



# RAVINIA

*An Advocate for Community Resources*

Published by Friends of the Ravines (FOR)

Spring/Summer 2009

## The Unseen Stream of Iuka Ravine And Other Stories—Part 1

by Daryl Largent

Among the curiosities of Iuka Ravine—fraternity houses on the west end, ivy-enrobed sycamores at the other, and boulders strewn in between—the sound of rushing water may be the most peculiar. What isn't strange is that the sound of water comes from below manhole covers; what is strange is that this is all that remains of what was once a clear creek. The stream was placed in a vaulted storm drain in the early 1900s and has become a local legend. Is there more than mystery behind the unseen stream of Iuka Ravine?

The stream certainly existed. Almost any Columbus area map from before 1900 that showed streams, such as the Caldwell 1872 and Graham 1856 maps, includes the Iuka stream. It consisted of at least four branches that flowed through Iuka Ravine, which, like the stream, was composed of branches. Though long filled, some of the dips and low points along Summit Street and in the University District indicate these branches. The Hollow, or South Oval, on the OSU campus has distinct (where not altered) banks of what would have been Iuka Ravine. Sometimes the stream is listed as School Run, perhaps due to its proximity to the Indianola School. Other times, it is labeled Big Run, perhaps because it covered a large area that ranged from what would now be Hudson Street to 12th Avenue and from the Linden area to the Olentangy. The northernmost branch appears to have come from within blocks of Glen Echo Ravine. It may even have curved beyond Glen Echo's eastern boundary nearly to

North Broadway, where another ravine has long been filled. Clearly, the stream ran from a wide area fed by springs. The two other branches convened on The Ohio State University campus, where the stream was designated Indianola Run or Neil Run. As it flowed into the Olentangy, Neil Run was further supplied by springs, which would eventually compose Mirror Lake. For simplicity, the stream will henceforth be referred to here as Iuka Run.

**Graham Map 1856**



Source of Graham 1856 map is the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

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## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

When an organization and its publication are still growing and increasing in vitality at ten years, congratulations are in order. The people who started *Ravinia* and Friends of the Ravines, and those who have tended to its growth, and most important, those who have nurtured it, are a natural resource to all of us.

*Ravinia* has captured the full range of our community's commitment to ravines. The editing and writing done by so many different people with so many different kinds of commitments to ravines has been a joy to behold. Their work has represented the best of what we have done and hope to do. With the release of this special expanded tenth-anniversary issue of *Ravinia*, I hope we all can take a moment to reflect on our collective achievements and on all the work that remains.

*Jack Cooley, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## NEWS FROM THE RAVINE

**ADENA BROOK COMMUNITY** had its first *Second Saturday Cleanup* of the year in March. Twenty-five volunteers collected 55 bags of trash. *Second Saturday Clean-ups* continue through October of this year.

**GLEN ECHO RAVINE** and **WALHALLA RAVINE** were targets of littering since the last issue of *Ravinia*. An early morning birder detected the sheen and smell of motor oil in Glen Echo Run on New Year's Day. And late last fall, someone either accidentally or intentionally dumped industrial-sized paint containers in Walhalla Ravine. There were no witnesses to either incident. If you see dumping or littering, call *Nail-A-Dumper Hotline* immediately at 871-5322, and if possible, grab your camera and get photos!

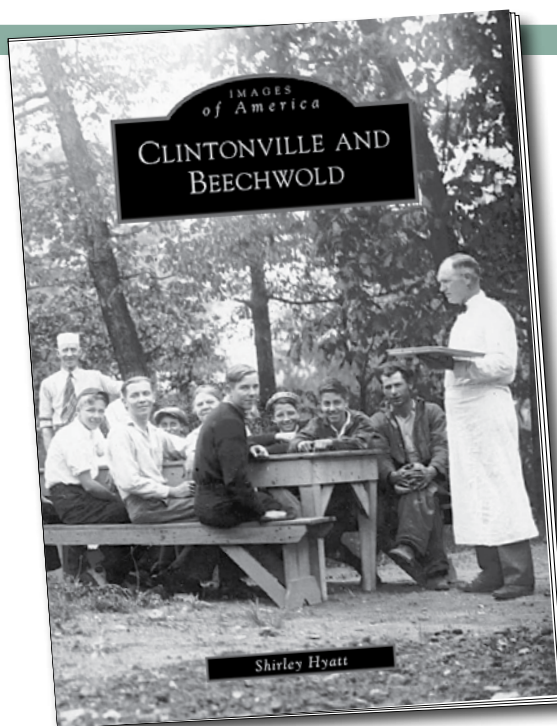
**IUKA RAVINE ASSOCIATION** has set up a *Friends of Iuka Ravine Fund* to raise money for plantings and landscaping to enhance the improvements paid for by the urban infrastructure fund. For more information call Linda Ridihalgh at 299-0130 or email [lrldihal@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lrldihal@ix.netcom.com)

**LINWORTH RUN** residents in the Bainbridge Condominium Association prepared for spring with an April clean-up. They are consulting with professionals to find solutions to control erosion problems that are unique to their ravine.

## New Book Features Historical Ravine Photographs

*By Alice Waldhauer*

*Clintonville and Beechwold*, a new book by local freelance writer Shirley Hyatt, is a marvelous celebration of the people and places of Clintonville. Well researched and chock-full of historical photographs, the book captures the spirit of the area's first dwellers, providing a pictorial account of the evolution of this community since its settlement in the early 1800s. Ms. Hyatt devotes a chapter of the book to the wild places of Clintonville, including several interesting photographs from the last century of Glen Echo, Walhalla, and Overbrook ravines. A frontispiece features a 1910 map of Clintonville identifying property owners (many with surnames familiar to the residents of the area). The 1910 map also shows the location of several streams that created our ravines before they were partially contained in culverts and storm sewers. A short paragraph introduces each of the sections, while most of the informative details are contained in photo captions. Fans of all ages will recognize the places and names featured in this book,

