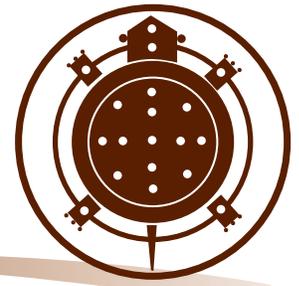


Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

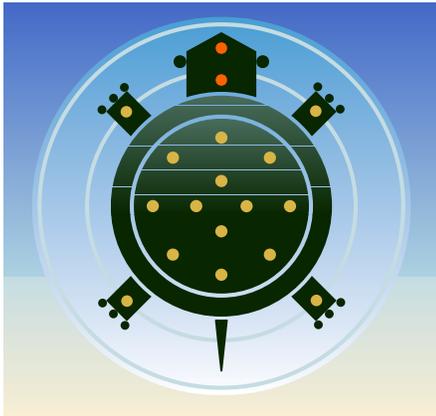
The Spotted Turtle

Volume XXI, No. 1

Winter 2008



TWENTY YEARS



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BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS ASSOCIATION

Special Notice:

Beginning with our summer issue, the Spotted Turtle will be delivered electronically in .pdf format. This will help your Association to make the most of your membership dues and donations, freeing much-needed funds for land preservation and restoration. Equally important, an electronic format will greatly reduce our use of paper!

However, if you would like to continue to receive your Spotted Turtle newsletters in hardcopy format, please contact BCWA office at (937) 320-9042 or admin@beavercreekwetlands.org. Alternately, you may send in the form located on the inside back cover.

BCWA Celebrates 20 Years!

In the months to come, you may notice that our beloved spotted turtle logo will be “dressed up” for a very special occasion—our twentieth anniversary. The original spotted turtle logo, designed for BCWA in 1988 by wildlife artist Charley Harper (1922-2007), is a treasured symbol of the fruits of our wetlands labor. Our anniversary logo, designed by BCWA advisor Mark Martel, will be used to signify and promote our anniversary celebrations. Listed below are some of our plans for the upcoming year.

- Our 2008 annual meeting will be a dinner party, on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at the Walnut Grove Country Club. Members and supporters will receive invitations to this special event, where we will bask in the glow of twenty years of accomplishments on behalf of our local wetlands. Our guest speaker will be Julie Zickefoose, a widely acclaimed natural history writer and artist from southeastern Ohio (www.juliezickefoose.com). Watch for opportunities to support BCWA anniversary fundraisers, which will include a raffle of wetlands-related prizes.

- Special tours of Beaver Creek Wetlands sites are being planned, weather permitting, for the weekend of our annual meeting.

- In February 2008, Greene County Libraries will host wetlands themed activity programs for children ages 3-6 at the Fairborn and Beaver Creek branches. A naturalist from Greene County Parks will be on hand, stories about wetlands will be read aloud, and children can create artwork to display in the libraries.

Fairborn Library is hosting a program on February 9 at 11 a.m.; Beaver Creek Library's program will be on Saturday, February 23 at 11 a.m.

- Wright State University Student Union Gallery has been reserved for the period April 28 through May 11 to display artwork inspired by the Beaver Creek wetlands. Use your cameras, paints, pencils, wood or clay—just show the world how the wetlands inspire you! Watch The Spotted Turtle and our website for rules for submitting entries to this show. A reception is being planned for the afternoon of Sunday, May 4 in the Pathfinder Lounge, adjacent to the gallery. Details coming soon.

- Student art from Beaver Creek Schools (grade levels K-12) will be featured at the BEST gallery in the Beaver Creek Board of Education on Kemp Road during American Wetlands Month (that's May, for you newcomers).

The BCWA Twentieth Anniversary Committee is working hard to make our landmark anniversary a very special one. We hope you will join us for some - or all - of our celebration activities!

