



RAVINIA

An Advocate for Community Resources

Published by Friends of the Ravines (FOR)

Fall 2002

The History of Iuka Ravine

The Iuka Ravine Historic District is an example of an existing natural landscape that has been artfully manipulated by man-made works in the tradition of Frederick Law Olmstead. The ravine area was declared an historic district and placed on both the National and Columbus Registers of Historic Places in 1986.

Take a walk through the ravine, beginning at the Indianola bridge, which forms an entrance. You'll follow a curving road under a canopy of mature hardwoods. On either side of the road the ravine rises to the houses above, which are screened by trees and plantings interspersed with a variety of meandering stone steps, garden walls, boulders and wild flowers. After you round a curve, the Summit Street bridge appears, forming an entrance to the eastern half. Here the road divides and forms a park, finally ending at North Fourth Street. Isolated by its bridges from the heavy traffic of the north-south streets, Iuka Ravine becomes a separate, hidden environment beneath and behind the surrounding rectilinear streets.

The Iuka Ravine was developed as a middle to upper-middle class neighborhood with many substantial homes. The eastern half of the district between North Fourth Street and Summit Street was platted in 1892 as part of a larger area called the Indianola Summit Addition.

The western half of the district between Summit Street and Indianola Avenue was platted in 1906 as the Indianola Forest Addition. The development was named for Indianola Farm, which encompassed the entire area during much of the nineteenth century. This farm was part of the extensive land holdings of William Neil who came to Columbus in 1818 and eventually became one of the city's most prominent businessmen.

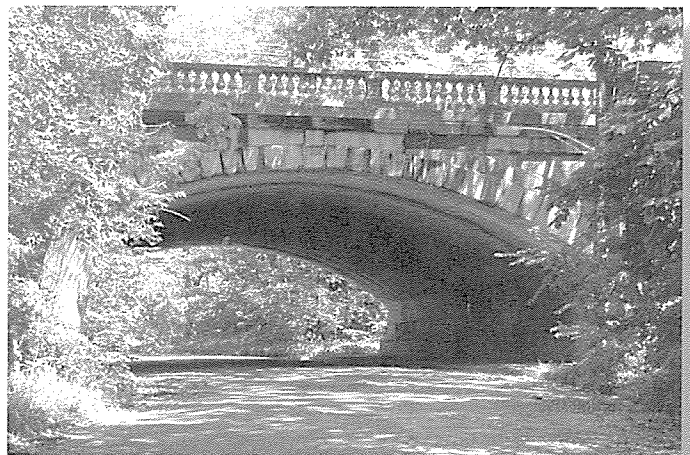
In 1870 when the Neil family sold its farm to the state for the future home of The Ohio State University, the area east of OSU was forest and farmland. Clear, cold springs fed a creek, which ran through the wooded ravine, then meandered along what is now 16th Avenue, and emptied into a small lake, approximately where Mirror Lake now lies. In 1908, the ravine's creek bed was placed in a vaulted storm drain under the brick roadway and the ravine was made shallower.

There was only a scattering of homes in the area: a few farmhouses and log cabins and one grand house built by William Neil for his son Robert in 1856.

By 1872 the house was owned by Henry Neil, William's youngest son, and named "Indianola." Captain Neil served in the Civil War with the Eleventh Ohio Battery and was wounded at the battle of Iuka near Indianola, Mississippi. His house still stands, much altered, at 1842 Indianola Avenue and is now the home of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Formed from two different real estate additions, Iuka Ravine evolved into its final configuration over a period of about twenty years. There does not appear to have been an initial master plan and several people had a hand in its development at various times. This makes the result all the more remarkable. Among the more prominent people who were involved were Eli P. Evans and Edgar P. Kinhead,

Continued on page 3



The Iuka bridge

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD...

The Board of Friends of the Ravines (FOR) is looking ahead. In June, we saw the completion of the restoration of Glen Echo Ravine's northern slope. It was breathtaking to see the once barren hillside turn to a lush carpet of green rye grass dotted with newly planted black locust trees sending out their first leafy sprigs.

In July the Steering Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Greenways Program met in Glen Echo to showcase the newly completed restoration. John Husted, Restoration Technician and Spokesperson, was guest speaker.

FOR had educational booths at ComFest on June 28-30 and at Olentangy River Day on July 27, 2002. In September, John Husted presented a program on the Glen Echo Restoration at Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed's monthly meeting.

