



February 8, 2022

2022 STATE OF OUR STREAM REPORT

Dear Fellow Ikes,

Our Chapter continues to make great strides in achieving our Vision of becoming the premier environmental organization in the Cabin Branch Watershed! After several years of expanding our Save Our Stream (SOS) program to six sampling sites, we have achieved total coverage of our Watershed. This year we have also completed organizational sponsorships for *all* the sampling sites.

Our Chloride test results ranged from “Poor” in Spring 2021 to “Fair” in Fall 2021. This “improvement” is due to the gradual leaching out of salt from the groundwater over the year. All other Save Our Stream (SOS) parameters were in the Good to Excellent range. If you wish to view the actual data and graphs just type in CLEAN WATER HUB in your Internet Browser search bar and then follow the prompts! Road salt is the main non-point pollution source in our Watershed. While there are no easy solutions, Montgomery County is working on improved technology and methodology to reduce road salting operations to a minimum. However, please note that our Cabin Branch tap water is now almost 40 parts per million (ppm); that is twice the amount for a low sodium diet! However, our WSSC water treatment plant is *not* a desalinization plant; what we do upstream does affect our very own drinking water downstream. The WSSC Water Quality Report can be accessed at [Water Quality Reports | WSSC Water](#).

The IWLA National President, Vicki Arnold, recently wrote in the 2021 ISSUE 4 of the *Outdoor America* about “The Power of Partnerships”. She wrote about “...the League’s tremendous 100-year history and introduced our Second Century goals...Our conservation successes are amplified by partnerships” (p. 2). For example, our Chapter is in the service area of a recently rejuvenated *Seneca Creek Watershed Partners (SCWP)* that may play a greater role in our future water quality efforts. The SCWP is a formal member of the *Muddy Branch Alliance*. Also, within our Watershed we have created the *Cabin Branch Clean Water Coalition* to share water quality information and gain greater citizen participation in our monitoring efforts.

At our Site #1 (Snouffer School Road bridge) we partnered with a ScoutsUSA Troop. Site # 2 on Mourning Dove Court is sponsored by the Montgomery West Homeowners Association. Site # 3 is sponsored by the IWLA Maryland Division. Site # 4 (on Montgomery Village culvert bridge) recently completed the Coalition’s membership with sponsorship by the Committee of the Environment of the Montgomery Village Foundation. Site # 5 at Watkins Mill Road bridge is sponsored by the Youth Group of the Covenant United Methodist Church. Site # 6 where the Cabin Branch merges with the Great Seneca Creek, is sponsored by IWLA Headquarters. Although COVID has curtailed much of our annual SOS outreach efforts, our SOS Coordinators, (Mr. Duane Hovorka, from HQ IWLA, and Dr. William H. Roberts, Jr.) are planning an aggressive plan of SOS activities in 2022!

Yours in Conservation Service,

Anita Stonebraker, President

SOS ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN 2021 (January thru December):

- Duane Hovorka initiates planning for updating the Chapter Forest Management Plan which will contribute to clean water inputs for the headwaters of the Cabin Branch.
- Bill Roberts continues planning meetings with the Montgomery Village Foundation Committee of the Environment about sponsoring Site # 4 on Montgomery Village Avenue; these meetings and monitoring activities are eventually successful for Site # 4 Sponsorship.
- The last of the *Cabin Branch Watershed* signs was installed at Site #1 on Snouffer School Road.
- 2021 Conservation Calendar updated to reflect SOS activities.
- Anita Stonebraker sends SOS Award Conservation Poster to Mr. Mark Terry, Chief of Traffic Engineering Study Section, Montgomery County Government.
- Unsuccessful attempt to formally join with the Muddy Branch Alliance under their webpage with a separate logo for the Lois Green-Sligo Chapter and/or the Cabin Branch Clean Water Coalition.
- Anita Stonebraker releases the Annual State of the Stream Report; Bill Roberts distributes same to all organization sponsors for the 6 sampling sites.
- SOS webpage updated with monitoring events, Conservation Calendar and the IWLA SOS Advocacy Guide.
- First comprehensive SOS Budget submitted to Chapter Board; receives approval for \$688.70
- Bill Roberts manned an SOS exhibit about Chapter activities and macro-invertebrates at the 24th Annual Wade-In at the Anita C Leight Estuary Center, Abingdon, MD.
- Attended various IWLA HQ and City of Gaithersburg clean water zoom meetings.
- Adopt-A-Road program active on Turkey Thicket Road which is in the Cabin Branch riparian zone.
- April is Global Citizen Science month and the Chapter SOS Co-Coordinators monitored Sites #1, 2, and 4.
- The National Salt Watch Program is actively promoted by the SOS Co-Coordinators to Chapter Members.
- Phil Lowe, LGS Member, continues to actively monitor his unnamed stream behind his house every Spring and Fall!
- Seneca Creek Watershed Partners is very loose umbrella organization which can include our Chapter SOS efforts as well as the Cabin Branch Clean Water Coalition.
- The Mother of God School sampling site was suspended in 2021 due to COVID restrictions by that organization.