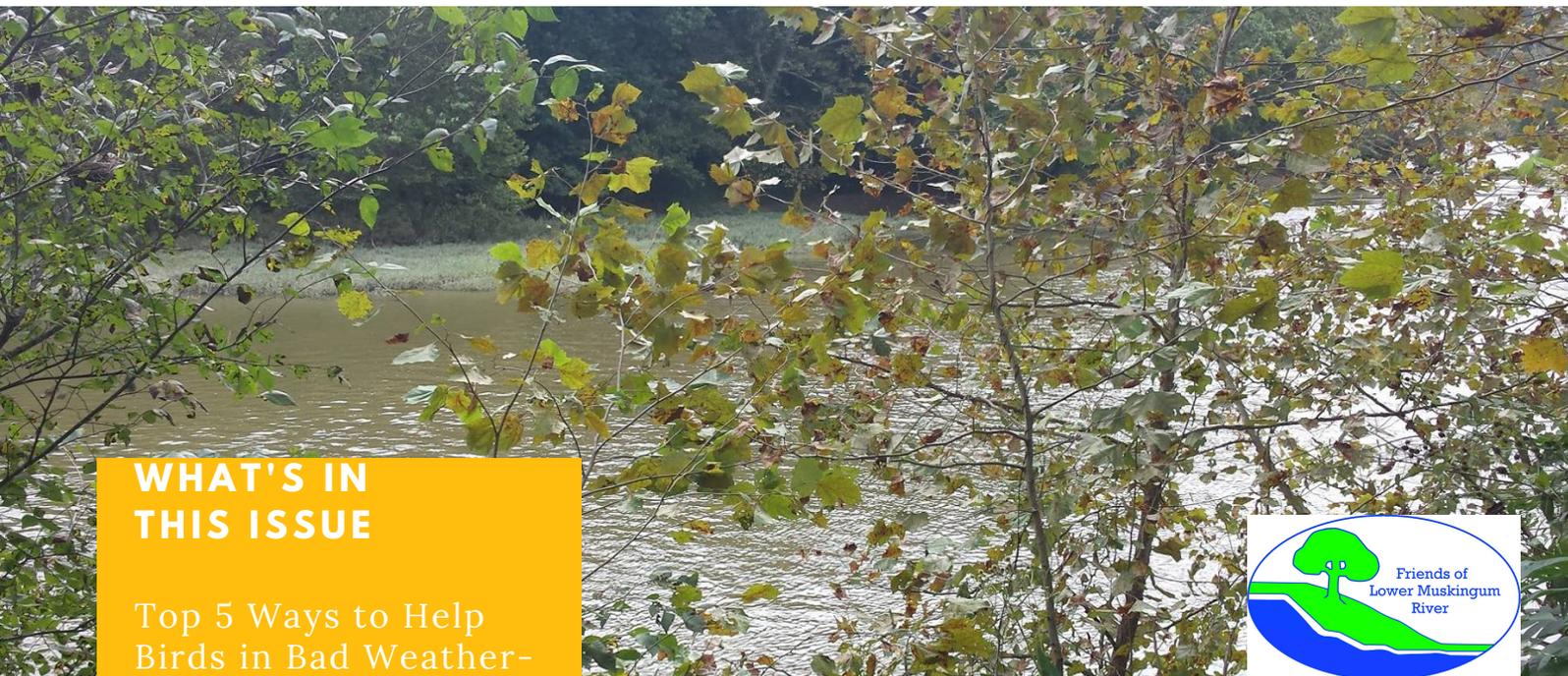


FRIENDS OF LOWER MUSKINGUM RIVER

"Conserving and protecting natural areas in the lower Muskingum watershed for all to enjoy."



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TOP 5 WAYS TO HELP BIRDS IN BAD WEATHER

Bill Thompson, III

Reprinted from Marietta-based Bird Watcher's Digest, text and photos used with permission.

