



# RAVINIA

*An Advocate for Community Resources*

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## Slate Run and The Columbus Fishing Club: A Niche in the Landscape at River's Edge

*by Sherrill Massey*

The city of Upper Arlington lies between the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers in Franklin County. The elevation ranges from about 750 feet near the Scioto River below Griggs Dam to a high of over 890 feet in the northern part of the city in the vicinity of Reed and Henderson Roads.

The bedrock that lies beneath the Upper Arlington area is sedimentary rock of Devonian age, deposited in shallow seas that covered part of North America 350 million years ago. The rocks consist of four different limestone and shale formations that dip gently toward the east and all of which outcrop within the city. The oldest of these formations, the Columbus Limestone, is a gray to buff-colored fossiliferous limestone that has been quarried extensively at Marble Cliff and elsewhere along the Scioto River. This is overlain by the thirty-five-foot-thick, shaly, bluish-brown Delaware Limestone. An excellent exposure of the Delaware limestone may be seen along the Dublin Pike on the east side of the river just beyond the Fishinger bridge, and the entire formation outcrops along Slate Run and passes through the grounds of the Columbus Fishing Club.

A new Columbus Park was featured recently in *The Columbus Dispatch* (8/16/18) where the Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks bought 58 acres of an Ohio State University sheep farm. The farm is south of the OSU Don Scott Airport on Case Road. The eastern edge of the park encompasses Slate Run, a stream that appears to come from near the airport's southernmost runway. Slate Run heads south and crosses Case, Bethel, and Henderson Roads, where it begins to meander south and westerly to the Scioto River into a pond on the eastern side of Riverside Drive.



*Slate Run*

*Courtesy of Sherrill Massey*

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Languid days of summer usually present an opportunity for nature enthusiasts to slow down and enjoy local ravines, but this year there seems to be plenty of activity on issues that could impact area ravines. Some projects are small, like the ongoing infill development with new homes being built on Springs Drive and Walhalla Road, but others are larger with bigger footprints that will be felt by everyone in the community.

This year, residents of the Indian Hollow neighborhood just north of Bill Moose Ravine have been organizing in opposition to last year's proposal to build a Y facility (formerly YMCA) on state land at the Ohio School for the Deaf and Blind (OSDB). The proposal was publicized in a public meeting late last year, and the plan was supported by the OSDB as a way to gain a second natatorium for use by their students. The next step was for the Y to complete a marketing study to gauge the feasibility of the plan, but as of yet no plan has emerged. The area immediately surrounding a portion of Bill Moose Ravine near Indianola Avenue is protected by a conservation easement, so any Y facility, if built, would be located near Indianola Avenue just south of the Indian Hollow subdivision and north of Bill Moose Ravine.

Further downstream along Bill Moose Ravine, an apartment building is proposed at Graceland shopping center. This apartment project, Graceland Flats, has been contemplated for some time, but this time it looks like the plan may come to fruition. Clintonville Area Commission (CAC) and the Delawanda community met with representatives of the Casto apartment project, and heard that financing is expected to go through soon. The apartment would be built at the eastern end of the shopping center, west of the Kroger grocery and south of the fitness center. Libby Wetherholt of the CAC reports that the apartment project is being financed in conjunction with Homeport, and that there is a goal to reserve 50% of the apartments for "workforce housing." Homeport is a non-profit organization with a mission to develop affordable housing.

A different proposal is under consideration for an existing commercial building adjacent to Glen Echo Ravine. The University Area Commission (UAC) is discussing a case to renovate a building at 2701 Indianola Avenue into a grab-and-go bakery with a restaurant and a patio. The application is being heard by the UAC because the applicant is asking for several variances including the number of required parking spaces

(reduced from 35 to six spaces) and landscaping requirements. The site, on the south rim of the ravine, was once a gas station and has been idle for some time.

An online forum for residents of Walhalla Ravine has been busy with conversation about two people that feed deer in the ravine by dropping off food items in peoples' yards. The same couple has been observed feeding the growing herds in private yards on Overbrook Ravine and in Clinton-Como and Whetstone Parks over the last several years. They must be lovers of nature, but they may not realize that feeding wildlife can have unintended consequences. Any leftover food items can attract vermin, and setting up informal feeding stations can make deer accustomed to being close to humans and other animals. Groups of deer in close contact can also serve as a disease vector, so if one deer is ill, it could infect other members of the herd. While some enjoy seeing these magnificent creatures in area ravines, others may see them as a threat to their hostas and dogwoods.

