



# RAVINIA

*An Advocate for Community Resources*

Published by Friends of the Ravines (FOR)

Fall 2017/Winter 2018

## A Ravine Runs Through It— **Mirror Lake Environs**

*By Sherrill Massey*

The Ohio State University has begun restoration of Mirror Lake and the surrounding area to include Oxley Hall, Pomerene Hall and Browning Amphitheatre. The plans are to return Mirror Lake to a more natural and sustainable state closer to its historical configuration.

I've often wondered what the campus landscape looked like when it was the William Neil farm before the property transferred to OSU. What did the Neil Run stream look like when it ran east to west across campus in a ravine emptying into the Olentangy River? What did the stream-fed Mirror Lake look like before it became contained in bricks and concrete? What was the original campus topography?

Businessman William Neil, aka "Stagecoach King," owned some 327 acres of the campus land, having acquired it from the estate of Captain Joseph Vance in 1827. In 1803 Ohio became a state and Franklin County was established.



*Mirror Lake Islands, 1909*

*OSU Archives*

That same year Vance became the first Surveyor of Franklin County and he would hold the job for more than 20 years. Vance died in 1870, the same year that The Ohio State University was established.

Neil had a farm residence on the property and had Neil Avenue constructed from downtown Columbus to his farm. A source said the Avenue was planted with walnut trees. Emily Foster's book, *The Ohio State University District: A Neighborhood History*, states that "at the turn of

the twentieth century, the campus was still a sylvan setting in a rapidly developing suburb. As streetcar neighborhoods sprang up south and east of the university, they surrounded a campus that was largely unbuilt. For people who lived nearby, Ohio State was a sort of public park. People remember idyllic picnics and rambles among the wildflowers in the University Woods and drinking fresh water from a spring that feeds Mirror Lake."

Archive maps vary and present a puzzle at times. Mirror Lake has had as many shapes as an amoeba over the early campus years. Maps showing the Historic Neil Run vary as well and an 1896 map shows where the Neil Run completely disappears on the map hidden in an underground sewer.



**Lucky's  
Pollinator Garden**

Page 8

*continued on page 3*

## FROM FOR'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

**W**hen my husband and I bought our ravine property 19 years ago, we purchased a half-acre showcase of invasive species: honeysuckle, burning bush, euonymus and garlic mustard.

Although the land looked lush and green, it was wildly unhealthy. The carpet of euonymus – wintercreeper – wasn't letting any small trees or plants pass through to sunlight. Because of the tangle of vines several inches thick, a hillside that should have been dotted with trees had none.

At the other end of the spectrum, a mass of honeysuckle shrubs near the creek created an unnatural thicket through which no human – and only the smallest of animals – could pass.

My husband and I attacked the honeysuckle first, building a mountain of debris as we removed shrubs with trunks as thick as trees. We began replanting with native species. A redbud here, a sycamore there. Still, the area had a bleak, scorched-earth look.

Pedestrians watching the work didn't understand the clearing, interpreting the honeysuckle removal as destruction of habitat, not restoration.

I overheard a passer-by comment: "At least they are planting trees."

Nineteen years ago, the words "native plants" and "invasive species" were not as well-understood as they are today. Back then, when I asked a respected nursery for suggestions of native plants, a designer rattled off a list of imported perennials, not understanding the term I used at all.

But with a host of reference materials and human experts upon which to rely, I have (mostly) restored the habitat. Our yard

welcomes deer, hawks, owls, and a host of smaller birds as well as the ever-present squirrels, chipmunks and raccoons.

Earlier this year, I joined the Friends of the Ravines board, hoping to help others along in this path of transition. My aim is to share my knowledge and passion with others. As part of my work with the group, I will make home visits to help others take an inventory of their properties and come up with a plan for the future.

On an in-person visit, I can identify invasive plants that should be removed and suggest replacements for cleared areas. As in real estate, in gardening, location is everything.

I can offer advice on what work a homeowner might undertake himself and what might be best left to a professional.

The extent of the work can appear daunting, and on that I can offer encouragement. A strategic march forward is all that is needed; you don't need to undertake everything at once.

Even if your yard is not on a ravine, I'd be happy to visit and offer suggestions of native plants you could incorporate for a more natural, low-maintenance but highly rewarding landscape. Native plants, no matter where you are, attract bees, butterflies, birds and animals.

So, drop me an email if you'd like an in-person visit. I'm happy to assist. And watch for other events I'll be planning to aid such pursuits.