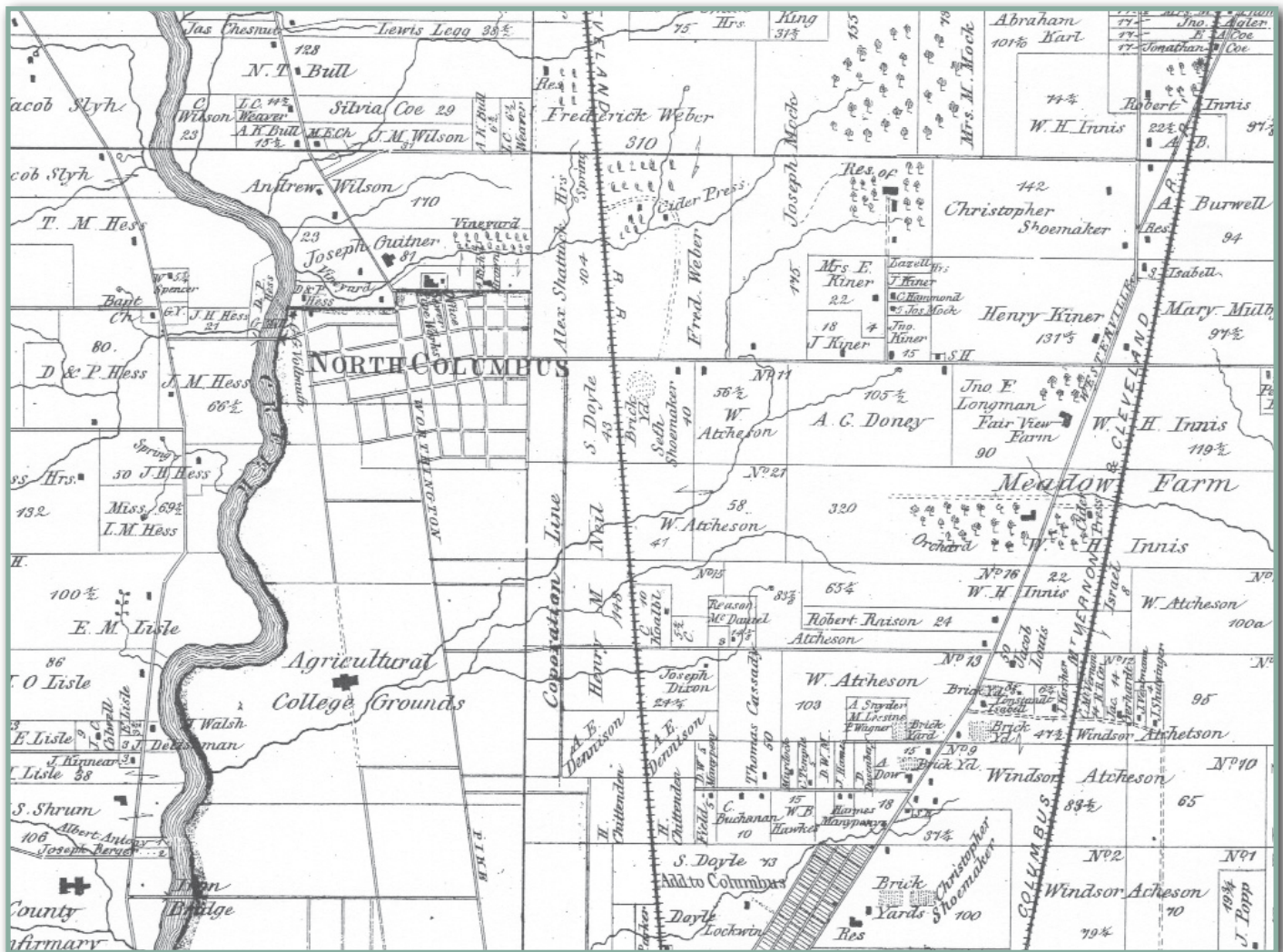


and it will make a splendid addition to personal libraries all over Clintonville. Look for it to show up next to reading chairs in your neighborhood. *Clintonville and Beechwold*, published by Arcadia Press in 2009 under their Images of America series, is available at local bookstores.





## Caldwell Map 1872



Source of Caldwell 1872 map is the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

A 1910 Iuka Avenue Improvement map shows no stream, at least not between Summit and Indianola. The map shows four staircases—part of the indicated improvements—that link to ravine paths. Some of these weathered stairs remain in the ravine today. Arc and tungsten lights are also marked, and recent planning includes soon-to-be-installed traditional lighting. The stairs and lighting are links to Iuka's history, but little is left of the stream except the sewer.

The City of Columbus sewer maps show a crisscross of sewer lines throughout Iuka Ravine. Two storm sewers and two combined sewers (sanitary and storm) run through the ravine at various points. Alphanumeric codes freckle the map, each one indicating a plan, one for nearly every manhole. It's under a couple, or perhaps more, of these manholes that the stream exists. So which sewer line contains the stream?

Unfortunately, not all sewer records were kept in the early 1900s, when Iuka Run is said to have been sealed in a drain.

If records were kept, they were considered a guide. Even then, the chance of the records still existing is minute. It is possible that the record could be hidden in sewer, water, city, or county files, depending on which department buried the stream at the time.

What is apparent is that Iuka Run most likely flows under a manhole on the south side and another immediately west of the Summit Street bridge, in the middle of the road. The sound of rushing water can easily be heard from these manholes. The drain is 72 inches in diameter, large enough for a person to stand in and with enough room for a stream and storm water.

Like the roadway above, the sewer drain is composed of bricks. Unlike the roadway, these bricks were not replaced in 2008. The bricks likely have not been touched for a century, when the creek was sealed in 1908 or thereabouts. Sources indicate the stream was sealed as early as 1891 or as late as 1917.

Different sections were likely sealed at different dates. The most reliable date for the Iuka Ravine Historic District is 1908, when laying the new brick roadway would have required sealing the stream.

It might seem that all we have are these simple facts: there was a stream, it was placed in a drain, and it's down there somewhere. But take a look below the surface of Iuka Run, and other remnants and stories begin to surface.

Let's start as early as possible, say 998 million years ago, plus or minus 82 million years. As noted in *Age Determination of a Glacial Erratic in Columbus, Ohio*, it was during this time that "magmatic activity and high-grade regional metamorphism" occurred in the Grenville Province of the Precambrian Shield of Canada. In other words, rocks were formed in a massive geological area above what is now Lake Ontario. This area and time period produced the glacial erratic boulders seen today in Iuka Ravine. Iuka Run was responsible for exposing many of the boulders, the rest of which remain buried, as with the Glen Echo boulder that was more recently unearthed.

