



RAVINIA

An Advocate for Community Resources

Published by Friends of the Ravines (FOR)

Spring/Summer 2014

THE MASTERY OF FRANK PACKARD ON GLEN ECHO

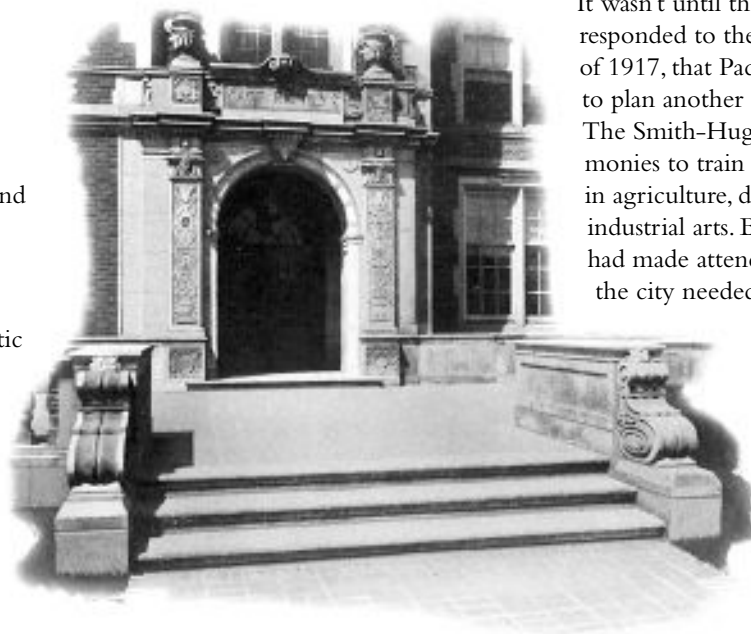
PART ONE: Ravine structures designed by the renowned Columbus architect

by Amanda Page

The campus of the Columbus International School at 100 Arcadia Avenue, south of Clintonville, is impressive. It's a large, stately building on a sprawling plot of land, and its athletic field is an unmistakable landmark for students and neighborhood citizens.

But there's a more remarkable component to the campus landscape: the school sits at the edge of a dramatic slope into the Glen Echo Ravine.

The school was designed by renowned Columbus architect Frank Packard in the 1920s as part of a \$10 million building campaign by Columbus Public Schools. It wasn't the first school in Columbus that Packard designed. He was responsible for North High School at West 4th Avenue and Dennison Avenue in Victorian Village, which opened in 1893. In 1889, Packard designed the Fair Avenue School, as well. It was his \$672 commission for designing the Fair Avenue School that caused the school board to reevaluate their use of multiple architects like Packard, some well-known and well-compensated. They created a new position, and they hired David Reibel as School Architect. Reibel was responsible for approximately forty Columbus schools between 1891 and 1921: the prolific Packard continued his regular working pace. (His body of work reportedly includes some 3,400 structures worldwide.)



It wasn't until the 1920s, when the city responded to the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, that Packard would be asked to plan another Columbus school. The Smith-Hughes Act offered federal monies to train public school students in agriculture, domestic science, and industrial arts. By that time, the Bing Act had made attendance mandatory, and the city needed the facilities to educate the increasing number of students.

A new school superintendent, Jacob Collicott, and a new school architect, Howard Dwight Smith stepped in. They supervised the construction of sixteen new schools

in the city between 1921 and 1929, as part of the ten million dollar building campaign and response to the new legislation. Five new high schools were built, including North High School, above the south slope of the Glen Echo Ravine. Frank Packard was commissioned to design the school, which, at the time, was called "Edward Orton Senior High."

A number of locally and nationally respected architects were asked to design the other schools and, as a result, each building is notably distinct. The scope of the project and the use of different architects brought architectural diversity into the city's scenery.

continued on page 3

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Central Ohio has endured a long, frigid winter. Friends of the Ravines has been working hard during these long cold months to bring you this great issue of *Ravinia*. In these pages you will encounter something really special.

Perhaps you are aware of our annual ravine art contest? We held our fourth event this winter, and it was a wonderful way to beat the winter blues. Franklin County elementary students used ravine habitats and their animal inhabitants as their inspiration to submit contest entries in the categories of 2-D visual art, photography, and haiku-style poetry. Turn to the photos of the winning art works to see Franklin County ravines through the eyes of a child. And for the full effect, visit our website to see the art displayed in color. (www.friendsoftheravines.org).

