

## Upcoming events

This regular section will feature events occurring throughout the watershed. To have your event listed here, please contact the Watershed Coordinator at [shippensteel@g-concepts.com](mailto:shippensteel@g-concepts.com), or (513) 695-1137. ■

### March

**14th - Little Miami River Partnership Membership Meeting** - 11-1pm - Owensville - Lunch \$5 (see page 4 for more details and directions).

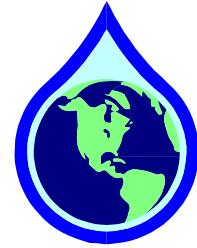
**22nd - World Water Day** - Find out how you can participate at [www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org)

**27th - Low Impact Development Workshop** - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Oasis Conference Center and Golf Club, Clermont County. Learn about conservation development principals and local land use and water resource planning goals in Clermont County. Contact Paul Berringer at (513) 732-8880.

### April

**7th - East Fork 8th Annual River Clean-up** - Canoe float and river clean-up. Free lunch and t-shirt included. Call Ryan Taylor at (513) 732-880 for more details.

**22nd - Earth Day** - To find an Earth Day event near you log on to [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net) to find out how you can participate and make a difference. Remember: **Every day is Earth Day!**



## Currents

Little Miami River Partnership  
777 Columbus Avenue, Suite 5B  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

Address change requested

## How to Be a Member

You can help support the activities and efforts of the Little Miami River Partnership by becoming a member. Members will enjoy periodic mailings and in-depth information and issues affecting the Little Miami River.

Everyone who lives in the Little Miami River Watershed is encouraged to join!

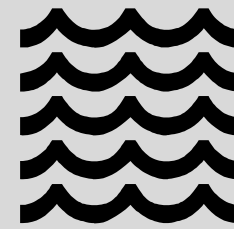
### Annual Membership Rates are ONLY:

Student	\$10
Individual/Family	\$25
Gov't./Nonprofit	\$50
Corporate/Business	\$75

### Please send your membership to:

LMRP  
777 Columbus Avenue  
Suite 5B  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

*The Little Miami River Partnership is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, handicap, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital/family status. ■*



## IN THIS ISSUE

Cover Story.....	1
Get Involved in TMDLs .	2
Development of a Watershed Plan .....	2
Help the Little Miami River! .....	4
Membership Info .....	6

## IN EVERY ISSUE

A River Runs Through It - (Watershed News) .....	3
Education Corner .....	3
Next Membership Meeting .....	5
Upcoming Events .....	6



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# Currents

Newsletter of the Little Miami River Partnership

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Winter 2001

## Meet our Watershed Coordinator

In January, Sarah Hippensteel joined the Little Miami Partnership as their first full-time Watershed Coordinator. The position is funded partially by a 6 year grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and partially by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Little Miami River watershed. Sarah's office will be based at the Miami Valley Resource Conservation and Development office in Lebanon.



Sarah Hippensteel

With an education focusing on watershed issues, Sarah has a graduate degree from Antioch University that specialized in citizen involvement in watershed issues, and an undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University that specialized in watershed resource policy and planning.

Before joining the Partnership in January, Sarah was an Environmental Information Specialist with YSI Incorporated, a Miami Valley based, employee-owned company that designs and manufactures water quality testing equipment. Prior to YSI, she helped create and manage Indiana's statewide volunteer water quality monitoring and adopt-a-river programs with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

### The work ahead

The Watershed Coordinator is responsible for organizing watershed planning, education, and implementation efforts that protect the Little Miami River. The Watershed Coordinator will network with citizens, organizations and businesses, and agencies across the Little Miami

River watershed to establish a permanent local watershed resource restoration and protection program. ■



The Little Miami River on a cold winter day!

### LMRP Mission

*To coordinate and support efforts to maintain and improve the natural integrity of the Little Miami watershed.*

## GET INVOLVED IN TMDLS

The Upper Little Miami River watershed has seventeen waterbodies that appear on Ohio's impaired waterbodies list. This list, Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1313), focuses on identifying and restoring polluted rivers, streams, lakes, and other surface waterbodies. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program was established to address these waterbodies.