Wintertime, and the livin' ain't easy. Birds are hungry, and the snow's piling high. We all know by now that birds can survive without our help in the winter. Some ornithologists have even suggested that bird feeding is more beneficial to us (humans) than it is to the birds. Be that as it may, studies have shown that birds with access to bird feeders in winter survive at a higher rate than birds without access to feeders. The difference between the haves and the have-nots is not huge, but it's there. Feeding birds in winter, if done right, is a good thing for the birds (and for us, too).



5. Use a birdbath heater wisely. A water heater can keep your birdbath open in the coldest of weather, which is good and bad. It's good because birds need water to drink when it's cold. If there's snow, birds can use the snow for water. But if there's no snow they may have no access to water.

There is some anecdotal evidence that birds will bathe in open water in very cold weather (below 0o F), and the water may freeze on their feathers before it dries up. This can be very bad—even fatal—for birds. I suggest you place several large rocks in your bath so there is not enough room for a bird to bathe, but still plenty of places for a thirsty bird to get a drink. When the weather warms up you can remove the rocks and let your birds get on with their hygiene.

4. Offer mealworms in a heavy dish or small crock. I'm a big mealworm fan, although I don't eat them. The birds at our house appear for their mealworms every morning, especially in winter. Where else are they going to get live food when the ground is frozen? Use a heavy dish so the wind can't blow the worms and dish away. We use a small dog dish made of glazed crockery. The worms can't climb its slick sides.

3. Furnish your bird houses. Imagine you're a bird roosting in a nest box on a cold winter's night. Wouldn't it be nice to snuggle down into some dried grass or dry wood shavings in the bottom of the house? We usually layer three to four inches of clean dry meadow grass in the bottom of our bluebird boxes after the last nesting of the summer. Every one of our boxes is used as a roost site in the off-season. Wood shavings work well, too. Don't use sawdust, however; it can retain moisture once wet, which does not help the birds keep warm.

Here's another bird house tip...

2. Plug the air vent holes in your bird houses with removable weather stripping. We use the claylike weather stripping that comes in a roll (Moretite is one brand) to plug the air vent holes in our bird houses. Good ventilation is necessary on a scorching summer day, but it's a real liability for birds seeking winter shelter. Think how cozy the birds will be in a well-sealed house.

1. Be ready for big changes in weather. If you keep abreast of the weather developments you'll know when bad weather is coming, and you'll be able to stock up on seed, suet, and other goodies. You can also be ready to take on some of the activities listed above. Conversely, when the weather breaks, take advantage by cleaning and disinfecting your feeders (one part bleach to nine parts hot water). Whatever you do, don't let yourself be caught totally unprepared for harsh winter weather. The birds don't have to live off of your feeder largess, but it sure helps make the winter livin' a little easier.



MARIETTA CREW RIVER CLEAN-UP

On October 6, 2018 FLMR hosted a Muskingum River Clean-up on our Land Trust property at Devol's Dam.

The Marietta College Women's and Men's row teams volunteered collecting nearly 60 bags of garbage and recyclable including: tires, a TV, a buoy, a play pool, and MANY plastic water bottles.

Recyclable materials were taken to the Marietta Area Recycling Center. Thank you all volunteers at Marietta Area Recycling for sorting and processing river clean-up recycling.

Also thank you to all the Marietta College students and staff who volunteered during this event. FLMR staff and members are looking forward to many more river clean-ups.

Witnessing so many people involved in an event that made a positive impact on our local environment and beyond was incredible. The human impact that garbage is creating is insurmountable, but the display of care for the environment October 6th shows that it's possible for humanity to overcome this problem.

Please look for information about our fall river clean-ups on muskingumriver.org.

FRIENDS OF LOWER MUSKINGUM RIVER

POLLINATOR HABITAT WORKDAYS

On Sept. 18th and Sept. 27th we hosted Pollinator Habitat Workdays at the Luke Chute Conservation Area.

Many wonderful volunteers attended and we accomplished a lot. Many Tree of Heaven trees were removed along with other trees from the Pollinator Habitat. Removal of Tree of Heaven, an invasive plant species, and other trees is essential to maintaining a thriving native pollinator plant habitat. Invasive plants take up valuable space that could be better used for native plants which provide nutritious nectar to pollinators.

FLMR would like to thank our wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to steward the Luke Chute Conservation Area.



