

FALL 2015

Shady Doings in Linden

Four Columbus schools with lots of turf and few trees will be getting shadier this fall. FLOW is collaborating with Columbus schools to plant native trees at Oakland Elementary, Columbus Alternative High School (CAHS), Como Elementary, and Oakland Park Alternative Elementary.

Four native trees have been planted at the front of Como Elementary School and more will be planted to provide shade by the playground and noise wall.

Volunteers are needed at each location to plant and mulch 5 to 8 trees with 2-inch trunks. The holes will be drilled by a forester from the city. Please check the FLOW website, <http://www.olentangywatershed.org/> for details, or email info@olentangywatershed.org.

FLOW is looking for other Linden sites for trees: schools, parks, churches, and tree lawns. The goal is to provide enjoyable shady spots, reduce stormwater that reaches Glen Echo Tributary, and improve its habitat (air quality and biological diversity). The area draining into Glen Echo ravine is double what it once was, and canopy trees absorb and slow down the water being piped into the ravine.

FLOW is also working with the Ohio Department of Transportation to slow down runoff to Glen Echo Ravine. The ODOT land between Crew Stadium and Caroline Avenue is being considered for trees or prairie plantings.

The Re-Leaf Linden project is being sponsored by the Columbus Foundation Green Fund grant and from the United Way Community Volunteer Challenge.



Sept. 12 planting at Oakland Elementary at Atwood Terrace

Small Beads, Big Trouble

Microbeads are those tiny spheres in soaps, body wash, facial scrubs and toothpastes. They provide grit to help clean.

We are also eating them. They go down our drain and into our waterways, lakes and oceans, soaking up toxic chemicals along the way. After being eaten by marine life, they work their way up the food chain to us.

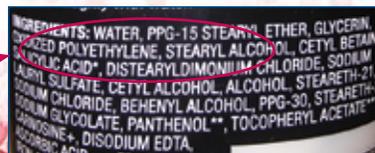
You can help:

- Legislation. In some places, they are now banned, and you can track federal legislation by searching for "microbead" on Congress.gov. Consider asking your representative to back legislation.
- Purchasing power. Don't buy them. Avoid products with polyethylene and polypropylene on the label.

A web search will show lots of natural exfoliators to use instead of microbeads, like:

- Honey! It cleans, exfoliates, and helps skin retain moisture. Some mix it with a little baking soda.
- Yogurt.
- Sugar with a little olive oil.
- Reusable konjac sponge.

Oxygenated derma-bead formula gently removes dead skin surface cells to detoxify



Healthy Ponds Ahead

FLOW's Adopt-A-Pond program (about 15 total ponds) will continue improving more ponds in the Olentangy watershed in Delaware and Franklin counties, thanks to a grant from Lush Cosmetics.

This includes:

- Funds. About \$600 per pond to start adding trees, other vegetation, nutrient control and other factors that lead to healthy, clean water.
- Expertise. FLOW offers technical expertise on native plants that can convert sterile ponds into water quality assets that provide homes for native insects and birds.

To have your pond considered, please contact FLOW at info@olentangywatershed.org.

Whether participating in Adopt-A-Pond or not, your pond's health can be improved with these simple measures: leaving the edge of the pond unmowed, reducing fertilizer and pesticide near the pond, and planting native species.



This floating island wetland will improve water quality by removing nutrients and contaminants.

Anheuser-Busch River Cleanup

This summer, FLOW and Anheuser-Busch celebrated five years of working together to keep the Olentangy River healthy. The 5th Annual Anheuser-Busch Olentangy River Cleanup was held on a hot June day with 59 volunteer workers on shore or in kayaks and canoes.

Trash and junk were removed from Slyh Run (a tributary to the Olentangy River) and the main stem of the Olentangy downstream of the dam at this property.

What good community support! Thanks to OhioHealth for allowing us to use their parking lot and dumpsters. HERO USA provided canoes and kayaks so that volunteers could remove trash that was not reachable from the shore.

The many Anheuser-Busch volunteers removed about a ton of trash. This included the usual plastic bags, wrappers, and cups, plus more unusual items like a car front end, yoga mat, a box of college text books, a basketball, a steel drum, etc.

This is a valued relationship from FLOW's perspective because the Anheuser-Busch factory is in the headwaters of Rush Run, a tributary to the Olentangy and especially because of the leadership that Anheuser-Busch has shown globally for their concern for clean water.

Taking PRIDE in our River

By Kent Halloran

The Olentangy River has gone through many transitions throughout its history. Even its name has changed. According to Wikipedia, the River's name was originally *keenhongsheconsepong*, which means "stone for your knife stream" in the Delaware language. This was due to the shale outcroppings along its shoreline. European /American settlers must have agreed, because they named the river Whetstone River. In 1833, the Ohio State Assembly attempted to reestablish the native names for some of Ohio's waterways. However, they mistakenly changed the name of the Whetstone River to the Olentangy River, which was actually the Delaware name for the Big Darby Creek.

More than just the name has changed for this 100 mile long waterway. When Ohio State University selected a site for its stadium, this required that the Olentangy River be straightened to its present course.

In 1935, the river was dammed to provide Ohio State with a source of cooling water for its McCracken Power Plant. This and other dams caused the river to have a muddy appearance, leading to its nickname "Old & Dingy."