Lest you think that local ravines are turning into a construction zone like the Short North or Campus neighborhoods, there is some positive news for environmentalists. This fall, volunteers at Iuka Ravine will seed areas of the park with native plants where invasive plants were removed. In our continuing partnership, new classes of Indianola K8 science students will learn to use water-quality meters to monitor streams near their school. Residents of Wesley Glen Retirement Community contacted us to ask for guidance in evaluating their ravine landscape along Bill Moose Ravine to see how they might make changes to improve that portion of our ecosystem. And environmental groups are gearing up for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day to be honored and celebrated in April 2020.

Hopefully, any development projects that do come to fruition will work to use nearby ravines as assets. There are plenty of urban dwellers that express their need for nature, so it is hoped that this desire is considered in plans to renew any facilities within our City. A balance of the built environment with the natural world would help make our neighborhoods thrive. Autumn and winter are wonderful seasons to enjoy the natural splendor of area ravines.

I hope to see you in one of our local ravines sometime soon.

Alice Waldhauer

## FOR Board Has A New Meeting Place!

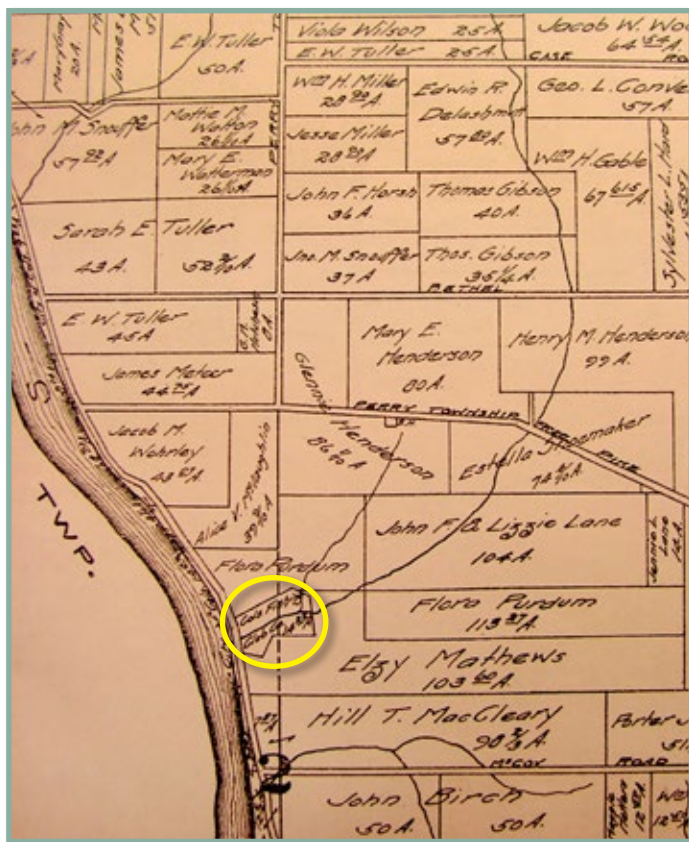
Beginning January of 2020 Friends of the Ravines' Board of Trustees meeting space will be at 3230 N. High Street in the Clintonville Beechwood Community Resources Center Annex on the 4th Wednesday of every month except November and December.

The annex is the storefront adjacent to the CRC parking lot. All meetings are open to the public. If you would like to attend, please come. If you want to be on the agenda, call Martha Harter Buckalew at 614-267-6293 prior to the meeting.



This pond area was the Columbus Fishing Club site. Frequently herons and egrets are spotted in the pond so you know there are likely fish. There is a pullover on the western edge of Route 33 there where you can fish the Scioto.

When I spotted the Columbus Fishing Club on a 1910 Perry Township map I was curious about that Fishing Club and the location where Slate Run enters into the Scioto. The earliest map dated 1895 shows the Columbus Fishing Club with 14.25 acres. George W. Matthews owned the pond and had excavated the seven-acre spring-fed pond, still extant north of Lane Road but reduced to half of its original size, and leased another seven acres of his land to nine families from Columbus who built summer homes around the lake, which still connects with the river and extends east of Riverside Drive.



1910 Perry Township Map showing Columbus Fishing Club Property  
Source: Franklin County Engineers

In the Upper Arlington Library's digital archives, you can find the *Norwester* magazine published monthly from November 1917 through March 1922, which chronicles early suburban life in the Upper Arlington, Grandview Heights, and Marble Cliff areas. The magazine has photos and descriptions of an Upper Arlington Fishing Club at various outings. For a time, I thought this was the same group as the Columbus Fishing Club with a name change but they are not one in the same. The UA Fishing Club moved about to various locations for their outings whereas the Columbus Fishing Club stayed at Slate Run.



