

the Central Ohio

SIERRAN

July - September 2016

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Letter from Our Chair

Enjoy - explore - protect. It's challenging to put in only so many words all of the things that Sierra Club does and strives for through our grass roots campaigns - local, state, regional, national, educational events, outreach programs, outings, and political action. It's all thanks to the support of you, our 3,800 Central Ohio Group, COG members, countless volunteers, donors, partnerships, and dedicated staff. We have learned that in order for us and our future generations to "enjoy" and "explore" we need to "protect" our precious resources.

It was a busy and productive spring. We participated in the first Interfaith Climate Rally on the Ohio statehouse steps where the broad spectrum of attending religious leaders declared that climate change is real and human kind has to fix what we've caused. We then visited with our legislative reps later in the day asking that they reinstate the Ohio-wide energy and renewable package. Our movie showing of *The Inconvenient Truth* confirmed what it warned us about ten years ago when it first premiered. Climate Reality leader Dr. Robert McCollister presented to us the latest eye-opening climate change statistics impacting our national security. Other internationally renowned environmentalists were in Columbus speaking to diverse audiences, ranging from OSU's distinguished scientist glaciologist Dr. Lonnie Thompson to the "itinerant evolutionary evangelist" Rev. Michael Dowd preaching climate change.

Sierra COG held other activities, including a rain barrel workshop by recycling 55 gallon plastic drums, celebrated Global Wind Day, taught people how to make reusable tote bags from t-shirts, and we exhibited throughout central Ohio at various community festivals.

Central Ohio Group volunteers continue to conduct a variety of environmental service projects focused along the waterways, including trash cleanups, removal of invasive honeysuckle, and tree plantings. We're advocating for the elimination of single-use plastic shopping bags that contaminate our water

systems. This would not necessarily be a bag ban but a convenience fee. Come join us on July 4th as we parade with our monster plastic bag at the irreverent Doo-Dah parade around Columbus's Goodale Park at 1:00 pm.

I am proud to report that our conservation committee has been busy introducing Sierra COG to city, county, statehouse leaders, and staff to ensure all are aware of Sierra's local capabilities, needs, concerns and priorities. Many are surprised to learn that Sierra is taking on social injustice. We are addressing inequalities that result from environmental and economic issues impacting personal health - from drinking water (lead, algae), clean air (mercury, carbon emissions, methane pollutants), and alternate transportation choices (transit, bike, walk) to the ability to simply vote.

Meanwhile our Political Committee has reviewed candidates' questionnaires and conducted interviews with those running for area Ohio Statehouse legislative seats. The Sierra Ohio Chapter and Central Ohio Group will soon be announcing the candidate we endorse for the 2016 election season.

During this summer I encourage you to join us on some outings and attend our monthly meetings and programs. On August 18, tour the Franklin County mountainous garbage landfill in Grove City, operated by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, SWACO. Bring your family and a food dish to share for COG's annual member picnic on September 25th. We'll be at Scioto Grove, the newest Metro Park. Please read this newsletter for more information and stay tuned to our website, Facebook, Twitter, and e-mail notifications about our many plans and quick-breaking action alerts.

Sierra Club members are welcomed to attend our COG Executive Committee monthly meetings that are scheduled for 6:45 pm on July 6, August 3, September 7. Please RSVP to me if you'd like to participate.

David Roseman, Chair, Sierra Club Central Ohio Group
COGchair@SierraClub.org

Upcoming Events

METRO PARKS BIKE TOUR - Sunday, July 17, 1 pm. Enjoy a free family-friendly bicycle ride of the newest section of the Alum Creek Trail in north Columbus. Metro Parks Greenways rangers will lead the group tour, ranging from 2~11 miles roundtrip. Meet at Ohio Dominican University, East Campus, 2600 Airport Drive, rear parking lot, Columbus.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECT - Sunday, August 20, 9am - noon. Help with Sierra Club, Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries, and Otterbein University students remove invasive honeysuckle bushes and clean up along the Alum Creek River and trail. Meet at the pond behind 60 Collegeview Road, Westerville.