With the completion of the recent 5th Avenue dam removal and river restoration project, the water quality and appearance of our river and river banks are improving. The "Old & Dingy" is being replaced by a beautiful riverscape and warm water habitat. However, for improvement to continue, we all must pitch in...literally. Here is a list how you can show PRIDE in your team, your school, and your community:

- Pick up and dispose of litter, trash, and debris properly.
- Refrain from dumping liquid waste outside, use an indoor sink or floor drain.
- Insist that your friends and family do the same.
- Discuss participating in campus, community, and riverfront clean-up activities.
- Explore your river, and discover the walking, hiking, and other natural opportunities it has to offer. Also explore becoming active with environmental volunteer organizations, either on campus or within the community. Visit <https://ehs.osu.edu/EnvAffairs/WaterCompliance.aspx> or <http://www.olentangywatershed.org/> to begin your exploration.

If everybody takes PRIDE, our river can continue to improve and become a community focal point.

FLOW calendar of events



FLOW has a variety of activities throughout the year. Please join in!
Check FLOW's calendar at www.olentangywatershed.org for upcoming events.

My Favorite River Spot

By Lisa Daris

My favorite place on the Olentangy River isn't any of the many places of tranquil beauty.

Instead, my favorite spot holds the hope of a restorative future. Just before the confluence, where the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers meet, sits the Columbus Boat Ramp. There large cement and metal rubble and rebar stand in the river channel, the



remnants of an old bridge. This reflects a sad time for our rivers – a time where no one claimed the Olentangy, so cases like this went unresolved.

The damage this rubble has done to the river bed is vividly apparent, where just downstream, a large gravel island has formed, indicating

that the river's flow upstream has been weakened. This gravel island grows larger with each passing day, narrowing the channel and offering swift, dangerous currents and looming rebar and concrete just below the surface.

As an urban environmental optimist, I can't help but see this section of the river in a different light. Years from now, I envision this area to be a unique passageway to downtown. Couples and friends, enjoying the new green space forming on the banks of the Scioto near Franklinton, will pass through this spot.

What role will the river play in this renovation? My heart sees the river playing a pivotal role as urban planners are beginning to value natural green space and the role it plays in reducing crime and improving the health and wellness of urban dwellers. One day, this debilitated spot on the Olentangy River will be a showpiece passageway. The rubble will be removed, and the river will once again mix in with the waters of the Scioto, uninhibited and unrestrained. All it will take is a little clean-up and a lot of community love.

Can we do it? Can you help? Contact FLOW to find out how you can help with these efforts. It takes a miracle to move a mountain, but it takes much less to move a little rubble!

Thanks to our Watershed Partners

- Those who donate to FLOW through the Kroger Community Rewards program. This gives FLOW a percentage of eligible purchases at no cost to the shopper. Please see directions on the FLOW website.
- Those who donated to FLOW via workplace giving programs through Earthshare of Ohio and the United Way. Many federal, state, municipal, and county employees chose FLOW as their charity of choice. FLOW also received workplace donations from employees of Dell and Cardinal Health.
- Battelle employees for contributing, to Battelle for matching their employees' contributions, and to the River and Stream Team for another year of partnering to plant trees in the watershed.
- Summer intern Megan Sand and best of luck as she returns to school.
- Anheuser-Busch Columbus Brewery for their annual volunteer service events and a number of other actions that support FLOW and better water quality in central Ohio.
- Ohio Health for help with parking and trash disposal.
- Keep Columbus Beautiful.
- Chad Hoff at Columbus Recreation and Parks department for help with spring tree planting.
- Worthington Hills Golf Club for joining with FLOW in adopt-a-pond, and to the City of Powell for another wetland island.

Free ways to Donate to FLOW

KROGER PLUS CARD

By registering your Kroger Plus card, you can help FLOW receive a donation of 5% of qualified purchases under the Kroger Community Rewards Program at no cost to shoppers. Use your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count. Kroger requires that all participants renew each year beginning May 1. Visit our website at www.olentangywatershed.org for the link and instructions.



AmazonSmile:

With AmazonSmile, you can donate to FLOW at no cost to yourself. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and search for Friends Of The Lower Olentangy. Thereafter, start your Amazon sessions at <http://smile.amazon.com>.



Published By:
Chair - Andrew Heckler
Vice-Chair - Kent Halloran
Treasurer - Brian Ogle
Secretary - Laura Fay
Roxanne Anderson –
watershed coordinator
Lisa Daris
Steve Leahy
Andrew Meador
David White

Newsletter: Lindalee Brownstein
Newsletter Layout:
Ellie Nowels, Centipede Graphics

Contact FLOW
3528 N. High St., Suite F,
Columbus, OH 43214
614-267-3386 (phone)
info@olentangywatershed.org
www.olentangywatershed.org
Facebook group: Friends of the
Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW)

Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed
3528 N. High St., Suite F
Columbus, OH 43214

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.

FLOW relies heavily on volunteer participation to create positive change in our watershed.

Please contact us for information on how you can volunteer. We have a wide variety of opportunities to fit your schedule and match your skills and interests. To be added to the FLOW email list, please send a request to info@olentangywatershed.org.



Our Volunteers: Changing the Watershed

Thank you. It has taken hundreds of you to do the watershed work of this summer, and we have been deeply moved by your generosity.

There is still a lot to do this fall: tree planting, invasive species removal, litter cleanups and storm drain stenciling. We are also looking for volunteers that would like to help us with photography, writing thank you letters, scanning files, writing articles, updating the web page, etc.

In addition to person power, FLOW could use donations of shovels and a folding trifold display board.

If you can donate time or goods, please check the FLOW website or email info@olentangywatershed.org.



*Far left and above:
Volunteers enjoyed
canoeing and
kayaking to find trash.*

*Left:
Dr. Andrew Heckler,
FLOW chair, removing
invasive honeysuckle.*