

Upcoming events

April 26-27 Green Umbrella Open Space information Event-Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, 10-5

May 15 LMRP Board of Directors Meeting-Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, 10-noon

June 3-4 Water Management Association of Ohio Summer Conference, University Plaza Hotel, Columbus

June 13-Little Miami River Clean-Up, 10-?



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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. 6 · No. 1

Spring 2003

Partnership Welcomes Four New Board Members

At its December 2002 Quarterly Membership and Annual Meeting, the general membership elected four new Board Members to guide and direct the activities of the Partnership.

Representing the East Fork Subwatershed will be **Jay Dorsey**, the East Fork Watershed Coordinator. Jay replaces Ryan Taylor who left in September to pursue his Ph.D. degree.

Doug Smith, an Environmental Planner who has worked on regional water quality and greenspace issues for OKI since 1998, will serve as At-Large Representative. Doug replaces Ernie Stickler.

The Caesar Creek Watershed will be represented by **Kimberly Mason**. Kimberly is the Director of the Greene County Office of Environmental Services. Kimberly has been an active participant in the Upper and Caesar Creek TMDL plan development process.

The membership also elected **Stephanie Simstad**, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Clermont County, as At-Large Representative. Stephanie brings the resources of The Ohio State University to the Partnership and its efforts.

“This experienced and diverse group of people will be a valuable asset to the Little Miami River Partnership Board”, stated Bruce Smith, LMRP Board President. “The Partnership welcomes, with sincere appreciation, their input and service to the organization.”

At its January reorganizational meeting, the Board sought to encourage more subwatershed participation throughout the watershed. Watch the LMRP website for meeting dates and locations.

The May meeting of the Little Miami River Partnership Board will be held on May 14th at the Caesar Creek Visitor Center in Waynesville at 10M A.M.

Return service requested

At-Large Member
Doug Smith

At-Large Member
Stephanie Simstad

East Fork Committee Chair
Jay Dorsey

Todd Fork Committee Chair
Vacant

Upper Little Miami Committee Chair
Steven Miller

Caesar Creek Committee Chair
Kimberly Mason

At-Large Member
Ron Volkerding, Treasurer

Lower Little Miami Committee Chair
Anne Lyon, Vice-President

At-Large Member
Bruce Smith, President



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Coordinator's Corner

Thank You, Ernie

A special "thank you" to outgoing Board Member Ernie Sticker for his service and contributions to the LMRP. Ernie will continue to act as a technical advisor to the Board.

Welcome, EF Coordinator, Jay Dorsey

Jay Dorsey was recently hired by the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District to serve as the Watershed Coordinator for the East Fork Little Miami River. Jay works for the Clermont, Brown, Highland, and Clinton County governments. Jay received his B.S. from Purdue University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Ohio State University in Agricultural Engineering, with primary focus on Soil Conservation & Water Management. Prior to joining the Soil and Water Conservation District, Jay served as interim watershed coordinator for the Upper Scioto watershed. His previous water management experience includes positions with Oxbow River and Stream Restoration, Inc. and USDA's Soil Drainage Research Unit in Columbus. As watershed coordinator, Jay is responsible for facilitating the development of a watershed management plan for the East Fork Little Miami River watershed and assisting in its implementation.

Grant News

The Ohio Public Works Commission announces the next round of funding for the **Clean Ohio Fund**. \$6.5 million is available statewide to eligible applicants for projects that preserve and protect open space. Additional funds are available for brownfields, farmland preservation and parks and trails. Applicants will find downloadable forms, criteria, and additional information on the Ohio Public Works Commission website at

http://www.pwc.state.oh.us/clean_ohio.htm

Our Partner's News

Watershed Project to Offer Low Interest Loans

The Upper Little Miami and Caesar Creek Watershed Project is working with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to offer low interest loans to landowners and operators within the Upper Little Miami and Caesar Creek watersheds. The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) offers low interest loans to qualifying operators in the name of improving water quality on a watershed-wide basis. OEPA approved conservation practices, equipment purchase and other efforts that can reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality may qualify for loan funds. Available through OEPA Division of Environmental and

Financial Assistance, loan applications are reviewed by OEPA and loans awarded upon OEPA determination that proposed practices will result in notable improvement to water quality. The target date to offer the WPCLF program is April 2003. More information on loan fund rates and the program will follow. In the interim, please direct any questions to John Mueller at 937-372-4478.

Conservation Farm Bill

Provisions in the 2002 Farm Bill require county soil and water conservation districts to hold local stakeholder meetings to gather input on local needs and resource concerns and priorities. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are planning and conducting meetings throughout the spring and summer. Contact your local district for schedule and meeting locations. Stakeholder involvement is key to a successful Farm Bill program in the watershed.

Little Miami River Partnership Newsletter

Vol. 6 No. 1
Spring 2003

The Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Little Miami River Partnership. Please send comments, questions, or changes to:

Little Miami River Partnership
777 Columbus Ave., Ste. 5B
Lebanon, Ohio 45036
(513) 695-1187

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

Editor:
LuAnn Winkle

A River Runs Through It

Upper Little Miami & Caesar Creek

Thanks to the efforts of Mike Lucas, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Upper and Caesar Creek Watershed Improvement Group and TMDL Group have access to digital data to aid in setting priorities for implementation of the TMDL Plan. The GIS data will also prove invaluable to the Watershed Improvement Group in the development of the watershed action plan for these two subwatersheds. A small workgroup, established from the TMDL Group, will utilize GIS to select priority subwatersheds to target education and conservation efforts. Data layers depicting the watersheds, subwatersheds, stream segments and health, land use and land cover are being analyzed to determine where best to focus efforts.