FOR continues to foster ravine organizations on Glen Echo, Walhalla, and Adena. Elayna Grody, Natural Resources Manager with the City of Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, met with Friends of the Ravines on Glen Echo (FORGE), the Walhalla Ravine Association, and Adena Brooks residents. Under her guidance, volunteers have removed invasive plant species from the three ravines.

With winter approaching, the Board of Trustees has shifted its focus. We are putting the finishing touches on our long-promised informational brochure titled *Guide to Living in a Ravine Community*. We have launched a supporting membership campaign, which has augmented our operating budget. We are making an inventory to assess the work needed to restore the southern slope of Glen Echo Park.

We continue to grow, adding a Membership Chair, a Restoration Technician and Spokesperson, and a Development Advisor to our support personnel. In June, Barbara Scanlon resigned from the Board of Trustees to focus her attention on the arrival of her fourth child. Tom Logsdon, an environmentalist and avid hiker, replaced her. Tom authored the article, "Bill Moose, An Urban Treasure," which appears in this issue of *Ravinia*.

We are grateful for continuing support from the Clintonville Beechwood Community Resources Center, the Columbus Foundation, and those who have volunteered time and energy to help us continue our mission to educate the public and protect and restore ravine ecosystems.

Thank you for being friends of the ravines,
Martha Harter Buckalew, Chair, Board of Trustees



NEWS FROM THE RAVINES

Adena Brook Community has spent the summer removing invasives and trash from the Adena Brook Watershed. Teams of 89 volunteers removed 169 lawn bags and 158 trash bags of garlic mustard, tree of heaven, and Canadian thistle, plus a mound of honeysuckle 200 feet long by 12 feet wide, as well as numerous articles of trash. The City reported that the waste that was removed totaled 4.7 tons.

Friends of the Ravines on Glen Echo Ravine

reports that Boy Scout Troop 28 is planning 5 days of conservation work in Glen Echo Park, participating in hillside stabilization projects, tree planting, and other timber stand improvement work. The scouts began their service to the park with *Make A Difference Day*, on October 29, when they were joined by teams of 50 volunteers from service and church organizations.

Iuka Ravine Association has a guardian angel who has spent much time reintroducing beech trees and planting natives in the park. Utilizing Wild Flower Rescue at Portman Park, the Iuka gardener is establishing beds of Jack in the Pulpit, Green Dragons, Christmas ferns, and lady ferns. Once home to groves of beech trees, Iuka is reclaiming its past.

Walhalla Ravine Association has been informed that all easements for the culverts project have been obtained but the project will not begin before spring of 2003 because the city auditor is not releasing funds until the end of the year. However, the sewers project will start this year but an exact date has not been released.

Tuttle Park Memorial Garden was dedicated on September 23 to honor the memory of University Community residents Jean Hansford, Jan Looman, Charles Pavey III, and Diane Poulton. The event began with a reception and was followed by speeches from Mayor Michael Coleman, Matt Habash, Wayne Roberts, and Joe Motil.

Hawk Recovers from Wing Injury

In the Spring 2002 issue of *Ravinia* we printed an article about the rescue of an injured red-tailed hawk, which was taken to the Ohio Wildlife Center. The bird, nicknamed Rocky, fully recovered from its wing injury. On the day of its release, the hawk was returned to the site where it was found and joined by rescuers and officials from the Wildlife Center.

Observers with cameras poised held their breath as the cage was opened. Before anyone could snap a picture, Rocky took flight and disappeared. If you see a red-tailed hawk soaring over the city, it could be lucky Rocky.

The Ohio Wildlife Center is located off Sawmill and I-270 at Billingsley Road in Worthington. It is a nonprofit organization run by volunteers and wildlife experts. For more information call 614-793-9453 or contact ohiowildlifecenter.org.



