



Rivers Quarterly

A Reservoir of Information About Ohio's Waterways
 Rivers Unlimited • 1207 Grandview Ave., Suite 205, Columbus, OH 43212-3449 • (614) 487-7511

RIVERS UNLIMITED LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN: *Twenty in 2000*

This summer Rivers Unlimited unveiled a plan to double the number of rivers in the Ohio Scenic River system. The project, called *Twenty in 2000*, is designed to add ten more rivers to the system by the turn of the century, along with funding to accommodate the system's expansion. Rivers Unlimited will identify potential scenic rivers and then help river advocates in local communities across Ohio generate community support and apply to have a river designated.

"We have one of the best scenic rivers programs in the country," stated Mike Fremont, President of Rivers Unlimited. "Unfortunately, we haven't added any waterways to that system since 1984, when the Big and Little Darby Creeks were designated. It's time to expand the program."

Ohio helped pioneer the river preservation movement in 1968 with the passage of the nation's first scenic rivers act. This legislation created a state program to protect Ohio's remaining high quality streams for future generations. By 1984, 17 segments of ten rivers and streams totaling 641 miles held scenic river status. Each waterway was designated as 'wild', 'scenic', and/or 'recreational,' the three classifications based on the particular qualities streams possess.

However, while Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program was proactive during its founding decade of the 1970's, no waterways have been added to the system for over a dozen years. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, which houses the Scenic Rivers Program, has indicated that at least 44 additional waterways meet the minimum qualifications for scenic river status. Many of these waterways are facing development pressures and could clearly benefit from scenic river designation.

Several steps must be taken to qualify a river for the program. First, resolutions of support must be gathered from a majority of governmental bodies in the watershed. That support triggers a study by the staff of the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program. A study committee, composed of a cross section of local people interested in the river, compiles information to determine if the waterway meets the minimum qualifications for a scenic river designation.

In order to qualify for a scenic river designation, a river must meet the following criteria:

- The segment to be designated must be at least ten miles long;
- A minimum of 25% of the proposed section must be forested at a minimum depth of 300 feet from the river bank to qualify as 'scenic;'

The following waterways in Ohio are State Scenic Rivers. Also listed is the length of segments and the year of original designation:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|
| Little Miami River | 105 miles | 1969 |
| Sandusky River | 65 miles | 1970 |
| Olentangy River | 22 miles | 1973 |
| Little Beaver Creek | 36 miles | 1974 |
| Grand River | 56 miles | 1974 |
| Cuyahoga River | 25 miles | 1974 |
| Maumee River | 96 miles | 1974 |
| Stillwater River | 93 miles | 1975 |
| Chagrin River | 49 miles | 1979 |
| Big & Little Darby Creeks | 84 miles | 1984 |

“Twenty in 2000 ... will add ten more rivers to the system by the turn of the century”

• Fall 1996 •

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STREAM of Thought

This is my last column for Rivers Quarterly. After twelve years in Ohio, I have decided to move to Madison, Wisconsin at the end of this year. This was a difficult decision for me professionally because I believe that the work of Rivers Unlimited is some of the most important being done in this state. It is with that belief in mind that I offer some parting thoughts.

A brochure for the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland says, "If there is magic on this planet, surely it is contained in water." Unfortunately, that image is clouded by human actions threatening to destroy our water resources.

One-third of our freshwater fish species are rare or endangered. Drinking water of 12 million urban residents is contaminated by agricultural herbicides. Polluted water is forcing cities to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in water filtration systems. In Ohio, developers are being allowed to move creeks for convenience sake as they build parking lots for strip malls.

It is against this backdrop of degradation that we must resolve to battle for clean, flowing water. Our health literally depends on it. Each of us is three-fourths water. We are truly fighting for our quality of life and the safety of our children.

As I write this we are in the midst of the election season. Those who care about clean water and clear flowing, pollution-free rivers must actively participate in the political process and then hold those we elect accountable. All too often today, environmental issues are written off by politicians as fringe topics not worthy of the attention given to other events.

I urge each of you to maintain the faith and stay true to the cause of clean rivers and streams. Continue to support Rivers Unlimited. Get involved with the group on your home river or start a group if there isn't one. Above all else, get active in the public policy debate

Photo #1
(negative
#12 or 13)

Todd Ambs
Executive Director

and demand that we protect and restore the magic that is most certainly contained in our water.