What does it take to move so many boulders so many miles? It was a massive ice sheet known as the Wisconsin Glacier. Only 14,000 to 28,000 geological years ago, the relatively young Wisconsin Glacier not only carried and deposited the erratic boulders but also carved the forty-plus ravines of Franklin County.

What may be Iuka's largest erratic boulder sits outside of Orton Hall, directly north of the South Oval Hollow. What is capable of moving this sixteen-ton boulder? Again, the Wisconsin Glacier or, more recently, a pack of very dedicated students. The boulder is said to have been moved to campus at the direction of Dr. Edward Orton, the first president of OSU and a geology professor. According to a plaque in Orton Hall, he was devoted to his work and beloved by students, evidenced by the story that he supposedly, so enthralled that he inspired his students to drag the 16-ton boulder about a mile to rest outside Orton Hall.

The facts support a different story. Dr. Orton died in 1899. His son, Dr. Edward Orton, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and became a geology professor at OSU. The boulder, discovered between 1905 and 1906, sat on the corner of 16th Street and Iuka Avenue. Dr. Orton, Jr. is reported to have directed the moving of the boulder in 1907. The timeline suggests that it was he, not his father, who somehow persuaded students to move the boulder to Orton Hall, where it stands today as a kind of memorial.

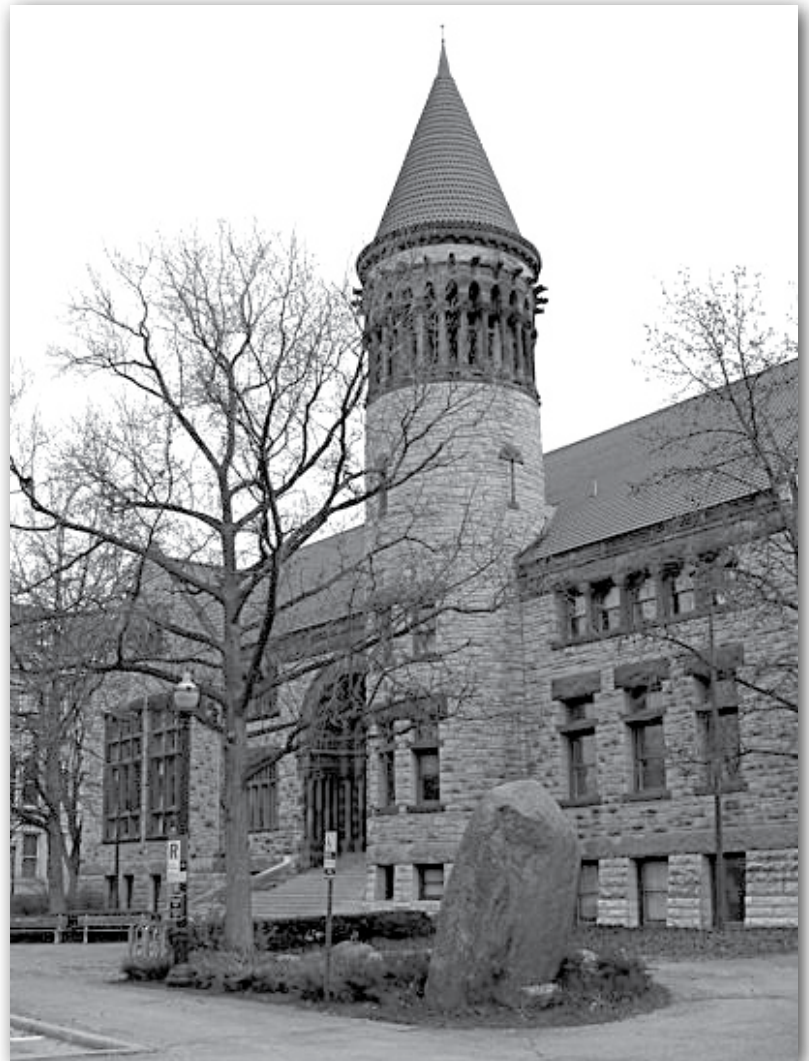
The story of the boulders and Dr. Orton, while pertinent to Iuka Ravine, tells us little about the stream—other than it must have existed. Iuka Run exposed erratic boulders and stones. Many boulders

and stones are in the ravine today, but just as many are displayed around the surrounding neighborhood because the stones were used to build stone walls. Some walls even include spherical concretions like the ones found in Adena Brook and other local streams which is direct evidence of Iuka Run.

Where else to look for evidence of the stream? Perhaps it's all in the name (or at least a little is in the name). Unlike the history of the boulders, this story begins more recently.

*(To be concluded in the Fall 2009/Winter 2010 issue)*

*Daryl Largent earned a Creative Writing degree from Ohio University. He currently lives near the south edge of Glen Echo Ravine, where he watches bulldozers in the stream below doing work on a new sewer line. Read his article on ravine salamanders in the Ravinia Fall-Winter 2007 issue at [www.friendsoftheravines.org](http://www.friendsoftheravines.org).*



*The Wisconsin Glacier carried the 16-ton granite boulder, now standing in front of Orton Hall on the campus of The Ohio State University, to Iuka Ravine from an outcrop in Quebec, Canada. Photography by Sherrill Massey*





# Celebrating the Past Ten Years of . . . **RAVINIA**

By Shirley Hyatt

***RAVINIA** officially began in 1999 by Salle Cleveland and a handful of others who recognized that some weight on behalf of ravines was needed in the tug-of-war between nature and development. Before 1999, many of the same people had been active on the Clintonville Area Commission's Ravine Committee, which published a newsletter called *Ravine Quarterly*. They organized a separate non-profit volunteer organization with no paid staff. Their mission: to educate the public and protect and conserve Franklin County's ravine areas. This year, 2009, marks the tenth anniversary of Friends of the Ravines' newsletter, **RAVINIA**.*

**I**t's been a productive ten years for the Friends of the Ravines (FOR), and undoubtedly, the community has benefited. Since its beginning, the organization has served as an umbrella for the numerous ravine-specific neighborhood organizations that have cared for the ravines: Iuka Ravine Association, Friends of the Ravine at Glen Echo (FORGE), Walhalla Ravine Organization, Adena Brook Community, Rush Creek's Friends of the Rush Creek Village, Tucker Ravine's Worthington Condominium Association, and Linworth Run Ravine's Bainbridge Condominium Association. There are a few ravines with no local "sponsors," including Bill Moose Run, Flint Ridge Run, and Indian Run.

