

Fall, 2015

Summer hike series with Dr. Roy Larick tells story of the Doan

From cataract falls to spring-side picnics and streetcar urbanism, a rich legacy of stories, people, and happenings lies around every meander of the Doan Brook; all it takes is a knowledgeable guide to pull back time's tapestry and connect past to present. This summer, local archeologist and environmentalist Dr. Roy Larick presented the natural and cultural history of the Doan Brook watershed on three interpretive hikes, each focusing on a distinct area of the watershed with its own unique stories.

Our summer hike series with Dr. Larick, now in its second year, has been extremely popular, regularly attracting more than 40 people for each hike. This year, the hikes took us to Rockefeller Park and Wade Oval, to the neighborhoods at the base of Cedar Hill around now-buried Blue Rock Brook—a tributary of Doan Brook—and to the always-impressive Doan Brook Gorge.

The bedrock of any Dr. Larick hike is natural history and geology. Doan Brook slices through the Portage Escarpment, the ridge that gives the Heights their elevation. On its way down from the high ground, Doan Brook has exposed rock layers that, to a geologist, read like a timeline of the region's history. Bluestone outcroppings, sandstone cliffs, and black shale beds—the Doan Gorge has them all.

Dr. Larick then layers on the cultural history of the area, regaling participants with stories of early settlers, initial businesses, and industrial titans like Rockefeller and Gordon and Wade. These industrialist kingpins had the foresight to preserve the parklands surrounding Doan Brook, using the natural corridor as a route for carriage paths.

History is a dynamic process, and our hikes highlight current developments in the watershed, too. On this summer's hikes, participants stopped

at the construction site of the new Fairhill-MLK green infrastructure project, visited the Cleveland Botanical Garden to see the plantings around a storied spring, and saw bioretention features at the recently opened Cedar-University rapid station.

Following are a few comments we received in our post-hike survey—take it from your friends and neighbors!

- “Enjoyed the hikes I was able to attend.”
- “This was a fantastic hike with knowledgeable hosts.”
- “I would love to learn and explore more.”

Look out for information and new destinations for next year's hikes with Dr. Larick, which are tentatively scheduled for June 4, July 30, and October 8 (locations to be determined). We hope to see you there!



A wooden trestle built over the Doan Brook Gorge in 1915 carried trains hauling spoils excavated during construction of the Baldwin Reservoir. The fill was dumped into the Gorge. Source: Cleveland Water



Enjoying a summer day next to Wade Park Spring in about 1912. This was one of several springs that provided water and gathering places for early settlers. Source: Cleveland Memory Project



Blue Rock Brook tumbles down Cedar Glen next to streetcar tracks and Cedar Road. This tributary of Doan Brook now flows in a culvert. Source: Western Reserve Historical Society

Doan Brook watershed home to large-scale green infrastructure project

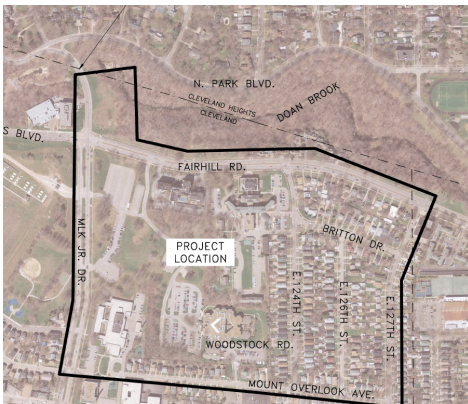
It's hard not to notice the major earthworks happening at the corner of Fairhill Road and MLK Drive or the huge concrete pipes going under the streets of the Larchmere neighborhood. These are part of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Fairhill -MLK Green Ambassador project. Two large green infrastructure (GI) basins will hold and filter stormwater from Larchmere streets and will reduce combined sewer overflows into Doan Brook. Larchmere's sanitary sewers

will still flow to Easterly treatment plant, but the new storm sewers will discharge into the project's planted basins after a 3/4-inch or greater rainfall event. NEORSD GI projects are a component of the \$3 billion Project Clean Lake. Most sewer overflows will be reduced with large, underground storage tunnels, to be installed over the next 25 years. However, the District's "green and grey" approach to

solving our stormwater challenges will contribute to healthier waterways as well as to ecosystem benefits, like plants that feed and shelter birds and butterflies. The Doan Brook Partnership has been assisting NEORSD with community engagement, so don't hesitate to reach out to us with questions. This project will be complete in late 2016.