Also in this issue, learn how lawn care chemicals affect ravine health, learn about ravine amphibians and their habitats, and take a look at a Columbus Landmark located on one of our urban ravines.

I hope you enjoy this issue and, as always, we thank you for your support so we can continue to promote our ravine ecosystems and educate our readers about them. I urge you to explore a ravine this spring and take a child with you to pass on to the next generation an appreciation for our local ravines.

Carrie R. Morrow, Chair, Board of Trustees

The 2014 Glen Echo Ravine BioBlitz!

is scheduled for May 10

Go to <http://friendsoftheravines.org/> for more information

NEWS FROM THE RAVINES

BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARKS bison are expecting! Be sure to visit the bison herd at the park this summer to witness a growing herd! Metro Parks staff are hopeful that some (if not all) of the six female bison are pregnant after the introduction of a bull bison last summer. The babies are expected to arrive in May and June.

BILLINGSLEY RAVINE and the site of ancient mounds along the Scioto River were the *Ravinia* cover story in Spring/Summer 2011. With the extension of Emerald Parkway now underway, readers may like to revisit the history of Billingsley (a ravine made up of both shale and limestone) on-line at www.friendsoftheravines.org

HIGHBANKS METRO PARK reports the return of bald eagles. Take the Overlook Trail to watch the eagle family as they rear their young. The sycamore that they have chosen to nest in is at the mouth of a ravine along the Olentangy River. You can see clips of the nest activity on a video feed at the nature center.

IUKA RAVINE and other community advocates were successful in stopping plans to use a broad spectrum pesticide (Btk) to control gypsy moth infestation in Franklin County. The Ohio Department of Agriculture will now use a species-specific mating disrupter (Gypchek) to control the pests. Gypchek advocates found an ally in Mayor Coleman, who refused permission for use of city airspace for the original plan.

OVERBROOK RAVINE residents began their 2014 monthly clean-up events on March 8. Throughout the summer, the Adena Brook Community hosts clean ups on the second Saturday of the month to pick up litter, remove invasive plants, and keep their ravine looking great. Meet at the rain garden at Overbrook and High.

2014 Ravine Art Contest Summary

Four years ago, Friends of the Ravine held its first ravine art contest for Franklin County K-12 students out of a desire to educate a younger audience about fragile ravine settings. Each year the event has grown, and more students learn about Franklin County ravines.

This year's contest showcased over 70 entries of 2D art, photography, and haiku-style poetry. Ravine-dwelling animals were popular subjects: a salamander, a beaver, a snake, birds, deer, lightning bugs, and turtles. These artistic expressions renew our appreciation of ravines and the wildlife they shelter in Franklin County's urban landscape. The contest not only

encourages the work of young artists, it also provides financial support to their school art programs. Because we believe that youngsters who grow up valuing ravines will support our goals of ravine protection, Friends of the Ravines values the annual ravine art contest.

For the contest to continue, FOR needs the continued support of donors and sponsoring businesses so the ravine art contest becomes an established tradition. For more information about the art contest, visit our website: <http://friendsoftheravines.org>

Alice Waldhauer, Ravine Art Contest Coordinator



Packard was contributing to that scenery for years, though. He designed municipal and college buildings, as well as private residences. He developed a reputation for incorporating the natural elements of the building site and its immediate environment into his designs. In a 1907 article in *The Craftsman*, Gustav Stickley features a few of Packard's houses. He refers to Packard as, "... a pioneer in the building of dwellings from local materials and in harmony with the landscape." In the same article, in reference to a residence that Packard designed near the Olentangy River, Stickley says, "The house hugs so close to the hill upon which it is built, and its broad, sweeping lines follow so perfectly the contour of the ground, that it seems almost to have been there from the beginning of things."

According to Shirley Hyatt, a Clintonville historian, in 1921 the Columbus Board of Education purchased a 13.15 acre plot for \$35,000 on which to build the new North High School. "The land bordered on a deep ravine," Hyatt wrote on the website *Clintonville History*. (<http://clintonvillehistory.com/about/>)

The ravine is Glen Echo Ravine. Packard situated the school building to hug close to the slope on which it was built. The building, in a way, becomes part of the ravine, rising out of its depths, and offering a striking visual presence in the community.

