

WATERSHED WATCH



OEPA & LBCLF Seek to Help Bull Creek Recovery



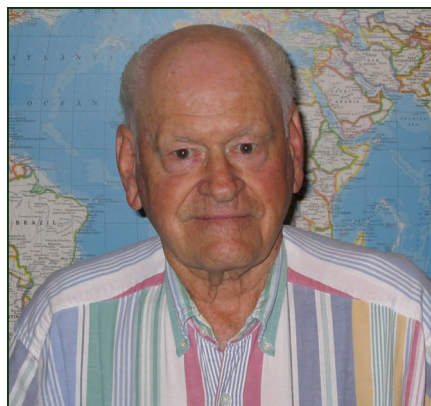
For those people not fond of golf, the presence of the Links at Firestone Farms Golf Course and the associated condo community sprouting up just east of Columbiana is not a welcome site. And so, too, is the unpleasant condition of Bull Creek, which flows through the golf course. The creek has been subjected to intrusions by the construction of the golf course and the condos and the new sewer line installed by the city of Columbiana, which parallels the creek. These developments have had an immediate impact on the stream, which in the past was categorized as "warm-water habitat" for aquatic species by the Ohio EPA. The creek now has a turbid brown color and is often covered by mats of brown algae (possibly due to sewage leaks).

Like it or not, the golf course and condos are there. Now, the focus needs to be on how to speed the recovery of the creek. Taking the initiative, Carol Bretz made several contacts with the Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office in Twinsburg to get someone to come and investigate the area. John Kwolek agreed to come and view the site and discuss how to make Bull Creek healthy again. He stated that the wetland areas disturbed by the sewer construction are reestablishing themselves, although they are reduced in size. The riparian corridor along the creek was thinned further than necessary. Mr. Kwolek offered to contact the property owner to discuss remediation costs and to see if the property owner would allow and/or assist any remediation efforts. Although the discussion is still in its infancy, the outlook is good for remediation of the area. Several projects have been discussed, including riparian and native brush plantings, erecting bird habitats, and conducting biological surveys to locate possible species of interest. As this potential project continues to develop, interested persons or groups are encouraged to participate. Contact the LBCLF or the Watershed Coordinator (josh.noble@iname.com) for more information.

Bert Dailey was born in Fredericktown in 1923. He and his family moved to the Elkton area in 1933. He developed his love for the outdoors as a child and graduated from Lisbon David Anderson High School in 1941. He has hunted and fished for most of his life. He moved to Columbus where he took a job as a cabinet maker. He joined the Army in 1943 and saw active duty in the European Theatre after landing at Utah Beach in Normandy on D-Day. Returning home on furlough, he married his wife, Thelma Jean, in 1943 and they are celebrating 62 years of marriage. They have three sons, Dennis, David and Mark, and 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons.

Bert worked for Kaiser Refractories and National Refractories until he ran and won the election for Columbiana County Com-

Trustee Spotlight: Bert Dailey

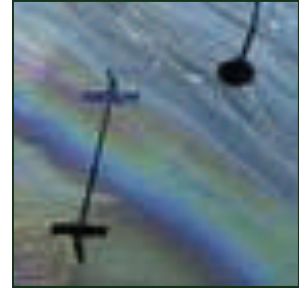
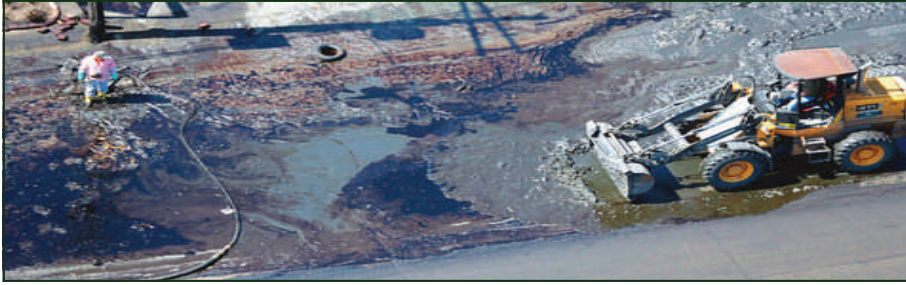


missioner. He had previously served as an Elk Run Township Trustee. He and Thelma Jean reside at Lake Tomahawk and he is a member of the Lake Tomahawk Sportsmans' Club. He is also a member of the Columbiana County Federation of Conservation Clubs and CROSSROADS RC&D which he has been involved with since 1977. He was appointed to the Little Beaver Creek Wild & Scenic River Advisory Council in 1977 and remains a member of the Council. He became a Trustee for the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation in December of 1996.

He is an active volunteer and docent for the Wildlife Center at Beaver Creek State Park. Bert's willingness to volunteer and be an active part of his community is a great asset for those organizations which enjoy his support.

