



RAVINIA

An Advocate for Community Resources

Published by Friends of the Ravines (FOR)
Spring/Summer 2006

Let's Help the Ravines, One Yard at a Time

**Mother knows best —
Mother Nature, that is!**

Did you know that what you do in your yard affects our ravines? One way to keep ravines healthy is to remove non-native, invasive plants from your yard and replace them with native plants. Native plants—plants that existed when European settlers arrived prior to 1750—live in harmony with nature. Invasive plants interfere with the balance of nature.

My husband and I have replanted the yard surrounding our home with all native plant species. After we removed invasive plants and replaced them with native plants, the count of butterfly species around our house increased from 3 to 32. When we put out bird feeders and bird baths, our bird species count increased from 3 to 9. When we created a native forest edge, the bird species jumped almost immediately to 30!

All living organisms—native biodiversity—are responsible for a healthy food chain and create a natural balance between plant pests and diseases. Native plants and animals evolved by creating predator-prey balance over many years. In addition, native plants have deep taproots that reduce soil erosion by stabilizing banks, reducing runoff, and filtering pollutants from our water. In this way, native plants help recreate native biodiversity.

Many invasive plants spread from our yards through wind dispersal and by birds eating and spreading seeds. These non-native, invasive plants create an imbalance in the landscape. Some problem invasive plants in Ohio are the non-native Bush

Honeysuckles, Japanese Honeysuckle, Purple Loosestrife, Garlic Mustard, and Canada Thistle. Each of these plants has a detrimental impact on a healthy balance between fauna and flora.

You can be a good neighbor by explaining the benefits of removing invasive plants to your neighbors so they understand that you are giving Mother Nature back what is rightfully hers. If you are concerned about the aesthetics of gardening with native plant species, the appearance of native plant beds can be enhanced with mulch, stepping stones, borders, and garden decorations. If you need more ideas, see the Wild Ones Website in the resource list on page 4. Once you have created your native plant habitat, you can get certified by the National Wildlife Federation. We found posting their sign in our yard made communication with our neighbors about the benefits of native plant gardens a lot easier.

In the charts that follow, you will learn how invasive plants interfere with Mother Nature's natural instincts. Scientific names are in italics because many invasive plants have different common names, and some

common names apply to more than one type of plant. The scientific name given in italics allows proper identification of a non-native, invasive plant.

Non-native Bush Honeysuckles

(*Lonicera maackii*, *L. morrowii*, *L. X bella* and *L. tatarica*) and **Autumn-olive** (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) were planted for wildlife habitat, without our knowledge of their eventual negative impact:

- Have leaves that appear early and stay later, blocking light for natives, especially for the herbaceous layer
- Structure doesn't provide adequate nesting opportunities for native wildlife
- Not used by long-distance migrating birds
- Lower-protein food content than natives
- Large berry not edible for smaller, native wildlife

Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) has the same impact as bush honeysuckles:

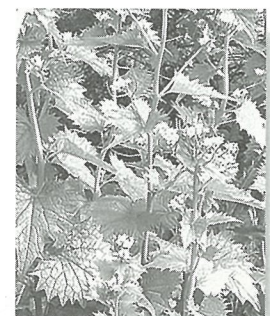
- Chokes out tree saplings and completely shades out oak tree seedlings
- 150 forest wildlife species in Ohio depend on oak acorns



Amur Honeysuckle



Garlic Mustard Rosette



Garlic Mustard Adult

continued on page 4

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Good non-profit organizations never have sufficient funding to meet their needs, and Friends of the Ravines is no exception. The people on the FOR Board—Jeff Brown, Martha Buckalew, Andrea Gorzitze, Tom Logsdon, Sherrill Massey, and Susann Moeller—have done a remarkable piece of work in putting Glen Echo and all ravines in front of organizations like the Columbus Foundation and many other local and national sources of funding. Their success rate is high, and beyond the good these grants do for preservation and conservation, they provide a constant vision that ravines are the crown jewels of the Clintonville area and beyond.

Another critical source of funding is memberships. FOR takes a very low key approach to members—partly because of humility and partly because they know that natural disasters like Katrina need to be a priority for giving. As someone who provides occasional assistance to FOR but who is constantly awed by the work and dedication of others, let me be less humble in asking for your support. Except in terms of tens of thousands of years, ravines are not a renewable resource. They are fragile environments that enrich us all, but that can disappear within decades without care and vigilance.

