

LITTLE BEAVER CREEK LAND FOUNDATION

December 2004

# WATERSHED WATCH



## Riparian Acreage on Middle Fork To Be Conserved

### LBC Grant Enters Year Two


As of December 1, 2004, the \$319 Non-point Source Pollution Planning Grant for the Little Beaver Creek watershed began the second and final year of planning. The project is moving along on-schedule and according to plan. The planning grant will end on November 30, 2005. At that time, the proposed management plan created under the planning phase will be submitted to the Ohio EPA and DNR for endorsement. Once endorsed, the project can move into the implementation phase, which would likely begin in late 2006. The Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation thanks you for your continued support in caring for our watershed.



An agreement has been reached between the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation and representatives of Home Depot USA, Inc., which will provide for the placement of 19.6 acres of riparian land into conservation easement. Due to an Ohio EPA mandate for unauthorized alterations of stream habitat in the Middle Fork sub-watershed by Home Depot USA, Inc., personnel from Burgess & Niple, an environmental consulting firm, and the US Army Corps. Of Engineers contacted the Foundation to inquire if there were any current or future mitigation projects in the Middle Fork sub-watershed that Home Depot could contribute money to as restitution. It was suggested that purchasing a conservation easement in the same sub-watershed would be an ideal action. The property was selected along the Middle Fork in Elkrun Township, and it is said to be ideal by the Home Depot representatives because the property was between the Middle Fork area of


Beaver Creek State Park and an existing easement. By completing this easement, this would provide long-term protection for several contiguous miles of the riparian corridor along the Middle Fork. In addition, the Foundation had already been working with the property owners to place their land under easement. The representatives brought the proposed easement mitigation plan before the Ohio EPA for their approval. The Ohio EPA quickly agreed that the easement would be sufficient mitigation. After several weeks of writing proposals and fine-tuning legal language, Home Depot USA, Inc., has agreed to provide the entire cost of acquiring the 19.6 acres easement, including all survey, appraisal and legal costs. After the acquisition process is completed, monitoring responsibilities for the easement will be overseen by the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation, which conducts annual inspections of all their easements.





WATERSHED  
REMINDER

It's our  
responsibility  
to keep  
← this  
from becoming  
that →



# TMDL Study Completed on Little Beaver Creek

The Ohio EPA held a public meeting on Monday, December 13, to discuss the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study that was completed by a USEPA-contracted agency on the Little Beaver Creek watershed. A TMDL essentially determines the amount of certain pollutants that a water body can contain each day and still meet minimum state and federal water quality standards depending on the water's use designation, or what the water will be used for (e.g. drinking water, recreation, etc.). Over twenty people attended the meeting, which was put on with less than one week's notice. Representatives from the Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office led the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide general information to the public on the state of water quality in the watershed and to discuss the TMDL plan, a plan which would provide an outline for measures to be taken that would improve water quality and reduce pollution sources over time. The TMDL study showed that Little Beaver Creek is not unique in its pollution sources. It shares many of the problems common to other rural watersheds in Ohio. Failing septic systems, failing waste-



water treatment plants and agricultural effects were the most significant pollution sources identified by the TMDL study.

A question on the minds of many at the meeting was in regards to Mirex in the Middle Fork sub-watershed. Much to their dismay, the TMDL study did not account for Mirex, as it falls under a different category of pollutant that the TMDL is not designed to identify.

The TMDL plan, which is already in development, is being written to create a plan of action for state and local agencies and the watershed community to follow with the intention of improving water quality

throughout the Little Beaver Creek watershed. The TMDL plan will work in tandem with the §319 Non-point Source Pollution project (currently in the planning phase) which was awarded to the LBCLF. Between the two plans, strategies will be developed that will outline management practices and activities for water quality improvement. The plans will detail the agencies and organizations responsible for carrying out the management activities in the implementation phases of both plans.

The ultimate purpose for the meeting was to introduce the TMDL process to the watershed community and to get local feedback on what areas or topics need to be addressed by the TMDL plan. The Ohio EPA personnel stressed that this plan "is *your* plan and should address problems that concern *you*." If you would like a copy of the draft TMDL plan, or if you have questions about the TMDL or have comments or additions you'd like to see included in the TMDL plan, contact Bill Zawiski (Ohio EPA NE District) at 330-963-1134 or [bill.zawiski@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:bill.zawiski@epa.state.oh.us).

## Trustee Spotlight: Mitch Cattrell

Mitch Cattrell has been a Trustee of the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation since January, 2001. He is the District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and works out of the Salem USDA Service Center.