Hyatt also states what others have speculated about Glen Echo Ravine's use in the school's design. "The ravine was considered to be an asset for science classes," she writes. Students would certainly have plenty of specimens of flora and fauna, as well as insects to study, only a brief walk away from the building. The use of the ravine in science classes would also align with the standards set forth in the Smith-Hughes Act. According to Barbara Powers, Department Head of Inventory and

Registration at the Ohio Historical Society, "There was an apartment built inside North High School for domestic arts classes." The special facilities offered opportunities to learn vocational and practical skills, as well as scholarship and a path to higher education.

In addition to all of its educational abilities, the building was a stunning sight. Built in the style of Tudor Revival, the school featured arched doorways, decorative brickwork, and tall, narrow windows arranged in rows. Packard designed the building, and in 1923, construction started. The building opened on September 2, 1924. By 1926, students and the business community had raised sufficient funds for North to become the first high school in Columbus to have a well-equipped recreational field. With enthusiasm and spirit, the imposing campus began its years of service.

In 1979, due to a decline in enrollment and the desegregation put into effect by the *Renick vs. Columbus Board of Education*, the last class graduated from North High School. From 1979 until 2010, the building acted as an adult education center and a remote school site for East High School while it was being renovated. It became Columbus International School in 2010.

In 1987, North High School was added to the National Register of Historic Places. It met the standards set by Criterion C, which states, "Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represent the works of a master . . ." Frank Packard was a master architect who knew how to arrange a built structure in a natural environment. The glory of North High School on the Glen Echo Ravine illustrates that mastery. The school hugs the edge of the slope, and neither students nor passersby can ignore its striking presence.



The Importance of Stream Habitat

by Dennis Mishne

We live in a society where many things are expected to be neat and clean, smooth and sleek. While this type of appearance may be appealing to us, it is a serious problem when we carry the philosophy over into nature, especially streams. The removal of trees and other native vegetation along the banks of streams puts a big stress on nature's ability to take care of itself. Let me explain.

Have you ever seen a stream that runs through a housing development? Often there are no trees at all, and the grass is mowed right up to the edge of the banks. When the streams were first aligned and constructed, the banks were graded to a 45-degree angle and planted with grass. Now the original V-shaped channel has a short section of angled bank with a large drop-off down to the water level. The grass-lined banks didn't keep their manicured shape for very long. In farm country there are countless ditches that are lined with grass. In many cases big chunks of the banks have slid into the channel resulting in steep banks and excess sediment within the stream. While grass prevents erosion from the force of falling raindrops, it is no match against fast-moving water in a stream channel.

In contrast, notice how tree roots hold the banks in place. The best example that comes to my mind is the sycamore tree. These monstrous trees often lean at steep angles over the water. Their roots are firmly embedded in the banks, able to hold thousands of pounds of weight without ripping loose from the soil. Willows, cottonwoods, and silver maples are other examples of tree species that grow along streams and help to hold banks in place.

A comparison of tree roots to grass roots shows each plant's usefulness in various situations. Most trees have tap roots that go deep into the ground. Some species have shallow roots that spread out many feet from the trunk and are embedded in the soil. Large roots definitely have a lot of grip. The positive feature of grass is that it has a very fibrous root system, capable of holding soil in place from the forces of rain

and wind. However, the shallow roots can be uprooted by the power of flowing water. For best results, grass should be reserved for areas above the normal level of a stream, away from the erosive force of flood waters.

Another benefit of trees is that they provide shade for streams. Shade helps keep water temperatures lower by not letting sunlight hit the water directly. Lower temperatures enable water to hold more oxygen. High levels of dissolved oxygen help streams support diverse and healthy aquatic biological communities. Shade also hinders the growth of algae. Shaded

streams have considerably less algae than open areas. In contrast, treeless ditches are often clogged with algae during the heat of summer.

Trees are often the main source of habitat for life within a stream—fallen trees, branches, and roots provide cover for fish. Any fisherman knows that structure is a key thing related to fish habitat. Many types of insects live on and within woody debris in the water. Logs protruding from the water provide habitat for turtles to sun themselves. I recently heard a story about a man who cleared out all but one of the fallen trees in the river that ran through his farm. One day he noticed that the lone tree had about 20 turtles sunning themselves on it.

