

2020 NEWSLETTER



Our Mission: To improve the stewardship of Scott County watersheds through education, technical guidance, and volunteer opportunities.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



What a whirl wind year this has been! While everyone has been working hard to stay well and safe during the global COVID-19 pandemic, people have still been able to contribute to the data collection, funding and support that sustains Partners of Scott County Watersheds. For this we are eternally grateful. I applaud all of the efforts that have been made to keep stormwater management and water quality improvement as important goals of our partnering organizations and community at large.

Also, special thanks to the Partners Board and our Coordinator, Cassie. The Board continues to move forward our Strategic Plan to raise public awareness of our organization and its mission, find new and creative ways for community engagement and continues to work on public education efforts. Cassie has worked with our Eastern Iowa Community College partners to move our educational Forums and our Board meetings into a webinar format so that we can continue to offer great programming and planning while keeping everyone at a safe distance.

We certainly miss interacting with all of you in person! I am cautiously optimistic that we'll be able to see each other soon. We will work to provide limited participant number and safe Snapshot water quality monitoring events and cleanups for as long as we need to. I hope that everyone can continue their efforts to stay mentally and physically healthy.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Until we meet again, stay well!

PSCW BOARD MEMBERS

Cassie Druhl, Coordinator

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Member

OUR HISTORY: In 1990, 1993 & 1995 severe flooding occurred on Scott County urban streams. This flooding was a result of the conventional methods being used to deal with stormwater. These events and concerns with water quality in Scott County streams led to the formation of the Partners of Scott County Watersheds, an alliance committed to *developing and implementing ways all citizens can be better stewards of our watersheds.*

Since 2003, the group has been improving water quality and working toward flood reduction in Scott County by providing residents, landowners, developers, environmental organizations, educators, and government officials with education, technical support, and financial assistance to promote and install best management practices.

FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hello! It seems like another year has flown by so quickly. Like all organizations this year, PSCW was hit with some unique challenges. My Board and I knew that we would be successful in finding creative ways to continue moving our mission forward, and in some cases, we discovered more efficient ways to manage our activities! This includes adjusting our forums to a virtual format— something that we hope to continue as an option even as we transition back to in-person events. We were able to include more outdoor activities this year to accommodate for social distancing, such as volunteer cleanup events and meeting with landowners to provide technical support for their water quality improvement needs.



Cassie Druhl

As we enter 2021, we are prepared to keep growing the number of people we serve each year, in whatever setting that may be! This year has shown that we can adapt to challenging situations and still have a successful organization. Thank you to all of our volunteers, members and partners who make it possible!

2020 SUCCESS STORIES

Despite the global pandemic, PSCW continued to get the citizens of Scott County involved in improving watershed health! Here are some of the things that we accomplished in 2020:

- Installed 3 biofilters in Robin Creek in northwest Davenport. Started a sampling regime with St. Ambrose University to track how the filters are reducing bacteria levels in the creek
- Received Iowa American Water Environmental Grant to restock Snapshot water quality monitoring supplies
- Acquired enough water quality monitoring materials for 10 Snapshot kits
- Developed Snapshot data entry app with the Scott County GIS and IT staff
- Coordinated our first Streambank Restoration Workshop
- Coordinated our first Grant Programs Webinar in partnership with Iowa State University's Iowa Nutrient Research Center
- Recorded a Snapshot training video.
- Spoke to 250 Bettendorf Middle School students about water quality during their First Green program
- Gave a presentation about soil erosion to 20 Boy Scouts for their Merit Badge event
- Spoke at Progressive Action for the Common Good's Virtual Green Drinks event
- Gave a presentation about Davenport's urban bioreactor to members of the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership (ISWEP)
- Made an appearance on Living Local Quad Cities to advertise the Snapshot volunteer water quality monitoring events
- Staffed a booth at Bald Eagle Days and the Bettendorf Middle School STEM Fair
- Created a membership and partnership program
- Coordinated group trash cleanups along local waterways in Princeton, Bettendorf, and Davenport
- Adopted the Crow Creek Wildlife Management Area near Mt. Joy
- Created PSCW's YouTube channel to share recordings of past forums and workshops
- Received a grant from the Riverboat Development Authority to purchase educational technology for Snapshots

