

❖ The Water Line ❖

Newsletter for the Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program

Volume 4

Number 3

Fall 2000

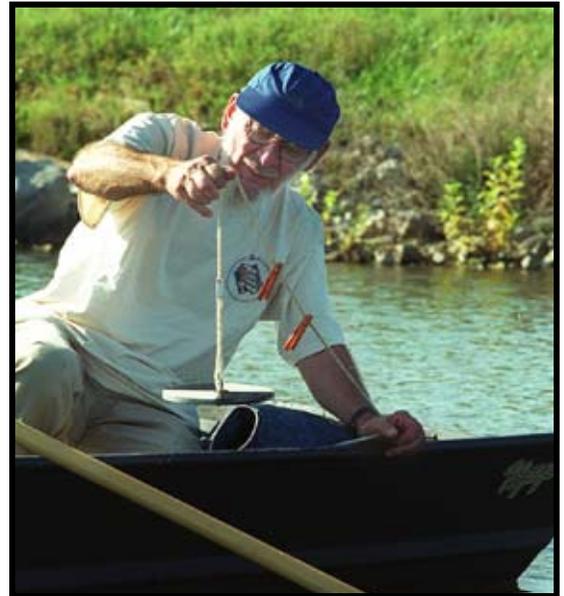
1

Non-Point Source Pollution

This article is the first in a series that will appear in the next several issues of *The Water Line* to discuss and examine Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution. In this series we will discuss NPS pollution: what it is, why it is a problem, and what we can do to help control it.

Let's start with a definition of NPS pollution: water pollution caused by sources with no distinct point of origin, often referred to as runoff or polluted runoff from urban areas, agriculture, livestock and confined animal feeding operations, mining, improperly maintained septic systems, construction sites and other sites. These are forms of diffuse pollution caused by sediment, nutrients, organic and toxic substances originating from land use activities, which are carried into lakes, streams and wetlands by surface and subsurface runoff. It has been estimated that presently NPS pollution accounts for more than one-half of the water pollution in the United States. Generally speaking, NPS pollution means any water contamination that does not originate from a "point source". Point source pollution is designated as pollution that can be clearly identified as coming from waste water treatment plants or industrial wastes discharged through a pipe or other means of conveyances.

The most common NPS pollutants are sediment and nutrients. Beach closures, destroyed habitat, fish kills, unsafe drinking water, and many other



Dr. Charles Laun, volunteer at Little Dixie Lake, prepares to take a Secchi reading. See page 3...

severe health problems result from NPS pollutants. Each year the U.S. spends millions of dollars to restore and protect areas damaged by NPS pollutants. We must all examine our lifestyles to see how we can help control the problem. In our next article we will discuss the way urban areas contribute to NPS pollution - the problems and some solutions. (**See page 5...)

Inside this issue....

<i>Why Am I Doing This??!!.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>A Morning on Little Dixie Lake.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>More on MOWIN.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>White River Basin Forum.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Sample Season 2000 in Review.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>DNR Watershed Conference.....</i>	<i>5</i>

Coordinators of LMVP

Fran Pope popef@missouri.edu
Dan Obrecht obrecht@missouri.edu

302 A. B. Natural Resources Bldg.
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

PLEASE, SOMEONE TELL ME AGAIN, WHY AM I DOING THIS??!!??

So it's time again to start loading up the boat with all of the equipment. Maybe you have been doing this now for eight years and you are not sure why or what you are accomplishing. You know that collecting samples and monitoring our lakes are important tasks and without your volunteer time and efforts, the information from this amount of data would not be possible. From a volunteer's perspective, sometimes you really can't see the bigger picture of the Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program. But let me show you just some of the many, many other ways your data are being used. Remember, **without you and your work, none of it would happen!! Thank you!!**

Image not available

Image not available

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

.....
: A Morning on Little Dixie Lake :
.....

It was one of the warmer, but not scorching, days we had this summer. Working up a sweat rowing the boat on the calm, quiet lake, I realized how nice it was to be outside



Dr. Charles Laun, LMVP volunteer, and Fran Pope, coordinator of the LMVP and oarsman, collect samples on Little Dixie Lake.

collecting samples. I had recently received two calls from reporters wanting to do stories about the LMVP. I contacted the volunteer, Dr. Charles Laun, on Little Dixie Lake and asked if he would let me tag along to collect one of his samples. This has got to be the favorite part of my job, spending time with the volunteers. What an intriguing, interesting, dedicated bunch of folks! So we packed up the equipment, headed east out of Columbia toward Millersburg to Little Dixie Lake. Little Dixie is a 200 acre lake owned and managed by the Department of Conservation. We must have been a little nervous about our journalistic debut as limnological photographic models, because after rowing out to the site, I realized I had

left the sample bottle on the shoreline! I just counted the trip back as my exercise for the day and after retrieving the bottle, returning to the site, we began the field collection process.

