



## **"Occasional" Newsletter ☺**

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From the office of Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District  
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### **A Little Catching Up to Do**

Some of you might be thinking lately that I've fallen into the abyss of conservation work...and you're right! Wow. So much has been going on since we met last November. Being on ad hoc committees for several annual projects, we've been planning for the Stillwater River Cleanup (June 10<sup>th</sup>) as well as the Great Miami Cleanup (July 22-23). I'm also hosting Chairperson for the Area IV Envirothon, a very large event involving field-testing in natural resources knowledge and skills for some 120 high school teams from southwest Ohio.

And of course, the proverbial annual events are fast approaching: conservation poster contest, Soil and Water Stewardship week, Dayton Children's Water Festival, Honey Creek Watershed Festival, Earth Day weekend events. Speaking of which, the weekend of April 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> is booked full for me, and I'm unable to lead a group to do the (west side / Wolf Creek corridor) cleanup being organized by Five Rivers Metroparks. If anyone wants to lead groups to one or two spots for trash pick up on Saturday morning April 22<sup>nd</sup>, call Graham Cochran at Adventure Central, 268-1037.

Finally, thought you'd all be interested to know the latest about the Wolf Creek Watershed Partnership. The Army Corps of Engineers has slated \$65,000 matching funds (50/50) and we've written an \$80,000 proposal to U.S. EPA to fund a watershed study to characterize the runoff patterns in the watershed. It would be enough money to study a small portion of the watershed. The information would be useful to city planners and developers, as we seek inroads to promote low impact development to

protect water quality. The information would also be the basis to seek Congressional funding for a larger study. Many of you are coming here to the Partnership meeting next week (Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 pm), and I'm really glad the Stream Team will have a strong representation. It's critical to demonstrate to the local governments (in the watershed), whose representatives will be there, that their constituency is informed and interested in land use practices that affect Wolf Creek. After two years of dedication and stream monitoring, here is our chance to use our "political capital" toward the larger purpose.

### **Help is on the Way!\***

\*Well, I am an incurable optimist of course, but a proposal is in the works to hire a summer intern to help with Stream Team Coordination activities. It would provide \$450 per week to a college student for 12 weeks. We hope to hear something this month about the status of the proposal. I actually already have someone in mind, who has helped some already. Her name is Felicia Schirack, a student at Sinclair College, studying environmental engineering. Some of the duties I expect to delegate include stream data entry, kit maintenance, web site updates, press releases, research and other administrative tasks. Keep your fingers crossed!

### **Watershed Action to Watershed Awareness Grant Awarded**

Affectionately known as WAWA (not that we're complaining), your local Soil and Water Conservation District has been awarded \$460.21 from the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the same amount in matching funds from the Cities of Clayton and Trotwood. These monies are slated for two purposes: re-supply all the reagents for our stream kits for the season, and purchase 18 pairs of waders (chest & hip types) in various sizes. Another potential use for the waders includes a cooperative effort with some UD students to continue mapping of Wolf Creek stormwater outfalls, which we began last October. They are slated to present their findings from that fieldwork on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lets Meet in April**

Please contact me to indicate if you would be available on either Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. Even though it's later than in previous years, I'm sure we could still get some data gathered next month. Bring a planner and a friend! I assume you'll want to stick with teammates from before...We'll also have some guests from EPA and possibly Division of Wildlife. Other projects (watershed signs, storm drain markers, etc.) will have to be accomplished via correspondence. Hope to see you all soon- please RSVP with your available dates!

Until Next Time – Be Well, Do Good Work, and Keep in Touch  
Caroline (a.k.a. Fearless Motivator)