HONEYSUCKLE REMOVAL AT ALUM CREEK TRAIL - Sunday, September 24, 9 am to 1 pm. Volunteer with Sierra Club and Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries to remove invasive honeysuckle bushes and clean up along the Alum Creek River and Greenway trail. Meet along the trail behind Cleo Dumaree Athletic Center parking lot, 350 South Nelson Road, Columbus.

SWACO LANDFILL TOUR Thursday, August 18, 10 am. See first hand what happens with all of our Franklin County collected trash and garbage. We'll meet up at the SWACO Resource Center with an introductory presentation and discussion. Then tour the operational landfill in a SWACO van. RSVP required. 4239 London Groveport Road. Grove City.

Taking a Break from Protecting, to Explore and Enjoy

by: Roland Bennett, Clean Water Fellow and Ohio State University Sierra Club Student Coalition

I have spent my entire life living in the Appalachian and flat Midwestern Ohio environments. I have explored Appalachian West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. But this March I finally got the opportunity to see some new terrain.



"The difference between southern Utah and Ohio is monumental. Moab is all rocks."

When we arrived in Moab, Utah it was long past sunset. So when I first opened my eyes on that beautiful Sunday morning I was stunned by my surroundings. The difference between southern Utah and Ohio is monumental. Moab is all rocks. There were some trees and other vegetation (particularly at our campsite, which was by the Colorado River), but mostly, rock. Looking around, my eyes were filled with shades that spread from red, to orange, to brown.

The walls of the canyon blocked the morning sun. The air was cool as we woke and got moving. But as soon as the sun came over the canyon, I shed layers and absorbed sunlight. On the first day we did day hikes through Arches National Park. The park was beautiful, but it was also filled with people and I felt more like a tourist than a real outdoorsman. Spending the following two days backpacking through the backcountry was exactly what I needed.

The Island in the Sky region of Canyonlands is

incredible. As the backpacking trip began, we descended into the canyon. Looking down into this canyon was the most incredible thing that my eyes have ever seen.

Water is quite scarce in the desert, and most organisms learn to get by without much of it. But part of our trip was along the Green River, and so we were able to retrieve water after the first night. We just let it settle over night to separate out the large particles, put it through a filter, and then added iodine to rid the water of any bacteria.

After the backpacking, I spent the rest of the week enjoying Moab's world-class rock climbing. Climbing is an ideal workout for mind and body: not only do you have to have the brains to see the best way to position your body to ascend the rock, but you must also have the strength to do it! I led my first routes at the crags Wall Street and Ice Cream Parlor.

With only one major fall and (minor) scarring, I would call it a successful trip!



"Climbing is an ideal workout for mind and body."

Outings Schedule

Friday, July 8, 7:00 pm

Walk: Worthington/Rush Creek Village.

Ratings: E/S=2/2.

Leader: Line Martineau – LineNMartineau@gmail.com; Co-Leader: Jim Halverson – JimHalverson@gmacom

We will walk 3+ miles in Old Worthington and the scenic Rush Creek (designed using the concept of organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright). Meet in the Worthington Public Parking Lot - look for the blue signs behind the Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 High St., Worthington, OH 43085. Dinner option afterwards close by.

Saturday, July 9, 10:00 am

Walk: Plain City (with Der Dutchman).

Ratings: E/S=2/2.

Leader: Theresa Fauver – TheresaFauver01@gmail.com – Ph: 614-406-8777

Co-Leader: Ed Norwood – EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com – Ph: 614-774-2357

We will meet at the Pastime Park Main Entrance at 344 N Chillicothe St, Plain City, OH 43064 (I-270 to Dublin, take Exit 17B to go West on US-33/Marysville 2.8 mi to the 2nd exit, Left (West) on OH-161/Plain City 4.9 mi to the stop light, Right (North) on N Chillicothe St 1/2 mi, Left into park). We will park and begin the walk on the 1/2 mile mulched nature trail and continue through downtown historic Plain City. The town is filled with little shops, turn of the century Victorian homes and historic landmark buildings. Bring water and comfortable shoes. Optional visit after the hike to Der Dutchman for lunch, including the bakery and gift shop.