2020 SNAPSHOTS

We tested 62 sites in 2020, with at least one site on every stream in Scott County. This includes several sites that we've tested before, along with some new sites that were added to replace areas that were dangerous to test from. In the summer Snapshot, 10 sites were also surveyed for macroinvertebrate populations, the presence of which is an additional indicator of a healthy watershed. Ten lake sites were also added in the summer and will continue to be tested in the future. Lab analysis for nitrate, nitrite, orthophosphate, herbicide, and pesticide samples was completed the summer.

Due to concerns with COVID-19, the spring Snapshot was coordinated by members of municipalities and environmental organizations instead of community volunteers, but we were able to host public events during the summer and fall. We had a total of 80 volunteers support us this year, and we were grateful to have their help!

Overall observations from this year's Snapshots indicate that nutrients are still a concern in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The trends continue to go in the wrong direction. Chloride continues to be an urban/suburban concern, but currently are not exceeding Iowa water quality standards. Dissolved oxygen and pH levels are

within Iowa water quality standards. Herbicides and pesticide sites samples showed little to no detection, which is a good sign, but further sampling is needed to have confident results.

In 2021, we are making a big change to the way we record Snapshot results. With the help of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and the Scott County GIS team, we will be using a digital app and tablets to record data instead of paper data sheets!

Thank you to those who have donated your time, equipment, and money to make this year's Snapshots possible. You are the driving force in continuing water quality monitoring in Scott County!

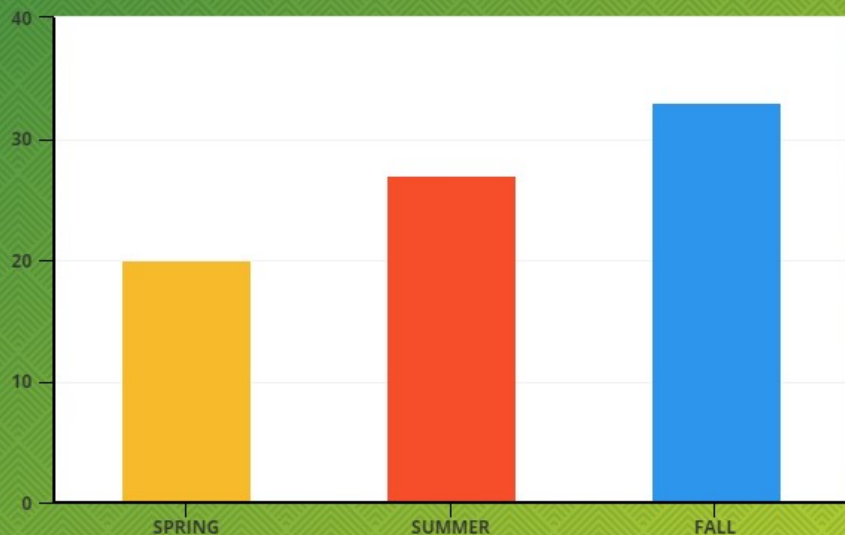
Thank you for funding lab costs for this year's Snapshots!



Thank you for contributing to restock water quality monitoring materials for Snapshots!



