

Going Batty

Bats, our mosquito-eating friends, have fallen on hard times due to habitat shortage and a disease called white nose syndrome. They will be getting a little more habitat this spring, since FLOW is installing 12 bat hotels constructed by Eagle Scout Chandler Frenken. These can hold up to 150 bats each.

If you are curious, you can see the boxes on tall posts at these locations:

- Anheuser- Busch Sports Park SE of the south parking lot
- East driveway to Ohio School for the Deaf off Indianola
- NW corner of Sellers Rd. and Garden Rd.
- Behind Colerain Elementary School
- Whetstone Park Casting Pond
- South of Glenmont Ave., West of Foster St.
- Whetstone Park, between the bend in Hollenback Rd. and the Olentangy Bike Trail
- North side of Clinton-Como Park
- East of Fawcett Center



Little Brown Bats on Ohio barn. Photo by Mark A. Dilley, M.A.D. Scientist Associates LLC

You can help bats by reducing outdoor lighting, leaving trees (even dead ones) up when possible, staying away from their hibernation and sleeping areas, and protecting streams and wetlands. Check the Internet for ways to remove or exclude bats from your house without harming them.

Life Cycle of a Cigarette Butt

Cigarette butts account for 50% of litter, and are becoming recognized as a serious health and environmental problem. Recent studies are showing that cigarette butts can easily be considered toxic waste that persists in the environment in some form.

Many smokers think that the butt will break down quickly when tossed on the ground. However, cigarette filters are made of non-biodegradable cellulose acetate.

FLOW volunteers have noted that cigarette butts found around roadways do not appear intact in the Olentangy River. Where have they gone? It appears that they break into smaller bits but do not biodegrade. Instead, they leach toxins into the water, are ingested by birds and marine animals, and make it up the food chain.

The good news is that cigarette waste can now be recycled and turned into useful products. An Internet search for “recycling cigarette butts” will turn up places to recycle them for free, or even to get paid for them.

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.



Thanks to our Watershed Partners

- Thanks to 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.
- Thanks to Anheuser-Busch Columbus Brewery for their annual volunteer service events that support FLOW and better water quality in central Ohio.
- Thanks to Lush Homemade Cosmetics, REI, and Lucky’s Market for their continued support.
- Thanks to 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.
- Thanks to 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.

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. **Please re-register your Kroger card and again select FLOW during May.** 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>.



