

Euclid Creek Watershed Update

Issue 43
Spring 2019

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How You Can Help the Euclid Creek Watershed

Monitor Water Quality!



Pick Up Litter!

Educate Others!

Plant Trees!



Switch to organic lawn care!

Upcoming Events and Opportunities to Help

- **Sat, May 18, 2019 10:00am-noon**—Wildwood Park Spring Cleanup Day
 - **Tues, June 4, 2019 6:30-8:30pm**—FOEC Annual Potluck, Elections & Scholarship Announcement
 - **Sat, June 15, 2019 10:00-11:30 am**—Acacia Rain Barrel Workshop
- Visit www.euclidcreekwatershed.org for details

We are currently in need of someone to lead our FOEC Marketing Committee.

To volunteer for a FOEC Board committee, contact **Ken Messinger-Rapport** (foecpresident@gmail.com).

Please consider being a volunteer at a tabling event, workshop, cleanup, or tree planting. For questions, contact the Watershed Program Manager, **Elizabeth Hiser** (ehiser@cuahogawcd.org).

Friends of Euclid Creek President's Message by FOEC President, Ken Messinger-Rapport

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the last time that the Cuyahoga River caught on fire in 1969—which contributed to the establishment of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act in the late 60's and early 70's—the **Friends of Euclid Creek** (FOEC), the **Collinwood Painted Rain Barrel Project**, and the **City of Beachwood** are sponsoring a Professional Rain Barrel Painting Competition, a Public Rain Barrel Painting Workshop, a Watershed Art Gallery, and Lake Erie Speakers Panel from May-August this year.

A **Call for Artists** has been made to identify twelve designs. The artists will be selected and commissioned to paint their designs on rain barrels; and, when completed, the barrels will be exhibited in the gallery space at the Beachwood Community Center. Commissioned artists will be given a 55 gallon rain barrel on which to complete their design, and paid \$100 for their finished barrels. The barrels will be auctioned via a silent auction during the course of the art exhibit with the proceeds benefiting the



Majestic Blue on the Canal—2012

FOEC Conservation Fund. Valuable prizes will be awarded to the top three designs in the categories of Professional, Amateur, and Child artist as determined by a jury of local artists and arts professionals.

For more detailed information about the contest and instructions on how to apply, please go to: www.euclidcreekwatershed.org/programs/rain-barrel-art-call-to-artists.

The application is free, although there are some small expenses associated with preparing a proposal. To submit a design proposal, it must be postmarked or hand delivered to: **Susan Merdler**, Program Coordinator, Beachwood Municipal Complex at 25325 Fairmount Blvd. Beachwood Ohio, 44122, by 3 pm on Friday, May 3, 2019.

Meanwhile, as the professional artists are preparing their rain barrels, the FOEC and Collinwood Rain Barrel Project will sponsor a **two-day rain barrel painting workshop** for the public on June 1st and 2nd at the Beachwood Service Center.

The event will feature food and live music. At the end of the two-day workshop, participants should have a beautiful, decorative rain barrel of their very own. Some of these "public" rain barrels may be selected to participate in, and, be placed on display at the art show in July and August. Sign-up and details are online: www.euclidcreekwatershed.org/events.

On Sunday, August 4th there will be an artists' reception open to the public at the Beachwood Community Center for the beginning of the art installation and exhibit running from July 31st through August 22nd.



Shenlong—2012

Lastly, on Thursday, August 8th the FOEC will present the **Lake Erie Speakers Series** for 2019 at the Beachwood Community Center featuring:

Fredrick Vincent of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, who will speak on the "Deep Tunnel Project";

Chris Winslow, Director of the Ohio State University Stone Lab, who will speak on "How Activities on Land Affect Lake Erie"; and,

Dr. Robert Brand, from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, who will speak on "Safe Consumption of Fish from Lake Erie".

This event will be part of the FOEC programs and will be free and open to the public.

Please come out and have fun!

This project is made possible in part by a generous grant from **Cuyahoga Arts and Culture** to FOEC as well as funding provided by the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District**.

Be a Euclid Creek Watershed Champion

This year, we have started a campaign to spread the news about things you can do to help restore **Euclid Creek**.