Trash rack removal update

Last year's Brooknotes featured great news about the Partnership's receipt of a \$179,927 grant from Sustain Our Great Lakes to study removing a failed trash rack structure in the Brook immediately north of the NEORSD site. The removal project, however, is in a holding pattern because of site access concerns around the Fairhill-MLK project. We're working with all the project stakeholders now, and we hope to keep the removal study moving forward. Stay tuned for updates!



Left: the new green infrastructure installation will receive stormwater from the area inside the box. Above: stormwater will be held in planted basins before discharging into Doan Brook. Photos courtesy of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Stenciling program takes volunteers from offices to avenues

What happens when you give 27 highly-motivated corporate interns cans of spray paint? Chaos does not ensure! In our case, you get one of the most successful days of storm drain stenciling we've had.

This July, DBWP hosted a group of corporate interns as part of BVU's Summer of Service program. The theme of this year's service events was clean water, and we were one of eight organizations throughout the city that hosted some of the over 200 volunteers. Our group met at the Italian Cultural Garden on a perfect summer morning, ready to make a difference.

The volunteers, who represented Baker Hostetler, Key Bank, Litigation Management, Inc., and Skoda+Minotti, hit the streets of Glenville, stencils in hand. They stenciled 121 drains in three hours and spread awareness of stormwater pollution in a vital area of the lower watershed.

Throughout the summer, we held several public stencilings and also hosted volunteer groups from Levi's and Cleveland Botanical Garden Green Corps. Our enthusiastic stencilers marked nearly 400 drains in total throughout the watershed this year.

Look out for more opportunities to stencil next year—we would love to have your help! We will have several public stenciling mornings, and we are happy to work with groups to set up stenciling volunteer days.



Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative—working together for a cleaner region

The range of watersheds between the Huron River and Pennsylvania is vast, including dense urban cores and wide-open agricultural spaces. Yet, all watersheds share common challenges and an ultimate goal: to provide Lake Erie with healthy fresh water, our drinking water. Water quality issues include: high-volume runoff, non-point source pollution (fertilizer, pesticides, gas, oil, soaps, pet waste), habitat fragmentation, erosion, and sedimentation.

Environmental challenges don't have borders, and neither should our efforts to solve them. Doan Brook Watershed Partnership is one of 20 watershed organizations that have banded together to form the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative (CLEB). The mission of CLEB is to provide a forum for organizations to collaborate on grants, stormwater management, restoration, education and policy.

CLEB's accomplishments to date include staffing events together, grant applications to increase projects in the region, and a resource catalog with topics ranging from staff skills to stewardship tools. The group also seeks to bring education and services to communities with fewer watershed-based activities. Please contact the Partnership with ideas for programming to broaden the conversation around clean water.



Local watershed organization leaders at a Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative meeting.

Partnership recognizes departing board members and welcomes new faces to the board

A big thanks to Betsy Yingling for her years of service!

For decades the Doan Brook has benefited from hard-working women with a lot of pith and passion. Jean Eakin, Kathy Barber and Betty Miller led a grass-roots movement to stop the Clark-Lee Freeway from swallowing our beloved Shaker Parklands. Community-wide awareness of the watershed was a hallmark of Nancy King Smith's leadership at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. Laura Gooch literally wrote the book on all things Doan Brook and continues to serve our organization with time (many, many hours) and talent.



But we've also had the privilege of working with, and learning from, an equally devoted Doan Brook Trustee since before the Partnership was formed. She may not be as familiar to our readership as the aforementioned names, not because she's a west-sider, but because she is equal parts extremely unassuming and ultra laid-back. A technical powerhouse for our organization, Betsy Yingling led many of the scientific studies that provided the empirical data required to understand a complex hydrologic system and set the foundation for advocacy and restoration.

An engineer with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Betsy managed the District's first studies to examine the role of stormwater in improving local waterways and Lake Erie.