Membership funds have been dropping, and FOR is relying more and more heavily on fewer members to contribute more funding. This is not sustainable and, worse yet, it means that fewer of us are visibly invested in our ravines. Therefore, as someone who believes that our ravines are precious but who does not pretend to have contributed to the good work of FOR in any significant way, I am asking each of you to make some modest annual commitment to keeping our ravines healthy, accessible, and visible for all the generations to come.

Thanks very much for considering this commitment. You can be certain that FOR will use your membership contributions wisely and well and that the stunning effort of FOR will multiply the value of your contribution many times over.

Jack Cooley, Chair, Board of Trustees



NEWS FROM THE RAVINES

ADENA BROOK COMMUNITY continues its outstanding work maintaining the Overbrook Ravine area by removing invasive plants and monitoring bird boxes. In November, ABC planted 420 trees at the southeast intersection of Indianola Avenue and Cooke Road. The plant purchase was made possible in part by funding from Friends of the Ravines.

GLEN ECHO RAVINE slopes, planted with rescued wild flowers and ferns last May, are under watchful eyes this spring. A car that crashed through the gate at North Fourth Street and Cliffside Drive plowed through the planting area in the fall, leaving deep ruts that were filled by volunteers during a fall planting session.



IUKA RAVINE, site of Friends of the Ravines' 2006 Plant Walk, once again hosts native plants and shrubs that have been reintroduced to the landscape. Lovingly tended by an anonymous guardian angel, Iuka is a restored urban oasis that provides respite from the noise of the city around it.

RUSH RUN, once the site of nature walks led by the late *Columbus Citizen-Journal* columnist Ben Hayes, has the attention of his daughter, Christine, who reports that runoff from Harding Hospital affects water quality for everyone whose property abuts the stream, and water from a blocked pipe turns an area behind Colonial Hills School into a swamp, rendering it impassable when it rains.

Friends of the Ravines Receives Beautification Award



Keep Franklin County Beautiful honored the restoration work of Friends of the Ravines at its White Glove Awards Luncheon on November 18, 2005. Members of the Board of Trustees present to receive the plaque were (from left) Andrea Gorzitze, Tom Logsdon, Martha Buckalew, and Susann Moeller.



Meet Friends of the Ravines' Newest Board Member

Our newest board member, Jeffrey Brown, brings special talents and expertise to the Board of Trustees. In the short time he has served, Jeff has rebuilt the Website and reorganized the mailing list database. His substantial contributions have made him a valued member of the board. In addition, he maintains both the Website and mailing list and provides board members with data on request.

Recipient of a Bachelor of Science degree from The Ohio State University, Jeff has chosen a different career path. For the past six years he has been employed as an

information technology consultant. His professional experience includes large-scale implementations of Enterprise Resource Planning and Web-based solutions for various state and federal agencies, universities, and large telecommunications companies.

Jeff and his wife Robin live with their dog Jill and cat Griffin whom they rescued from Glen Echo Ravine shortly after they moved nearby. In fact, one of the boundaries to their backyard is a north-south ravine tributary of Glen Echo Ravine. Jeff and Robin take daily walks in

Glen Echo Park, where they frequently spend Saturday mornings picking up trash. Both participate in large-scale ravine clean-ups and planting sessions as well.

His passion for nature, preservation, education, and good ravine stewardship are assets that attracted Jeff to serving on the board of Friends of the Ravines. His thoughtful participation, air of professionalism, and broad computer expertise are valuable contributions that help Friends of the Ravines Board of Trustees carry out its mission.



In October 2005, Cub Scouts from Pack 41 planted native violets and picked up trash in Glen Echo Ravine.

Adena Brook Neighbor's Photo Helps Convict Dumpers

Last September, a watchful Adena Brook neighbor saw a cement truck in front of her home. She watched the driver back up to the ravine to wash out the chute of a concrete mixer into the stream. She knew from educational information distributed by the watershed group Adena Brook Community that she needed to report more than the company name and license number: she needed a photograph. After taking the photo, she called John Remy at Nail-A-Dumper (614-871-5322). Her photograph helped Judge Harland Hale sentence the dumpers.

Donald Rader said he was just following orders when he washed out the chute of a concrete mixer into Adena Brook, a shallow, winding waterway that snakes through Clintonville toward the Olentangy River. He pled guilty to one count of water pollution (RC 6111.0). Water pollution is an unclassified misdemeanor with a possible punishment of up to one year in jail and a \$25,000 fine. Also charged were the site foreman (who had pled guilty previously) and the construction company (set for arraignment in the future).

