

Notes from West Creek



Newsletter of the West Creek Preservation Committee, July 2011

Why I Donated My Property on Ridge Road

Growing up on Wallings Road in Broadview Heights near the North Royalton border in the 1940s and 1950s most of the farms had been sold or at least not worked. New building was going on along the main roads such as Wallings, State and Sprague with farmers selling pieces of their property in long narrow strips. Back land consisted of abandoned fields, beginning to grow up with brush, trees and creeks. Into these hundreds of acres my friends and I would tramp the fields and woods, playing in the creeks exploring and having all sorts of make-believe adventures. We were veritable Tom Sawyers. Part of this play was identification of species of trees, plants and flowers. I vividly remember the first time I saw a beautiful white flower, the trillium, in the woods. Later I went to the library to find out what it was named.

Then one morning in the mid 1950s, I was awakened by the sound of a bulldozer clearing a field next to my house. Looking out the window was this machine knocking down trees and stripping the earth of all vegetation, preparing the land for new houses and expansive development. This began the construction of suburbia with erection of houses, paving new streets, cutting down trees and tiling creeks. My playground was being destroyed.

In 1970, my wife and I bought a house on Ridge Road near the headwaters of Big Creek. Lived there 39 years on the site of an old dairy farm. I loved that house and property along with the trees, bushes, flowers and grasses. Had a garden and spent my free time identifying plants and watching the passing of the seasons. Animal life was abundant including birds, squirrels, chipmunks, opossums, raccoons, ground hogs, deer, fox and coyotes. Eventually, as age caught up with me, I had to move to a place that was easier to get around.

West Creek Preservation Committee was formed to preserve lands along West Creek and later began to protect land outside West Creek, conserving the Busch property on Ridge Road in Parma about one and a half miles north of my house. Looking at a map of the area, I noticed that most of Big Creek between my property and the Busch property was not developed. This is when I decided to donate my property in the hopes that that stretch of Big Creek could be preserved for future generations. Maybe in the future some Tom Sawyers and Becky Thachers could have adventures exploring and playing in the creek as I did.

Alfred Penko



We thank Al Penko for his vision for Big Creek, and for his generous donation of property near its headwaters in North Royalton. Al and WCPC agreed to a plan in which WCPC will keep a conservation easement on the property's riparian habitat, ensuring its permanent protection as a natural area. Under this plan, a historic home on the property will be sold with proceeds funding additional conservation downstream.



WCPC Hikes, Meetings & More

**Please see insert for
dates and times**

**For more info: (216) 749-3720
www.westcreek.org**

Stormwater

It's not going away anytime soon

Those of us in Northeast Ohio are intimately familiar with the power and persistence of stormwater. And now many of us are facing the issue of being assessed a fee for it. Whether you support the fee strategy or not, we must all find ways to reduce our negative impacts on stormwater.

First, look at your property and determine how much impervious surface you have. This includes any area that doesn't allow water to soak in, filter, absorb or otherwise be captured prior to entering the storm system -- such as your roof, driveway, patio or garage. Second, assess the potential for lessening your impact on the municipal system, which in reality means your impact on Lake Erie.

Can you install a cistern? What about disconnecting your downspouts? Do you have an opportunity to put in a rain garden, bioswale or other water collection structure? Often enough, you can run your downspout into a rain garden, swale, collection structure, or vegetated area. Can you revert some of our your 'harder' landscaping to a more natural approach? (This can have multiple benefits, such as reducing your water bill, decreasing use of fertilizer/pesticide, less lawn maintenance, etc.) Keep in mind, such storage devices provide a free water source when you need it, whether for watering your garden, lawn, or even washing your car!

Every property is unique, but the options are similar; they just have to be tweaked in order to fit each property. For more information about residential stormwater and a credit program offered by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, as well as options for stormwater solutions for your property, please visit:

http://www.neorsd.org/1_Library.php?a=download_file&LIBRARY_RECORD_ID=4725

Another great resource, especially if you're looking to build a rain garden is:

http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/PDFs/2007_rain_garden_manual.pdf

Each city has specific building and zoning codes. So please, before you attempt any stormwater capture or abatement methods, contact your city's Building Department. If you'd like to learn more about how you can make a proactive difference, contact WCPC at 216-749-3720.