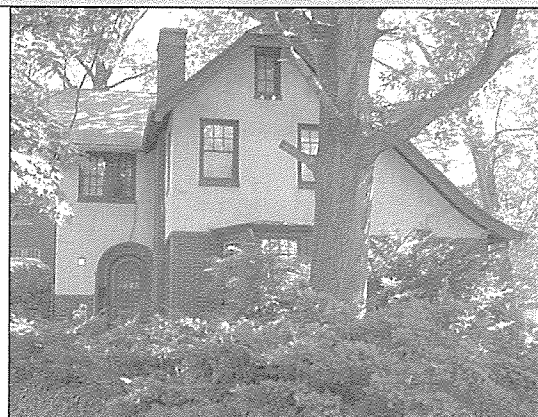
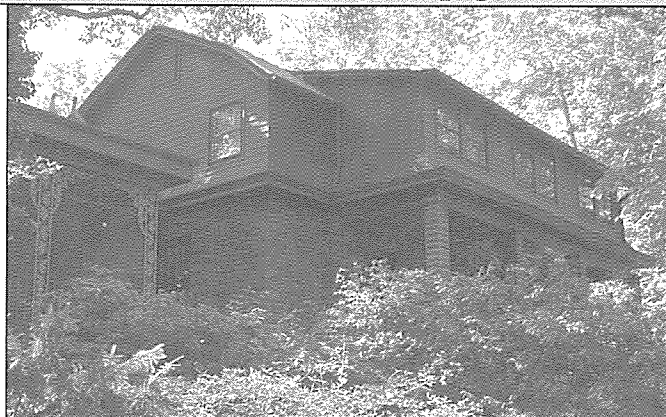
History of Iuka Ravine, continued from page 1

both Common Pleas Court Judges, Robert Thompson, the Franklin County Recorder in the 1890s and William J. Davidson, a business and real estate man.

The Iuka Ravine was the first development in Columbus, Ohio to take advantage of an existing natural landscape, retaining old forest trees and using curvilinear street patterns. These streets are the first break in the otherwise relentless rectilinear grid street pattern that travels north from downtown Columbus.

No houses were built on the ravine until 1906 when William J. Davidson purchased most of the property in the eastern half and built a large house for himself. Now demolished, this house was on a large piece of ground encompassing several lots near the corner of Iuka Avenue and North Fourth Street. As Davidson sold these lots his home eventually became surrounded with the smaller houses that remain today. The rubble stone wall with pylons that surround many of the properties on the north side of the ravine is a remnant from his original property.

When development began, the two halves of the district were cut off from each other since Summit Street was carried across the ravine on a high dirt fill. At the western end of the district the steep ravine banks broke Indianola Avenue. This situation was rectified in 1912 when construction began on the two bridges, which unified and defined the ravine development, as it exists today. These beautifully proportioned, arched, neo-classical bridges were faced with cut sandstone, topped with stone balustrades and classical moldings. The bridges originally had ornamental iron lighting standards attached to the balustrades. The



2112 Iuka Avenue and 2032 Indianola Avenue

Summit Street Bridge is listed on the National Register. Both bridges have been replaced in the last ten years. While some modern compromises were made in quality of material and detailing, both are still an essential and integral part of the ravine district.

The front lots of the houses facing the ravine are generally wooded with ground cover and often have meandering stone steps, walkways and retaining walls that travel down the slope to the road. The brick streets and stone curbs are largely intact although they have been damaged in some places by sewer excavation in recent years.

Many of the houses display design characteristics of the early twentieth century English Revival style and the turn-of-the-century Arts and Craft movement in their use of stone, wood, and other natural materials, sloping roof lines, stucco and small-paned casement windows. In architecture, layout and landscape the Iuka Ravine Historic District is an intact example of the romantic naturalistic planning of the turn of the century.

Newspaper accounts from the period indicate that architects designed most of the houses. Charles Inscho designed several houses, including the exceptional one for himself at 2047 Iuka. Frank Packard designed the large house at 2096 Iuka for Frank Davis. While there were Ohio State University professors who built homes here, they were not in the majority originally. An examination of city directories of the period shows that the original resi-

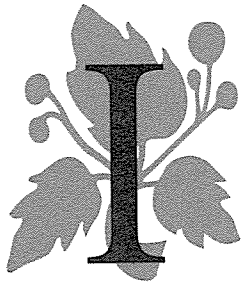
dents were mainly businessmen and professionals. Several presidents and vice-presidents of various firms as well as doctors, lawyers and an architect are listed. There are two fraternity houses on Iuka Ravine that appear to have been built for that purpose around 1910. In the 1940s and 1950s the area did become something of an O.S.U. professors' enclave.

Today, nearly 100 years after construction began in the ravine, the Iuka Ravine Historic District is inhabited by people from all walks of life: retired people and young families, OSU faculty, staff and students, business and professional people. The ravine is supported and protected by the Iuka Ravine Association. This active neighborhood group conducts clean-up campaigns, organizes social events, and lobbies local government for capital improvements. Its current president is Rich Warren. If you would like to learn more about the Iuka Ravine Association, call 299-0130 or email Iridihal@ix.net-com.com.