Slate Run at West Case Road

*Courtesy of Sherrill Massey*

Records Analyst Teel Slike at the Franklin County Engineer's office states that in their large collection of county maps, it's fairly common for some runs and streams to appear on some tax maps and not on others. It appears there was no real standard about this. He states that the early (1940s) a drainage map of the Bethel Road section of Slate Run actually turns into Gibson Ditch and it could be a tiled ditch most likely done in the early 1940s when they were expanding and upgrading the OSU airfield area for WW2 military flight training.

In 1889 John J. Chester and nineteen other men paid \$100 each to incorporate Columbus Fishing Club Company (CCFC). The CCFC agreed to improve the land in the following conditions and manner: 1) Enclose the entire area with a fence within one year. 2) Grade or make a road along the entire north side within one year. 3) Together with Matthews erect a pond suitable for substantial fishing and boating by putting up a "breastwork" (temporary dam) suitable for propagating and growing fish. CFCC was to stock the pond, equip and keep boats there. 4) Build a clubhouse and cottages, and other buildings, plant shade trees, grape vines and shrubbery. 5) Pay all taxes. 6) Not permitted to barter or sell liquor on the premises. 7) No fishing permitted on Sundays. The lease was signed by George W. and Nancy Matthews and John Joyce, President of CFCC.

Mike Joyce, who owned one of the larger cottages, had a fish market at the North Market. On the death of Joyce, John Chester, Sr., purchased the cottage as well as other adjacent parcels when they became available. The status of the 14.22 acres on the Scioto Turnpike changed in 1915 when Nancy Matthews and her children (heirs of the late George W. Matthews) sold the property to the Columbus Fishing Club Company for \$1,500 following the expiration of the 25 year lease.



The current property owner is John Chester IV, an attorney, who comes from a lineage of the Chester family in the legal profession. The legal description of the property at Slate Run is Chester Family Residences Subdivision. Some historic papers include the articles of incorporation for the fishing club as of 1888.

In 1901 the following rules were adopted by the club: 1) No fishing allowed except with Rod and Line and no bait allowed except live bait or artificial fly. 2) No one person allowed to take in any one day over twelve Bass (this includes all species) and twelve Sunfish. 3) All Bass under eight inches to be returned to lake unless it is impossible to remove hook without fatal injury. 4) No one shall be allowed to fish in the Lake unless accompanied by a member of the Club. 5) No member is allowed to extend the privileges of Fishing to more than six friends in any one month. 6) No Fishing allowed during the month of May by any one.



*River Ridge Riding Club*

*Courtesy of John Chester Jr. IV*

A 1953 Franklin County map prepared by the Ohio State Highway Department shows Slate Run pond surrounded by seven “cottages” from the Fishing Club and on Henderson Road, a horseshoe symbol near Slate Run indicating the Riding Club’s area.

John J. Chester Sr. and others formed the River Ridge Riding and Polo Club in 1930 which leased the Lane farm on Henderson Road, a flat area perfect for Polo and the nearby wooded ravine with trails around Slate Run. Upper Arlington city limits grew to encompass this area and the riding club moved to Delaware County. Before their move there were two horseshoe-shaped stone picnic tables built. Today the River Ridge Riding and Polo Club are memories, but the stone picnic tables still stand and Slate Run flows on.



*1953 Franklin County Map*

*Columbus Metro Library*



*1929 John Chester Jr. III*

*Courtesy of John Chester Jr. IV*



*Three Generations of John Chesters*

*Courtesy of John Chester Jr.*

The turn of the century saw a lot of changes in the landscape: the transition from horse ridden and drawn transportation to motorized vehicles. Many rail lines and inter-urban connections appeared. Properties changed from farm land to subdivisions.

Rivers were dammed for reservoirs and recreation. Cities grew in population. Suburbs were formed.

Over a century ago George Matthews dug out the Slate Run pond. As time passes, nature eventually has its way and the pond slowly fills back up with silt from upstream. The pond may eventually be lost to the sands of time, first becoming a wetland and then a forest. Construction upstream will accelerate the process, especially if stormwater management procedures are not stringently followed.

### **Sources:**

*Ancestors and Descendants of John Jonas Chester of Newark and Columbus, Ohio.* Joy Wade Moulton, 2003.

*Norwester* magazine, Upper Arlington Library

*History of Upper Arlington (1988)*, excerpt from "Geology of Upper Arlington" by Russell O. Utgard

Special thanks to: John Chester, Jr., Alice Waldhauer, and Teel Slike

## **REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S BOOK *LEAF MAN***

**BY PATRICIA J. MIRANDA AND CHRIS O'LEARY**

**Albert Whitman and Company, 2019**

*By Christine Hayes*

The Leaf Man, the mini-Green Man, with his little acorn-cupped, leaf-fringed head, reflects the young Boy's wonder and admiration for Nature.

