RAVINIA

An Advocate for Community Resources

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Rain Gardening for Ravines

Native Landscaping with Stormwater Benefits

"Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land"

Luna Leopold

Rain gardening is one of today's hottest new concepts in landscaping. It is steadily gaining national attention and is growing in popularity among gardening enthusiasts. States, cities, local communities, and municipal stormwater departments around the country are promoting rain gardening, due in part to its ability to alleviate problems associated with stormwater runoff and also because of its ability to bring people and communities together for the purposes of gardening, while providing a mechanism to educate and to discuss stormwater-related issues.

Problems such as flooding, drainage, and even combined sewer overflows are not typically subjects of popular interest, particularly for those not immediately affected by those problems. By comparison though, 83 percent of all households in the United States in 2005—an estimated 91 million households—participated in one or more type of do-it-yourself gardening, according to the National Gardening Association's 2005 National Gardening Survey. Although increasing interest in rain gardening is a result of this overwhelming appetite for gardening, its promotion and popularity are more deeply rooted in environmental conscientiousness and civic pride. People love gardening for sure, but a form of gardening that looks great and brings people together can help solve community-level stormwater problems, reduce environmental degradation, and create habitat for birds, butterflies and dragonflies is definitely something worth getting excited about and supporting.

What Is Rain Gardening?

Rain gardening is a distinct and creative method of landscaping that captures and infiltrates stormwater (rain/precipitation) that runs off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, drives, and roadways to create beautiful and unique landscape features. They are residential scale, shallow, landscaped depressions into which stormwater runoff is directed. Rain gardens are designed into an overall landscape and make use of plants that are naturally adapted to—and prefer—periodic inundation and seasonal wetness. For this reason, native plants are often better suited to tolerate and take advantage of the fluctuating wet and dry cycles that a rain garden will experience. Also, native plants very often have deep roots that fracture soil and create channels that, over time, further improve infiltration. And, of course, by providing food and habitat, native plants welcome their bird, butterfly, and other wildlife friends into your yard.

Rain gardens also offer benefits that can be accrued on a regional or watershed scale. As land is converted from a natural cover to impervious cover, the volume of runoff dramatically increases. The increase in the amount of stormwater runoff generated can be on the order of 200%-300% for residential developments and 500%-1000% for urban commercial developments. Rain gardens can restore a more natural hydrology and diminish the effects of impervious surfaces by providing temporary storage of water from low-intensity high-frequency storms, soaking up and infiltrating the runoff, recharging groundwater stores, and filtering pollutants associated with the urban runoff from these storms. The philosophical difference is that rain gardening considers stormwater a valuable resource and as such endeavors to keep and use it on site.

Rain gardens are not to be confused with vegetable gardens or other landscape features, such as water gardens or wetlands, that incorporate water as a major component. Rain gardens are not water gardens because they do not retain a permanent pool of water. In fact, a properly designed rain garden should drain within 24 hours. Plants that would be happy in a water garden would definitely not survive in a rain garden during the dry summer months. Rain gardens are also not wetlands. Though some wetland plants may function quite well in a rain garden, the rapid draining of the rain garden does not allow wetland conditions to develop. Rapid drainage in a rain garden also provides several benefits. Standing water can become a source for breeding mosquitoes. When they dry out, rain gardens are believed to reduce mosquito populations by breaking the water-dependent portion of the mosquito life cycle. Also, by draining within 24 hours, rain gardens can capture runoff from successive storms that occur over several days.

Problems with Stormwater

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified urban stormwater runoff as a leading source of river and stream impairment. Although Ohio has seen an improvement in overall

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FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Ravines are living things, both geologically and biologically, and while some are only decades or centuries in age, most ravines are tens of thousands of years old. They were formed by the combination of retreating glaciers and local terrain, and they were shaped by the evolving combination of the flora and fauna that inhabit them.

