FRIENDS OF THE RAVINES
•EST. 1996•

RAVINIA

An Advocate for Community Resources

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MARAUDING MOSQUITOES

by Maureen Lorenz

Alaska Road Sign *CNN/CNN Travel*

Quite a few years ago a middle-school science teacher in our neighborhood built a pond in her back yard. She planted native plants in and around the pond, provided shelter, sun and shade, and observed. Dragonflies and toads found their way to the pond. The following Spring, a mama duck came to her yard, built her nest, and laid 11 eggs. We all marveled. She was a fierce little duck and all 11 of her eggs hatched. One afternoon I was in my garden and saw Mama Duck leading 11 little ducklings through the maze of yards and fences onto Edgemont Road. I ran to the little train of ducks to provide an escort. She marched her brood to Miller Park and into the ravine. From there, the ducks boarded the creek and I'm sure road their way to the Scioto River. Mama Duck or ducklings never returned. The pond no longer exists but what a wonder it was.

The pond does not exist because neighbors complained about mosquitos. The science teacher defended her pond, pointed out that it had natural mosquito predators, the water was clean and aerated, and not stagnant, but eventually she gave in. It was during the height of the West Nile Virus scare. The neighbor that complained the loudest had a pile of pots and various old garden items stashed behind his garage capable of collecting water. He never saw *that* as a problem.

Mosquitos truly are the bane of our out-of-doors enjoyment. There are industries and gadgets galore, not to mention chemicals in abundance produced to exterminate them. And every one of the man-made solutions creates additional problems for the environment. And for all this effort to track, spray and kill mosquitos, standing out in my backyard on a summer's evening I don't feel (literally) like their numbers have decreased or presented with the risks.

It would appear as humans, we've spent too much effort on destroying the natural methods of controlling mosquitoes and building the worst of them the best of habitats. With climate change expanding the range of unwanted mosquitoes, now might be a good time 'know your enemy'.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The pandemic has turned our worlds upside down for some time now, but the beauty of Franklin County ravines survives as a mainstay for Central Ohio nature lovers throughout the ordeal. Ravines are steadfast in their splendor regardless of the seasons, the weather or the rigors of everyday life. Recent years have been difficult for our organization too. Many of our research resources were closed for obvious reasons and interrupted many of our outreach activities. Our all-volunteer Board has also been impacted since we last published, but now we are ready to rebuild and continue our mission of protecting and restoring ravines through conservation and education. As an organization, we seek individuals to help with restoring the health of Friends of the Ravines by volunteering to help with outreach and education projects as well as administrative tasks that keep us in touch with our supporters. We are a small organization, so even a modest time commitment would be a tremendous help to us in protecting the ravine resources that bring so much joy to the community. Whether you are good with a spreadsheet, have a good ravine story to share or would like to help plan a plant walk, we would love to hear from you.

We look forward to a new look for *Ravinia* with the impending departure of our esteemed design and production expert, AJ Trout. And we will dearly miss our fellow Board member Maureen Lorenz who is broadening her horizons in her well-deserved retirement. She has treated us to so many delightful articles about the wildlife inhabitants and is a wealth of information about area ravines. As we say goodbye to one Board member, we welcome a new addition to our Board with Michelle Leatherman who is already contemplating projects to help protect ravine environments. Welcome Michelle!

I am looking forward to seeing you in a ravine sometime soon.

Dan Struve
a tribute to a native tree expert

by Sherrill E. Massey

Daniel Karl Struve retired as professor emeritus in the Horticulture and Crop Science Department at The Ohio State University where he taught for 31 years. His expertise was native trees and he was widely recognized for his pioneering research in plant propagation. His research took him internationally to Kenya, China, Lebanon, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and to Guatemala. He took a sabbatical to do research at the University of Florence, Italy. By his own estimate he planted nearly 100,000 trees. After retirement he established QRS Trees Nursery with family members. Locally he served on the Columbus Tree Commission and LOUA: Lower Olentangy Urban Arboretum, located in historic Clintonville and is bounded by the Olentangy River on the west, Glen Echo Ravine on the south, Walhalla Ravine on the north, and the CSX Railroad tracks on the east. The project needed a native tree expert and he was truly the lynchpin of the entire project, says colleague, Peter Kovarik, entomologist and professor of Biology at Columbus State Community College. The first thing was to scout the area for very mature trees which would have been there before the houses were built. That survey became a guide for what was additionally planted. Dan supplied the trees from seeds for which he had grown. Those seeds were collected locally which are far better suited to our area than trees brought here from other localities.

