

Upcoming events

August

1-2 - *Conservation Subdivision Design Tour to Northeast Ohio* (see page 3 for more details)

2 - *Clermont County Open Space Planning Committee* (contact Stephanie Simstadt at OSU Extension at 513-732-7070 for details)

13-*Clinton Streamkeepers/CCEPA* - 7:00 PM at the Friendly Center in Wilmington

14-*LMRP Board of Directors* - 10 to noon at Caesar Creek State Park Visitor Center

14-*Upper Little Miami Watershed Improvement Group* - 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Greene County Public Works Building, Xenia.

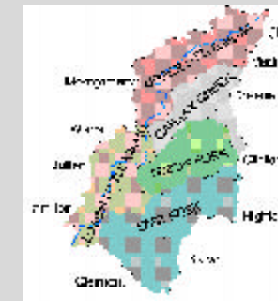
September

11-*LMRP Membership Meeting* (watch for details on our website)

12-*Streamside and Stormwater Management Workshop*- 8:30-1:30, Mill Race Lodge, 1515 West Sharon Road, Cincinnati

October

14 - *Upper Little Miami Watershed Improvement Group* - 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Greene County Public Works Building, Xenia.



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Our Mission

To build partnerships that promote environmental quality and healthy and prosperous communities in the Little Miami River Watershed.

LITTLE MIAMI RIVER PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5 • No. 2

Summer 2002

Introducing Our New Logo

After many design revisions and discussions, the Board of Directors of the LMRP is proud to introduce its new logo. "The logo reflects the unique relationship between the watershed and the river as well as the diverse partnerships created and nourished to preserve and protect this valuable resource," stated Bruce Smith, LMRP President.

The Board would like to recognize the efforts of Karen Pulfer, Warren County SWCD, in producing a design that accurately conveys our mission to the public.



Clean-Ups are Critical

By LuAnn Winkle, Little Miami River Watershed Coordinator

This spring volunteers conducted a number of clean up efforts to remove trash and debris from the Little Miami River, its tributaries and its banks. In April, over 100 volunteers worked on a snowy (yes, snowy!) day at several sites in the East Fork Subwatershed. High water the first week of June forced the postponement of clean up efforts in the Upper Little Miami Subwatershed by one week. However, the group that worked on the rescheduled day was enthusiastic, energetic and hardworking. The LMRP recognizes that stream clean-ups are a vital part of improving stream health, creating public awareness for the problems associated with litter and for demonstrating to the watershed community that the river is a valuable resource to be protected and maintained. One young Boy Scout remarked while paddling along a peaceful stretch of the river, "What a wonderful way to spend the day and do something good for the environment, too!" That is the LMRP spirit!



Bruce Smith and Mike Zimmerman complete the day's work at the River's Edge Canoe Livery.

The next meeting of the Little Miami River Partnership Board of Directors is August 14 from 10 AM to noon at the Caesar Creek State Park Visitor Center.

Return service requested

At-Large Member

Ernie Stickler

At-Large Member

Erin Grady

East Fork Committee Chair

Ryan Taylor

Todd Fork Committee Chair

Vacant

Upper Little Miami Committee Chair

Steven Miller

Caesar Creek Committee Chair

Vacant

At-Large Member

Ron Volkerding, Treasurer

Lower Little Miami Committee Chair

Anne Lyon, Vice-President

At-Large Member

Bruce Smith, President

Board Members

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Little Miami River Partnership
77 Columbus Avenue, Suite 5B
Xenia, Ohio 45036



PARTNERS

The most important part of the Little Miami River and its watershed are the people who are taking time and energy to care for its health and future. HELP the Little Miami River by joining the Partnership. Be a part of the solution. See page 5 for details. ■