We ourselves see only a snapshot of a ravine's existence, and we can only guess how best to be custodians of these long-lived things of beauty and grandeur in our brief encounter with them. Do we seek to preserve the snapshot we see? Should we consider human interaction with ravines as the natural order of evolution or should we seek to minimize our impact on ravines? Should we maximize access for ravines while minimizing the impact of that access or should we seek to limit ourselves to visual access?

As we enter the seasons when we will be most engaged with ravines, there are these questions and many more that shape the way we think about these treasures. It is one of the gifts of our existence that we are able to ask these
questions and enrich ourselves in providing the necessarily uncertain answers that define our stewardship.

Jack Cooley, Chair

The Columbus Foundation and ComFest Award Grants to Friends of the Ravines

The Columbus Foundation awarded Friends of the Ravines a $3,500 grant for slope reforestation and beautification of the east entrance to Glen Echo Park and ComFest awarded $500 to help fund the print and layout costs for *Ravinia*. Both grants will enable Friends of the Ravines to continue to fulfill its mission to restore ravine areas and educate the public about good ravine stewardship.

Our consultant Dan Struve from OSU's Department of Horticulture and Crop Science advises: "A tree is a long-term investment. Consider planting a slower growing species (like white oak) over a faster growing one that produces instant shade. In ten years even the slow-growing white oak will have grown two to three feet per year in height and begin to assume the majestic form it is noted for. And in 50 years, you or your descendants can proudly point to the white oak and claim enlightened stewardship for having had the vision to forgo the immediate gratification of planting an "instant shade species. Instead, you planted a species noted for long life and ageless beauty."

Friends of the Ravines thanks The Columbus Foundation and ComFest for their support.

NEWS FROM THE RAVINES

Adena Brook Community will be installing its first rain garden at the corner of High Street and Overbrook Drive. Partners in the collaborative experimental project include Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Columbus Department of Public Utilities Division of Sewerage and Drainage, Columbus Department of Public Service Division of Transportation, Williams Creek Consulting, Friends of the Ravines, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, ComFest, and Clintonville Community Fund.

Bill Moose Ravine and the stream that flows through it, located on the site where proposals for new campuses for the Ohio State School for the Blind and the Ohio School for the Deaf are being considered, is protected by a conservation easement that dates back to 1998. The conservation easement protects 73.112 acres of state-owned property north of Morse Road between Indianola Avenue and High Street.

Friends of Webster Park Bird Sanctuary Continue Maintenance in 2007

The subdivision now known as Webster Park, which is bounded by Webster Park Avenue on the south, Olentangy Boulevard on the west, N. Delta Drive on the north, and E. Delta Drive on the east, was sold to Amason Webster by the Rathbone heirs on May 29, 1846. Webster bequeathed the land to his daughter Orell, and, in 1909, Orell Webster Legg and her husband, Lewis, subdivided the land. The initial plat shows "Webster Park" as the name of the new neighborhood. The transfer of this plot to the city was recorded in the City Bulletin dated May 8, 1926:

> "Whereas, said tract…has been preserved in its natural state and protected as a wild bird asylum and wild flower preserve and it is well suited and adapted for such purposes…[the council of the city of Columbus shall] set [it] aside…as a wild bird asylum and wild flower preserve…[T]he superintendent of parks…is hereby directed to maintain and protect the same as nearly as possible in its native state."

The provision that Webster Park must be maintained in its "native state" means that it is a nature sanctuary. Fallen trees and bushes remain where they land, to decay and provide shelter for small animals. No plants may be removed from the park without special permission from the city, and none are to be added. For many years, neighbors have worked to keep the park litter free by picking up refuse when they spot it on their regular walks—a wonderful sign of what this park means to them. However, over the years bush honeysuckle and climbing euonymus have invaded the Webster Park Preserve, threatening the indigenous species that naturally thrive there.