We are asking you to **Take Action: in your yard, by the creek, and in your community.**

Pledge to take at least three watershed friendly actions in your yard and at least one action in your community to become a **Euclid Creek Watershed Champion** and earn **your very own Champion sign!**

The pledge is available at our website or you can request a paper pledge form from our Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager (contact information on back page).



Congratulations to **Kelly Butauski**, our first Euclid Creek Watershed Champion! In her yard, Kelly has pledged to leave her leaves as mulch or compost, save water by not watering the lawn, as well as practice mindful use (or no use at all) of chemicals, nutrients and pesticides. Kelly is a **Friends of Euclid Creek** Education Committee member. In addition, she lets her neighbors know about habits they can take to help Euclid Creek. She also volunteers at Euclid Creek Watershed stream cleanups. Thank you, Kelly, for being a **Champion for Euclid Creek!**

Euclid Creek Watershed Champion



Protecting Euclid Creek
One Yard at a Time

www.euclidcreekwatershed.org

Signs printed with generous support of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District through the Watershed Service Agreement.



You can Help Euclid Creek too

We have plenty of volunteer events coming up this year with more on the way.

Sign-up to volunteer on our website today!

www.euclidcreekwatershed.org/euclid-creek/events

NEW THIS YEAR: Bi-Monthly Euclid Creek Reservation Stream Cleanups:

Saturdays April 13, June 8, August 17, and October 12 from 9am-12pm

Thanks to Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Volunteer **Emily Brown** for leading this new effort!



Backyard Invasive Plants by FOEC Member, Kelly Butauski

Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites*)

Common Reed Grass (*phragmites*) is an aggressive invasive plant. We often see them along highways growing in ditches and ponds. Although considered attractive by many, their beauty is not worth the destruction they cause. Originally from Eurasia, they have spread throughout the U.S. and Canada.

These dense, fast growing stands destroy natural habitats that provide critical food and shelter for animals, birds, and pollinators (such as monarchs). They alter the natural flow of water through wetlands, affecting aquatic organisms. They take over beaches and waterways, preventing recreation.

Some property owners like Common Reed Grass for privacy screening or ornamentation. However, many native grasses and plants are a better option for those uses. For information on native grasses and plants, go to ohiodnr.gov/gonative or contact Cuyahoga SWCD. We can all help protect our environment by keeping invasive plants out of our yards and properties and planting natives where we can.

Identification



Common Reed Grass returns every year (a perennial). The hollow, ribbed, 1-inch stems resemble bamboo. The stiff, dark gray-green alternating leaves span up to 2.5 inches wide and 15 inches long, tapering to a point. The feathery “panicles” growing from the top of the stems, start purple and grow to 20-inch tan seed heads by late July.

Management

Common Reed Grass spreads by underground roots (rhizomes) and above ground “creepers”. Wind and animals spread the seeds out of the area. Although a difficult plant to eradicate, small stands are controllable. Large stands are best removed by invasive plant experts.

It is important to be alert for any suspected Common Reed Grass starting to grow on property. Managing Common Reed Grass doesn't end after one treatment. Strategies should be maintained over multiple years to reduce and eliminate stands. Find out more about how to manage this plant on our website.

Beachwood Middle School Students Help Cut Back Common Reed Grass this Spring in their School Rain Garden



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Watershed Programs & Projects

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS D) master planning for the **CHALET** (i.e. the Chagrin River and Lake Erie Direct Tributaries Watersheds) has begun. A consulting team has been chosen and data collection and review has started. The team will perform field investigations and begin modeling the watershed to **prioritize future projects that help with stormwater management.**

NEORSRD Stormwater Inspection and Maintenance (SWIM) teams recently performed maintenance on 2 eroding streambanks along the East Branch of Euclid Creek in Richmond Heights.

SWIM staff noted at the latest Watershed Advisory Committee meeting that mowing to the edge of stream was common in many of these erosion related projects.

Prevent erosion! Grow a riparian buffer!

(Stop mowing to the edge of the stream. Allow long rooted plants to grow in the 10-25 ft directly next to the stream.)

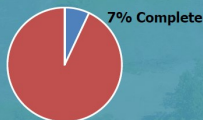
Do you have questions about Master Planning or NEORS D maintenance projects? Visit the NEORS D website: www.neorsd.org or contact **Jeff Jowett** at 216-881-6600.