- Sue Rytel

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From the President... Daily Celebrations

Those of us who are concerned about our ecosystem and the health of our natural world on a daily basis tend to celebrate everyday when we see an inspiring sunrise or the blue of a Bottle gentian; hear the cry of a soaring hawk or the peep of a young bird on the nest. We may relish the first sparkling snowfall which shows the night-time trails of the whitetail deer through our yard or the tiny prints of the junco under the feeder. We are the ones who know that the snow melt and early spring rains will fill the vernal pools and give salamanders another chance at life. Celebration is a daily event.

However, the year of 2008 is surely going to be the year of a special celebration for it is the *20th Anniversary* year of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

We are inviting you to mark you calendar for Saturday, May 17th when we will have a very special Annual Meeting to mark our 20th year of operation as a Land Trust organization with the mission to preserve and protect the Beaver Creek Wetlands and its watershed. This will be an evening of honors and accolades for those who had the vision in 1988 and for those who have persevered to reach this point and achieve so much. We are hard at work to make this a special event and we hope you will plan to join us. Read more about our plans in this newsletter with an article by Sue Rytel.

Meanwhile the associations work continues to exceed all expectations as projects move forward and we try to fulfill the promise to enhance our world and our community with a healthy environment filled with clean water, healthy habitat for plants, and animals (including you). Your support, both physically and financially, makes all the difference. We celebrate you!

Susie Scott
President, BCWA

Spotted Turtle Name and Logo: The logo of the BCWA is a rendering of the Spotted Turtle by wildlife artist Charley Harper. Harper, who generously donated the drawing back in 1988. Charley passed away in 2007 and will be sorely missed. His work has been adopted by the National Park Service and is appreciated worldwide. Our newsletter title recognizes the Spotted Turtle as an icon for the many rare animals and plants that are protected in the Beaver Creek Wetlands.

Submissions, Questions, or Comments: The BCWA is a member-based organization. Just as we rely on you for annual support, we also rely on you to make this newsletter the product of several diverse voices. So, if you have an idea for an article or a picture to include, please send them to us at admin@beavercreekwetlands.org. Also, we welcome any comments or questions that you'd like to have addressed in this newsletter. For newsletter submissions, questions, or comments, please include "newsletter" in the subject line of your email. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content or clarity.

Donations of Land/Easements: If you are interested in donating land, placing an easement on property, or remembering the BCWA in your will, please don't hesitate to contact the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association at 937-320-9042.

BCWA Annual Report: Copies of the BCWA annual report are available by request. Email the office at admin@beavercreekwetlands.org or call 937 320-9042 to request a copy.

Thanks to Sue Rytel for designing the layout of the *Spotted Turtle*.



Founded in 1988, the Mission of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association is to protect the wetland ecosystem in the Beaver Creek watershed through partnerships, community networks, and public education.

Science Corner

A Little Ecology

When ecologists speak about the environment they use special words to assure that their meaning is clear. Sometimes laypeople don't hear those refinements and don't understand their importance. Here are a few simple terms it might be nice to know.

Habitat: the place where a species lives.

Ecosystem: The combination of communities, as well as physical, chemical, geological and biological forces working together to make a complete ecological unit.

Community: An assemblage of living things that are related by biotic ties, often in a distinct location.

Population: All of the individuals of a single species found in a distinct location.

Genus: A group of closely related species. For example a fox is in the Genus *Vulpes* but a coyote and dog are in the Genus *Canis*.

Species: A single kind of plant or animal within a genus. The Coyote would be genus *Canis* and species *latrans* and the wolf is *Canis lupus*. Normally we use these together and describe the coyote by its scientific name *Canis latrans*. Note that the scientific name is in italics to set it off as a special part of the sentence

Niche: I like to think of this is the persona of a species as it exists in a place. For example the niche of a coyote *Canis latrans* is somewhat different here in Ohio farmland than it is in Utah desert. Niche is all the things a species does and is and how it relates to its current community.



Buckeye butterfly.
Photo by Jim Amon.