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Beginning Adena Brook Community

Adena Brook is a significant tributary of the Olentangy River. It begins behind Brookhaven High School and meanders toward and under Interstate 71 across Indianola Avenue. It crosses High Street to Whetstone Park and eventually flows into the Olentangy River. The Adena Brook watershed (area draining into Adena Brook) is bordered approximately by Morse to the north, Maize to the east, North Broadway to the south, and the Olentangy River to the west.

Starting a watershed group can be a natural process. For me, it began with becoming aware of ravines. Once you notice the ravines and care about what you see, then talk honestly about it and listen to others talk about it, you can focus on working for change. My story is meant to be a message of encouragement to show how simple it is to get started.

My story started seven years ago when my husband and I purchased a wooded lot in Adena Brook that happened to have a house on it. I knew we were lucky to live on a ravine with many trees and a stream nearby, located a short walk from a hidden park.

On my walks, I noticed majestic old sycamores, red oaks, hackberry, cherry, and ash trees, but I saw only a few saplings. Instead there was a sea of honeysuckle bushes with fragrant light yellow blossoms. Along the brook edge I heard water but I couldn't see it through the bushes. I saw large boulders deposited from a glacial ascent. I heard chickadees and cardinals. I noticed a toad hop and saw hawks soar and a monarch butterfly on a coneflower. I also saw trash: plastic bags, fast-food containers, pieces of plastic foam, and dumped piles of asphalt, bottles, and cans. I wondered if those creatures I saw would tell a happy story if they talked about their neighborhood.

I noticed I lived in a neighborhood of people who do caring acts. Mark Carter puts out a cooler with soft drinks and water for the Rumpke drivers each week. Clara McClung brings a meal to an ill neighbor. Lynne Stamey digs up plants from her garden to give away. Greg Cunningham hangs bird houses in high places for neighbors. Bob and Judy Robinson and Bill and Nan Platt pick up litter on weekly walks. Herman and Helen Hafey sell their garden vegetables on their front porch for nickels and dimes. Barbara Lloyd sets tomatoes from her garden at the curb for anyone walking by. Phyllis Beuter makes homemade jams for new neighbors. Jeanne Desy writes poetry for children. Maya Schultz helps her elderly neighbor with yard work. John Blake salts the slippery corner where Glenmont meets High Street. Tom Barton removes snow from the street before we wake after heavy storms. Thom and Jan McCain have backyard house concerts to raise money for charity.

I also noticed that the local newspaper included educational articles about the environment. Soon after our move into the Adena Brook neighborhood, I happened upon an article in *The Booster* about a group called Friends of the Ravines (FOR). I thought this would be a way to learn more about the ravine ecosystem and to meet others. I met Martha Buckalew, then

Kenn Cahill sits next to a large mound of garlic mustard removed from Adena Brook Ravine. Adena Brook volunteers removed over 10 tons of garlic mustard in 2006.

Chair of FOR; Jack Cooley, who would soon be Chair of the Clintonville Area Commission; Andrea Gorzitze, who worked on the Greenways project at Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission; and Sherrill Massey who was active on environment boards. I joined FOR's board and for two years worked with and learned from these people and their events. This experience was invaluable, because I began to establish a network of relationships with people knowledgeable about ravine habitats.

I learned of other organizations and met new people. Through FOR I met the first of what is now a growing list of the best friends anyone could have. Erin Miller, then coordinator of Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW), helped us name our group: she showed us on maps that the name of the brook that our neighborhood runs through is Adena Brook. Neighbor Stacey Durst suggested we call ourselves a "community." Laura Young-Mohr from the City of Columbus Department of Utilities gathered a group of watershed leaders in celebration of River Pride, a city-wide annual clean-up in May of central Ohio rivers, and gave us our start at monthly clean-ups. Laura introduced me to Bob Seed, coordinator of Keep Columbus Beautiful. Bob provides bags, gloves, and tools for three clean-ups a year and arranges pick-ups by the city of the litter we collect. Cyane Gresham from the Sierra Club joined us to offer information about watershed issues and grant opportunities. Stephan Douglas from COTA arranged for a trash receptacle to be installed at a busy bus stop. Stephanie Suter from Franklin Water and Soil made suggestions to improve a grant and reminded us of their annual plant sale. Lisa Bower walked the streets with us to teach us how to identify trees. Greg Schneider, an Adena Brook neighbor and botanist at the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, guided plant walks to teach us about native plants in Central Ohio. From the neighborhood, David Keister registered our group with the Secretary of State, and Paul Bingle became our fiscal agent with the Clintonville Community Fund.