### What is a TMDL?

A TMDL is a written, quantitative assessment of water quality problems in a waterbody and the sources of pollution. The TMDL specifies the amount a pollutant needs to be reduced to meet water quality standards, allocates pollutant load reductions, and provides the basis for taking actions needed to restore a waterbody.

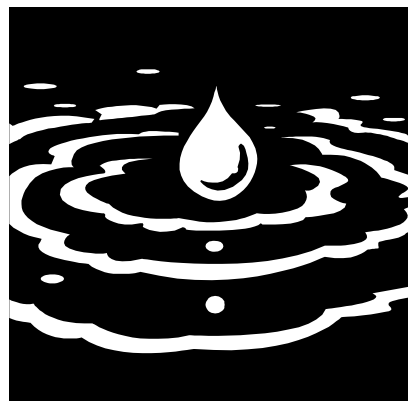
### How can I get involved?

A draft report for the TMDLs of the Upper Little Miami River was released in January of this year, and was open for public comment until February 26, 2001. A copy of it can be found on the Ohio EPA website.

A public meeting will be held in March to answer any questions, and take comments. The Ohio EPA's website will list specific dates and times for the public meetings.

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/tmdl/ulmr.html>

For more information about the Ohio's TMDL program, nonpoint source pollution, and how you can help keep water clean, go to the Ohio EPA website [www.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.epa.state.oh.us).



Every Drop Counts!

## Watershed Plan Development

In April of last year, the Little Miami River Partnership (LMRP) held two well-attended public meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to identify key issues in the Little Miami River watershed, meet people that live in the watershed, and learn how we can help protect the Little Miami River.

Over 70 watershed stakeholders, people who live and work in the watershed, attended these meetings and were given the opportunity to help rank the perceived major threats to the Little Miami River watershed. The top ten responses are listed below.

1. Lack of comprehensive land use planning
2. Suburban sprawl/development
3. Loss of riparian corridor
4. Nonpoint source pollution
5. Lack of watershed-based education
6. Septic systems
7. Stormwater pollution/runoff issues
8. Wastewater treatment plant problems
9. Lack of scientific database
10. Politics/Power imbalance

### What's next?

The six year Watershed Coordinator grant will now allow the LMRP to address some of these issues and create a comprehensive watershed plan.

The first phase will develop a water resource protection strategy. This plan, which will be constructed over the next two years, will include pollution concerns, water resource goals, water restoration strategies, and an implementation schedule. Throughout the entire watershed planning process involving stakeholders will be a high priority.

The LMRP is dedicated to working hard on this very important project, which will plan for the future health of the Little Miami River. ■

## Currents

Vol. 4 No. 1  
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Currents is a quarterly publication of the Little Miami River Partnership (LMRP). Please send comments, questions, or changes to:  
Little Miami River Partnership  
777 Columbus Avenue  
Suite 5B  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036  
(513) 695-1187

Currents is distributed to over 500 readers and is available for anyone seeking information regarding the Little Miami River watershed.

Editor:  
Sarah Hippensteel

## A River Runs Through it

This regular section of the *Currents* newsletter will be dedicated to news from each of the five sub-watersheds in the Little Miami River watershed. To have your news listed here, please contact the Watershed Coordinator at [shippensteel@go-concepts.com](mailto:shippensteel@go-concepts.com), or (513) 695-1137. ■

Keep your eye here for news of your area!

### Upper Little Miami & Caesar Creek

The Upper Little Miami & Caesar Creek Watershed Project, funded by an Ohio EPA 319 grant, is in the process of purchasing a silt fence installer and a tree planter that will be available for loan throughout the watershed at no charge.

Financial assistance is available for agriculture and urban soil erosion practices. Any individual living in either watershed, including

portions of Greene, Clark, Montgomery, Warren, and Clinton counties may be eligible. For more information contact Heather Buckles at the Greene Soil and Water Conservation District office at (937) 372-4478. ■

### Lower Little Miami

The Eastern Corridor Visioning Process was kicked off February 8th and will examine land use issues



in the Eastern Corridor. For more information contact Gary Meisner at [meisnerandassociates@fuse.net](mailto:meisnerandassociates@fuse.net) or (513) 321-2796.