That one tree was so important to the turtle population that every turtle in the vicinity flocked to it.

Regarding water quality: a wooded buffer absorbs chemicals and sediment that run off the land. It has been scientifically documented that a 50-foot-wide buffer of mature trees can filter out 95% of the phosphorus (fertilizer) from the land before it reaches the stream. The reduction of nutrients is a key to reducing algae growth within bodies of water. It is interesting to note that 50' barriers are recommended at construction sites near streams. A 50-foot vegetated separation combined with the proper installation of sediment fences is sufficient to keep most construction runoff from entering a stream.



Did you know that leaves play a vital role in the food cycle in aquatic habitats? Leaves fall into the water. Aquatic insects cut, shred, and eat the leaves. With food matter available for insects, a large population can be present. This in turn encourages insect-eating fish to be present. If the stream is large enough, predatory fish such as bass will be able to thrive on the smaller fish. The cycle goes even further with fish-eating birds such as kingfishers and great blue herons taking advantage of the bite-sized meals.

Last, a wide tree-lined riparian provides shelter and habitat for birds that are dependent on insects. Flycatchers, swallows, and others feed on swarms of insects that hatch from the waters. Branches serve as perching and resting places. Large mature trees provide nests for hawks or squirrels. Old and dead trees provide food and shelter for woodpeckers, mammals, and even wood ducks. On the upland-facing side of the riparian, trees provide habitat for land species that live in the transition area between woods and fields.

In all fairness, I must address some of the arguments against having trees in agricultural areas. Tree roots clog

drainage tiles. Trees fall over and obstruct stream flow and cause localized flooding on fields. And trees shade crops. In response to these valid cases, I have been involved in situations where farmers have been encouraged to cut down the trees only on the north side of a creek, thus allowing the stream to be shaded from the trees on the south side. Trees can also be removed only from reaches where they might clog field tiles. Regarding log jams, leaning trees, and other potential obstructions, many people are turning to methods that are environmentally friendly. Instead of cutting everything down or bulldozing long stretches of streams, they address only the areas where there are problems.

I hope that we can all see the importance of keeping things as natural as possible. In cases where something needs to be done, let's limit it to just the problem areas. As land owners and environmental stewards, let's do our best to be informed about our environment and work to keep everything in its proper balance.



2014—Glen Echo Ravine **BioBlitz!**

by Michael Graziano

On April 27, 2013, Glen Echo Ravine had the honor of hosting its first BioBlitz. In all, the event lasted twelve hours, had nearly 100 participants, and catalogued over 200 species in the ravine! However, there is a good chance you're wondering what a BioBlitz is, so we'll take a step back.

The first BioBlitz was held in 1998 around Walden Pond, the brainchild of naturalist Peter Alden. It was designed to increase public awareness of biodiversity, excite children and adults alike about science, and generate data concerning species richness within an area. The word *biodiversity* is likely to be reserved for exotic, far-off regions, such as tropical rainforests and coral reefs, but the diversity—even within a narrow patch of forest seemingly landlocked between roads and houses—can be amazing. If anything, these small areas can serve as a reminder of not only what used to be, but what other areas within the region *could* be. A BioBlitz brings awareness of the life that exists nearby and gives us something to be proud of and protect. For a person who lives within the walls of academia and frequently is exposed to “doom and gloom” research, a BioBlitz can serve as an encouraging reminder that amidst a worldwide biodiversity crisis and loss of habitat, life is resilient.



2014—Glen Echo Ravine BioBlitz! (cont'd)

A BioBlitz is an excellent tool for getting both children and adults excited about biodiversity and science. It's a rare opportunity for the public and biologists to interact, share their passions, and work towards a common goal. Also, the event generates a list of species found within the boundaries of an area and is an important first step in successful park management. It has the potential to identify species that should be monitored (in the case of rare species) or controlled (such as invasive species). By something as simple as generating a list of species found within an area, it gives people a snapshot of the biodiversity within that area that can be valuable in the long term. Finally, as this is an event that raises public awareness, education, and participation, it has the potential to affect public policy or otherwise make a real difference.