*Cindy Decker*  
cld@telektrum.com



### WANT A FRIENDS OF THE RAVINES T-SHIRT?

We are going to print a limited run of FOR T-shirts with the logo pictured above. If you are interested in purchasing one, please email your contact info and size to [friendsoftheravine@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheravine@gmail.com). We will send you a notice when shirts are printed.

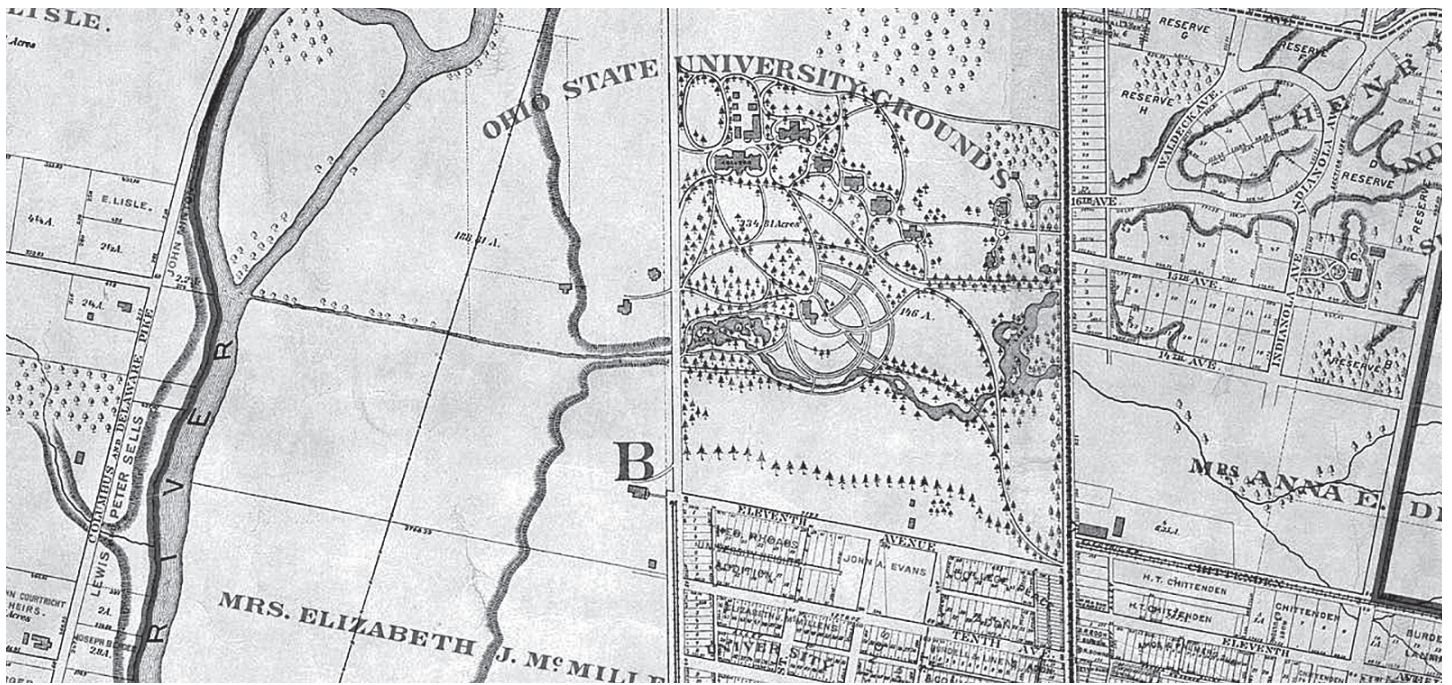
## Mark Your Calendar!!

### You don't want to miss the 2018 Annual Plant Walk

Friends of the Ravines' Annual Spring Plant Walk will be on April 8, 2018 at 2:00 in the afternoon in Franklin County's newest Metro Park, Scioto Grove, located at 5172 Jackson Pike in Grove City. You can read more details in an accompanying article on page 11 of this issue of Ravinia. You can expect a postcard reminder in March.



This event is made possible, in part, by funding from the National Environmental Education Fund



Ward Brothers 1889 Map of Columbus

Columbus Metropolitan Library

In The OSU Mirror Lake Hollow, John Herrick wrote: “The stream which ran through the ravine is seldom mentioned by name in manuscripts or maps of the time. It is sometimes merely called ‘the run’ or ‘the brook’ and other formal names include ‘Neil Run’ or ‘Neil’s Run’ and ‘Indianola Run.’”