Limiting factors: Pretty important! Those things that hold a species or a population in check. Generally all it takes is one factor, often food, to do this. Disease alone could do it too, or predation. Many invasive plants like some honeysuckles or purple loosestrife don't have the same limiting factors here as they had in their native lands.

- Jim Amon

Green Wash

In the last issue I explained that wetlands can help prevent global warming. It seems everyone is hopping on the bandwagon these days and it is hard to listen to the TV or Radio or read the news without someone trying to sell you an eco-friendly or green product. Well my friends, PT Barnum once said, "There's a sucker born every day" and Pogo said, "We have met the enemy, and they are us", and I say most of US fit the bill. Sure there are perfectly good improved products out there – but how do you know? I advise that you don't take the manufacturers word on it. What, someone would not tell the truth, Oh MY!

So how DO you figure this out? It is hard to prove and too easy to say. This morning I heard about an "ecofriendly" product made of stainless steel instead of plastic. No explanation was offered. I assume plastic derived from oil is not ecofriendly – why not? Is stainless steel ecofriendly? How much coal was burned and carbon dioxide was put into the air to melt the ore and make the steel? How much energy was used to roll the steel, polish it and form it into the final shape. How much did it weigh relative to the plastic and how much more fuel did it take to transport the increased weight from manufacturing point to sale point? Oh and where did that ore come from? A strip mine? How about the coal mine? How much habitat was lost? Maybe the steel product is "less disposable"??

So, think these things through. It's a new world and we are going to have to live in it.

- Jim Amon

NATURE NOTES

Invasive Honeysuckle Takes a Hit!

Come see the new and improved Fairborn Marsh

Thanks to many volunteers with chainsaws, pruning saws, loppers, muscle, and lots of Roundup we have an amazing amount of renewed forest at the Fairborn Marsh. So what is the Fairborn Marsh, you say?

Fairborn Marsh is the name we give to the 56.2 acre plot of land we own north of New Germany Trebein Road. We call it Fairborn Marsh because the wetland there is dominated by shallow water with emerging non-woody vegetation, in other words a marsh.

The site also has a remarkable edge between the forested hillside and the marsh. Here we find slope fens that form where water constantly pours forth from the hillside and the plants form peat around their roots. The mineral rich water supports a shrub meadow with many sedges along that edge and within easy view of our path

through the woods. The woods is (now that we have cleared the honeysuckle) an open woods with many gaps that allow filtered light to flood the understory throughout the growing season. A rich flora of spring flowers should develop there now that the honeysuckle is under control.

As you walk along the path you will see several short trails that lead up to the prairie. The prairie is a grassland that we have restored by planting native grasses and wildflowers. The marsh, fens, woodland and prairie make a complex ecosystem that provides food, cover, and nesting materials for a variety of animals. From our observation platform you can see all of these habitats. As time goes on you should look for clusters of Oaks we have planted in the prairie to give it a savanna like aspect.

- Jim Amon



Richard Swigart contemplates a monster honeysuckle during Fairborn Marsh restoration project. Photo by Jim Amon.

Dr. Jared Diamond to Speak at Wright State

When: January 28, 2008 at 7 pm

Where: Apollo Multipurpose Room, WSU Student Union

How: Free & Open to the Public. No Tickets Required

Jared Diamond is universally regarded as one of the great minds of our time. His Pulitzer-Prize winning book, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, has been a runaway best-seller, and the top selling science book on Amazon.com for five years running. Now, *Collapse*, his follow-up book has landed on the major best-sellers lists as well and is drawing critical reviews.

Currently a professor of Geography at UCLA, he is also the author of two other best-selling books, *The Third Chimpanzee* and *Why Is Sex Fun?* In 1999, President Clinton bestowed the USA's highest civilian award in science, The National Medal of Science, for Dr. Diamond's research and discoveries in evolutionary Biology. In 2001 he was awarded the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, in recognition of his tremendous contributions to the field of conservation biology.