Two FOR events were instrumental in guiding our direction. The first was a slide presentation by Jerry Wager about watershed issues; the other was an impassioned talk about invasive plants by Elayna Grody, Natural Resources Manager with Columbus Recreation and Parks. Jerry lived in the Adena Brook neighborhood, worked at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and had worked with other groups on projects in the ravine. When his son was a student at Clintonville Academy, the students

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water quality in the state, the major causes of lower water quality in many of the smaller streams are still the smaller scale indirect effects from urban and agricultural sources. This is in part because traditional drainage practices are designed to flush stormwater from a site as quickly as possible, and many of these drainage systems were in place before current regulations requiring water quality treatment were enacted.

In addition, studies on Ohio streams have shown that stream biology begins to show signs of significant decline when impervious surfaces in the watershed exceed approximately 14% and that stream biology does not meet expected standards with over 27% imperviousness. By comparison, residential land uses can range from 20% to 65% imperviousness depending on lot sizes, and industrial/commercial land uses range from 75% to 95% imperviousness. Perhaps the greatest potential value rain gardens may provide the environment is their ability to directly reduce the stormwater effects in existing developments, particularly for smaller storm events.

Most people are unaware of the problems caused by stormwater runoff and are even less aware of how they passively contribute to those problems. It can be difficult to understand if and how any one individual may contribute to stormwater-related problems. Although most own only one house, that one house is one of hundreds in a neighborhood and one of thousands in a watershed. The relatively small amount of stormwater contribution from one rooftop and driveway, when considered in a watershed context and multiplied by the number of other homes, becomes a significant contribution. When the runoff contribution from such public infrastructure as sidewalks and roadways, as well as stores and malls required to serve all those individual homes, is included, it becomes clear why stormwater runoff is such a problem.

The rule of no realm is mine great or small. But all worthy things that are in peril as the world now stands, those are my care. And for my part, I shall not wholly fail of my task, if anything passes through this night that can still grow fair or bear fruit and flower again in days to come. For I also am a steward. Did you not know?

J.R.R. Tolkien

A Rain Garden for Every Home

Just as one home does not contribute 100% of the stormwater-related problems, one rain garden will not solve all of a watershed's stormwater ills. However, several rain gardens working in tandem or many rain gardens on a regional scale may provide significant reductions in stormwater flows and pollutant contributions. For that reason, a growing number of state and local municipalities across the country, such as Maplewood, Minnesota, Rock Island, Illinois, and the state governments of Illinois and Wisconsin, are taking a closer look at using rain gardens as a low-cost method for retrofitting communities that have stormwater-related problems.

In 2002, Burnsville, Minnesota, conducted a comparative study on two similar neighborhood watersheds in an effort to determine if the use of rain gardens could significantly reduce flow volumes and associated nutrient loads from entering Crystal Lake. One neighborhood was retrofitted with 17 rain gardens and the other left unmanaged as a control. Two seasons worth of data were collected both before and after implementation. The neighborhood retrofitted with the rain gardens showed an amazing 90% reduction in runoff volume from a 1.4-inch storm event. The project was a great success and the rain gardens were considered a valuable property amenity based on the high level of community participation.