The U.S. Congress Land-Grant College Act of 1862 provided grants of land to states to finance the establishment of colleges specializing in agriculture and the mechanic arts. Various counties competed for the land grant at their location if it met the criteria. In 1870 the State Board of Agriculture reviewed the applicants and voted to use a bid and donation from Franklin County, selecting the Neil Farm site for the new college. The Neil farm was centrally located in the state. A natural spring along Neil Run provided a source of water and there was room to grow the college. This country farm was a desirable location for the future land grant college, Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, now The Ohio State University.

Historic campus maps of OSU show how buildings, roads, Mirror Lake, and the Olentangy River changed over time. The Neil Run Ravine was fed by numerous springs east of North High Street and from Iuka Ravine area to the Olentangy River. Neil Run marked the route of the of the Historic Underground Railroad (UGRR) from the Olentangy River to a safe house at 1842 Indianola Avenue, the former residence of William Neil’s son, Henry M. Neil. The Ohio Staters, Inc. recently commemorated the UGRR presence on campus by installing five historic markers on the path of the unseen Neil Run.

A Ward Brothers 1889 Map of the City of Columbus, Ohio, shows about a two-mile-wide view of the campus area from

just west of the Olentangy River Road, eastward to Summit Street. This is part of the larger Olentangy watershed. The city routed the storm water underground and the drainage area is controlled by how they laid out the pipes. The map shows hachure marks indicating areas in relief. Iuka ravine is shown as well as multiple springs east of High Street that flow thru campus. South of East 14th Avenue a stream crosses west under North High Street and a lake is formed between the space where the North and South Union Parking Garages are located currently. This “lake,” as it is labeled, is also amoeba shaped, like the Mirror Lake west in the “Hollow.” This lake was three feet deep and was named “the old swimming hole.” From this lake Neil Run flowed to the Olentangy River.

The 1889 Ward Brothers map includes the neighborhood surrounding OSU at that time where many lots are plotted out on streets with Iuka ravine lots being larger likely due to the slope feature. Very few houses are on the parcels. The neighborhood was yet to develop and was considered out in the country.

Several sources stated that Mirror Lake was a collection of bogs and a marsh, measuring about six acres in the southwest section of the University’s original land purchase. In the spring of 1874, at the end of the first year of operation of the University, this bog was cleaned out and “pools of clear spring-water” were formed that eventually became Mirror Lake. Much of the land on either side of the river was a natural flood plain which nourished the farmland but could prove dangerous to people and livestock after heavy rains.

The route of the Olentangy River changed patterns and in fact, the river flowed right through the area now occupied by Ohio Stadium. In 1871 OSU Trustees discussed how the

waters of the Whetstone (Olentangy) River were washing away a certain part of the College Farm, and they decided that it was necessary to make a new channel for the river. In order to do this, it would be necessary to purchase over eleven acres of land, provided it did not cost more than one hundred dollars per acre. An OSU physical plant log states that “Beautiful Mirror Lake was only the broadening of the water course which ran through the fields, fed by numerous springs along its way.”

W.C. McCracken’s History of the Physical Plant, Vol 1, 1870–1899, follows the process of putting the Neil Run into a storm sewer. “Permission is granted to the City of Columbus to construct and maintain a sewer through the OSU lands. On November 19, 1890 the OSU Board inspected the route of the City Storm and Sanitary sewer through the grounds. Starting at the Olentangy River. . . east along Neil Run, under Neil Avenue extension, along the side of the hill south of the lakes, on east just barely under the surface in some places, to turn north, thence to a turn east, thence to High Street with a branch to High Street from the turn north. The sewer to be seven foot four inches internal diameter, built of brick and cement mortar.... The City authorities assured the University that the spring would not be damaged by construction of the sewer.”

But the spring that fed Mirror Lake was damaged by the construction and the work fell under closer scrutiny from university officials. Plans were revisited and modifications made. In his Memoirs of Mirror Lake, John Herrick noted, “Construction of a city sewer in the ravine in 1891 interrupted the flow of water from the spring until a portion of the sewer was rebuilt.”

The popularity of the spring water made it a source of drinking water for many decades.

Campus folks, neighbors, and others by the hundreds would go to the spring and fill their jugs to carry back to their dorms or homes. Enterprising students and others put water into bottles and sold it.