FOR serves as an umbrella organization for these ravine-specific groups, and its newsletter **RAVINIA** provides a single source of information about what the local ravine organizations are up to and what the city, county, and conservation districts are doing with respect to ravine health. FOR also advocates for ravines that have no local group.

The causes that Friends of the Ravines has championed over these years include:

- advocating for storm water management and erosion control;
- enhancing wildlife habitat;
- ensuring that ecological concerns are factored into the city's sewer-line rehabilitation efforts;
- advocating for retention of the natural environment in the face of plans to install water towers at Bill Moose Ravine;
- educating the public about invasive plants and about ecosystem-friendly gardening;
- promoting and assisting with the restoration of local ravines (especially Glen Echo Ravine's major overhaul), and
- educating the public about the whys and hows of rain gardening, complete with a sample garden along North High Street at the top of Overbrook Drive.

During its first ten years the organization has regularly held workshops and plant walks and has organized ravine cleanups. It has sponsored annual community forums, that are free and open to the public. It coordinated the publication of "A Guide for Protecting Urban Ravines," which replaced the outdated manual, "A Resident's Guide to the Care and Maintenance of Urban Ravines."

**RAVINIA** brings together news and information that interested residents—active and passive—need to keep abreast of local ravine well-being. There have been articles about the geology of the areas, about plants and ferns found in the ravines, about salamanders and water science—even species lists of birds spotted along the ravines. **RAVINIA** has included memoirs of long-time residents, histories of individual ravines, and sometimes vintage photographs of the ravines and dwellings along them. It has made a call for donations of ravine memorabilia as a way to preserve not just the physical ravines but also their history. The organization's website, [www.friendsoftheravines.org](http://www.friendsoftheravines.org), serves as a digital repository for the newsletter and recent photographs and contains up-to-date information about the events and projects of the organization and the affiliated local ravine groups.

That's quite a lot for one organization to accomplish in ten years, and it was accomplished by local ravine groups in concert with FOR, its supporting members, and dedicated board of trustees. Join me in thanking all those people and organizations who have worked so hard over the years to achieve so much.

What will the next ten years bring? You, dear reader, should ask yourself that question. Will you jump in and help to ensure that the next ten years will be equally productive—and/or to make sure that ten years from now the ravines will be in better condition than they are today? Please consider donating money, skills, or time to help us restore ravine areas for the benefit of the urban community as well as the wildlife that utilize them.



# Friends of the Ravines Celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RAVINIA

## With a Chronology of Articles

Prepared by K Adamson and Martha Harter Buckalew

**UNDATED (VOL. 1, ISSUE 1) CA. SUMMER/FALL 1999.** *Cover Article:* On Its Way—Glen Echo Model Restoration Project [Salle Cleveland]. (Article documents the beginning stages of the slope restoration in Glen Echo Park/Ravine) *Inside:* Preserving the Echoes of Time/A Short Story of Glen Echo Restoration (Deborah Georg). Sarah Slept (Ben Hayes). New Northside Park is a Place of Beauty (a reprint from July 4, 1909, issue of *Ohio State Journal*). The Clinton Chapel at Walhalla Ravine (from *Mysteries of Ohio's Underground Railroads* by Wilber Siebert).

**JUNE 2001, SPECIAL RIVERFEST EDITION.** *Cover Article:* Ravines Host Unique Plants (Mark Balson). (Skunk Cabbage, Trout Lily, Rattlesnake Plantain, and Crane-Fly Orchids are four unusual plants found in area ravines, a partial reprint of an article that appeared first in *Ravines Quarterly*, Summer 1997.) *Inside:* Friends Board Visits Bill Moose Run. Glen Echo Update. Sewer Rehabilitation Projects Scheduled. Announcement of FOR booth at BioBlitz on June 2. Plant Walk on Overbrook Ravine.

**FALL 2001.** *Cover Article:* The Legacy of Camp Mary Orton on Flint Run Ravine (Sherrill E. Massey). (It began in 1910 as a twelve-acre camp in the country visited by Flytown women and children in the era of the “fresh-air-movement.”) Glen Echo Bird Watcher's List. Horticulture and the Environment (adapted from *The Major Series* of The Ohio State University on the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences).

**SPRING 2002.** *Cover Article:* Aliens Invade Your Backyard! (Elayna M. Grody). (How invasive species crowd out native species with an accompanying chart of invasive plants, where they came from, and how they got here.) *Inside:* Out with Invaders—In with Natives (Tom Kessel). The Case of the Woodland Intruder (Ketha Robbins). Bird Watcher's List: Two Weeks in April/May 1932. Adena Brook Residents Save Injured Hawk. Stormwater: Watershed Public Enemy # 1 (Jerry Wager). Engineers Seek Input from Adena Brook Residents about Sanitary Sewer Project.

**FALL 2002.** *Cover Article:* The History of Iuka Ravine (Linda Ridihalgh). (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.) *Inside:* Glen Echo's Northern Slope Restored [Martha Harter Buckalew]. Bill Moose Run: An Urban Treasure. Living in a Ravine Community (adapted from *A Guide to Living in a Ravine Community*, 2003).

**SPRING/SUMMER 2003.** *Cover Article:* Clintonville Ravine Soils (Anne Paterson). (Knowing what and where to plant in

ravines depends on soil tests.) *Inside:* The Troubled Waters of Glen Echo Run [David White]. Pretty Ivy-covered Walls Are a Headache (reprint from Home and Garden Section of *The Columbus Dispatch*). Interested in Native Plants or Alternatives to Ivy? Gardening Advice Is a Phone Call Away. The Hex of *Hedera helix*. The Summer House on Walhalla [Martha Harter Buckalew].