The sentence handed down by Judge Hale was 365 days in jail, suspended for one year of probation; \$112 fine and court costs; \$1,000 restitution to the Clintonville Community Fund, to be distributed to Adena Brook Community, a non-profit community organization that conducts clean-ups along Adena Brook; and \$500 restitution to the Franklin County General Health Fund to fund clean-ups along roadways throughout Franklin County.

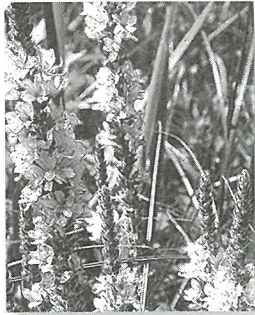
Adena Brook Community will use the award money to remove invasive plants such as honeysuckle from this area and then plant native trees and shrubs. Adena Brook Community has removed over 200 tons of invasive plants from Adena Brook and planted over 400 new native trees in its conservation efforts.

Keeping cameras nearby to photograph illegal or suspicious activity will contribute significantly to environmental law enforcement.





Canada Thistle



Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a beautiful killer that spreads rapidly:

- Produces over 1 million seeds per plant in a growing season, in addition to underground stems (rhizomes)
- Changes the chemical composition of wetlands
- Causes the algae community to become toxic to developing American toads
- Toads are a bioindicator that provides early warning of danger to humans, like canaries in coal mines

Pink Loosestrife (*L. virgatum*), although beautiful, is a harmful plant that should be removed:

- Although it is sold in garden stores as "sterile," studies over several years in Ohio indicate that it produces viable seed when cross-pollinated with Purple Loosestrife
- Its sale is banned in other states
- Tell friends and neighbors about this aggressive invasive plant

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) invades forest edges and road corridors:

- Has become the most prevalent plant in Ohio forests!
- One plant establishes an entire population
- Exudes chemicals that reduce seed germination and growth of native plants
- Seeds remain viable 7 years or more
- Mature plants should be destroyed after pulling because seeds continue to mature

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) teams up with other invasive plants, such as common teasel and non-native grasses, to take over the last small remnants of Ohio's original grasslands and prairies.

The following native wildlife depends on this habitat:

- Birds (bobolink, henslow's sparrow, bobwhite, short-eared owl)
- Butterflies (regal silver-bordered fritillaries, dion-skippers, two-spotted skippers)

Replace non-native bush honeysuckle with native understory plants such as Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), which will provide berries for wildlife (see photo below). Plant Spicebush in wet areas under trees in ravines or in your yard.

If we create a healthy habitat for Franklin County's flora and fauna, yard by yard we can contribute to the quality of life in our communities.



Spicebush, native understory plant



Our Yard

Resource List

- National Wildlife Federation:
Backyard Habitat:
nwf.org/bwh
Plant/Animal Information:
Enature.com
- Ohio Invasive Plants Council:
oipc.info
- Ohio Invasive Plant Research
Conference 2005 Circular:
ohioline.osu.edu/sc196/pdf/sc196.pdf
- ODNR, Div. of Natural Areas and Preserves: Call: (614)265-6453, to obtain *Worst Invasive Plants in Ohio* which include helpful fact sheets:
ohiodnr.com/dnap/invasive
- ODNR, Div of Wildlife: to obtain *Fighting Invasive Plants in Ohio and Invasive Alien Species*, free brochures about the impact of invasive plants on fish and wildlife in Ohio, call
1-800-WILDLIFE
- Wild Ones: Landscaping with native plants:
www.for-wild.org

Toni Stahl, the author of this article, is on the Ohio Invasive Plants Council. Both she and her husband, Marc, are National Wildlife Federation Habitat Ambassadors. They arrange tours of their native plant yard habitat. If you want more information about tours or programs, contact them by e-mail: marc-a@columbus.rr.com.



What's Happening with Sewers in Your Community?

Ravines were formed by the flowing water of coursing streams. Sewer pipes are placed in the lowest areas of the landscape and, in Columbus, sewers follow streams and rivers. Ravines are associated with streams. Sewers were laid along streams, thus ravines often have sewer lines in (Walhalla), under (Glen Echo), through (Adena Brook), around (Rush Run and Bill Moose), or even over them (ravine near Royal Forest in Beechwold).