Linda Ridihalgh, an Iuka Ravine resident since 1972, prepared this article, which is based on research conducted by Rex Hagerling, Kay Benton and Karen Schuwarzwalder. Rex and Kay surveyed the area and recorded the information required for listing the ravine on the National Register of Historic Places and the Columbus Register of Historic Properties. Karen conducted an oral history of the area for "Lest We Forget," a slide presentation on the history of the University District.



Glen Echo's Northern Slope



In June 2002 the clock was turned back on Glen Echo's northern slope. Friends of the Ravines completed its first ravine restoration project.

Over the course of three years, volunteers, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, and the Civilian Conservation Corps have worked in fits and starts as the weather permitted. The project required over 190 cubic yards of topsoil, fifteen truckloads of logs, hundreds of feet of fiber fill fabric, several tons of gravel, and countless work hours. The Glen Echo Restoration is an awesome accomplishment and a source of great community pride.

Glen Echo Park is the northern boundary of Glen Echo Historic District, which was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. The district

originated in 1909 when the Columbus Real Estate and Improvement Company platted 47 acres for a planned residential subdivision and a part of the Glen Echo ravine was delineated as a park. The wooded Glen Echo Ravine significantly influenced the original layout, design, and overall character of the district. Glen Echo Run, the stream that cuts through the center of the ravine, added scenic beauty to the park.

A 1909 Ohio State publication described the new north side park as a place of beauty where large oak and elm trees shaded a wading pond, five small lakes connected by a single stream, rustic benches, foot bridges and springs lined with cobblestones. Glen Echo's picturesque environs hosted picnic dinners, equestrians and motorists who enjoyed this oasis of greenery.

In 1910 the district was annexed to the City of Columbus and in 1912 Glen Echo Park was dedicated by the city. Early 20th-century improvements included

stone retaining walls along the creek bed, and stone wall traffic barriers along the east end of Parkview Drive and on Cliffside Drive. In 1914 the bridge that spans Indianola Avenue and Glen Echo Run was formally opened. Thousands of residents attended the celebration of the opening of Arcadia Avenue Bridge to hear speeches and bands featuring the Glen Echo Quartet. The event was feted with a firework display.

For many years, residents from all over Columbus came to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Glen Echo Park. But as Columbus developed northward, the city virtually abandoned Glen Echo Park. It fell into disrepair. The roadways from North Fourth and Glen Echo no longer attracted fashionable motorists. In time both were closed to motorized traffic. Glen Echo's isolated location served as an ideal gathering spot for truant school children, vandals, and vagrants. As the park deteriorated, the profile of park users changed dramatically.



Photos:

*Above: Proposed site of the Glen Echo Ravine restoration.
Right: CCC working on the foot path to Glen Echo Park.
Far right: Completed foot path and restoration area.*



Slope Restored

Glen Echo Park was at its best on snowy winter days when the park was filled with sledders. In its American Collection, the Columbus Museum of Art includes an oil painting by Robert O. Chadeayne (1897-1981) titled *Cliffside Drive*. Rooftops of the houses that line the street are covered with snow, and a lone person pulling a sled is walking south at the intersection of Cliffside Drive and Glenmawr Avenue. It is a picturesque and appropriate account of the winter recreational activities in the park. But, sledding would in time take its toll on the fragile slopes covered with thin layers of loose shale eroded from the underlying Ohio and Olentangy shale bedrock.

In the 1960s, the city refurbished Glen Echo Park and new facilities were built. In the 1970s, after the installation of new playground equipment and the construction of a wooden staircase which carried pedestrian traffic from Cliffside Drive into the park, young families and children came to picnic and play.

It was not long before dwindling city finances reduced park maintenance to mowing. Restrooms, which had been an easy target for vandalism, had to be torn down, and liability issues forced the city to remove playground equipment. Glen Echo no longer attracted youngsters and their families. By the mid-1990s, the park had physically deteriorated to the point that bridges were not safe. Years of sledding, biking, and uncontrolled foot traffic left a once vibrant ravine ecosystem struggling for survival.

In 1997-98, the City of Columbus allocated \$100,000 to repair bridges and stabilize stream banks. These infrastructure improvements were a welcomed beautification to the park, and community pride grew. Interest in Glen Echo Park's survival inspired Friends of the Ravines founder Salle Cleveland, who planned and oversaw the first steps of the restoration of the northern slope in May 1999. In February 2000, Cleveland began collaborating with Deborah Yale Georg, Associate Professor

in the School of Architecture at OSU. Assisted by Mary Reese, GRA, and with input from the community and Friends of the Ravines, they developed a document titled *The Park Restored: Glen Echo Landscape Master Plan*.

