

Issue 22

Summer 2011

# Euclid Creek Watershed Update



Euclid Creek Restoration

## Euclid Creek Watershed Council

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

## Euclid Creek Stream Cleanup & Bioswale Garden Service Day

Sat., September 10—9:00am-noon

Wildwood State Park, Cleveland  
E. 174th St. & Lakeshore Blvd.

**Volunteers are needed to help cleanup Euclid Creek**

**Meet** at 9:00am for Garden Cleanup at marina parking lot

**Meet** at 10:00am for Stream Cleanup at entrance parking lot

**Dress** for weather (long sleeves, pants, work boots, gloves)

**All groups welcome**, children under 18 must be supervised

*Euclid Creek Partners:*

*Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek & Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District*

## Resident Donates 1.2 acres in Euclid Creek, by Derek Schafer, West Creek Preservation Committee

Last summer, local resident Alen Michael donated 1.21 acres in the lower Euclid Creek area to West Creek Preservation Committee (WCPC), an urban land conservation group in Cuyahoga County. The property, located on Euclid Creek near Lakeshore Boulevard on Marcella Road (North Collinwood neighborhood), is unique in many ways. Not only does it include several hundred feet of Euclid Creek, but it also includes a section of the stream that was retrofitted into a concrete channel to reduce flooding and erosion. However, due to over 20 years of sedimentation and deposition into the channel, the entire reach has accumulated healthy substrate, fish populations, and bird life.

Kingfishers, hawks, and herons are a regular sight. And believe it or not, so are beaver! The property also fits within the Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan and is immediately upstream from Wildwood State Park. Friends of Euclid Creek and Watershed Coordinator Claire Posius will shortly begin a significant wetland and stream restoration project with support from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The Alen Michael property is near the border of Wildwood State Park, making preservation of this land even more significant. WCPC and the Euclid Creek Watershed program partners, extend a very special thank you to Alen for his generous donation!



Alen Michael's donation will help protect and restore part of Euclid Creek, pictured above.

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thu-Sun, August 18-21

Wed, August 24, 6:30-8:00pm

Thu, September 8, 6:00-7:30pm

Sat, September 10, 9:00am-noon

Fri-Sun, September 9-11

Mon, September 19, 1:00-3:00pm

Tue, October 11, 6:30-8:30pm

Thu, October 13, 7:30-9:00am

Thu, October 20, 7:00pm

Fri, October 21, 9:00-10:30am

1st Tue of Month, 7:00pm

1st Wed of Month, 7:00pm

**Mayfield Heights Community Unity Day**, City Park, see City website for more details

**Rain Barrel Workshop—Mayfield Heights**, DeJohn Community Cntr. Registration required by Aug 17th\*

**Public Information Session—Wildwood State Park Stream and Wetland Restoration Project**,

Euclid Hospital, Main Building - Waltz Auditorium

**Euclid Creek 3rd Annual Stream Cleanup Event & FOEC Bioswale Garden Service Day**, Wildwood State Park, Cleveland **Volunteers needed!!** More details above in purple box.

**Lyndhurst Home Days**, City Park, see City website for details—Visit Friends of Euclid Creek's booth

**Rain Gardens Presentation to Lakeshore Garden Club**, Henn Mansion, Euclid

**1st Rain Barrel Workshop & Compost Seminar in the Euclid Creek Watershed!**

**Mayfield Village Community Room Register** by Oct. 3rd.\*

**Euclid Creek Watershed Council Meeting**, Location TBD

**The Euclid Creek Estuary—Nature, Industry, Ursuline Sisters and Lacustrine Refuge**, Euclid Public Library, Shore Room, Presentation by historian/paleolithic archeologist Dr. Roy Larick

**Euclid Creek Public Involvement Committee Meeting**, Richmond Heights City Hall

**Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC)** meets monthly at the South Euclid Community Center

**Highland Heights Green Task Force** meets monthly at the Highland Heights Community Center

\*Contact the Watershed Coordinator to register or for more event details at (216) 524-6580x16 or cposius@cuyahogawcd.org  
Please check the Euclid Creek website for more event listings or for more details about an event listed above (web address on back page)



Friends of  
**EUCLID  
CREEK**

## From the Friends: FOEC Updates

### Big Friends of Euclid Creek Thank You to Lou Rifici

Lou Rifici has been a major contributor to the success of the Euclid Creek volunteer stream monitoring program. He offers his time to train volunteers on the monitoring procedures and proper equipment usage, schedules pickup and calibration of monitoring equipment.