Stormwater Master Plan

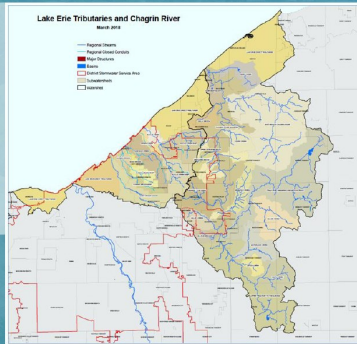
Study Area

Total Study Area

- 217,318 acres (58,616 within SWSA)
- 25 Subwatersheds in the SWSA
- 21 WAC Member Communities
- Project Budget: \$10M



 **Northeast Ohio
Regional Sewer District**



@neorsd

Small Scale Maintenance: Streambank Stabilization Euclid Creek East Branch

Asset #: EE00194
Richmond Heights: Richmond Road
Stream Structural BRE= 12



Muckleheads and Mayflies by FOEC Member, Barb Holtz

Ever had that lovely outdoor experience when you exclaim, “(cough, cough) Ugh, I think I just swallowed a bug!” That’s easy to do during **mucklehead** or **midge** season. These insect beasts hatch out from Lake Erie in spring and fall, move inland, and swarm. While midges do not bite, they can “flock” around people and cover buildings. The muckleheads’ five minutes of Cleveland fame occurred in 2007 at the ACLS game, Indians vs. Yankees, when they clouded the pitching mound.

Mayflies show up in summer and are larger than midges. Mayflies come inland to breed, then females return to Lake Erie for egg laying. While generally more prevalent in the shallower, western Lake Erie basin, wind can push mayflies east toward Cleveland during mating season.

When Lake Erie bugs are in record numbers, we may not care if it's a **midge** or a **mayfly**. But a closer look tells us a great deal about water cleanliness. Mayflies, in particular, indicate improving water quality. Because Euclid Creek empties directly into Lake Erie, what happens upstream determines what happens at its end.

A cleaner creek = A cleaner lake

So next time you swallow a bug, I invite you to change your tune to, “(cough, cough) I wonder if that was a clean water insect? I sure hope so.”



Midge or Mucklehead
Wikipedia Image



Mayfly
Cleveland Scene Image

Acacia Reservation Frog Monitoring by Case Western Reserve Professor, Mike Benard

Cleveland Metroparks has been quite busy the past few years helping Acacia Reservation transform from golf course to nature. As part of that effort, studies are performed to see if wildlife are now using the restored wetlands and stream areas. Biologists from **Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)** surveyed the small, created wetlands at the Acacia Reservation in June 2018. They found that Green Frogs were successfully breeding at many of the new wetlands at Acacia. Green Frog tadpoles typically take a year to grow large enough to metamorphose, and spend their first winter in wetlands.

During the CWRU survey, newly-hatched green frogs from 2018 were found, as were 1-year old green frog tadpoles from 2017. The CWRU biologists also found a juvenile Bullfrog using one of the small wetlands. In addition to amphibians, dragonfly larvae and other insects were abundant in the new wetlands.



aeshnid dragonfly larvae
—Mike Benard



Juvenile bullfrog—Mike Benard



Metamorphosing green frog—Mike Benard

Ant Adaptation Studies at Acacia Reservation

Lacy Chick, a postdoctoral research associate in **Sarah Diamond's Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Lab**, has been researching how changing temperatures impact ant populations in rural and urban communities.

In Fall 2017, researchers distributed ant nest boxes at Acacia Reservation. These nest boxes are easily accessible to CWRU students, researchers, and the general public and are already generating data, with **162 observations uploaded to iNaturalist**. From these observations, the lab has been able to interact with citizen scientists to identify and confirm specimen photos, as well as answer questions about the research being conducted at the Acacia Reservation. In the coming year, they hope to distribute signage to mark the areas for the nest boxes that will include a QR code for visitors and researchers to easily upload images to the iNaturalist portal. Find out more on our Acacia Project Page of our website.



Nest box with acrylic cover to allow for observations without disturbance

Clean Ohio Grant Success For Euclid Creek by FOEC President, Ken Messinger-Rapport

West Creek Conservancy and **Cleveland Metroparks** were both successful in receiving Clean Ohio grant funding to acquire and protect properties in the Euclid Creek Watershed this spring!

