

Spring/Summer, 2012

Many “firsts” for Ashbury Avenue rain garden project

The Doan Brook Watershed Partnership is fortunate to be among many community partners who are working to restore community vitality and ecology on two vacant land bank parcels along East Blvd. and Ashbury Avenue in Cleveland’s Glenville neighborhood. The parcels have long been a community focus for residents and development organizations, alike.

Since 2004, GreenScout leader and neighborhood activist, Julie Patton, has engaged landscape architects, urban planners and local neighbors, including many youth, to transform the Ashbury vacant lot into an open space for art, agriculture and biodiversity. Through the years, local youth of the GreenScout program have learned how to grow their own food, create goods from the fruits and vegetables, compost, harvest rainwater and take their goods to market.



Hawken School volunteers prepare the site for new gardens and a substantial donation of daylilies from Rock Bottom Farms.

In the Spring of 2012, the DBWP received \$10,000 in funding from **The Burning River Foundation** and \$4,000 from the **Shaker Lakes Garden Club** to support the great work already taking place at Ashbury with new stormwater gardens.

Jim McKnight and Associates designed a rain garden to filter stormwater from an alley contiguous to the lots. In addition, the firm designed a “green-street” bioswale along East Blvd.. Last year the City of Cleveland passed a “Green and Complete Street” ordinance to increase sustainable infrastructure design for energy, transportation and stormwater management in our local roadways. The bioswale will store and filter water from East Blvd., before it ultimately reaches the street’s catch basin.

With so much investment on the site, the DBWP included an effort to remove the vacant lots from the City Land bank, where they are vulnerable to future development. We worked closely with neighbors, Glenville Development Corporation and Ward 8 Councilman Jeff Johnson, to transfer the lots to the care of the Glenville CDC.

Equally important, is the legal, long-term maintenance and protection of the land. Enter the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, whose team created the first conservation



Installed rain garden at Ashbury Avenue provides improved stormwater management.

easement to be held by the prestigious land-trust in the City of Cleveland. We are especially grateful that their services were donated to the project, allowing all grant money to support ecological restoration and environmental education.

Visit our website, www.doanbrookpartnership.org for photos of the rain garden, bioswale, and education collaboration with the GreenScouts, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Municipal School District and Hawken School.





It's BYOB (bring your own boat) for Take to the Lake on July 14!

On Saturday, July 14 from 12pm to 5pm, Horseshoe Lake in Shaker Heights will be open to canoes and kayaks for an afternoon of frolicking.

Bring your own kayak or canoe, or if you don't have a boat and want to explore the sport of paddling, take a class on Horseshoe Lake for a \$5 fee with kayaking specialists.

Join the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership as it celebrates our local water resources and the memory of founding member Lester Stumpe. Bring a picnic and join fellow paddlers and Doan Brook fans at the Park Pavilion; a commemorative ceremony will be held at 5pm.

Registration is A MUST for anyone interested in paddling or enrolling for an Introduction to Kayaking class. Minimum class age is 10 years.

For more information or to register, call 216-321-5935 ext. 244 or email ryan@shakerlakes.org.

Lester Stumpe: watershed visionary, steward, advocate and enthusiast

November 11, 1949 - March 7, 2010

You may remember that in the late 70's, Cleveland's waterways were a mess. Most people could not then envision the future we enjoy today where people might swim at the Lake Erie beaches, canoe on our beloved Cuyahoga River, or tramp around the region's restored urban river valleys. But Lester could.

As Watershed Manager for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, he was the guy whose efforts helped transform a sewer agency to a water quality agency. He encouraged regional approaches and collaboration on environmental issues in way that would speed up restoration. Close to 30 years of public service as a scientist and engineer, he was skillful in directing his environmental idealism, talents and beliefs into helping address pressing environmental challenges.

At the local level, he was a staunch water quality advocate. One of the key breakthroughs in his thinking was the realization that watershed action works best at the neighborhood scale where all directly connected with the water resource can help monitor its condition over time and learn to care for it as environmental stewards. He helped to establish several watershed organizations, including Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, where he inspired a number of innovative approaches to watershed restoration.



