



Volunteers installing a demonstration rain garden at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Clintonville.

“When I First Hopped into the River” – A Volunteer Profile

In February, OSU student James Talbert took a few minutes to interview Marilyn Hay, an active FLOW volunteer and member, to learn more about how she became involved and what has inspired her. This is the first in an occasional series to honor the many volunteers who make up the backbone of FLOW's organization.

JT: So, Marilyn, how did you get involved with FLOW?

MH: I heard about the backyard conservation program from a friend. We went to a workshop and I picked up a fifty-gallon rainwater collection barrel. When you go to the workshop you can pick up one of these rainwater barrels at a discounted price. I have three of them now.

JT: What do you do with the rainwater you collect?

MH: Every time it rains I have fifty gallons of water to water for use outdoors.

JT: What motivates you to work with FLOW?

MH: Just the fact that through my work with FLOW I get hands-on experience and hands-on information about doing something beneficial.

JT: What kinds of work do you do with FLOW?

MH: With the monitoring program I'm able to jump in and investigate, which I really enjoy. We received forty hours of instruction that covered everything from wild flowers to environmental controls for construction sites. What they have us monitor is the health of the streams that flow into the Oolentangy River. You turn over rocks and check out what's under them in order to assess the health of the stream. You also have to take into consideration what the stream is made of, the environment around the stream, and you classify the stream according to a point code that tells you how healthy the stream is.

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JT: **When is the next monitoring program offered and how often do you go out to the Olentangy River with the program?**

MH: FLOW is going to start another monitoring class in the spring. Our group went out every Saturday for most of the day and every week we went somewhere else to do something different. I loved it because I just kept on learning.

JT: **What part of the Olentangy River do you usually focus on for your investigations with the monitoring program?**

MH: We usually visit tributaries of the Olentangy in the Delaware County area. There's so much development up there that you have to get the tributaries classified so you can advocate for their protection.

JT: **Do you have a favorite spot on the Olentangy River?**

MH: I actually like to go down to Northmoor Park. It's a little park that's part of the bikeway. You can walk right by the river. I also love to walk my dogs along the river.

JT: **What was your most gratifying moment working with FLOW?**

MH: My most gratifying moment was when I first hopped into the river. That was the first time that I've really been involved with an organization that I thought I was doing something to benefit the environment.



Photo courtesy of Ellie Nowels

Volunteering with FLOW

FLOW depends on volunteers. Rapid improvements to the quality of the watershed in the past decade are a testament to the commitment of individuals who wanted to make a difference. Working together allows us to achieve great things.

We offer diverse opportunities for people with varied skill sets, schedules, and interests.

Right now, we have a need for volunteers in the following areas:

- Board Members
- Fundraising & Finance Committee Members
- Education & Outreach Committee Members
- Science Committee Members
- Public Speakers
- Children's Program Presenters
- Office Volunteers
- Adopt-an-Area Coordinators
- Adopt-an-Area Volunteers for Workdays
- Stream Monitors
- Wiki Collaborators

Please contact us for more information about how you can become involved.

Support FLOW by registering your Kroger Plus Card



By registering your Kroger Plus card, you can help FLOW receive a percentage of your purchases. You can register at krogercommunityrewards.com. Follow the directions for creating a Kroger Rewards Account, and enter FLOW's NPO number, which is 84562. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see FLOW's name on the right side of your information page. REMEMBER, purchases will not count for FLOW until after you register your card(s). You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count. If you are interested in the alternate SCANBAR method of member registration, please call 800-837-4483 and a SCANBAR letter will be mailed to you.