Central Ohio Raingardens
Courtesy of
Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District
<http://www.franklinswcd.org/>



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Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation Grant Invests \$50,000 in WCPC's Mission

Grant to help implement Urban Land Conservancy Program

In May, WCPC received notification from the Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation of a \$50,000 award to help support WCPC's current operations as well as expand its land conservancy initiatives in Greater Cleveland. The Foundation supports non-sectarian education, the performing and visual arts, the free enterprise system, health care, conservation, and community funds in the Greater Cleveland area.

WCPC's strategic plan, completed in 2009, calls for the organization to complete the West Creek Reservation and Greenway, as well as continue watershed protection efforts in West Creek. It also defines the plan for WCPC to leverage its expertise and expand its services, especially those related to land conservation and stewardship, throughout Greater Cleveland. This new grant will not only support WCPC's ongoing operations, but will expand our capacity to provide land conservation services that will facilitate projects such as new urban parks and greenspace, restoration of Cleveland area streams, stormwater abatement using green infrastructure, reuse of vacant lands, and even urban farming.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Foundation for their generous support!

Dave Lincheck Assumes Full-Time Leadership Role

In November, 2010, Dave Lincheck assumed the new full-time position of WCPC Executive Director. Having demonstrated his unique capabilities and his commitment to the WCPC mission as a 1997 charter member of the Board of Trustees, as Assistant Director, and then Director for the five years, the Board of Trustees gave unanimous approval to his recommendation by the WCPC Selection Committee at the October 2010 meeting of the Board.

As a lifetime resident of Parma, Ohio, a graduate of St. Ignatius High School, an engineering graduate of Cleveland State University, and the 2001 Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District Conservationist of the year, Dave brings to the newly established position of Executive Director an outstanding record of relevant experience and accomplishment in land conservation and stewardship, trail development, contract negotiation, grant writing, fundraising, advocacy, and outreach. As Board Director he has also been responsible for supervision of staff, development of budgets, and public relations. Dave was instrumental in developing the WCPC's strategic plan, which defines the organizations vision and direction for its ongoing and expanding work as a land conservancy. The establishment of the Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Reservation and Greenway Trail Network testify to Dave's ability to convert vision into reality.

As WCPC broadens its land conservancy services into Greater Cleveland, an Executive Director with Dave's abilities is needed. His experience as Co-Chair of the Northeast Ohio Watershed Council, Chair of the Parma Park Advisory Committee as well as his liaison responsibilities with conservation partners such as Cleveland Metroparks, Friends of Big Creek, Re-Imagining Cleveland, Cleveland Regional Sewer District, and local municipalities uniquely positions him to spearhead WCPC's expanding role as a regional urban land conservancy.

In partnership with Derek Schafer, WCPC's full-time Watershed Coordinator and Conservation Project Manager, Dave's commitment to the preservation and restoration of the natural areas within our urban communities helps to ensure the continued success of West Creek Preservation Committee. Dave is looking forward to guiding WCPC in its expanded conservation efforts.

Dave resides in Parma with his wife, Pamela, and their daughter, Theresa.



*Dave Lincheck at the West Creek
Reservation Lease Signing Ceremony*

West Creek Restoration - Update

Over the last five years, WCPC and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) have engaged in an extensive initiative to restore larger reaches of West Creek — sections of stream with degraded water quality, severe erosion problems, fish migration blockages, or other habitat quality problems. Focus areas ranged from the headwaters near Pleasant Valley Road (in Parma) to a mid-section reach close to Broadview and Snow Roads (also in Parma) to the Confluence with the Cuyahoga River (sites in Brooklyn Heights and Independence).



Floodwaters hurdling through restoration sites on West Creek in Brooklyn Heights— Site 11 (above) and Site 9 (below); both sites are impacted by development and infrastructure pressures as well as severe storm water flows.