Rain garden at the home of Vinnie Tremante

Other communities such as Portland, Oregon, have used a rain garden variation in combination with traditional infrastructure upgrades to help reduce critical flows associated with basement sewer back-ups, and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) events. For this project, curbs were extended into existing street parking lanes, creating bump-outs along the street. These designed and vegetated bump-out rain gardens collect and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the streets. A flow test simulating a 25-year storm event was conducted to determine the effectiveness of the street-level rain gardens and provide data for future projects. The rain gardens resulted in an 84% volume reduction overall and an 88% reduction in the peak flow. In addition, the peak flow from the rain garden area was delayed by 20 minutes. The critical peak flow for the drainage area was between 5 and 15 minutes. Delaying the peak to beyond the critical time frame would protect local basements from sewer back-ups.

Likely the largest rain garden initiative to date has been the "10,000 Rain Gardens" initiative in the city of Kansas City, Missouri. This is not a government program. Started in 2005, it is a collaborative effort among public, private, volunteer, and community organizations to address the issues of stormwater by encouraging citizens to minimize stormwater runoff and improve water quality though the collective use of rain gardens. The goal was 10,000 rain gardens in 5 years, and 190 rain gardens have been registered to date.

Creating Your Own Rain Garden

The beauty of rain gardening is that it is simple enough that people who like to garden can create their own rain gardens. With the increasing interest in rain gardening, information on-line is very easy to come by, but here is a general outline of what is required to plan a rain garden. Two links are provided for those interested in finding more information on rain gardens or who may require garden-specific solutions.

Site selection: Sunny locations will generally allow a wider palate of plant selection, though shady areas will work fine. Rain gardens should be kept a minimum of 10 feet away from the foundation of any buildings; avoid septic areas and root zones of large trees. Low areas in yards can be planted to improve drainage but should not have additional water directed to them.

Soil infiltration: Test the infiltration rate of your soil by digging a hole the size of a coffee can. Fill it with water and measure the depth. Come back in four hours and measure again. The difference in depth will tell you how many inches per hour your soil will infiltrate. Approximately one inch of infiltration in four hours will equal six inches of infiltration in 24 hours, which is sufficient for your rain garden. Alternatives for soils that drain less well can be found in the references.

Sizing: This requires a bit of math. Multiply the surface area draining to the rain garden (roof), times one inch of rain (1/12 of a foot). This will give you the volume of water in cubic feet from a one-inch rain event. Divide that number by 0.5 feet (depth of rain garden) and that will give you the approximate area of your rain garden. You can increase or decrease the size of your rain garden to accommodate better or worse drainage rates. Consult the referenced guides for more detail on sizing. Typical sizes range from 100 to 300 square feet.

Design: Select a shape and a dimension that are appropriate for the area you need. It is helpful to lay a garden hose out on the ground to visualize the size and shape of the rain garden before digging. Select appropriate quantities of native plants for the located site. Rain gardens can be wild or formal in design to suit your taste.

Excavation: Rain gardens are typically six inches deep and level across the bottom. Slope the sizes gently toward the bottom. Any shape will work. Be aware of where the rain garden will overflow if there is a large storm and be sure the overflow is directed away from any structures. Try not to walk or put heavy equipment in areas that are excavated. Organic soil amendments are appropriate for rain gardens and may be necessary, depending on soil types and drainage.

Planting: Install and care for plants as you would other new landscaping. Plants may need watering until established. Rain gardens may require weeding until plants are of a sufficient size to out-compete weeds. Organic mulches are appropriate. **Enjoy!**

Depending on your level of activity, you may want to construct the entire garden by yourself or you may want to hire a landscape professional to help you. Similarly, depending on your comfort with designing, you may want to create the design yourself or may require the assistance of a professional designer. However, there is one small catch. Although the concept of rain gardens has been around since the early 1990s it is still a relatively new idea in Ohio. There are few contractors or designers who have heard of them and still fewer who have designed or installed them. Not to fret though. Rain gardens are not rocket science, and any designer worth his or her salt should be able to review the readily available literature on rain gardening and provide you with a reasonable plan. However, your chosen helper should be well versed in the cultural needs of native Ohio flora. Plants make the rain garden function, and the frequent flooding and saturated conditions cause unique cultural conditions in your rain garden. It is therefore critical that designers know that the plants they are specifying will thrive in those conditions and are appropriate in size.