For more information about becoming a volunteer in this important program, please contact  
jeanette.evans@sbcglobal.net (also see back page for more details).

### Calling All High School Students, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Science Clubs and Youth Groups!

Are you interested in making your community a better place to live and

having a little fun along the way?

### Then join the Friends of Euclid Creek Youth Corp!

Activities that Youth Volunteers could participate in include Euclid Creek Watershed activities such as Water Quality Testing, Stream Clean Ups, Bioswale and rain garden maintenance and much, much more!

For more information about how to become a volunteer in this program, please contact Larry McFadden  
lmcfadden71@yahoo.com.

### Have you ever wondered about the origin of the Cuyahoga River?

Join us this fall for a driving tour of the Upper Cuyahoga River. Member Virginia Aveni will lead us on the second phase

of the driving tour to see the origins of this great river.

Visit <http://foecnews.blogspot.com/> for future information.

### Join FOEC Today!

The Friends of Euclid Creek help inform and educate the public on the many things happening in the watershed. Be part of its future by joining and supporting FOEC.

New membership dues: Individual - \$15, Family - \$25, Student or Senior - \$10, Special Friend - \$50 and Sustaining Member - \$100.

To become a member contact:  
Friends of Euclid Creek  
P.O. Box 21384  
South Euclid, OH 44121-0384  
FriendsOfEuclidCreek@gmail.com

Log on to **FOEC's website & blog:**  
[friendsfoeuclidcreek.nhlink.net](http://friendsfoeuclidcreek.nhlink.net)  
[foecnews.blogspot.com](http://foecnews.blogspot.com)  
'Like' FOEC on Facebook!



## Don't Dump on Our Creek! It's Illegal!

**Illegal dumping** is an issue important to our streams and creeks and a major problem throughout our urban watersheds. Citizen vigilance is hugely important in preventing and reporting any incident of illegal dumping. One such case occurred last fall when residents observed a brine truck dumping its salty water from an overpass into a tributary of the Chagrin River. These fast acting residents were able to capture a photo of the truck allowing Ohio EPA officials to follow up on the case.

Illegal dumping can have a negative impact on your health and the health of waterways. Larger items dumped into streams can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, cause obstructions to flow and animal passage, and foreign substances can affect fish and bug health in Euclid Creek which empties into Lake Erie, our source of drinking water.

### What you can do!

- ◆ Help by taking down the perpetrator's license plate and/or taking a picture of the vehicle. Do not take the law into your own hands, rather call an authority to handle problem.
- ◆ Talk to your neighbors about the dangers of illegal dumping.
- ◆ Participate in Euclid Creek stream cleanups!



| Community        | Department                | illegal dumping #  |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Beachwood        | Service Dept              | 216-381-0402       |
| Cleveland        | City of Cleveland Hotline | 216-664-DUMP(3857) |
| Euclid           | Engineering Dept          | 216-289-8100       |
| Highland Heights | Non-Emergency Police      | 440-442-1221       |
| Lyndhurst        | Non-Emergency Fire Dept   | 440-442-1234       |
| Mayfield Heights | Service Dept              | 440-442-2626 x 285 |
| Mayfield Village | Non-emergency Fire Dept   | 440-442-5506       |
| Richmond Heights | Non-Emergency Police      | 216-486-1234       |
| South Euclid     | Service Department        | 216-381-0402       |