West Creek Conservancy purchased the remaining 37 acres comprising the original Dusty Goldenrod Preserve. This parcel was previously owned by the Mayfield City Schools and adjoins the existing twelve acre conservation easement.

The Dusty Goldenrod Preserve is now tripled in size!

This purchase protects high quality wetlands in Euclid Creek, and will definitely present conservation management opportunities for the future.

Another preservation success occurred as the **Cleveland Metroparks** was awarded Clean Ohio funding to purchase 63.3 acres in **Richmond Heights** known as the Hovnanian Property. The Hovnanian group had planned to build houses on this high bluff overlooking the Euclid Creek Reservation. The acquisition by the Metroparks, set for May 31, 2019, will save that natural space and offer new opportunities to connect and protect Euclid Creek.

These are great projects that will positively impact habitat and water quality for Euclid Creek!



FOEC President Ken Messinger-Rapport (left) and Vice President Chris Vild displaying new Dusty Goldenrod acquisition at West Creek Annual Meeting.

Ninemile Creek Green Infrastructure Grant Update

Cuyahoga SWCD received a green infrastructure grant from **William Bingham Foundation** to install a bioswale and native landscaping beds near the Langerdale Marsh on Ninemile Creek (our neighbor Lake Erie Tributary to the west). Construction is complete and the **City of South Euclid** will be hosting an Arbor Day event at noon to celebrate this new **Green Pocket Park**.

Over 300 native plants will be added to the landscape near Langerdale Marsh as part of this grant. In collaboration with Central Lake Erie Basin watershed groups, and led by **Chagrin River Watershed Partners**, the William Bingham Foundation grant will add over 1500 native plants to our local watersheds. Thank you to **Pam's Perennials** for their generous donation of 25 goldenrod for this site!

Check out our Facebook page for photos and video of the bioswale construction project.

We will be planting blue false indigo, joe-pye weed, and milkweed plugs on Saturday May 11th from 9 am to noon. [Sign up on our website to volunteer.](#)

Keep an eye out for a fall maintenance day event and tour in coordination with **Bluestone Heights**.



Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
3311 Perkins Ave., Suite 100
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Find Euclid Creek Online!

www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org

Like 'Friends of Euclid Creek' on Facebook

Follow 'foecwatershed' on Instagram

Only Rain Down the Drain

If you would like to [receive this newsletter electronically](#), sign up on the website, email, or call the Watershed Program Manager (contact information below).

Newsletter printed with generous support of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District through the Watershed Service Agreement.

Euclid Creek Watershed Program & Partners

The Euclid Creek Watershed encompasses 24 square miles, 12 communities, and 2 counties (Cuyahoga and Lake).

Our program is supported by the efforts of:
the Euclid Creek Watershed Council (ECWC),
the Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC)
and the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Stay tuned to our website for event and project updates including our Willoughby Hills Stream Restoration and Hawken Tree Planting Grants!

Euclid Creek Watershed Council

Composed of the **mayor** of each city that participates in the ECWC or their official designee

Meets three times a year, approves Euclid Creek Watershed Program Work Plan, has several committees that focus on education & outreach, technical issues and volunteer water quality monitoring

Goal: To participate, as public officials and stakeholders, in the implementation of the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan.

Mission: To address common environmental, stormwater and development concerns in the Euclid Creek Watershed.



EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL

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

Friends of Euclid Creek

A **citizen** watershed stewardship group, a non-profit 501(c)(3)
Board members elected every two years at annual meeting in June
FOEC holds educational meetings, hikes and tours throughout the year

Goal: To improve the health of the environment in the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Vision: FOEC is the citizen voice for the Euclid Creek Watershed.

Mission: To raise awareness about and preserve the natural features of the Euclid Creek Watershed.

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



Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Houses the watershed **program manager**, a full time staff person who helps implement the Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan and acts as the liaison between the ECWC, FOEC, and other watershed partners.

Mission: Advocate and implement best management practices for conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through education, stewardship and technical assistance.

Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager, Elizabeth Hiser

216-524-6580 x1002
ehiser@cuyahogawcd.org



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF CONSERVATION | 1949-2019



COME JOIN US! We are your friends and neighbors

Who: The Friends of Euclid Creek is a citizen watershed stewardship group, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2003.