The last issue of *Ravinia* (Winter 2005/Spring 2006) had an article on stormwater, the surface runoff from rain and snow. In March 2006, the City of Columbus released a new Stormwater Drainage Manual, available at www.sewers.columbus.gov (click on Project Clean Rivers and then on Stormwater Management). This manual will guide development and redevelopment on public and private projects in the city except for single parcels that contain one or two dwellings. Other municipalities larger than 100,000 have their own stormwater management programs containing city codes and ordinances.

Wastewater is what is flushed down the drain from houses and businesses. It flows separately from stormwater except in old pipes downtown. The City of Columbus Division of Sewage and Drainage (DOSD) operates the wastewater system that services the city and most of Franklin County, comprising about 1.1 million residents, plus wastewater from business and industry.

Columbus DOSD signed two court orders in 2002 and 2004, agreeing to take action to reduce discharges of untreated sewage. In 2005, they released the Wet Weather Management Plan, with four areas of capital building projects. A brochure and fact sheet can be found at www.sewers.columbus.gov under Project Clean Rivers. The construction and repair projects will take 30-40 years and cost over \$5 billion. Many areas will benefit from improved service.

Work will happen fastest on the Olentangy Augmentation Relief Sewer (OARS) to reduce overflows of raw sewage combined with rainwater. The OARS Phase I is proposed to run from the Whittier Peninsula under the Scioto and down to Jackson Pike Wastewater Plant. Later phases would extend north through downtown to the Arena District. Plans are for the sewer to be shallow, measuring 10 feet by 16 feet, and for it to direct combined flows to the treatment plant and provide some storage. Until 2017, excess combined flows during rain and wet weather will still be released untreated. Eventually, a partial treatment facility will be built.

Work is also beginning this year in twelve Priority Areas, where studies will be done on how to improve leaky pipes and improve maintenance. Clintonville has many localized projects scheduled for 2006, some around ravines. Studies will be started in North Linden, Livingstone-James, Driving Park, Miller-Kelton, Grandview, and other areas.

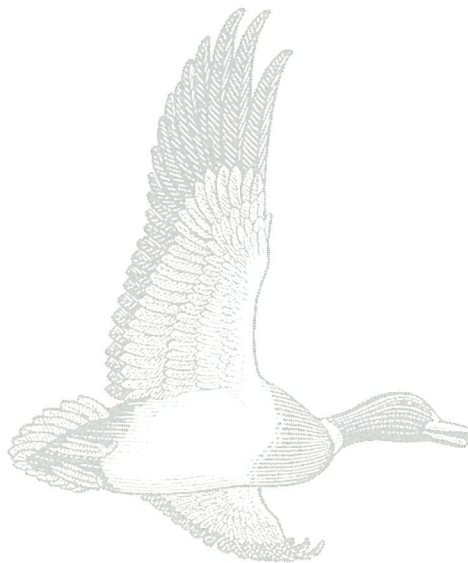
The two wastewater plants are already being expanded and improved. The long-term plan proposes to increase total

capacity of 300 million gallons per day to 480 in 2010 and 600 in 2030. Releases at the plants are predicted to lessen dramatically from the present levels of 10-12 per year.

The last component of the plan is the most ambitious and expensive: tunnels built along the Olentangy and Alum Creek waterways. Tunnels would provide express conveyance of sewage and some storage, in effect smoothing peak flows during wet weather. Each tunnel would be about 14 feet wide, 12 miles long, and 50 feet deep. The Olentangy tunnel would have a pumping station, while the Alum Creek Tunnel would discharge into the newly constructed Big Walnut-Rickenbacker 14-foot pipe near the Southerly wastewater plant.

The plan does not have a capital initiative specifically to address sewage backups from the public system. Instead, it proposes increased study, improved maintenance, small projects in "Priority Areas," and the program to distribute backflow valves.

The Ohio Sierra Club has campaigned for sewer improvements in Cincinnati and Columbus. Recently, the group was awarded a grant from the Columbus Foundation to continue education and outreach. The Sierra Club will reach out to existing organizations: churches, area commissions, environmental organizations, and recreational groups. An educational presentation is available that can be tailored to your community. Learn more about scheduled improvements. Learn how best to get involved early, influence the process, and effectively communicate with the city. Find out how you can get information and report problems. Learn where to look for more resources. Contact the Sierra Club representative today to schedule this presentation for your community organization meeting or event.