There is a space in everyone's yard for a rain garden. No rain garden is too small; even if you cannot hold all the rain from your roof or driveway, holding at least some of it will still provide benefits and the rain garden will still work. And, as with any garden, as it matures you can relocate plants and change the design to accommodate changes in the surrounding landscape.

Although my rain gardens have bloodroot and trilliums blooming in the spring and ruby-throated hummingbirds that come to sip on the jewelweed and monarda in the summer, my favorite time to enjoy my gardens is when it is raining. Nearly every time it rains, I go out to my gardens to see how much water they are holding and am amazed at how well they function. If you enjoy gardening, you will love having a rain garden because it will be a unique feature in your landscape that brings life into your yard. If you are concerned about the environment, you will love having a rain garden because you are doing your part to minimize your contribution of stormwater runoff and urban pollutants. If you take pleasure in wildlife, you will love having a rain garden for all the birds, bees, and butterflies that will make your yard their home. With the many benefits of having a rain garden, it is no wonder they are becoming so popular. So where will you be putting your rain garden?

Rain Garden Links:

The Rain Garden Network
www.raingardennetwork.com/

Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District
www.geaugaswcd.com/pdfs/pov_raingarden.pdf

Friends of Webster, *continued from page 2*

Several years ago, Friends of Webster Park Bird Sanctuary was formed. Volunteers, trained and authorized by Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks, held three work days in 2005 and seven in 2006. Elayna Grody, Natural Resources Manager of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, assisted the group by spraying herbicide on invasive honeysuckle bushes. The benefits of their labors are apparent. Trees have been degirdled of climbing euonymus, trash picked up, and, in places, it is possible to see the floor of the woods again.

This year, on the third Saturday of each month from April through October, Friends of Webster Park Bird Sanctuary will gather at 10:30 A.M. to remove litter and invasive plants from the neighborhood's beloved woods.

Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II

Put the Nesting Birds of Central Ohio on the Map!

From rural woodlots and fields to the beautiful bluffs and ravines of Highbanks Metro Park, central Ohio boasts a wide variety of birds that nest and raise their young each spring and summer. In fact, each year more than 100 species of birds nest in this diverse region of Ohio. For more information, see Rob Thorn's thorough article "Birdlife of Greater Columbus Area Ravines" in the Fall 2006/Winter 2007 issue of *Ravinia*. Over a five-year period, from 2006 to 2010, this incredible variety of birds will be documented in central Ohio and throughout the state in the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II*.

Ohio's first breeding bird atlas was conducted from 1982 to 1987 under the direction of Bruce Peterjohn and Daniel Rice and culminated in the publication of *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas* in 1991. This book detailed the natural history of each bird species and provided useful maps of each species' breeding distribution in Ohio (see **www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/pdfs/pdfselect.php** to view the first breeding bird atlas). In 2006, Ohio joined several other states by initiating its second breeding bird atlas, a project coordinated by The Ohio State University and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife.

Simply put, a breeding bird atlas is a grid-based survey that documents the status and distribution of all bird species that breed within a given area. Ohio has been divided into 4,437 blocks, each equaling approximately ten square miles. Since most of Ohio's birds nest in the spring and summer, project volunteers will survey atlas blocks from late April through August and compile a list of nesting bird species for each block. This new information will be used to revise the current knowledge of Ohio's breeding birds and create new maps of each species' distribution.

Surveying the birds in each atlas block will require a substantial amount of effort, and the success of Ohio's second atlas will strongly depend on the dedicated efforts of hundreds of individuals who will form a statewide network of atlas participants. Indeed, over 500 volunteers are already involved in the atlas effort. As a member of the Friends of the Ravines, you can play a key role in the new *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II*. The atlas offers everyone an exciting way to learn about Ohio's rich natural heritage while encouraging participants to explore more of Ohio's beautiful landscapes. Anyone can participate, and submitting observations of breeding birds is easy. Even if you have only a casual interest in birds, we can use your help!

