Tim Dain ,Jen Rehg, Cara Noyes and John Kendall -Emeritus Member , Kathy Chen - U of I Extension Natural Resource Educator. Chair Shaffer - WNC Office Staff

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# Watershed News

Summer 2010



## Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Watershed Nature Center newsletter.

When a tree falls in the forest, new growth quickly sprouts in the sunny areas that have been created. Nature adapts quickly to change and the Watershed strives to follow that example.

New economic realities have created change for our partners - the Edwardsville Community Unit School District 7 and the University of Illinois Extension Madison-St. Clair Unit. We value the partnerships and look forward to the new relationships that will emerge. In the interim, we bid a fond farewell to Sandy Fultz, District 7 Kindergarten through fifth grade Environmental Educator. Her presence at the Watershed will be deeply missed.

As you may have noticed, the marsh walkway has been closed for several months. Superior minds are working on a repair to the unanticipated structural damage. We recognize the value of this feature and are working hard to ensure a safe and timely reopening.

Times of change highlight the importance of sound planning. I am delighted with the progress the Nature Preserve Foundation has made with the strategic plan and look forward to making it available to the public this fall.

It may be true that the only constant is change. This issue celebrates the flexibility and adaptability our staff and volunteers have demonstrated. We look forward to the new growth that is emerging and encourage your continued involvement and support. One thing that hasn't changed is our appreciation of how valuable you are to this organization. We look forward to seeing you at one of our programs or on the trails! Thank you. ~ Julie Conley, Board President

## Upcoming Watershed Events:

Get Outdoors Series pg. 2

Monthly work days pg. 2

WNC Summer Camps pg 5

In order to stay on top of current events please join our email list.

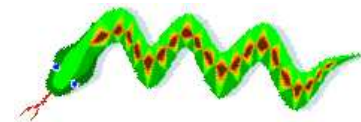
Trying to find us?

In Edwardsville, from St. Louis Street turn onto Elm Street, left on Grand, right on Terry which turns into Tower Ave.

Reach us at **618-692-7578**

or email:

[watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com)



## SIUE Graduate Students survey Watershed wildlife

If you frequented our trails this spring, you may have seen enthusiastic graduate student researchers out with bright vests. Or perhaps you noticed the wooden planks along the trail that attracted amphibians and reptiles by providing a nice habitat (the better for identifying and counting by researchers!).

All these were signs of the Graduate-level Environmental Modeling Class, led by Dr. Beth Walton of SIUE, who are helping us assess our habitats. After receiving much training on safe handling of wildlife among other topics, Dr. Walton's class began surveying the amphibians, reptiles, fish, and macro-invertebrates at the Watershed.



Baby Turtle found by Students during Survey

Their findings, presented to the general public in April, were very interesting. In the lakes, they found many fish such as bluegill, sunfish, and yellow bass. They also discovered aquatic insects such as Copepods (shrimp-like crustaceans) and bottom dwelling invertebrates such as Damselflies. Along the edges and under the wooden planks, they found many turtles and snakes including Painted Turtles, Pond Sliders turtles, Copper-Bellied Water Snakes, and the Eastern Hognose snake. No poisonous reptiles or amphibians were found at the Watershed.

(Cont. Pg 3)

## Get Outdoors!

*A series to build the Watershed community through education, recreation, and volunteerism*



### Route 66 Festival

June 12, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Watershed Nature Center will celebrate the annual Route 66 Festival by hosting children's activities at its booth. Be sure to check out our nature stations where you test your knowledge of bird beak adaptations through a fun hands-on game or learn about our unique habitats at the informational station.



### Wade Into Wetlands (students entering 4-5th grade)

July 12-16 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Students will study various aspects of wetland life, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic macro-invertebrates. Students will use dip nets to capture specimens for study, create science journals to record observations, theories and questions, and develop nature journals to record poetry, stories and sketches. \$180/student.



### Pond Investigations (students entering 6-7th grade)

July 19-23 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Students will take part in a multidisciplinary exploration of the wetlands ecosystem at the Watershed Nature Center. Science activities will center on direct observation, scientific inquiry methods and data collection. Art-related topics will reflect the diverse life in the wetlands and include gyotaku and clay sculpture. \$180/student.



### Caterpillar Walk

August 17, 6:30 p.m.

Caterpillars are good bird food...and so much more! Learn about the life history and identification of caterpillars, including the major families of butterflies and moths, caterpillar tricks for survival, how to look for caterpillars, and their special relationships with native plants. Caterpillar enthusiast and ecologist June Jeffries will lead this program. Weather permitting, we will venture outdoors to look closely at habitat. \$3 per person, pre-registration required.