Sunday, July 10, 9:00 am

Hike: Caesar's Creek Summer Hike. Ratings: E/S = 2/3.

Leader: Dave Dorsky – ValOrDave@hotmail.com – Ph: 614-848-7879

We will hike about 8 miles around scenic Caesar's Creek lake and state park plus Pioneer Village. There may be an optional 1 mile additional hike and nature center tour after lunch. Bring water, food, and sturdy footwear. High boots and hiking poles are seriously recommended due to the possibility of mud on the hiking trails. Meet south of Columbus at 9am behind Tim Hortons, 3623 S High St, Columbus, OH 43206 (in the Great Southern Shopping Center on U.S. 23 just north of I-270).

Friday, July 15, 7:00 pm

Moderate Hike: Scioto Grove MetroPark. Ratings: E/S=2/3.

Leader: Eric Shaumann – Schaumann@copper.net – Ph: 614-270-595

We will hike Scioto Grove - Columbus' newest MetroPark. There will be an optional dinner after the hike at China Bell or another nearby restaurant. Meet at Scioto Grove MetroPark - Arrowhead Parking Area, 5172 Jackson Pike, Grove City, OH 43123 (South on I-71 to exit 100, Left on Stringtown Rd 1.3 mi, Right on Jackson Pike 1.5 mi, Left into park 0.2 miles to traffic circle, right 0.2 miles to Arrowhead parking circle, park at the rear "center" area by the river).

Sunday, July 17, 1:00 pm

Bike Ride: Alum Creek Trail: Old Dominican to Easton. Ratings: E/S=2/2.

Leader: Ed Norwood – EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com – Ph: 614-774-2357

We will be joining several other groups for a large group ride. We will bike 5.4 miles along the Alum Creek Trail from Old Dominican University to Easton's restaurant area for lunch, and then back to the starting point (farther along the trail if the group wants a longer ride). Bring plenty of water if the weather is warm. There is an optional lunch at Easton, or pack your own if you prefer. Meet at Old Dominican University, 2600 Airport Dr, Columbus, OH 43219 (I-670 to the 5th Ave Exit, West 1 block to the traffic light, Right on N Nelson Rd to the traffic light, Right on Airport Dr, pass de Monye's Greenhouse and turn left, park along the left side – about half way back).

Friday, July 22, 7:00 am

Walk: OSU Wetlands. Ratings: E/S=2/2.

Leader: Vince Mazeika – Mazeika@ohio.edu – Ph: 724-472-7388

Co-Leader: Ed Norwood – EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com – Ph: 614-774-2357

This walk will take us along the Olentangy River, the OSU Wetlands, and North Campus. Meet at the NORTH end of the Giant Eagle parking lot at 2845 N High St, Columbus, OH 43202 - park WEST of the GetGo fuel pumps along the fence. Dinner option afterwards close by.

FOR A COMPLETE, DOWNLOADABLE VERSION OF OUR HIKING/OUTINGS SCHEDULE, [VISIT OUR WEBSITE.](#)

(continued on p. 5)

Outings Schedule continued

Saturday, July 23, 9:00 am

Bike Ride: South Bexley - Pickerington Ponds.

Ratings: E/S=2/2.

Leader: Nicole Tabit - Tabit.2@buckeyemail.osu.edu - Ph: 614-302-7042

Co-Leader: Ed Norwood - EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com - Ph: 614-774-2357

We will be biking at a moderate pace (10-12 mph) on the Three Creeks and Blacklick bike trails from Bexley to Pickerington Ponds MetroPark for a lunch stop, then back again. Please bring your bike, water, and food, and meet at the Circle K, 2481 Petzinger Rd, Columbus, OH 43209. Please park on the left side of the parking lot near the big bike rack.

Sunday, July 24, 10 am/11:00 am

Hike: Dawes Arboretum. Ratings: E/S = 2/2.

