

Fall, 2013

Celebrate 10 years of the DBWP on November 12 at our annual meeting

Do you remember what it was like to be ten years old? Join us for the Partnership's Tenth Anniversary Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 12 at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. Starting at 6:30pm, we'll enjoy food, drink and watershed art, with live poetry, rain barrel painting and photography.

When the program begins at 7:30, you'll revisit our collective accomplishments, ten years after the Joint Committee for the Doan Brook officially incorporated into a non-profit. And of course, we'll have a very special watershed hero presentation, honoring a collaboration between matriarchal activist Virginia Havens and our dedicated Hawken School student volunteers.



Our keynote address will be "A Decade of Rebuilding Doan Brook: How Watershed work inspires future revitalization across our region".

The Partnership is honored to have the director of Kent State's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Terry Schwarz, share her unique, passionate and nationally celebrated approach to Cleveland's future vitality. Her work at the CUDC includes the *Re-Imagining a More Sustainable Cleveland* plan in collaboration with

Neighborhood Progress, Inc. and the

Reimagining a Cleveland riparian corridor



Cleveland City Planning Commission. Thinking strategically about vacant land reuse is at the core of *Re-Imagining*. Art,

transportation, housing, and energy are woven together in this new approach to propelling Cleveland toward a healthy future.

Terry will show us how this is already occurring on a large scale and also with small projects conceived and executed by everyday citizens of diverse backgrounds. At the heart of this vision is the celebration of water as it flows above, under, across and through our lives and landscapes. Join us on November 12 as we imagine a bright future; RSVP to info@doanbrookpartnership.org.

Slowing erosion and its impacts one project at a time

The role of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership is akin to local "foot soldiers" in the march to restore our region's water quality.

Whereas municipalities and agencies, like the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), are responsible for managing stormwater across large swaths of our region, the Partnership can work at capillary levels to correct stormwater problems. The eyes and ears of citizens like you extend our ability to notice sources of pollution and erosion.

Our newest project is a wonderful example of how the various layers of

this network worked together to restore a badly eroded storm sewer tributary to the Doan Brook. A concerned hiker alerted the Partnership to a highly eroded spot on Doan Brook, we wrote a grant to hire restoration ecologists and NEORS funded the grant.

An informal trail along Doan Brook's main stem through the pristine "Gorge" section crosses over many storm-sewer outfalls from suburban roads. Downstream, west of Coventry Road, hikers noticed an eroded gully and a large delta of rocks, broken pipe and silt. The 70 foot gully was formed by a failing storm-sewer outfall.

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Slowing erosion and its impacts

ruling overturning the appellate court's decision, NEORS D will be unable to play its critical role in rebuilding the aquatic systems upon which our lives depend. While many entities can recognize the problems that plague our waterways, no entity other than NEORS D is willing to take financial responsibility for fixing them. Municipalities cannot fund this work. Citizens cannot fund this work. And small non-profits, like the Partnership, cannot fund the care of our overburdened aquatic natural resources in the required all-encompassing manner.

On average, every US dollar invested in water and sanitation provides an economic return of eight US dollars¹. If

fresh water is accessible to humanity, Northeast Ohio is blessed to reside on the world's tenth largest lake. Let's show our pride in our region's greatest asset; it will pay dividends in our economic future and present day quality of life.

The Partnership encourages anyone who values our region's fresh water to call or write their state legislators asking them to affirm that the authority for managing stormwater runoff is included in the legislation that governs NEORS D's mandate to manage our wastewater systems.

Thank you for your role in being the Doan Brook's eyes, ears, and now voice.

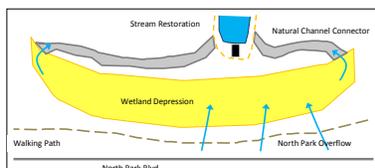
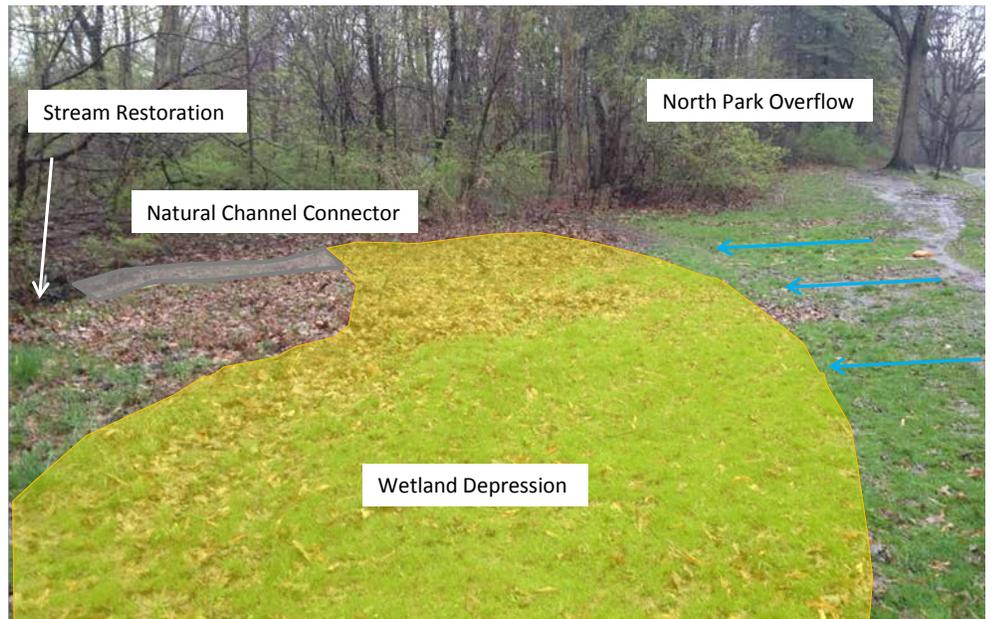
1. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2006)