A Lunken Airport Advisory Board was formed to examine issues related to the impact of the airfield on the local community, particularly the proposed expansion of the airfield. For more information contact advisory board member Eric Partee at (513) 965-9344. ■

### Todd's Fork

A river clean-up day is now being organized to coincide with National River Clean Up Week, May 12-19, 2001. To help volunteer your effort, enthusiasm, or donations please contact Cindy Ledford at (937) 382-3582. ■

### East Fork

Ryan Taylor has joined the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District as the new Watershed Coordinator for the East Fork of the Little Miami River.

He will be responsible for planning and implementing watershed protection programs throughout the 530 square mile area, which encompasses portions of Brown, Clermont, Clinton, and Highland Counties. For more information on the project, contact Ryan Taylor at (513) 732-8882. ■

## Education Corner

This regular section will highlight training and education opportunities in the Little Miami River watershed that promote watershed awareness. To have your opportunity listed here, please contact the Watershed Coordinator at [shippensteel@go-concepts.com](mailto:shippensteel@go-concepts.com), or (513) 695-1137. ■

### Connecting Students with the Earth

The Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE), will host their annual teachers symposium on Tuesday, June 26 and Wednesday, June 27, 2001 at Walnut Hills High School Arts & Science Center.

Teachers in all subject areas (grades K-12) from the Greater Cincinnati Tri-State area are invited to participate in the symposium, taking part in hands-on activities that meet proficiency standards and bring environmental science into the classroom.

Graduate and undergraduate credit is available for an additional fee from the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University.

For more information please contact Michele Kline, TERC Program Coordinator at (513) 221-8853. ■

# HELP THE LITTLE MIAMI RIVER !

**You** can support the efforts of the Little Miami River Partnership by becoming a **Sponsor!** The LMRP is committed to making a difference in the watershed by leading efforts that will help preserve, protect, and restore the Little Miami River and its tributaries.

**Show people that YOU care about the watershed by sponsoring an activity that supports these efforts.**

Listed below is a list of activities that need your help. You may pick a particular item to sponsor, or you can become a general sponsor. Sponsors are *Special Members* of the LMRP and will be recognized as such. All pledges are tax-deductible. Help protect a river that your children and grandchildren can enjoy.

Activities that need Sponsors	Sponsorships Categories	
◆ Newsletter - mailing and printing costs	<b>Dragonfly</b>	<b>100</b>
◆ Publications and Website costs	<b>Minnow</b>	<b>250</b>
◆ Administration - Salaries and travel costs	<b>Frog</b>	<b>500</b>
◆ Special Events - festivals, river clean-ups, etc.	<b>Kingfisher</b>	<b>1000</b>
◆ Restoration plan efforts	<b>OR any amount you choose.</b>	
AND MANY MORE ACTIVITIES TO COME!		

To become a sponsor, please complete this form and return it with your contribution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Pledged \_\_\_\_\_

Activity to be sponsored \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to: Little Miami River Partnership

**Send your sponsorship to:**  
 Little Miami River Partnership  
 777 Columbus Avenue Suite 5B  
 Lebanon, Ohio 45036

Or contact Sarah Hippensteel at (513) 695-1187 for more information.

## Join Us At the Next Meeting

The next general membership meeting of the Little Miami River Partnership will be held March 14th at 11am in Owensville, Ohio. You do not have to be a current member to attend - anyone that has an interest in the Little Miami River watershed is welcome to attend. The meeting will begin with a Barbecue lunch (only \$5!), proceed to general business, and then feature a short presentation about the Eastern Corridor Land Use Visioning Plan.

Presenting the topic will be Gary Meisner, Landscape Architect with Meisner & Associates, the group hired to conduct the

Eastern Corridor Land Use Visioning Plan by OKI Regional Council of Governments. Meisner and Associates also convened the Eastern Corridor Transportation Plan that was adopted by OKI in April 2000.

The decisions made by this visioning group could have a significant impact on the health of the lower Little Miami River and its watershed.

Please contact Sarah Hippensteel at [shippensteel@go-concepts.com](mailto:shippensteel@go-concepts.com) or (513) 695-1187 for any questions, comments, or suggestions.

We want **YOU** to come to the meeting and **Bring a friend!**



Directions to the next Little Miami River Partnership Meeting - March 14th 11am-1pm