2020 SNAPSHOT ATTENDANCE



2020 FORUMS

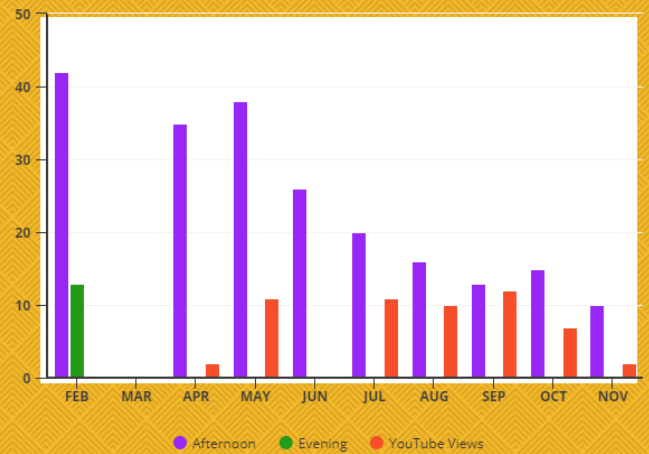
2020's forums looked a little different this year! We started out the year as normal in February, but by March we discovered that we would need to find another way to make the forums available to the public. Luckily, with the help of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and the Internet, we adapted and were able to present the forums virtually, in addition to recording them for later viewing on our YouTube channel. These efforts led to 228 people attending the live forums and 64 additional views on YouTube. We plan to continue holding virtual forums in early 2021, and hope to add in-person forums back later next year. Thank you to this year's speakers!



February's forum was our only in-person forum this year.

We attracted 42 attendees!

2020 FORUM ATTENDANCE



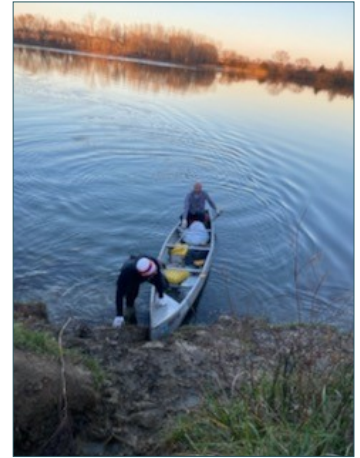
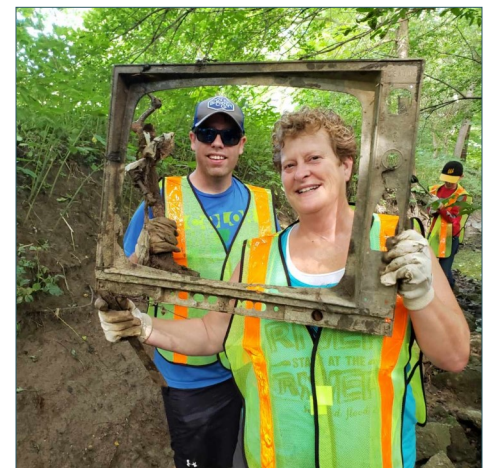
Month	Speaker	Topic
Feb.	Olivia Dorothy, American Rivers	Upper Mississippi: America's Most Endangered River
March	Canceled due to COVID-19	
April*	Keith Schilling, Iowa Geological Survey	Reconstructed Multi-Purpose Oxbows
May*	Robb Ewoldt, Farmer	Ag. Best Management Practices for Water Quality
June*	Mike Paustian, Farmer	Using Technology in Sustainable Farming
July*	Kay Stefanik, Iowa Nutrient Research Center	Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy
Aug.*	John Koch, City of Muscatine	Muscatine Pollinator Project, MARRVE Waste Recycling System
Sept.*	Joel Vanderbush, Niabi Zoo	Whale Sharks, Algae, and You: The Impact of River Pollution on Oceans.
Oct.*	Ken Krier, Iowa DNR	Iowa's Fish Tissue Monitoring Program
Nov.*	PSCW	2020 Snapshot Summary and Year's Accomplishments
		*Virtual Program

WHAT'S NEXT?

PSCW has been planning a lot of cool stuff behind the scenes in preparation for a fantastic 2021! Here are some things to look forward to as we head into a new year:



- Partnering with Living Lands & Waters to organize a Floating Classroom event for local children
- Planning part 2 of our Streambank Restoration Workshop
- Adopting the Crow Creek Wildlife Management Area in partnership with the Iowa DNR and planning future cleanup events
- Creating a map on PSCW's website for visitors to learn more about local water quality improvement projects in our area
- Expanding and further focusing our water quality monitoring efforts
- Developing interpretive signage at West Lake Park and the Duck Creek Parkway
- Entering Snapshot water quality monitoring results on a digital platform using our newly designed data collecting app
- Partnering with more Scott County communities for local stream cleanup efforts
- Working locally to improve small boat access to Duck Creek

A screenshot of a mobile application interface for water quality monitoring. It includes fields for 'Transparency (cm)', 'Water temperature' in Fahrenheit, 'pH', 'Nitrite (mg/l)', and 'Nitrate (mg/l)', each with a dropdown menu for selection.

