





# The Watershed Warble

## A report on the activities of the Little Miami River Partnership

### Vision

Connecting People and Resources to Promote a Healthy Little Miami River Watershed.

### Mission

Promote a Healthy Little Miami River Watershed through Collaboration, Planning, Education and Action.

#### The Little Miami River Watershed CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)

Over the past few months, plans for applying for a 2,000 acre, \$50 million CREP have accelerated. LMRP has been working with Greene County Sanitary Engineering, Malcolm-Pirnie and Clermont SWCD to build a wide-ranging partnership to apply for and implement a CREP. After an initial meeting in March with SWCD, NRCS, FSA and non-profit groups to determine implementation interest, LMRP and its partners have accomplished several important tasks:

1. An acreage analysis to determine the amount of riparian-agricultural land that would be available for the program. This allowed us to determine an initial target of 20,000 acres for the CREP
2. A work load analysis for implementers based upon the acreage target and analysis of work load per contract from other CREP programs in Ohio.
3. A work load analysis was done to determine the amount of work and time needed for an application. It will take approximately 4,500 hours of work over two years to complete the CREP application.
4. Held meetings with ODNR and FSA senior, central office staff to garner support for our application.
5. Held a meeting with all of the POTW's (Publicly Operated Treatment Works) of the Little Miami River watershed to tell them of the benefits of a CREP. We then asked them if they were interested in sponsoring the application cost. Response has been positive.
6. Work continues on a daily basis with answering people's questions and developing materials for POTW's, implementing organizations, finding possible funding sources and keeping the process moving forward.

Further information and presentations on the CREP can be found at LMRP's website at: <http://www.littlemiamiriver.org/crep.htm>.

#### Lower Little Miami River TMDL (Total maximum Daily Load)

Starting this year, the Ohio EPA is conducting the chemical and biological sampling for a TSD (Technical Support Document) covering the Lower Little Miami River and Todd's Fork watersheds. The sampling will be finished this year, although the final results of analysis will not be completed until later 2008. The TSD will then become the data basis for developing the TMDL for the watershed. This process will take 1-2 more years.

LMRP has agreed to help the Ohio EPA and locally concerned organizations and industries by facilitating the outreach and public meeting process of the TMDL. It is our aim to create a neutral atmosphere where groups can share their concerns and issues while working to develop and implement this important regulatory document. LMRP has held several meetings with concerned groups and the OEPA to learn about their communication needs and then develop a communication and facilitation plan. We hope to start more public information meetings this Fall or early Winter.

#### The Little Miami River Watershed Photo Contest

LMRP's photo contest continues to draw great interest. We have received phone inquests for further information and clarification of rules. Our website page dedicated to the contest regularly receives hundreds of visitors. LMRP has been working with the Dayton Art Institute and the Cincinnati Museum Center to finalize gallery space and dates of availability. More information about this great contest can be found at our website at: <http://www.littlemiamiriver.org/photo-contest.htm>.

#### The Lower Little Miami River Watershed Action Plan (WAP)

Work continues on the last few points needed to finish the Lower Little Miami River WAP. Additional missing data sets were located and are now being analyzed. Responses to questions raised on the original draft version by ODNR and Clermont County are being addressed. We hope to have a public meeting on the plan this Fall and to submit it for State approval shortly thereafter.

#### Dayton Children's Water Festival

LMRP staff member Dennis TenWolde attended the Dayton Children's Water Festival as a volunteer to learn more about how this festival impacts kids and how to run a larger type of environmental festival.

# The Watershed Warble, continued

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Little Miami River Water Festival

LMRP has signed a one year contract with the Upper Little Miami River/Caesar's Creek 319 Joint Board to supervise and develop their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Little Miami River Water Festival. The festival is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 4 PM, at the Caesar's Creek Visitors Center. Last year over 500 people attended this festival and this year we hope to get even more. Several planning meetings have already been held and much of initial planning work has been accomplished

## River Rally

In May, LMRP staff member Dennis TenWolde attended the River Rally in the State of Washington. He also arranged for Dave Collins of the Miami Valley Resource Conservation and Development to attend. Both attended a number of trainings on fund raising efforts for non-profit organizations.

