

FLOW

Published By

FLOW Board of Directors
Susan Sutherland, President
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Erin Miller, Secretary
Courtney Miller
Joe Tribble
Laura Shinn
Ted Miller

Newsletter Editors

Heather Dean, Watershed Coordinator
Martha Kotter

Newsletter Layout

Ellie Nowels, Centipede Graphics

Contact FLOW

3528 N. High St., Suite F
Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 267-3386
Flow2004@sbcglobal.net
www.olentangywatershed.org

Information FLOW is published by the Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, an environmental and educational citizens group dedicated to increasing the public awareness of the extensive recreation, cultural, historic, and environmental resources of the Lower Olentangy Watershed. 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.

Give to FLOW through regular payroll deductions under Earth Share of Ohio's workplace giving campaign available at numerous private companies, government agencies, and Combined Federal Campaigns.

If your employer does not participate in Earth Share, you can give to FLOW through alternate workplace giving campaigns – just ask your employer for a donor-option pledge form! Your employer may even provide a match – which doubles your contribution amount!

For more information about workplace giving, contact the FLOW office.

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Return this form to:

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FLOW Explore. Discover. Understand.

3528 N. High St., Suite F
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FALL/WINTER 2007

FLOW



Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed

Participants in FLOW's "A Day on the Olentangy" gather at the Fifth Avenue Dam, which has been recommended for removal for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Photo by George C. Anderson.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recommends Removal of the Fifth Avenue Dam

In a draft of a long-awaited feasibility study, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended removal of the Fifth Avenue Dam to help restore the ecosystem of the Lower Olentangy Watershed. After studying a variety of options, including partial dam removal, the Army Corps concluded that full removal provided the most benefit for habitat and water quality in the stretch between the Dodridge St. Dam and the confluence with the Scioto.

The Army Corps will finalize the report to include public comments and then present it to the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities for consideration. The City is considering the removal of the dam as a Supplemental Environmental Project. The project forms part of the settlement of an enforcement order and agreement with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Go to the FLOW website at www.olentangywatershed.org for a link to the full text of the study.

A "New" Newsletter and Changes to the Monthly Meeting Schedule (see inside)



Stephen May of Flowing Gutters demonstrates a rain barrel installation at a FLOW rain barrel workshop at the Weinland Park Community Garden. Photo by Trisha Dehnbostel.

Rain Barrels: Sold Out

A rain barrel is a great way to catch water from your roof for use in outdoor watering. This practice saves you money on your water bill and also helps to reduce stormwater runoff into the Olentangy and its tributaries.

This year, FLOW received funding from the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities to hold five rain barrel workshops to distribute 30 rain barrels at a cost share price of \$30 each. Because the program proved to be so popular, we sought and received funding for an additional 100 barrels. However, even with the additional funding, we quickly sold out of barrels and are now taking names to receive information about workshops in spring 2008.

Although we regret the inconvenience to those who wished to receive barrels for this year, we are nevertheless excited that there is so much interest in rain barrels and water conservation. We are currently looking at ways to make the program more widely available in 2008.

For more information about FLOW's rain barrel program, see our website at www.olentangywatershed.org.

A "New" Newsletter and Changes to the Monthly Meeting Schedule

You may have noticed a change to this newsletter. Starting this month we are switching to a quarterly four page newsletter instead of an eight page semi-annual newsletter, and we will be eliminating the

monthly event postcards in favor of e-mail reminders. This change will save paper, postage, and staff time, and we also hope that it will get information to you in a more timely fashion. If you are not already on the e-mail list and wish to be added, please contact us at flow2004@sbcglobal.net. We will also be changing from a monthly FLOW meeting to a quarterly schedule, and we will be adding more recreational activities such as bird watching and hiking. Please check the calendar on the next page for more information.

Watershed Arts Project

FLOW is seeking amateur and professional artists, writers, and musicians to express what the Olentangy River means for our community. We're looking for your artistic creations related to the Olentangy, focused on any aspect of your relationship to the watershed and your community. We especially encourage children and youth to submit their work. The deadline for submissions is October 22.

All submissions will be considered for inclusion in future issues of Information FLOW and in our virtual Watershed Arts Gallery, which we'll soon be unveiling on our website at www.olentangywatershed.org. The Watershed Arts Gallery is in part funded by a grant from Comfest.

We will also consider the top submissions for inclusion in interpretive signs that will be placed along the Olentangy in the area of the Fifth Avenue Dam.

To details on how to submit your work, go to www.olentangywatershed.org or call 614-267-3386.

Discover

FLOW Calendar of Events, Meetings, and Volunteer Opportunities: Fall & Winter 2007

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

SEPTEMBER

Max and Erma's FUN-draiser

All day on Sept. 24 at Max and Erma's at 4550 Kenny Rd. in Columbus.

Present the enclosed ticket to your Max & Erma's server, and 20% of your sales will benefit FLOW's work to protect the Olentangy River. Valid for lunch, supper, and take-out.

Birding at OSU Wetlands

Sept. 29 at 7 AM at the Heffner Wetland Research and Education Building at 352 W. Dodridge St. in Columbus.

Did you know that more than 154 species of birds have been found in the heart of Columbus at the OSU Wetlands along the Olentangy? Join us for an early morning expedition to learn more about the birds and their wetland habitat. Birding experience not necessary. Optional brunch at a local restaurant afterwards.

OCTOBER

The Effects of Climate Change on our Watershed: A Talk by David Robinson

Oct. 3 from 7:30-9 PM in Room 100 of the Northwood High Building at 2231 N. High St. in Columbus.

David Robinson, recently trained by former Vice President Al Gore and the scientific staff of the Climate Project, will give a presentation on how global warming affects our watershed.

Writing the Olentangy

Oct. 15 from 1 to 4 PM. Call for location. Reservations required.

Join us for a half-day writing workshop with poets Terry Hermsen and Connie Everett where you will learn about the natural and human history of the Olentangy River in the Fifth Avenue Dam/OSU/Harrison West area. You will walk the river, engage your senses to perceive deeply, write your perceptions, and share your work. Our goal is to help people better understand our connections to this waterway, particularly in the area of the Fifth Avenue Dam. Writings from this workshop will be considered for inclusion in FLOW's Watershed Art Gallery and on interpretive signs along the river.

DECEMBER

Winter Watershed Walk: Rush Run Park

Dec. 1 at 1 PM. Call for meeting location.

Winter is a great time to explore one of the watershed's best kept secrets. We'll follow Rush Run through the park, to the point where it flows into the Olentangy. Optional hot chocolate at a local restaurant afterwards.

Thank you donors!

FLOW would like to extend our thanks to all of our donors, and particularly to our business members, whose generous cash and in-kind contributions help to make our work possible.

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