

Information

FLOW



Top row: Volunteers installing new downspout; 1,100 gal. rain tank; finished rain garden, viewed from the south.

Bottom row: Volunteers preparing the garden for planting; finished infiltration trench

Photos courtesy: Brian Ogle and Amy Dutt

Honda Rain Garden

By Kelsey Bridges and Amy Dutt

FLOW has received a grant from Honda of America Mfg., Inc. which was used to build green storm water infrastructure at the Mennonite Church on Oakland Park Road. The focus was on three types of treatment: a rain tank, an infiltration trench, and a rain garden.

On August 28th, with help from Urban Wild, volunteers, and church members, FLOW constructed a rain garden on the east side of the church housing a variety of native woodland plants. Later in September, The Rain Brothers installed a 1100-gallon rain tank that will be used to water the Church's many gardens. A third section of roof drainage was sent to an infiltration trench topped with decorative stone, which will slowly infiltrate water into the subsoil, recharging ground water.

In a one-inch rainstorm, over 4,400 gallons of water running-off 6,600 square feet of roof top will be harvested or infiltrated. The above three treatments will allow the surrounding area to absorb over 100,000 gallons of water per year rather than simply let it flow directly into the sewers.

This rain garden will be an example to other businesses and homeowners in the area who are interested in water conservation practices. Green storm water infrastructure is a way to manage water runoff in an urban setting where natural forests no longer exist to absorb rainfall that floods and pollutes local streams and rivers.

Explore

Liberty Township Park Restoration

By Kelsey Bridges and Amy Dutt

Delaware County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. At the same time, it is one of the few areas along the Olentangy River with Exceptional Warm Water Habitat status (EWH). This high quality water rating needs to be protected as the area continues to develop, and that is where FLOW is going to assist.

FLOW and Liberty Township have teamed-up and received over \$100,000 through the Storm Water Improvement Fund (SWIF). The funds will restore the ecological services of Wildcat Run within Liberty Township Park. Restoration will include restoring the channel and floodplain of 500 linear feet of a stream, creating 450 linear feet of vegetative swale, and constructing 260 linear feet of self-forming channel. FLOW will create signage and a public outreach program to educate how the project counteracts the effects of rapidly changing land use.

The Liberty Township Park restoration will reduce erosion, sediment, and nutrient loading into Wildcat Run while also supplying chemical, physical and biological services. By preserving Wildcat Run, a tributary of the Olentangy, FLOW hopes to maintain the EWH status in Southern Delaware County despite the large amount of development taking place in the area.



Photo courtesy of Ellie Nowels

MONITOR update

By Kimberly L. Williams

The monitoring season is drawing to a close. Once all of the habitat assessment results are in, a report will be posted on the FLOW website noting the health status of those streams monitoring in southern Delaware County. In the previous newsletter, it was noted that Kelsey Bridges, FLOW Intern, was working on submitting stream names to United States Geological Survey in order to obtain official recognition. Before she left, she was able to submit 21 stream names for approval.

FLOW Annual Membership Drive

By Laura Shinn

FLOW will be mailing out our annual membership campaign letter within the next month. You can help us save on postage if you send in your renewal today! You can even save yourself postage by renewing on-line at http://www.olentangywatershed.org/act_membership.html. 2010 was a good year thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters. As we move into 2011, FLOW is facing increasing competition for ever more limited sources of funding. Therefore we are making a special appeal to all of our members to consider increasing their membership to the \$50 supporting level.

In an effort to save money and other resources, we are also transitioning to electronic newsletters. Beginning in 2011, only paid members will receive hard copy newsletters if they request them. So, when you renew, please let us know if you would like to receive a hard copy in the mail or if you would prefer an electronic version.

Rich Wissler: Loss of a Valued Friend



Photo courtesy of
Nikhil Shah

Many of you who have attended FLOW events since 2005 will recognize the name or face of Rich Wissler. He attended winter hikes, 5th Avenue Dam tours, and helped the FLOW Watershed Coordinator organize rain barrel and Earth Day events. He was an avid advocate for the mission of the

Friends in making the Olentangy Watershed a wonderful and healthy place to live and play. Rich also administratively helped the board of the Friends by being its treasurer in 2005-2006 and its Vice President from 2007-2010. He will be sorely missed.