Contact: Cyane.Gresham@sierraclub.org

Office: (614)461-0734 x 311

Cell: (614)507-9518



Stoneleaf Landscape Service Befriends Glen Echo

We have to believe in Santa Claus to appreciate the generosity of Stoneleaf Landscape Service. For several years, Friends of the Ravines has solicited bids on reworking the steps on the northern slope of Glen Echo Ravine in Glen Echo Park. All bids that were submitted were out of reach of Glen Echo's budget until Stoneleaf Landscape Service came to the rescue. And if Stoneleaf is Santa, The Columbus Foundation is FOR's fairy godmother. The Columbus Foundation allowed us to reallocate

almost half of last year's conservation award to pay for improving the steps. Stoneleaf's fundamental belief is that a landscape is a joining of form, function, and life. The company sees form as the beginning stage of a project and considers function to be as important as form. The site drawings submitted to FOR reflect their philosophy. Their proposal takes a functional approach that fits into the rustic ravine setting, emphasizing their belief that landscape is a reflection of

life. Stoneleaf's goals are to provide excellent service and to maintain high quality standards. The company received an Angie's List Super Service Award in 1999 and is a member of the Building Industry of Central Ohio and Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association. Go to www.stoneleaflandscape.com for more information. Friends of the Ravines acknowledges that Stoneleaf Landscape Service is a major contributor to ongoing Glen Echo improvements.



Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants?

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has produced a must-read publication for environmentalists. The booklet titled *Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants?* focuses on the impact invasive plants have on recreational activities—hunting, fishing, boating, gardening, biking, and horseback riding.

The book explains how the scenic beauty enjoyed by recreationalists is being degraded by invasive plants that grow over trails, catch in bicycle chains, overtake spring wildflowers, and crowd out wild mushrooms. It includes information on invasive plant seeds, such as burdock, which catches on the horses' hair or dogs' fur and in some instances causes skin irritation. There is a section on the environmental damage caused by invasive aquatic plants that reduce oxygen levels in water, stress and kill fish, and clog water intakes on motor boats.

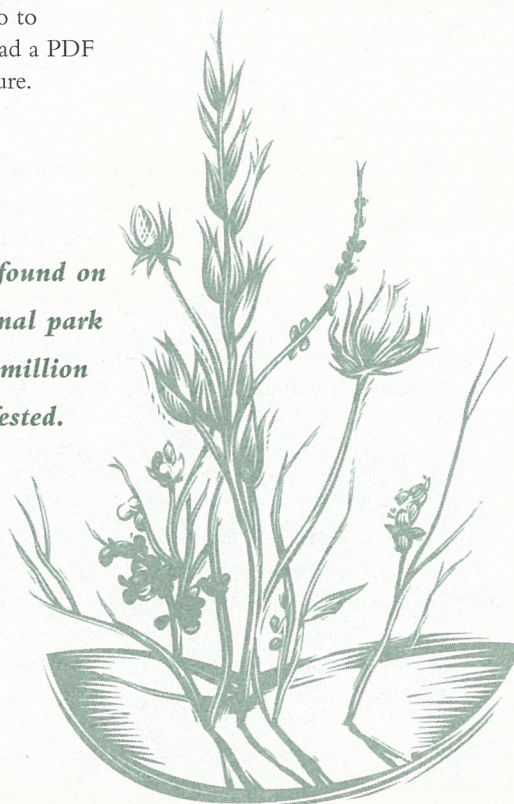
The statistics included in the publication are alarming. It is estimated that across the U.S. invasive plants are found on 7 million acres of national park land, and at least 1.5 million acres are severely infested. Private lands may have even higher infestation rates. Eradicating invasive

plants is expensive (estimated at \$35 billion per year) and costs will continue to grow if eradication is delayed.

Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants? is printed on high-quality glossy paper and measures 8" x 5". Each page is enhanced with beautiful color photographs, many courtesy of the Nature Conservancy. Go to www.MIPN.org to download a PDF of the invasive plants brochure.

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network works with federal, state, and local governments; universities; industries; and non-profit groups, as well as the general public. Its goal is to create awareness of the threats of invasive plants through prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, management, research, and education.

**... invasive plants are found on
7 million acres of national park
land, and at least 1.5 million
acres are severely infested.**



The Marvelous Mulberry

June is National Neglected Urban Food Source Month. No, wait. National Mulberry Month. Um, Feed a Tree Trimmer Month? Anyway, June is when every sensible arborist prunes or removes mulberry trees for a grateful nation. Why? Because that's when the berries are ripe, of course. Rich, ripe, purple, messy, delicious, nutritious mulberries, yum!

The Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) was brought to these shores in 1629 by the early European settlers of Jamestown, Virginia. Native to China, it has been cultivated in many European countries in recorded history, and it has spread across this country thanks to humans and birds alike. It is a fast-growing, hardy tree that has engendered mixed reviews wherever it grows. Purple bird poop, messes on cars and pavement, suspiciously stained children, and oddly lingering landscape crews are all direct results of the ripe mulberry.

Mulberry trees have been celebrated in song, dance, and pie for hundreds of years. Time was when no orchard was complete without one. My first climbing tree was a beautiful mulberry tree in Grandpa's orchard. "No, Nana, I wasn't eating any mulberries" was a common fib among purple-lipped children when I was a child.

Nowadays, sadly, very few people appreciate this free, bountiful, unplanned urban crop. Awake! Throw off the shackles of scorn and misconception! Pick, eat. This is good food that is given to thee.

Here are my favorite recipes.

Mulberries à la Twig: Graze freely in your yard or anybody else's. Pick only the best ripe, firm berries. Watch out for that white stuff. Put them in your (hard) hat and hose them off if you're the fastidious type.

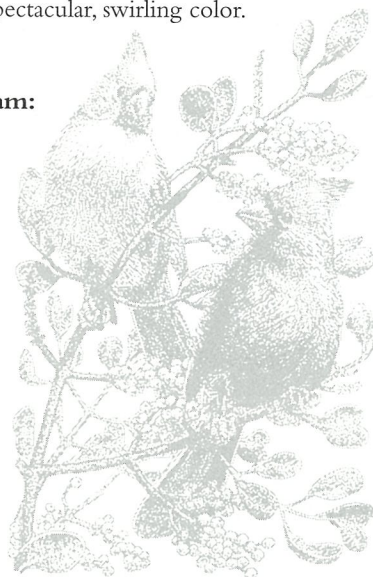
Serious Mulberries: Spread tarp, old shower curtain, or sacrificial sheet on ground and shake limbs. You'll be shocked at how many you get. Repeat every couple of days for your freezer.

Mulberries and Cream/Half-and-Half: Self-explanatory. Mush them up a little for spectacular, swirling color. Very psychedelic.

Mulberries over Ice Cream:
Vanilla.

Mulberries, Cool Whip, and Angel Food Cake:
Your life will be complete.

Mulberry Pie: The pinnacle of Midwestern cuisine. Take a lot of mulberries. Delete the mushy ones. Wash, drain. Put lots in pie crust. Put on some sugar. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Poke holes in top crust in a decorative pattern. Bake for 50-60 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve warm with ice cream. **ENJOY!**



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

Volunteers Rewarded by Sharpening on Site



Volunteers were enticed to help with fall plantings in Glen Echo by Louise Radanovich, proprietor of Sharpening on Site, who was on hand to sharpen one hand pruner or lopper per helper. The weather was perfect for working outdoors. In a short time volunteers had planted the area in front of the stone wall and the Cliffside Drive curb with native shrubs and flowers.



Thank You:

Front Tine Tiller Operation

Cathi Mehl

Louis Buckalew, Jr.

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The Columbus Foundation

NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund

Glen Echo Step Renovation

Stoneleaf Landscape Services

Gratis Sharpening for Volunteers

Sharpening on Site

Seed Donations

Bob Armstrong

Traffic Cones

Euro Classics in Clintonville

New Supporting Memberships:

Anonymous

Christine Hayes

Bruno Dudonis

Richard C. Krieger



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CONTRIBUTORS

Martha Harter Buckalew

Cyane Gresham

Susan Michael Barrett

Louise Radanovich

Jack Cooley

Toni Stahl

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Submissions and suggestions are welcome.

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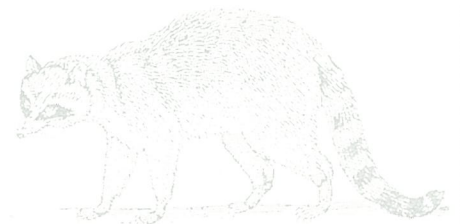
www.friendsoftheravines.org

mhbuckalew@sbcglobal.net

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P.O. Box 82021

Columbus, Ohio 43202



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