Dan passed away on February 7, 2020 at age 70.

Courtesy of Peter Kovarik

Asian Tiger Mosquito *(CDC photo)*

The Mosquito Threat in Franklin County

There are over 3000 species of mosquitoes in the world. Approximately 200 species are native to North America and 60 species are found in Ohio. Some of these insects have specific habitats, exhibit different behaviors, and bite different types of animals. All, however, share common traits such as a 4-stage life cycle -egg, larva, pupa, adult, and biting females that require blood and water to lay their eggs.

Of all these mosquitoes, 4 species/complexes are significant as vector carriers of disease. The mosquito *Aedes aegypti* transmits Zika virus, dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever and Rift Valley, and is active during the day. The *Anophelese* or Marsh Mosquito transmits malaria. These two are not typically found in Franklin County but Climate Change can change that.

The *Culex pipiens* or Northern House Mosquito, originally from northern Africa, and *Aedes albopictus,* the Asian Tiger mosquito, transmits West Nile Virus (WNV). A relatively newer threat comes from *Aides triseriatus* aka the Eastern Tree Hole mosquito that carries La Crosse Encephalitis, which generally affects children younger than 16 years old resulting in long-term neurological effects including paralysis. This article focuses on *Culex pipiens* and WNV although transmission is similar for other diseases.

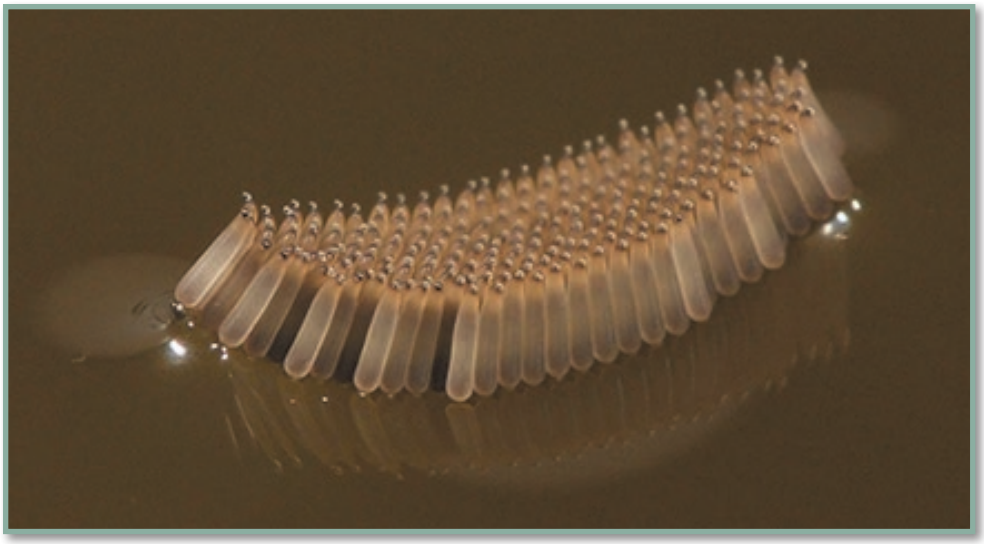
The typical pathway for WNV is a mosquito biting a bird infected with the virus and then bites a human infecting the person. The virus is transferred through the saliva at the mouthpart of the mosquito.

West Nile Virus is a concern to health officials because in severe cases, it can result in death. Most people infected with the virus never know it and develop no symptoms. About 1 in 5 develop a fever and headache and recover in a few days. The virus presents the most concern for very young children and older adults.

The virus was first identified in Franklin County in 2001. According to the Franklin Health Department, in 2020 there were 3 cases reported and 0 deaths. In 2021 the Ohio Department of Health reported 58 cases, 0 deaths, and none in Franklin County. As a resident of Walhalla Ravine wrote in the Fall 2008 *Ravinia*, what Franklin County and the City of Columbus lack is an actual plan that presents the risks of the West Nile Virus with the risks of cancer or the long-term negative environmental impacts from the spraying program. The website (https://mosquito.myfcph.org/management-plan/) does include the chemicals used (click the plus sign at the site for the details).