FLOW Calendar of Events, Meetings, and Volunteer Opportunities: 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

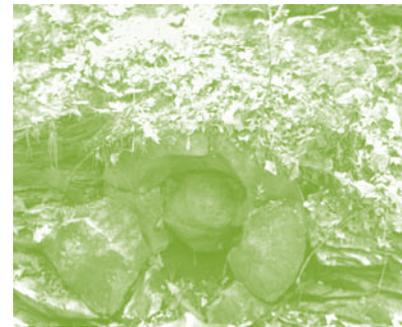
OCT

What: TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS IN OHIO SURFACE WATERS**When:** Tuesday, October 19th from 7 pm - 8:30 pm**Where:** Whetstone Community Center, 3923 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43214

Do you or your family including pets play or come into contact with local ponds, lakes or dam pools? What are the facts about toxic algae? Linda Merchant-Masonbrink, who coordinates Ohio EPA's toxic algae investigation efforts, will provide an overview of the current situation and what can be done about this problem. After the presentation and questions, there will be a short meeting to catch up on what FLOW is doing.

What: OLENTANGY WATERSHED FORUM 2010**When:** Friday, October 29th from 9 am - 3:30 pm**Where:** Highbanks Nature Center, 9466 Columbus Pike (US Rt. 23N), Lewis Center, Ohio 43035

In the next twenty years, how we develop and maintain our communities will determine the health of the Olentangy River. Why is this important? The river serves as our drinking water supply, it provides recreational relief from the urban environment and is an essential link to wildlife survival. The focus of this year's forum is on how we can use land use planning to protect water quality. Event is free, but if you want a box lunch we are asking for a \$5.00 donation at the door. Preregistration required. Please visit www.olentangywatershed.org to register. Questions contact kwilliams@olentangywatershed.org.



Natural wonder: concretion in side of streambank at Highbanks MetroPark, site of Forum. Photo: Kim Williams

What: BIG RUN HONEYSUCKLE REMOVAL: TOUR AND WORKDAY**When:** Saturday, November 13th from 10 am - 12:30 am (exact time tentative. Please check calendar).**Where:** Park is undeveloped, so take the first entrance just south of Paul's Marine (6140 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035), which is on the west side of SR 23. Map will be posted on website calendar.

Big Run stream winds along shale cliffs and a shale streambed. Preservation Parks of Delaware County owns 183 acres along this beautiful tributary, which travels to the Olentangy State Scenic River. This preserve serves as an important oasis of habitat in the rapidly developing area of Liberty and Orange townships. One of the threats to streamside forests are invasive non-native plants. Come join us for a tour of streamside forest and field habitats and learn how Delaware Preservation Parks control invasive honeysuckle. Following the tour, participants will have an opportunity to tackle this problem with handsaw, loppers, honeysuckle popper etc. and help keep Big Run Preserve beautiful. This park does not have developed trails etc. Please wear closed toe shoes for hiking and bring gloves. Drinks and snacks will be provided.



Big Run Preserve waterfall courtesy of Preservation parks of Delaware County

What: FLOW GENERAL MEETING (speaker to be determined)**When:** Tuesday, Nov. 16th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm(Tentative, check www.olentangywatershed.org for updates)**Where:** Whetstone Community Center, 3923 North High St., Columbus, OH 43214

NOV

Understand

YES! I want to support FLOW for cleaner water!

Choose a membership:

- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
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- River Steward \$100
- Business Basic \$175
- Bronze \$200
- Silver \$300
- Gold \$500
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- Please check here if you would like more information about volunteering with FLOW.
- Please check here for more information about including FLOW in your estate planning.
- Please check here to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

Return this form to:

FLOW
3528 N. High St., Suite F
Columbus, OH 43214

Or give securely online at:
www.olentangywatershed.org

Fill in the following:

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By providing your email, you will save resources and stay up-to-date on news and events.

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Information

FLOW

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Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed is a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the Olentangy River clean and safe for all to enjoy through public education, volunteer activities, and coordination with local decision makers. FLOW is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible.

Because FLOW is a small organization, we rely heavily on volunteer participation to create positive change in our watershed. Please contact us for more information about how you can volunteer. We have a wide variety of opportunities to fit your schedule that will match your skills and interests.

FLOW is a member of Earth Share Ohio. You may donate to FLOW through Earth Share's workplace giving campaign, available at numerous private companies, state and municipal government agencies, and Combined Federal Campaigns. For more information about workplace giving, please contact us.