DANA ISLAND WORKDAY

On July 21st FLMR hosted a workday at the Dana Island Preserve.

We had many volunteers attend including Tony Brown from Brown Owl Imaging who was kind enough to take professional photographs of volunteers and the preserve. He has also graciously donated \$400 worth of Drone Imaging that will be auctioned off during our Annual Dinner and Auction. See page 5 for more information.

Prior to the workday our signs were not visible and our pond was covered in medium sized willow trees. With the help of our volunteers the signs and pond were cleared in no time!

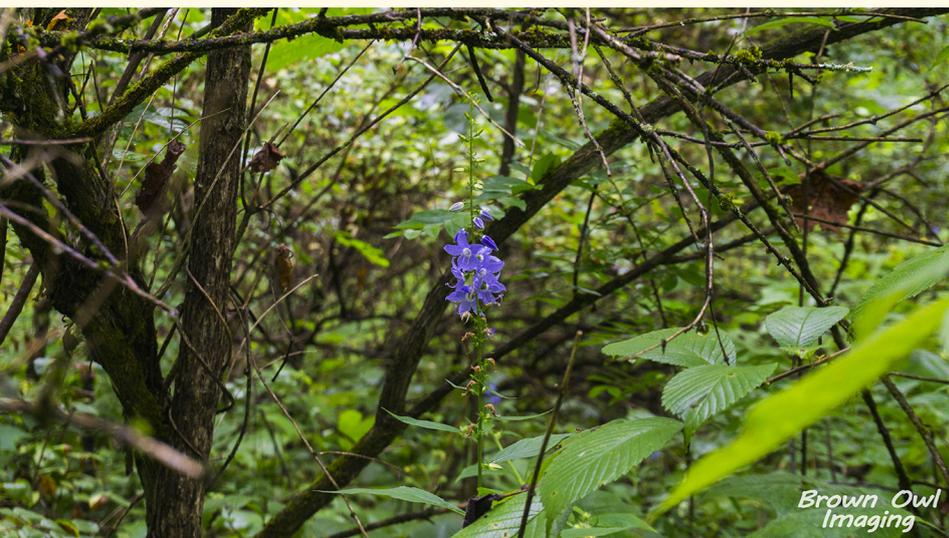
Thank you again to all the volunteers who donated their time to stewarding the Dana Island Preserve.



WHAT ARE YOUR DONATIONS USED FOR?

Have you ever wondered where your money goes? When you donate to FLMR or pay your membership dues, that money goes into a variety of programs and services as well as simply allowing us to continue to function. Below is a short list of what your donation pays for, based on the dollar amount.

- \$72 one year of insurance with Terra Firma for one property; this insurance would pay for legal action if ever one of our conservation easement's terms were violated or a conservation area was illegally mined or timbered.
- \$64 cost to print informational brochures about FLMR and the importance of conserving land in our area
- \$100 cost to build and install one bench at one of our properties
- \$125 one month of internet and phone service to the FLMR office
- \$148 printing and mailing of the quarterly newsletter – we are attempting to reduce costs by increasing the percent of members who receive the newsletter electronically, but still send paper copies to members who prefer a newsletter they can hold in their hands
- \$160 mowing and maintaining the trails at a single property once; we are fortunate to have wonderful neighbors and volunteers to provide us with this service at this discounted price.
- \$200 average cost to FLMR for an educational outreach program, which we provide for free to local groups, including 4H, Boy Scouts, Rotary Club, and many others
- \$230 one year of domain hosting for the FLMR website
- \$300 cost to brush hog the pollinator habitat each spring as it establishes, to prevent non-native species and problem species from shading out the desired plants
- \$324 the estimated value of the increase in carbon storage gained in a 50 year period by adding just one additional plant species to one acre of land; scientists estimate that planting one acre of land with one additional plant species stores an additional 3.7 metric tons of carbon (Hungate et al., 2017). We planted 8 acres of pollinator habitat with over 30 different species of plants so if we maintain that for 50 years, our community will have stored carbon worth thousands of dollars.
- \$400 cost of the seed mixes to establish a pollinator habitat
- \$750 Liability insurance premium for Friends of Lower Muskingum River for one year; our liability insurance covers the cost of bodily injury and other claims should (and we hope not) a volunteer get injured while working with us. This is more like the insurance you would have for your car or home, as opposed to our Terra Firma insurance that covers environmental or ecological harm to our properties.
- \$1,020 payroll for our part-time executive director for one pay period



