

FLOW



Fallen tree by river, near Bill Moose, Feb. 2009 Photo courtesy Ellie Nowels

Supporting FLOW's Education and Protection Efforts

Laura Shinn, FLOW Board Chair and Kim Williams, Editor

The Olentangy River, flowing through developing areas north of the Delaware County line and developed areas in Columbus, serves as many as 1.5 million people. The drinking water that it provides is obviously important to our well being. No less important is the psychological release it offers to those who canoe, fish, hike and bike in and around the river corridor. Of course, the river is home to a diverse array of animal and plant life. Unfortunately, the river is on the receiving end of actions or even inactions by the urban population that it serves. What are the current threats to the river?

- sewer overflows
- erosion and pollution from stormwater
- litter
- impoundment from lowhead dams
- invasion by non-native species
- loss of tree cover

The GOOD NEWS is that through a variety of educational and demonstration projects, FLOW has raised awareness about these threats and implemented a number of projects to begin reversing the damage. Here are a few of the things that we've accomplished in

2010 with the support of our volunteers, members, donors, collaborating partners and grantors:

- FLOW, in partnership with Liberty Township received a 319 grant for stream restoration. Implementation is underway.
- Partnering with Columbus Mennonite Church on the "Soaking It In" project, FLOW installed a rain garden, infiltration trench and rain tank, which will keep 100,000 gallons per year on site as opposed to flooding the streets and polluting the Olentangy River.
- FLOW in collaboration with Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District researched and submitted names for 20 Streams in Delaware County to USGS. Also, with volunteer help over twenty headwater streams were monitored.

Despite budget cuts, FLOW is finding ways to continue watershed protection work. We have a number of UPCOMING PROJECTS IN 2011.

- Allied Pump Rentals donated \$3000 to FLOW and Columbus Recreation and Parks to help with floodplain restoration and preservation projects in Clinton-Como Park in Clintonville.

EXPLORE

- The FLOW Science Committee has also received an award from the Jeffrey Fund at the Columbus Foundation for Civic Pride and Beautification. The monies will be used for tools and trees for FLOW's Earth Day 2011 events and to support Phase 1 of an urban arboretum in Clintonville with the United Crestview Area Neighbors (UCAN).
- FLOW has partnered with the Heart of Ohio RC&D to invite golf courses in the Lower Olentangy to participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The Sanctuary Program is an education and certification program that helps golf courses conserve water, improve habitat and decrease the use of chemicals.

We anticipate 2011 will be busy and exciting, but it will be a challenging year for FLOW. While we continue to be successful at receiving grants, economic uncertainty has limited these opportunities, and those that remain have become increasingly competitive. We will rely even more heavily on contributions from individuals like you for ongoing, sustaining funding to continue our work protecting the Olentangy.

So...we need your help. Please consider supporting our efforts through a donation or by joining or renewing your membership for 2011. Or if you can't donate right now, but would like to volunteer, please let us know. **Thank you for protecting the Olentangy River!**

FLOW's 2011 Membership Drive: Please Join or Renew!

Please consider **joining at the \$50 supporting level** or higher to help ensure FLOW's long-term stability in the face of budget cuts. As a member or donor, you will receive our newsletter, Information FLOW, as well as updates on unique volunteer and recreational activities and educational programs. *After this newsletter, we will transition to an electronic format, but will continue to mail printed newsletters to our members and donors.* Please help to make our river and our community a better place. Thank you.

MONITOR Report Forthcoming

By Kim Williams

The MONITOR program involved assessing the habitat of headwater streams in southern Delaware County. With volunteer help, data was collected from 26 sites and 12 of those sites were classified as Class III Primary Headwater Streams which is prime habitat for salamanders. Impacts from surrounding land use were noted. Streams that

had sections culverted and/or had little streambank vegetation had lower scores due to visible impacts such as high levels of silt which fills in the crevices between rocks preventing aquatic organisms from finding shelter.