The West Creek watershed is heavily developed, with grid streets, significant impervious surface, pinched waterways, and fragmented greenspaces – all of which exemplify an urban watershed. Due to the intricacies of the densely developed, built out and impacted landscape, restoration projects within the watershed are complex and difficult.

Flashing forward from design and engineering phases completed in 2008 to the implementation of the projects in 2009-2010, we have learned a great deal. The first project was the removal of two low-head dams in the middle reach of the stream. Aside from some vandalism (plant theft and destruction), the project was a success. The two dams were removed, fish migration was restored, the channel was re-meandered, floodplain access was re-established, and channel substrate (the base of the stream where sediment is deposited and insects live) was rehabilitated. And as we've all experienced the tremendous rains, storms, floods, and hurricane-like force weather, the project has held up, grown in, and survived the extremely heavy velocity and volumes of storm water that West Creek hurdles toward the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie.

The story is slightly different for two sites in lower West Creek. A majority of the areas in need of restoration are immediately adjacent to development or are reaches of stream that have been literally moved to accommodate such development. The landscape or actual work area is either extremely fragile (due to fill material, degraded vegetation, or poor re-creation/relocation of the channel) or severely encroached upon (development and infrastructure is right to the edges of the stream). All of the above match the starting conditions found at two large restoration projects initiated by WCPC. Each site had development to the edge of the waterway, had infrastructure (utilities) criss-crossing it, and limited vegetated buffer/cover.

WCPC, NEORS, and the design team made every effort possible to ensure proper bank stabilization, erosion control, structure stability, sedimentation/deposition, velocity dissipation, and habitat creation. Certain measures included extensive bank armoring, large flow direction structures, and riffle/pool construction. Even though the restoration design considered flood velocities, erosion potential, and actual water volumes, portions of each site were damaged in unprecedented storms and flooding earlier this year and are now in need of remediation. WCPC, NEORS, the design team, and contractor are now in discussions on how to repair such damage and how to eliminate the possibility of this happening again.

It is important to note this issue for multiple reasons. Most immediately, it is a burden for project partners to address. YES, it will be expensive, extensive, and complex, but won't it be more so if we continue on the path we're on? As we continue to experience worsening flooding and failing infrastructure, is it time to really dedicate our attention to not only restoring these degraded natural systems, but also to protect and reclaim others? YES.

WCPC, along our many partners, is progressively seeking opportunities to reclaim land around our streams and other waterways; they need to breathe, expand, filter, handle large volumes of water, periodically flood, dry out, and remain transitional. Our waterways are not an impediment to development and economic activity, but rather a catalyst for it. In synopsis, urban stream restoration is undeniably important, but also increasingly difficult and expensive if we do not progressively seek to protect (and reclaim) them in the first place (www.westcreek.org/confluence)

Henninger House - *Restoration one step at a time*

The Henninger House is one of the oldest homesteads in the City of Parma and has great historic ties to the settlement of the region. Not only is it located within the National Heritage Corridor, but stone quarried from the property helped build Cleveland's break-wall and Ohio & Erie Canal, not to mention many of the area's first homes, roads, and other institutions.

Since its acquisition in 2003, WCPC and the City of Parma have worked to leverage outside funding sources for its restoration and rehabilitation. Initially, a temporary metal roof and imitation windows were installed. The entire structure was stabilized with post-shores and screw jacks (to ensure safety), the home's interior was cleaned of damaged or unusable material, and tuckpointing phases have been implemented on a portion of the structure - all of which followed the specific rehabilitation methods as delineated by Sandvick Architects and Cleveland Restoration Society.

Recently, you might have noticed scaffolding and trucks present on the property. In Spring 2011, the City of Parma and WCPC were able to secure a grant from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office in the amount of \$19,500. The new award will enable the project partners to complete the last phases of tuckpointing on the south and east elevations of the homestead. In 2007-2009, the west and northern elevations were completed, also using Ohio Historic Preservation Office funding. Along with the tuckpointing of the remaining sides, the east and west side chimneys of the house will be completed. The center chimney was rebuilt/restored previously due to instability issues.