The breadth of his interests and expertise is truly remarkable, ranging from environmental history through evolutionary biology to molecular physiology. In his newest book, *Collapse*, he examines why ancient societies, including the Viking colonies of Greenland, as well as modern ones such as Rwanda, have fallen apart. The book was an instant best-seller and has drawn critical accolades. Dr. Diamond's body of work has also been the subject of a PBS special: *Great Minds of Science: Evolution*.

SCOUT PROJECTS

Scouts have been active this year helping us with two major projects, one at the Siebenthaler Fen and the other at Fairborn Marsh.

The Siebenthaler Fen, a fen with a boardwalk located next to the Siebenthaler Nursery, is managed by the Ohio Division of Natural Resources and is part of the Beaver Creek Wetlands. Volunteers from the Beaver Creek Wetlands often work at this site. Many of you may have noticed that the Siebenthaler Fen Parking lot off Fairground Road has a new look. (picture from this fall). This landscaping was the Eagle Scout project of Andrew Adair, a senior at Beaver Creek High School.



The Siebenthaler Fen Parking lot as landscaped by Eagle Scout Andrew Adair. Photo by Bob Louis.

Andrew spent over seven hours planning the project with Scott Phillips of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Siebenthaler's Nursery, with coordination by BCWA. Andrew says that over 68 hours of work went into planting native species and the digging of holes which was pretty time consuming in the hard packed soil, one hole taking over 45 minutes to dig. Not only will the flowering shrubs and trees be beautiful in the spring, we have eliminated ruts caused by people running their four wheel drive vehicles in the puddles that formed after a rain. Andrew has been involved with the Scouting Program since the first grade. Congratulations, Andrew, for taking on such a project that the public can enjoy for many years and solving a community problem at the same time.

Nate Spears of Troop 68 received his Eagle Scout Court of Honor Sunday 12/09/07. Nate also started scouting at an early age and finished his Eagle Scout Project by managing the construction of an observation platform overlooking the Fairborn Marsh, the part of the Beaver Creek Wetlands that BCWA owns. This project was completed in June, 2007 and you might look over an article that appeared in the fall newsletter for more information. Great Blue Heron, ducks, turtles and deer can be seen from this platform. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest award given in Scouting. Congratulations Nate on your accomplishment and for picking a project the public will benefit from for years.

- Bob Louis



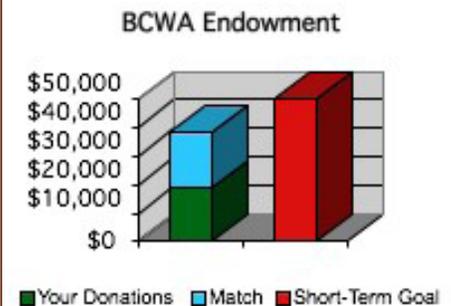
Planned giving is like planting a seed – it can result in tax savings and/or income to you, while leaving a legacy to preserve and protect our wetlands, now and forever.

In partnership with The Dayton Foundation, BCWA can now accept gifts of cash, securities, life insurance, retirement assets, life estates, charitable annuities, bequests, and many other planned and deferred giving options. To learn more, please contact our planned giving specialist at The Dayton Foundation:

Angela Clements, CPA
The Dayton Foundation
500 Kettering Tower
Dayton, OH 45423
(937) 222-0410
www.daytonfoundation.org

Cash gifts to the Endowment Fund should be made payable to "The Dayton Foundation" and include a notation that the gift is for the BCWA Endowment Fund.

The first \$25,000 in gifts to the Endowment Fund is being doubled by a matching grant from an anonymous donor. Watch this space to track our progress:



Tower Sign Installed Again

The sign on the tower at the Siebenthaler Fen is again installed after vandals removed it from the tower and deposited it in the fen (see picture of tower on next page).

The tower was named in honor of Mr. Bob Siebenthaler's sister, Nancy, thus the name "Nan's Tower". Bob Siebenthaler was a prime mover in the acquisition of the Siebenthaler Fen property from his family business and contributed generously to the building of the boardwalk and tower there. Thanks to Susan and Dave Scott for relettering and preserving the sign.

