



THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023

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Paddling the James River

SAAB Paddle – On September 9th JRBP teamed up with our friends at Springfield-Greene County Park Board's Outdoor Initiatives to host the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB) for a morning paddling trip on Lake Springfield. The morning featured an introduction to paddling and discussions about local water quality and opportunities for outdoor recreation.



Member Float – JRBP's annual Member Float was held on September 30th, with participants paddling 6 miles from Shelvin Rock to Hootentown. During gravel bar stops members learned all about Missouri's wild grapes that frequently grow in riparian areas, as well as the legend of the Yocum Silver Dollar. Join us next year by becoming a member: jamesriverbasin.com/membership



Fall Float – Staff and guests paddled the James River from H.L Kerr Access to the Ralph Cox Memorial Access in Galena in mid-October. The morning started out cool, but the sun warmed things up for a home-made gravel bar lunch. Fall colors were on full display, showcasing the bluffs along the route. Birds flew above us in the clear sky, including an Osprey, Bald eagle, Great blue herons, Green herons, and more. With the correct preparation, cool falls days are a beautiful time to float the James!

Plant Native This Fall

Native grasses and wildflowers have long, complex root systems that reduce soil erosion, stabilize the streambanks, soak up runoff, and slow down flood waters. Native plants also provide vital habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. We often relate gardening with the spring season, but did you know that fall is actually the best time to plant native plants? This is to give the roots all winter to establish, strengthening before growing the plant matter above ground in the spring.

Local resources for native plant information:

- City of Springfield's [Stormwater Native Plant Guide](#)
- City of Springfield's [Create a Rain Garden PDF](#)
- Forrest Keeling Nursery's [Rain Gardens and Bioswales PDF](#)
- [GrowNative.org](#)

Buy local native plants:

- Ozark Soul Native Plants – www.ozarksoul.com
- Watershed Natives – www.watershedcommittee.org/store



Education Update: Library Events

Thanks to funding from the Nora Roberts Foundation and Finley River Community Foundation, JRBP staff have been able to expand their educational offerings to local libraries throughout the watershed. This summer and fall JRBP partnered with the various Christian County Library branches on a variety of events, including a fishing day, nature journaling, watershed lessons, and a native plant landscaping class. Through a grant partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, JRBP is working with the Cassville Library on homeschool lessons that tie back to water quality. JRBP is continuing their work with the Springfield-Greene County Library to host STEAM Explorers lesson for elementary aged learners. Join us at a library program this fall for an engaging lesson about frogs and toads, designed for elementary aged children:



- Tuesday, November 14th at 10:00 a.m. – Homeschool Lesson at the Cassville Library, Cassville
- Thursday, November 16th at 2:00 p.m. – [STEAM Explorers](#) at The Library Center, Springfield

Check out JRBP's list of water quality and nature-related children's books, many of which can be checked out from local libraries within the watershed: www.jamesriverbasin.com/books



Sunset Soiree: A Bridge To Clean Water

On September 16th we hosted our 7th annual Sunset Soiree fundraiser, presented by Bass Pro Shops. Guests came from far and wide to enjoy an evening with picturesque views of the Finley River from the historic Riverside Bridge at Finley Farms. Crowds feasted on a delicious buffet by the Ozark Mill, consumed tasty libations from Springfield Brewing Company and St. James Winery, and supported JRBP through the silent auction and wine & whiskey pull. This year's event was the most successful yet, thanks to our generous sponsors.

Save the date for next year's event: Saturday, September 14, 2024



37° NORTH



So Long Katherine



Katherine Kranjec joined the JRBP team in the fall of 2020 as the partnership's Administrative Assistant, playing an incredibly important role within our organization. She has gone well beyond her job description and has generously shared her time and talents with us these last three years. Katherine has kept us all in line, on task, and most importantly: on budget. She has been a valued member of the team, and we wish her and her family well in their move across the state!

Thank you, Katherine!

We would like the Hulston Family Foundation for generously supporting our mission to protect our beloved Ozark streams. Funding from the foundation helps to cover program expenses and operating costs that are not supported by our federal grants and community contracts.



Real Estate Professionals Workshop

JRBP, Missouri Smallflows Organization, and Watershed will hold an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Workshop for real estate professionals on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at Praise Assembly, 3535 N. Glenstone Ave, Springfield, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The workshop will include a visit to the Greene County Onsite Wastewater Training Center and will give developers and real estate professionals the opportunity to learn more about onsite wastewater treatment systems that may be installed at properties they are listing for sale. Continuing education credits will be offered with full attendance. The class will be a total of 3.75 CECs and the Individual Request for Continuing Education Credit will be supplied for self-submittal of CECs to the Missouri Real Estate Commission.



Online registration and a workshop agenda are available at <http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/owts-workshop>. The conference and continuing education credits fee is \$30. Lunch and a certificate of completion will be provided. Funding for this workshop is provided by the Greene County Environmental Division.

Register at www.jamesriverbasin.com/owts-workshop

Business Members

YOUNGBLOOD



Level 5



Level 4

Level 3: Olsson; White River Electric Co-op; ORW Boards; Great River Engineering; Commercial Metals; Wild Horse Development; Environmental Works; CFS Engineers; Nixa Public Works

Level 2: Springfield Brewing Company; PCnet

Level 1: Husch Blackwell LLP; Computer Recycling Center; Illumine Collect; O'Reilly Auto Parts; Associated Electric Coop, Inc.

Annual Supporters



James River Basin Partnership a grassroots, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization working to improve and protect the water quality of the springs, streams, rivers, and lakes in the James River watershed which consists of almost a million acres of land in portions of eight counties. Learn more at JamesRiverBasin.com