

## Information FLOW



*Photo courtesy of George C. Anderson*

## Looking Back on 2009 and Ahead to 2010

With the support of our many members, donors, and volunteers, FLOW has made great progress in 2009 toward our mission of keeping the Olentangy River and its tributaries clean and safe for us all to enjoy. 2010 promises to be another great year, with lots of opportunities for involvement. Here are some highlights:

### **Adopt-An-Area of the Olentangy**

In 2009, 11 groups conducted workdays at sites along the Olentangy and its tributaries. Volunteers picked up trash, removed invasive plants, and planted native trees and shrubs.

To meet our ultimate goal of adopting the entire Olentangy for regular clean-up, we hope to double the number of worksites in 2010. If your group is interested, please contact the FLOW office for more details about how you can become involved.



*A Sierra Club volunteer helps with a trash cleanup.*

### **Backyard Conservation and Rain Barrel Classes**

With support from the Columbus Foundation, FLOW conducted two six-week backyard conservation series for 40 people. Topics included rain gardens, rain barrels, composting, organic lawn care and gardening, and native plants. Participants in the workshops received vouchers redeemable at local businesses to get started on conservation projects in their own yards. With funding from the City of Columbus, FLOW also offered 7 rain barrel workshops, which were attended by 160 people. As a result of the workshops, 118 households installed rain barrels at a reduced price.

The City of Columbus will provide support for 6 more rain barrel workshops in April and May 2010, and we also hope to continue to offer the backyard conservation series (pending funding). Please contact us to be placed on an e-mail list for more information about these two programs as it becomes available.

EXPLORE

## Columbus Water Trail on the Olentangy

Through a grant from Kodak American Greenways, FLOW partnered with the City of Columbus to install informational

kiosks at 3 access sites for canoes and kayaks – at the Broadmeadows Pedestrian Bridge, Northmoor Park, and Tuttle Park. Columbus has also begun to install warning signs at the low head dams at Broadmeadows, Union Cemetery, Dodridge Street and Fifth Avenue.

FLOW is currently working with the city to create a water trail map to show access sites and hazards such as low head dams. We expect the map to be



Warning sign at Broadmeadows lowhead dam. Photo courtesy of Ellie Nowels

## Rain Garden Demonstration Project

Thanks to a grant from River Network and MillerCoors, FLOW partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Clintonville to create a demonstration rain garden on the church's property. After a few delays, the rain garden was installed in early November, and we look forward to seeing it come to bloom in the spring. The demonstration project has generated considerable interest among churches, schools, and small businesses about the installation of rain gardens, and we have applied for several grants to create 6-8 additional sites in 2010. Please let us know if you are aware of highly visible sites that could benefit from a rain garden.

## Stream Monitoring and Naming in Delaware County

In 2009, with support from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF), we conducted our first Watershed 101 training, with a graduating class of 15 new volunteers. The volunteers received training



Launch site at Broadmeadows bridge. Photo courtesy of Ellie Nowels

ready in spring 2010 in time for the official water trail kickoff. Our goal is to make the river safe and accessible for paddlers at all levels of experience. Please contact us if you are interested in serving on our water trail committee.

in stream habitat assessment, the fish and “bugs” of the Olentangy, and storm water monitoring on constructions sites. The team has already gotten its feet wet by assessing 7 previously unstudied tributaries, with a goal of 26 sites by the end of 2010. Volunteers will also research historical names for streams so that we can get them included on future maps. We will be looking for 20 additional volunteers to help us continue the program in May 2010.

## Watershed Action Plan

Since the endorsement of our Watershed Action Plan 5 years ago, our partners have leveraged an amazing \$7,561,745 to implement recommendations from the plan, including land preservation in Delaware



Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*). Photo courtesy of Sherrill Massey.

County; a program to repair or replace failing home septic systems; and restoration projects in Glen Echo and Rush Run. FLOW board and staff continue to communicate with private and government partners about potential projects for 2010 and beyond. Key projects that we've been advocating for include: removal of the Fifth Avenue Dam, additional land preservation in Delaware County, a stream restoration project at OSU's Waterman Farm, green infrastructure demonstration projects, and a storm water retrofit on an existing site.

## FLOW Calendar of Events: Winter 2010

### Winter Watershed Walk

**What:** Interpretive hike led by a Preservation Parks naturalist

**When:** January 9 at 1 PM

**Where:** The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve, 4183 Liberty Rd, Delaware OH 43015

*Co-Sponsored by FLOW and Preservation Parks*

### Ravines of the Olentangy

**What:** Panel presentation on the ravines of the Olentangy

**When:** February 11, 2010, 7-9 PM

**Where:** Northwood High Building, 2231 N. High St, Columbus OH, 43201.

*Co-Sponsored by FLOW and Friends of the Ravines*

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)



**FLOW board and staff thank the donors and grantors who make our work possible. We also thank our 100+ individual and family members.**

**Grants**

Allan Korb MD Fund of the Columbus Foundation  
Columbus Foundation  
Comfest  
MillerCoors/ River Network  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio Environmental Education Fund

**Municipal Partners**

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Understand

\*Denotes workplace giving through EarthShare Ohio. We do our best to keep accurate donor records. If you find an error on this page, please let us know and we'll be happy to correct it.

## 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.
- Please check here for more information about including FLOW in your estate planning.

### 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:

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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

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.

Member of  
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