Greene Parking for BCWA

The Greene Community Foundation Fund has selected the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association as a beneficiary of its Charity Meter Program during January and February 2008.

Just six nonprofit organizations are designated annually to receive proceeds from parking meters and parking tickets at The Greene. Many thanks to Jane Henry, both for noticing the opportunity, and for following up with management at The Greene!



BULLETIN BOARD

Volunteers: Outdoor Activity

This year was a record year for volunteers; it would take an entire newsletter to thank all of them and acknowledge their good deeds. We felt that some highlights of these activities would be in order, as major accomplishments were made in fighting invasive species such as honeysuckle, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, Bradford Pear, bad thistles, garlic mustard and many others.



*Volunteers at
Creekside
Reserve
parking lot.*

*Photo by Bob
Louis.*

Honeysuckle progress at Creekside Reserve can best be observed from the walking trails off the bike path between Factory Road and Fairfield Road on the North Side of Little Beaver Creek. The prairie at Creekside was also cleaned of invasive species and many new plants were planted near the large Fen. Volunteers at the Fairborn Marsh property off New Germany Trebein Road also opened up the woods next to the marsh—what a difference! We would like to highlight the following numbers:

41 different people worked at the Fairborn Marsh for a total of 298 hours (Includes the Scout Project)

11 different people worked at the Siebenthaler Fen for a total of 42 hours (does not include the 68 hours for the Scout Project)

27 people worked at the Creekside Reserve for a total of 498 hours

Signs were also installed at the Hagenbuch Reserve and a trail was laid out at the Koogler Reserve and Prairie for an additional 9 hours.

Our highest number of volunteer hours goes to our photographer, Richard Swigart, whose combined hours at all locations was 96 hours, Debbie Karr was next with 95 hours and Rob Evans, one of our newest trustees, was 44 hours. Rob also spent time updating our web site, www.beavercreekwetlands.org, and setting up our booth for festivals and special events. Our husband and wife team, Jim and Ann Byrd together volunteered 95 hours.

A very special thanks to ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, as you are preserving the landscape for future generations to enjoy. A very special thanks to our technical advisors, Dr. Don Geiger of the University of Dayton and Dr. Jim Amon with Wright State University, whose countless hours of dedication and preparation made this all happen.

We have a very busy work schedule next year as we plan to build a tower, more overlooks, more Scout projects and honeysuckle cutting will resume in early spring. Please come join us. Check our website for updates and work schedules.

Making a Difference

Thank You!

Thanks to the following people for helping to prepare the Gaining Ground 2007 mailing:

Bruce Ford; Susie & Dave Scott; Judith Streiff; Dorothy Muhlhauser; Eleanor Young; Arlene & Jonathan Graham; Denny Jarvi; Nancy Makley; Mary & Dave Townsley; Dorothy Bordewisch .

Also thanks to Terri & Bob Limbert for preparing the Fall Spotted Turtle for mailing.



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper. Please recycle it when you're through ... or better still, share it with a friend!



Dan and Janet Dimiduk visit the Tower at Siebenthaler Fen with their three children and a cousin from Missouri.

Photo taken by Bob Louis as he was re-installing the sign.

Join the BCWA Today!

Membership dues go directly to fund land acquisition, our quality programming in education, habitat restoration and management of our preserve. In order to purchase future parcels of land and pay off the mortgage on our most recent purchase, we rely on your membership.

Membership categories include:

\$5-Student	\$10-Senior (60+)	\$15-Individual
\$25-Family	\$35-Contributing	\$50-Supporting
\$100-Patron	\$1,000-Life	

To join, please send a check payable to BCWA to: **BCWA, P.O. Box 42, Alpha, OH 45301.**

Please include your name, address, phone and email. Remember, the BCWA is a 501(c)(3) land trust organization and your donation is tax deductible.



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