



# THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

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

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100 Hours Outdoors: Back for 2024

# 100 Hours Outdoors

Presented by  
 Hatch

Make it a goal to spend 100 hours (or more!) outdoors this summer! This will be our second year hosting the 100 Hours Outdoors program, where kids and families can take the pledge, go outside, track hours, and be entered to win exciting outdoor prizes. The program is generously sponsored by The Hatch Foundation.

This year there will be a special emphasis on Experience the Outdoors events to help families collect more hours and learn about local wildlife. Fishing trips, bird watching, nature journaling classes, and more. Check the website all summer for a list of outdoor events!

Learn more and take the pledge at [www.jamesriverbasin.com/100hours](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/100hours)



## Rain Barrel Rebate for Greene County Residents

Catch those “April showers” with a rain barrel! Rainwater harvesting systems capture and store rainwater from your rooftop, which reduces pollutant runoff, provides the ability to “spread-and-soak”, minimizes erosion, and conserves drinking water.

Learn more about rain barrels (including videos on how to install them) and JRBP’s rain barrel rebate for Greene County residents at [www.jamesriverbasin.com/rain-barrel](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/rain-barrel)

Utilizing a rainwater harvesting system is part of the Yard Ethic certification program for City of Springfield residents! Show your yard ethic by caring for your yard in a way that supports a healthy community of people, plants, and wildlife. Learn more about Yard Ethic at [yardethic.com](http://yardethic.com)



## Find Native Plants at Sales this Spring!

Did you know that native plants are beneficial to water quality? Native grasses and wildflowers have long, complex root systems that reduce soil erosion, stabilize streambanks, soak up runoff, and slow flood waters. Native plants also provide vital habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

There are opportunities to purchase native plants this spring! JRBP is proud to be a sponsor for the Ozark Society’s “Nature’s Best Hope” event on May 18th, bringing in nationally known sustainability and conservation author Doug Tallamy. There will be a native plant sale in the morning, featuring Missouri businesses such as Missouri Wildflower Nursery, Ozark Soul Native Plants, and Gaylena’s Garden.

Learn more about the event at [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net)



## Welcome to the Team Rebecca Nassif



Rebecca Nassif joined the James River Basin Partnership in February 2024 as the Administrative Assistant. She began her career in fundraising at World Wildlife Fund in Washington, D.C. After a stint in the Mississippi Teacher Corps and teaching in schools in Mississippi and Memphis, she returned to the non-profit world and spent over 12 years in international development at ALSAC/St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. She then spent nine years raising funds for Playhouse on the Square, a professional resident theatre company in Memphis.

Originally from Carrollton, Mississippi, Rebecca called Memphis home for 26 years before relocating to Springfield. She holds a B.A. in political science from Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia; a B.S. in biological sciences from the University of Southern Mississippi; and an M.A. in secondary education from the University of Mississippi. She and her husband Naji have two daughters and four cats and love the natural beauty surrounding their new city.

## Upcoming Events



### Earth Day Cleanup

Join us Monday, April 22nd on the river, lake, or shore to remove trash from the James River and Springfield Lake. Volunteers are still needed! Learn more and sign up at

[www.jamesriverbasin.com/earth-day-2024](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/earth-day-2024)

### Earth Day Festival

Support JRBP by attending the Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 27th. A portion of the proceeds from this event support JRBP's work to improve and protect the James River watershed.

Buy tickets at [www.earthdayspringfieldmo.org](http://www.earthdayspringfieldmo.org)

## Where to find JRBP this spring:

April 12 - [Spring Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup](#) in Nixa, MO

April 13 - [Fassnight Creek Day](#) at the Springfield Art Museum

April 22 - [Earth Day Cleanup](#) at Lake Springfield

April 24 - [Family Nature-Making Fun Night](#) at the Springfield Art Museum

April 27 - [Earth Day Festival](#) at Jordan Valey Park

April 27 - [Community Wide Play Day](#) at Fassnight Park

April 29 - [Birding by Kayak](#) at Lake Springfield

May 2 - [Onsite Wastewater Treatment Workshop for Real Estate Professionals](#) in Springfield, MO

May 6 - [James River Float](#) with Outdoor Initiatives

May 18 - [Nature's Best Hope Plant Sale and Presentation](#) at Darr Agricultural Center

May 24 - [Experience the Outdoors: Bird Watching](#) at South Creek Greenway Trail

May 31 - [Experience the Outdoors: Nature Journaling](#) at the Watershed Center

Stay in the loop on JRBP events at [jamesriverbasin.com/events](http://jamesriverbasin.com/events)

## Save the Dates



### River Rescue

Saturday, June 8th will be our annual River Rescue cleanup! We'll be floating the lower James, H.L Kerr to Galena, and removing trash and tires along the way. Registration opens in early May.

### Sunset Soiree

Join us Saturday, September 14th for our 8th annual Sunset Soiree on the historic Riverside Bridge at Finley Farms. The event will be an evening of local drinks, delicious food, great music, and water-loving camaraderie, all supporting JRBP's mission. Tickets go on sale in July.

# Onsite Wastewater Treatment Workshop for Real Estate Professionals

The James River Basin Partnership, Missouri Smallflows Organization, and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks will hold an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Inspection/Evaluation for Real Estate Professionals workshop on Thursday, May 2 at Praise Assembly, 3535 N. Glenstone Ave in 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.

Online registration and a workshop agenda are available at:

[www.jamesriverbasin.com/owts-workshop](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/owts-workshop)

When you register, please put your Missouri Real Estate License Number in the notes; otherwise, MSO will contact you via phone to get this information prior to the class.

The conference and continuing education credits fee is \$15. A certificate of completion will be provided.

Funding for this workshop is provided by the Greene County Environmental Division.

Course host is Missouri Smallflows Organization (School #95000). Course has been approved by MREC for 3 Elective CEs.



## Business Members



Level 4



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

**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 is 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)*