Speaking of getting involved, much credit is due the Ohio B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation for their leadership in forming the Ohio Natural Resources Coalition, a cross-section of more than 30 groups interested in protecting and enhancing our natural resources. In addition to Rivers Unlimited and the Ohio B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, leaders of the coalition include the Izaak Walton League, National Audubon Society-Great Lakes Office, Ohio Smallmouth Alliance, Ohio State Trappers Association, Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club, League of Ohio Sportsmen, Wildlife Legislative Fund and The Ohio Environmental Council, among others. Three meetings have been held to discuss topics of mutual interest. Member groups are considering a draft mission statement to provide a more formal organizational structure.

I believe this coalition is critical to protecting our waterways' health. This coalition can send a clear message to the Ohio General Assembly that the current assault on our environment will not be tolerated by the millions of Ohioans who fish, hunt, hike, camp and appreciate our natural resources.

This issue of Rivers Quarterly features our *Twenty in 2000* campaign, an ambitious project to double the number of waterways in the state scenic rivers program by the turn of the century. Forty-four additional waterways may meet the minimum qualifications for designation, according to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

This issue's local river group feature is the Monday Creek Restoration Project. This Southeast Ohio

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organization is working to restore the health of a creek devastated by acid mine drainage.

As of this writing the antidegradation lawsuit it still pending the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. Either way the court decides, the case will be appealed and we will need additional funds to finance the fine work our attorneys are doing on this case. If you would like to help in this fight, please send your tax-deductible contribution to the Rivers Unlimited Litigation Account.

Thanks for helping to make Rivers Unlimited Ohio's most natural resource.

Sincerely,
Todd Ambs, Executive Director

OHIO GREENWAYS:

Statewide Initiative Gathering Momentum by Elaine Marsh, Greenways Coordinator

During my first three months as Project Coordinator for Ohio Greenways, I have come to understand several things about greenways. First, they are difficult to define as a *place*. By definition, greenways are corridors of protected open space that connect people with parks, natural areas, and historic sites. But even careful scrutiny of their characteristics cannot fully define them in a functional way. However, once dialogue begins, it becomes clear that people have an intuitive sense of greenways' value and benefits. So, there's the rub. The value is perceived above the definition. In the words of an award winning public servant and greenways mentor, "Greenways are more of an art than a science." Art speaks to value. Therefore, I believe our project to generate momentum for a statewide greenways initiative should not only include the critical scientific and economic information, but also the *artistic* values.

Another thing I have learned is that the process of developing greenways is unique in every location. Greenways are as individual as the elements of their design, which include people, funding, history, and community. Therefore, any statewide model must be flexible enough to accommodate local and regional factors. Several greenway developers across the state have told me that any statewide initiative that did not bring dollars or other tangible resources would be considered burdensome.

The third thing I have learned is that no plan, even the most exquisite, cannot leave the drawing board without strong public support from both the general public and at least some faction of community leadership. Therefore, we are carefully studying existing greenways, developing economic evidence, and working with a broad cross section of interested parties.

Greenways Initiative Gains Momentum

The first part of any project is

finding out what already exists. There is already a diverse collection of greenways in Ohio, so there are many examples to study. The challenge is to create a flexible model that encourages greenway development in Ohio without unfunded and burdensome prescriptions.

Many regional and statewide processes get bogged down with the definition of greenways. In the initial stages of the project, Rivers Unlimited also experienced this difficulty. Once we examined the confusion, however, we decided to approach the challenge of defining 'greenways' in two ways:

- Conducting case studies which will demonstrate the basic elements of greenways. The first series of these case studies is being identified this fall.

identify ways to promote greenways to the public.

Good News on Ohio Greenways

The biggest news for Ohio's Greenways is the acclaim recently heaped upon the Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor in Northeast Ohio. Within the span of two weeks, the Corridor was designated as the first *National Scenic Byway*, and also as a *National Heritage Corridor*. Both of these designations will add federal dollars to the corridor's development, which already includes a completed 20-mile trail and plans for connections to Cleveland, Akron, Zoar, and Canal Fulton. Most important, this recognition will encourage the preservation of nearby land.