## RUN WILD! 5K Trail Run & 1-Mile Trail Walk Saturday October 2, 2010

Join us for the third annual Watershed 5K fundraiser on October 2 at 9:00 a.m. Last year's Run / Walk was a big success, and we expect even more participants this year. If you would like to volunteer to help with this exciting event by assisting with registration, handing out water to the runners, or in any other way, please contact us via email at [watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com) or call us at 618-692-7578.



## Monthly Volunteer Work Days

*second Saturday monthly from 8am-12pm*

**2010 dates include:** June 12, July 10, Aug 8, Sept 12, Oct. 9, and Nov. 12

Our monthly efforts will focus on grounds improvements through invasive species control and removal, replanting, and general site maintenance like mulching, staining, repairs, etc. Bring gloves, water bottle, and tools (pruners, clippers, wheel barrows) if you have them. Dress appropriately for outdoor work. Please register, especially if you have a service group that plans to participate, by contacting Watershed Nature Center at **618-692-7578** or email [watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com)

## Friends of the Watershed Nature Center

Welcome to our new Friends and thank you to our contributing Friends. The members listed below have joined, renewed their membership, or donated since our last newsletter

Arno & Ruth Ellis	Jean & Ken Hughes	Mark Williford
Dave & Kathy Gerber	Jeff Skoblow & Mary Grose	Matt & June Jefferies
Debbie & Jim Caulk	Jennifer & Wayne Politsch	Michael & Cindy Reinhardt
Edna Grench	John and Carol Friut	Michael & Wilma Matta
Elaine AbuSharbain	John Celuch	Michael Starr & Valerie Vartanian
George & Patricia Henderson	Judith Lincoln	Pamela Keck & Donald Flory
Grace Madison	Justin, Katie, Mia & Gus Range	Russell D. Reed
Harold Duvall	Karen & Bill Mateyka	Sondra Zerow
Helen Damon	Kathleen Mendez	Tom Dezort
J.F. Electric	Keith and Diane Dudding	Virginia Bryan & James Eilers
Jack & Ginger McCall		Justin, Katie, Mia & Gus Range

Special thanks to Glen Carbon PTO for their community donation to Watershed programs.

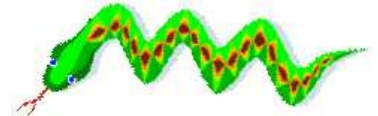
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Thank you for your generous donations in loving memory of Eric Sturley.

Dale & Marilyn Bailey	Lisa and Rex Miller	Richard & Beth Sturley
Fern D. Mateer	Lucco Brown Threlkeld & Dawson LLP	Rowland, P.C.
Goldenberg Heller Antognoli &	Mary Deane Huntley	Ruth M. Shaw
Jack & Ginger McCall	Perry Pepper & Julia Femiano-Pepper	Stephen Mudge & Brenda Ludwig

## SIUE Graduate Students

(Continued from cover page)



There were three main goals for bringing student researchers to the Watershed:

1) to increase our scientific understanding of the Watershed habitats, 2) provide hands-on research experience for the students, and 3) bring science to the general public by explaining our research and results to visitors. We are thrilled that all these goals were met over the past spring and look forward to the coming school year when research will continue. Professor Beth Walton also considered the program highly successful stating that: "We saw this as an opportunity for the students to partner with the Watershed in a meaningful way; we wanted to bring the students to the world and the world to the students. We hope this program will continue to be a bridge between the university and the community."

### *Sign up for Watershed E-Newsletter*

Help us save resources by signing up to receive our newsletter, "Watershed News," electronically. Send an email to [watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com) with "**add to WNC E-News**" in the subject line.

### *Sign up for Watershed E-Events*

Would you like to receive notice of upcoming events via email? Sign up for Watershed's E-Events by sending an email to [watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com) with "**add to WNC E-Events**" in the subject line.

## Watershed Nature Center Volunteer Program

The Watershed is a beautiful, successful nature center because of the passion and generosity of volunteers who donate their time and services. Volunteers are at every level of our organization, from our volunteer Board Members, who provide leadership and direction, to our “on-the-ground” volunteer educators and grounds stewards.

The mission of our Volunteer Program is to utilize the unique strengths of individuals to “promote environmental stewardship and provide opportunities for the community to understand and appreciate nature.” Members of our community provide countless hours to help restore and maintain our native ecosystem, to encourage outdoor recreation, and to provide opportunities for environmental education.