Mitch is a graduate of West Virginia University and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Soil and Plant Sciences. A native of Jefferson County, Ohio, Mitch and his wife Kathy moved to Columbiana County in spring of 1983. He and Kathy live in Fairfield Township. Kathy teaches biology at Crestview High School and both Mitch and Kathy are active in school projects. Kathy started a recycling program to raise funds to support her science curriculum, and Mitch, naturally, helps with the recycling collections that take place through the school year. They both volunteer at the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center.

Mitch is an avid outdoorsman and fisher-



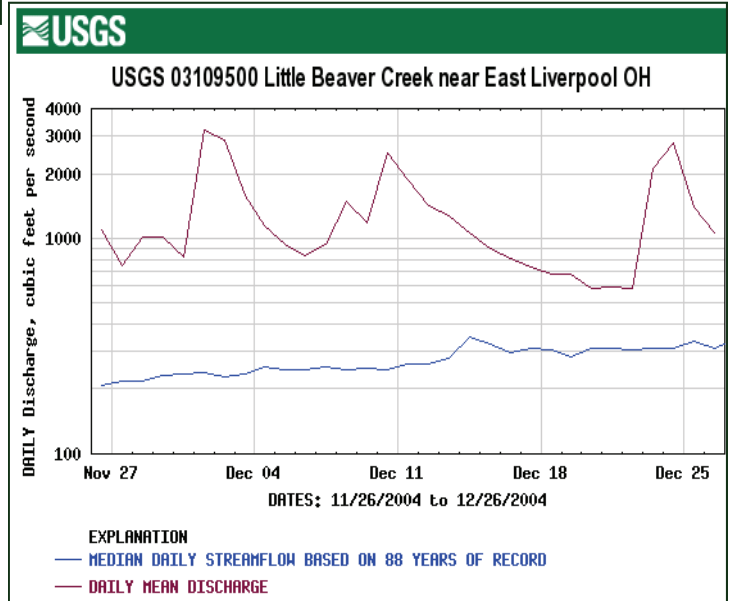
man. He greatly enjoys his annual fishing trip to Canada. He and Kathy, and their two sons, Ben and Adam, also actively manage their two certified Ohio Tree Farms.

Mitch's expert knowledge of the county and positive interaction with the agricultural community and landowners in general have been key factors in the Land Foundation's ability to secure conservation ease-

ments. Mitch convinced the Board of Supervisors for the Columbiana Soil and Water Conservation District to join forces with the Land Foundation as their nonprofit partner and apply for a Natureworks grant back in 1998. This grant was funded and resulted in 2 riparian corridor easements on the North Fork of Little Beaver Creek. Mitch was the primary author of the county's first EPA 319 Watershed Protection grant which enabled the Land Foundation to secure 4 additional easements. Mitch views his work with the Land Foundation as a significant contribution to future generations stating, "One hundred years from now I hope anyone enjoying Little Beaver Creek will appreciate the efforts of today's Foundation members and landowners who had the desire to protect the river corridor forever. Foundation members are the vehicle to get perpetual easements on the ground, but it is the private landowners who should be remembered and thanked by future generations."

## A Wet Winter?

We are all well aware that we had a very wet summer. The Little Beaver Creek watershed community is still recovering from the record flooding that visited our neck of the woods more than once this year. But now that it is winter, things should get “dry”, right? According to the United States Geological Survey, the answer to that question is “not necessarily”. Of course, we get snow and other forms of precipitation, but does it amount to that much? That depends on the weather fronts that move over throughout the winter, but there is still a significant amount of excess groundwater from the earlier floods that will continue to leach and leak until the water table stabilizes at a more normal level, and this will keep the flow of Little Beaver Creek at a higher volume than usual. How high? To put into perspective, over the last 88 years, the average flow for December has been about 500 ft<sup>3</sup>/s (cubic feet per second), with a maximum flow of 2,570 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. The average flow for December 2004 is about 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s, with a maximum of 3,100 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. If temperatures hover above and around freezing, the water will continue to flow and drain. But, if temps stay closer to single digits, the groundwater could freeze as well, and that could mean more flooding will accompany the spring thaw.



### Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation Membership and Information Return Form

Check all that apply:

- I wish to become a member of the LBCLF. Please find my check for \$10 enclosed.
- I wish to become a Lifetime member of the LBCLF. Please find my check for \$500 enclosed
- I would like to make a tax-deductible cash donation to the LBCLF in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, my check is enclosed
- I am interested in more information about conservation easements or donations of land and tax benefits that I may realize
- I am interested in participating in the LBCLF's Adopt -A-Highway Clean-Up Program
- My organization would like to schedule a speaker from the LBCLF at one of our meetings

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form to:** Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation, Inc. • P.O. Box 60 • East Liverpool, OH 43920