

Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Day in the Life of Euclid Creek, *by Ken Messinger Rapport, FOEC President*

2016 marks the 15th anniversary of Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC), and to celebrate we have been hosting a variety of events in commemoration. Seven hikes extending throughout the watershed are scheduled, three of which have been completed. The signature event of the celebration was held on July 16th, as FOEC co-hosted a *Day in the Life of Euclid Creek* together with partners from Cleveland Metroparks, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, and Greenwood Farm Association.

Despite some rain, the event went fabulously well. Attendance was very good, with all ages represented and lots of curious kids taking part. The day began at Acacia where participants could either try their hand at water sampling or hike into the reservation to see how nature is slowly reclaiming the former golf course. Attendees at the water testing site were treated to the very real, unscripted experience of discovering a water pollution event when they discovered a yellow greasy substance oozing into the Creek (the polluter was subsequently identified and will be charged for the cleanup). This illegal dumping incident is discussed in more detail on page 5.

At the second site, Greenwood Farm in Richmond Hts., one group hiked down the ravine to the East Branch of Euclid Creek to search for macroinvertebrate aquatic insects and were excited to find mayflies and sowbugs as well as salamanders, snails, and crayfish. A second group learned about the history of Greenwood Farm and green infrastructure projects installed throughout the site.

The last stop was at the mouth of the Creek in Wildwood Park where the program included electrofishing, to assess the types and sizes of fish living in the Creek. Concurrently, a walking tour of the lacustrine wetland restoration project allowed folks to see how the project is faring three years after its completion. Finally, everyone enjoyed pizza and anniversary cake, and heard a summary of the scientific data that was collected during the day—which helps the professional staff assess and keep track of causes of concern and the health of the Creek. Check website for results!

Thank you to all of our volunteers from the Watershed Volunteer Program and FOEC, and to the staff from Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga SWCD, NEORS and Cuyahoga Community College-East who helped make DITL a very successful event. And thank you to our exhibitors from Cleveland Water Pollution Control, Good Nature and Cuyahoga River Area of Concern.



2016 Upcoming Meetings & Events

Sept 1, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22
Tue, Sept 6, 6:30-8:00pm
Thur, Sept 15, 6:30-8:00pm
Sat, Sept 17, 10:00am-noon
Thu, Sept 22, 5:30-7:30pm
Thu, Oct 6, 5:00-7:00pm
Sat, Oct 8, 1:00-3:00pm
Wed, Nov 2, 6:30-8:00pm
Sat, Nov 5, 9:30-11:00am
Sat, Dec 6, 6:30-8:30pm

National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat Stewards Training, Highland Heights Community Center*
FOEC 15 Year Anniversary Hike at Wildwood Park, Cleveland, Meet at picnic pavilion - 1.5 mile hike
Rain Barrel Workshop, Euclid Senior Center - Register by Sept 8*
Wildwood Park Fall Cleanup, Euclid Creek Reservation-Wildwood Park, Cleveland, please RSVP*
Stormwater Credit Workshop (NEORS-led), Mayfield Village Civic Center
Euclid Creek Watershed Summit, Mayfield Village Community Room, details on page 5
FOEC 15 Year Anniversary Neighborhood Hike, Meet at Schaefer Park - 3.0 mile hike
Rain Barrel Workshop, Mayfield Village Community Room - Register by Oct 26*
FOEC 15 Year Anniversary Hike at Acacia Reservation, Lyndhurst, Meet at Cedar Rd. Pkg lot— 2.5 miles
FOEC Annual Holiday Party, details coming closer to the date

*To register or for questions, contact the Watershed Coordinator (contact information on back page of newsletter) or check the website

President's Message, *by Ken Messinger Rapport*

We have been busy and productive this summer for the Friends of Euclid Creek. At the June meeting and picnic members elected a board of directors which included some new members and some returning members in new positions. The all-volunteer board consists of the following members who serve for a two-year term:

President: *Ken Messinger-Rapport*, Highland Heights resident, retired environmental law attorney

Vice President: *Chris Vild*, City of Beachwood Service Department supervisor

Secretary: *Sue Swisher*, South Euclid resident, retired librarian

Treasurer: *Christine Laskin*, Highland Heights, veterinarian

Directors:

Christi Carlson, Richmond Heights, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes outreach coordinator, and immediate past-President of FOEC

Brian Gilbert, Cleveland resident, developing NativePlant ID Application for Euclid Creek

Patrick Henry, Euclid resident, Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Volunteer Program volunteer

