

**April News**

Spring is definitely here! It's time to re-emerge from our winter hibernations and enjoy the woods, wildflowers and the chorus of spring peepers, wood frogs and american toads that occupy vernal pools and wetlands. As we celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 27, I hope you will consider not only enjoying the out-of-doors, but helping volunteer. We've got many volunteer opportunities detailed on a new website called SignUp Genius (link below) that allows you to view and easily sign up to volunteer for an event - from watershed tabling at Earth Day events to helping at a cleanup, invasive plant pull or tree planting - there are many ways you can help around the watershed.

Mayapple  
about to  
bloom at  
Euclid  
Creek  
Reservation  
- photo  
taken by  
Connie  
Herron

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention how interesting Lisa Rainsong's presentation was last month on early spring bird song. What resonated with me is that the best time to learn bird species through song is in the late winter and early spring, as this is the time we can focus on our local birds that stay throughout the year. Trying to learn bird song in late spring is much more difficult as the multitude of migratory birds travel through our area. Starting with a few of our local birds that stay throughout the year in early spring is much easier than trying to learn bird song when hundreds of species are stopping through our region for a short period of time in late spring. We are excited for an equally interesting native bee program coming up on Tuesday night with Denise Ellsworth!

### **Euclid Creek's First Stream Restoration Project in Willoughby Hills Funded!**

The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (CSWCD) has been awarded a \$156,462 grant through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Grant Program to conduct the *Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation stream restoration project*. Funds will be used to restore a degraded stream behind the School of Innovation in Willoughby Hills in Lake County. This project is in the Euclid Creek Watershed at the headwaters of the East Branch of Euclid Creek, a beautiful, wooded tributary, which is a rarity in our highly developed and degraded urban watershed.

[Read the full press release here](#) or [check out the project webpage here](#).

***Also, keep an eye out on the website if you are a restoration consultant as we are issuing a request for qualifications in mid-April to hire a design-build team to construct the project.***

### **FOEC April Program Native Bees in the Garden**

Tue., April 3 - 7-9pm  
Acacia Reservation, [26899 Cedar Rd., Lyndhurst](#)

Please join FOEC for an exciting pollinator program! The importance of pollinator gardening reaches an even greater level now that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has just listed the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee as an endangered species, a bee which may still reside in Ohio as well as a few other Midwestern states.

Denise Ellsworth will speak to the importance of native bees in the garden. She directs the honey bee and native pollinator education program through the Ohio State University Department of Entomology on the Wooster campus.

### **Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Community Events:**

Friends of Euclid Creek members are needed to help the Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager with rain barrel workshops, green cleaning workshops, community event education tables, wetland cleanups, and plantings. See events schedule and sign up at the [SignUp Genius link](#) here or contact Claire Posius (contact info. below).

To volunteer for a Friends of Euclid Creek committee (education, membership, finance, board, grants, marketing) or to help with monthly member events contact Ken Messinger-Rappart, [foecpresident@gmail.com](mailto:foecpresident@gmail.com).

### **Help us Reforest the Forest City!**

Learn about the importance of trees and why correct planting and care are needed for tree success/longevity through our two hour workshops coming up in May in Strongsville, University Heights and Walton Hills - check out our website for event dates, locations and times ([www.cuyahogawcd.org/events](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/events)).

You can help increase canopy cover and reduce runoff while beautifying your yard and your neighborhood - all by planting a tree! At this workshop, participants will learn the basics of tree planting and care, including a hands-on tree planting demonstration. An overview of county-wide tree canopy restoration efforts will also be presented.

The \$20 registration fee includes one 3-gallon native tree, one tree-watering bag and take-home instructions. Trees are available for a variety of soil and sun/shade conditions - please see tree descriptions on website. Free to listen, but registration required.

### **Two Days Left to Apply for FOEC Environmental Studies Scholarship**

To apply for Friends of Euclid Creek's fifth annual \$1,000 scholarship in environmental studies (for high school seniors or college students in the field), [click here for details](#). **Applications are due April 1, 2018.**

### **Check Out Our Weekly Blogs!**

**Recent blog topics include:**

- [OMG, nature is so cool and freaky!](#), by Amy Roskilly, CSWCD
- [Intern Spotlight - Welcome Joe King!](#), by Amy Roskilly, CSWCD
- [Ohio EPA Construction General Permit Renewal \(OHC000005\)](#), by Brent Eysenbach, CSWCD
- [Solving Stream Problems in Your Back Yard Series - Invasive Plants along Streams](#), by Claire Posius, CSWCD
- [The Salamander and the Pipeline](#), by Kelly Parker, CSWCD

Japanese  
knotweed  
is an  
invasive  
plant  
problematic  
along  
streams

### **Upcoming Watershed Events**

#### **Rain Barrel Workshop, Acacia Reservation**

Thur., Apr. 19, 6:30-8pm, Acacia Reservation, [details and registration here](#).

#### **Friends of Euclid Creek/HHGTF Joint May Program - Man's Impact on Our Waters**

Wed., May 2, 7-9pm, at Acacia Reservation - Presentation by Sandy Bihn, Executive Director of Lake Erie Waterkeepers. [Details here](#).

#### **Wildwood Park Spring Cleanup, Cleveland**

Sat, May 19, 10am-noon - Volunteers will help cleanup trash, remove invasive plants and other maintenance activities in the wetland and streamside. [Please RSVP by May 18](#). Waivers required for participants under 18 years old.

### **Upcoming Watershed Partner Organization Events**

**Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Volunteer Program events, programs, courses [listed here](#).**

### **Spring Native Plant Sales**

**CSWCD Native Seed Sale** - Cuyahoga SWCD is selling native seed packets again in 2018 – [click here for more information here](#)

**North Chagrin Nature Center Native Plant Sale** - A wide variety of native spring/summer wildflowers and other plants. May 13, 10am-4pm - [details here](#).

**Holden Arboretum Plant Sale**—Native wildflowers and selection of perennials, annuals, herbs and woody plants. May 19, 10am-4pm - [details here](#).

**2018 Native Plant Sale**—Cleveland Museum of Natural History - Details coming soon—check the website for updates, [click here](#).

\* To register for an event contact the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator (contact info. below).

Visit the [Euclid Creek Website](#) to see upcoming Rain Barrel & Green Cleaning Workshops, and more!

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[Euclid Creek Website](#)