With respect to the Blitz in Glen Echo Ravine, the borders of our event were between the railroad tracks to the east and Calumet Street to the west. While many BioBlitzes last 24 hours, for both safety and practicality, ours lasted for only 12 hours (8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.). Since we were working within a community and wanted to ensure that private property was respected, we provided each participant with a map, handouts, and a "Code of Conduct." Also, since we were working with living organisms, it was of the utmost importance that they be treated with great care and the respect they deserve. We also wanted to ensure that there would be full disclosure of the event and applied for and received a permit from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Our "base camp" was located under the Indianola Bridge and was staffed by gracious volunteers such as Kim Kovarik, Laura Fay, and many others who helped pass out informational booklets and inform passers-by. Guided walks were scheduled throughout the day to give participants an opportunity to talk with experts in their fields and see some less-known inhabitants of the ravine. Several animals and plants that were found were temporarily displayed at the base camp to give everyone an opportunity to look at some rarely seen species that inhabit the ravine, including an Eastern Red-backed Salamander, White-footed Mouse, and many amazing invertebrates.



In all, 43 species of birds, 2 amphibian and 2 reptile species, 7 mammal species, 2 fish species, 67 invertebrate species, and 90 plant, lichen, and fungi were recorded. While this is certainly exciting and encouraging, there is still much more that can be recorded—we are far from finished! It is our hope to make the Glen Echo Ravine BioBlitz an annual event that will draw more and more participants and record additional species. Another BioBlitz will be held on May 10, 2014, and will be another great opportunity for anyone to interact with biologists, learn about our ravine, and talk with other persons who share a passion for biodiversity. We will also provide free booklets published by the Ohio Division of Wildlife on native birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and insects, also with pamphlets of wildlife-friendly plants that can be used instead of nonnative species that could further harm the ravine.

Ultimately, our goal is to bring awareness to the ravine, its inhabitants, and the value that they add to our community. It is my hope that the worst days for Glen Echo Ravine are behind it, and with the support of the community we can continually work to improve it. While the BioBlitz is a great step in promoting the ravine, the path to a healthier and more enjoyable ravine has many more steps. Events to remove invasive species, plant natives, and decrease runoff are all important and necessary to ensure that we leave Glen Echo better than we find it.

Finally, it seems only fitting to include a quotation that summarizes why I and many others are so intent on promoting even the smallest of organisms through BioBlitz and other events that promote education and outreach:

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught."

—Bab Dioum

Class	Common Name	Genus	Species	Notes
Aves	Wood Duck	Aix	sponsa	At least one pair landing in trees
Aves	Mallard Duck	Anas	platyrhynchos	2
Aves	Turkey Vulture	Cathartes	aura	1
Aves	Cooper's Hawk	Accipiter	cooperii	1
Aves	Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo	lineatus	1
Aves	Mourning Dove	Zenaida	macroura	1
Aves	Rock Pigeon	Columba	livia	1
Aves	Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle	alcyon	1
Aves	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Melanerpes	carolinus	3
Aves	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus	varius	1
Aves	Downy Woodpecker	Picoides	pubescens	2
Aves	Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus	crinitus	1
Aves	Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo	flavifrons	1
Aves	Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo	solitarius	1
Aves	Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo	olivaceus	1
Aves	Blue Jay	Cyanocitta	cristata	1
Aves	Carolina Chickadee	Poecile	carolinensis	5
Aves	Tufted Titmouse	Baeolophus	bicolor	2
Aves	White-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta	carolinensis	2
Aves	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta	canadensis	1
Aves	Carolina Wren	Thryothorus	ludovicianus	2
Aves	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Poliopitila	caerulea	10
Aves	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus	calendula	2
Aves	American Robin	Turdus	migratorius	8
Aves	Gray Catbird	Dumetella	carolinensis	1
Aves	Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta	varia	1
Aves	Northern Parula	Parula	americana	1
Aves	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica	coronata	2
Aves	Yellow-throated Warbler	Dendroica	dominica	1 - heard only
Aves	Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica	virens	2
Aves	Eastern Towhee	Pipilo	erythrophthalmus	1
Aves	White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia	albicollis	8 - probably more
Aves	Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis	cardinalis	7
Aves	Common Grackle	Quiscalus	quiscula	2
Aves	Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus	ater	8
Aves	American Goldfinch	Spinus	tristis	8
Aves	House Finch	Carpodacus	mexicanus	2
Aves	Canada Goose	Branta	canadensis	eggs only
Aves	House Sparrow	Passer	domesticus	
Aves	Tree Swallow	Tachycineta	bicolor	2
Aves	Chimney Swift	Chaetura	pelagica	2
Aves	Wood Thrush	Hylocichla	mustelina	1
Aves	Hermit Thrush	Catharus	guttatus	1
Amphibia	Northern Redback Salamander	Plethodon	cinereus	>200 - all age/size classes. 2 leadback morph
Reptilia	Northern DeKay's Snake	Storeria	dekayi	2
Mammalia	Virginia Opossum	Didelphis	virginia	1
Mammalia	Woodchuck	Marmota	monax	1
Mammalia	Gray Squirrel	Sciurus	carolinensis	
Mammalia	White-footed Mouse	Peromyscus	leucopus	2 - caught in traps
Mammalia	Raccoon	Procyon	lotor	prints only along stream
Mammalia	Eastern Chipmunk	Neotamias	striatus	3
Mammalia	Eastern Red Bat	Lasiurus	borealis	7
Fish	Creek Chub	Semotilus	atromaculatus	east of Indianola Bridge
Fish	Blunt-nosed Minnow	Pimephales	notatus	east of Indianola Bridge