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Village of Mariemont

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

Greene County Sanitary Engineers

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

John Tkatschenko	Don Hollister
Village of Waynesville	Larry Cole
City of Lebanon, Johnny Salyers	Reed Madden
City of Xenia, Charles Leonard	City of Mason, Ernie Stickler
Union Township Trustees	Clark SWCD
YSI Incorporated, Gayle Rominger	Earth Tech Inc.
Xenia Township Trustees	City of Wilmington
Greene Co. Environmental Services, Kimberly Mason & Karen Hawk	Cindy Ledford
Montgomery Sanitary Engineers	Finkbeiner, Pettis, and Strout
Metropolitan Sewer District, City of Cincinnati	Tetra Tech EM Inc., Erin Grady
Sugarcreek Township Trustees	Izaak Walton League
Hamilton Township Trustees	Jeff Thomas
Steven Buchberger	Richard Spencer
Loveland Greenbelt Community Council	Village of Indian Hill
Ron & Andrea Volkerding	Paul Berringer
Muriel Hiatt	Marsha Rolf
Carl Gatton	Ron Volkerding
Hamilton SWCD	City of Wilmington
Tim Lingg	Hamilton Co. Env. Services
John Kellis	Bruce Smith
Marsha Rolph	Spring Valley Township Trustees
Steve Hall	Greene Co. Sanitary Engineers
Steven Miller	John Hubbard
	Clinton Co. Streamkeepers
	River's Edge Canoe Livery
	Susie Steffenson
	Anne Lyon
	Ryan Taylor
	Valerie Martin
	Ruth Ann Busald

Thank You!

Storm Drain Stenciling Project

Are you interested in volunteering to protect the Little Miami River Watershed? Do you want to spread the clean water message to other Hamilton County residents? If so, volunteer to label storm drains with a clean water message in a town near you.

Storm drain labeling involves getting any size group together and designating a specific date or dates to go out and label storm drains. A representative from Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District will meet with your group to give a brief explanation of how to storm drain label and why it's important. Storm drains are a direct connection to our waterways, transporting runoff from our streets and backyards, motor oils, litter, paint and other debris. Volunteers are shown how to apply storm drain labels to the storm drain and inform the public by placing a door hanger on all surrounding homes. The information on the door hanger informs the homeowner about the watershed, the storm drain's connection to a watershed and suggestions on how to help keep water clean. Storm drain labeling has the ability to reach an entire community or a few streets at a time as groups go out for a one day storm drain labeling event. Storm drain labeling is truly a learning experience for all the volunteers (who leave with a sense of making a direct impact), homeowners and passers-by that notice the clean water message.

For more information or to become a volunteer, call Trisha Schroeder at Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District at 513-772-7645.



A River Runs Through It

Upper Little Miami & Caesar Creek

The Upper Little Miami Watershed Improvement Group has moved into the implementation phase of the TMDL development process. The group is working on prioritizing best management practices for implementation on priority stream segments. For more information about these two sub-watersheds, or to join the Group, please contact the Watershed Coordinator at info@littlemiamiriver.org or (513) 695-1187. Visit their website at www.littlemiamiriver.org/upper.htm.

Todd Fork

A Sub-Watershed Committee is getting started in the Todd Fork watershed that will work to identify and address current and potential water quality impairment. The LMRP and the Clinton Streamkeepers/CCEPA are working together to identify potential watershed stakeholders and plan a "kick-off" meeting which will begin the formal watershed planning process. If you are interested in knowing more about the Todd Fork watershed, or would like to join the Committee, please contact Jim O'Boyle at (513).

East Fork

In an effort to continue to explore alternate avenues for environmental education, Cincinnati Nature Center is collaborating with the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) on a new exhibit. CAC curator Sue Spaid, in conjunction with Ecoartspace curator Amy Lipton, is organizing "Ecovention" to explore art that takes its inspiration from, and makes an impact on, the environment. "Ecovention" is divided into two parts, a historical archive that documents 15 antecedents and an active portion that demonstrates 25 projects that are currently underway in the United States and Europe. Cincinnati Nature Center's Powel Crosley Lake at Rowe Woods has been selected for participation in the exhibit.