The life cycle of the Mosquito

In general, the mosquito life cycle starts with taking advantage of any pool of quiet water. This water can be a saucer under a potted plant, the edge of a overturned bucket or wheelbarrow.



Raft of mosquito eggs *(CDC photo)*

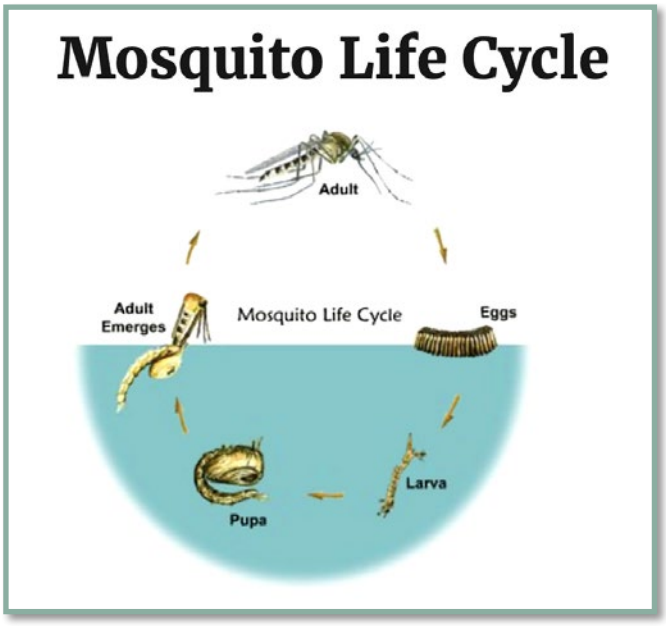
Just about anything that holds water will attract them. Items as small as a bottle cap can be taken advantage of for egg laying.

The female mosquito is the only one that bites. The bite is a blood meal to provide protein for development of her eggs. She can lay up to 300 eggs in her lifetime. Typically, she lays 30-100 eggs in each brood and requires a blood meal for each. They form egg rafts on the water surface and can hatch into larvae within a day. The warmer the weather, the faster the process proceeds. The larval stage lasts from 3-4 days to 2 weeks, again, temperature dependent. There are 4 instars in the larval stage, and each time the larvae molt, they grow.

Mosquito enjoying a bloodmeal *(CDC photo)*

The first instar results in larvae commonly referred to as "wrigglers" by entomologists. These wrigglers breathe air and have a body-part called a siphon at the water surface that allows this exchange of gases. Think of this siphon as their snorkel, but attached at the rear end. The larvae depend on quiet water to keep the adhesion of the siphon at the surface. A good shake of the pool could drown them. The larvae, however, can detect changes in light and vibrations and if warned will detach from the surface of the water and dive down.

The final instar, the pupa, is also referred to as a *tumbler* does not feed, but does need to breathe. Pupae have specialized parts called *trumpets* to attach to the water surface and breathe. They can detect light changes and vibrations and react, and have flap paddles that allows them to move through the water. Much like a chrysalis, from this final stage eventually erupts the adult mosquito and flies as soon as body parts have hardened.



EPA brochure

The adult stage is primarily for reproduction. They drink and feed on plant nectars, and a blood meal is required for egg development.

Why do Mosquitoes like you and not others?

There are a variety of factors that determine why mosquitoes seem to prefer to bite some people and not others. Changes in the levels of CO2 alerts a mosquito that a host is nearby. Female mosquitoes have nerve cells with a receptor that detects carbon dioxide in the plumes we exhale. The insects also will move toward heat sources at the desired temperature.

Mosquitoes are also attracted to certain compounds present on human skin that give off a specific odor. Body odor is determined by genetics, mostly. Having relatives that are mosquito magnets might predict that you are more likely to attract mosquitoes.

Research shows skin bacteria is another factor, as well as, species of bacteria in determining how attractive you are to a mosquito. The presence of a high diversity of skin bacteria was less attractive to mosquitoes. Blood type, particularly O, might make you marginally more attractive to mosquitoes. Most research, however, has been conducted on one species of mosquito so results are limited.