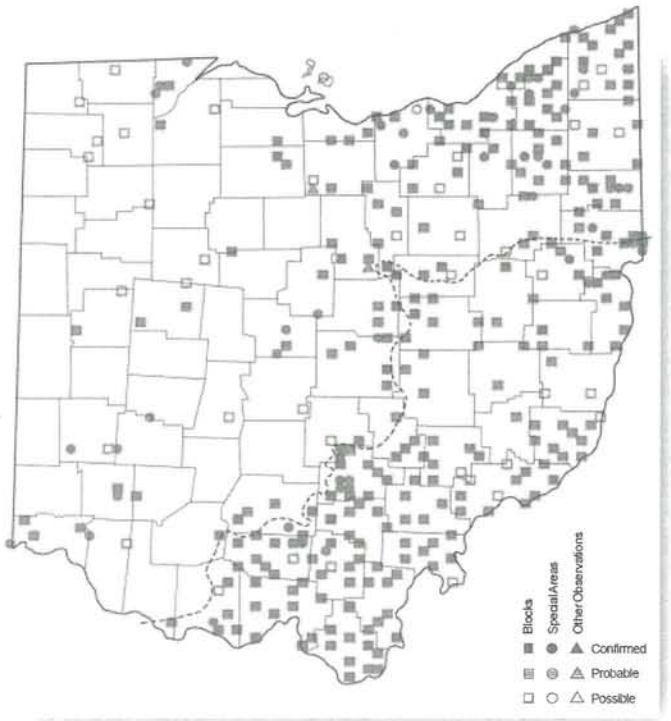
The cooperation of private landowners is especially important in this project, because nearly 95% of Ohio's land is privately owned. If you own property in Ohio, now is the perfect time to learn what birds are nesting on your property. At the same time, you'll have the opportunity to help the *Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II* accomplish its goal of putting Ohio's breeding birds on the map.

Female Hooded Warbler (photograph courtesy of Aaron Boone)

If you are interested in compiling a list of the breeding bird species that use your property and nearby areas, we would be more than happy to provide you with all the information needed to participate in this project. We can also arrange to have an atlas volunteer document breeding birds on your property or show you how it's done.

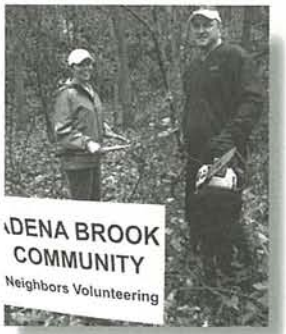
If you are interested in getting involved in the atlas, please contact us. We can be reached by phone at (614) 247-6458 or by e-mail at **obba2@osu.edu**. All other inquiries can be directed to: Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, School of Environment & Natural Resources, 210 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1085. In addition, visit our Website (**www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/**), which contains a wealth of information about the atlas. We look forward to working with you in this new project!

- Aaron Boone and Paul Rodewald
School of Environment & Natural Resources, OSU



Distribution of Hooded Warbler during the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas *in 1982-1987. Map courtesy of the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves.*

Beginning Adena Brook Community, *continued from page 3*



Lynne and Chuck Stamey removing invasive species from Adena Brook.

conducted water-monitoring studies and wrote and installed educational signage in the Park of Roses. Jerry is the original steward of Adena Brook. Even though he is now living in Panama as an organic farmer, he still inspires us with his stories and encourages us by e-mail.

The extent of the invasive plants in Adena Brook had caught my attention. After Elayna Grody's talk, I introduced myself and told her I wanted to learn more. She is a one-person department that removes invasive plants in city parks. She was delighted to teach me. We walked the park and listed the most serious problems: bush and vine honeysuckles, garlic mustard, tree of heaven/ailanthus, and euonymus vines. Elayna also invited us on wildflower rescues—we dug up native plants in areas where roads or easements would destroy the plants and replanted them in Adena Brook. Elayna continues to be a visionary who inspires us to cultivate a thriving and biodiverse Adena Brook woodland.