Tuckpointing may seem like a minimal job, but the mortar, which is custom blended to meet historic standards, ensures the stability of the stone structure. While it stabilizes the house, a thorough pointing job also eliminates moisture in the house, which can destroy building materials. WCPC is grateful for the City's partnership, Cleveland Restoration Society's guidance, and Ohio Historic Preservation Office's support. As we make progress with restoration of the homestead, all project partners will be pivotal to its success.

Much work remains to be done on this highly visible structure before it is ready for use as a trailhead on the West Creek Greenway. Plans call for completely rebuilt windows and sashes, a new roof, interior structural stabilization/millwork (i.e. beam, rafter replacement), box gutters and cornices, as well as plaster restoration, floor finishing, electrical rewiring, and much more. The project team is continually seeking funding sources to assist in restoration of the historic homestead and iconic landmark within the City of Parma. Considering the extensiveness of the project, we are also looking for those that possess the necessary technical skills that would be willing to donate their services towards the restoration of the house. To learn more about the project or how you can help, please contact Derek at 216-749-3720 or dschafer@westcreek.org.



Scaffolding secured across the south side of the house for current tuckpointing initiatives



Scaffolding prepared on the north side of the house to repair adjacent chimney



Close up of mortar joints that are first cleaned of degraded mortar, then refilled with a pre-approved custom blended mix

RiverSweep, RiverDay, and More...



Lindsey and her mom, Becky, spruce up a future trail site at RiverSweep 2011

RiverSweep 2011: On Saturday May 7, WCPC hosted a clean up site as part of RiverSweep 2011, a “done-in-a-day” clean up event sponsored by Ohio Canal Corridor- the non profit organization responsible for developing the Ohio and Erie Canalway Towpath Trail. RiverSweep cleanups were held that day throughout sites in greater Cleveland, and attracted thousands of volunteers from the region. Our site was located along the proposed West Creek Greenway trail segment along the creek near Broadview and Pleasant Valley Roads.

A total of 189 volunteers, including students from Normandy High School, teams from General Motors and Northeast Ohio Chapter of Hazardous Material Managers, came out to clean the area from trash and debris that accumulated over the winter months. In addition to a mound of trash, 26 shopping carts were pulled from the creek. The volunteers also planted several dozen willow saplings along West Creek to stabilize the banks.



189 volunteers can get a lot out of the stream.

WCPC thanks our good friends at Giant Eagle and Charm Tai Restaurant for their support of the West Creek clean up site. A special thanks also goes to Mrs. Cynthia Sutyak, Science Teacher and leader of the Environmental Club at Normandy High School for organizing and coordinating the outstanding clean up effort of her students. We appreciate the efforts of all our volunteers in caring for our local environment through participation in events like RiverSweep 2011.

RiverDay 2011: On Saturday, May 21 WCPC hosted a guided hike for the annual RiverDay event sponsored by the Friends of Crooked River. WCPC volunteers led a group along the proposed Hemlock Creek Trail, which is located off Brecksville Road in Independence, near the Independence Technology Center.

The route is proposed to extend from Brecksville Road, at Selig Drive and traverse approximately 2-miles east, cross the Cuyahoga River and connect with the Towpath Trail and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. WCPC is proposing to connect the West Creek Reservation via the Greenway to Hemlock Creek trail, creating an intercommunity regional trail system. With support from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association, WCPC is finalizing the required ecological assessments that enable the Federal trail planning process to move forward! Although the trail is in the planning stages, your support is needed to bring it to fruition. Please continue to voice your support to your elected officials, neighbors, family and friends.



Riverday hikers enjoying a view of wildlife at Hemlock Creek from one of the proposed stream crossings along the future Hemlock Creek Trail



Special Planting Event: On June 4, a group from Heery International helped WCPC plant a one acre site with native trees. The site, one of our first conservation acquisitions in the headwaters region of West Creek, was in need of tree canopy cover and additional streamside vegetation. A special thanks to the Volunteers of Heery!



Heery volunteers planted 17 trees in two hours!

Volunteer - you can help get it done!

