

SPRING 2008

# Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed

Waterfall at Big Run Preserve. Photo by Preservation Parks.

## Olentangy Water Trail in Columbus

On November 19, the Columbus City Council passed a resolution to designate a Water Trail on the Olentangy River from Kenney Park to the confluence with the Scioto River. Council Member Priscilla Tyson sponsored the resolution.

The creation of a Water Trail has long been one of FLOW's priorities because it will increase recreational opportunities along the river and allow the residents of Central Ohio to experience the natural beauty and historic sites of the Olentangy. Plans include four to five public access points for canoes and kayaks as well as warning signs and portage trails around hazardous lowhead dams.

FLOW staff and volunteers have teamed up with the Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks to seek funding for the improvements and to create a map and brochure that will be available to the public. A formal dedication ceremony is anticipated later this year. Be on the lookout for details in future issues of *Information FLOW*.

- Inside:*
- Fighting the invasive garlic mustard
  - Back by popular demand – rain barrel workshops
  - Calendar of events – listen to frog symphonies, plant a tree, learn to identify your favorite wildflower – and more!

Explore

## Invasive Plant Profile: Garlic Mustard

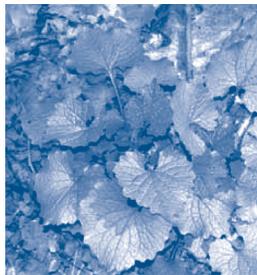
Garlic mustard arrived in North America in the 1860s as a culinary herb. Unfortunately, the insects and fungi that keep it in check in its native Europe are not present in North America. Here, it has become an invasive threat that robs our native plants of light, moisture, nutrients, soil, and space. It especially affects spring wildflowers like wild ginger, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, toothwort,



and trillium. Under normal conditions, these species provide foliage, pollen, nectar, fruits, seeds and roots for native insects and wildlife. However, as garlic mustard replaces these plants, it disrupts the entire habitat and leaves native wildlife without a food source.

In many areas, garlic mustard has become the dominant understory species in our woodlands, and in recent years it has proliferated along the stream corridors and flood plains of the Olentangy and its tributaries. That's why many watershed groups, including FLOW, the Adena Brook Community, and Friends of the Ravines have made garlic mustard removal a priority.

Fighting garlic mustard and other invasive plants will take years of dedication and persistence. A single garlic mustard plant can produce thousands of seeds that remain viable in the soil for up to five years. However, recent volunteer efforts along Adena Brook have paid off, as native wildflowers have begun to return to that area.



### What you can do:

- 1. Remove any garlic mustard plants** that may have sprung up in your yard, particularly if you live along a ravine or other wooded area. Be sure to remove the base of the plant, not just the stem, to prevent it from regenerating. Do not leave the pulled plants on the site, and do not compost the plant, as this will simply spread the seeds.
- 2. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact.htm>** for fact sheets, identification, and tips on removal of garlic mustard and other invasive plants.
- 3. Join FLOW for a Garlic Mustard Pull** in Rush Run Park on May 17 (see calendar for details) or contact us to organize a volunteer effort in your area.

## Rain Barrel Cost Share Program 2008

Would you like to save money on your outdoor watering costs? Would you like to help protect the Olentangy River? You can do both by purchasing and installing a rain barrel through FLOW's cost share program.

### Here's how it works:

You sign up to attend one of our rain barrel workshops to learn more about the hows and whys of rain barrels. The workshop includes a professional demonstration of a rain barrel installation. At the workshop, you can place an order through FLOW for \$30. This represents a savings of approximately \$50 over the retail cost. We also cover the cost of shipping. The rain barrel will be shipped to your home, and you can install it yourself or contact a professional installer. You can use the water collected in the rain barrel for your outdoor watering needs, helping to reduce stormwater runoff into the Olentangy and its tributaries. The program is limited to one rain barrel per household (though we are happy to assist you in ordering a second rain barrel at the regular cost).

Please e-mail [hdean@olentangywatershed.org](mailto:hdean@olentangywatershed.org) or call 614-267-3386 to reserve your place in one of our scheduled rain barrel workshops. The workshops are limited to 20 participants, and, based on our 2007 experience they fill quickly.

### Dates for 2008

**April 19**, 2-4 PM — full

**May 13**, 6:30-8:30 PM — full

**June 18**, 6:30-8:30 PM

**July 17**, 6:30-8:30 PM

**August 16**, 2-4 PM

The cost share program is made possible by the City of Columbus, Department of Public Utilities' Community Watershed Stewardship Project.

## Remembering Allan R. Korb, MD

FLOW extends our thanks to Sandy Alibrando for a generous gift from the Allan R. Korb, MD Fund held at The Columbus Foundation. As advisor for the fund, Sandy feels a responsibility and obligation to manage Dr. Korb's legacy giving in a manner that supports his connection to the natural world and to the Olentangy River.

Dr. Korb was a noted psychiatrist who practiced for more than 30 years in Columbus. When he died in 2003 a portion of his estate was set aside in a donor advised fund as a means for making grants to deserving organizations.