Sherri Soble - sherri.soble@yahoo.com

Ph: 614-804-3215

We will hike 5-7 miles at a moderate pace in beautiful Dawes Arboretum. The arboretum was founded in 1929 by Berman and Bertie Dawes and is dedicated to increasing the love and knowledge of trees and the natural world. Bring hiking boots, lunch, and water. Meet at 11:00am at the Dawes Visitor Center deck. Or, if carpooling, meet at 10:00am in front of Staples, 2321 Taylor Park Dr, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 (East on I-70 to exit 112B Reynoldsburg, North on OH 256 to the 2nd light, LEFT on Taylor Rd SW, and park behind McDonalds, near Staples). If NOT carpooling then meet at 11:00am at the Dawes Visitor Center deck at 7770 Jacksontown Rd, Heath, OH 43056.

Friday, July 29, 7:00 pm

Walk: Scioto Audubon MetroPark (+rock climbing). Ratings: E/S=2/2.

Leader: Ed Norwood - EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com - Ph: 614-774-2357

We will walk for about 3 miles along the South Scioto Greenway Path. There is an optional dinner after the hike. There is optional rock climbing after the dinner on the Audubon Park climbing wall until midnight. Meet at the Scioto Audubon MetroPark, 400 W Whittier St, Columbus, OH 43215.

Friday, August 5, 7:00 pm

Moderate Hike: Blendon Woods MetroPark. Ratings: E/S=2/3.

Leader: Line Martineau -

LineNMartineau@gmail.com

We will walk for about 3 miles in the woods with rolling hills. There is an optional dinner after the hike. Directions: I-270 to route 161 East, and follow the (brown) signs to the park, and bear left to park in the lot in front of the Blendon Woods Nature Center, 4265 E Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43081.

Saturday, August 6, 10:00 am

Moderate Hike: Highbanks MetroPark. Ratings: E/S=3/3.

Leader: Nicole Tabit - Tabit.2@buckeyemail.osu.edu - Ph: 614-302-7042

Co-Leader: Ed Norwood - EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com - Ph: 614-774-2357

Meet at 10am at the Highbanks MetroPark Nature Center (1st driveway on the right). We will enjoy a moderate paced 10 mile hike through forest and field with not many large hills or rough terrain. Bring hiking boots, water, and lunch. The lunch stop will be halfway through the hike. Highbanks is on Rt 23N about 3 miles north of I-270. Entrance is on the left, just before Powell Rd. GPS Address: 9466 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, OH 43035.

Friday, August 12, 7:00 pm

Walk: Upper Arlington. Ratings: E/S=2/2.

Leader: Sherri Soble - sherri.soble@yahoo.com - Ph: 614-804-3215

Upper Arlington South: Join us for a walk through Upper Arlington. We'll meet at the main library at 2800 Tremont Rd, Upper Arlington, OH 43221. Our walk will take us south, then back to the library. There will be an optional dinner after the hike.

Sunday, August 14, 10:00 am

Moderate Hike: Prairie Oaks MetroPark. Ratings: E/S=3/3.

Leader: Theresa Fauver - TheresaFauver01@gmail.com - Ph: 614-406-8777

This will be a 4-5 mile hike on gravel although some may be uneven dirt and grass trails, so bring hiking boots or sturdy shoes, hiking stick if you use one, water, and lunch. Load up with bug spray! We will stop for lunch at the Darby Bend Lakes picnic tables and bathrooms to enjoy the birds and beautiful views of the lakes with lunch. Take I-70 West to Exit 85, Turn right and go North on OH-142 1.3 miles, Turn right into the park and drive to the LAST parking lot. The GPS address is: 3225 NE Plain City-Georgesville Rd, West Jefferson, OH 43162.