Lester was a skillful enthusiast and lover of rippling water and steams everywhere. He shared his technical paddling skills with many, and as it turned out, Lester was the guy who was my kayak instructor. We married a few years later and estimated that together we navigated over 2000 miles of the planet's waterways. Our last paddle together was on our beloved Shaker Lakes in a 100 yr. old wood canvas canoe, lovingly restored by his family. Lester was a guy devoted to his work, his family, and his community. He leaves a gaping hole in the hearts of those who knew him well. We invite you to celebrate water and Lester at our the "Take to the Lake" paddle and picnic at Horseshoe Lake on July 14.

*Marcia Mauter, Director
Institute for Creative Leadership
Where Diverse Teams Learn, Lead and Relate*

DIY rain barrel workshop in Cleveland Heights fills to capacity

Over 30 residents attended a Rain Barrel Workshop hosted by the DBWP and City of Cleveland Heights on Tuesday, May 22 at the Heights Community Center.

Using recycled 55 gallon food barrels, participants attached spigots and downspout diverters, and left with a fully functional, low maintenance rain barrel. They also learned about stormwater fee credits from NEORSD watershed team leader Rachel Webb.

For information on other workshops in the Cleveland area, visit www.cuyahogawcd.org.

Student interns learn about the watershed - from the ground up



Both rising seniors at Hawken School, Kate Anagnostos and Arthur Erlendsson stepped forward

to bridge the summer months for our bioswale maintenance stewardship project. Hawken's Mather House, of which Kate and Arthur are a part, maintains the gardens throughout the year.

In addition to their stewardship work, the team has been hard at work this summer on several scripts for guided tours through the watershed. We applaud Kate and Arthur for their fantastic attitudes and impressive work!



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Holden Parks Trust grant supports a bounty of fishing, watershed education

From May through October, 2012, fishing enthusiasts of all ages can angle for healthy freshwater fish in University Circle's Rockefeller Park Lagoon, thanks to a generous grant of \$6,250 from the Holden Parks Trust to the DBWP for five stockings of largemouth bass, hybrid bluegill, sunfish and channel catfish.

To date, the Lagoon has been stocked on May 31, June 15, and June 29, with fall stocking dates scheduled for September and October. The City of Cleveland maintains the water level in Rockefeller Park Lagoon; drainage runs to the Doan Brook just behind it. Children 16 and under may fish at the Lagoon without a license. For more information on fishing in Ohio, including catch limits on catfish and bass, visit the ODNR website.

Holden Parks Trust has also funded the development of educational signage to be permanently installed within Rockefeller Park by the Lagoon. Designed to be inviting and informative, the signs will provide scientific, environmental and historical data about the Lagoon, recreational fishing, and aquatic life in the lower watershed.

Save the date! DBWP 12th Annual Family Fishing Day is Saturday, August 25

Enjoy a day of fishing, environmental activities and exhibits that focus on the theme **Clean Water = Healthy Fish** at Cleveland's historic Rockefeller Park Lagoon in the heart of our lower Doan Brook watershed.

Learn how to hook bait, cast, and identify fish, look at stream life under a microscope, make Japanese fish prints, enter a raffle for a free rain

barrel and more! Bring your own rod, or use one of ours. Call 216-321-5935 x244 for registration and information.

FREE bait and tackle
FREE Fishing Day t-shirt for children
FREE hot dog lunch
FREE for all ages!



2011-12 Supporters of the Doan Brook

Thank you to the many community members who gave "Doan-ations" during our annual fund drive to support watershed restoration projects and programs. Listings reflect contributions made from November 1, 2011 through June 1, 2012. If we have an incorrect listing, please contact Mary Ryan at 216-321-5935 x244.

Joan Alster
Beth and Steve Cagan
Elke Chodorow and William Kunkin
Brooke Collier
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2600 South Park Boulevard, Cleveland,
OH 44120

www.doanbrookpartnership.org
ph: 216.321.5935 ext. 234

Victoria Mills, Executive Director
mills@shakerlakes.org

Mary Ryan, Program Assistant
ryan@shakerlakes.org

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Over 30 bags of garlic mustard were pulled this spring in the lower and upper watershed by volunteers. THANK YOU!!