WCPC is an organization that thrives on volunteer dedication. There is the Board of Trustees who put in countless hours in running the organization, the folks who staff at informational booths at community events, those that are up to their waist pulling invasive species, groups dedicated to caring for conservation areas, unstoppable individuals who help assemble mailers, and the countless others who put in their generous time and resources into the organization in one way or another.

As WCPC expands its services, increases its conservation acreage, and builds its programming for land and water stewardship, we need volunteers more than ever, specifically for the following:

- ◆ **Land Maintenance:** includes mowing, trimming, trash removal at specific properties. Requires adult (18+) volunteer, ability to be a self-starter, can transport mower, trimmer, or other necessary tools (can use personal or WCPC equipment), provide weekly or bi-monthly service at specific property (times/duration per week will depend on the site), and regular check-in with WCPC Staff.
- ◆ **Land Stewardship:** Includes monthly inspections for WCPC properties (i.e. checking for boundary/encroachment, public hazards, erosion, illegal dumping or tree removal, etc as well as changes in natural conditions). Requires self starter, monthly commitment, minor reporting, and regular check-in with WCPC Staff.
- ◆ **Photography:** Includes seasonal photography at various conservation properties. Requires self-transport, self starter, personal camera, all weather shots preferred (even flooding) and regular check-in with WCPC Staff.
- ◆ **Henninger House rehabilitation/restoration:** The historic homestead is in need of volunteers who possess skills in the following trades: windows, millwork, carpentry/woodwork, flooring, electrical, masonry.

Call Derek for more information: 440-915-2940.

And of course, our most sincere thanks to all those who already generously volunteer, give, and support WCPC. Contact the office for more information on how you can get involved, and don't be shy to ask questions. We also like to know what you're interested in helping with. It might not be anything listed above, but chances are we could be a good fit for you.



Volunteers pitching in!



Tools and Equipment Needed for Conservation Stewardship

WCPC has the responsibility to maintain and steward numerous conservation sites, and we could use your help. If you are able to donate any of the listed items, either new or lightly used, we can put it to good use. Equipment pick up is available. Your contribution may be tax deductible. Thanks - WCPC

What we Need!!!

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| ⇒ Enclosed trailer & open trailer | ⇒ Auger | ⇒ Extendable tree trimmer, manual (clip with saw) |
| ⇒ Riding mower | ⇒ Chainsaw | ⇒ Generator |
| ⇒ Weed eater | ⇒ Aluminum extension ladders | ⇒ 5-gallon buckets |
| ⇒ Gas trimmer and edger | ⇒ Wheel barrow | |
| | ⇒ Spade/shovels (no flat shovels) | |
| | ⇒ Rake (not leaf rake) | |

Urban Agriculture - *What does it really mean?*

Growing food for consumption — not a new concept, right? Maybe you have been doing it for years or even decades. There's no denying times have changed and the convenience of certain foods (maybe not the healthiest) is at an all-time high. What has changed is the locality of your food. Where does it come from? How much processing does it go through before reaching your plate? What part of food cost comes from growing versus shipping and processing? From this perspective, there has seemingly been an insurmountable change.

But interest in buying local and eating local is growing. Countless restaurants are now buying from farmers' markets or even plotting gardens themselves. Yard expansions are common for the sole purpose of re-commissioning that land into food productivity. Vacant/foreclosed land in cities across NE Ohio have been converted into gardens, going from blight to bloom and forgotten to food. Cities of all sizes have instituted policies and procedures that not only allow, but further advocate for urban agriculture expansion. Community supported agriculture programs have proliferated into downtown communities. Whether because of land availability, health consciousness, gas prices, regionalism or other external factors, the urban agriculture movement has picked up comprehensive and sustainable momentum.

Now the question may be – how does this relate to land conservation, water quality, or even WCPC?



Courtesy of Ohio State University Extension Office - Cuyahoga County

Land Conservation: Some of the largest tracks of land in the country have been reserved for food production. This preserves the land, protects food security, and provides a base of the economy. Furthermore, open space utilized for farming provides additional habitat for microbes, insects, birds, and other plant/animal life, which compliments our park and greenspace systems.



