



Information FLOW



Volunteers in the QHEI program learning to assess stream habitat. This section would be classified as a run. Inset (top): a volunteer doing an assessment of a pool section. Inset (bottom): Instructor Ed Rankin discussing evaluations. Photos courtesy of Laura Fay.

Riffle, Pool and Run

By Kimberly L. Williams

As a little girl, my sister and I would have National Geographic adventures in our backwoods where we would traverse steep ravines with our trusted canine companions, Casey and Duchess. As we would cross the spring that fed our well, I would typically stop to look at the creek or “crick”. At the time, I did not know the words “headwater or habitat” but understood intuitively that the stream supported the towering oak trees which in turn controlled the erosive forces of water with their roots.

This spring, I as well as other volunteers learned how to assess the interrelationship between the surrounding environments to stream channel structure using two survey instruments: Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index and Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index. The latter survey is used for small streams with a watershed less than a square mile that typically would not support fish. Otherwise, both look at the composition of the channel in terms of boulder, cobble, gravel etc., the presence or absence of vegetation along the banks and whether the stream meanders and forms riffles and pools. Why is any of that important?

The answer is that the variety and quantity of aquatic life is determined by the habitat offered. If there is a great

deal of silt between the cobble and gravel, resulting from straightened channels or lack of vegetation, then there will be little room for aquatic insects to hide which in turn impact fish populations and so on.

Here are a few things to look for when you are out on your National Geographic adventure on the Olentangy River watershed:

Riffle: An area of the stream where the water breaks over cobbles, boulders and gravel or where the water surface is visibly broken. You can typically cross riffles to get to the other side without getting too wet.

Run: Runs refer to an area where the water is flowing rapidly, generally located downstream from riffles. Runs are deeper than riffles.

Pool: An area of the stream that has greater depths and slower currents than riffles and runs.

When you return from your exploration, you can post your observations on our Watershed Wiki, which is found on FLOW's home page. If you are interested in

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EXPLORE

FLOW Calendar of Events, Meetings, and Volunteer Opportunities: Summer & Fall 2010

All times and dates are subject to change. Please confirm time, date, and location by calling our office at 614-267-3386 or on our website at www.olentangywatershed.org

AUG

Watershed 101

When we build houses, parking lots, businesses etc. we impact the environment. For example, rain water hitting driveways, rooftops and parking lots will carry pollutants like sediment to the Olentangy River. Different methods have arisen to decrease the amount of sediment and stormwater from entering our streams and rivers. The following workshops address how we try to minimize our impact.

What: Preventing Sediment Pollution Workshop

When: Saturday August 28th from 10 am- 12:30 pm, registration starts at 9:30 am

Where: Del-Co Water Company, Inc., in Building B05 6682 Olentangy River Rd., Delaware OH 43015

Joe Tribble, PE, CPESC from Stormwater Consultants, LLC will provide an overview of different sediment erosion control practices on construction sites.

What: Stormwater Best Management Practices Workshop

When: Thursday, September 2nd from 6:30-8:30 pm, registration starts at 6:00 pm

Where: Liberty Township Hall inside the Fire Station at 7761 Liberty Road, Powell, OH 43065

Amy Dutt, Landscape Designer from Urban Wild, will speak on why stormwater Best Management Practices are important and how they can be implemented to protect the Olentangy River. After the talk, participants will tour the proposed stormwater BMP project at Liberty Park.

SEPT

In exchange for attending the Watershed 101 classes, each participant is requested to volunteer an equivalent number of hours in the summer and fall. Please check the FLOW website calendar for additional details, e.g. directions: www.olentangywatershed.org/

OCT



Featuring Auden Schendler
author of *Getting Green Done*

summit_{on} SUSTAINABILITY & the ENVIRONMENT

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Tuesday, October 5, 2010 • COSI • Columbus, OH

Bridging the divide to create healthy and sustainable communities in the Midwest

- Keynote by Auden Schendler, critically acclaimed author of *Getting Green Done*
- Pre-event reception October 4th featuring former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and former Ohio Congressman Ralph Regula
- Exhibit hall and workshops covering clean energy, transportation, local food, trails, sustainable development and more

For more information
and to register go to
Greenregion.org

Understand