Jim Juknialis, Cleveland resident, retired

Anna Kozlenko, South Euclid resident, retired wildlife ecologist

Annie Roberto, Mayfield Heights resident, environmental science student



15 Year Anniversary cake at Day in the Life of Euclid Creek Event—wearing our snazzy new FOEC shirts

The board held its first meeting in July where an ambitious agenda was laid out. For an organization that is fifteen years old you would think that a lot of the kinks would be worked out by now—but as George Gershwin et. al. said, 'it ain't necessarily so...'. For the first time in our history the board has established five working committees which will be tasked with taking up longstanding, unmet needs. The five committees are Conservation, Education, Membership, Marketing, and Fundraising. It should be mentioned at the outset, that these committees are designed to invite membership participation. We want to bring more of you into the organization in ways that will allow you to contribute to the furthering the mission of the Friends of Euclid Creek. ***We need you, we need your ideas and your energy to make this organization work.*** Each committee will be chaired or co-chaired by a board member and each has been given a task to focus on during the coming year. We hope that you will find something among these tasks that will inspire you to participate.

The Conservation Committee, chaired by Brian Gilbert, will focus on developing stewardship plans for three of the conserved properties in the Watershed. Funding for the management plans will come from grants and/or FOEC member/donor funds. Another priority is to control invasive plants at a riparian demonstration project around the Richmond Heights City Hall.

The Education Committee, chaired by Chris Vild, will be responsible for developing programming for 2017. If you have any suggestions about what you would like to do or see, or if there are any old programs you would like to have back again, please let Chris know. For now, we will be staying with our seasonal schedule of events, rather than having an event every month.

The Membership Committee will have co-chairs, Christi Carlson and Chris Laskin. Its primary duties will include tracking membership renewals, developing a 'Welcome Kit' for new members; and, developing ways to increase member participation in the operations of the organization.

The Marketing Committee, which will be charged with developing a consistent brand for the Friends, will be led by Patrick Henry with help from Barb Holtz. The primary task will be to complete the FOEC brochure update.

Lastly, the Fundraising Committee will be chaired by Ken Messinger-Rapport. The primary task for this Committee will be to make sure that our organization is ready when grant opportunities arise and that we have a list of priority projects. The committee will also focus on the traditional methods of fundraising.

It is an ambitious program by any stretch of the imagination, especially since we are an all-volunteer organization which is why we hope you will find something interesting and exciting that you would like to add your voice to. Please join us as we learn about our environment, and work to make the Euclid Creek watershed an even better place to live.



Watershed Wildlife, by Barb Holtz

17 Year Cicada



Greg Smith via Ohio Division of Wildlife

While the audible buzz has passed, the news-worthy buzz has not. Many have waited years for the star of the show to arrive and for me, it was worth the wait. The **17-year cicada** emerged on stage with triumphant sound and sheer insect numbers, particularly if you live south of Cleveland.

The periodical show is not unlike the annual cicada show, a sort of sexy horror drama that fills nature’s stage with wooing, copulation and nymphs. Outgrown exoskeletons split along the back to welcome fresh cicada adults into the world. A very “alien-esque” action that is somewhat gross and sort of cool all at the same time. What separates the periodical from the annual show is the anticipation.

Here are the facts:

The last brood of periodical cicadas burrowed underground in 1999. This late spring and early summer, nymphs broke from the earth after a 17 year feast on plant root juices. These “teenagers” then climbed onto stems to complete their transformation to adulthood. They shed their adolescent shell to emerge as winged adults with one thing on their minds. Mate!

Females cut into twigs creating places to deposit eggs. Once the 400-600 eggs per female hatch, the nymphs dropped to the ground, returning to the soil to feed, and the process starts anew.

What I find more interesting than the facts is the one ever-present question: **What’s the point?** The point, my friends, is that nature doesn’t need a reason or at least a reason that makes sense to you and me. It makes sense to the cicada. The point is not to see how the 17 years of waiting makes sense in our lives but that 17 years of waiting in the cicada’s life is just that...life. Think on that till 2033 when we can say, “they’re back!”

Annual or Dog Day Cicada

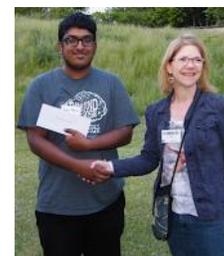


songsofinsects.com

FOEC Awards Third Annual Scholarship to Mayfield Heights Student

The Friends of Euclid Creek recently announced the recipient of its 2016 annual \$1,000 Environmental Education scholarship - Hrishikesh "Gopal" Mandal. The scholarship is awarded to a student residing in the Watershed who has the goal of working in the environmental field.

