



# RAVINIA

*An Advocate for Community Resources*

Published by Friends of the Ravines (FOR)

Fall 2011/Winter 2012

## The Remarkable Restoration of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park

by Carrie Morrow

Once, you could watch Kentucky-Derby-quality racehorses galloping around the track, but today you will see bicyclists, runners, and nature lovers using the path—now named the Darby Creek Greenway Trail. Metro Parks purchased this portion of the Darby Dan Farms in 2003 to obtain more land within in the watershed of Big Darby Creek.

The nationally recognized Darby watershed, named Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, became the largest of the Metro Parks, with more than 7,000 acres. And the park contains almost 35 miles of the Big and Little Darby creeks, which have both federal and state scenic river designations and offer a wide diversity of natural and restored habitats: tall grass prairie, floodplain forest, oak savanna, wet prairie, wetland, upland forest communities, and ravines.

In the early 1950s, Metro Parks made its first purchase of land in western Franklin County to start the Darby Creek Park. Over the next 30 years, Metro Parks purchased land on or near the creeks and converted to parkland homesteads and farmland that had been slated for development.

With the purchase in 2003 and 2004 of the Darby Dan Farms from the Galbreath family, over 1200 acres were added to the



*John Galbreath is standing beside the 9-furlong horseracing track he built in 1967.*

*(Courtesy of the Galbreath Family)*

park. Funds from an Ohio EPA grant program, the Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP), paid for 497 acres; Metro Parks purchased an additional 802 acres; and 60 acres was donated by the Galbreath family. It was the largest land purchase in the history of Metro Parks.

The Darby Dan Farm was well known for the thoroughbred horses produced there. The original owner and founder of the estate, John W. Galbreath (1897–1988), named it after

both the creek and his son (Daniel M. Galbreath, 1928–1995). A number of successful businesses are associated the Galbreath family, including baseball and football teams, thoroughbred racing and breeding, and (currently) facility rental and catering. The family's sister farm in Lexington, Kentucky, also a Darby Dan Farm, is a commercially operated horse facility.

The Darby Dan land purchase included two large racetracks: an outdoor track and an indoor track. The outdoor track once hosted events attended by U.S. presidents and the queen of England. Now the outdoor track is a segment of the Darby Creek Greenway trail that will eventually connect Battelle Darby Creek and Prairie Oaks Metro Park. The indoor track—built in the mid-1900s—is the only building of its

## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

**A**s another busy year for Friends of the Ravines begins to wind down, it is worthwhile for us to reflect on all that has been accomplished. The first annual Ravine Art Contest, which concluded in the winter, was a smashing success! Everyone who attended the grand opening of the exhibit had a great time witnessing the true beauty of Central Ohio's ravines as seen through the eyes of these amazing young people.

Our Community Forum this year featured John Watts, a noted birder, who presented a fascinating talk on the diversity of bird species he has observed over the years in the many fantastic Columbus Metro Parks ravines.

Early in May, the annual plant walk took us to a very special location, Spring Creek Ravine, tucked away in Sharon Woods Metro Park. This off-trail hike, co-sponsored by the Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries, was led by Metro Park staff members Allison Shaw and Carrie Morrow. Many spring ephemeral species, including the beautiful showy orchis, were observed in this spectacular ravine.

On July 30, a group of about 30 dedicated community volunteers tackled one of the most pervasive problems we have in our urban ravines: the highly invasive shrub honeysuckle. This plant had completely taken over large areas of Glen Echo Ravine and crowded out most of the native understory plants. Friends of the Ravines, along with Friends of the Lower Olentangy (FLOW), members of the Lower Olentangy Urban Arboretum, and the incredible City of Columbus Parks and Recreation staff, helped organize this event, which resulted in the removal of two full truckloads of chipped honeysuckle. Although the day was very hot and the work at times extremely difficult, the results were amazing! Large areas of Glen Echo previously choked with honeysuckle are now open and primed for rejuvenation through the careful planting of native shrubs and wildflowers that typically thrive in undisturbed forest habitats.