Obviously, some of what we do is really difficult to put a dollar value on. What is the value of the enjoyment that hikers, birders, and fishermen get from time spent at Luke Chute or another of our properties? What dollar amount would you spend to insure that the Southern Plains bumblebee, a threatened species found at our pollinator habitat, doesn't become extinct? These are hard to quantify but a large part of why we do what we do.

COME TO OUR ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION!

F L M R
A N N U A L
D I N N E R A N D
A U C T I O N
N O V 1 7 , 2 0 1 8
5 P M - 9 P M



DINNER IS \$35 PER PERSON | TO BENEFIT
CONSERVING AND PROTECTING THE LOWER
MUSKINGUM RIVER
AT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #478
312 FRANKLIN ST. MARIETTA, OH 45750

AUCTION

11.17.2018



5:00PM - 9:00PM

Knights of Columbus Council

ITEMS

- Antique Jon Boat
- Red's Tickets
- 2 Marietta Adventure Company kayak tours
- Triple Pygmy Kayak
- Brown Owl Drone Imaging
- People's Bank Theatre tickets
- REI two man tent
- Marietta Country Club membership
- Dewalt Tools
- Milwaukee Jobsite radios and more!

BID IN ONLINE AUCTION AT CPA.HIBID.COM.
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.MUSKINGUMRIVER.ORGVISTA@MUSKINGUMRIVER.ORG
740-374-4170



BIRD WATCHING AT LUKE CHUTE CONSERVATION AREA

By Bev Hogue



The first time I visited the pollinator habitat at the Luke Chute Conservation Area, I saw an indigo bunting singing its spring song high atop a tree; on my most recent visit, a faint, high-pitched whistle drew my eyes to a group of cedar waxwings among the autumn foliage. In between I've encountered kingfishers above the creek, great blue herons along the Muskingum river, flickers and red-bellied woodpeckers in the woods, goldfinches and common yellowthroats among the tall midsummer wildflowers, and a host of other birds too numerous to name.

Located on State Route 266 between Beverly and Stockport and administered by the Friends of the Lower Muskingum River, the Luke Chute Conservation Area is relatively small (60 acres) but offers something worth seeing in every season. In early spring, the dim woods are dotted with delicate wildflowers—Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, bloodroot, trillium. Soon, though, the pollinator habitat produces tall wildflowers in a riot of color: bee balm pink, Joe Pye weed purple, goldenrod yellow. Dense stands of pokewood produce cascades of tiny white blossoms that later transform into fruits that move from green to deep purple, while the green stalks turn a brilliant magenta.



Spring songbirds fill Luke Chute with music—song sparrows and buntings and the occasional yellow warbler—but the pollinator habitat creates its own soundtrack. Among the tall, swaying wildflowers, the sound of buzzing fills the air as bees, butterflies, dragonflies, and other pollinators visit the abundant blossoms. A plop tells you something has hopped into the toad pond, and you might catch a glimpse of a turtle alongside the river or an orb weaver spider weaving an intricate web right across the path. Turkey vultures and red-tailed hawks sometimes circle overhead, and once I saw a pileated woodpecker flying toward the woods.



Luke Chute Conservation Area provides visitors a welcome retreat from the hectic pace of daily life, a place of peace and color and abundant growth, but it also offers refuge to many species of birds, insects, animals, and plants that are being crowded out of their habitats. I've seen indigo buntings on nearly every visit and I like to interpret the bunting's song as a call of welcome, but really it's a reminder that I'm entering his space, that I'm a mere visitor in a place that many other species call home.