*Courtesy of
Ohio State University Extension Office
- Cuyahoga County*

Water Quality: Although agriculture may be more attributed to water quantity rather than quality, it is undeniable that the two are inextricably linked. Whether it is a garden on 100 acres or ¼ acre, each consumes water. The ideal urban agriculture system includes the pragmatic use of on-site water harvesting. Such tactics include but are not limited to cisterns, barrel collection, and ponds. And if we link our region's problem of storm water with that of agriculture, we create a local food production system that utilizes excess water, which in turn lessens harmful runoff affecting the water quality on which we all depend for drinking and recreation.

WCPC: As a land conservancy preserving, restoring, and stewarding land and water resources in the Greater Cleveland area, we believe that it is within our mission to facilitate urban agriculture to expand and become more environmentally sustainable.

Recently, The Ohio State University Extension Office, serving Cuyahoga County, (OSUE) has partnered with WCPC to implement the Kinsman Farm (just north of Kinsman Ave. off E. 82 and E. 83), which will essentially be a 6-acre urban agriculture innovation area. WCPC is leasing the property from the City of Cleveland Land Bank, while OSUE will prepare the site for agriculture use. WCPC, with oversight by OSUE, will then license ¼ acre plots of land to participants in OSUE's Urban Agriculture Incubator training program for a period of 3 to 5 years, enabling the formation of

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sustainable businesses and cooperatives. In addition to OSUE and WCPC, the City of Cleveland and the Burten-Bell-Carr Development Corporation have been extremely supportive of the project.

WCPC is excited about the opportunity to expand its land stewardship and management resources to such a unique and gap-bridging initiative. We look forward to this new partnership with OSUE, Burten Bell Carr, and the City of Cleveland.

Local food production is a win-win for the region. Producing local healthy food reduces our carbon imprint, increases food security, provides jobs and marketable products, potentially reduces stormwater, creates productive land, brings people together, preserves open space, and creates a more sustainable region.

For more information about OSUE, their technical services, training, and other assistance, please visit: <http://cuyahoga.osu.edu> or call 216-429-8200.



Courtesy of Ohio State University Extension Office - Cuyahoga County

Trails & Greenways - *quick facts!*

Trails and greenspace are hot and sought-after amenities whether in a dense urban neighborhood, sprawling suburb, or busy commercial district. They're not only a visual enhancement, but even more so - they provide a recreational outlet, a break from the hard landscape, a retreat from the office, as well as a place of solitude, tranquility, and relaxation.

Additionally - they provide an economic benefit!

Case Studies:

- ◆ In southeast PA, protected open space added \$16.3 billion to the value of housing stock ⁽¹⁾
- ◆ A survey of home-buyers demonstrated that out of 18 categories of amenities, proximity to walking/biking trails and parks ranked 2nd and 4th respectively (behind access to highways) ⁽²⁾
- ◆ State of Maryland general revenues increased \$303,750 the same year their Northern Central Rail Trail opened ⁽³⁾
- ◆ The Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa is one of the state's largest revenue generating events; reports of \$2.0 Million dollar impact per town. Towns visited during the ride were getting 20,000-30,000 people ⁽⁴⁾
- ◆ Bicycling adds an estimated \$60 Million annually to the northern Outer Banks area; and 43% of survey respondents reported that bicycling was an important factor in choosing the area as a vacation spot ⁽⁵⁾
- ◆ **Every \$1 dollar invested in trail saves \$2.94 in direct medical costs** ⁽⁶⁾
- ◆ It costs \$100 Million to build one mile of one lane highway, while it costs \$250,000 to build one mile of 12-foot wide paved or concrete trail ⁽⁷⁾

When looking at trails and greenways in your community, please keep these facts in mind. Trails are not just a path through or in a park or neighborhood; they are an artery of transportation that links you and your community.