While our year has been successful, we realize there is still much work to be done. Friends of the Ravines will continue to seek out opportunities to protect and restore ravine habitat throughout central Ohio. Without the continued support of our membership, none of these efforts would be possible. Thanks!

*Brian Gara, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## NEWS FROM THE RAVINES

**GLEN ECHO RAVINE** residents' wildlife sightings include a groundhog, a coyote, an over-abundance of feral cats, and an olfaction from one resident who caught a whiff of a skunk.

**IUKA RAVINE** has new pedestrian lighting: that is, new lights in the style of the early 1900s when the neighborhood was developed. And Iuka residents have been busy with nifty-nabbers (on loan from Friends of the Ravines), giving the ravine, streets, and alleyways a fall cleaning to set a good example for student residents.

**LINWORTH RAVINE** resident Jane Gross has donated her 1895 copy of *Herbarium and Plant Descriptions to the Ohioana Library*. Jane's book was the inspiration for "Elementary Botany at Ohio Wesleyan University in 1899," which appeared in the 2008 Spring/Summer issue of *Ravinia*. The book is now available for research.

**WALHALLA RAVINE** residents report that after the city investigated the options for repairing a failing culvert that carries the stream under the roadway just west of the Calumet Bridge, the roadway had to be closed. And Clintonville added to its growing collection of barricades and orange barrels.

## Correction for the 2011 Spring/Summer *Ravinia*

*The second sentence in the first paragraph of the cover article on Billingsley Ravine should read:*

Wright Run, also called Billingsley Creek, exposes the contact between limestone and shale, and while the lower portion looks like a typical Scioto limestone ravine, the upper portion looks like a stream in Highbanks, with straight-edge shale banks.





*Indian Ridge mature wet prairie*

*(Courtesy of John Watts)*

kind in Franklin County. Once the setting for extravagant garden parties and galas, the indoor track, (currently being restored) is not yet open to the public and its future use has not been determined. However, in time, park visitors will be able to walk through the building and imagine the festivities that in times past took place there. Several other buildings were included in the land purchase; however, due to high maintenance and liability costs, they were demolished to allow for more habitat restoration. (The Galbreath family still owns and operates the central core of their former farm as a meeting and rental facility.)

The former Darby Dan Farm parcels were woodland before they were pastured and farmed. Many factors such as soil types and topography, as well as surrounding habitats and land uses, help determine which habitats work best—swamp forest, wet prairie, or savanna restoration.

A variety of habitat management practices can be used to amend agricultural landscapes so they will function more naturally. Metro Parks chose to increase the forested corridor by restoring swamp forests in some areas and selecting other sites for open wetland and wet-prairie habitats. Working with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the

WRRSP program that is designed to promote water quality improvement projects, Metro Parks has restored over 400 acres of habitat. Creating a diversity of habitats promotes wildlife and provides examples of a variety of habitat restoration options for park visitors.

In 2010, Metro Parks began restoration on the last acres purchased from the Darby Dan farm—a 700-acre parcel that had been leased to a local farmer while a restoration plan was being developed. On that site, Metro Parks built a 500-acre wet prairie, which is to date the largest restoration of contiguous wetland habitat. The site was seeded with Darby Plains prairie grasses and wildflowers collected from other prairie restoration and remnant sites. (The remaining 200 acres of the Darby Dan Farm are to be restored to natural habitat within the next year.)

Metro Parks' most recent efforts at reintroduction of wildlife brought six female bison from The Wilds to the native prairies of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. About ten years ago, this project was just wishful thinking by the park's natural resource managers. But early in 2011, the bison females were able, once again, to call the prairie home, thanks to the determination of the Metro Parks stewards, the dedication of Metro Park employees, and the full cooperation by The Wilds. The bison



*Galbreath savannah*

*(Courtesy of John Watts)*





now graze on 30 acres of pasture grass, and an additional 40 acres of native tall grass prairie has been fenced to allow them to roam.