The above reasons mosquitoes are attracted to hosts is beyond personal control. However, wearing black or dark colors attracts mosquitoes, although researchers have not determined why. And a small study in 2002 looked at alcohol consumption and determined people who had consumed beer were more attractive to the mosquitoes than non-beer consumers.

When a mosquito bites it inserts the tip of its mouthpart into your skin and injects a small amount of saliva into the bloodstream to aid in blood flow for the mosquito. The redness, swelling, and itching is your immune system reacting to the chemicals in the saliva. The best treatment is to avoid scratching, apply cold, and possibly itch-relief creams or lotions.

Mosquitoes like to target the feet and head. One study showed that Anopheles mosquitoes had a distinct preference for Limburger cheese. The bacteria that give this cheese its distinct odor is similar to the germ that lives between our toes. Other mosquito species studied did not show this preference, but something similar might explain the foot fetish, perhaps.

Mosquito Control

Mosquitoes generally exist within 500 yards of where they emerge. However, they can travel farther distances to find ideal conditions. The mosquito can also live long enough to lay 300+ eggs. And during warm summer months, those 300 eggs can lay eggs in 7-10 days. Eggs can survive dry conditions for a few months, however.)

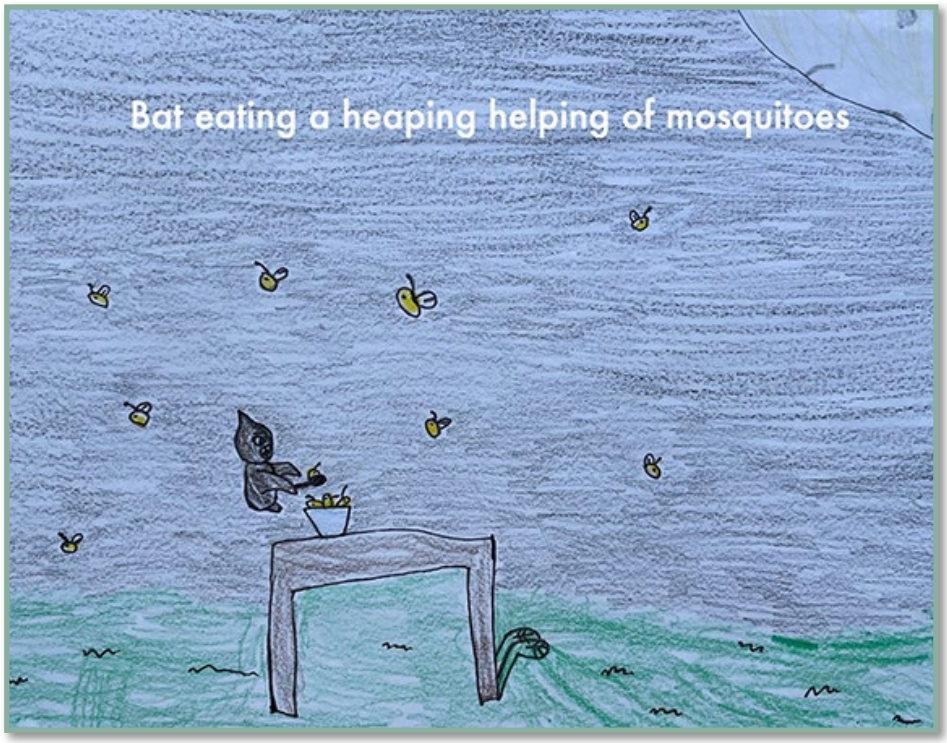
After frosts begin, the mated female will enter diapause or overwinter in some quiet spot, free from a hard freeze. Come spring, she's ready to start the cycle anew.

As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and this well applies to mosquito eradication. Start with removing standing water from yards as a first step in controlling mosquito populations near human habitats. Anything that holds water is a potential mosquito nursery: rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers over pools and grills, etc. Changing the water in birdbaths and fountains, wading pools, potted plant trays should be a priority at least weekly. During warmer temperatures water needs to be emptied more often.

Replacing outdoor lights with yellow or "bug" lights will tend to attract fewer mosquitoes and benefit other night insects. However, yellow lights are not repellents. Placing a fan near you is another idea. Mosquitoes are not strong flyers. There are methods to control mosquitoes that are perhaps more effective than spraying or treatment with chemicals.