Todd Fork

Joe Merrit, Clinton County GIS, and Dawn Johnson, Warren County GIS, are working with the Todd Fork Watershed Technical Committee to begin the natural resources inventory that will form the basis for the Todd Fork Watershed Action Plan. Preliminary information will be presented to Todd Fork stakeholders later this spring. LMRP encourages landowners, watershed residents, farmers, environmentalists, recreational users, business and industry representatives and elected officials to make their voices heard at planned future stakeholder meetings. Contact the Watershed Coordinator for more information or check our website at www.littlemiamiriver.org for meeting details.

East Fork Watershed Conducts Annual River Sweep

Volunteers participated in the 11th annual East Fork River Sweep. This year's event was held on Saturday, April 5. Clean up efforts focused on the East Fork River as it connects the communities of Williamsburg, Batavia and Milford. As in years past, target areas included East Fork Lake and Stonelick Lake. (See related article on page 3)

Volunteers walked the riverbanks and used canoes to collect litter. Gloves and trash bags were provided. Free T-shirts were given to all volunteers and a picnic lunch was provided at the conclusion of the clean-up.

Got a group? We encourage you to organize a group at work, at church, or in your club or civic organization for next year's River Sweep. Your "Team" can have fun while helping to protect the river.

For information about upcoming events in the East Fork Watershed, contact Jay Dorsey, East Fork Coordinator, or visit the East Fork web page at:

<http://www.lmrp.org/eastfork.html>



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.

Water Quality Symposium A Success



LMRP Board Member Stephanie Simstad leads afternoon panel discussion on nutrient trading.

Fifty eight people attended the Little Miami River Partnership's Water Quality Symposium on March 7 at Grailville Conference Center. The group heard presentations focusing on water quality issues and concerns in the Little Miami River Watershed. A poster session highlighted research on topics related to land use changes and their effects on water quality. Watch for poster abstracts to be posted on the LMRP website.

Dr. Brent Sonjen, OSE Extension Economist, was the Luncheon Keynote Speaker. His topic, **Nutrient Trading 101**, generated interest and questions among attendees. The session concluded with a afternoon panel discussion on nutrient trading from multiple perspectives. Plans are underway for a similar symposium next winter. The LMRP thanks the symposium presenters and attendees for a successful event.

Little Miami River Clean-Up Scheduled for June 13

For the second year, the LMRP will hold its June quarterly membership meeting to coincide with the annual Little Miami River Clean-up. The Clean-up, scheduled for June 13, is an annual event that highlights the recreational and environmental benefits of the river while accomplishing a valuable task. Clearing debris and litter from the Little Miami River and its banks improves habitat and aesthetics and removes items which can be potentially dangerous for birds, animals and fish. Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to join LMRP members in a canoe or on the river banks. For more information, contact the Watershed Coordinator at 513-695-1187 or The Isaac Walton League at 513-683-7233 or check out the Isaac Walton League website at www.cinci-iwla.org.

AmeriCorps* Assistance Available

Are you a nonprofit agency, local government, or public school? Would you like short-term assistance from a group of 10 dedicated young adults to address compelling needs in your community?

AmeriCorps* National Civilian Community Corps sends teams of 18- to 24-year-olds into communities like yours to help agencies fulfill their mission of service to the public. AmeriCorps* has work crews of ten young adults available for short-term projects such as trail-building, property improvements and watershed inventories.

You can learn more about the AmeriCorps* program by attending an informational session to be held April 24th 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, 800 Vine Street, Room 3B, Cincinnati. Individual consultation available from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Rich Smith, Assistant Projects Director with AmeriCorps* NCCC, Capital Region will be conducting the information session. If you would like more information prior to the April 24 meeting, Rich can be reached at:

2 DC Village Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 561-1097 phone
(202) 561-1090 fax
rsmith@cns.gov <rsmith@cns.gov>

Youth Collaborative of Clinton County Graduation Ceremony Highlights Todd Fork Watershed Projects

The Youth Collaborative of Clinton County graduated twenty-five students from Clinton County Area Schools at a ceremony held at Wilmington College on March 18. The students, who completed a year-long program stressing communication, team-work, problem-solving and leadership, received certificates and recognition from program leaders, community leaders, and elected officials.

LuAnn Winkle, LMRP Watershed Coordinator, introduced each team's project presentation on water quality issues related to Todd's Fork Watershed. The project requirement, a cooperative effort between the Youth Collaborative and the LMRP, showcased the student team's utilization their leadership skills as relates to a "real-world" local environmental issue in Clinton County. Presentations included use of technology as student teams provided attendees with information on stormwater, land-use, recreational facilities, agriculture and community resources.

The LMRP congratulates the graduates and their advisors and commends them on a job well done in raising awareness of water quality issues in Todd's Fork Watershed.



Kathleen Blake, Director, Clinton County Leadership Institute, addresses graduates and guests.