Metro Parks' natural resource managers are eager to see the response of the restored prairies to the herbivores because it has been a challenge to manage grassland for nesting birds in the thick lush prairie grasses. It is hoped that the bison's grazing will create openings that will become habitat not only for struggling grassland birds, but also for mammals (such as the thirteen lined ground squirrel) whose numbers have decreased over the years. If the bison program is successful, more prairies will be fenced for rotation of the herd to benefit even more acres of prairie.

Now visitors from all over the state can learn about the natural history of the Darby Plains region, which at one time encompassed 385 square miles of prairie, wetlands, and the savanna, where bison, elk, and prairie chickens moved freely. Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, with the addition of the bison, duplicates the landscape that existed before Ohio's settlers laid claim to the woods and fields.

Please visit [www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net) and select Parks and Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park to learn how you can explore the park's extensive greenway and nature trail system and enjoy Darby's numerous habitat and wildlife restoration projects.

*Six bison now roam the prairies of  
Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.  
(Courtesy of Metro Parks)*



## **Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park Will Be the Location of FOR's 2012 Annual Plant Walk**

Friends of Ravines 2012 Annual Plant Walk  
will introduce you to some of the spectacular ravines  
of the Darby Dan Farm acquisition.

Look for details on [www.friendsoftheravines.org](http://www.friendsoftheravines.org).

# Dave Snyder Retired, but Not Tired

by Sherrill Massey and Martha Buckalew

From his room on the 7th floor, Dave Snyder looks out over the treetops, and his mind whirls. He sees the landscape changing. Wesley Glen Retirement Community is expanding the facility to include a Wellness Center. The Wellness Center will enhance the quality of health options for residents.

Dave Snyder has lived at Wesley Glen for two years, and he has his own ideas about how residents can enhance their health and wellness. As he looks out his windows towards the ravine and evaluates the surrounding landscape, he believes that the residents would benefit from the aesthetic stimulation of more color through the seasons.

After he received his degree in Ornamental Horticulture from The Ohio State University in 1949, Dave became one of Ohio's earliest certified arborists; in fact, he was the 75th. (Now he is that many years old—plus a few.) Dave was among the first to advocate certification in Ohio through the

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). He was ahead of his time; he understood the value of being affiliated with the ISA, which fosters an awareness of the benefits of trees through research, technology, and education. Early on, Dave worked to promote setting high standards for professional arborists. All his life he has been, and still is, a doer!

When we visited him in his apartment, cluttered with piles of paper and over-stuffed bookshelves, Dave cleared spots for us to sit so he could tell us about his latest passion. He showed us his meticulously hand-drawn maps that lay out a plan for an arboretum for the Wesley Glen Retirement Community on Bill Moose Ravine.

Dave's plan, called the Wesley Glen Memorial Arboretum, would bring more variety and interest to the landscape. It would require removing some trees—including invasive ones—and his plant list is varied: Swamp White Oak, River Birch, Golden-Rain-Tree, Autumn



Dave Snyder (Photo by Sherrill Massey)

Maple, Red Buckeye, Serviceberry, Witch-hazel, and Japanese Tree Lilac. These trees would complement both the retirement center's nature trail and the landscape surrounding the buildings. He wants the Wesley Glen Memorial Arboretum to be a living memorial—a place where residents can plant a tree and watch it grow.

Now, as Dave looks out his windows over the tops of the trees toward the ravine, he envisions foliage dotted with flowers in spring, followed by colorful fruits in summer. Fall would bring a full palette of yellows, reds, and oranges. And Dave hopes that each day that passes brings him closer to seeing the arboretum on the north bank of Bill Moose Run become a reality.