Outings Schedule

Friday, August 19, 7:00 pm

Moderate Hike: Gantz Park. Ratings: E/S=2/3.
Leader: Eric Shaumann – Schaumann@copper.net
– Ph: 614-270-5951

We will hike around Grove City, then enjoy an optional dinner after the hike. Meet at Gantz Park, 2255 Home Rd, Grove City, OH 43123 (use I-270 exit 2 - Grove City, South on US-62 for 0.4 mi, Left on Home Rd for 0.9 mi, Right into the park).

Sunday, August 21, 9:00 am

Hike: Hargus Lake. Ratings: E/S = 2/2.
Leader: Dave Dorsky – ValOrDave@hotmail.com
Ph: 614-848-7879

We will hike 5-6 miles around scenic Hargus Lake in AW Marion State Park. We will have one or two short snack stops during the hike and lunch in the park after the hike. If the weather is nice, you will have the option of hiking 2-3 more miles after lunch at nearby Stage's Pond. Bring your own food, plenty of water, and sturdy shoes or hiking boots for the wooded and at times uneven and muddy terrain. Meet south of Columbus at 9am behind Tim Hortons, 3623 S High St, Columbus, OH 43206 (in the Great Southern Shopping Center on U.S. 23 just north of I-270).

Friday, August 26, 7:00 pm

Walk: Scioto Audubon MetroPark (+rock climbing). Ratings: E/S=2/2.
Leader: Nicole Tabit – Tabit.2@buckeyemail.osu.edu
– Ph: 614-302-7042
Co-Leader: Ed Norwood – EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com
– Ph: 614-774-2357

We will walk for about 3 miles along the South Scioto Greenway Path. There is an optional dinner after the hike. There is optional rock climbing after the dinner on the Audubon Park climbing wall until midnight. Meet at the Scioto Audubon MetroPark, 400 W Whittier St, Columbus, OH 43215.

Saturday, August 27, 9:00 am

Moderate Hike: Blendon Woods MetroPark.
Ratings: E/S=2/3.
Leader: Line Martineau – LineNMartineau@gmail.com

We will walk for about 3 miles in the woods with rolling hills. There is an optional dinner after the hike.

Directions: I-270 to route 161 East, and follow the (brown) signs to the park, and bear left to park in the lot in front of the Blendon Woods Nature Center, 4265 E Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43081.

Sunday, August 28, 9:00 am

Walk: OSU Wetlands. Ratings: E/S=2/2.
Leader: Courtney George – George.707@osu.edu
– Ph: 248-494-3698
Co-Leader: Ed Norwood – EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com
– Ph: 614-774-2357

This walk will take us along the Olentangy River, the OSU Wetlands, and North Campus. Meet at the NORTH end of the Giant Eagle parking lot at 2845 N High St, Columbus, OH 43202 - park WEST of the GetGo fuel pumps along the fence. Lunch option afterwards close by.

Friday, September 2, 7:00 pm

Walk: Grandview. Ratings: E/S=2/2.
Leader: Ed Norwood – EdNorwood.hiking@gmail.com
– Ph: 614-774-2357

We will take a neighborhood walk through this lovely community of majestic trees and homes. Meet at the Grandview Library parking lot at 1685 W First Ave, Grandview, OH 43212 (2 blocks west of Grandview Ave.) Dinner option afterwards close by.

NOTE: THERE ARE A FEW OTHER OUTINGS/ HIKES THAT ARE NOT LISTED HERE BECAUSE OF OUR PRINTING DEADLINE. FOR A COMPLETE, DOWNLOADABLE VERSION OF OUR HIKING/ OUTINGS SCHEDULE CLICK HERE: www.sierraclub.org/ohio/central-ohio

Outings Rating System

Each outing is rated twice. Both scales are one to five. The **E scale** indicates the required experience level and the **S scale** shows the physical activity level anticipated.

E Scale

1. Novice - no experience required
2. A little experience is required
3. Moderate experience required
4. Considerable experience required
5. For the very experienced only

S Scale

1. Not strenuous
2. Could be strenuous
3. Somewhat strenuous
4. Strenuous
5. Very strenuous

Life on the Edge - Everyone Needs a Buffer

by: Emma Beasley, Sierra Club Central Ohio Ex Com member and Outreach Commit Chair

We all have those days when we just need some space; when we would give anything to have five minutes of quiet, or to just be alone with our own thoughts. Well humans are not the only ones that require distance from some of the more toxic elements of our society in order to remain healthy. Our waterways become easily polluted without protection.