Letter From FLMR President, Katy Lustofin

Last week I saw Christmas decorations for sale, and while I refuse to think about the end of the year or holidays closer to Thanksgiving, it did get me thinking about the changes that 2018 has brought for Friends of Lower Muskingum River. The biggest change was the addition of our part-time executive director, Tiffany Harvey. For many years, FLMR had a watershed coordinator, funded by grant money from a variety of sources, until funding for watershed coordinators dried up. We went through several years with no employee, years that were rough for the organization, ameliorated only by the dedication of our volunteers and our Americorps VISTAs, Matt and Kenny.

While my appreciation for our volunteers is immense, I do not want to go back to the pre-executive director days. From the perspective of a board member, here is what having an executive director (ED) means for Friends of Lower Muskingum River.

1) We are able to educate and inform more people in Washington and Morgan Counties about environmental conservation and issues related to the environment. While we rely on the board and volunteers for many programs, our executive director is able to coordinate those volunteers and needs as well as lead programs herself, particularly those that occur at times when our volunteers are at their jobs. Because of our executive director, we continue to work with Camp Hervida, the Marietta Rotary Club, Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and other local groups to provide quality environmental education programs.

2) Our office stays open with a consistent voice and face for people to associate with FLMR. While volunteers come and go, having an executive director in the office permits a sense of constancy that allows us to build relationships with individuals and other organizations. Many of our volunteers work during the day, which prevents them from attending meetings with organizations like the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts or the Morgan County Improvement Corporation. Our executive director represents us to local and regional groups, facilitating cooperation between FLMR and those groups as we work together to building a better tomorrow for shareholders in the Muskingum River watershed.

3) Our ED serves as our volunteer coordinator, matching up volunteers with opportunities and recruiting new volunteers to help with bench building, invasive species control, and other work days. She makes sure that the volunteers feel welcome and valued while making the arrangements so that their volunteer experience goes as smoothly as possible.

4) Our ED keeps an eye out for prospective properties to acquire, properties that would benefit the area if they were protected and properties that will enhance our mission of allowing people in this region to enjoy natural areas.

5) Our executive director has taken an initiative on fundraising, working to get grants and donations that allow us to continue our programs and works. This year we received an anonymous donation to match other donations up to \$15,000 as well as grants from local organizations to build benches and a kiosk at our pollinator habitat, thanks to the work of our executive director. She continues to seek out new funding opportunities and sources for our organization, networking with other organizations to find more ways to secure the money that we need to continue to operate.

It is a big job, being executive director of Friends of Lower Muskingum River. I hope that you feel the position is as important as I do and will show your support of our mission by donating to FLMR before the year has ended. If we can get enough members to donate to reach the \$15,000 match that our anonymous donor has agreed to provide, that will go a long way towards insuring that we can offer these programs and services for another year, relying on both our volunteers and our executive director. As a reminder, we are a 501 (c) 3 organization so your donation is not only helping to make our corner of the world a better place, it is also tax-deductible.

Friends of Lower Muskingum River
348 Muskingum Drive
Marietta, OH 45750



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Facebook



Upcoming Events

FLMR ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION

NOV. 17, 2018
5PM-9PM

DINNER IS \$35 PER PERSON | TO BENEFIT CONSERVING AND PROTECTING THE LOWER MUSKINGUM RIVER

AT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #478
312 FRANKLIN ST. MARIETTA, OH 45750

DINNER IS \$35 PER PERSON | TO BENEFIT CONSERVING AND PROTECTING THE LOWER MUSKINGUM RIVER

AT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #478
312 FRANKLIN ST. MARIETTA, OH 45750

\$15,000 Matching Grant Campaign

- Help us meet the challenge! Now is your chance to double your impact!
- Help us conserve and protect more land.
- Help us environmental education.
- Help us steward our land trust.

TO BECOME A FLMR MEMBER COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW

FRIENDS OF LOWER MUSKINGUM RIVER MEMBERSHIP

The mission of Friends of Lower Muskingum River is to conserve and protect natural areas in the lower Muskingum Valley for all to enjoy.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$35) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (\$500) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit (\$50) |

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

FLMR is a 501(C)3 tax deductible organization.

Please Make checks payable to: FLMR

Mail to: Quincy Robe
FLMR Membership Chair
PO Box 31
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