“. . . The increasing coverage of the campus ground surface by buildings and paved areas and the increasing diversion of rain water into storm sewers resulted in the ultimate demise of the spring in the 1920’s. Well water, river water, and city water are among the replacement sources used to feed the lake since the drying up of the spring.” (Herrick)

When Edward Orton gave up the OSU Presidency to become Chair of the Geology Department, he was probably the first and only president to enroll in any course in the university. He enrolled as a student in a photography course,

as his professor recalled: “Entering the classroom for the first session at the beginning of the spring quarter, I was somewhat surprised to see Dr. Orton. He immediately came forward stating that he was to be one of my students for the quarter. But he added ‘Don’t let that embarrass you because I know nothing of the subject.’ He completed all of the work except the examinations stating that he was not interested in them.”

Likely too, Dr. Orton was the first Program 60 student at OSU even before Program 60 was authorized. Unfortunately, no photographs from Dr. Orton have been found. He may have found the course useful in photographing ravines.



Mirror Lake 1911

OSU Archives

Early photographs of the Neil Run and Mirror Lake are scarce, but with the introduction of the Department of Photography, classes show a few students and professors with big box cameras staging scenic views there. Photography was in the Department of Architecture and Drawing. This field was undergoing expansion into many areas of science and education.

Since 1909, the ravine in which Mirror Lake lies has generally been called the “Hollow” or “Mirror Lake Hollow.” In 1926, the Browning Amphitheatre was dedicated. Two spots bordering the ravine near the lake were called “Observatory Hill,” named for the McMillen observatory, which was demolished in 1976. And located on the north side is “the grove” or “Library Hill.” (Herrick)

“Over the years, the Hollow has come to be defined by buildings on both sides. Within the valley, the steep banks have been eliminated by grading, the stream has been diverted into a sewer, and the floor of the valley has been improved by grading, plantings, and the installation of walks.” (Herrick)

Since the first class of 24 students enrolled in 1873, the population of OSU has exploded: The 2016 student count was 58,663. The bucolic countryside that once surrounded Mirror Lake has responded to the changes of the campus area that surrounds it. Urbanization has met the needs of the increasing population density.

The proposed Mirror Lake Concept Plan gives us a historical contrast with descriptions which contrast the original and its current setting:

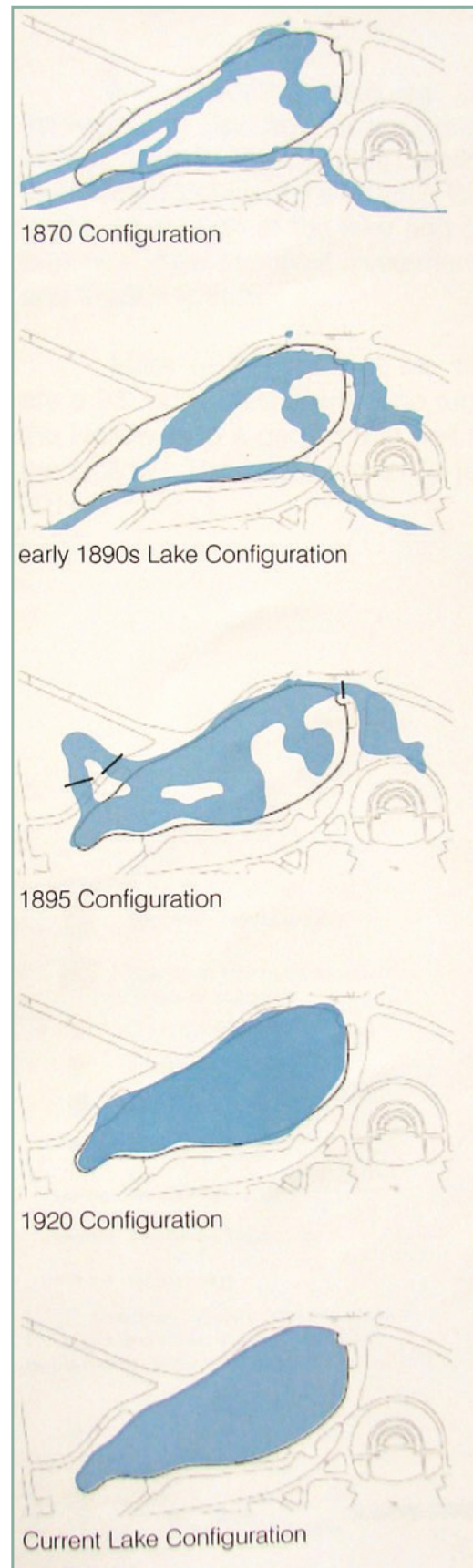
- The original aesthetic of Mirror Lake was a verdant, enclosed, and naturalized lake. It offered a very different character from the current surrounding campus which has paved foot-paths and hard edged lawn areas very similar in character to the surrounding campus spaces.
- In its beginning, Mirror Lake was fed by clean, spring water, and the pond was surrounded by native vegetation which provided habitat for local wildlife and a connection to the regional system of rivers and creeks. Mirror Lake currently has very little habitat, does not provide clean water, and it has no connection to the surrounding water systems.
- Today, Mirror Lake’s cultural impact remains central to campus life as a source of in-land lake water and a place of study, relaxation, recreation, initiation and shared milestones to central campus life, but its water source is disconnected from the original stream-based character and ecological function.