**FALL 2003/WINTER 2004.** *Cover Article:* An Account of the Lost Adena Earthwork on Overbrook Ravine [Alan Tonetti]. (Located in Clintonville between Wynding and Yaronia Drives, the Early Woodland circular earthwork was destroyed in the early 1950s to build a housing subdivision.) *Inside:* Recycling Yard Materials [Cyane Gresham]. EPA Tests Columbus Watersheds for Quality [Melanie McIntyre, from *The Lantern* of The Ohio State University]. Camp Mary Orton Scenic Easement [Sherrill E. Massey]. The Underground Railroad and the Ravines [Cathy Nelson, President of the Underground Railroad Association].

**SPRING/SUMMER 2004.** *Cover Article:* Glen Echo Stream Restoration Receives Clean Ohio Funds [John Mathews]. (Columbus Recreation and Parks hires Oxbow River and Stream Restoration Inc. to stabilize the stream bottom and reshape banks to create a more natural stream profile.) *Inside:* City Upgrades Sewers (Greg Maynard). Students Bring New Life to Glen Echo Ravine. What is a Ravine? [Martha Buckalew]. How Old Is My Tree? [Louis Radonovich].

**FALL 2004/WINTER 2005.** *Cover Article:* Ferns in the Ravines of Central Ohio [Part One] (Brian D. Gara). (A comprehensive survey of ferns in the limestone ravines—Haydn Falls, Indian Run, OCLC, and Hayden Run/Riverside Drive.) *Inside:* The Landscape of Rush Creek Village [Cyane Gresham]. Is the Black Walnut a Friend or Foe? [Louise Radanovich]. Plants Resistant to Black Walnut Toxicity.

**SPRING/SUMMER 2005.** *Cover Article:* Ferns in the Ravines of Central Ohio [Part Two] (Brian D. Gara). (Surveys ferns in the shale ravines—Glen Echo Park, Overbrook Drive/Adena Brook, Whetstone Park, Bill Moose Run, Camp Mary Orton, and Highbanks Metro Park.) *Inside:* The Woody Plantings Glen Echo Stream Restoration [Cyane Gresham]. It is time to take responsibility for the rain that falls in your watershed. Ravines (Ben Hayes). Brief Biography of Ben Hayes. *Guide to Protecting Urban Ravines* Feedback.

**FALL 2005/WINTER 2006.** *Cover Article:* The Story of the Glen Echo Boulder [Anne Paterson]. (A very large granite boulder was discovered in the mud where it had lain for centuries.) *Inside:* Stormwater Drainage Manual Revised.

To Name or Not to Name? No Longer a Question! [Andrea Gorzitze]. Restoring a Garden, Respecting the Ravine [Pamela Simmons]. Clean Ohio Funds Awarded. Spring Ephemerals in Bill Moose Ravine.

**SPRING/SUMMER 2006.** *Cover Article:* Let's Help the Ravines, One Yard at a Time (Toni Stahl). (Invasive species that are upsetting the balance of nature are listed with suggestions for native species replacements that are attractive to birds and butterflies.) *Inside:* Adena Brook Neighbor's Photo Helps Convict Dumpers [Susan Michael Barrett]. What's Happening with Sewers in Your Community? (Cyane Gresham). Stoneleaf Landscape Service Befriends Glen Echo. Why Should I care about Invasive Plants? The Marvelous Mulberry [Louise Radanovich]. Volunteers Rewarded by Sharpening on Site.

**FALL 2006/WINTER 2007.** *Cover Article:* Birdlife of Greater Columbus Area Ravines (Rob Thorn). (For birdwatchers within the suburban sprawl of Columbus, the Olentangy ravines are the place to look, from Iuka to Highbanks Metro Park as well as Alum and Big Walnut ravines.) *Inside:* Simple Steps to Improve Stream Water Quality [Cyane Gresham]. Spicebush Worth Salvaging for Sake of Local Species (Steve Rissing, a reprint from *The Columbus Dispatch*.) Interpretive Signage Installed in Glen Echo Park. Ravines and the Clean Ohio Fund.

**SPRING/SUMMER 2007.** *Cover Article:* Rain Gardening for Ravines [Vinnie Tremante]. (Why stormwater departments around the country are promoting rain gardening, one of the hottest new concepts in landscaping.) *Inside:* Friends of Webster Park Bird Sanctuary Continue Maintenance in 2007 (Lucy Caswell). Beginning Adena Brook Community (Susan Michael Barrett). Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (Aaron Boone and Paul Rodewald).

**FALL 2007/WINTER 2008.** *Cover Article:* Urban Hermits: Salamanders' secret lives reveal ravine conditions (Daryl Largent). (Ohio's salamanders are mysterious and venerable creatures. Can they survive in Columbus's urban ravines?) *Inside:* New Stream Names (Leslie Strader). City of Columbus Installs Its First Rain Garden [Martha Harter Buckalew]. Focus on Snow Trillium—Denizen of Central Ohio's Limestone Ravines (Brian Gara). Gardening for Wildlife (Linda Ridihalgh). How To Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Rush Creek Remembrance (Christine Hayes).

**SPRING/SUMMER 2008.** *Cover Article:* Shimmering Lights in the City (Ann Kemble). (Five years ago it was a field; today the Whetstone Prairie is five acres of native plants that filter storm water destined for the Olentangy River.) *Inside:* Gotcha Covered: Invasive Plants Can Take Over the Neighborhood (Cindy Decker, a reprint from *The Columbus Dispatch*). Elementary Botany at OWU in 1899 (Martha Harter Buckalew). Adena Brook Wildlife Habitat Enhancement (Greg Cunningham). Kudos to Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (Martha Harter Buckalew).

**FALL 2008/WINTER 2009.** *Cover Article:* Clintonville Art Gallery Features Local Ravines [Bridgette Turner and Martha Harter Buckalew]. (Ravine paintings by painters from the Ohio

Plein Air Society are unveiled at Turner Gallery in October.) *Inside:* Elementary Botany at OWU in 1899 Revisited (Martha Harter Buckalew). Vote Yes to Renew the Clean Ohio Fund. Thoughts About Fogging for Mosquito Control (Jeff Frontz). Garlic Mustard Removal: Keys to Success (Beth Brown). Beechwold Park Residents Battle Bush Honeysuckle (Todd Lusch). Go Really Green! (Toni Stahl).