In other greenways news across the state, on September 27 - 29, over

. . . greenways are corridors of protected open space that connect people with parks, natural areas, and historic sites.

- Defining 'greenways' from the ground floor—from people working hands-on in the field developing their version of a greenway. We are meeting with people from across the state involved in greenway development and listening to their strategies, successes, and challenges.

In order to involve more stakeholders in the greenways project, Rivers Unlimited has joined forces with several organizations and state agencies. For instance, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is considering a comprehensive statewide plan for recreational trails that would include Rivers Unlimited as a partner. This plan would include objectives from both greenways and trails, and explore economic aspects of trails, which would extend the scope of our economic study. In addition, we have been working with the Department of Development, Division of Travel and Tourism to

one hundred people gathered at Hueston Woods State Park to set the agenda for the Ohio Wildlands Project. The project was launched by the Buckeye Forest Council, a statewide forest protection group. The group has called for the preservation and restoration of 950,000 acres in the Western Allegheny Plateau in Ohio. Rivers Unlimited was there to make the connection between reforestation efforts and the greenways project.

Finally, approval for the first phase of a greenbelt and bikeway that will connect Cleveland's East Side and eastern suburbs to downtown is now underway. The trail will connect University Circle with the downtown Inner Harbor, will be used by over 2 million commuters and recreationists each year. Nearly 20 years in the making, local cyclists say that the newly-opened Rock and Roll Hall of Fame spurred the approval for the trail.

LOCAL RIVERS

UPDATE

There are over 50 local organizations working to protect the 61,000 miles of rivers and streams in Ohio. In each issue of Rivers Quarterly, we provide brief updates on activities of a few of these local river groups. As you'll notice, volunteers are the cornerstone of river protection efforts in this state.

❖ GRAND RIVER (Lake and Ashtabula Counties)

In the early 1990's, a coalition of northeast Ohio individuals, agencies and organizations began meeting to discuss ways to protect the state designated "Wild and Scenic" Grand River. After this partnership successfully applied for and received over \$900,000 in grants to fuel a Grand River protection project, it was agreed that a land trust should be incorporated to hold property, administer the grants and conduct day-to-day business. Grand River Partners, Inc. (GRPI) is a not-for-profit land trust incorporated in 1994 to serve as the focal point of this effort.

GRPI is currently protecting critical areas along the Grand River and its tributaries through the acquisition of conservation easements and fee ownership. GRPI has also successfully promoted cost share practices within the watershed in order to reduce pollution run-off that affects the Grand River.

This past spring, GRPI sponsored four very successful "best management practices" workshops for loggers and urban developers. In another GRPI-sponsored activity, local boy scouts stenciled storm drains with a "Do not dump, drains to river" message. GRPI continues to provide leadership for the protection of the spectacular Grand River. For membership information please call (216) 639-4773.

❖ HOCKING RIVER (Athens, Hocking and Fairfield Counties)

The Hocking River Commission, an independent non-profit organization, serves the Hocking watershed through river stewardship and education. Since 1990, the Commission has been working toward a vision of a greenway along the Hocking River. This fall, an existing bicycle path that follows the river around Athens is being extended north to Nelsonville. A greenways plan is being developed by Ohio University graduate student Rachael Allman with funding from the University's Department of Geography and the Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development.

The falls at White's Mill provide a historic focal point for the proposed greenway. The Commission is promoting a plan to create the White's Mill Conservancy Park on land adjacent to the mill. The group has urged the mayor of Athens, Ohio University's president, the Hocking Conservancy District, and the Athens County Historical Society to support the proposal.

In July, HRC's John Wryst and President Mary Stoertz testified at an EPA public hearing on the Ohio Department of Transportation's plan to reroute the Hocking River near Guysville. ODOT claims it must straighten and divert the river's channel in order to accommodate the widening of Route 50 between Athens and Coolville. Dr. Stoertz urged ODOT to integrate more natural streambank stabilization methods, such as the Palmiter Technique, into their plans.

❖ LITTLE MIAMI RIVER (Hamilton and Warren Counties)

Little Miami, Inc., a non-profit conservation organization founded in 1967, has worked for nearly three decades to protect riparian forests and water quality of the Little Miami River. The organization is currently working with Greene County officials and developer Rick Clemens to set aside over 50 acres of flood plain forest along the Little Miami adjacent to a proposed housing subdivision.