It was Betsy's leadership of a \$4.4 million study of Doan Brook that led her to work with stakeholders in Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights. That core group of stakeholders utilized the study's findings to establish the Partnership. Much of Betsy's five year term on the Board was spent authoring the most technical components of our Watershed Action Plan. We are grateful for that invaluable expertise, but most of all we will miss Betsy's fun, easy-going nature. We wish her all the best in retirement.

Best wishes to Christa Dillabaugh!

We've been lucky to have Christa Dillabaugh's global acumen and passion for STEM education, and it is precisely that globetrotting nature that is



drawing her to a new opportunity outside of the region. We thank Christa for her two years as a board member and wish her all the best!

Seeking a new DBWP trustee...

With Christa's departure, we are seeking a resident of Shaker or Cleveland Hts. to represent community interests in the Upper Watershed. A passion for clean water is a must, and accounting skills are a bonus!

Welcome to our new board members!

This year we added two new members to our 16-person board. The board consists of two representatives from each of our three supporting cities, members of partner organizations, and four at-large citizen representatives. Our new board members are:

Jeff Jowett—watershed team leader, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Christian Maier—assistant director of infrastructure, City of Shaker Heights.

Watershed heroes keep a firm hand on the rudder of Take to the Lake

Kids laugh, boats cruise, and music drifts—it's another successful Take to the Lake. What many happy participants might not realize, however, is all the hours of planning that go into making this placid day on the lakeshore a reality. Our 2015 watershed heroes are the committee members whose dedicated work underpins Take to the Lake: Marty Cooperman, Steve Ingalls, and Marcia Mauter.

Marty, Steve, and Marcia perfectly exemplify the values of citizen action. They have been advocating for boating on the Shaker Lakes since before the Partnership became

involved. It was the dream of Marcia's late husband Lester Stumpe, an original Partnership board member, to see people reconnect with their local lakes, and they took it upon themselves to organize the first boat float on Horseshoe Lake in 2009. Their work, coupled with Lester's naming of the Partnership as a beneficiary for in-memorandum donations, inspired us to hold our first Take to the Lake in 2011.

All three are devoted paddlers and outdoor enthusiasts—their recent travel itinerary includes Maine, Manitoba, and Dalmatia—and they bring that voyaging spirit home to

our event. They share their passion and paddling expertise at planning meetings and make their own boats available to the public so more people can get onto the water at Take to the Lake. Above all, they are a wonderful and easy-to-work-with crew. Thank you Marty, Steve, and Marcia for all you do!



Our 2015 watershed heroes. From left: Marcia Mauter, Marty Cooperman, and Steve Ingalls

Record-breaking attendance attests to popularity of summer events

A big THANKS to all of you who joined our two signature summer events, Family Fishing Day and Take to the Lake. This year, both events broke attendance records. Over 700 attendees and 43 volunteers gathered for a morning of fishing and fun around Rockefeller Lagoon at the 14th annual Family Fishing Day on July 11.

Take to the Lake, now in its fourth year, was similarly successful: Nearly 200 people got out onto the water of Lower Shaker Lake on August 22. Kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards covered the lake, and the music of local acoustic band the Synder Stompers filled the air on shore.

We want to thank all our volunteers, partners, committee members, and supporters for their help—we couldn't do it without you!



Top: Hundreds gather around Rockefeller Lagoon at Family Fishing Day.
Middle: Fishing is catching!
Bottom: Paddlers enjoy Lower Shaker Lake from a new perspective at Take to the Lake.

2016 calendar of events

Plan ahead to make a difference in your watershed!

- January 23: Winter tree ID workshop
- April 23 & 24: Stream sweep
- May 17 & 19: Rain barrel workshops
- June 4: Dr. Larick hike
- June 18: Storm drain stenciling
- July 9: Family fishing day
- July 30: Dr. Larick hike
- August 20: Take to the Lake
- September 10: Storm drain stenciling
- October 8: Dr. Larick hike
- October 15: Fall photo hike

Not getting our monthly e-news?
Sign up on our website
www.doanbrookpartnership.org.



DOAN BROOK
Watershed Partnership

12200 Fairhill Road, Suite C-238
Cleveland, Ohio 44120
www.doanbrookpartnership.org
216-325-7781

Victoria Mills, executive director
mills@doanbrookpartnership.org
Graham Welling, watershed planning asst.
welling@doanbrookpartnership.org