With every storm, the gully methodically carves its way toward North Park Blvd., causing bank erosion and contributing tons of sediment to the Brook.

The repair project, now underway, will stabilize the tributary by rebuilding the stream channel, and capturing overland floodwaters in a wetland swale. This tiered approach to stormwater control, adds flood treatment, habitat and filtration.

Again, as this project demonstrates, several layers of our community worked together to make these repairs, which in turn benefit our drinking water, open-space recreation and the aquatic species in the Brook and Lake Erie (including a fishing industry worth billions a year).

However, this project is now in jeopardy due to a recent decision by the Ohio 8th District Court of Appeals which ruled the NEORS D does not have the authority under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119 or its Charter to enact and implement their Regional Stormwater Management Program or to collect its stormwater fee. The NEORS D will appeal this decision to the Supreme Court of Ohio, however, until they receive a



our society does not designate funds to manage fresh water resources, access to clean water will

become critical in approximately two decades. In addition to limited water for cities, agriculture and industry will be impaired.

As less than one percent of the Earth's

DBWP IS TRENDING PAPERLESS

BrookNotes is published electronically twice a year, with monthly updates on restoration projects and community programs.

If you would like to receive communications via email, please sign up for our e-mailing list at www.doanbrookpartnership.org.

Taking it to the streets for cleaner water

If you live in Cleveland Heights or Shaker Heights, perhaps you've witnessed groups of young and old alike in high-viz vests, spray-painting the pavement or sticking markers on curbs on some of the residential streets surrounding the Doan Brook and its Lakes. No shenanigans here, just the start-up of our storm drain stenciling initiative in the watershed neighborhoods.

In July and September, volunteers marked a total of 243 storm drains in Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights with weatherproof markers that read, "NO DUMPING – DRAINS TO CREEK" or the graphic message, "LAKE ERIE STARTS HERE." Continuing those efforts, students from Hawken's School's Mather House teamed up to stencil/mark 105 more storm drains during service days in September and October. Thanks goes to Cleveland Heights' Grant Deming Neighborhood Association, who commissioned local artist Laurie Garrett to design the stencil graphic and has permitted us to use it.



In 2014, we will resume our Storm Drain Stenciling Saturdays and expand to include the lower watershed neighborhoods, however organized groups of five+ are welcome to carry out independent efforts with DBWP supplies on dates of their own choosing during the warmer weather months. Contact us for details at info@doanbrookpartnership.org

Take to the Lake brings community paddling back to the watershed for 2nd year

In 1826, the United Society of Believers (better known as the Shakers) dammed the Doan Brook to power a sawmill and created Lower Shaker Lake. After their community and industry waned, the Lake became a destination for swimmers, picnickers and canoeists from the early 1900s on, thanks to formation of new parklands stretching from Lake Erie to Horseshoe Lake.

Recreation still remains as a key connection between our community and the Doan Brook waterways. On Saturday, August 24, the 2nd annual "Take to the Lake" brought over 170 people of all ages together to experience the sensory delights of paddling on calm waters.

Thanks to a collaboration with the Cleveland Metroparks Youth Outdoors program, over 60 youth and adults learned how to paddle for the first time, while



many others brought and shared their boats, ranging from racing kayaks to cedar strip canoes.

On land, Dr. Roy Larick led a gorge hike through geologic and cultural history, while Nature Center staff demonstrated the use of kick seine nets for tracking macroinvertebrates. We also thank Luna Presence yoga teacher Julie Konrad, Heinen's, NEORS, and the host of DBWP volunteers that enabled us all to enjoy a unique perspective of the watershed.