In addition, a major step forward has been taken through a partnership between Little Miami, Inc. (LMI) and Deerfield Township in Warren County. The Township and LMI are working cooperatively to protect the river from commercial development in the City of Foster. LMI has loaned Deerfield \$135,000 to acquire the site of a proposed riverfront restaurant and retail development. The land may become a river conservation and arts center along the river. The riverfront area will be donated to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Natural Areas and Preserves as part of the agreement.

Finally, LMI and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists are meeting to review water quality problems in the Little Miami. EPA will begin a new and continuing research effort that will identify sources of pollution and track long-term trends. One concern is that during periods of low water, 30% to 70% of the flow comes from wastewater treatment plants. LMI is working with EPA to identify the impact this has on the river and its tributaries.

❖ MAD RIVER (Logan, Champaign and Clark Counties)

The Mad River is one of very few waterways in the state that can sustain a trout population, presenting a valuable economic and recreational opportunity for Ohioans. Segments of the Mad were straightened and channelized at the turn of the century for farming. This channelization caused irreversible damage to the Mad and its streamside corridor. In spite of the permanent damage, the increased flow that resulted made the stream more hospitable for trout, which require cool water temperatures.

Recognizing the rare opportunity this waterway presents for anglers, the Mad River Habitat Restoration Group was formed to enhance the habitat necessary for trout to flourish. This organization is led primarily by anglers and flyfishing clubs, including Columbus flyfishing outfitter Brian Fleshsig, who has authored a book on the history of the Mad River. The Restoration Group has obtained money for a project to enhance the in-stream habitat of a 500 yard stretch of the Mac-O-Chee Creek, a tributary of the Mad River.

❖ TINKER'S CREEK (Portage and Summit Counties)

As the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River, Tinker's Creek flows through rapidly growing suburban communities in North-

(cont. on back page)

Cleanup Effort on Monday Creek Underway

The 116-square mile Monday Creek watershed in Athens, Hocking, and Perry counties is typical of most watersheds in Southeast Ohio – it has been severely impacted by resource extraction, most notably coal mining. After decades of neglect, a citizen driven organization called the Monday Creek Restoration Project is involving a wide variety of stakeholders in its project to once again make its waterways fishable and swimmable.

Efforts to rehabilitate the Monday Creek watershed began in 1994 when Albany, Ohio resident Mary Ann Borch attended the First Annual Mine Drainage Conference in Morgantown, West Virginia. The conference introduced Borch to the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative (ACSI), a project coordinated by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining. The Initiative is the agency's first effort to address the problem of acid mine drainage into streams, with particular emphasis on restoring water quality.

With the help of other government agencies, educational institutions, and community groups, Borch helped form the Monday Creek Restoration Project. The project is a collaborative venture with a goal of including all stakeholders in the process of restoring the Monday Creek watershed. Rural Action, a Southeast Ohio non-profit organization, provides the infrastructure for the Project and contributes VISTA volunteers that do hands-on work on the watershed.

The Project emphasizes the watershed approach – understanding that Monday Creek's drainage area, not political boundaries, is the unifying principle in the effort to clean up Monday Creek and its tributaries. The watershed approach is effective because it integrates streams, land, plants, animals, and human commu-

nities for the purpose of sensible planning and management.

This summer the Project received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for \$300,000 plus matching funds for 1996-98 to reduce stream bank erosion and acid mine runoff on Rock Run, a major tributary of Monday Creek.

The first phase of the plan addresses the problem in the short-term – capping the coal pit and the bog pile with a clay seal, and setting up water treatment systems for Monday Creek and its tributaries.

Ultimately, the Project hopes to create a series of human-made ponds and wetlands that will prevent virtually all of the acid leachate from flowing into the streams. These natural treatment sources, known as Successive Alkalinity Producing Wetlands (SAPS), can reduce the acid content of water by up to 95 percent.