Gopal is a recent graduate of Mayfield High School and will be attending CASE this fall. His desire is to be a professor or researcher who helps to protect and preserve nature. Gopal was involved in several research projects in high school, including one in which he studied the effects of deforestation on a local salamander population. He also won an award at the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair for a self-designed research project studying acid degradation of brownfields. Gopal has participated in many extracurricular activities, including the History, Spanish and Chess Clubs, he enjoys singing and the theatre, and is inspired by tutoring other students. He expresses a deep passion for the environment and for scientific research, which makes him a deserving recipient of the 2016 FOEC Environmental Education scholarship.



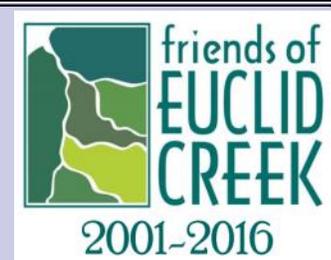
Christi Carlson, FOEC President, awards scholarship to Hrishikesh "Gopal" Mandal.

15 Years of Friends – Celebrate with Us!

Fifteen Miles with Friends

Join us to explore the beauty and diversity of Euclid Creek as we walk 15 total miles throughout the watershed (all hike details online at www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org).

Sep. 6	6:30-8 pm	Wildwood parking lot	1.5 miles
Oct. 8	1-3 pm	Schaeffer Park area neighborhood walk	3 miles
Nov. 5	9:30-11 am	Acacia Reservation	2.5 miles



Euclid Creek Watershed Summit—October 6, 5-7pm, Mayfield Village Community Room (details on page 5)

FOEC Annual Holiday Party—Save the Date—December 6, evening (details on website soon)

Acacia Reservation Restoration Starting this Fall, *by Jenn Grieser, Cleveland Metroparks*

As Acacia Reservation continues its journey to forest and meadow, changes will affect access to some areas. For 91 years, golf course managers used many ways to drain water quickly off the property. One of the goals of the restoration is to allow stormwater to linger as long as possible, which slows flooding further downstream. This involves breaking up the underground drainage systems and sculpting the land in ways that allow stormwater to pool and soak in.

Beginning this fall you will witness large equipment moving soil, fences protecting sensitive areas, tree felling and new trail alignments emerging over time. Some will be temporary while others will be permanent. All will provide exceptional views to observe the exciting changes as we work with nature to reclaim this land.



Typical stream restoration project with large, earth moving equipment

Adjacent Watersheds Update

Urban Ravines: a means to regenerate local ecology, *by Roy Larick, PhD*

Several of Cleveland's Heights communities lie upon the bluestone terrace of the Portage Escarpment. Covering thousands of acres, the 'Bluestone Heights' holds a large network of small unbuilt lands. The area is ready for a new approach in a new era, one that looks to regenerate basic ecological functions within a dense but patchy urban environment.

My desires are to comprehend Bluestone Heights ecology and to lay groundwork for meeting more sustainable natural and human needs.

A new unit in watershed conservation aids in the task: the small urban ravine. On the Bluestone Heights, urban ravines are deep V-shaped forested landscapes with a headwater stream at the bottom. Urban ravines usually hold the deep backlots of legacy residential neighborhoods. Homeowners are primary stakeholders.

Green Creek Ravine

Typical is the Green Creek ravine that straddles the borders of Cleveland, Euclid and South Euclid near Green Rd. The ravine's 20 acres of hardwood forest is parceled among 65 homeowners.

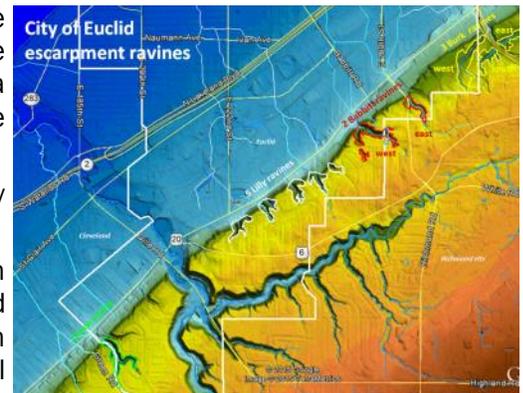
In 2015, Bluestone Heights won funding to study ravine ecology with a focus on the forest. Two centuries ago, the ravine had a natural woodland. Early settlers cut the forest for timber and charcoal. New trees have regrown.