## ABX Air and DHL

LMRP continued to work with ABX Air on collaboration between business and environmental organizations. We hope to some day work with them on a project on the DHL property in Wilmington

## Dayton Foundation Training

Dennis TenWolde attended a morning workshop for the Dayton Foundation in July. This training will enable LMRP to apply for environmental project funding from at least two sets of foundation funds.

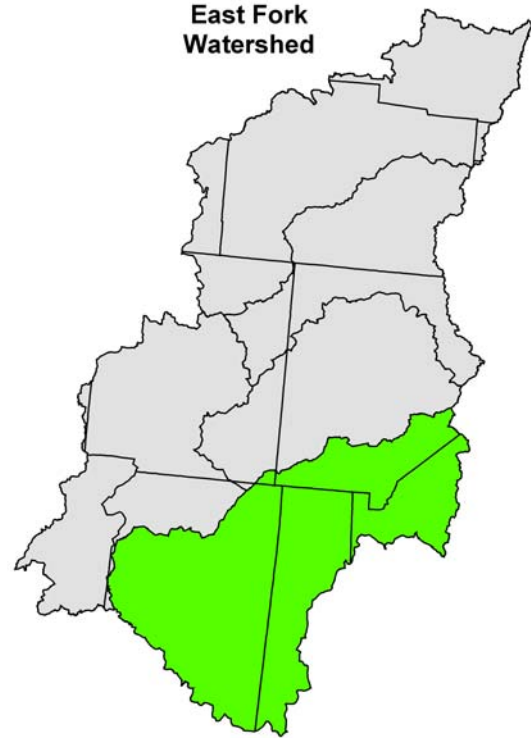
## Fund Raising

Fund raising remains a priority for LMRP projects and opportunities. We have development stronger and closer relationships with our current funders, started to obtain additional funders, and are working with local groups to determine how we can get funding for their implementation projects.

# The East Fork Watershed

## (provided by Jason Brown)

The East Fork Watershed Collaborative is happy to announce that the Watershed Action Plan (WAP) for the Middle East Fork sub-watershed planning area (Figure 1) has been completed. The plan is currently under review by several Collaborative members and will be sent to ODNR and Ohio EPA for endorsement by the end of July 2007. The Middle East Fork WAP was completed in less than a year's time and was created to meet local water management goals as well as bring the Middle East Fork and its tributaries into use attainment. The Collaborative partners put together a comprehensive inventory of geology, soils, land use, demographics, and biological resources within the Middle East Fork region. Using Ohio EPA data and additional data collected by Clermont County between 1996 and 2005, the Middle East Fork Plan describes current water resource conditions, and water quality trends. Based on Ohio EPA assessment and local experience, causes and sources of impairment were identified for the East Fork mainstem, as well as for the major tributaries to the Middle East Fork.



The Collaborative partners developed “problem statements” for each assessed stream segment that:

Described the water resource conditions for that segment with identified causes and sources of impairment;

Provided loading estimates for the pollutants of concern;

Presented goals for each pollutant of concern, that, if met, should result in attainment of the assigned use designation;

Detailed a suite of complementary strategies to mitigate point and non-point pollutant sources, and to restore streams and protect riparian areas; each strategy included specifics on responsible entity, how the strategy will be funded, when it will be implemented, and how performance will be measured.