Artist Lynne Hull installed her floating sculpture in the lake on June 9th. The sculpture is designed to not only be aesthetically pleasing, but to provide habitat for waterfowl and other aquatic life. Incorporating hydrophytic plants that can filter excess nutrients from water, supplying structure for aquatic reptiles and amphibians to use in order that they may sun themselves and incorporating a birdhouse, this floating island is refuge for many of the aquatic animals in Powel Crosley Lake.



According to CAC Public Relations Manager, Sheila Mitchell, "Environmental art has the power to transform polluted waterways and brown fields into sites where animals and plants can thrive." The Floating island at Rowe Woods is just one of eleven installations on display in the Greater Cincinnati Area as a part of "Ecoventions", three of which were completed by Lynne Hull. Ms. Hull also has a similar island installed in Todd Pond, at Swaim Park, in Montgomery and has installed a work she calls a "Water Kite" in the Mill Creek near Elmwood Place.

Ecovention opened June 22, 2002, and is sponsored by Cinergy, Federated Department Stores Foundation and Maxwell Weaver Foundation. Visit Rowe Woods this summer to see the floating sculpture and to learn how art can influence the environment. To learn more about Artist Lynne Hull visit her website at www.wecca.com/ecoart/. To learn more about Rowe Woods visit the Cincinnati Nature Center's Website www.cincynature.org.

HOW TO JOIN

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
Lifetime	\$250

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.

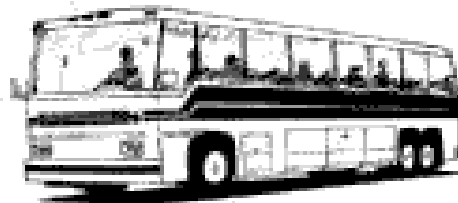
Our Partners

LMI creates prairie at Beckley Preserve site in Clark County

Planting the seeds of a new prairie at the Little Miami, Inc. Beckley Preserve began on June 25th. The planting will resume in early fall to complete the prairie area. About 3 acres of wetland ponds will also be created. The restoration project is a cooperative venture with the Division of Wildlife and NRCS.

Miami Valley RC&D Hosts Conservation Subdivision Tour

The Conservation Subdivision Design Committee will host a two-day tour of conservation subdivisions in Northeast Ohio on August 1-2. The tour will stop in Wayne County to learn more about its recently adopted comprehensive plan before moving on to tour development sites in Medina County. Our host in Medina County will be Kirby Date, Coordinator of the Countryside Program. The Countryside Program provides technical assistance to local developers and municipal officials interested in conservation subdivisions. The group will also tour sites in Geauga County and in Lorain County including the Avon development. The group will participate in discussions with elected officials, planners, developers and others about zoning, regulations, and success in innovative residential subdivision design and development. Participation on this initial tour is limited to invitees of the committee, however, if you are interested in a future tour, tentatively planned for mid-November, contact John Kellis of the Miami Valley RC&D Council at 513-695-1187.

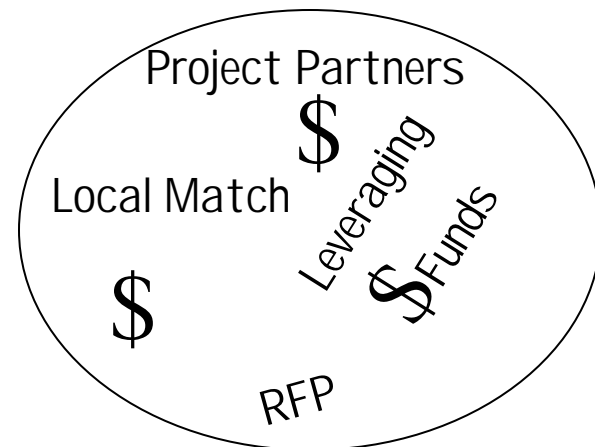


Grant News and Notes

A frequent topic of conversation among conservationists, natural resources planners, community planners and environmentalists is how we can access, leverage and utilize limited funds more effectively.