The Project includes over 15 major partners, in addition to individuals from local communities. Partners that are helping finance the current reclamation effort at Rock Run include Rural Action, Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Mines and Reclamation, U.S.F.S. Wayne National Forest, Ohio University, American Electric Power, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines. ❖

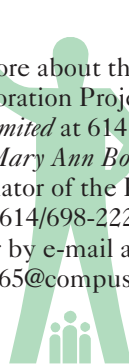
To learn more about the Monday Creek Restoration Project, contact *Rivers Unlimited* at 614 487-7511, or *Mary Ann Borch*, Coordinator of the Project, at 614/698-2227 or by e-mail at 102403.3365@compuserve.com

STORMY MONDAY

The Monday Creek flows 27 miles through Appalachian foothills before emptying into the Hocking River southeast of Nelsonville in Athens County. Along the way, however, are dozens of abandoned coal mines that continue to be a major source of pollution in the Creek and its tributaries in the form of acid mine drainage.

Like much of Southeast Ohio, coal mining and other types of resource extraction were the economy's lifeblood in the Monday Creek watershed from the turn of the century through the 1940's. With the passing of active mining in the area, coal fields were abandoned and neglected, leaving behind not only depressed economies, but also piles of excavated material referred to as 'gob piles.'

Over time, water washed over the gob piles and became highly acidic. This water flowed into nearby streams and rendered many of them virtually lifeless due to the high acid content. Today, over 40 percent of Monday Creek supports no fish species. In some sections of the stream, the only thing alive is a form of acid-loving algae.



Advisory Group Moves Slowly

Serving on the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative External Advisory Group for the Ohio EPA is a little bit like hanging—after a while you get used to it. Every month this year this 25-member group has gathered in Columbus to try to hammer out an agreed approach to implementing the Great Lakes Initiative in Ohio. The group itself has eight environmental representatives. Most of the remaining members represent either municipal wastewater treatment operators or industries.

Many hours have been spent trying to reach consensus positions on a wide range of difficult and controversial issues. Outside facilitators hired by Ohio EPA have kept members on track and some surprising compromise positions have been reached. One of the more contentious issues has been the question of whether the Great Lakes Initiative should apply to the Ohio River Basin (which composes roughly the southern 2/3 of Ohio) as well as the Lake Erie Basin.

There is no requirement that the rules apply to the Ohio River Basin, but groups like Rivers Unlimited believe that these rules, which strictly regulate 22 chemicals that accumulate in the water, are essential to the protection of aquatic habitat and drinking water supplies throughout the state. After much debate it was agreed that most of the issues involving the Ohio River Basin would be addressed in a separate advisory committee process to begin next year. In exchange, all members of the current advisory group agreed to make pollution prevention a centerpiece of the recommendations that will go to the director of Ohio EPA later this year. Stay tuned for the final report. ❖

Twenty in 2000 cont. from page 1

- The waterway must possess water conservation, scenic, fish, wildlife, historic or outdoor recreation values which should be preserved;
- The section to be designated must be free of impoundments or dams; and
- The river must have a largely undeveloped shoreline that is generally inaccessible by road.

To support local activists, Rivers Unlimited will produce an organizing guide that provides step-by-step instructions on how citizens can collect resolutions of support from local governments and survey local residents and landowners. A citizen training session is being organized for January, 1997 to network citizens that are seeking scenic river status for a local river with those that are involved with an already designated Scenic River.

The Program is studying two streams to determine if they qualify for a scenic river designation—the Black River in Lorain County and the Kokosing River in Knox County. Several other rivers have been identified as potential candidates for study, and several are expected to be named in the coming months. Rivers Unlimited is actively supporting local citizens and organizations in both areas.

When rivers obtain State Scenic River status, they receive additional legal and symbolic protections. First and foremost, the process of designating a waterway involves local communities and generates a greater awareness of the recreational, economic, and environmental benefits of a clean and healthy river. Further, any publicly financed projects which directly affect scenic rivers must first receive guidance from the Scenic Rivers Program to ensure the project does not permanently harm the waterway.

The Program encourages government officials and local citizens to work together cooperatively. A scenic river designation does not infringe on private property rights, which are unchanged by scenic river designation. In fact, property values usually increase as a result, which benefits both landowners and local communities.

“The beauty of the Scenic Rivers Program is that waterways are only added to the program when local citizens ask for and want the designation,” said Todd Amb, Rivers Unlimited Executive Director. “Through *Twenty in 2000* we will work closely with local groups and individuals to help them add a stream to the system, but only if that is what a local community wants.” ❖

**DID
YOU
KNOW**

If all of the earth's water fit in a gallon jug, available fresh water would equal just over a tablespoon.