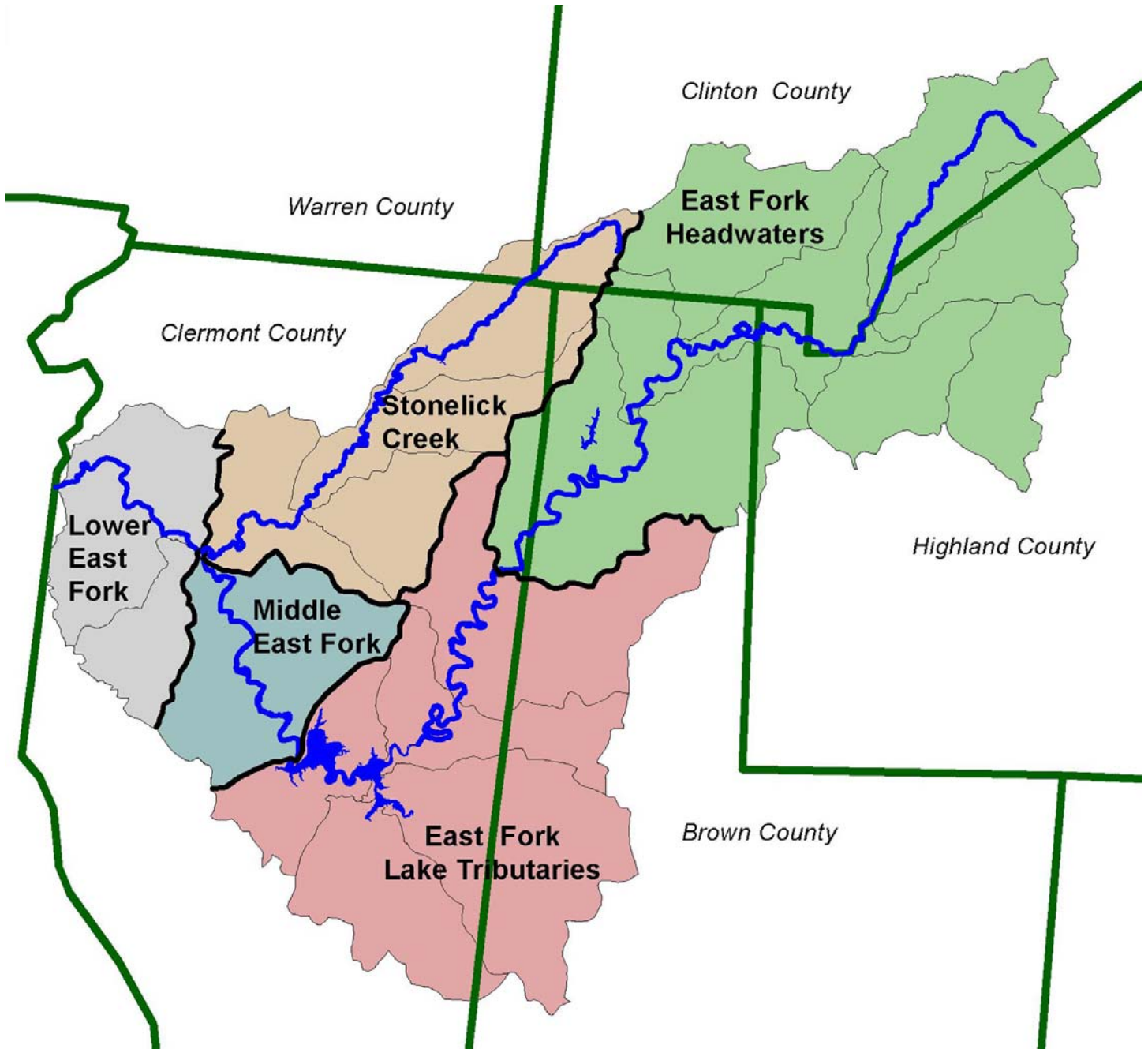
The Middle East Fork WAP is the fourth Watershed Management Plan developed for the East Fork Little Miami River watershed. The Lower East Fork WAP was endorsed in 2003 and the Headwaters and Lake Tributaries WAP's were endorsed in 2006. The Collaborative is currently developing a Watershed Action Plan for the Stonelick Creek sub-watershed planning area. The Stonelick WAP is expected to be completed and submitted to ODNR and Ohio EPA by the end of the year 2007.

On another note...