RIPARIAN CORRIDORS - BUFFER ZONES -STREAM PROTECTION CORRIDORS

These are all phrases that describe this protective zone between water and everything else. These protective barriers provide a natural filtration system, stabilize riverbanks, and provide habitat for a variety of plant-and-animal life.

Nature's "quiet zones"

Riparian zones provide so many functions, that they are considered a biome of the earth, not unlike a tropical rainforest, or a savannah. They are defined as an interface between land and a waterbody which contains a variety of low-lying plants and trees. In other words, they are nature's "quiet zones," or its "immune system" for rivers and streams. These buffer zones are important because they intercept sediment, which in large quantities can lead to fish kills; as well as fertilizers, such as phosphorus which can lead to algae blooms, and nitrogen which encourages nonnative species growth; and pesticides, which can accumulate in the ecosystem.

And, not unlike the effect of a vacation on a busy life, riparian corridors also stabilize fragile ground. The

collection of roots from the various plants and trees, hold together the soil in what would otherwise be, given the proximity of water, a fast eroding bank. Not to mention they shade the water, keeping it cool, and thereby increasing the habitat quality for the biologically diverse area.

But not all breaks are created equal. Depending on how demanding the surrounding area can be on the waterway, the buffer zone will need to adapt. Buffer zones that protect mostly from bank erosion will have different needs than a riparian corridor that shields a stream from urban runoff. Plant types, the slope of the bank, and plot size are all factors when determining the health and stability of a riparian corridor.

Focus of political attention

These zones have been the focus of attention this last year, both within the Statehouse and the City of Columbus. This year's budget, which was signed by Governor Kirsch, allows private residents, adjacent to riparian corridors within a municipally owned watershed, to mow or clear them so that their property could be more aesthetically pleasing. An Ohio judge has issued a temporary restraint of the legislation after several cities filed suits, until the issue can be decided in court. And late last year, the City of Columbus fell into some hot water when we discovered that they gave permission to IKEA to destroy over 600 trees in a stream corridor protection zone in the Polaris area. Also, with citizen action, these plans have been adjusted to allow for more stream water quality protection.

Protect our streams

The concepts "riparian stream corridor" and "buffer zone" may seem heady, but just remember what they actually mean during those moments when you walk quietly in the park, take a hot shower after a long day, or have a cup of tea while watching the sun rise.

Everything needs a buffer from the demands and stresses of modern-day life, including your local stream. So help your local riparian corridor by becoming part of its immune system, and protection them from development, litter and variances from the city. To make a difference, join our Conservation Committee. COG.ConsCom@SierraClub.org

FOR ENVIRONMENT NEWS DAILY, JOIN US ON TWITTER: https://twitter.com/Sierra_Club_COG

Protecting Your Local Water Supply

by: Howard Miller, Sierra Club Central Ohio Ex Com member and Conservation Committee Chair

The Sierra Club Central Ohio Group has been working with concerned residents in the Chester Township, Morrow County area to protect their property from flooding. About two years ago a mining company, National Lime & Stone Co. (NL&S), began the process of dewatering a local gravel pit so they could drill deeper to increase profits. The amount of water to be displaced would be an average of 4,000,000 gallons per day into the Kokosing River, a designated scenic waterway.



THE KOKOSING SCENIC RIVER

This waterway is well known for its aquatic diversity. The fish community is exceptional and represents one of the most diverse and healthy streams in Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) did a report and estimated that the lowering of the water table 150 feet would impact about 200 wells in the area, but that estimate only includes those wells that are documented. The ODNR also confirmed that this would likely have an adverse effect on water wells used for residential, drinking water, livestock, agriculture, and businesses throughout the community.