The reclamation of the northern slope completes the first phase of the Glen Echo Landscape Master Plan. Once again Glen Echo Park is a popular meeting place where neighbors meet, walkers and runners exercise, and families have picnic outings. Glen Echo is more than a park; it is a very real part of community life.

The major source for this article was the Nomination of Glen Echo Historic District for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, submitted September 17, 1997, which included maps, newspaper and magazine articles, and related entries from other publications.



Photos:

Far left: Andrea Gorzitze (left) and Frances Beasley visiting the Glen Echo Ravine restoration site.

Left: Restoration near completion in May of 2002.

Below: The steering committee from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Greenways program held its July meeting on the site of the Glen Echo restoration.



BILL MOOSE RUN *An Urban Treasure*

Bill Moose Memorial Park, located at the corner of Lane Road and Riverside Drive, overlooks the Old Scioto Trail, which was used by the Wyandot, Delaware, and other Native American tribes.

Recently, a little known stream in northern Clintonville was officially named Bill Moose Run. This was an important step taken by The Sharon Heights Community Association toward preserving this stream and the natural habitat it supports.

Bill Moose is a wonderful name for this meandering stream that flows into the Olentangy just north of Graceland. Bill Moose was the last Wyandot to live in Ohio. He hunted and fished along this stream until his death in 1937 at the age of 100.

The stream's name will be a powerful symbol to inspire awareness of the value of having healthy streams within our urban environment. The name links us with the Wyandot culture that existed in central Ohio until the tribe migrated to Kansas in the 1800s. Their culture depended upon and celebrated an intimate knowledge of nature. Although modern culture has long since promoted an aloofness from nature, our spirits can still be awakened by the scents and sounds of plants, insects, and animals along the banks of Bill Moose Run.

The preservation of local stream habitats will help our children learn about nature while their minds are still curious and full of imagination. Family walks and educational field trips can develop values that will preserve this unique bit of nature within the city. The alternative is bleak – for there is no knowledge in the landscape of culverts and concrete, no fertile ground for the imagination, and no bridge to the past.

Bill Moose and My Grandfather Ranall

Sometime after World War I, my grandfather Frank Ranall and my grandmother Emma bought ten acres of land on Route 161. Frank was a war veteran who was nicknamed Baldy after the Italian General Garibaldi. Grandpa Frank loved living off the land. On his property he had chicken houses with 2,000 laying hens, some livestock, and a vegetable garden. He sold his vegetables at the North Market in downtown Columbus.

One of my Grandfather's nearby neighbors was Bill Moose who lived at Indianola and Morse Road. Grandpa said that Bill Moose lived a stone's throw away from 161, or to put it another way, a mere walk in the woods. I am sure that Grandpa and Bill Moose didn't have many other neighbors because years later in 1948 or 1950 when I was 10 or 12, I visited a friend on Morse Road and there were still very few houses. It was pretty much all country. So in the 1920s Morse Road would have been pretty deserted.

We thank Greta Adams for sending this story. Greta participated in FOR's annual plant walk on Bill Moose Run in April of 2002.



Bill Moose plant walk

A Tributary to the Olentangy

Bill Moose Run, one of many tributaries that feed into the Olentangy River, is located just north of Morse Road. The stream, formerly named Adena Brook North, begins in the commercial area near Sinclair Road and I-71. It runs through the grounds of the State Schools for the Deaf and Blind, Wesley Glen and Graceland Shopping Center, spilling into the Olentangy behind Graceland. Except for realignment of its upstream channel at I-71 near Sinclair, Bill Moose has remained a natural meandering stream, virtually hidden from its urban surroundings. In the spring the mature beech-maple forest hosts trillium, Virginia bluebells, mayapple, and trout lilies. Bill Moose Run attracts kingfishers, wood thrushes, and white-throated sparrows that share the riparian habitat with deer, groundhogs, and raccoons.



Living in a Ravine Community

Ravines are fragile lands which require special care if they are to be preserved for current and future residents.

Not many localities in the country enjoy the wooded beauty of ravines. Some ravines contain rare and endangered plant species and may be justly considered ecological treasures. Because of this unique beauty, ravine properties are desirable locations for homes.

Ravines are sensitive areas. They are storehouses of water and vegetation. When the topography, water flow or the natural plant community is altered in any way, the ecology and function of the ravine are also affected. This, in turn, impacts watershed health, water quality, flood control, wildlife habitat and natural linkages.