Jason K. Brown, East Fork Watershed Coordinator, graduated from the Ohio Watershed Academy in June 2007. The Ohio Watershed Academy is co-sponsored by the Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Soil and Water. The Academy is designed for watershed professionals and volunteers. For more information about the Ohio Watershed Academy visit the Ohio Watershed Network at: <http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/>.

Jason also became an Ohio EPA Level III Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) Credible Data Collector in June 2007. Jason is now certified by Ohio EPA to conduct stream habitat assessments at the highest level of

The East Fork Watershed, continued  
(provided by Jason Brown)



Sub-Watershed map of the East Fork of the Little Miami River

# Upcoming Events

## (provided by Anne Lyon)

### WATER QUALITY 2007 SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Saturday Stream Snapshot (SSS) Citizen Monitoring Program - Come join the fun!**

**Volunteers needed collect samples, transport samples to the lab, analyze samples, and enter data into a database. 2007 SSS are: 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8,10/13 and 11/10. Every Saturday at 9:30 a.m., we train new volunteers and give tours of the lab. For more information, contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or [alyon@green-acres.org](mailto:alyon@green-acres.org).**

#### **Citizen Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index Training**

Citizen Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Trainings (CQHEI) will be held 8/11 at 3 p.m. at Greenacres River Lab, 211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH. Participants will learn how to assess stream habitat and learn how to complete Ohio EPA's Citizen Habitat Evaluation Index (CQHEI). This survey looks at whether or not a stream can support fish. Ohio EPA finds this information very valuable and it is a quick and easy way for you to monitor a stream without getting wet! For more information, contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or [alyon@green-acres.org](mailto:alyon@green-acres.org)

#### **Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Training**

Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Trainings will be offered 6/9 and 8/11 at 2:00 p.m. at Greenacres River Lab, 211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH. Participants will learn to collect and identify stream life using the Izaak Walton League Save Our Streams (SOS) Method. All equipment and supplies will be provided. Suitable for participants ages 6 and older accompanied by an adult. Participants will get wet so bring a change of clothing for after! . For more information, contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or [alyon@green-acres.org](mailto:alyon@green-acres.org).

#### **2007 Little Miami River Challenge**

Little Miami Scenic River Challenge Cleanups will be held Saturdays this summer. For details contact, Izaak Walton League (513) 683-7233 or [www.cinci.iwla.org](http://www.cinci.iwla.org).

#### **Ohio River Sweep 2007**

2007 River Sweep is Saturday 6/16 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information about the Sweep, call the Ohio River Sweep Hotline: 1-800-359-3977.

#### **Paddlefest 2007**

Kids Extreme Expo at Paddlefest will be held on Friday July 13, 2007 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Groups of 8 or more need to register in advance. For more information contact Gia Giammarinaro at (513) 543-8157. Ohio River Music Arts & Outdoor Festival will be held at Paddlefest July 13, 2007 from 3 p.m. – Midnight. The Paddlefest Float Trip and Races, will be held July 14, 2007 with registration and check-in beginning at 7 a.m. For more information on the festival or float trip/races call (513) 588-6936.

#### **2007 Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE) Resources Fair at the Cincinnati Zoo**

The Resources Fair will be held 9/11 at the Cincinnati Zoo from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, contact Anne Lyon at 891-4227 or [alyon@green-acres.org](mailto:alyon@green-acres.org).

#### **Family Fishing at Greenacres**

Greenacres and the Cincinnati Chapter of the Izaak Walton League will host a Family Fishing Program at Greenacres Pond 7/21/07 from 1-3 p.m. Poles, bait, and light refreshments are provided. For more information, contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or [alyon@green-acres.org](mailto:alyon@green-acres.org). Advance registration required.

#### **Great Outdoor Weekend 2007**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Great Outdoor Weekend will be held 9/29 and 30/07. Greenacres will be coordinating activities at the Izaak Walton League Lodge Saturday 9/29 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, contact Anne Lyon at 891-4227 or [alyon@green-acres.org](mailto:alyon@green-acres.org).