



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

continued on page 2

EXPLORE

Riffles, Runs and Pools (continued from page 1)

collaborating, please contact Kim at kwilliams@olentangywatershed.org. Additional information on FLOW's water quality monitoring program can be found at www.olentangywatershed.org.

Thanks to Chris Skalski, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water and **Ed Rankin**, Center for Applied Bioassessment and Biocriteria at the Voinovich School of Leadership, for instructing MONITOR volunteers this spring and summer!

Tributary Naming Project Update

By Lynn McCready, FLOW Volunteer and Research Associate at Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park

Progress is being made on the Olentangy tributary naming project this summer. We have been given a big boost from research completed by Bret Bacon, Resource Conservationist at the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District Office. Brent has reviewed Historic Atlases, Property Maps, Ditch Records and NRCS Maps and compiled the known names for all of the Olentangy tributaries between the Delaware Dam and the Delaware County line. Of the 38 tributaries flowing into this section of the Olentangy, only 10 are currently officially recognized as named streams by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Our Columbus Foundation Intern Kelsey Bridges is busy gathering the required physical data and notifying Township Trustees in preparation for our submission to the USGS for recognition of the known names for the remaining 28 tributaries. We are also working on identifying funding sources for signage once the tributaries receive official recognition. Please contact FLOW if you have any ideas or suggestions for funding for these signs.

Support FLOW by registering your Kroger Plus Card

By registering your Kroger Plus card, you can help FLOW receive a percentage of your purchases. You can register at krogercommunityrewards.com. Follow the directions for creating a Kroger Rewards Account, and enter FLOW's NPO number, which is 84562. FLOW's name will appear on the right side of your information page. If you are interested in the alternate SCANBAR method of member registration, please call 800-837-4483.



FLOW Intern Works on Stream Naming Project And Learns About Watersheds

By Kelsey Bridges

This summer, I am getting the unique opportunity to work with two great non-profits within Columbus, The Columbus Foundation and Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed. I am going to be a junior at the College of Wooster in the fall, but will actually be studying abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark during the first semester. As an urban studies major with an environmental studies minor, I am finding FLOW to be a unique outlet combining both of these interests. I will be working on several projects with FLOW, but the two main projects are stream naming along the Olentangy River and a stream permit for stream restoration in Liberty Township.



I'm learning that the city is not as distant from the countryside as I initially thought. A watershed is an extremely important piece of an urban area and may often be overlooked with all of the bustle and development in the city. Rivers and streams provide wildlife diversity, are used for cooling water to produce electricity, and are also popular spots for recreation. It has been neat to see the projects link what are seen as two diverse areas, the natural environment and the man built environment. FLOW is playing a significant role in creating these linkages and I am excited that I get to be part of their vision.

Rain Barrel Pilot Project Update

By Kimberly Williams

This summer FLOW has worked with The City of Columbus, Department of Public Utilities, Division of Sewerage and Drainage and Greif, Inc. to install a residential rain barrel pilot project in the Clintonville area. The goals of the project are to determine the effectiveness of rain barrels at reducing water consumption, reducing rainfall related problems, e.g. flooding, and increasing the public awareness of water related issues.

Out of 143 residences, 76 will be participating with a 175 rain barrels in use. The next steps involve the City collecting rain, sanitary sewer flow and water consumption data over the next year, and presenting their findings.

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

morpc

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

**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

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.



Explore. Discover. Understand.

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

Information



Published By

Chair, Laura Shinn
Vice Chair; Rich Wissler
Treasurer, Nikhil Shah
Secretary; Laura Fay
Brian Ogle
Jeff Garretson
Steve Leahy
Mike Sapp
David White

Newsletter Editor

Kim Williams

Newsletter Layout

Ellie Nowels, Centipede Graphics

Contact FLOW

614-267-3386 (phone)
614-262-8922 (fax)
info@olentangywatershed.org
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.

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.