Our projects may be well planned, desperately needed and have tremendous public support, yet we find ourselves struggling to find the funds to accomplish our goals. Further, finding local match to meet grant requirements is difficult in these times of budgetary cuts. Our human resources are "in-kind matched out".

And, if we are fortunate enough to secure grant funding for our project, what happens to those funds once they are allocated for our specific project? Are funds expended and forgotten or have they been leveraged to support of other worthy projects? Do we know what our partner organizations are doing and how our efforts might complement each other?



By communicating effectively we can develop a network of resources to maximize the use of limited funds. The LMRP is exploring the development of a web based system to track local watershed restoration and protection efforts. Groups choosing to participate can share information about their projects, funding sources and resources needs. In return, groups can be matched with other local organizations to identify opportunities for collaboration and leverage secured grant dollars against new funding opportunities.

We must adjust our thinking to realize that, we benefit the environment and the region not only by sharing our collective knowledge and expertise, we can benefit by sharing information about our resources. The LMRP welcomes your ideas and suggestions for the establishment of a database/clearinghouse.



Coordinator's Report

My first four months as Watershed Coordinator have been filled with meetings, work sessions, site visits, conferences and public meetings. While my primary focus has been on keeping the LMRP members informed through the website and newsletter, my energies have been spent on the actual development of the five subwatershed plans.

The Upper and Caesar Creek TMDL group WIG (which stands for Watershed Improvement Group) has moved from planning to implementation. Many of the implementation action items are focused on educating the public about reduction and prevention of non-point source pollution. As part of its partnership approach to addressing non-point source pollution in the Little Miami River Watershed, the LMRP has offered to provide the education and outreach deliverables for three Section 319 grants in the Upper and Caesar Creek Watersheds.

The Lower Little Miami is slated for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development in 2004. The LMRP will provide support to the TMDL development process as part of the overall watershed plan development. In addition, the LMRP is currently planning a watershed symposium called "Linking Research to Restoration-A Watershed Approach" for spring 2003. This symposium will showcase current research in the Little Miami River Watershed Sub-basin. Demonstrations of how current research can be linked to watershed restoration efforts is the goal of the symposium.

I am truly excited about the development of the Todd's Fork Watershed plan. This effort has begun with assistance from the Clinton Streamkeepers/CCEPA to develop a watershed stakeholder list. Individuals agencies, corporations and businesses will be contacted and encouraged to participate in the planning process. I am available to speak to civic groups and community organizations about the development of the Todd's Fork Watershed Plan. Please call me to schedule a presentation.

The Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality has been working with Ryan Taylor, East Fork Watershed Coordinator, to complete the East Fork Watershed plan. I maintain contact and coordinate activities with the East Fork Coordinator as part of our partnership model.

The ongoing and complementary efforts of other organizations and groups in the watershed plays an integral part in the holistic approach to watershed protection and restoration. I continue to serve on the Clermont County Open Space Committee, the Regional Greenspace Initiative's Marketing Committee, the Hamilton County Wet Weather Initiative, the East Fork Collaborative, and the Upper and Caesar's Creek WIG.

The LMRP will be a visible presence at several county fairs throughout the summer. A tabletop display was created for the June 28th River Cities Symposium, a well-attended function which addressed the issue of the vital link between economic development and the natural resources of our area. I will be taking the display "on the road" and hope to see many of you at our informational booth.

Ensuring that all watershed plans developed under the ODNR watershed coordinator program meet minimum standards and contain essential elements for state approval makes sense. Watershed groups will be competing for state and federal funds to implement their plans and competition for funds is fierce. Toward that end, I have been actively participating on a subcommittee to determine which essential elements must be included in local watershed action plans seeking state endorsement. Our subcommittee hopes to have a draft ready for presentation to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio EPA later this summer.

There is no end to the opportunities for involvement and leadership in watershed restoration and protection efforts. I welcome your ideas and opinions. Please contact me at lwinkle@littlemiamiriver.org or give me a call at 513-695-1187.

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Partnership
Newsletter

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(513) 695-1187

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

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