In his retirement, Dave also serves as an expert witness in arboriculture litigation. Before retirement he worked with various garden centers, including Andersons, the City of Columbus' Urban Renewal Program, and the Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric Company (now AEP), where he was in charge of 2,000 miles of vegetation management.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*Wesley Glen is located on North High Street, just north of Graceland Shopping Center, on Bill Moose Ravine. This tributary flows westward from Indianola to the Olentangy River.*



Bill Moose Ravine

(Photo by Sherrill Massey)



# The Lower Olentangy Urban Arboretum: Reconnecting Our Vulnerable Fragmented Jewels

by Peter Kovarik, Ph.D.  
Photos by Sherrill Massey

*"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us.  
When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may  
begin to use it with love and respect." —Aldo Leopold*

Diversity is said to be the spice of life. The loss of diversity leads to blight and impoverishment. Imagine a colorful Van Gogh painting reduced to black and white or a Beethoven symphony performed by a lone flautist. Regardless of the quality of the rendition, such an effort would noticeably lack the dynamics and balance envisioned by its creator. For most of us suburbanites, it is more of a challenge to recognize how profoundly human activity has altered a once-thriving forest ecosystem that existed where our houses now stand. Clintonville is extremely fortunate in that some elements of the original forest ecosystem still persist in its ravines, small parks, and riverine corridors along the Olentangy River. These areas continue to provide refuge for wildlife, including resident and migratory birds and butterflies, and for a variety of wildflowers, all of which are within walking distance of residents in this community. Some of the forested areas in this large area tend to be more species rich than others: in other words, the larger the area, the more species it can support.

As a biologist, I have always been attracted to nature and natural settings. I was raised in a rural setting in Connecticut where spring was announced by a chorus of spring peepers and wood frogs. In the warm-weather months I spent a great deal of time outdoors in search of reptiles and amphibians, which I often kept as pets. I saw and heard numbers of magnificent songbirds, and the trill of grey tree frogs and the deep croaking of bullfrogs were familiar summer sounds.



*Path on the north rim of Glen Echo Ravine*

Because of my childhood, I have always gravitated towards forested areas. The sheer beauty of the ravines in Clintonville was a major reason my wife and I decided to settle there. One of my first projects in 2002 was to begin planting our yard with native plants in the hope of attracting birds and butterflies from the nearby ravines. My backyard became my sandbox: a place to spend countless hours attempting to counter the contrived landscape that had been shaped by previous owners—which included filling in a sizable backyard fish pond.

Then, in 2009, Shelby Conrad, a fellow native-plant enthusiast, invited me to participate in an Earth Day event in Glen Echo Ravine. Until then, I had not spent much time in the ravines or given much thought to their overall state of health.

Our worksite in Glen Echo was just west of the Indianola bridge, and our job was to remove some of the invasive plants that were taking over the woodland. In spite of all the invasives, I saw that day a variety of bird species that I had not seen locally, including indigo buntings. I also saw a rather uncommon species of a day-flying hawk-moth. In the process of yanking up the creeping euonymus, I found several salamanders and even a small snake. This experience completely changed my perspective on where I should be concentrating my time and efforts. Glen Echo Ravine became my new sandbox. My initial goal was to restore Columbus Recreation and Parks' latest purchase, the Walker property (located west of the Indianola bridge), hoping it would entice

a breeding pair of migratory wood thrushes to settle there and fill the air with their ethereal, evocative song.

Sizeable forests tend to create their own microclimates, and no matter how hot or dry it is in surrounding areas, it is always cool and moist within a forest. This is partly due to tree canopies' effectively blocking the warming and drying effects of sunlight and wind. Also, as water evaporates from the leaves of plants, moisture is released and evaporative cooling takes place. Since the soil in forests is generally covered and insulated by a layer of dead leaves, it tends to remain cool and moist and protected from erosion.

When large tracts of forest are reduced in size, each fragment becomes, essentially, an exposed island: there is simply not enough forest area left to effectively moderate the climate.