What: Our mission is to raise awareness about and preserve the natural features of the Euclid Creek watershed.

We help people who live and work in the watershed become stewards of the land and water.

We educate the community about the benefits of restoring, preserving, and protecting Euclid Creek.

We offer educational activities, tours, cleanups, native plantings and events celebrating the watershed.

Our members also conduct water quality monitoring and visual inspections of the Creek.

When: NOW!

Where: • Beachwood • Cleveland • Euclid • Highland Heights • Lyndhurst • Mayfield Heights
• Mayfield Village • Pepper Pike • Richmond Heights • South Euclid • Willoughby Hills

Why: We believe we have an obligation to deliver a healthy environment to future generations.

Learn more about us - **Website:** www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org

Benefits:



A better world



Meet thoughtful people



A cleaner environment



Make new friends and learn new things



A cleaner Lake Erie



Take guided, heart-healthy hikes



HAVE FUN!

Cost? - minimal

How do I join? - see membership application below



Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment: Membership Level:

☐ Individual \$25.00 ☐ Family \$35.00 ☐ Student (24 & under) or Senior (65 & over) \$20.00 ☐ Other \$_____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____

Make check payable to “Friends of Euclid Creek” and mail to:

Friends of Euclid Creek, Attn.: Treasurer

P.O. Box 21384

South Euclid, Ohio 44121

Thank you for your membership and remember your dues are tax-deductible!



SAVE THE DATE!

FRIENDS OF EUCLID CREEK 2019 EVENTS

MONTH/Location/Time	ACTIVITY
May 14, Tuesday, 6-8:30 p.m. Metroparks Wildwood Reservation, Shelter E. 174 & Lakeshore, Cleveland	Birding for Migrants Fred Losi, Naturalist
June 1, 11-4 p.m., and June 2, 1-4 p.m. Beachwood Community Service Center 23550 Mercantile Rd., Beachwood	Rain Barrel Painting Workshop (requires both days) \$60 fee, waiver, and registration are due 5/24 . Please see: https://www.euclidcreekwatershed.org/euclid-creek/events/2019/06/01/euclid-creek-rain-barrel-painting-workshop , for complete details. Questions? Contact Ken Messinger-Rapport, 440-605-1543
June 4, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. The Telling Mansion 4645 Mayfield Rd., South Euclid	Friends Annual Meeting and Potluck - Scholarship award
August 8th, Thursday, 6:30-8:30 pm Beachwood Community Center 25325 Fairmount, Beachwood	FOEC Speaker Series "Deep Tunnel Project" Fredrick Vincent, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer "How Activities on Land Impact Lake Erie" Chris Winslow, Director, OSU, Stone Lab "Safe Lake Erie Fish Consumption" , Robert Brand, PhD Cuyahoga County Board of Health
September 9, Monday, 6:00 pm Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation 32500 Chardon Rd, Willoughby Hills	School's Stream Restoration Project Review and Tour
October 3, Thursday, 6-7:30 pm Euclid Creek Reservation, Welsh Woods Picnic Area	"Health Benefits of Trees" Lisa Meranti, OneTreeLove
December 3, Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. Mayfield Village Community Center 6622 Wilson Mills Rd., Mayfield Village	Friends of Euclid Creek Holiday Party

Euclid Creek Reservation Stream Clean Ups:

Saturdays April 13, June 8, August 17, and October 12 from 9am-12pm
Thanks to Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Volunteer **Emily Brown** for leading this new effort!
Sign up to volunteer here: www.euclidcreekwatershed.org/euclid-creek/events

For more information or questions on programming contact:

Ken Messinger-Rapport, foecpresident@gmail.com, or call 440-605-1543

Euclid Creek Watershed volunteers assist with workshops, community event tables, wetland cleanups.
Contact Elizabeth Hiser, ehiser@cuyahogawcd.org, 216-524-6580 x1002

Friends of Euclid Creek volunteers serve on committees (education, membership, finance, conservation, and marketing), assist with member events, and Euclid Creek Watershed activities.

Website: www.euclidcreekwatershed.org **Facebook:** "Friends of Euclid Creek"
Twitter: @EuclidCreek **Instagram:** foecwatershed