Spring 2018 is the targeted date for the grand reopening of that historic district. Time and change will surely show how these improvements will take place.

Details of the Mirror Lake Concept Plan can be found on the web: <https://news.osu.edu/news/2016/10/11/mirror-lake-restoration/>

<sup>1</sup> John Herrick was a student, faculty member, administrator and retired administrator for 60 years. He came to the university in 1920. After retirement in 1972, Herrick continued to donate his time and efforts to Ohio State, without compensation, for another 18 years. He was considered by his peers to be of the leading professionals in campus and facilities planning in the United States. <https://ksamedia.osu.edu/agent/herrick>

<sup>2</sup> Ravinia, Spring/Summer 2009 and Fall 2009/Winter 2010: “The Unseen Stream of luka Ravine and Other Stories – Part One and Part Two.”



OSU Concept Plan Executive Summary 9/1/2016



# Valuing Urban Landscapes: The Ravines of Clintonville

by Maureen Lorenz  
Photos by Sherrill Massey

On June 8th, 2017, the Environmental Professionals Network, hosted by the OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources, held a seminar to discuss the value of urban landscapes.

Dr. Michael Graziano, an ecologist who recently received his PhD from OSU, Dr. John Krygier, a geologist from Ohio Wesleyan, and Laura Fay, former wetland specialist with the OEPA and a Board member of the Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) gave presentations on the role of urban landscapes in preserving and promoting biodiversity. The talks demonstrated how human connectedness and interdependence of urban ecosystems—including residential yards and other spaces—can create a more thriving and sustainable ecosystem.

The presentations were followed by a field trip to Glen Echo Park, a ravine protected and conserved by the involvement of several community groups working to enrich the biodiversity of the ravine. Among these groups are the Glen Echo Neighbors Civic Association, the Lower Olentangy Urban Arboretum, FLOW, and the Friends of the Ravines.

Four Stations were set up within the Park to highlight special areas or projects that typified the presentation.

- **Station One: Community Engagement.** Staffed by Alice Waldauer of Friends of the Ravines, Ms. Waldauer highlighted the North Bank Stabilization Project, which was funded by the first conservation grant award from The Columbus Foundation in 2001. Participants were amazed to learn that the once denuded shale slopes were restored to the lushness that exists today through soil capture and native plantings.
- **Station Two: Forest Community.** Staffed by Dr. Michael Graziano, Graziano demonstrated how the biodiversity and presence of habitat in the soil, understory, and canopy of the urban forest maintain hundreds of mammal, bird, insect, reptile, as well as plant species in an urban landscape. He pointed out how several native plants, such as the black oak once common and now thought to be rare in Franklin County, are still present in the Glen Echo Park/Ravine environment.



- **Station Three: Birds of Glen Echo.** Staffed by John Finn, Mr Finn talked about the many bird species, both resident and migratory, which call Glen Echo Park home. John leads enthusiasts through the Park on most Saturday mornings to identify birds, and he maintains a list on his blog to document all sightings. On one Saturday morning in May of this year, the Glen Echo Bird Club identified 46 different species in two hours.
- **Station Four: Vernal Pool.** Staffed by Maureen Lorenz from Friends of the Ravines, Ms. Lorenz enumerated the various collaborative entities who were involved in the construction of the vernal pool project. It was directed by Dr. Michael Graziano and was funded through grant awards from the Little Garden Club of Columbus and the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. The vernal pool provides habitat for amphibian species that should and could be breeding in the ravine. It was originally planted with native plants which would also thrive in backyard gardens. The pool is still establishing itself: currently green frogs and salamanders are breeding in the pool. With time, other amphibians should breed in the pool. As with any urban landscape, one of the challenges is disruption of the pool from traffic through the pond.