Patricia J. Miranda, a poet published in *Hyphen*, *Frontier Poetry*, and *Yellow Chair Review*, among other literary journals, teaches high school English. Chris O'Leary creates art for book covers, national magazines, and picture books. They live with their two daughters and two Scottish Terriers in Columbus, Ohio, near Glen Echo Park that Chris helped restore to its natural state.

What could be sadder than a clear-cut forest? These two have started the book with this image.

What could be more painful than the realization that living beings' feelings are daily crushed under the heel of those who could care less? Where can a child turn when this realization sinks in?

A big black crow sits on a stump glaring in triumph, though some mushrooms are having a growth spurt.

The Boy has a bridge (a fallen log) and a resource (a basket for forest gatherings.) Like a modern-day Geppetto, the Boy makes

his Pinocchio, a little Leaf Man. The Boy builds a lean-to fort in the clear-cut forest. He adorns it with a found-natural-art mobile. The sun is beating down but the Leaf Man sits in the shelter in the shade.

The two companions sit and read. They test ideas in the wind and rain. Ominous big boys hover over the Boy turning the Leaf man into a kite. By the next page the big boys are gone, and we're in a world of big trees again. Oops! The Leaf Man has disappeared!

He's back in a dream... and materials reappear in the basket. Pajama-clad boy is out on a limb dreaming.

Then the Boy is back in the clear-cut forest, this time with real tools and potted trees; through the seasons, through time, hopeful birds watching the process, the Leaf Man reappears. A new forest grows.

Yes, men with chain saws know how to turn a forest into a bundle of money. The children of the world, with a little help from books, hard work, and inspiration, can turn the tide and restore our natural environment.



# I got those circadian rhythm blues

(turn on the night, please)

by Maureen Lorenz

When I first started working for the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, I was given a project to put security lights into Glen Echo Park. I've always loved ravines but Glen Echo little resembled one back then. The slopes were denuded and eroding, the stream could look foul more often than not, choked to flow through a shoot of gabions. Someone felt that lighting the park would make it more secure and they could walk safely there in the late hours with lighting. Glen Echo Park was also the victim of frequent vandalism and lighting would be the remedy.

Actually it was far from it. The security lighting now attracted rowdies with light to party by into the wee hours. The noise and vandalism increased. The solution became the issue and the lights were turned off. As demonstrated over and over in the park system, the real solution, as it turns out, was and still is neighbors caring about the park, showing an interest, and getting involved.

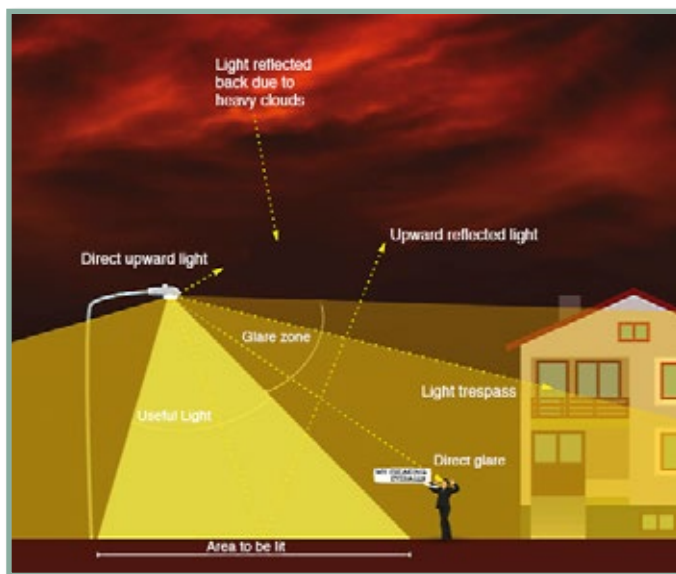
Artificial lighting has revolutionized our use of the day by extending it. We use so much lighting that it is now hard to find the night. Today, the Milky Way cannot be seen by approximately 80% of the earth's population because of artificial lighting. Lights have stolen the night.

To understand the vastness of the problem, consider this:

- In an average year in the U.S., outdoor lighting uses some 120 terawatt-hours of energy, mostly to illuminate streets and parking lots.
- That's enough energy to meet New York City's total electricity needs for 2 years.
- Unfortunately, up to 50 percent of that light is wasted. That adds up to \$3.3 billion and the release of 21 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year!
- To offset all that CO<sub>2</sub>, we'd have to plant 875 million trees annually.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) defines light pollution as the "inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light." Light pollution has various types such as:

- **Glare**—excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort
- **Skyglow**—brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas
- **Light trespass**—light falling where it is not intended or needed
- **Clutter**—bright, confusing and excessive groupings of light sources



Plants and animals – including humans– have biochemical rhythms that respond to light levels. Everything evolved this way. Is it any wonder that artificial lighting is upsetting this balance? And what isn't a wonder any more is the night sky.