Would you like a representative from Partners of Scott County Watersheds to speak to your group in 2021? We welcome any opportunity to share our mission and our services, as well as educate the public about water quality issues. Email info@partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org or call 563-336-3378 to schedule a presentation.

info@partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org
facebook.com/partnersofscottcountywatersheds
563-336-3378

Our Mission
To improve the stewardship
of Scott County watersheds
through education, technical
guidance, and volunteer
opportunities



Join Us as a Partner!

Your tax-deductible contributions benefit the Partnership, Scott County's watersheds, farmers, businesses, students, schools and universities, and residents through cleaner streams, higher quality outdoor recreation, increased biodiversity, and ecological health at the local and watershed levels. Take pride in being a part of a long-term effort of promoting healthier watersheds, flood reduction and water quality improvement throughout the county.

Partners of Scott County Watersheds is the only organization in Scott County that has continually provided comprehensive leadership in long-term monitoring and improvement of the quality of our streams. Volunteers, members, and funding partners play a big role in PSCW's successes. We can't thank our supporters enough for donating time, money, equipment, and expertise to our mission.

Making a donation to Partners of Scott County Watersheds will ensure that the following activities will continue throughout the county:

- Monthly public educational forums on water quality and flooding issues,
- Expansion of the number of monitoring sites and parameters that can be analyzed for our Snapshot volunteer water quality monitoring events, and
- Contribute to special workshops and water quality improvement projects in Scott County.

We are a non-profit organization (501(c)(3)) of engaged and passionate members, partners, volunteers, and collaborators, relying entirely on grants and donations from our friends, members, governments, schools and universities, organizations and, of course, *YOU!*

You can be part of the movement by donating today at www.partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org/support-us or by sending a check or cash to:

1200 E 46th St.

Attn: Partners of Scott County Watersheds
Davenport, IA 52807

To find out more about Funding Partner benefits, please visit www.partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org/become-a-funding-partner.

Thank you for considering a gift to Partners of Scott County Watersheds!

Sincerely,

Cassie Druhl, Coordinator

Partners of Scott County Watersheds

Tax ID # 80-0105103



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2021

2021 Snapshots

Save the dates for our annual Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Events! We will break volunteers into groups to monitor 61 watershed sites around Scott County. The testing equipment is easy to use, and volunteers will enjoy a morning outdoors and FREE LUNCH upon their return! Follow PSCW's website and social media for more details in 2021.

Tuesday, May 4 from 8am-12pm

Saturday, July 17 from 8am-12pm

Tuesday, October 5 from 8am-12pm

2021 Forums

Held the 3rd Tuesday of each month, February through November, these monthly forums feature local and regional experts discussing the latest news and research in conservation. Follow PSCW's website and social media for more details in 2021.

12pm-1pm virtually via Zoom until COVID restrictions are lifted. Details and registration will be available a few weeks before each event on our website and social media outlets.

Earth Day

Celebrate the Planet! Go on a hike, pick up some trash, and attend local Earth Day events!

April 22 on Planet Earth

Streambank Restoration Workshop Part 2

Coming Spring 2021

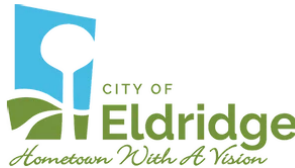
Group Trash/Stream Cleanups

Coming Spring 2021. Contact us if you want to coordinate a stream cleanup!

For the most up to date information on our events and activities, please visit

www.partnersofscottcountywatersheds.org or our Facebook page.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Susan Frye Jerry Mohr

Our 2020 Members

Heather Ballou

Angie and Steve Gustafson

Johl Mohr

Kay Pence

Cassie Druhl

Kay Family

Linda Molyneaux

Ritter Family

Mona Druhl

Ed Kocal

Josh Patterson

Schramm Family

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