Certain human actions can result in problems in ravines. A change in the ravine's natural elevation, the removal of vegetation from a ravine, or the disposal of run-off water from swimming pools or sump pumps in ravines can cause erosion. This results in the loss of valuable topsoil that is needed to sustain and anchor plant communities. Severe erosion can also result from the damage done to vegetation and soil when people walk, bike, or sled off of the designated trails. In addition,

introduced invasive tree and shrub species can alter plant ecosystems.

Ravines formed by geologic weathering serve as natural drainage channels. Rainfall drains into ravines and forms a stream at the bottom that empties into rivers or lakes. This stream of water can cut a channel at the bottom of the ravine, but as long as the velocity of flow remains low, the cutting of this channel is very slow. Due to urbanization, however, ravines serve today as conduits for much larger volumes of water, and the large volumes travel at much higher velocities. When buildings, patios, and driveways cover the natural surface of soil that could otherwise absorb large quantities of water, both the volume and velocity of the water traveling down the sides of ravines increase. This higher rate of flow is much more damaging.

Vegetation on the slopes of ravines is very important. Root systems tend to hold the soil together. Destroying vegetation rapidly increases erosion on the slopes. If you like to compost, use a compost bin. Do not rake leaves or pile yard waste on ravine slopes. Vegetation can be destroyed or injured by dumping yard waste. Other hazards to ravine vegetation are constant foot traffic off designated trails and heavy flow of water. Hillside vegetation is vital for the health of ravine

slopes. Vegetation helps to slow the velocity of water traveling down the slope.

If you need to revegetate a bare spot, choose plants that are best suited to the condition of your ravine. Ravines are generally shaded and require plants that grow well with little direct sunlight. If you do not know which plantings are proper for your ravine, consult a landscape architect who is familiar with ravine vegetation. There are numerous resources available: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Columbus Parks and Recreation Natural Resource Manager, The Ohio State University, Franklin County Extension Service, and The Ohio State University Department of Horticulture and Plant Life.

If you are privileged to live in a ravine community, you need to become a good steward of the ravine's resources. Our neighborhood ravines offer residents cool, trickling streams and the natural beauty of urban green space and with this an opportunity to preserve and safeguard this unique environment.

This article was extracted and adapted from A Guide to Living in a Ravine Community, which Friends of the Ravines is preparing for publication in 2003.



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

Name _____ E-Mail _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

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) _____

Indicate Shirt size: ____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ XXL *Anyone contributing \$100 or more will receive TWO T-Shirts!!*

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
____ Constructing a Website ____ Giving Computer Advice ____ Helping with Ravine Cleanups
____ Planning Community Forums ____ Removing Invasive Plants in Ravines

My special area of expertise is _____ My favorite ravine is _____

Meet Our New Board Members and Support Personnel

Tom Logsdon brings a lot of experience to the Board of Trustees of Friends of the Ravines. He has an undergraduate degree in forestry and a master's degree in city and regional planning from The Ohio State University. He has worked for the Ohio EPA but has spent most of his career in commercial real estate as a facility manager. Tom has served on numerous nonprofit boards, is a past president of the Italian Village Society, and is a member of various environmental organizations.

Development Advisor **Anne Paterson** is a ravine aficionado. Formerly a resident of Walhalla Ravine, she now lives on Glen Echo Ravine. She has 14 years of experience with fund raising at The Ohio State University, where she worked in University Communications and Development in the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations and as Development Officer for the College of Biological Sciences. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in geology and has an extensive background in botany. Her interests include river running, planetary science, and natural history.

Louis Buckalew, Membership Chair, recently retired from forty-four years of service as a United Methodist Minister. After serving churches in West Virginia, Missouri, and Ohio, he was appointed Director of the Office of Ministry of the West Ohio United Methodist Conference in 1987. In 1998 he was appointed Assistant to the Bishop. Louis is an avid reader and loves music, especially opera. He brings meticulous bookkeeping skills to Friends of the Ravines Membership Committee.

Restoration Technician and Spokesman **John Husted** has worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as Manager of the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program for 22 years and served as Board Supervisor for the Athens County Soil and Water Conservation District in 1990-91 before he moved to Columbus. John is an avid volunteer who has given his services by educating K-12 students on resource conservation, serving as a volunteer for Athens County Arbor Committee 1989-91, and has been volunteering his time generously to Friends of the Ravines since 1999.

Friends of the Ravines Says Thank You!

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In Memoriam

Kit Buhner, Friends of the Ravines Volunteer
1945-2002

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Submissions and suggestions are welcome.

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