



# THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

[www.JamesRiverBasin.com](http://www.JamesRiverBasin.com)

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100 Hours Outdoors

# 100 Hours Outdoors

Presented by  
 **Hatch**

Almost 300 kids around southwest Missouri have taken the pledge to spend 100 (or more!) hours outside during their summer break! So far more than 50 have completed the challenge, receiving a James River Explorer's Guide and other prizes for participating. 100 Hours Outdoors has been a great way to showcase the many organizations that provide outdoor opportunities for families, and special events have been scheduled specifically for the program. Learn more and take the pledge at [www.JamesRiverBasin.com/100Hours](http://www.JamesRiverBasin.com/100Hours)



Join JRBP as we partner with Watershed to host "Experience the Outdoors: Watersheds", a morning of creek-side fun for kids and families. There will be activities all over the Watershed Center grounds, including guided hikes, macroinvertebrate sampling, fossil hunting, fish printing, and more!

Learn more online at [www.jamesriverbasin.com/calendar/2023/7/9/watershed](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/calendar/2023/7/9/watershed)

## Dedicated Volunteers

### 2023 River Rescue Cleanup

On Saturday June 27th 40 volunteers and JRBP staff removed 40 bags of trash and 17 tires from the James between Delaware Town and Shelvin Rock. The original plan was to clean the Finley from Linden to Finley River Park, but low water forced a shift to the James. Big thanks to Bass Pro Shops for sponsoring the lunch, Republic Services for providing a trash receptacle, Lippert volunteers working the takeout, Mitchem Tire for recycling found tires, Ozark Mountain Paddlers for acting as safety boats, and Hootentown Canoe Rental for providing shuttles. All volunteers and partners made this a successful event!

**Interested in supporting our cleanup efforts? Consider a donation to the Larry Martin Memorial River Rescue Fund:**

**[www.jamesriverbasin.com/larry-martin](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/larry-martin)**



### 417 Day of Caring

Thanks to 35 dedicated volunteers from KY3, Miller Engineering, and American National Insurance for their hard work during United Way of the Ozark's 417 Day of Caring cleanup. Volunteers removed over 75 bags of trash, a ton of large debris, and five tires from Wilson's Creek during the day.



## Recent Experiences in the James River Watershed



May 18th - JRBP Education Outreach Coordinator Brooke Widmar and Outdoor Initiative staff led participants on a morning paddle of Springfield Lake. Exploring the surrounding riparian area by kayak let us get a close look at birds along the lake, including great views of Prothonotary Warblers, a highlight of the morning.

June 21st – This was our 3rd year hosting 5th grade students from Nixa’s John Thomas School of Discovery for a Water Wednesday field trip to learn about their local watershed. This field trip followed a few weeks of in-class lessons, covering topics such as the water cycle, macroinvertebrates, watersheds, point and non-point source pollution, and more. During the field trip students were able to observe the critters inhabiting a local creek and participate in other activities.



July 10th-14th – JRBP partnered with the Springfield Art Museum to host “The Great ARTdoors” a weeklong camp exploring nature and art for students. The campers were able to spend time outside birding, making observations in nature journals, painting with water from Fassnight Creek, and more.

July 22nd – Families were able to take part in JRBP’s “Fishing the Finley” event in partnership with the Christian County Library. JRBP had fishing gear on hand thanks to Missouri Department of Conservation’s Discover Nature-Fishing program, which participants were able to borrow to try fishing around Finley River Park in Ozark, MO.



## New Faces at James River Basin Partnership

This summer we have welcomed two new faces to the JRBP team, AmeriCorps members serving as part of the Stream Teams United AmeriCorps VISTA project.



**Bekah Davis** is our 8-week Summer Associate, and she has been working on education and soil testing all summer.

Bekah is a Springfield native and a recent graduate of Missouri State University where she received her undergraduate degree in Geography and a minor in Sustainability. During her time at MSU, she had an internship with the City of Springfield's Water Quality Division where she developed a passion for water quality and education outreach. Bekah is a big foodie who loves traveling, yoga, and getting out into nature.

Whether it's hiking, long walks with a friend, or kayaking she is always up for a great time outdoors! In the fall, Bekah will be attending North

Carolina State University as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow where she will be pursuing her Master's degree in Natural Resources with a concentration in Hydrology.



**Cecilia Kayser** started in July and will serve as an AmeriCorps member for 12-months, splitting her time between JRBP and Missouri Smallflows Organization. Her focus will be outreach and education.

Cecilia is a recent college graduate from Missouri State with her Master's in Environmental Geology. While she was at Missouri State, she worked for Outdoor Adventures where her love for educating others about the outdoors was sparked. Cecilia loves to rock climb, bike, and run—essentially anything that is an outdoor activity. She is a very passionate environmental Geologist with a deep love for the natural world. She finds

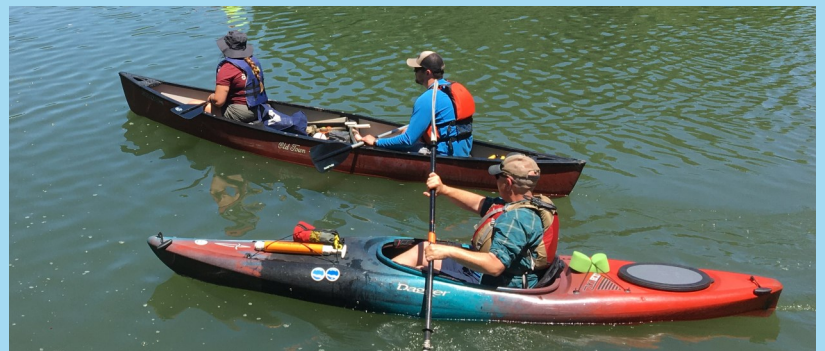
great joy in exploring the wonders of the world, both above and below the surface. One of her great passion lies in sharing knowledge and educating others about the incredible world around us, particularly when it comes to rocks and their significance.