2014 Ravine Art Contest

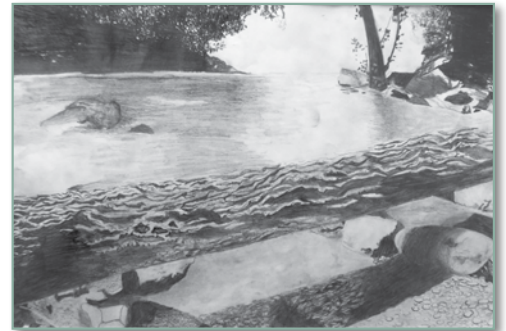
Art Contest Winners—2-D



Ravine With A Bunny
Anirudh Rajagopal
Grade K, Winterset Elementary



Red-Winged Black Bird
Elijah Dawkins
Grade 8, Champion Middle School



Griggs Reservoir
Carly Campbell
Grade 9, Centennial High School



Nature's Wonder
Saipriya Rajagopal
Grade 5, Winterset Elementary

Art Contest Winner—Photo



Twilight
Megan Zalenski
Grade 7, Kilbourne Middle School

Art Contest Winner —Haiku-Style Poetry

Frogs are green like me.
Rocks are bigger than leaves.
Birds singing in trees.

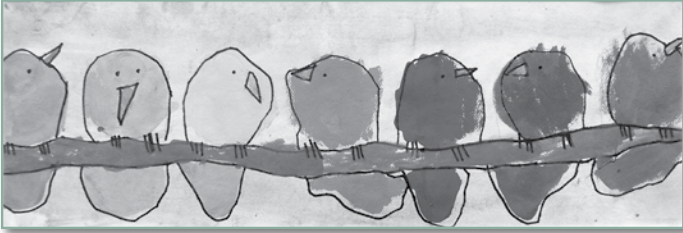
Haiku
James Humphery
Grade 3, Starling Middle School

Honorable Mention Award —Haiku-Style Poetry

Birds singing in trees.
Snow is cold when you go out.
A rainbow has color.