Solutions to control mosquitoes include adding a teaspoon of extra virgin oil to a gallon of water. The thin layer of oil on the water surface prevents attachment of the siphon and if they cannot penetrate the surface tension, the larvae will suffocate. Olive oil, cinnamon oil, and even vegetable oil may be non-toxic solutions, but are not suitable for a pond or water feature that has fish or other life. The oil on the surface will negatively impacted these creatures, as well. Under these circumstances, it is best to use a pump or aerator to keep the water moving and not allow mosquito larvae attachment.

The Eastern Tree Hole mosquito is aptly named for where it breeds. A simple solution to eliminating breeding habitat for this mosquito is to fill tree holes with sand or add a mosquito dunk. A recommended website for more information is at: https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/resources/lacrosse-virus



Bats eat mosquitoes *by David Staperfenne, Age 6*

Noted entomologist Doug Tallamy recently in an OSU webinar recommended the use of mosquito dunks. These dunks can be made cheaply and are effective against mosquitoes controlling them in the larval stage rather than commercial spraying of the adult stage: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqcDZDNtP-0.

Franklin County and Columbus Health Departments are incorporating more preventive tactics in the fight to control mosquitos such as collecting and disposing of scrap tires at public events and distributing free larvicide tablets/dunks. Franklin County Health Department adds these dunks to approximately 6500 catch basins that were holding water and thus active breeding sites. The Franklin County Health Department additionally provides these tablets to the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation district to pass out to households with rain barrels.

Hummingbird enjoying a mosquito feast *photo by Joost Daniels*

Commercial sprays can only kill the adult mosquitoes in your yard at the time of spraying. Mosquitoes can fly 1-3 mile distances and can quickly repopulate. It is more likely that the mosquito treatment is highly toxic to pollinators such as butterflies, bees, ladybugs in the yard at the time of application than the intended mosquitoes.

Most of these commercial sprays are pyrethrin-based and almost always synthetic, and toxic. Despite marketing claims that they only harm mosquitoes and are safe when applied properly, these chemicals are neurotoxins.

The chemicals used by commercial outfits might be regulated by the EPA, but not without negative environmental consequences. The EPA acknowledges this fact on their website. These chemicals are all highly toxic to bees killing them on contact and for 1 or 2 more days after treatment. These chemicals can also be deadly to cats and pond life.

According to the National Wildlife Foundation these chemical applications are not actually reducing the mosquito problem. Ninety-six percent of backyard birds rely on insects as the exclusive food source for babies. Almost 30% of North American bird population has disappeared in just the last 50 years. Insect populations are also plummeting. Pesticides are factors in all of these wildlife declines.

Mosquitoes pollinate and are part of the food web. They are important prey to dragonflies, turtles, bats, and birds. Hummingbirds rely on small flying insects and spiders as a primary food source. Which of the natural predators are encouraged to do the job they've done for perhaps over 10,000 years. A review of the natural predators for mosquitoes reveal most are imperiled: dragonflies and dragonfly nymphs, fish, bats, frogs, turtles, purple martins, birds, damselflies, crane flies.

In response to WNV, Franklin County spraying program uses applications that are focused on mosquitoes but can be in reality indiscriminate killers. According to their website they use a "comprehensive approach to pest management that focuses on prevention, education, and controlling pests at their most vulnerable state while minimizing the hazards to the environment." The plan does not present any quantitative information to the program's efficacy or the risks of the applications in the environment. The focus is on WNV without a long-term understanding of the impact.

Research conducted for Montgomery County, Maryland by the late Dr. David Pimentel show that 0.1% of the pesticides on average reach the target pests (Cornell University, 1995). When looking at flying insects like mosquitoes, the effectiveness drops to 0.0001%. The droplet size must be small and therefore floats in the air. Mosquitoes shelter down low in foliage. The fog can drift out of the target area, killing other insects or mingle into the air we breathe.

Learn to Live with Mosquitoes

Simple things you can do to avoid being a blood-meal is wear long sleeves and pants. Choose light-colored clothing to make you less attractive to a mosquito. Avoiding being available when they are most active at dawn and dusk will also minimize being bitten. When you are outside in the evening apply oil of lemon eucalyptus(OLE) as a good deterrent and can be as effective as DEET without the health risks. But the best solution is eliminating the breeding opportunities for mosquitoes near you and encouraging their natural predators creating a safer and more wonder-filled world to life in.