The residents of Chester Township had no grievances with the previous owner Chesterville Sand & Gravel, and have developed a good relationship with Del-Co Water which has been harvesting water responsibly for some time. They are merely showing a reasonable concern for the potential permanent damage that could be caused by the lowering of the water table. This is their home after all.

Appeal for alternate technology

After recent notification that the ODNR approved the permit, the community considered filing an appeal.

The appeal was to be based upon the idea that there is a viable, industry standard technology (clamshell dredging) readily available. This process would allow for mining of the area without the need to dewater the pit. The community felt that the alternative existing technology option coincided with an Ohio requirement by the director of ODNR.

Unfortunately, the community was recently informed that the company would not be able to use a clamshell barge due to the layout of the deposits. However, they were told that pumping would be done on an as-needed basis in zones, which should mean the whole area would never be drained. That flexibility leads them to believe that the company will modify its approach if a large number of wells go dry or they experience a weather pattern that hinders the community.



CLAMSHELL DREDGING

Ongoing negotiations

While this does not abate concerns over potential irrevocable harm, it does seem to indicate a change in the tone of the ongoing conversation between the mining company and the community. NL&S seems to understand that the residents of the area are well informed, vocal, and highly motivated to protect their community and its natural resources. The residents' priority at this point is to get plenty of data on their current water quality and quantity as quickly as possible to be able to highlight any adverse impacts as they arise.

The Sierra Club COG has put the community in contact with two professors from Ohio State University and a local retired geologist who have generously offered to help. Residents would welcome any additional resources as well. If you, or anyone you know, would like to assist the community in their efforts please contact COG at COG.ConsCom@SierraClub.org

Summer Buzz - Living Peacefully with Bees

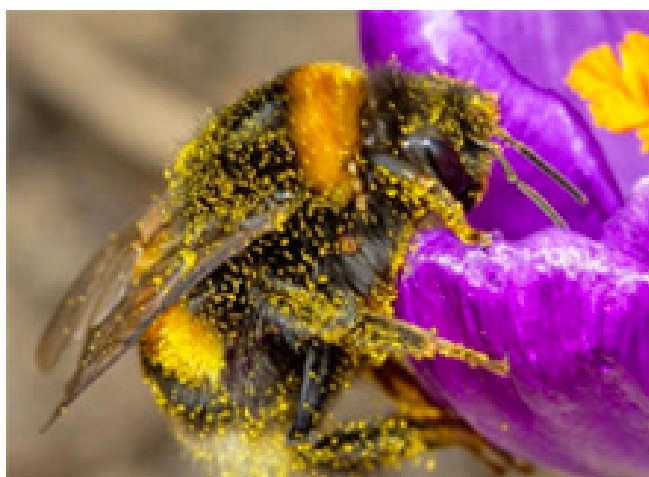
by: Adam Johnson, Sierra Club Central Ohio Ex Com member and Treasurer

There is something about the smells and noises of summertime you can almost taste. One noise that is not as welcoming originates from a group of organisms that for too long have got the short end of the flyswatter. The "buzz" emanating from a bee is usually a signal to homeowners to prepare the bug spray and eliminate the nuisance. But should we? Should we fear these creatures and eradicate them on sight? Or can we learn to live with them so they in turn help us live?

At home and on the farm

In Central Ohio, the most common bees are of the Honey and Bumble variety. Both are pollinating insects that farmers rely heavily on to grow crops. Homeowners and landscapers desperately need bees and other pollinating insects such as wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and beetles to maintain their flowering plants. The US Department of Agriculture estimates that \$14 billion in crops are pollinated yearly by honeybees alone. Worldwide, 87 of the leading global crop foods are dependent on animal pollination.

Bees - and other pollinators - are vital to the economy, health of the environment, and quality food production. Unfortunately, the widespread use of chemical pesticides is leading to a worldwide decline in bee population.



Bees are our friends

Knowing that bees are colonial organisms that thrive off the vitality of their complex (and not fully understood) communities, we must recognize that there is still a lot we do not know about the declining bee population that has been observed over the past two decades. We do, however, understand how important they are and why we need to protect them. This starts at home with changing how we think and react.