Haiku
Audree King Hunt
Grade 3, Starling Middle School

Honorable Mention Award—2-D



Untitled

Tony Reid

Grade 1, Como Elementary School



Untitled

Halley Akers

Grade 1, Como Elementary School



Owl at Night

Mykaia Jusino-Carty

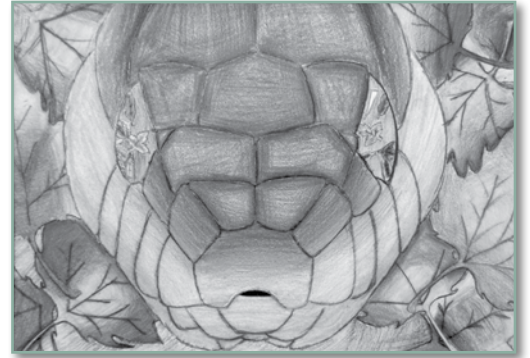
Grade 3,
West Broad Elementary



Untitled

Madalin Morris

Grade 3, Westgate Elementary School



Garter Snake

Aaron Terry

Grade 8, Champion Middle School



Blue Jay in the Sycamore

Marcel Butler

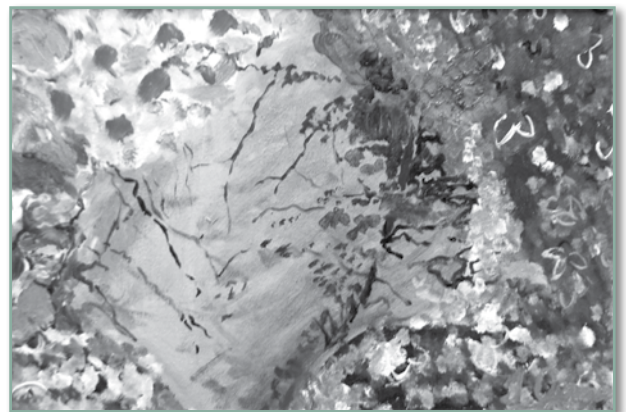
Grade 8,
Champion Middle School



The Woods

Timothy Wilburn

Grade 11,
Marion Franklin High School



Reflections in the Water

Thomas James

Grade 11, Marion Franklin High School



RAVINE AMPHIBIANS PART I

by Michael Graziano

INTRODUCTION

There are over 7,000 species of amphibians today, and nearly one-third of those species are threatened or declining. Although they have existed on Earth for over 300 million years, there have been an alarming number of extinctions and declines over the past 50 years. The leading causes of decline are habitat loss and disease, although there are many other factors. Where habitat loss is concerned, one need look no farther than Columbus to see that green spaces are becoming fewer, smaller, and farther apart. A quick look on Google Earth will reveal small green patches surrounded by homes, agricultural fields, and roads (Figure 1).

While this may not be a cause for concern for some species, it is a particular problem for those that lack the ability to move great distances should their habitat become unsuitable as a result of human impact. Amphibians and reptiles are two classes that generally lack the ability to move great distances (or even relatively short distances for some species) and tend to do poorly when their habitats become fragmented or degraded. As a result of fragmentation, if they disappear from certain locations it is unlikely that another population will be able to recolonize it, resulting in a decline from landscapes that they were formerly common in. For example, imagine two identical forested landscapes, each with three far-separated ponds necessary that serve as breeding sites for many amphibians. Next, imagine one of those landscapes gradually being converted from forest to scattered homes, large mowed lawns, and agricultural fields while the other remains the unaltered. Eventually, each of those ponds in the converted landscape will be isolated within a discrete patch (as in Figure 1), while the ponds in the other landscape remain connected by forest (as in Figure 2). Now, add a common stressor, such as drought. In both landscapes, two of the three ponds dry and most of the amphibian population that breeds in them succumb to the effects of the drought. Fast forward one or two years, coupled with profuse of rain and full ponds. The one remaining pond in each landscape

produces abundant amphibians. In the forested landscape, some of those amphibians disperse and recolonize the two ponds whose populations died out in one or two years. In the fragmented landscape, however, the amphibians are unable to disperse across the agricultural fields, roads, and lawns to recolonize the isolated pools that previously became extinct and remain within their isolated woodlot. This has been a common scenario across landscapes in the past, continues through the present, and will certainly continue into the future.

Those of us who had the pleasure of growing up in areas with large tracts of contiguous forest, or even around Columbus before subdivisions and development dominated the landscape, probably have memories of coming across the occasional eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) lumbering through a patch of woods or slowly crossing the road. For many of us, myself included, these benign creatures may have been what sparked further interest in nature and the outdoors. Unfortunately, eastern box turtles are a great (or perhaps more fitting, poignant) example of a species that disappears once the landscape had converted from forest to homes and roads. While these are a noticeable and charismatic species, there are many others that were never in the spotlight enough for anyone to notice if they were to disappear or decline. Salamanders are often an abundant but largely unseen component to forested areas around Ohio. Gauging whether or not their populations are increasing, declining, or stable is difficult because of their fossorial (subterranean) habits. Many species may only be reliably seen above ground for just a couple of weeks out of the year as they move to their breeding ponds (such as the mole salamanders [*Ambystoma spp.*]), after which they quickly retire to their burrows until the following year. Other species are even less noticeable and may be found only if someone directly searched for them (four-toed salamanders [*Hemidactylium scutatum*], mud salamanders [*Pseudotriton montanus*], and others).