Our existence began with two volunteers, John and Kay Kendall, who saw a potential for beauty in the local sewage lagoon. What was a community eyesore became a community resource as hundreds of volunteers and supporters banded together to transform this land into the Park you see today. The Kendalls gathered volunteer resources, such as the engineers who dug out the lake, and thousands of dollars raised from the local community and grant funds. They showed us the power of volunteerism and community involvement. We are happy to continue this philosophy of volunteerism, community spirit, and love of nature today at the Watershed.

Volunteering at the Watershed offers many unique benefits, such as:

- **Joining a community of long-term volunteers.** We are unique in that many of our volunteers have been with us for several years (or even decades!). Our new volunteers have the opportunity to learn new skills from these long-term volunteers, from the easiest way to handle outdoor tools to bird-watching skills.
- **Meeting people from all walks of life.** The Watershed brings together diverse people who all have a common belief in the importance of stewardship of natural resources.
- **Learning new skills.** Add to your resume or learn skills that can be applied in your own backyard. You bring the interest and time, we will provide training and encouragement.
- **Working outdoors.** Spend the day outdoors! Whether with a gardening tool in your hand, or teaching students with hands-on activities, you will get to enjoy a beautiful setting.
- **Contribute to a cause.** The Watershed Nature Center is an important green space within the growing community of Edwardsville. We provide a sanctuary for wildlife and people. Our wetland also plays a role in cleaning run-off water from the city and reducing floods.

(continued on next page)

## Marsh Walkway Woes

Visitors may have noticed the barricades at each end of our Marsh Walk, the raised concrete walkway that allows visitors an up close view of the wetland. Unfortunately, several cracks in the walkway have required us to close it temporarily to ensure public safety. The Nature Preserve Foundation and the City of Edwardsville are working together to determine the best and safest way to repair the walkway as soon as possible. Until it is fixed, please stay safe, respect the barricades, and stay off the walkway.



## ★ Volunteer Program

(continued from p. 4)

★ Our volunteer program has grown from work days held twice a year to monthly work days and weekly volunteers. Some accomplishments of the past year include :

- ★ ⇒ a systemic seasonal outline for controlling and removing invasive plant species
- ★ ⇒ replanting with native shrubs, trees, wildflowers and prairie plants
- ★ ⇒ burning the hill prairie
- ★ ⇒ new landscaping plan to put into place around the Welcome Center
- ★ ⇒ adding Volunteers to our committees
- ★ ⇒ data entry and office volunteers to keep it all running smoothly
- ★ ⇒ ongoing programs & presentations by volunteers who share their knowledge & passion with us

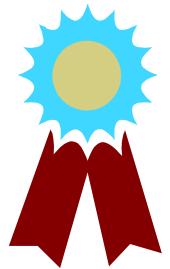
★ We are grateful to all the individuals from our community who support the Watershed's mission, and appreciate their stewardship of our local environment and commitment to education. We hope to continue and expand our volunteer program and encourage people to make a difference in their own local habitat. Many volunteer opportunities are for a specific day or event, while some ongoing positions would benefit from a regular weekly or monthly schedule.

★ To find out more and how you can help, email [watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com) or call **618-692-7578**.



## Jean V. Price Memorial Awards 2010

In 2004 , Tony and Wendy Wilbraham generously set up a memorial in honor of Tony's sister Jean V. Price . She was a school teacher with a passion for birds, wild animals and exploring the natural world with young children. Jean was an active supporter of many Associations and Societies that were devoted to the preservation of the environment. In her memory, the following student awards were given at the SIUE Regional Science Fair:



### **2010 Friends of Nature Awards and a check for \$25**

- **Monica Shuler.** 6th grade. Immaculate Conception School, "Go Green the Natural Gardner"
- **Vincent Burke Jr.** 7th grade. Immaculate Conception School, "Water Conservation:The Impact of Buffers on Water Quality"
- **Elizabeth Ringhausen.** 6th grade. St. Francis / Holy Ghost School, "Erosion Earth vs. Water"

### **2010 Environmental Action Award and a \$50 check**

- **Amy Hilmer.** 12th grade. Edwardsville Senior High. An active leader in the EHS Environmental Club.



Thank you Ms. Sandy Fultz!

Please join us in thanking Ms. Sandy Fultz for dedicating 4 years to teaching Environmental Education at the Watershed Nature Center. She has taught Kindergarten through 5th grade as a District 7 teacher. You may have seen her students on the trail or dip netting from the banks of the lake. Students got outdoors to see exciting new things at the Watershed with Ms. Fultz and also learned through hands-on activities many science lessons required by the state. Each year, Ms. Fultz taught almost every K-5 student in the district, with many students visiting multiple times. Not only has she touched hundreds of lives, she also logged more than 1,000 miles walking our trails! All of us at the Watershed appreciate Ms. Fultz's contribution to our Center. She will be greatly missed!