Further Reading:

https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/mosquito-life-cycle

https://www.visitmonmouth.com/Page.aspx?Id=4688

https://www.essentialhomeandgarden.com/how-to-kill-mosquito-larvae-in-water/

https://mosquito.myfcph.org/about-mosquitoes/

https://mygreenmontgomery.org/2021/an-interview-with-experts-are-backyard-mosquito-sprays-safe-and-effective/

https://mygreenmontgomery.org/2020/make-your-own-50-cent-pesticide-free-mosquito-trap/

https://blog.nwf.org/2020/09/what-you-need-to-know-before-spraying-for-mosquitoes/

https://www.healthline.com/health/why-do-mosquitoes-bite-some-people-more#prevention

https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/how-mosquitoes-detect-people

https://theconversation.com/health-check-why-mosquitoes-seem-to-bite-some-people-more-36425

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/all-topics-z/disease-vectors/facts/mosquito-factsheets/culex-pipiens-factsheet-experts

https://www.nytimes.com/1999/11/07/style/cuttings-weighing-the-value-of-bugs-in-a-world-of-pesticides.html

Lesser Celandine – New Threat in Town

Text by Maureen Lorenz—photos courtesy of Michelle Leatherman

Lesser celandine *(Ficaria verna and also see it as Ranunculus ficaria)* or fig buttercup is actually not new, but it is spreading into new places. Make no mistake it is an invasive species. The growth habit is very much like the blue violet also found blooming in spring. But unlike violets, which are native, lesser celandine is from Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa and appears to be out for world domination.

The bright, cheerful flowers and shiny green leaves of the plant bely its negative impacts on our native spring ephemerals such as spring beauties, trilliums, trout lily, and bloodroot. It emerges early in spring and may hinder the development of the native spring ephemerals. Lesser celandine will smoother these natives and, unlike them, offers very little by way of pollen or nectar to the native fauna.

Lesser celandine was introduced in the late 1860s as an ornamental and escaped the bounds of the garden. It reproduces vegetative from tubers and bulbils, and quickly forms dense patches. The tubers must be completely dug out to eradicate the plant. When the plant is disturbed, however, it also uses the aerial bulbils to spread. Animals hopping through the dense mats can spread this plant. Herbicides are effective and best applied early in the season with care to avoid non-target plants. Another method of controlling is blocking light to the plant. It is the length of day that triggers the plant to start growing. Physically covering the mat in place will also prevent the spread by the bulbils or tubers.

The flower is very similar to a buttercup and lesser celandine is in the Ranunculus family. The shiny leaves are arranged in a basal rosette and kidney-shaped and have wavy edges with stalks that are U-shaped in cross section. Bulbils form at the nodes along the stem. Flowers are bright yellow with 7-12 petals and can be quite small (0.8 in) to 2.4 inches across. Flowers also have green sepals underneath the petals. A similar looking plant, but one that is native and beneficial is Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*). Marsh marigold, which was planted in Glen Echo as part of the Vernal Pool Project, has 5-9 yellow petal-like sepals and are wider than lesser celandine. Another way to tell these two apart is the time of flowering. Lesser celandine flowers in March-April. Marsh marigold will be flowering beginning in late April through June.

Finding lesser celandine establishing itself along the stream in Glen Echo Park is cause for alarm. Look for future removal efforts organized by Friends of the Ravines to control and remove this plant. Unfortunately, it is still offered for sale by nurseries. Spread the word about this aggressive plant negatively impacting our native flora so the lesser celandine will stop spreading,

For more Information:

https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/1944?fbclid=IwAR2kKx6o15c0QSZPMAF720zMY43_RRs0tnawTBYm0UPv_QVWOxmEnmJwL-A

Glen Echo Slope Stabilization Project

Twenty-five Year Update

by Maureen Lorenz

It is working.

In 1999 the Friends of the Ravines (FOR), with volunteers leading the way, began to install the slope stabilization protection project in Glen Echo Park. FOR applied for a conservation grant from the Columbus Foundation. The conservation grant awarded was the first of its kind from the Catherine Hislop fund of the Columbus Foundation. A much needed conservation project was about to become reality.