Rivers Unlimited Membership Update

Rivers Unlimited wishes to extend thanks to the following new and renewing members. To become a member, see the back cover page.

New Members & Supporters

Sustainers (\$100 or more)

David Altman
Joel Scott Dalton
John & Judith Hoberg
Tom Katzenmeyer
Gertrude Kelly
George McCue
Drew Palmiter
Peter Precario
Steve Sedam

City of Twinsburg
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Kevin Futryk/KLF Consulting Corp.
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Glenn Skinner/Circle S. Enterprises

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Sherry Lanning
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Concerned Citizens of the Coolville Area
Hocking River Commission
Mohican Reservation, Inc.
Monday Creek Restoration Project
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Don Collis/Broughton Cannery
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Tom & Veronica Sherman
Ellen Tripp
Paul Walker

Greene Environmental Coalition
Randy Jones/Friends of the Poland Forest
Doug McLarnan/Kokosing Scenic River Assn.

Rivers Unlimited wishes to extend special thanks to the following foundations and organizations for their financial assistance. Their grants have far-reaching effects, 61,000 miles to be exact, and we, along with those who treasure Ohio's streams, appreciate their support.

The George Gund Foundation
The Hastings Foundation
The Nord Family Foundation
Recreational Equipment, Inc.
River Network
The George B. Storer Foundation

A Recap: Rivers Unlimited Annual Dinner & Auction

Photo @ 60% of
cropped 3.5" x
2.25" size

Tim Palmer, an internationally known author from Montana, was the keynote speaker at Rivers Unlimited's Annual Dinner and Auction October 5, 1996. Palmer, who has written several books on river protection, gave a multimedia presentation on the state of America's rivers and efforts underway to preserve and restore them. At left is Joseph DiNovo, legal counsel to Rivers Unlimited.

One of the many highlights of the Rivers Unlimited Annual Dinner & Auction on October 5, 1996 was the award presentations and recognitions to thank those who stand up for the 61,000 miles of rivers and streams in Ohio. Seven individuals from six categories won river protection awards. Legislators, public employees, members of the news media and local citizen advocates were nominated. The 1996 recipients:

Outstanding Legislator for River Protection:
State Senator Rob Burch

*Outstanding Public Servant for
River Protection*

Paul Labovitz, employee of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Excellence in Media Coverage of River Issues
T. C. Brown (Cleveland Plain Dealer)

Outstanding Rivers Unlimited Volunteer
Tom Ryther (Columbus)

Dr. David Stansbery (Columbus)

Home River Advocate

Doug Hill (Black River-Logan County)

Lifetime Achievement Award

Kay Boggs
George Palmiter

Photo @ 50% of
5" x 2.875"
cropped size

(L-R) Kay Boggs, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner; Mike Fremont Rivers Unlimited President; and George Palmiter, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner at the 1996 Annual Dinner for Rivers Unlimited.

Yes, I want to help Rivers Unlimited protect the 61,000 miles of rivers and streams in Ohio from pollutants and other forms of degradation. Use my gift to help the nation's oldest statewide river protection organization continue to protect these scenic waterways which are vital to the quality of life in our state. Here is my tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$35 Basic Membership
 \$50 Family Membership
 \$100 River Sustainer
 \$250 River Steward
 \$___ Other

*Thanks
for caring!*

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Local Rivers continued

east Ohio such as Twinsburg and Aurora. Much like its bordering watershed, the Chagrin, the Tinker's watershed faces unprecedented threats in the form of poorly planned development. Recently Ohio EPA, in a precedent-setting case, granted a permit for Whitlatch & Co. to 'relocate' over 1000 feet of Tinker's Creek and fill in adjacent wetlands to accommodate a parking lot for a strip mall. Local groups in conjunction with Rivers Unlimited have appealed this damaging decision to the Environmental Board of Review.

Despite this setback, many activists in the watershed are working to educate the community about the benefits of preserving Tinker's Creek and open space that borders the waterway. The Tinker's Creek Land Conservancy, a non-political body led by Twinsburg resident Susan Ferrito, is working with local communities to establish plans for protection.

The organization was recently awarded a mini-grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to organize educational workshops on non-point source pollution in five communities in the watershed.



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