The fragmentary nature of Glen Echo and the other forested ravines farther north makes these areas much more susceptible to environmental stress. They end up losing moisture as a result of increased temperatures and wind in the surrounding, comparatively treeless, neighborhoods. The largely impermeable surfaces in these neighborhoods promote increased runoff during heavy rains that wash away much of the insulating leaf litter and accelerate soil erosion within the ravines.

This situation is exacerbated by climate change. Central Ohio is experiencing a long-term increase in frequency of storms that drop heavy rain in short periods, a trend that is predicted to continue. Another consequence of forest fragmentation is invasion by alien plant species. The edges of forest fragments tend to provide ideal access to aggressive and opportunistic plant species, including the ground cover planted on private property adjacent to the ravines. The influence of the forest edge increases as the overall size of the forest decreases. Since virtually all invasive plants are "exotic," they are not recognized as food by plant-feeding insects or microbes, which gives them a competitive advantage over native species.

One solution to the problem of habitat fragmentation is to link the fragments through land acquisition and to buffer these islands by adding more forested land around them. Columbus Recreation and Parks Department has been actively involved in the preservation of Glen Echo Ravine by acquiring, as they have become available, private parcels

of forested land that border this watershed. But what else can be done to buffer the areas surrounding this narrow forested corridor? I had often surveyed the (largely treeless) tree-lawns and pondered the ramifications of planting these areas with native trees. Julie Smiley, a Clintonville resident and tree-planting advocate, had also noticed these gaps. She informed me in the spring of 2009 that she had managed to convince Jack Low, a former City Forester, to replant Clintonville.

It dawned on me that this could be an unprecedented, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for urban ecological restoration. Rather than just planting trees, why not plant the native tree species that once grew in the areas? Nearly all of these trees had been cleared for agriculture in the mid-1800s. Thus began a process of exploring the feasibility of doing just that. We gathered names of people who might be interested in helping out, and before long we had a small working group of local residents meeting regularly.

To move forward, we needed a name for the project. A member of our working group, Dr. John Krygier, an Ohio Wesleyan University professor and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) specialist, suggested "Urban Arboretum," which we quickly adopted. Later, we added the prefix "Lower Olentangy." We also needed to set the boundaries for the project. The western boundary was North High Street, and the eastern boundary was the railroad tracks. The northern boundary was Weber Road, and initially the southern boundary included portions of Olentangy Street (but that boundary would soon be changed; see map on p. 8)

Our initial task was somehow to calculate the original tree composition in the inter-ravine areas. We needed to locate and identify the few pre-settlement trees that still inhabit that area. We drew on the expertise of OSU professor Dr. Dan Struve. Brevoort Park, a small fragment of the original forest that stood between the ravines, also provided a wealth of historic information. We determined that the areas between the ravines had been, essentially, an oak/hickory forest. And we discovered that the city had available for planting most of the 25 species we had identified. We also found a source of the supplemental trees in OSU's Horticulture and Crop Science native tree nursery (managed by Dan Struve). Many of those trees had been grown from seeds collected in Clintonville, which made



*Another view of the path through the Glen Echo woodland*



them ideally suited for our purpose. Dan and his business partner, Ed Kapraley of Riverside Native Trees, could supply the trees we needed—provided we could find a way to pay for them. The obvious solution was to write a grant proposal.

But before we could submit a grant proposal, we had to determine the number of trees needed to replant the area between Glen Echo and Walhalla ravines. Clintonville Area Commissioner Mike McLaughlin and I walked all the streets within the arboretum boundaries, recording the addresses of houses with vacancies in their tree-lawns. As we worked on the proposal, it became apparent that we had overlooked one detail: if protecting Glen Echo Ravine was one of our major objectives, we needed to protect both its north and south flanks. So we extended the southern boundary to include portions of Arcadia Avenue and Hudson Street (see map). Chris O'Leary, who works with both Glen Echo Neighbors Civic Association and Friends of the Ravines, provided a list of tree vacancies for streets south of the ravine. In the fall of 2010 two organizations—United Crestview Area Neighbors Association and Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed—submitted grants to the Jeffrey Fund of the Columbus Foundation to cover the costs of planting native trees in the tree-lawns. In December 2010, we learned that both grants had been awarded.