The groundwork for the project began in 1997 when a determined group of Friends began discussions for restoration of the denuded and eroding slopes of the historic Glen Echo Park. The condition of the Park at that time was rapidly deteriorating.

There has been much progress on the Glen Echo Ravine Restoration Project. The photo above shows the badly eroded northern slope after FOR oversaw the installation of log gabions backfilled with topsoil. Rye grass has been planted, and volunteers planted 200 black locust trees on Saturday, March 23rd. The reclamation is becoming a reality.

Glen Echo Park was established in 1912. When the park was originally platted by the developer it was set aside because of the serene beauty of the ravine. Once it became City of Columbus property, however, it was used as a storm sewer and forced to carry twice the carrying capacity of the natural drainage area. The ravine was no longer a watershed, but was now a sewershed. Sanitary sewers for developing areas were crisscrossed and routed through the ravine, as well.

Over time, the seepage of the sanitary sewers, the flash flooding of Glen Echo Creek, and the lack of upkeep to the park area contributed to its decline. The mistreatment, including sledding and foot traffic up and down the fragile slopes, escalated the erosion of the thin, shale soils.

Ravines in Clintonville are composed of Ohio and Olentangy shale bedrock. These are considered 'soft' shales, which weather rapidly and do not have a high load bearing capacity. A thin mantle of glacial till covers the shales. Without vegetation or other controls the ravine soils are subject to severe erosion.

The insensitive alteration of the fragile geologic soils of the Glen Echo Park ravine to serve infrastructure demands, combined with the misuse of the slopes, resulted in a loss of vegetation and habitat. The result was an overburdened and severely stressed ecosystem.

Pressure from the neighborhood forced the City to fix the sanitary sewer leaks in the 1960s. In 1976, the Glen Echo Interest Group secured capital improvement funding to try to control the erosion to the stream with the well-intentioned installation of gabions (rock-filled wire baskets) along the stream channel. And in the 1980s, the City constructed a wooden stairway from Cliffside Drive in an attempt to control foot traffic over the slopes. The loss of vegetation on the slopes continued, however, and with nothing to hold back the stormwater, erosion continued to escalate.

Erosion was the most damaging force at work in the ravine. Neighbors were eyewitness to the erosion when a slope collapsed west of the Indianola Bridge due to the improper placement of a culvert in 1996. This was the call to action.

The Recreation and Parks Department identified funding in 1997 for improvements to the walkway and 3 bridges that cross the creek, but the City had no funds to address the

eroding slopes. The Community sought input, wrote grants and organized an army of dedicated volunteers marshaled by John Husted, reclamation specialist with ODNR.

The process was to pin logs perpendicular to the direction of the slope and back fill with topsoil in the trough created. A geofabric was pinned against the slope to stabilize it. As part of this process, foot and paw traffic would be restricted and native plant material introduced.

Over the next three years, Columbus Recreation and Park Department supplied 15 truckloads of logs. With the grant, 190 cubic yards of topsoil, hundreds of feet of geotextile fabric, several tons of gravel, and native plant material was purchased and the miracle of restoration began. Countless neighborhood volunteers along with the Civilian Conservation Corps, working as weather permitted, helped halt the erosion and restore vegetation to the slopes. Mature trees stayed upright and the ecosystem improved.

It's been over 25 years and no one would recognize the same shale slopes. They are covered with native plants that have filled in to create a lush understory and full canopy of trees where previously was bare shale. Leaves have also filled in behind the logs to enhance the soil and the logs have slowly broken down creating pockets of soil as intended. What proved to be unnecessary, and was the biggest expense, was the geo-textile fabric.

Other improvements, such as the 2003 stream restoration project funded by a Clean Ohio Conservation Grant, continued to make improvements to the ravine and its ecosystem. It is now home to a group of dedicated birders who reported on one Saturday morning they identified more than 46 species of birds in the ravine.