After rowing back in (for the second time!), we set up in the shade of the pavilion and began filtering the sample. Dr. Laun is a retired biology professor from Stephens College in Columbia. He is quite knowledgeable about environmental issues and I appreciate his continued dedication to protecting our environment. We processed the sample while answering the reporter's questions about what we were doing and why we were doing it. Dr. Laun said that he enjoys taking the samples and also is amused by how many people come up to him and ask what he is doing.

I had a wonderful morning and really appreciated Dr. Laun's time. I want to thank him and all of the other volunteers that I have had the pleasure of sampling with and hope to be able to get out in the field with more volunteers next year. I welcome anyone else who might have pictures to share and stories to tell about their sampling experiences.



Dr. Laun and assistant filtering the lake sample through a

More on MOWIN!!

by, Tabitha Madzura

We have featured an article on MOWIN in a past newsletter (Fall 1999), but feel like this is an organization which is worth taking a second look.

Fran

The Missouri Watershed Information Network (MOWIN) has come a long way since 1998. Success has been a team effort. The result has been an effective clearing house and one-stop-shop for Missouri citizens interested in healthy watersheds. The MoWIN website offers information on best management practices for the state's watersheds. As word has spread, the number of hits has increased greatly.

Features include a calendar of watershed events, ongoing projects, local county contacts, grants and funding sources, technical assistance, and educational resources. Acronym City—where 700 acronyms are defined—has been a popular feature in helping users better understand the language surrounding watershed management. A new feature - an extensive glossary of natural resource-related terms will be helpful to users.

An additional website feature receiving much attention is the Watershed-Related by County. Users can click on their county shown on a color map of Missouri and find a wealth of geographic and demographic information plus a county map and a listing of impaired water sources. This feature was highly publicized in major state media and found instant popularity among users.

Earlier this year, MoWIN was able to provide drought-related information to

farmers and government officials.

Along with the website, we respond to queries by e-mail, telephone and by personal visits. Information is also disseminated through workshops and conferences.

MoWIN is a partnership in which the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension works with 27 state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses and interest groups to provide current information. Working together, partners in MoWIN are providing citizens with the information they need for improved watershed management, and restoration. The result will be a cleaner environment and safe drinking water supply. For more information check out the website at <http://outreach.missouri.edu/mowin> or contact mowin at mowin@missouri.edu; 573-882-0085 or toll free (MO only) 1-877-H2O-SHED (426-

White River Basin Forum

The second meeting between representatives of Missouri and Arkansas will be held Nov. 1 & 2 at the Ramada Inn in Mount Home, Arkansas. This meeting is a sequel to the meeting that was held last year in Branson, MO which featured a memorandum calling for the two states to work together to solve the problems in the White River Basin. Governor Mel Carnahan and the directors of the Missouri DNR and the Arkansas DEQ were speakers last year. Over 300 people attended and participated in the round table discussions and workgroups. This is an excellent opportunity to be heard by elected officials and show your support of protecting the White River Basin and all of the reservoirs that it encompasses. The staff of the LMVP attended the last forum and plans on attending and presenting volunteer data again this year. Come be a voice this year, be part of the solutions and help encourage cooperative efforts between the states. We hope to see you there!

Sample Season 2000 in Review

This was a successful sampling season. We added several new sites and new lakes to the program. Here is breakdown of the lakes, and their locations:

Image not available

We already have several new volunteers and lakes that hopefully will be joining next year! If you know anyone who may be interested in the program, please be sure to give them our phone number 800-895-2260!

Region VII, US Environmental Protection Agency, through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, has provided partial funding for this project under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program is also supported by the University of Missouri.

First DNR Watershed Conference a Success!

The Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources held its first Watershed Conference on Sept. 8-9 at Tan-Tar-A at the Lake of the Ozarks. The goal of the conference was to provide a time and space to improve communication about water quality issues. Dan and I, along with seven graduate students, headed down for two days of presentations and information sharing.

Many "Hot Water" topics were discussed: Missouri's impaired waters, TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Loads), safe drinking water issues, watershed groups efforts, how citizens are making an impact working with government agencies, issues surrounding the Big Rivers in Missouri and many more. Along with having a poster at the exhibit hall, I was very proud to give a presentation on the Lakes of Missouri Volunteers Program. There was sincere interest in the program and several people inquired about participating in the next sample season.

In the closing comments Steve Mahfood, the director of the DNR, stated that this was the first of hopefully many conferences. I learned a great deal and I will keep you posted for next year's place and time. I recommend attending to anyone sincerely interested in understanding the complicated water issues that are before us now and will be in the future. by, Fran Pope

(** from pg 1) - Much of the information for this article came from the EPA website at www.epa.gov/owow/nps Check it out for more information!