Members of our working group met with Jack Low and determined that approximately 200 trees, five to six feet tall, would be planted in the fall of this year. Although it will take many years for these trees to mature, they will begin to work their magic as soon as they are planted: they will remove carbon dioxide from the air and retain it in their trunks and roots. Their foliage will provide shade and evaporative cooling through transpiration, which will reduce the summertime heat. As they become larger, they will reduce the velocity of the wind and evaporation of soil moisture, effectively protecting the exposed ravine forests from excessive moisture loss. Their canopies will shade streets and sidewalks and help reduce the amount of runoff from these impermeable surfaces. Their trunks and roots will help move water deep into the soil. Since a significant portion of the trees being planted was grown from seeds gathered in Clintonville, they will be adapted to local conditions. This will translate into better growth and survival. And expanding the area of the forest will inhibit the growth of invasive plant species in these areas.

Wildlife species, including songbirds and butterflies, depend on native trees for food and habitat. It is hoped that the additional trees will encourage native songbirds and butterflies to move from the ravines into surrounding areas. To add to the canopy of our urban arboretum, we hope to start a program to motivate residents to plant one or more native trees on their properties. We also want to create a vibrant understory within the arboretum, favoring colorful redbuds and flowering dogwoods. (It is important to recognize that the presence of non-native trees and shrubs can actually diminish wildlife and plant diversity.)

Supporters of the Lower Olentangy Urban Arboretum have participated in many of the work sessions involving invasive species removal and native tree and shrub planting, which have noticeably transformed the northern slope of Glen Echo Ravine between the Indianola bridge and Calumet Christian School. This past spring, a gorgeous scarlet oak, the 2011 Earth Day Commemorative Tree, was planted adjacent to the alley south of Olentangy Street. This year, something almost magical happened—a pair of migrating wood thrushes made Glen Echo their home, and I now have the pleasure of hearing a beautiful birdsong from my childhood by walking a mere stone's throw away from my residence. Perhaps in the future other migratory birds such as orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, and towhees will notice the changes that have been made and will also decide to become part of southern Clintonville's forested community.

“The changeless details of wild things come together in unchanged places—however small or fragmented.”

—Jack Wennerstrom





# Worthinglen Warriors

by Martha Harter Buckalew

Along Tucker Creek Ravine, just off North High Street and east of Worthington-Galena Road, lies a quiet retreat, Worthinglen Condominiums. Construction began in 1972, on twelve acres of land where sheep once grazed and a ranch-style house had sat on a flat field above a rise. Worthinglen was promoted as a new adventure in condominium living—very scenic, very private, with such abundant amenities that it was billed a Carefreeminium. Where else could you find a newly constructed home with contemporary architecture along a stream in a woodsy setting, within walking distance of shopping, on the bus line, AND located in the center of an attractive suburb? Worthinglen's seventy-two units sold quickly. In 1973, residents formed a condominium association, but the residents living in the townhouses closest to the ravine would become the Worthinglen warriors.

Their first skirmish occurred in the early 1970s when the developers and the City of Worthington dynamited the creek to bury sewer lines. Early Worthinglen residents remember the blasting clearly, and they were outraged.

To placate the residents, contractors requested reports of evidence of the impact of blasts (such as cracked walls) so they could make appropriate repairs. At the time, residents did not realize that they would be, in the near future, fighting this same fight again.