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The Long Road to Recovery



Hurricane Katrina has forever altered the greater New Orleans area and the central Gulf Coast region. No one would dispute that statement. When natural disasters occur, we see the toll such events have on the human population. However, with Katrina's flooding of New Orleans, other concerns usually ignored are now of critical interest. The ecological impacts of natural disasters are typically not on the forefront of national news stories. But, because of the ecological importance of the Mississippi River delta ecoregion, Katrina's presence will continue to be felt in ways which most people would never consider.

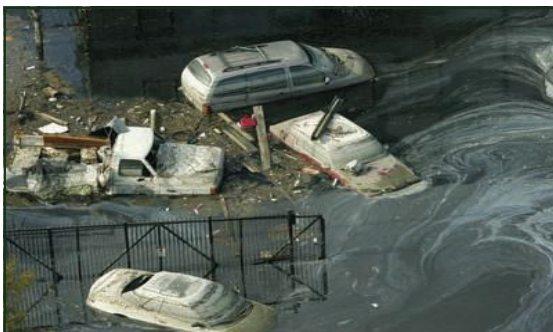
The Mississippi River delta is the drainage point for surface waters from over 40% of the continental United States. As those surface waters make their way to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, they accumulate sewage and septic effluent, pesticide and herbicide runoff, livestock pollution, oil and grease runoff from roads, and several more point and non-point source pollutants.

Wetlands in the delta are essential for the natural filtration and removal of untold amounts of pollutants to keep them from reaching the delicate marine ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico. As urban sprawl has continued its march in the New Orleans area, these vital wetlands have been channelized and filled-in to create real estate for development. Since the mid-1990's, over 2 million acres of wetlands in the delta have been lost to development. With the loss of the wetlands goes the capacity for natural filtration of pollutants entering the Gulf. In that same time period, there has been a significant spike in all forms of pollution reaching the delta and the Gulf. As a result, commercial fisheries have plummeted and the diversity of wildlife species has decreased significantly as water quality has decreased. In some areas, oxygen levels are so low that no organisms, save some bacteria, can survive there. This has led once thriving ecological communities to become

"dead zones". The economic impact of these conditions has been tremendously devastating, as many people have lost their livelihood, having no fish, shrimps or crabs to catch or harvest.

The flooding of the New Orleans area has created an ecological nightmare. As if the situation were not already dire, the flood waters have accumulated toxic levels of bacteria from sewers and sewage treatment plants. Oil, gasoline and antifreeze from flooded vehicles now create slicks in the flood waters, along with industrial chemicals and waste byproducts. Even common household cleaning products have leaked into the waters, as the homes they are in were flooded. As the city is pumped dry, this toxic soup is being injected directly into an ecosystem already struggling to survive. It is entirely possible that we may witness a complete ecosystem collapse in the delta and Gulf coast ecoregion. If the ecosystem has to recover under the pre-Katrina conditions, it will be a very long, unstable and uncertain process.

Those of us who live, work and play within the Little Beaver Creek watershed can help ease the pollution burden on the Mississippi delta ecosystem and help speed the recovery process, since we are part of Mississippi River watershed. Through the development and utilization of a watershed management plan, comprehensive land use plan, floodplain management plan, and through the works of local and state environmental groups, we can effectively reduce the local pollutant load, which will reduce the overall pollutant load that reaches the delta region. Making the waters of Little Beaver Creek cleaner and safer not only benefits the local watershed community, but benefits everyone and everything downstream of the Little Beaver Creek watershed. In one way or another, we all share the same waters. There is always someone downstream from you!



Watershed Coordinator Will Move to Part-time

Little Beaver Creek Watershed Coordinator Joshua Noble was offered and has accepted a full-time position with the Ohio Department of Transportation—District 4 in Akron, Ohio. The Environmental Specialist 2 position, which begins on October 3, is on a six-month interim basis, as he will be filling in for an ODOT employee currently on extended medical leave. Noble will continue to work part-time for the LBCLF under the OEPA §319 Nonpoint Source planning grant to complete the Watershed Action Plan for Little Beaver Creek. The project has been given a six-month extension, beginning on December 1, 2005, to allow Noble sufficient time to complete the management plan according to OEPA and ODNR requirements. Upon the expiration of the ODOT position, Noble will return to full-time status as the LBC Watershed Coordinator.

The LBCLF has applied for funding under §319 program for an implementation project to begin in July, 2006. If awarded grant funds, the LBCLF will be notified by March, 2006.

The LBCLF is currently seeking volunteers (and possibly a paid part-time position) to help Noble in completing some of the remaining project objectives for the current grant. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact the LBCLF at 330-385-3400.



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