# FLOW Calendar of Events, Meetings, and Volunteer Opportunities: Spring 2008

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](http://www.olentangywatershed.org)

MARCH

## **Vernal Pool Study at Stratford Ecological Center – March 28**

**Starting one hour after sunset (about 8 PM) at 303 Liberty Rd., Delaware, Ohio 43015.**

Vernal pools provide breeding and feeding grounds for creatures like salamanders and frogs that could not survive in open water. You can volunteer for Stratford Ecological Center's vernal pool monitoring, which is part of a statewide program. Each month volunteers listen to a recording of frog calls before venturing out. Flashlights in hand, we'll hike to the edge of the swamp. Then, lightless, we'll listen quietly for mating calls. Some months the sound is intense; other months we hear only distant calls. Then the salamander hunt begins! What an exciting adventure, searching the dark swamp, flashlights in hand, for any signs of movement! Bring the whole family on this late-night adventure! Be sure to bring flashlights and wear rubber boots or shoes that you don't mind getting wet. Free and open to the public. Please call or e-mail so we'll know how many to expect.

## **Tree Planting Clinton-Como Park – April 5**

**301 W. Pacemont, Columbus OH 43202 – 9 AM to 12 PM.**

Join us for a volunteer workday to fulfill one of the recommendations of FLOW's Watershed Action Plan by planting native trees along the Olentangy in Como Park. Sponsored by the Battelle Rivers and Streams Beautification Team. Contact FLOW for more details.

## **Annual Spring Plant Walk – April 20**

**2 PM at the Nature Center at Highbanks Metro Park**

Highbanks Naturalist Susan Jervey and fern expert Brian Gara will guide us on a tour to learn about the wildflowers and ferns that appear in our watershed in the spring. Wear comfortable shoes and appropriate clothing. Cosponsored by Friends of the Ravines and FLOW. Free and open to the public.

## **Earth Day 2008 – April 26**

**8 AM to 11 PM, volunteer activities – 12 PM to 7 PM, celebration in Goodale Park**

Take part in Central Ohio's Earth Day 2008 Celebration! In the morning, 2500 volunteers from many organizations will make a difference at sites all over Central Ohio. FLOW volunteers will remove invasive honeysuckle in Park Boulevard Park along Rush Run, and at other sites as time and volunteer numbers allow. With the honeysuckle gone, native wildflowers will again bloom along the stream banks. Then, in the afternoon, you are invited to join the fun at the Earth Day celebration at Goodale Park. Please contact us for details if you'd like to volunteer with FLOW.

## **Garlic Mustard Pull at Rush Run Park – May 17 1 to 4 PM**

Garlic mustard represents a threat to our native wildlife (see article on page 2). Please join us to remove this invasive plant from the banks of Rush Run. Contact FLOW for details.

## **Training for New Hellgrammite Stream Quality Monitoring Volunteers – May 29**

**6:30 to 9 PM at the Streamside Education Center of Highbanks Metro Park**

FLOW's "Hellgrammite" volunteers monitor the insects and other small creatures that live in the waters of the Olentangy to get a good picture of the stream's health over time and to alert us to potential problems. No previous experience is necessary to become a volunteer, and this is a perfect opportunity for families with children who want to learn more about our river. After a two-hour training led by Ohio Department of Natural Resources staff, volunteers will be requested to visit and report on their assigned sites three times over the course of the summer and fall.

## **Riverfest – May 31 12 to 5 PM at Genoa Park, just behind COSI**

Join FLOW and other watershed groups at Central Ohio's Riverfest for music, games, and hands-on activities for the whole family. Details will be available this spring at [www.riverfestcolumbus.org](http://www.riverfestcolumbus.org).

APRIL

MAY

Understand

# FLOW

**Published By**

FLOW Board of Directors  
 Susan Sutherland, President  
 Rich Wissler, Vice President  
 David White, Treasurer  
 Erin Miller, Secretary  
 Joe Tribble  
 Ted Miller  
 Laura Shinn  
 Amy Dutt  
 Terry Foster

**Newsletter Editors**

Heather Dean, Watershed Coordinator

**Newsletter Layout**

Ellie Nowels, Centipede Graphics

**Contact FLOW**

3528 N. High St., Suite F  
 Columbus, OH 43214  
 (614) 267-3386  
 Flow2004@sbcglobal.net  
 www.olentangywatershed.org

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.

Give to FLOW through regular payroll deductions under Earth Share of Ohio's workplace giving campaign available at numerous private companies, state and municipal government agencies, and Combined Federal Campaigns.

If your employer does not participate in Earth Share, you can give to FLOW through alternate workplace giving campaigns – just ask your employer for a donor-option pledge form! Your employer may even provide a match – which doubles your contribution amount!

For more information about workplace giving, contact the FLOW office.

**Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed:**

*A member of* **Earth Share OF OHIO**



**YES! I want to support FLOW for cleaner water!**

**Choose a membership:**

- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
- Supporting \$50**
- River Steward \$100
- Business Basic \$175
- Bronze \$200
- Silver \$300
- Gold \$500
- Sustaining \$1,000

Please check here if you would like more information about volunteering with FLOW.

**Return this form to:**

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

Or give securely online at:  
[www.olentangywatershed.org](http://www.olentangywatershed.org)

**Fill in the following:**

- New Member
- Renewal
- Gift

Name(s):

Organization/Business:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

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

# FLOW

Explore. Discover. Understand.

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