Light pollution is increasing at a rate by 2% per year practically unabated. Leading the way is Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). Designed to operate on low voltage and thought to be a remedy for waste and energy consumption LEDs actually are contributing to light pollution and carry one very bad component. The LEDs retrofitted into streetlights and lighting in general emit **blue light**. This blue light further contributes to sky glow as it bounces around in the atmosphere, and it also affects animals dramatically and negatively. While all lighting at night has consequences, blue light exacerbates these negative impacts.

What are the consequences of artificial lighting for humans? “Nighttime physiology depends on dark. It does not depend on sleep,” says Richard Stevens an epidemiologist at the University of Connecticut who for decades now has studied links between light pollution and human health. “What we need is a longer period of physiological nighttime.”

It all starts with the stimulation of the retina triggering signals that reach a knot of neurons that regulates the gland that produces melatonin. Normal levels of melatonin begin rising at sundown and peaks near midnight. It’s what gives us a good nights sleep. During this time, our body temperature is lowered, metabolism is slowed, and leptin is increased. Leptin is a hormone that suppresses appetite. Suppressed appetite at night had evolutionary advantages. Not foraging at night reduced the chances of being foraged.

Bright bathroom lights, computer screens, cell phones, lights shining in windows, all this interferes with our circadian rhythms. Our natural sleep aid, melatonin, is disrupted and there are consequences. Based on a number of studies, low melatonin levels and circadian disruption is thought to play a role in heart disease, diabetes, depression, and cancer.

But it’s not only humans that feel the affect of artificial lighting. Sea turtles use moonlight on the tops of waves as a guide to the ocean after hatching. Of the sea turtles that nest in the US, 90% are along the Florida coastline. The odds of making it to adulthood are naturally about 1 in 10,000. Yet, every year sea turtle are disoriented by artificial lights along the coast and end up dead. The turtles go towards the artificial light and end up on roads and parking lots. Nest #49 in Jacksonville was the most recent disaster this August.

Thanks to groups like Sea Turtle Conservancy and money allocated from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, lights along the coast in Florida are being retrofitted to more turtle-friendly, warm, amber glow lights and to be energy efficient. These lights do not attract the sea turtles. The program is in its 10th year and having an impact along with turtle-friendly light ordinances. The disorienting rate for hatchlings in front of every retrofitted property is zero.

These sensible practices and laws that are saving turtles can have positive response for humans and other wildlife. The plan is to change lights from the typical 25 ft. poles to 10 ft. poles and most importantly, shield the light, directing it to the target and not casting light in all directions. Using longer wavelength

LEDs (red spectrum) in outdoor fixtures are better for light sensitive animals.

As reported in an article in National Geographic in July 2019, marine life beyond sea turtles are affected by artificial lighting. Clownfish eggs do not hatch without the night. This means that the skyglow from coastal towns can interfere with the food web. When the eggs don’t hatch, a predator is missing its food source, and this ‘tingles’ all through the food web.

Dr. Mažeika Sullivan, Director of the Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park is conducting research closer to home on the headwater streams of the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers. Dr. Sullivan in an article published by The Ohio State University states, “Night time light is having profound impacts that extend to the entire ecosystem.” Artificial light is a pollutant changing the natural course of life for people, animals, and plants. He also

points out that light pollution is happening everywhere and is unprecedented in Earth’s history.

The research was conducted with the ambient nightlight at streams and manipulated light in the wetlands. Regardless of the location, with a change in the intensity of the nighttime lighting came change to the species composition. The food chain of invertebrate communities shortens with more light. This discovery means that ecosystem stability and nutrient flows shift and create an ecosystem that is less complex as night light increases. Dr. Sullivan theorizes that nighttime lighting might have cascading consequences that are linked to other environmental problems, possibly even Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).



*Van Gogh's painting shows lighting only where needed and the stars are accurately depicted.*





*Bryce Canyon photo by Keith Moore*

Birds are also disoriented by artificial lighting and crash into brightly lit buildings at night. Canada passed bird-friendly lighting laws in the mid 1990's. Toronto, Washington, DC, and New York participate in light out campaigns during peak migration seasons. I hope this is something Columbus will take on to COMPLEMENT the designation as an Important Flyway by the National Audubon Society. Ravines and their mature trees are important rest areas for birds during migration and during nesting. Let's keep OUR ravines LIGHTED with only the moon and stars.