*The above issues of **RAVINIA** were preceded by three issues of **RAVINES QUARTERLY**.*

**FALL 1996.** *Cover Article:* Water Towers Along the Ravine? Just Say No (Dick Sims). (Citizens Against Tanks Site (CATS) hopes Columbus City Council votes against variances allowing water storage tanks to be constructed on the south rim of Bill Moose Ravine on the property of the Ohio State School for the Deaf.) *Inside:* Putting the Adena Brook Under the Microscope (Jerry Wager). In Memory of the Original 'Graceland' (Will Willard). The Legend of Walhalla Ravine (Jim Scarff).

**SUMMER 1997.** *Two Cover Articles:* Greenways (Documents the beginnings of the Greenways movement in Franklin County and the ecological and aesthetic value that ravines give to the community.) Friends of the Ravines Group Forming [Salle Cleveland]. (Original group formed to help protect and preserve ravine areas that traverse the Clintonville and Worthington communities.) Blooming Skunk, Trout, Rattlesnakes, and Flies (Mark Balson). Water Tower Update (Paul T. Carringer). A Stream Runs Through—But What Is Its Name? (Chris Kasselmann). Another View of the Water Towers, accompanied by a site map (Dick Sims). A Long Walk Home (Vince Mazeika).

**WINTER 1997.** *Cover Article:* The Legacy of Glen Echo Park (Salle Cleveland). The neglect and abuse of the ravine's terrain prompted an organized effort to restore the area.; accompanied by an early 1900 photograph of 411 Arcadia Avenue before the Arcadia bridge was built.) Stenciling to Stop Dumping (Jerry Wager). Walhalla Ravine Study Focus of OSU Class (Shelly Keith). Students Taking Watershed Studies South (Jerry Wager). Winter Encounter (Salle Cleveland). A 1949 photo of Overbrook Ravine Dam and Waterfall.

**UNDATED (VOL. 1, ISSUE 4) (CA. APRIL/MAY 1998).** *Cover Article:* Ravine Activities Week of Earth Day (Includes a map of Glen Echo Ravine from the Conrail tracks to west of High Street.) *Inside:* Care for the "Old Ones" (Salle Cleveland). Adena Brook Needs Our Help (Jerry Wager). Sharon Heights - Ravine History (Grant Hilliker). Aerial photo of the State School of the Blind and Deaf properties circa 1928. Preservation at Hand for Ravine (Chris Kasselmann). Glen Echo Ravine Gets More Concrete (Salle Cleveland).

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*All issues of **RAVINIA** and **RAVINES QUARTERLY** are available on **FRIENDS OF THE RAVINES WEB SITE:***

[www.friendsoftheravines.org](http://www.friendsoftheravines.org)





# Columbus' Clean Rivers Project Comes to Glen Echo Ravine

*By Alice Waldhauer*

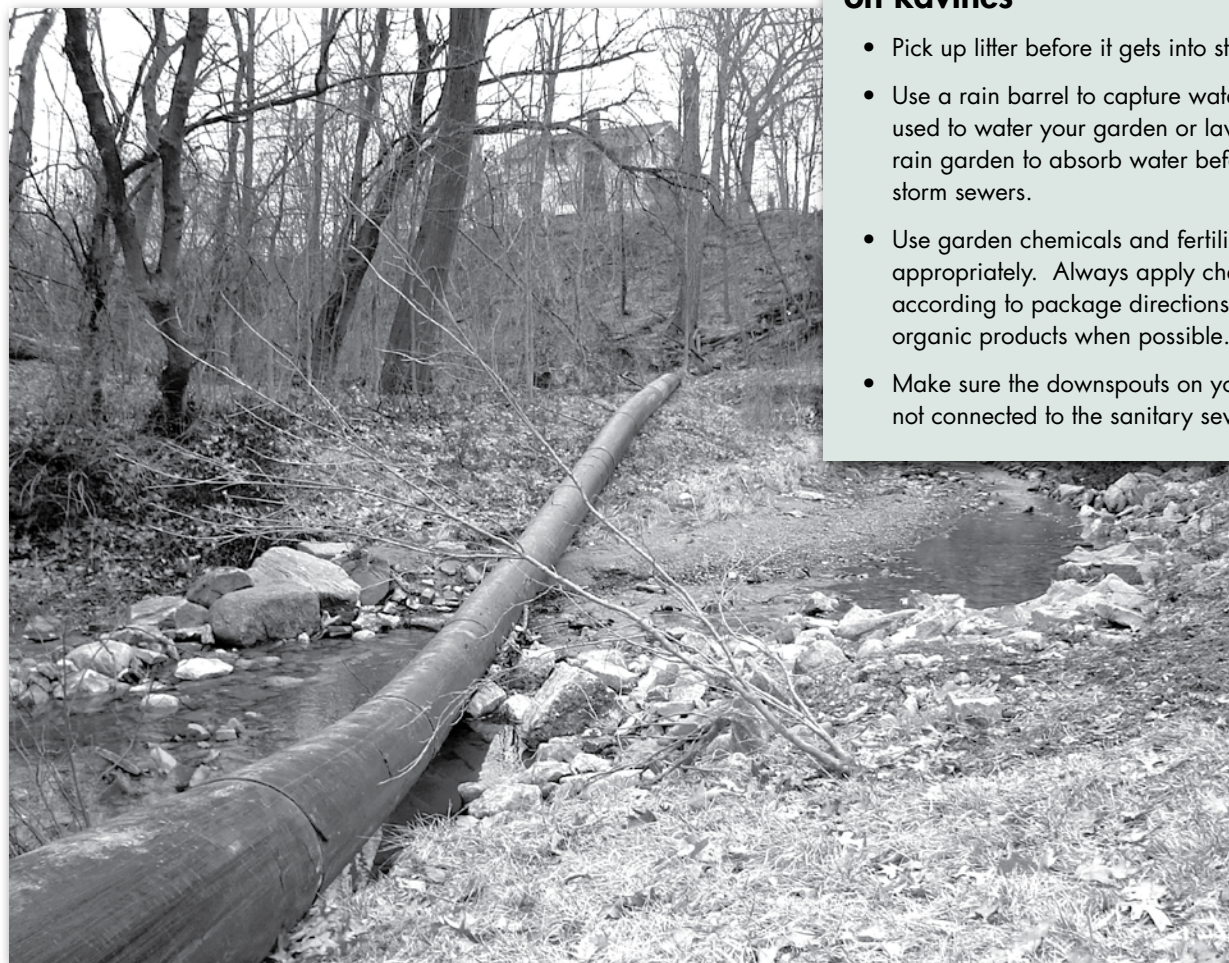
Columbus city workers and their contractors were hard at work in Glen Echo Ravine in recent months, and the massive \$2.5 billion sewer reconstruction project was evident all over Clintonville this winter. Project Clean Rivers is designed to reduce wet weather overflows from combined sanitary/storm sewers to the Olentangy River under a consent decree with Ohio EPA. The City of Columbus is working to eliminate combined sanitary/storm sewers so that sanitary sewer water is directed to the water treatment plant, while storm sewers flow to nearby streams or rivers. The long-term benefits for the ravines will be improved water quality and a healthier environment for the flora and fauna in the Olentangy River and its tributaries.