Adopt an Area Volunteer Groups

Kim Williams

At the last FLOW public meeting in November, the Adopt an Area groups were recognized for their efforts in beautifying and restoring the Olentangy River. The following is a partial list of their accomplishments:

- Adena Brook Community volunteers worked more than 300 hours removing 8 tons of invasive plants and 100 bags of litter.
- Clinton Como Park volunteers worked 450 hours at 9 work sites which involved removing litter, planting trees and removing invasive honeysuckle. As a result of Clinton Como Park volunteers advocating for mitigation for damages as result of a contractor not cleaning up after their work, 240 trees were planted by the contractor.
- MOMs of Clintonville held three service events and had 20 volunteers remove over 20 bags of trash, 6 tires and 3 shopping carts.
- Walhalla Ravine volunteers undertook a large invasive removal and native planting project that began in October 2009 and ended in late October 2010. The project involved selecting appropriate plants, removing invasive species, planting native plants and maintaining those plants to ensure survivability.
- Glen Echo Ravine volunteers worked 400 hours to remove 24 bags of invasives from two acres and planted 200 trees west of Indianola Avenue. In Glen Echo Park volunteers removed 50 bags of invasives from one-half acre and planted 135 trees.
- Sierra Club volunteers spent roughly 500 hours combing the banks of the Olentangy River to collect over 700 bags of garbage and recyclables.



Adopt an Area Volunteer Brian Ogle wrestles a shopping cart out of the woods on a clean up day. Photo courtesy of FLOW

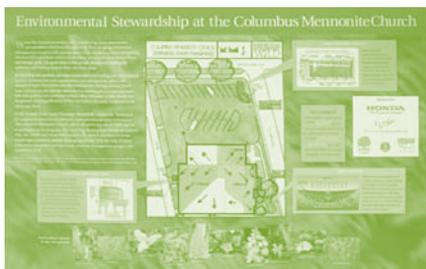
Impressive work! Thank you to Adopt an Area Groups and Volunteers!

"Soaking It In" Dedication Ceremony

Kim Williams

On November 6th, FLOW and the Columbus Mennonite Church (CMC) hosted the "Soaking It In" dedication ceremony to showcase the different rain water management solutions that were installed this fall at the church to begin addressing the interrelated problems of a muddy Olentangy River, flooding streets, sewer backups and property loss. Phil Hart and Brian Ogle from CMC and FLOW respectively, welcomed guests and provided an overview of the project. Clintonville Area Commissioner, D Searcy spoke concerning the importance of expanding the program throughout Clintonville. Caroline Ramsey from Honda of America Foundation provided an overview of their grant program, local community involvement and the importance of keeping the Olentangy River and other rivers clean. After the presentations, Al Bauman, CMC member and

Amy Dutt from Urban Wild provided a guided tour of the different installations. Attendees learned how the rain garden, infiltration trench and the rain tank were installed to capture the runoff from the church roof in order to prevent street flooding and decrease the high volume of storm water from reaching the Olentangy River. Combined, these different structures will harvest or infiltrate over 100,000 gallons of rain water per year at the CMC property.



"Soaking It In" Dedication Ceremony

Above: John Meier, Rain Brothers, Brian Ogle, FLOW, Amy Dutt, Urban Wild, Caroline Ramsey, Honda of America Mfg., Inc. and then CMC church members, Al Bauman, Pastor Steve Goering, Phil Hart.

Left: Signage was installed that explains the details behind the design of the rain water management system. Design by Ellie Nowels

Photos courtesy of Sherrill Massey

FLOW Calendar of Events, Meetings, and Volunteer Opportunities: Winter 2011

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

JAN

What: WINTER BIRD FEEDING: DO'S AND DON'TS

Where: Worthington Public Library Northwest (2280 Hard Road, Columbus, OH 43235)

When: January 19th at 7:00 pm

Tom Sheley of Wild Birds Unlimited will speak on the different issues and topics related to bird feeding. Known as accomplished naturalist, Mr. Sheley was invited by the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Foundation to search for the fabled woodpecker in the Cache River wilderness in Arkansas. He also comes highly recommended by Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources staff. Please join us to learn how we can help our feathered friends and enjoy their beauty this winter.

UPCOMING FLOW MEETINGS:

Tuesday February 15th and March 15th. Please check FLOW website calendar for updates.

What: VERNAL POOL WORKSHOP OFFERED BY OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Where: Stratford Ecological Center

When: March 19th with time, agenda etc. forthcoming.

FEB

Understand

YES! I want to support FLOW for cleaner water!

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

Return this form to:

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

Or give securely online at: www.olentangywatershed.org



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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.