Volunteers have documented more than a thousand mature trees—the full ravine population. We see that the forest is patchy, with one or two species dominating in certain locales. This fall we will use iTree analysis to quantify ecosystem benefits.

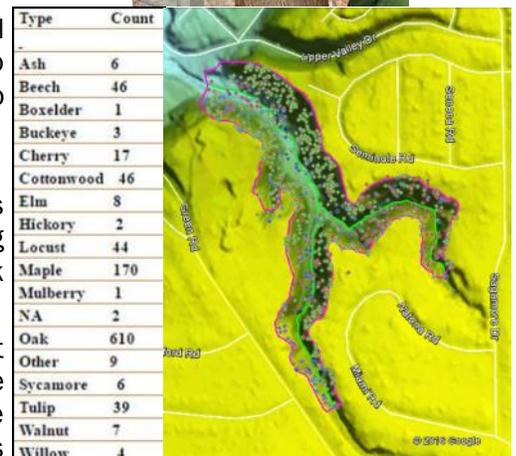
Urban Ravine Workshop

In Greater Cleveland's current stage of urban shrinkage, urban ravines come to loom larger in the landscape. They provide the basis for linking green space and ecological function across the region. The Green Creek work sets a model for understanding other ravines.

In spring 2017, we will hold an Urban Ravine Workshop to share best conservation practices with stakeholders. Our partner, the Alliance for the Great Lakes, has worked with hundreds of Chicago area ravine stakeholders. The Alliance identifies local conservation needs and helps implement individual and community actions. We need to conserve our ravines. Let's go, Cleveland!



Urban ravines map (above); Green Creek ravine ecological inventory (photo and map of trees surveyed below)



Watershed Action Plan Update

In 2016-2017, we are updating the 2006 Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan. Community input will be just as important for this update as it was during the original plan development. So please join us at one of our Stakeholder Meetings this coming November-December to provide your input. There will be three public meetings scheduled to address the Main Stem, the East Branch and the West Branch of Euclid Creek. In a watershed 24 square miles, in 12 communities and in 2 county's, there are a lot of stakeholders like citizens, communities, businesses, community organizations and others. Please bring to the meeting your observations and ideas about problems, solutions and priorities for the watershed. Check our website and Facebook page for public meeting announcements. And remember, it's going to take detailed planning (and some snacks!) to get the Euclid Creek Watershed to our clean water goals, but we need your input!



Illegal Dumping Continuous Problem in Watershed

A recurring problem in the Euclid Creek is with illegal dumping, either on land or in storm drains that lead to the creek. This year alone, I've received six calls from residents about black, oily substances coming out of pipe outfalls entering Euclid Creek or Lake Erie; apartment dwellers calling about trash dumping in streamside wooded areas behind their buildings; and the most egregious incident happened during our Day in the Life of Euclid Creek event on July 16 with a cooking oil incident. At our first stop of the day at Acacia Reservation in Lyndhurst, we observed a small amount of a yellow substance entering Euclid Creek from a culvert under Cedar Road coming from an upstream location in the City of Beachwood (top photo).



Finding the perpetrators of illegal dumping is a challenge. Most times when you see signs of dumping, the source is long gone as it was washed away in a rain event, which is why our discovery was so unbelievable. As time passed, the amount of yellow substance increased and when we put our monitoring equipment in the water, an oily substance covered it and smelled like cooking oil. We took photos of the substance and immediately called the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to report the incident. Within two hours, NEORS D had traced the discharge to a local restaurant's cooking oil trash receptacle that was leaking into a nearby storm drain, entering Euclid Creek. Within another hour, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency installed booms in the creek to capture the oil from going farther downstream. This story is truly rewarding—not only did we quickly identify, report and find the source of the problem, but agency partners were able to get it cleaned up quickly, so as to not cause more harm to our aquatic organisms living in the creek. The business has taken responsibility and will pay for the cleanup costs, so this story has a happy ending. But it is important to stress that if you see something concerning in or by the creek or storm drain, or dumping into wooded areas, call the community's Service Department and/or Ohio EPA (800-282-9378).



Save the Date—Euclid Creek Watershed Summit

October 6, 5-7pm, Mayfield Village Community Room

Please join Euclid Creek Watershed Program partners for our second joint watershed meeting, as we celebrate the accomplishments of the year. Representatives of the Euclid Creek Watershed Council (ECWC), its Committees, Friends of Euclid Creek and watershed partner agencies will update you on progress we've made in restoring the watershed in 2016.

There will be networking, a short presentation series, and refreshments. Enjoy conversation and camaraderie as we learn about watershed research as well as how each one of us can make a difference to watershed health. Please RSVP by October 4 to the Watershed Coordinator as space is limited (contact info. on back page).