Bees provide an essential service, free of charge. This symbiosis is one of amazing gifts of nature. The bees around our private residences are pollinating our flowers and gardens, not unlike the bees that pollinate the crops we use as food. The more we can learn to live beside these insects, the better our future will be. Just like we depend upon cars, and teach kids to be aware of the dangers of roads, we depend upon bees and can teach ourselves to be aware of their nests.

Bees, while patrolling for pollen, are actually very passive and do not want to pick a fight. It is not until their nests come under attack that they begin to swarm and release alarm pheromones like all insects. Simple choices like wearing light, pale colors around popular nesting sites drastically reduces being mistaken for a flowering plant (bright colors) or a potential predator (dark colors).

Bee informed

For further information and ways to embrace our buzzing helpers, visit centralohiobeekeepers.org where you can find regular events at local venues for families and children. If for any reason you need a hive removed, do not spray it with toxic chemicals, instead visit bee friendly resources such as ohiostatebeekeepers.org to find a local beekeeper who will remove it safely.



COME TO OUR COG FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, September 25, 1-5 pm, Sciotto Grove Metro Park, 5172 Jackson Pike, Grove City, OH 43123
Look for Sierra Club posted signs. Pot lot lunch - please bring a food dish - Main course, desert, side or appetizers to share with all. www.sierraclub.org/ohio/central-ohio

Personal and Spiritual Growth in the Sierra Club

by: *DestinyAllen, Clean Water Fellow and Ohio State University Sierra Club Student Coalition*

I started my time with Sierra Club as a fellow in January 2015. I just needed internship credit for my major and I found out about the fellowship from the Student Sierra Coalition on Ohio State campus. I applied for the fellowship and met with Elissa Yoder a few weeks later.

Little did I know I would be joining an organization that I would fall in love with. I started my time last January helping input data into our database, and now I am finishing my time with Sierra Club as a major contributor to the team for this year's Earth Month.



"The people I have had the benefit of working with in Sierra Club are amazing."

I have grown so much as a person working with Sierra Club. I am confident speaking to people in public or at an important meeting. I have learned how to have my voice be heard when numerous people are involved in our issues. The amount of information I have learned is incredible. I know so much now about fundraising and conservation, and I now know more about how a non-profit works in real life and not just on a university campus.

The people I have had the benefit of working with in Sierra Club are amazing. My supervisor, Elissa, has

taught me so much! I loved working with her and I am so grateful that she was my supervisor. She's intelligent, confident, and taught me that it is okay to ask others for help. We're a team. Everyone has been so welcoming to me and helpful that it makes it difficult for me to think about leaving Sierra Club.

I will miss everyone and the organization. However, I will be leaving June 4th for the Peace Corps. I will be serving in Togo, a small country in West Africa, as an Environment, Food Security, & Agriculture Volunteer. I will probably be living in rural Togo with limited access to electricity and Internet.

I am very excited for my next adventure! Thank you everyone for such an amazing experience with Sierra Club and helping me along the way. You are great companions on this magnificent spaceship we call Earth. Continue to always Explore, Enjoy, & Protect.



"I will be serving in Togo, a small country in West Africa, as an Environment, Food Security, & Agriculture Volunteer."

VISIT SIERRA CLUB CENTRAL OHIO GROUP'S NEW WEB SITE AT:
<http://www.sierraclub.org/ohio/central-ohio>

Join Us for Fun and Commitment!



WESTERVILLE PARTY AT CREEK MAY 26, AT ALUM CREEK PARK NORTH

Our Sierra Club exhibit table with Howard Miller (on the left) attracted many curious family visitors to inspect our water bugs and learn about what we and they can do to protect our air, water, and land.



OSU WETLANDS CLEANUP APRIL 24 AT OLENTANGY RIVER WETLAND RESEARCH PARK

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped us clean the wetlands! We picked up trash, removed honeysuckle and garlic mustard, and helped dig some holes for grad students and their research.

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SIERRA CLUB

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.

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