Figure 1



Figure 2

Say NO to Lawn Care Chemicals

by Martha Harter Buckalew

Recently a *Ravinia* reader sent a letter to Friends of the Ravines' post office box and asked if ravines would be negatively impacted if lawn chemicals were used on adjacent properties.

The best advice that Friends of the Ravines can pass on to ravine property owners is the "Landowner's Guide to Ravine and Tableland Preservation." You can read this excellent resource on-line by googling *Landowner's Guide – Alliance for the Great Lakes*. This comprehensive guide contains step-by-step text with illustrations outlining the healthy maintenance of ravine properties.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), lawn chemicals have a negative effect on the environment no matter where they are applied. Although the property owner's original intent is to improve his landscape—or outdoor living space—the chemicals ultimately have an adverse effect. They taint drinking water, harm wildlife, and pollute the environment.

So how do you maintain and/or beautify an outdoor living space and avoid using chemicals? The EPA recommends that home owners choose native plants. There are many beautiful specimens to choose from, and they require less maintenance after they become established.

To save both time and money, the EPA further advises property owners to compost. When you toss seemingly useless yard

trimmings into the compost bin, you're putting dollars into your wallet. Composting recycles dead plant matter into nutrients for new plant growth, and it gives you free fertilizer and mulch. Both will make your yard healthier.

For more detailed information from the EPA, check out their website yourself: google *GreenScaping – The Easy Way to a Greener, Healthier Yard*.

Friends who recently were discussing the pros and cons of using lawn chemicals made up this ditty.

*Chemicals are our Friend
They won't leave you in the end
From Easter to Halloween,
Your yard will stay nice and green.*

Here's my antidote to their poem:

*Chemical poisons spread unseen
Polluting glen and dale and stream.
Their deadly journey has no end
Until we defend the earth.*

We hope that these ideas will help you have a great-looking yard that is easier to care for, cheaper to maintain, and healthier for your family, pets, wildlife, and the environment. And we thank the *Ravinia* reader who asked the question that resulted in this article.

YES!

I want to help **Friends of the Ravines** carry out its mission to foster the protection and restoration of ravine areas in Franklin County through community education and conservation.

I want to participate by:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with the annual ravine art show | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with ravine cleanups | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing articles for <i>Ravinia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Removing invasive plants from ravines | <input type="checkbox"/> Distributing <i>Ravinia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Returning the enclosed remittance envelope with a tax-deductible donation | |

Other ways I can help are _____ .

My special area of expertise is _____ .

My favorite ravine is _____ .

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

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

Supporting Members:

(Received by March 1, 2014)

Mary Jo Bole	D.J. White & Fenee Kinkopf
Lynn Boyce	Brenda Winnewisser
Peter and Marian Burnside	Fred Yaeger & Lisa
Martha Harter Buckalew	Staggenborg
Mike DeKay &	Doreen Uhas-Sauer &
Judy Hartman	John Sauer
Patricia Eiben	Sarah Zarick, DDS
Maureen Lorenz	

The Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center (CRC) is fiscal sponsor for our organization because the relationship furthers the CRC's mission to "respond to the needs of our diverse community to foster safer, healthier, and empowered lives." For more information please visit CRC's website at www.ClintonvilleCRC.org.

Thank You:

Art Contest Reception

Beth Mills
Bridgette Turner
Paul Graham
Half Price Books
Linda Burden
Dr. Richard Livingston
Lucky's Market
Star Beacon Products, Inc.

Copy Editor

K Adamson

On-Call Volunteer

Beth Mills

Operating Assistance

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

Ravinia Design and Production

AJaX Design

Ravinia
P.O. Box 82021
Columbus, Ohio 43202



Ravinia is the official publication of Friends of the Ravines.

CONTRIBUTORS

Martha Harter Buckalew	Mauricio Espinoza
Michael Graziano	Sherrill Massey
Dennis Mishne	Carrie Morrow
Amanda Page	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
Brian Gara
Maureen Lorenz
Sherrill Massey
Carrie Morrow
Amanda Page
Alice Waldhauer

Website: www.friendsoftheravines.org
e-mail: friendsoftheravines@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook



100% recycled paper, 20% post-consumer waste



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 and let us know.

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