Festivals celebrating the night sky are growing across North America. Jasper in Alberta, Canada has found this as a tourism attraction and is working to retrofit their entire system to support Dark Skies. The National Park Conservation Association recently sent out an email announcing the 26 best Parks to enjoy the stars and planets. <https://www.npca.org/articles/1806-celebrate-dark-skies-at-these-26-national-parks>

MACKINAW City, Michigan boasts of it's Headlands Park and night time programs with a brochure available at most rest stops and hotels. You have to travel to find the stars.

The American Medical Association in 2016 recognizing the growing body of evidence documenting the harmful human health affects of the blue light emitted by LEDs recommended communities change these street lights to minimize that blue light. Flagstaff, Arizona retrofit their street lights to be designated a Dark Sky Community AND Chicago is in the process. These cities FIND that making sure communities have safe lighting means using energy efficient lights without the blue wavelengths, reducing light pollution, and protecting health and wildlife. And they are reclaiming the night

The hallmark of summer, the fireflies and lightning bugs, which are actually beetles, are also affected by artificial light. Their characteristic flashes of light meant to attract a mate cannot compete with floodlights. This is dire for an insect who might have only a day or two to find his mate. And the larvae of these insects are extremely beneficial for our yards and ecosystems helping to eliminate pests. They are voracious predators capable of running down a cockroach! Less night lighting means more lightning bugs.

Assist lightning bugs by following these recommendations about nighttime lighting:

- Only be on when needed. Consider turning off lights during overnight hours
- Only light the area that needs it
- Be no brighter than necessary and be dimmable or on timers
- Minimize blue light emissions
- Be fully shielded (pointing downward) only lighting the intended area.

*For a more defined list of recommendations and more information, go to:*

The International Dark Skies Association (IDA)  
<https://www.darksky.org>

*Reference and more information:*

<https://conserveturtles.org/information-sea-turtles-threats-artificial-lighting/>

<https://improvephotography.com/44953/night-photography-settings/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/04/nights-are-getting-brighter-earth-paying-the-price-light-pollution-dark-skies/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/07/these-fish-eggs-not-hatching-problem-light-pollution/>

<https://www.npca.org/articles/1806-celebrate-dark-skies-at-these-26-national-parks>

"Nightlights for stream dwellers? No, thanks."

Study: Artificial light harms ecosystem health. The Ohio State University. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/eap.1821>

Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration. Kenn Kaufman. Boston. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2019



# Wooded Area Valuable South Hilltop Green Space

By Anna Siriano

On the eastern edge of the South Hilltop about a mile west of Green Lawn Cemetery are 42 acres of wooded land owned by Ric Queen of Nature Reserves, LLC. This generally low-income area of Franklin Township has very little greenspace and no preserved lands.

“There is a clear need for public greenspace in the area,” said Aryeh Alex, Franklin Township Trustee. “This spot has great natural features, beautiful wetlands, and tons of wildlife.”

Queen’s plans for the land, according to an interview in the *Columbus Dispatch*, are to restore the trees and wetlands, build trails, and open it to the public. Queen, with the help of the local Sierra Club chapter, is about two years into this huge undertaking, but not without upsets, not the least of which is Queen’s recent serious car accident.