In Glen Echo Ravine, temporary sewer piping, access roads, and temporary bridges were constructed to divert sanitary water during reconstruction of aged sewers along the creek. The pipeline began in the area near Silver Drive, ran through

Glen Echo Park, continued, regrettably behind North High School, and flowed under High Street toward a lift station near the Olentangy River. Several recently planted trees and shrubs in Glen Echo Park were damaged during installation of the temporary piping. Although the aftereffects of the construction may be less than pleasing to the eye, the project will have a long-term positive impact on water quality in our local ravines. According to the City of Columbus website, implementation of the project should substantially reduce sanitary overflows to the Olentangy River by 2010. Representatives from Ohio EPA suggested that the project may also result in reduced stream flow in the Glen Echo waterway, particularly in periods of dry weather, but improvements in water quality from decreased sanitary leakage would appear to be well worth it.

## Simple Tips to Reduce Your Impact on Ravines

- Pick up litter before it gets into storm drains.
- Use a rain barrel to capture water that can be used to water your garden or lawn, or plant a rain garden to absorb water before it runs off to storm sewers.
- Use garden chemicals and fertilizers appropriately. Always apply chemicals according to package directions, and choose organic products when possible.
- Make sure the downspouts on your gutters are not connected to the sanitary sewer.



*A two-foot sewer pipe snaked through Glen Echo Ravine from Silver Drive to the Olentangy River.*

Photography by Alice Waldhauer



# THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE AWFUL OR WHEN TO CUT 'EM, WHEN TO KEEP 'EM

By Louise Radanovich

## The Good ...

What is a good tree? A good tree is an acceptable species in good condition planted in the right location. That can be anything from a magnificent oak or sugar maple in a spacious front yard, to a cute little crabapple or dogwood gracing the corner, or your foundation planting. Generally, a good tree has the following characteristics:

- Appropriate size (height and width) to site
- Moderate to slow rate of growth
- Insect and disease resistance (which cuts down on the pesticides)
- Structural integrity (no long, tight crotches or severe girdling roots)
- A history of good pruning (no topping!)

Many, many trees in the urban forest are good: oaks, red and sugar maples, male ginkos, some ash varieties, river birch, beech, London plane, walnut (unless you want a garden), hickories, and many others are good deciduous shade trees. Smaller ornamental trees such as crabapples, dogwoods, magnolias, and Japanese maples are lovely in small yards or closer to buildings. Many conifers are also good choices for home landscapes: pines, spruces, hemlocks, firs, red and white cedars, etc.

## The Bad ...

What makes a tree bad? A bad tree is an unacceptable species, a tree in poor condition, or a tree planted in the wrong place. Bad trees have the following characteristics:

- Inappropriate size
- Inappropriate site
- Fast rate of growth
- Susceptibility to insects and diseases
- Poor woody structure (tight crotch angles, girdling roots)
- Invasive exotic species

Many trees in the urban forest come out the back end of a bird—and look it. The classic bad trees are silver maple (weak wood, poor structure), Siberian elm (weak wood, attracts bugs), box elder (weak wood, lots of deadwood, short lifespan, attracts bugs), tree of heaven/ailanthus (weak wood, violently fecund), scabby old crabapples (defoliated all summer), female ginkos (unbearably odiferous), cottonwoods (huge, weak, cottony), old Bradford pears (terrible crotch angles), and willows (messy, brittle, clog sewers).

However, even a bad old tree can have its charms. If it's the only tree you have—and you want to keep it—soil aeration, addition of organic matter, proper watering, fertilization, chemical intervention, or restoration pruning may give that nasty old thing a new lease on life.

## The Awful ...

Some trees beg for the chainsaw. Trees deserving execution or euthanasia:

- Have been topped
- Have been irreparably hurt by bad pruning or storm damage
- Are growing through a chain link fence
- Look hideous and half dead
- Are eating your house or wires
- Are buckling pavement or foundations
- Are infecting or infesting other trees in the area

So take a long, critical look at your landscape. If your trees are damaged, diseased, senescent, and dropping bugs and dead leaves into your mint juleps, you may be faced with deciding whether to cut 'em or keep 'em. Talk to your landscaper or arborist. A competent practitioner will not only identify the species and assess their condition, but will respect your objectives, desires, and level of sentiment about those old trees.



## Advice from the International Society of Arboriculture on Tree Care

*“Think of tree care as an investment. A healthy tree increases in value with age; paying big dividends, increasing property values, beautifying our surroundings, purifying our air, saving energy by providing cooling shade from summer’s heat and protection from winter’s wind.”*

This quote is taken from a brochure titled “Mature Tree Care.” The ISA has developed a series of brochures as part of its Consumer Information Program. For more information contact ISA, P.O. Box 3129, Champaign, IL 61826-3129, USA or [www.isa.arbor.com](http://www.isa.arbor.com)

# Once Forgotten Rivers

V.J. Mazeika 2008

## **I once:**

Stood angular and white, stirred by the sun to  
Sweep and shelf boulders for the  
Next age's sorting, rolling to scratch a  
Bedrock itch and reveal mastodon enamel  
Shining in the moonlight.