In the mid-1980s the Worthinglen warriors (residents from about half of the Worthington Condominium units) took up another fight. A church located north of Tucker Creek Ravine took a proposal before Worthington City Council to cantilever a parking lot over Tucker Ravine. A heated and lengthy dispute ensued, but the Worthinglen warriors—whose defense was based on the preservation of Worthington's green space—prevailed and defeated the proposal.

Tucker Creek Ravine was threatened again in 2005 when developers wanted to tap into the sewer line that runs through Tucker Creek. This time the warriors hired an attorney and took on their biggest fight with Worthington City Council. Friends of the Ravines attended the final council meeting, in which Sierra Club representative Cyane Greshom joined those who spoke passionately in behalf of the environment—and, for once, the environment won out over development. Council voted to install a lift station rather than disrupt Tucker Creek.

Perhaps now the Worthinglen warriors can rest and enjoy their slice of country where owls hoot, ducks waddle, deer graze, and red fox frolic. Friends of the Ravines applauds the dedicated residents who have fought to preserve the integrity of their part of Tucker Ravine, and we hope that the only challenge in their future will be the evicting of a raccoon, possum, or squirrel that has relocated from the nearby woods to a Worthinglen townhouse.



## *Friends of the Ravines' 2012* **Art Contest**

**Is Open to All Franklin County Students in Grades K-12**

The **FRIENDS OF THE RAVINES ART CONTEST** is bigger and better than ever this year. Entries of ravine-related photography, 2D visual art, haiku-style poetry, and decorated rain barrels will be accepted through January 6, 2012. Student artists can win gift certificates from local merchants. The art departments of schools sponsoring the winning entries will receive \$100. Winning entries will be featured in an exhibition at the Northwood ARTSpace during February 2012, and an award ceremony will be held there on February 3, 2012. A limited number of rain barrels are available on a first-come basis, so fill out an interest card for a chance to decorate one. Official contest rules, rain barrel interest cards, and entry forms are available at [FriendsOfTheRavines.org](http://FriendsOfTheRavines.org).

This event is made possible, in part, by the  
Franklin County Neighborhood Arts Program and  
the Greater Columbus Arts Council.



*2-D Visual Winner in 2010, Mia Sullivan,  
Grade 1, Como Elementary*

# Grant Helps the Glen Echo Ravine Restoration Continue

by Maureen Crossmaker

Photos by Sherrill Massey

**FRIENDS OF THE RAVINES (FOR)** has worked with the City of Columbus and neighborhood associations for more than a decade to mitigate the damage that Glen Echo ravine and stream have sustained over the last 100 years. In the spring of 2011, FOR received a United Way Neighborhood Partnership grant to continue restoration work in the ravine.

On July 30, FOR partnered with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, the Lower Olentangy Urban Arboretum, and other watershed groups to remove invasives (primarily bush honeysuckle) from two sections of the ravine. The city team's value of "safety first," their skill with chain saws and chipper, and their hauling away of cut plants leveraged past honeysuckle removal efforts by a significant magnitude. The woodland opened up as volunteers worked, and all could see meaningful and immediate outcomes to their work. By late afternoon, two large trucks were filled with shredded invasive plants—what was accomplished was remarkable.

Volunteers once again united in community service on September 24 to plant native trees, shrubs, and perennials. Replanting is an essential line of defense against erosion; it also inhibits invasive species from establishing dominance and preserves our fragile ravine tributary habitats. It also improves air and water quality; provides habitat for insects, birds, and animals that depend on native shrubs and trees for survival; and promotes neighborhood pride and cohesiveness.

The continued conservation efforts, maintaining a healthy stream, and outreach and education, are all integral to the Glen Echo neighborhood, and they contribute to the health and vitality of the Olentangy watershed as well. People choose to live in the Glen Echo neighborhood, in large part, because of the compelling beauty of the ravine and the strong and sustainable sense of community. It was the ravine that



*Volunteers clear the woodland of bush honeysuckle.*

This project is made possible through the generous contributions of several organizations in support of the Neighborhood Partnership Grants program:





shaped the neighborhood's original design and the ravine was a contributing feature cited when the Glen Echo Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

Friends of the Ravines thanks the United Way Neighborhood Partnership for helping us take another important step in ensuring the health of the Glen Echo ravine and stream, as well as carrying out our mission to protect and restore ravine areas in Franklin County.