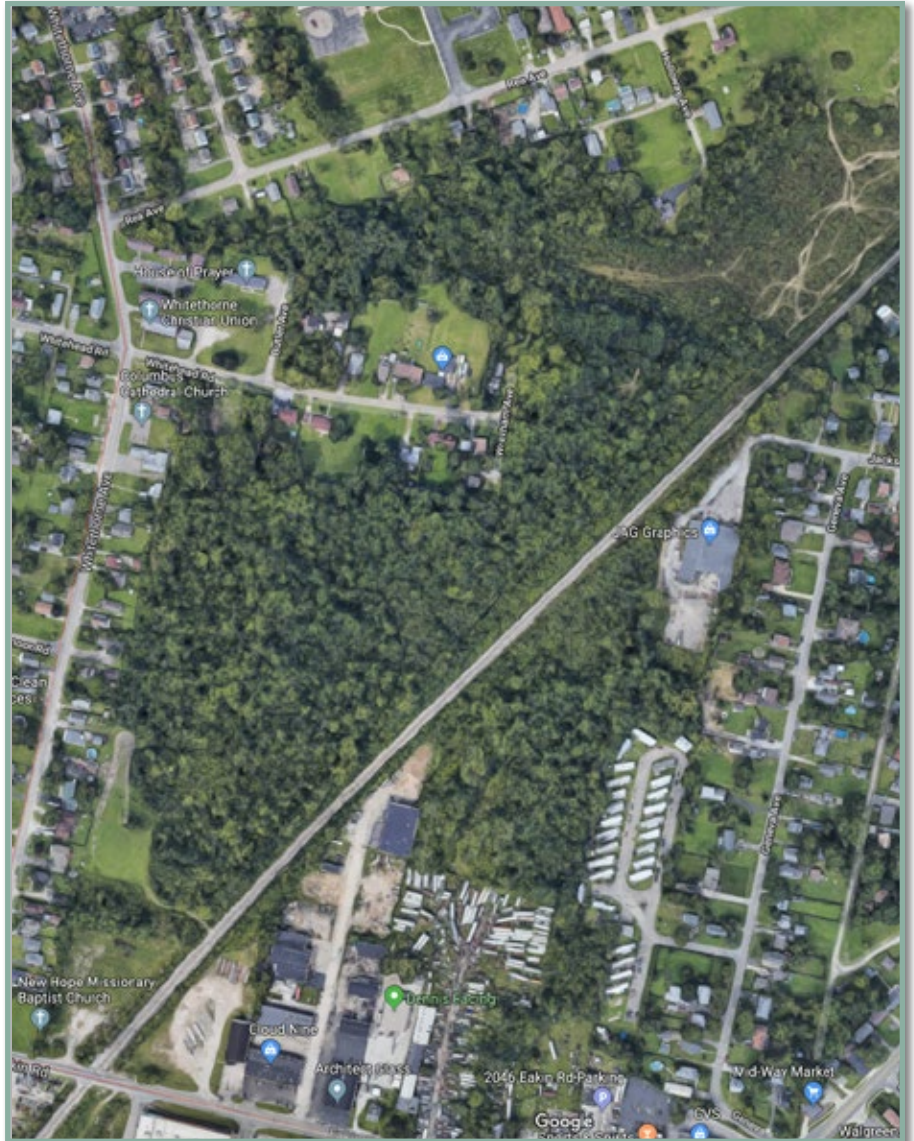
Queen isn’t the only one envisioning a preserve that is open to the public, though.

“Metro Parks is very interested in the land,” said Alex, who is also the president of Friends of Metro Parks. “The township is interested in working with whomever to get this to be a protected land, which would increase property values and improve the quality of life for our residents.”

Within the first few months of purchase, the County Commissioners office, which oversees code enforcement for many of the Franklin County townships, sent Queen his first code violation. The previous owner, David Dobos, had also accumulated code violations because the site is a popular spot for illegal dumping.

“There are big piles of roofing shingles, abandoned cars, and even a hot tub,” says Alice Waldhauer, Chair of Friends of the Ravines. “Right now, there are hundreds and hundreds of, maybe thousands of tires.”

Waldhauer visited the site on cleanups with the Sierra Club during which tons of debris were removed and hundreds of saplings were planted. Unfortunately, the land is also used for motorbikes and ATVs, which destroyed much of the planting.



Google Earth aerial of the South Hilltop Green Space.

According to Franklin Township Administrator Mark Potts, the County Prosecutor sent Queen a court order due to the number of violations, but it was stayed because of the clear efforts being put in by Queen and the Sierra Club. Potts also said that Queen recently signed a “no trespass order,” so that police can arrest trespassers who may be destroying the land.

Despite the issues, this wooded area is full of possibilities. It will take a lot of time and resources to realize the vision for a beautiful oasis in the middle of an otherwise concrete jungle.

# 2019 Earth Day Celebrations

Thanks to the many youngsters and oldsters who toiled to improve Franklin County Ravines to honor Earth Day.

Adena Brook Community (ABC) had planned to concentrate on the ravine/stream parkland but spread its efforts out into the neighborhood including I-71 on and off ramps and the Rain Garden at Overbrook. What a stretch! ABC distributed 163 native plants and 550 tree and shrub saplings while volunteers cut Honeysuckle and gathered litter for a total of 25 hours and 13 bags of litter. ABC has been registered as a non-incorporated conservation group with the Ohio Secretary of State since 2002.

Iuka Ravine had a successful earth day. Student ambassadors from OSU's *Pay It Forward* and *Honor's* programs worked alongside ravine residents. Litter control and invasive removal was the focus of the day. *The Yarn Bomber* paid a tribute to Earth Day by exclaiming "I'm with her" in the YB's own unique presentation. Earth day was one of four ravine work days planned by the Iuka Ravine work team.