**Euclid Creek Watershed
Program Partnership**

**EUCLID CREEK
WATERSHED COUNCIL**

BEACHWOOD • CLEVELAND • EUCLID
HIGHLAND HEIGHTS • LYNDBURST • MAYFIELD
MAYFIELD HEIGHTS • RICHMOND HEIGHTS • SOUTH EUCLID



friends of
**EUCLID
CREEK**



cuyahoga
SOIL & WATER
conservation district

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, Ohio 44125

More About Our Program Partners

Euclid Creek Watershed Council (ECWC)

City of Beachwood	City of Cleveland
City of Euclid	City of Highland Heights
City of Lyndhurst	City of Mayfield Heights
Mayfield Village	City of Richmond Heights
City of South Euclid	

Each community appoints a representative to serve on the Council, which meets three times a year and has several committees that focus on education & outreach, technical issues and volunteer monitoring.

Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC)

The Friends of Euclid Creek is a community-based watershed stewardship group, a non-profit 501(c)(3).

Board: **President**—Ken Messinger-Rapport; **Vice President**—Chris Vild; **Secretary**—Sue Swisher; **Treasurer**—Christine Laskin; and **Directors**—Christi Carlson, Brian Gilbert, Patrick Henry, Jim Juknialis, Anna Kozlenko and Annie Roberto.

Meetings: FOEC holds educational meetings, hikes and tours throughout the year. Check our website or Facebook page for the meeting schedule.

Support FOEC by becoming a member or donating as we need your support! Call, email, or check the website to find out how.

Friends of Euclid Creek
P.O. Box 21384
South Euclid, OH 44121
FriendsofEuclidCreek@gmail.com



Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Houses the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, the Program's full time staff person who implements the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan and acts as the liaison between the ECWC and FOEC.

Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator, Claire Posius
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, Ohio 44125
216-524-6580 x16 office
216-524-6584 fax
cposius@cuyahogawcd.org



Program Website and Facebook Page

Website: www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org

Facebook: Like 'Friends of Euclid Creek'



Only Rain Down the Drain

If you would like to **receive this electronic newsletter**, sign up on the website, email, or call the Watershed Coordinator with your email address.

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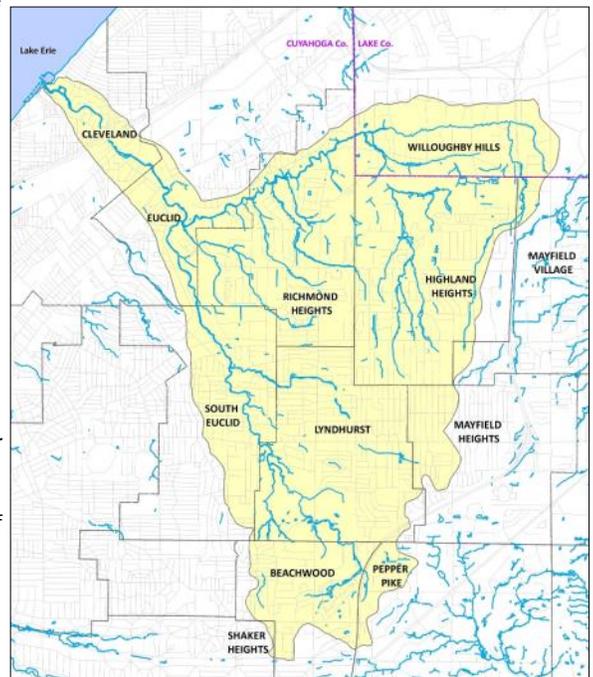


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Newsletter printed with generous support of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District through its Watershed Grants Program.

What is a Watershed? A watershed is the area of land that drains to a single river, stream or lake. Because the actions we take on land directly affect the quality of our rivers and streams, it is important to take the entire watershed into consideration when trying to protect and improve the health of our local waters.

The Euclid Creek Watershed drains 24 square miles from 11 Northeast Ohio communities in Cuyahoga County and a portion of Lake County. The Creek includes 34 miles of streams as far as 8 miles away from the Creek's outflow to Lake Erie, our source of drinking water, at Wildwood Park in Cleveland.



Euclid Creek is one of the most densely populated and developed watersheds along the Ohio Lake Erie coastline—which results in poor water quality. But we have a plan to restore the health of the watershed and it includes you, so contact us to find out how you can help Euclid Creek today!

Map of the Euclid Creek Watershed.