The events and discussion of the morning in June 2017 demonstrate that humans and nature are inextricably inter-tangled. Dr. Krygier summed up the events and information shared with this statement:

*When we begin to integrate our social and ecological processes, we will achieve a more sustainable and healthy environment.*



*Can you find the chipmunk in the tree?*



# Lucky's Pollinator Garden

by Martha Harter Buckalew

Lucky's Pollinator Garden was born on a warm, sunny day in May when 120 specimens of Showy coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *speciosa*) were planted along the north Right-of-Way of Cliffside Drive covering a distance of 110 feet in front of an historic stone wall. The Lucky's Pollinator Garden was made possible, in part, by a \$2000 award to Friends of the Ravines from Lucky's Grocery Bags for Change Program.

The project had met many obstacles. Because the narrow plot was in the city Right-of-Way, plantings could not exceed a specified height, they needed to be happy in both sunlight and shade, and they needed to be drought resistant, native, perineal, as well as non-invasive. *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *Specios*, aka 'Viette's Little Suzy' or Black-eyed Susan, met all of the criteria.

Just three months after installation, their yellow pollinator-friendly blossoms appeared, stretching out above cheery, paddle shaped leaves. A North American native, the Little Suzys attract butterflies, bees, and other pollinators; their dry black, button-like seedheads, if left uncut, provide winter interest and seed for birds. The location on the south crest of Glen Echo Ravine was chosen because of its urban character, ravine-sensitive residents, and nearby boulevards dotted with numerous other pollinator-friendly plantings.



*Rudbeckia in Bloom*

Photo by Sherrill Massey

Between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on the earth need pollinators. They provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1200 crops. That means that one out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators. In addition to the food



Permission granted by USPS

that we eat, pollinators support healthy ecosystems that clean the air, stabilize soils, protect from severe weather, and support other wildlife. The Lucky's Pollinator Garden will add an important ecological function to Columbus's urban environment.

Friends of the Ravines worked with students at The Ohio State University in the Horticulture and Crop Science class of Sustainable Landscape Design to select a species with a maximum height of 30 inches, and a plant that could tolerate roadside conditions, was attractive, as well as commercially available. After numerous considerations, *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *Specios* was selected.

On January 9, 2017, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department sent a proposal to the City of Columbus Department of Public Service requesting permission to plant pollinator-friendly native plants in the Right-of-Way of Cliffside Drive adjacent to Glen Echo Park. Permission was granted. Local plant material was purchased from *Natives in Harmony* run by Gale E. Martin.

The "Susans" were planted in May of 2017 by volunteers from the neighborhood, Glen Echo Neighbors Civic Association, and Friends of the Ravines who worked under the supervision of a registered landscape architect and retired park worker.

Friends of the Ravines thanks all who participated in this project and gives special thanks to Lucky's Market for its commitment to improving the environment by helping Friends of the Ravines fulfill its mission to foster the protection and restoration of ravine areas in Franklin County through community education and conservation.



## Dragonfly Siting a Rare Event

The cover photo on the last issue of *Ravinia* caught the attention of the State Coordinator of the Ohio Dragonfly Survey, MaLisa Spring. According to her database, the last Great Spreadwing recorded in Franklin County was in 1989. She posted a message on FOR's Facebook urging us to record the Great Spreadwing sighting into iNaturalist. The year 2016 was the first late-summer BioBlitz held in Glen Echo Ravine, and it was a good one. The "Spreadwing" was but one of the 440 species identified during the 12-hour event.



*Great Spreadwing*

*Photo by Michael Graziano*

## A Close Encounter with Wildlife

*By Sherrill Massey*

There's a little wetland area on The Ohio State University West Campus called Carmack Woods. It is relatively unknown. When someone recently suggested that the area be filled in and redeveloped as a parking lot, a number of people objected. Fortunately, the parking lot plan has been rejected. Read on.

The National Wetlands Inventory indicates the Carmack Woods wetlands is .33 acres and has a freshwater pond. A number of students use this convenient on-campus "lab" for studying aquatic life, plants, wildlife, bird sounds, and other aspects of the wild ecosystem. Not many campuses have this unique option so handy, and the location is also on the campus bus line making it convenient for anyone. (Frequenters include those from the Department of Natural Resources, the Museum of Biological Diversity Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, and Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology.)