Glen Echo had its biggest turnout with over 70 volunteers picking up litter, placing mulch, and clearing the park of invasive species. It was one of the many participating worksites in Green Columbus's annual Earth Day event. Green Columbus is a nonprofit that organizes the largest Earth Day volunteer event in the Country. You can find over 75 worksites in the Columbus area by visiting their website each spring. Thanks to The Great Lakes Brewing Company for being the worksite sponsor and thanks to Abbot labs and the Xenos church for choosing Glen Echo as their worksite.

## THE IRONWOOD

*By Christine Hayes*

The ironwood  
Stands halfway up the path  
On the other side of the ravine.  
Its trunk does feel like iron.

The hackberry's  
Roots rise just where the path forks  
Watch you don't trip over them.

Two blue ash  
Beside the drive  
Have glorious lemon colors.  
They come to brassy gold.

Squirrels carry  
Hickory nuts to the big dogwood,  
There to chew off the hulls.  
I sweep them off the bricks.

Picked a basket of buckeyes.  
The three trees  
In the front thicket  
Have a good crop.

"Hop hornbeam" is the  
Name for the warty,  
Knuckley kind of ironwood.  
This tree is smooth as glass.

The sycamore is down in the stream.  
The honey locust is your bee tree.  
The bees swarmed for ten days,  
Swarmed ten days  
On the crack in the honey locust.

## Friends of the Ravines Annual Plant Walk

Duranceau Park • 3100 Thoburn Road • Columbus, Ohio 43025

Explore this hidden gem of a park, home to snow trillium and many other spring ephemerals. Located on the west side of the Scioto River off of Fishinger Road, Duranceau sits on the edge of a Hilliard suburb, north of Indian Village.

See Friends of the Ravines.org for more details.

*Wear comfortable shoes.  
This is a rain or shine event.*





# Dogs Sniff Out Invasive Plants

By Martha Harter Buckalew

If pigs can sniff out truffles, then dogs can sniff out invasive plants. In Tuxedo, N.Y. a spunky Labrador retriever named Dia is assisting conservationists in the fight against an invasive species.

Dia and her handler from the nonprofit *New York-New Jersey Trail Conference* began last fall to hunt for Scotch Broom, a shrub which displaces native plants with thickets impenetrable to wild life. Scotch broom, a noxious weed widespread in the Pacific Northwest, is new to New York and the hope is to eradicate it before it becomes widespread. On a recent search Dia ferreted out hundreds of Scotch broom shoots hidden in a field of tall grass and sweetfern.

Detection dogs have long been used to sniff out drugs, explosives, cadavers, and disaster survivors. In the mid-90s, handlers started training them for conservation tasks such as sniffing out scat from endangered species and detecting trafficked ivory.

Now the olfactory prowess of detection dogs is becoming an important tool in the fight against invasive plants and insects. *Working Dogs for Conservation* (WDC) works with government agencies, researchers, and nonprofits on five continents to provide trained dogs and handlers for conservation projects.

Where weed pulling teams fail, dogs trained by WDC succeed. A border collie and a golden retriever were employed to tackle the problem of Dyer's woad, a knee-high weed from Russia

that lights up roadsides with golden blossoms across the west. Within a few years, the plants were almost eradicated.

Dogs can sniff out plants hidden among other species, and they don't need flowers to identify them like people do. "That's a game-changer. Each plant can set up to 15,000 seeds a year, and seeds can live seven years in the soil. Dogs find plants before they flower and reproduce," said Pete Coppolillo, executive director for WDC.

In Minnesota WDC is currently studying the feasibility of using detection dogs to identify trees invaded by emerald ash borer. In five Western states, dogs have been employed to detect invasive zebra and quagga mussels on boats.

*Working Dogs for Conservation* trains shelter dogs for detection work screening 1,000 dogs for every one they put to work. To make the cut, the dogs have to be not only good sniffers and high-energy, but also seriously obsessed with toys so they'll stay motivated to work for a reward: the chance to chomp a ball.

"The great thing about dogs is that they're charismatic and people love them," said a New York conservation inter. "It's a great way to draw attention to the invasives issue. Let's face it, plants aren't all that sexy."

*This article was adapted from an inclusion titled "Dogs trained to root out invasive plants" in the Science section of The Columbus Dispatch dated September 1, 2019.*

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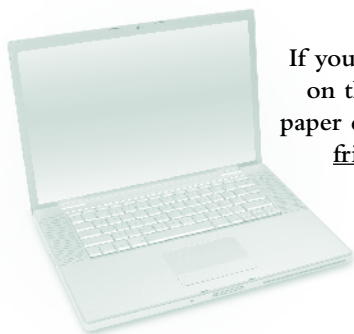
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Friends of the Ravines is an all-volunteer non-profit 501c3 organization whose mission is to foster the protection and restoration of ravine areas in Franklin County through community education and conservation.

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