New Cleveland rain garden a community collaboration

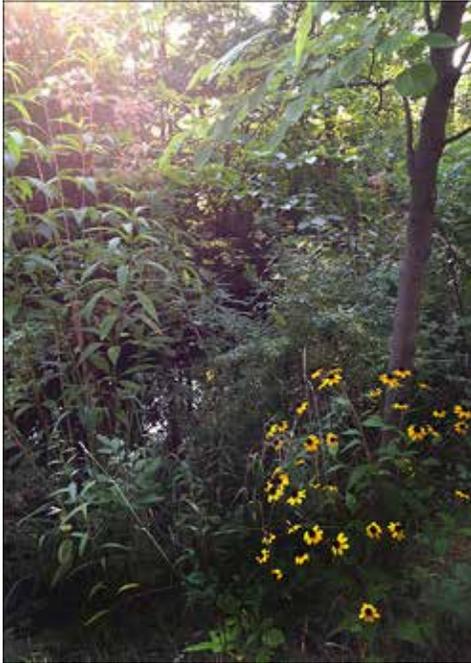
The rain in Spain may fall mainly on the plain, but in the Doan Brook watershed, it falls mainly on paved surfaces. The rain then picks up whatever's in its path on the way to the nearest storm sewer, which dumps everything unceremoniously into the Doan Brook.

The Famicos Foundation and its Green Team, one of the oldest community development corporations in the city of Cleveland, recently collaborated with DBWP and the 2013 entering freshman class of volunteers from Case Western Reserve University to install a new community rain garden at Hull Park, E107th and Superior Ave. in Cleveland.

The new rain garden will help reduce problems with flooding and drains, filter stormwater runoff, besides adding a beautiful natural habitat to the neighborhood. The design was created by Garrett Ormiston of Ormiston Landscaping and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Natural Areas Program. DBWP provided additional expertise and \$500 toward planting materials.

An in-class workshop, held a few weeks later on September 18, taught community members how to build their own rain garden. The workshop included a walking tour to four Glenville rain gardens.

To see more photographs, visit the DBWP or Famicos Foundation Green Team on Facebook.



Photographs of watershed on display to December 30

Over 90 images, photographed by our watershed community, are currently on display at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes as part of a new exhibition, *Beyond the Brook: Images of an Urban Watershed*.

Co-organized by the DBWP and Nature Center, area photographers age 16 and up were invited to submit printed or digital images which depicted their view of the Doan Brook watershed, which encompasses a 12 square mile area from the Heights communities through University Circle to Lake Erie.

Initially planned as a juried show, the exhibition committee decided that in the diverse spirit of the watershed, all submissions would be accepted for this initial year.

Regional Sewer District. Her photograph, in which the Doan Brook is barely visible, is emblematic of the plight of many urban streams to be seen in landscapes that are heavily paved and culverted.

The *People's Choice* award, which was voted for during the opening reception on October 4, went to a photograph entitled, "Pont du Mitch." Equally representative of what the Doan Brook means to individuals and our community, it depicts Mitch, a quadriplegic, known to anyone who regularly walks Lower Shaker Lake. He visited the lake almost daily and in the process built community. Photographer Ellen Vaynor submitted the image in hopes that someone knows how Mitch is doing, as he hasn't been seen by the Lake lately.

Stop by the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes to check out the exhibition between now and December 30.

Special thanks goes to volunteer David Perelman-Hall for his technical assistance, Daniel Levin, and the Nature Photography Club for loan of their 52" monitor.

Qiana Washington receives award from Daniel Levin



Daniel Levin, Associate Professor in Photography at Cuyahoga Community College, selected Shaker Heights High School student Qiana Washington's untitled digital image as *Best in Show*. Qiana received a \$300 award sponsored the Northeast Ohio

DBWP board news

In 2013, the Partnership bade farewell to Board of Trustee and long time friend **Geri Unger**. Geri continues her role as an environmental leader as Executive Director of the Society of Conservation Biologists in Washington, DC.

Cleveland Heights representative and City Councilwoman **Bonnie Caplan** has also announced her retirement from the Board at the end of this year.

"Being part of an organization that has an impact on both the community and the environment; that educates while it demonstrates; and that takes action in meaningful ways, has made my time on the Doan Brook Board feel important and worthwhile. And I have enjoyed meeting and learning from the interesting Board and Staff," Bonnie stated.

Bonnie will be greatly missed. We thank her and wish her much success in all her future endeavors!

DBWP welcomes incoming Trustee and Cleveland Botanical Garden representative **Sandra Albro**. As Director of Research for the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Sandra investigates how improvements to existing soils and addition of plants improve the ecological and social value of vacant urban land. Her topics of interest include soil remediation and stormwater management. On behalf of the watershed, we look forward to Sandra's expertise.



WE HAVE A NEW HOME!

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