(1) 2010 Economic Value of Protected Open Space, Greenspace Alliance & Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (2) 2002 Consumer Survey by the National Association of Realtors and National Association of Homebuilders. (3) 1994 Analysis of Economic Impact of the Northern Central Rail Trail, Maryland Department of Transportation. (4) Des Moines Register, RAGBRAI. (5) 2004, Institute for Transportation Research and Education, North Carolina State University. (6) The Economic Benefits of Trails, American Hiking Society (7) The Business of Trails: a compilation of economic benefits; Terry Eastin.

Making a Difference... Some people care about local conservation, others do something

about it! We would like to acknowledge these members and friends who have joined WCPC, renewed their membership, or donated in support of our mission between **December 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.** *Thank You* for your continuing participation, for protecting local natural areas, restoring streams, and creating greenways and trails to link our communities to these special places. Questions? - contact us at 216.749.3720 or DSchafer@westcreek.org.

Individual/Family

Anonymous
Richard J. Babyak
Milene Bender
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bitsko
David & Julie Blaha
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Boldt
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Bill & Holly Brooks
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Senior/Student

Shirley Bartholomew
Mrs. Cathy Black
Constance P. Bogan
Sylvia E. Cantor
Eugene & Barbara Degyansky
Kathy DiGiovanni
Antoinette Dyko
Janice Geho
Dorothy Gonda
Joseph J. Hegedus
Ms. Louise Keith
Lynn M. Kindel

West Creek Tributes

The following persons have given the gift of conservation in honor of special people and special events.

In memory of
Richard W. Toth
 by
 Ellen T. Davis



In honor of
Dorothy & Irv Hazel
 on their
50th Wedding Anniversary
 by
 Henrietta & Eugene Schwartz

In memory of
Richard W. Toth
 by
 Peggy Kasper

A special **Thank You** to all
 those who have donated to
 honor beloved family
 members and friends

Virginia A. Kovach
 Ray & Lois Krause
 Ed Lukacevic
 Ralph and Jean Lysyk
 Avis McGuiggan
 Jane Norris
 Joan Nunnery
 Joe & Peggy Osburn
 Geraldine & Robert Petras
 Don Pollack
 Barbara Rajavich
 Elinor Rowan
 George and Dorothy Rozak
 Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine
 Gary Suchocki

Marcine E. Szucs
 Winifred Vasek

Donors
 Baldwin Wallace Students for
 - Environmental Awareness
 General Motors — Parma
 William & Joanne Grady
 Karen Stockman-Givens

Matching Gifts
 Greater Cleveland Community Shares
 Nestle Foundation
 The Sherwin-Williams Foundation

In-Kind Donations
 Charm Thai
 Giant Eagle
 Mrs. Geraldine Kafton
 William & Christina Mueller
 Wendy Lister

Conservation Land/Easement Donation
 Fogg Resource LLC
 Al Penko

Join WCPC or Renew Today

Annual Memberships: New Renewal

- Individual/Family \$25
- Woodland Steward \$50
- Trail Builder \$100
- Quarry Partner \$250
- Greenway Champion \$500
- Watershed Patron \$1000
- Senior/Student \$15
- I would like to volunteer

Let's continue to protect local natural areas, restore our streams, create hiking and bicycling trails and complete the West Creek Greenway. Your participation makes a difference, and membership donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:
 West Creek Preservation Committee
 PO Box 347113
 Parma, OH 44134
 Or join online via paypal @ www.westcreek.org

Notes from West Creek

West Creek Preservation Committee
P.O. Box 347113
Parma, OH 44134

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www.westcreek.org

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GM Supports WCPC's Watershed Restoration Efforts



Long-time Trustee & volunteer Irene Toth greets a visitor at WCPC's display at General Motors' Open House

WCPC would like to extend a sincere thank you to General Motors of Parma and all of their volunteers! GM made a generous donation to WCPC in the amount of \$5,000, which will help fund watershed projects including a neighborhood stormwater / raingarden initiative. GM employees also pitched in at WCPC's 2011 RiverSweep cleanup event.

We are proud to have the support and partnership of GM—Parma and all of their volunteers!



GM Presents West Creek with \$5,000 donation



GM Green Team Volunteers pitch in with West Creek at RiverSweep 2011