Storm water flows into the wetland from the cornfield west of Carmack Woods. Cyclists can reach it by a bike path from North Star. I was in the area recently and spotted several walkers on the bike path watching a snapping turtle as it was headed to the road. They were concerned that a car might hit it. They tried to prod it with a stick but the turtle was clearly agitated and snapped at the stick. Likely it weighed 10 pounds or more. I drove over to the police station nearby and reported it. Eventually several female students came with a shovel in a student safety vehicle. The shovel would not work and the snaps were pretty intimidating, so they called for back-up.

Eventually a police vehicle came with one male in uniform and the other in plain clothes. (This is beginning to sound like

a detective story.) The fellow in the plain clothes wearing a red shirt approached the turtle, and I was amazed how it jumped at the fellow for a snapping opportunity. I had my doubts as to whether or not he knew what he was doing. I remember those "bovine" adventures in 2010 when escaped cows from the OSU Veterinary Clinic were corralled by OSU Campus Police on the Herrick soccer field while a "Lantern" reporter photographed them. I believe the Vet School offered better technical advice on cow wrangling after the escapade was fully covered in the Lantern.

Perhaps the police have animal wranglers on call now, and, if so, it's a good thing. The plain-clothes-red-shirt fellow approached the turtle from behind and firmly stepped on it to stop the turtle from quick moves. and he reached down, grabbed it by the tail, and pulled it up from the road. After allowing a few photographs from curious folks, he walked over to Carmack Woods and put it down in the more natural habitat. I was impressed that he knew exactly what to do. Great police work. I think the OSU Police noted it on their website.

I believe it would have been a travesty to allow this wetland and convenient woodland lab to be demolished and become additional parking. I am glad that we can be more creative and ecologically minded than that!

**Note:** Carmack Woods, located on west campus. lies within the boundaries of Kinnear Road, North Star Road, Lane Avenue, and Kenny Rd.

For more information go to <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>

# Don't Fence Me In

*Photo & article by Alice Waldhauer*

Central Ohio is graced with numerous ravines that carry, or once carried, small creeks which feed into our larger waterways. As our cities grow, many ravines in the central city are filled in, with their associated streams still flowing through underground pipes.

You may know that ravines have played a part in the development of modern sewer systems: the natural flow of gravity in ravines duplicates the orderly operation of sanitary sewers. Many of the sewer lines constructed in ravines decades ago are still in place, silently doing their job.

In more recent times, fewer ravines are being filled in, but their steep slopes present a safety concern. Fences are often installed to prevent drivers from careening into a deep ravine, to deter pedestrians from wandering along steep slopes, or to halt urban explorers from trespassing on private property.

One problem with fencing off ravines is that once people are discouraged from visiting or enjoying a vista, the location can become neglected. Litter can accumulate and invasive plants establish residence. Before long, ravines can become unsightly, posing a challenge for land owners to clean up. In the short run, fences take care of the problem by making the ravine “out of sight, out of mind.” But the long-term problem remains hidden behind the barrier. The ravine becomes a hidden gem, slowly tarnishing from neglect.

After time, a ravine slope can become a litter-strewn hillside, home to an invasive plant monoculture. Removal of this monoculture presents a new problem. If a big patch of honeysuckle is removed from a steep ravine slope, a bare earth remains, and this patch is particularly susceptible to erosion. Accelerated erosion can be a problem for any nearby stream, because extra dirt washing into waterways smothers aquatic life and causes the stream to run brown. This is why when smaller tributaries feed eroded dirt and litter into larger waterways such as the Olentangy, the river water turns brown after a heavy rain. Now a problem created along small tributary stream creates a big problem for the entire downstream watershed.

In ravines, to avoid exposing a large area of bare earth, invasive plants are removed in phases, and new vegetation is planted as soon as possible. Developed root systems stabilize ravine slopes, and the introduction of native plants helps boost the diversity of plant life in the ecosystem.

In the case of the Glen Echo Ravine/Park, in the late 1990s the steep slopes were in such bad shape that specialized erosion control techniques had to

be employed. Large logs were placed in horizontal bands and firmly anchored with steel pins. Top soil was back-filled between the logs before native vegetation was planted. The resulting network of root systems held the soil in place and slowed the flow of rain water down the slope. This slope restoration is a long-term project that began in 2001 and slope restoration continues to this day. With the help of numerous volunteers, the slopes in Glen Echo have been transformed from earthen sliding boards to lush areas populated with native trees, shrubs, and ferns. Much of the Glen Echo slope restoration has been funded by grants from The Columbus Foundation and The United Way/Columbus Foundation Neighborhood Partnership Fund.