*At the end of the day, two large trucks were filled with shredded invasives.*



*The honeysuckle popper got a workout on July 30.*

### YES! I WANT TO BE A SUPPORTING MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF THE RAVINES.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate any special instructions for listing of your name in the Roster of supporting members. \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category** *Make Check Payable to Friends of the Ravines.*

☐ Friend: \$15      ☐ Sponsor: \$35      ☐ Sustainer: \$50  
☐ Contributor: \$25      ☐ Household: \$40      ☐ Patron: \$100      ☐ Corporate (Over \$100) \_\_\_\_\_

I want to volunteer to help Friends of the Ravines carry out its mission to protect ravine areas and educate the public. I can help by:

☐ Distributing *Ravinia*      ☐ Writing Articles for *Ravinia*      ☐ Preparing Mailings  
☐ Assisting with the Website      ☐ Giving Computer Advice      ☐ Helping with Ravine Cleanups  
☐ Planning Community Forums      ☐ Removing Invasive Plants in Ravines      ☐ Becoming an On-Call Volunteer

My special area of expertise is \_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite ravine is \_\_\_\_\_.

Friends of the Ravines, PO Box 82021, Columbus, Ohio 43202

## Supporting Members:

(Received by September 15, 2011)

Julie Boyland	Carla & John Mathews
Dale Brubeck	Jackie Mayo
Spencer L. Davis	Susan & Scott McKinley
Jeanne Desy	Mike Peppe
Greg Denby	Matt Raymond
Dianne Efsic	John Sauer & Doreen
P.A. Eiben	Uhas-Sauer
Philip R. Frausto	Chris & Debra Staggs
Barnet Golding	Turner Studio & Gallery
Joseph Colby Grimes	Emily Vasquez-Coulson
Jane Gross	Mary A. Wildermuth
Barbara E. Hunt	John Wilkins
Daryl Largent	Worthington Condominium
Maureen Lorenz	Association
Franklin & Karen Martens	

## Thank You:

### Copy Editing

K Adamson

### July 30 Invasive Removal

Columbus Recreation & Parks  
Xenos Christian School  
Numerous volunteers

### Operating Assistance

Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center  
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

### Ravinia Design & Production:

AJaX Designs

### September 24 Planting Session

Buckeye Donuts  
Crimson Cup  
Green Columbus  
Xenos Christian School  
Numerous volunteers

If you would prefer to read *Ravinia* on the Web instead of receiving a paper copy, please send an e-mail to [FriendsOfTheRavines@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheRavines@gmail.com) and let us know.

We'll e-mail you when a new issue is ready to read.



*Ravinia* is the official publication of Friends of the Ravines.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Martha Harter Buckalew	Maureen Crossmaker
Brian Gara	Dr. Peter Kovarik
Sherrill Massey	Carrie Morrow
Alice Waldhauer	

*Ravinia* is funded through donations from supporting members. The mission of Friends of the Ravines is to foster the protection and restoration of ravine areas in Franklin County through community education and conservation.

*Submissions and suggestions are welcome.*

## FRIENDS OF THE RAVINES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Martha Harter Buckalew  
Maureen Crossmaker  
Brian Gara  
Maureen Lorenz  
Sherrill Massey  
Carrie Morrow  
Alice Waldhauer

Website: [www.friendsoftheravines.org](http://www.friendsoftheravines.org)  
e-mail: [mhbuckalew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhbuckalew@sbcglobal.net)

Ravinia  
P.O. Box 82021  
Columbus, Ohio 43202



100% recycled paper, 20% post-consumer waste