## Save the Date: JRBP Membership Float

Join us Saturday, September 30th for our annual JRBP Membership Float! This float is free for all current JRBP members, and depending on your membership level, you can bring guests. Not a member? Join now to participate on this fun fall float:

[JamesRiverBasin.com/membership](https://JamesRiverBasin.com/membership)



# Sunset Soiree

Come join us for our 7th annual Sunset Soiree, celebrating 26 years of working toward cleaner water in the Ozarks! This is our annual gathering of water-loving individuals, all proceeds from this event support our programs, outreach, education, research, and annual river cleanups.



On Saturday, September 16, 2023, approximately 200 guests will find themselves perched above the tranquil waters of the Finley River, enjoying the sights and sounds from the Historic Riverside Bridge at Finley Farms. Guests will enjoy a night filled with live music by Guinevere Schafer, conversation, local food catered by The Ozark Mill Restaurant, and tasty libations from Springfield Brewing Company. Guests are encouraged to try their luck at the Mystery Whiskey & Wine Pull and find treasures at our silent auction table.

Tickets are going fast! Get yours before they're gone: [www.JamesRiverBasin.com/SunsetSoiree](http://www.JamesRiverBasin.com/SunsetSoiree)

## Our Sponsors

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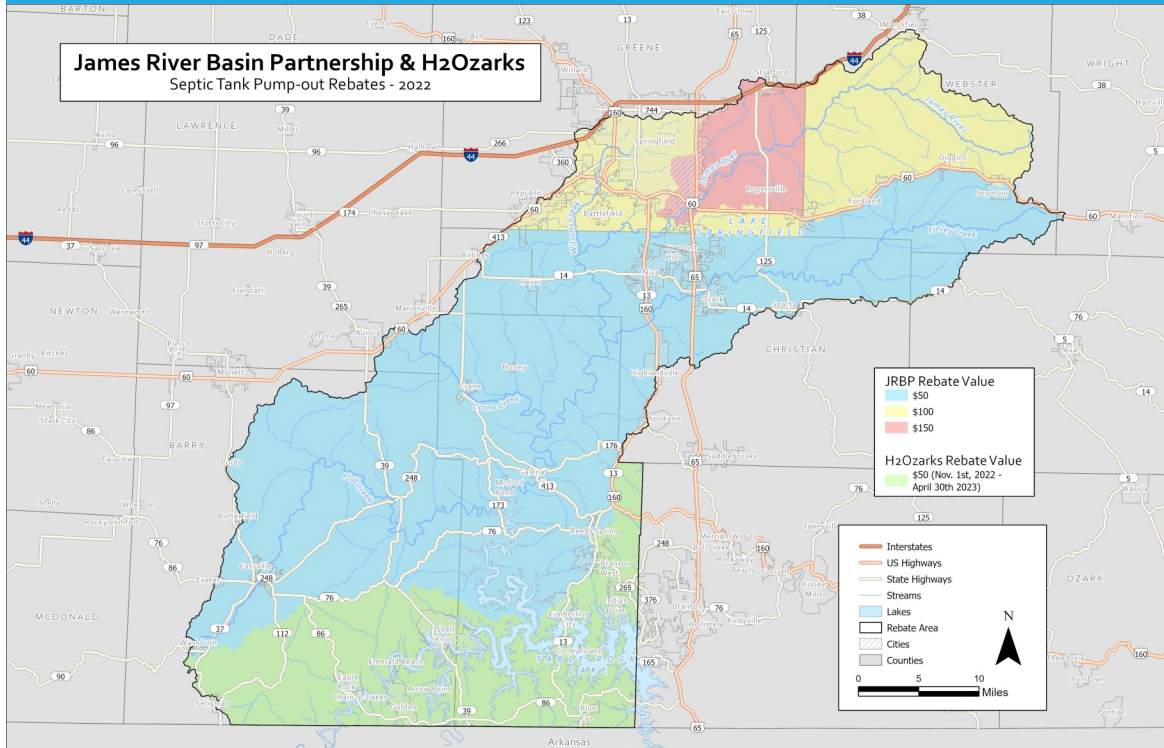
### Premier Sponsor



### Supporting Sponsor



# Septic Pump-Out Rebate Available



Residents of the James River watershed can apply for one of our septic pump-out rebates when they have their tank pumped by an approved septic pumper. Thanks to our partners at City Utilities of Springfield, MO and Greene County, Missouri, certain portions of the watershed are eligible for an expanded rebate of up to \$150!

*Additional rebate availability through H2ozarks.*

Learn more and sign up at [www.JamesRiverBasin.com/septic](http://www.JamesRiverBasin.com/septic)

## Business Members



Level 5



Level 4

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

**Level 2:** Springfield Brewing Company; PCnet

**Level 1:** Husch Blackwell LLP; Hootentown Canoe Rental; Diventures; Jack Henry & Associates; Computer Recycling Center; Illumine Collect, Associated Electric Co-op

## 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](http://JamesRiverBasin.com)*