Good fences do make good neighbors. But fences that encourage ravine areas to become neglected send us down a path—a slippery slope—toward costly and long-term ravine restoration.



# Partners in Nature Grant to Highlight Area Ravines

Alice Waldhauer

We won the grant! The National Environmental Education Fund will support three events in 2018 for our Partners in Nature programming which includes outstanding opportunities for nature lovers, tree huggers, and environmentalists.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - A WINTER STEWARDSHIP EVENT** will be held in Glen Echo Park on January 15, 2018. Participants will learn to harvest willow from existing stream-side plantings for use in a new erosion-control project at Rush Run Park. Volunteers can also help with other maintenance tasks which are best completed when plants are in their winter dormancy.

**FOR's 16TH ANNUAL SPRING PLANT WALK** will be on April 8, 2018 at Scioto Grove Metro Park. This is a fabulous opportunity to explore this exciting new metro park and learn about fascinating spring ephemerals from an expert Park Naturalist. Meet at the Arrowhead picnic area by the playground at 2 p.m. This is a rain or shine event. Wear comfortable shoes. Refreshments and conversation will follow the walk.

**WATER SENTINEL TRAINING FOR RAVINE ROVERS** will train participants to measure basic water-quality parameters in streams using hand-held meters. Participants can choose a

location and collect measurements for reporting under existing Sierra Club Water Sentinels guidelines. Participants can also learn how to install and monitor a trail camera to remotely observe wildlife in area ravines.

To register or to help plan and execute any of these great events, please check our website or Facebook page for more information. Thanks to our partners at Columbus Recreation and Parks, Metro Parks and, Sierra Club for their assistance in helping us advocate for healthy ravines in Franklin County. Whether you seek recreation, education or stewardship opportunities, we hope to see you there!

These events are made possible, in part, by funding from the National Environmental Education Fund and its National Sponsor, Toyota.



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate any special instructions for listing of your name in the Roster of supporting members. \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category** *Make Check Payable to Friends of the Ravines.*

Friend: \$15     
  Sponsor: \$35     
  Sustainer: \$50  
 Contributor: \$25     
  Household: \$40     
  Patron: \$100     
  Corporate (Over \$100) \_\_\_\_\_

I want to volunteer to help Friends of the Ravines carry out its mission to protect ravine areas and educate the public. I can help by:

Distributing *Ravinia*                     
  Writing Articles for *Ravinia*                     
  Preparing Mailings  
 Assisting with the Website                     
  Giving Computer Advice                     
  Helping with Ravine Cleanups  
 Planning Events                     
  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  
 friendsoftheravines@gmail.com

## Supporting Members:

(March 26, 2017 – September 30, 2017)

Sarah Anderson	Franklin Martens
Anonymous	John & Carla Mathews
Julie Boyland	Joe Motil
Dale Brubeck	Michael Peppe
Marian Clover	Richard & Janet Pfeiffer
Jack Cooley	Edda Schurter
Philip & Barbara Courtad	Anne Stopper
Patricia Eiben	Roger & Connie Warren
Joyce Fasone	Worthinglen Condo Assn.
Charles L. Fuller	Robert W. Wing
Stuart Klapp	Kathy & Tom Young
Susan Logan	

## Thank You:

### Traffic Cones for Lucky's Pollinator Planting

EuroClassics

### Financial Support

National Environmental Education Fund  
Sponsored by Toyota

### Ravinia Design & Production

AJaX Designs  
Kenwel Printers

## KNOW YOUR STREAM!

Please call **614-645-STREAM (7873)** to report pollution in our rivers and streams or to report anything other than rain entering a storm drain.  
**Columbus.gov/stormwater**



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](mailto:friendsoftheravines@gmail.com) and let us know.

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

Ravinia  
P.O. Box 82021  
Columbus, Ohio 43202



*Ravinia* is the official publication of Friends of the Ravines.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Martha Harter Buckalew	Cindy Decker
Maureen Lorenz	Sherrill Massey
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  
Cindy Decker  
Maureen Lorenz  
Sherrill Massey  
Carrie Morrow  
Alice Waldhauer

Website: [www.friendsoftheravines.org](http://www.friendsoftheravines.org)  
e-mail: [friendsoftheravines@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheravines@gmail.com)

 Find us on Facebook



100% recycled paper, 20% post-consumer waste