Martha Buckalew has a dream of establishing ravine groups throughout Central Ohio and she lends any type of necessary support. Perhaps her dream was a seed that took root in my thinking to establish an Adena Brook watershed group. One day when neighbor Peg Matthews and her dogs Zoe and Grace passed by, she said, "Did you notice all the litter in the water? After it rains, it's worse." I had noticed, and we assumed others noticed and cared. We decided we'd see if any other neighbors wanted to get together and talk about how we could clean up the ravine. Peg and I planned a meeting, reserved a room at Whetstone Library, and made a flyer to invite neighbors to get together to talk about and plan our work. Peg and I had co-founded a group.

The result of our first library meeting at Whetstone Library was our first annual permit that allowed our group to work on park land. Now volunteers meet once each month on the second Saturday to work for two hours, 9 to 11, March through November. We keep detailed records of our work. We share information by e-mail with anyone who wants it.

A group of street representatives meets twice a year, once to construct a to-do list and another time to assess the progress we've made in accomplishing the things on our list. We remain focused on our tasks and try to finish what we start before we add to our list. Our meetings are delicious potlucks lasting two hours: one hour to eat, one to plan. We start and end meetings on time. We keep people who are not on the e-mail list informed by a hand-delivered newsletter in the spring. We raise funds when needed to haul and shred invasive plants to avoid problems for others in Central Ohio. We are aware that the best model parks are those that benefit from private donations as well as government funds.

This year we added one new project to our list: Learn about storm water run-off. We want to install the first rain garden on park land in Clintonville. It will lessen the polluting effects of run-off into Adena Brook and inspire local residents to consider planting their own rain gardens to reduce storm water run-off. This is another long-term task.

Adena Brook Community is able to grow because of multiple contributions. Some people pick up litter; some remove invasive plants; some have contacts that bring us better relationships with city, state, and professional personnel. Others donate money, some plant trees, some educate us, and provide some copy services. Still others share historical stories to help us remember and preserve, and some own businesses that make our neighborhood better. Together we are improving the Adena Brook neighborhood by working for biodiversity and cleaner stream water, which makes the community safer and litter free, creating a better habitat for all.

For more information or to join the Adena Brook Community e-mail list, send an e-mail to the writer, **susanbarrett@columbus.rr.com**

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) _____

Indicate Shirt size: ___ M ___ L ___ XL *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
___ Maintaining the Website ___ Giving Computer Advice ___ Helping with Ravine Clean-ups
___ 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

Wine Sampling Soiree a Success

Supporters enjoyed Friends of the Ravines' Wine Sampling Soiree Fundraiser at Camelot Wine Cellars, 958 North High Street, on March 24. Guests sampled hors d'oeuvres prepared and donated by Weiland's Gourmet Market while they sipped glasses of Italian Montepulciano, Gewurztraminer, or Ice wine. Many purchased bottles of the limited edition wines with Friends of the Ravines' personalized labels, *Ravine Cellars, Ravine Reserve,* or *Glacial Glen*. BlueLevel provided acoustic background music. The event also included a raffle and a silent auction.

On December 8, 2006, Camelot Wine Cellar owner Charles Frobose (left) supervised Friends of the Ravines volunteers as they mixed a batch of Italian Montepulciano.

Thank You:

Buckeye Tree Donations Consultant for Reforestation
Daniel Struve, OSU Horticulture & Crop Science

Funding for Interpretive Signs
Greenways Program at MORPC

Fundraiser Sponsors
BlueLevel
Weiland's Gourmet Market

Glen Echo Park Fall Clean-Up
Students from Worthington Christian School

Restoration Plant Advisor
Susan Weber at Urban Wild

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Urban Gardener		

New Supporting Memberships:

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Mary L. Hawkins
Joanne Leussing

Ravinia is the official publication of Friends of the Ravines.

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Submissions and suggestions are welcome.

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