The restoration is forever ongoing and the gains made over the last 25 years can be quickly reversed if the ravine and its slopes are not safeguarded against abuse. Development pressures from adjacent landowners forever pose negative impacts to the ravine. Adopting more protective zoning regulations for development adjacent to ravines would be a good way to begin future protection for these special landforms. In discussion regarding top of slope buffers, The Center for Watershed Protection's "Crafting Better Urban Watershed Plans" provides two examples to consider:

Percent Slopes	Width of Buffer
15% - 17%	Add 10 feet
18% - 20%	Add 30 feet
21% - 23%	Add 50 feet

Percent Slope	Type of Stream Use	
	Water Contact Recreational Use	Sensitive Stream Habitat
0 – 14%	No change	Add 50 feet
15% - 25%	Add 50 feet	Add 75 feet
>25%	Add 50 feet	Add 100 feet

Fortunately, there is now awareness of ravine habitat being a refuge for biodiversity and community health, and a group of dedicated residents that continue to support and look after this ravine and others for the enjoyment of all. It is not too late to ask the City to provide a forum to identify and protect these ravines with sensible regulations and recognize this in land use planning.

Further Reading:

https://owl.cwp.org/mdocs-posts/elc_pwp29/
Past issues of *Ravinia*

Answering the call of the echo...

Text and photos by Michelle Leatherman

Deep in Glen Echo Ravine lies a concrete vessel waiting to be filled. Its arching walls reverberate with the abundant sounds of its surroundings: bird calls, rushing creek, children laughing, dogs barking in the distance, and the dull hum of traffic above.

The historic, closed-spandrel arch bridge, spanning 40 ft. in length, is rich with sound but currently vacant of welcoming sights. The bridge's original interior walls of 1912 received a revitalization in 2012 when designers, Eliza Ho and Tim Lai, and artist Clinton Davidson, embarked on what was once known as a destination: The Bird Mural. Sadly, reconstruction, time, and taggers have remade its surface into something that only echoes its original intent.

With each missing image of a bird, lies an empty surface that beckons the rogue graffiti artist; its use is fair game.

Further muddying its visual message, was its revitalization from ODOT construction in April of 2017. At first glance, the tartan-like pattern of carbon fiber reinforcing bands takes on a mural-like quality. Its happenstance accentuates its being of an all-enveloping potential space of sound and sight. But on further inspection, the banding wasn't by design but purely function alone. The pattern and mural do not fuse and were never designed to. But the happy accident lends itself to the potential of a stronger design overall.

This tartan cover visually overpowers the now decapitated remains of the painted birds below. Its most recent addition of mediocre graffiti scars the interior walls with messages of profanity and hate. The destination to explore the painting of bird species that inhabit our ravine is no longer.

Its present state calls for another round of revitalization. Isabel Francis Bongue, a landscape architect-in-training, designer, and muralist, answers that call.

She will be presenting her proposal to the Columbus Arts Commission on April 20th. And her timeline will be set after approval with hopes to complete work in August or September of this year.

You may find out more about Landscape Architect-in-training, designer, and muralist Isabel Francis Bongue at www.Isabelbongue.com

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

Name_____ E-Mail_____ Phone_____

Address_____ City/State/Zip_____

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

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

___ Friend: $15 ___ Sponsor: $35 ___ Sustainer: $50

___ Contributor: $25 ___ Household: $40 ___ Patron: $100 ___Corporate (Over $100) _____

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:

Fall 2021 – Winter 2022

Agnes Benedict
Carol Braund
Lynette S. Boyce
Nan Burns
J. Dale Brubeck
Terry & Penny Casey
Gregory A. Cunningham
Donna Sigi Davies
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Mary E & Frank R. Graziano
Elizabeth G. & Jeffrey H. Kalbus
George Kane & Kathy Mast Kane
Stuart & Alicia Klapp
Andrew J. Klein
Nancy Kremer
Patricia Larson
Margaret Lynd
Sherrill Massey
Kay Marshall
Joe Motil
Sue Neumann-Martiensen
Jacqueline B. Pasternack
Nancy G. Platt
Leah Reibel
Pete Taylor
Shirley Tobias
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John & Georgann Whitney
Robert F. Wing
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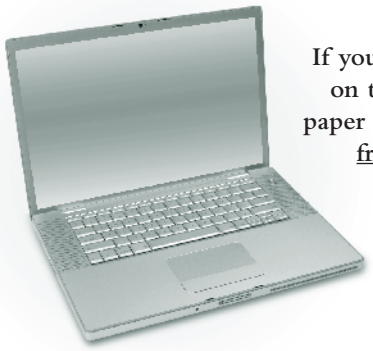

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