### UPDATE: Anti-Littering Signs and Recycling Bins in Place at Euclid Beach!

Euclid Beach and Edgewater will be a little cleaner now that the anti-littering signs and recycling and cigarette bins are in place! The *Blue Lake. Green Parks.* campaign was spearheaded by Stephen Love from Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach, Mandy Metcalf from Friends of Edgewater State Park (FOESP) and Babette Oestreicher from *Drink Local. Drink. Tap.* The team is looking to the future for ways to continue to spread their efforts. The Alliance for the Great Lakes views the Cleveland group's campaign as a model and catalyst for other efforts throughout the Great Lakes. The biggest challenge for the group is finding funding. This specific education campaign was funded by a \$5,000 grant from ODNR's Lake Erie Cleanup Small Grant Program, but the grant money wasn't enough to cover all costs, so the team had to pay over \$1,500 for installation.

## Wildwood Wetland and Stream Restoration Project Update

Progress is being made on the Lacustrine Refuge wetland restoration project at Wildwood State Park! Residents noticed activity at the Park when pink stakes began to pop up from surveying activity in the project area. While construction is not anticipated to begin until summer of 2012, the design-build team, Riverworks, is busy working on the design and permit applications to submit to the myriad of agencies who will review the project, from environmental reviews to historic preservation reviews.



**Please come and hear more project updates at the first Public Information Session to be held on Thursday, September 8 at 6:00pm at the Euclid Hospital—Main**

Building (in the Waltz Auditorium), 18901 Lakeshore Blvd., Euclid (park anywhere but in the emergency parking area).

Keep up to date on the project by checking the [project website](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm) at: [www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC\\_LacustrineRefuge.htm](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EC_LacustrineRefuge.htm).

-This project is funded through a US EPA administered Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant.

## Beach Update, *from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District*

The health of beaches across the U.S. was the subject of a recent report, *Testing the Waters: A Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches*. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) released the report in June of 2011, which summarizes the water quality results and public notification data for all the coastal bathing beaches in the U.S. During 2010, the number of advisories due to high bacteria at U.S. beaches reached the second highest level in the 21-year history of this report; the State of Ohio was ranked 29<sup>th</sup> out of the 30 states with coastal beaches. Out of 2,931 samples collected, Ohio beaches exceeded the national bacteria standard 21% of the time during the study. Regionally, Great Lakes beaches had the highest rate, with one beach, Villa Angela (just west of Wildwood State Park in Cleveland), making the repeat offender list, beaches that had more than 25% of the samples collected exceed EPA's Single-Sample Maximum Bacteria (SSM) standard within each of the last five years (2006–2010). Based on the bacteria results from the samples collected so far this year (May 2-July 27, 2011), it does not appear that Villa Angela beach will be removed from the repeat offender list. As of July 27, 2011, 42 % or 71 of the 172 samples collected at Villa Angela have exceeded the nation's bacteria standard.

There are many variables that can impact the water quality at local beaches, including storm water runoff, Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), wave height, water currents, waterfowl, and contaminated sand or sediments. The determination of the individual impact of each of these variables requires an extensive sampling and analysis program. With \$336,000 in funding provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) was able to expand their bathing beach monitoring program at Villa Angela and Euclid beaches. Goals of the expanded program include the identification of pollution sources and gaining a better understanding of how the flow from Euclid Creek affects the water quality at the beaches. Targeted research efforts include the improvement of source tracking capabilities, testing of rapid analytical methods for the detection of bacteria, and installation of water quality and flow meters in and at the mouth of Euclid Creek. Additionally, a weather station will be installed at Wildwood State Park to gather real-time meteorological data. The culmination of these research efforts at Villa Angela and Euclid beaches will aid in an improved water quality forecasting system called Nowcast.

The Nowcast System is similar to a weather forecast. However, instead of predicting future weather conditions, the Nowcast system predicts current water quality conditions. Specifically, computer models are used to predict whether bacteria levels are low enough to meet state bathing water standards. Currently, the Nowcast model is used at Edgewater and Huntington beaches and utilizes environmental factors such as wave height, recent rainfall, and water clarity. These factors allow for quick, on-site prediction of water quality and allow for timely posting of swimming advisories.

