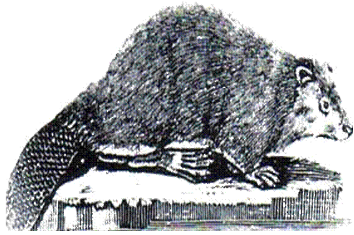


LITTLE BEAVER CREEK LAND FOUNDATION



WATERSHED WATCH

SPRING 2010

TREE PLANTING-SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Last April over a hundred volunteers helped plant trees at the new Hellbender Bluff County Park off East Liverpool Rd. in Madison Township. Thanks to their hard work almost four acres were planted with over 3,500 native hardwood seedlings. The event was a great success and surveys done in the fall showed that the trees that were planted have a high survival rate. This April 17 there will be another tree planting event and once again volunteers are needed to help plant trees.

The event will again be held at the new Hellbender Bluff County Park in Madison Township. The Park, which was recently expanded to 750 acres, was acquired by the Columbiana Parks District with funds from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and a grant from the Nature Conservancy. The Park is named after the Hellbender Salamander that lives in Little Beaver Creek, and is an endangered species in Ohio. Part of the land was reclaimed after it was strip mined but the soil was left extremely compacted. No trees can take root in the compacted soil so now only a field of grass and brush is found on the mined land. The goal of the project is to restore the mined land to its original forest habitat.

Before the tree planting event the soil will be loosened using a tractor with a ripping bar. Trees that have been ordered include oak, hickory, maple, tulip, and redbud. Volunteers will receive assistance from people knowledgeable about tree planting as they work in small groups to plant the trees. Snacks and drinks will be provided to the volunteers and they will also receive a free T-shirt courtesy of Huntington Bank. A raffle will be held at the event to help raise money for next year's event. Everyone who makes a donation will have their name added to the raffle and at the end of the event the people whose names are drawn will get a prize.

This reforestation project is a coordinated effort between many local and regional partners including the Columbiana County Parks District, the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation, and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative. Other individuals and groups that have donated money or services to this project include the Columbiana County Federation of Conservation Clubs, Ohio State University, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Oxford Mining Company.

The event is scheduled for Saturday April 17th. It will start at 10 am and last until all the trees are planted but volunteers can stay for as long as they are able. For more information on the project please visit www.littlebeavercreek.com or call the LBCLF office at 330-420-9507.

WILDLIFE HABITAT GARDEN AT THE BCWEC

Over the winter Kent-Salem Horticulture student, Paul Snyder, has been busy working on the wildlife habitat garden design for the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center (BCWEC). We feel very privileged to have his design expertise on this project. In partnership with the LBCLF, the BCWEC recently received a \$600 grant from the WTI Environmental Fund which will be used to purchase plant material for the garden. We anticipate being able to install the garden in the fall.

This spring, LBCLF OSM/VISTA Debby Ludwig, along with several members of the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center Volunteers Association will begin training to become National Wildlife Federation Habitat Ambassadors. This wonderful training will provide information and guidance that will help volunteers as they develop the wildlife habitat garden. Knowledge gained will also be extremely helpful when teaching workshops on wildlife habitat gardening.

LBCLF GRANTS

The Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation was awarded \$2,300 through a grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation. The funds from this grant are being used to upgrade the LBCLF's computers and purchase new software including ArcGIS. ArcGIS is a powerful tool for mapping and analyzing geographic data. It will help the LBCLF to better manage the land they own or hold in conservation easement. It will also help the LBCLF to prepare plans for projects that would improve the water quality in the Watershed. In addition to computer upgrades, wildflower and tree identification guidebooks were ordered for use in conjunction with workshops at the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center. This grant has provided the LBCLF with a greater technical capacity and supplies to help increase public awareness about local flora.

Other grants the LBCLF worked on lately include a \$1,650 litter grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to clean up Hellbender Bluff County Park. The cleanup was done by Kent State students who were on Spring Break during March 29th through April 2nd.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund awarded the LBCLF a \$5,000 mini grant to provide water monitoring equipment to several high schools in the watershed. The equipment will include digital microscopes to study macroinvertebrates and portable meters to test things like acidity, oxygen content, and turbidity of the water. This equipment will allow local high schools to establish a water monitoring program or expand their existing program.

The LBCLF was also awarded a Watershed Coordinator Grant through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water. This grant provides funding for the salary for a full-time Watershed Coordinator for three years to work on the implementation of the Little Beaver Creek Watershed Action Plan.



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EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS FAMILY NATURE CLUB

During the summer of 2010 the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center (BCWEC) and Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation (LBCLF) in partnership with Beaver Creek State Park (BCSP) will be offering a ten week series of outdoor nature activities geared toward children and their families. These activities will be based on the Explore the Outdoors Activity Guide published by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and will include hiking, birding, fishing, and much more. The series will begin on Saturday, June 5 at 10am at the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center and will meet each Saturday morning at the same time and place through August 7, unless otherwise noted. Activities will be geared toward ages 6-12. Parents are encouraged to stay and participate with their children. Please see the enclosed flyer for more specific information.



The completed bird feeders



Greg, Debby and Lenna Lockhart
working on a bird feeder

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY BIRD FEEDER PROJECT

Volunteers from the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation, Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center Volunteers Association, and Friends of Beaver Creek State Park met on Monday, January 18, 2010 to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by building several types of bird feeders and nesting boxes. As conservation and wildlife preservation and education organizations we felt that a project which emphasized green space development would be an appropriate way to celebrate the day. Items created will be used in a backyard wildlife habit garden being developed at the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center, and at the restored pioneer village found in Beaver Creek State Park next to the Park Office. We plan to extend the project in the near future by building bat boxes.

The above mentioned groups would like to extend thanks to Carter Lumber Company in Lisbon, the Salem Home Depot, and the Lisbon Community Garden Group for their very generous monetary support for this project.



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PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
April 9	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Electronics Recycling Drop-Off Day (see website for info)	LBCLF office in Lisbon
April 17	10 a.m.	Tree Planting	Hellbender Bluff County Park
April 24	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Earth Day Environmental Justice Conference	Kent State University East Liverpool Campus
May 17	5-7 p.m.	Stream Quality Monitoring Workshop with ODNR	Beaver Creek State Park
June 5	3 - 5 p.m.	Sierra Club Meeting	Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center
June 19	TBA	River Sweep	TBA
July 17	2-3:30 p.m.	Get to Know Your Watershed Workshop	Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center
August 14	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Explore the Outdoors Family Fun Day	Beaver Creek State Park