## **I once:**

Released a billion mayflies while hiding ivory-  
Skinned turtle eggs, caressing green heron  
Legs and stuffing eaglet maws with slimed  
Gilded scales as blunt-faced otters turned  
Corkscrews and doe's blood swirled in eddies  
Past a drake's hanging yellow feet.

## **I once:**

Heard Shawnee murmuring  
In the fog while I drenched cold  
A newborn's christening smock and  
Turned sandstone grit over corn as  
Drunkards sank with flailing arms to  
Roll in the foam of a dam face.

## **I once:**

Soaked acrid greasy bedrolls  
As "Mekong" echoed among concrete  
Pylons and "Incoming!!" screamed in  
Adrenaline-burnt dreams seeking  
Quiet at fires of smoking wet  
Sycamore and broken peach crates.

## **I once:**

Lapped at curse words  
Sprayed on cold dripping abutments  
By brown-skinned wanderers  
Who pushed shining carts  
Into the sand with hands speckled by  
Roofing tar and fry-grease burns.

## **I once:**

Swelled under a storm leaping  
At the ragged clouds and  
Scraping cornfields bare to settle in black  
Estuarine muck as brick and mortar inclined  
To hear the appointed voices announcing new  
Understanding of my intentions.

## **I once:**

Hid behind the unceasing  
Hiss of distractions  
Waiting again for rediscovery  
Proclaimed by voices  
Who had forgotten me.

# The Ravine

by Edna Ellen Poe

Once upon a Sunday glory, while I wandered with my quarry,  
Over many a quaint and ancient boulder from forgotten shore,  
While I trotted, nearly stumbling, suddenly there came a nudging,  
As of some one gently bumping, bumping in my derrière.  
'Tis my companion,' I muttered, 'shoving in my derrière -  
Only this, and not a bear.'

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in a gold September,  
And each magic oak and elder wrought its ghost upon the floor.  
Eagerly their leaves turned yellow; - gladly I had sought this hollow  
with my dog off leash to follow - follow the creek along Glenmawr -  
Up and down an urban gully named by dwellers on Glenmawr -  
Nameless once but nevermore.

And the cliff sides' steep uncertain rustling of the yellow curtain  
Thrilled me - filled me with historic notions never felt before;  
So that now, to still the anger in my heart, I stood repeating  
'Tis some dwellers here causing erosion to the chasm walls -  
Some foolish dwellers causing erosion to the chasm walls; -  
This it is, and this it was.

Deep into that chasm peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,  
Crooked waters unsuspecting, - when still you looked and so pristine  
When the silence was unbroken, and your beauty gave no token,  
of the vandals' words there spoken on the face of my 'Ravine!'  
This I whispered and an echo murmured back the word, 'Ravine!'  
Stewardship is what I mean.

Presently my wish grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,  
'FOR,' said I, and FOR again, your membership I seek to gain;  
All along I have been napping, till the trees came gently rapping,  
Finally I heard their tapping, tapping on my dozing brain,  
Now awake I will restore you - unto you I pledge and join, -  
Preserve I will, and not in vain.

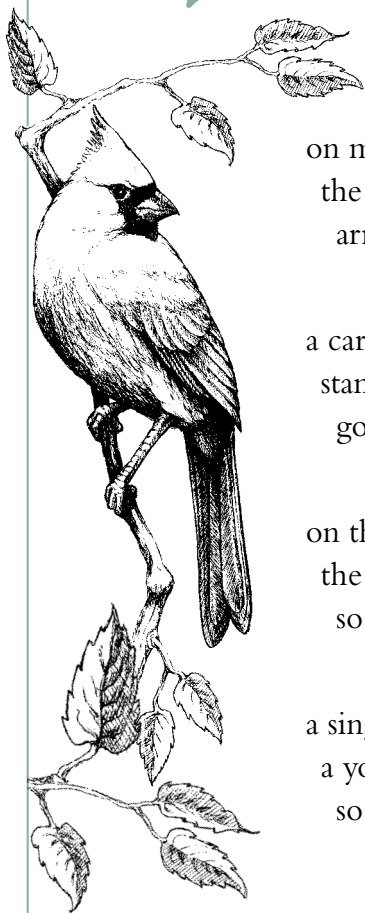
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# Spring haiku for Ravinia

by Jeanne Desy



on my desk  
the spring flowers  
arrange themselves

a cardinal jumps in view  
stands on a twisted branch  
gone

on the flagstone path  
the first Spring Beauties  
so shy I almost missed them

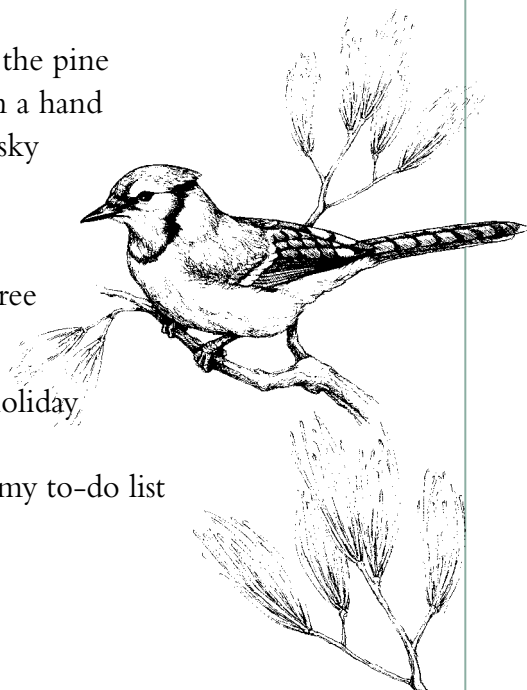
a single strand of ivy climbing  
a young tree  
so sweet

the petals  
of the double-flowered cherry  
fall one at a time

the candles on the pine  
like fingers on a hand  
open to the sky

sudden  
blue jay in a tree

after a spring holiday  
I feel tired  
just making my to-do list



## 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

## Tenth-Anniversary & New Supporting Members:

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*Submissions and suggestions are welcome.*

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