The Nowcast model developed for Villa Angela beach uses analytical data obtained from rapid method technology to predict water quality. This type of technology was first used in 2010 to predict water quality at beaches in Orange County, California and Racine, Wisconsin. The District has been experimenting with this technology since 2009 and is confident that the data generated from this method can be used to predict water quality at Villa Angela beach. This summer, NEORS has been collecting samples early in the morning at Villa Angela beach and analyzing the sample in the laboratory using the rapid method technology. The data generated from this method are entered into the model, which predicts water quality. So far, during the course of this study, the model has had an 80% accuracy rate, with forty-three correct predictions and eleven incorrect predictions. Results from this model can be found at [www.neorsd.org](http://www.neorsd.org). The research being performed by NEORS is supported by Cleveland Lakefront State Park, Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Ohio Department of Health, and United States Geological Survey.

For additional information, please contact NEORS Public Information Specialist Jeannie Chapman at 216-881-6600.



*Euclid Creek Partners:  
Euclid Creek Watershed Council, 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

Phone: 216-524-6580 x16  
Fax: 216-524-6584  
Email: [cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org)

## Only Rain Down the Drain

**Visit our website** at [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org) – then click on *Services, Watershed Programs* and *Euclid Creek!*

If you would like to **receive this newsletter electronically**, email [cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org) or call 216-524-6580 x16 with your email address.



Printing costs provided by the  
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

## Euclid Creek Superstar! JOE NEWMAN

*Mayfield Heights' resident representative to the Euclid Creek Watershed Council*

We are spotlighting Joe Newman for his commitment to Euclid Creek. Joe has participated in all but one Public Involvement Public Education (PIPE) Committee meeting since 2003! Joe is a true steward of the watershed and his enthusiasm, dedication and innovative ideas have strengthened the PIPE Program. He is an asset for Mayfield Heights and the Euclid Creek Watershed. Learn more about our Euclid Creek Superstar!

Joe is a transplanted New Yorker, who moved to northeast Ohio in 1990, after retiring from a successful career in advertising in the "big apple", to marry a Shaker Heights native and start a new life.

At the time, he had no idea what a "watershed" was, or for that matter, how a small city, like Mayfield Heights, operated. He started attending city council meetings to find out and slowly became involved in various committees. He was appointed to the Tax Incentive Review Council (1994-2006), becoming Chairman, the Mayfield Heights Master Plan Committee (2003-2004), the Euclid Creek Watershed Council and its PIPE Committee (2003-present), and the Mayor's Community Council (2006-present). In 2008 he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Cuyahoga SWCD in recognition of his efforts to raise awareness of environmental issues and conservation practices in the Euclid Creek Watershed.

A graduate of Bethany College (W. Va.) and Columbia University Graduate School of Business (NY) and a non-combat Army veteran, Joe espouses rain gardens, rain barrels and permeable concrete. He suggested the tagline "Only Rain Down The Drain" for the Euclid Creek Watershed and recommended a joint venture with Highland Heights and the Mayfield City Schools, to create a demonstration rain garden at the Mayfield School District Headquarters and Middle School location.

Joe still attends city council meetings, and volunteers at The Gathering Place, a cancer support center.



## Volunteer Monitors Needed

**Want to do something to help Euclid Creek but don't have a lot of time?**

**Become a volunteer monitor! Anyone can do it!**  
The information that volunteer monitors collect is important to better understand conditions in Euclid Creek.

**Time commitment is up to you!**  
We do ask volunteer monitors to attend a training session and that they monitor once a month...if you want to do more it's up to you!

**For more information visit:**  
[www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EuclidCreekthehomepage.htm](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/EuclidCreekFiles/EuclidCreekthehomepage.htm)  
and click on the GET INVOLVED/WATERSHED RESOURCES tab on left side.

**OR contact:**  
Claire Posius  
Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator  
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District  
216-524-6580 x16  
[cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org)

