

Friends of Lower Muskingum River



Water Quality, Watershed Management, Land Trust, Education, Economic Development, Recreation

Welcome on behalf of the Board of Directors to this first issue of News of Friends of Lower Muskingum River. FLMR began in 2003 as both a Watershed Organization and as a Land Trust. The joint mission has kept us busy. An office at 348 Muskingum Drive has housed a Watershed Coordinator and, at various times, an AmeriCorps Vista. Education and outreach to schools, camps and adult organizations (need a speaker?) as well as

Greetings from FLMR

stream monitoring and event planning (think 5K, Mighty Muskingum raft race, etc.) and the recently-completed Drinking Water grant where Kristyn worked with four local water districts to determine the source of and reduce the level of nitrates are recent projects.

Meanwhile, the Land Trust side of things has acquired (and are managing) 250 acres (including 2 projects totaling 60 acres as dona-

tions) and Conservation Easements on another 665 acres. This tool means these landowners retain ownership but know the land which means so much to them will never contain a parking lot or a subdivision - instead the vegetative cover will continue to mature providing a home to native wildlife large and small so that future generations will be able to enjoy our natural heritage. The 2011 EPA Fish Consumption Advisory warns us that because of PCBs and

mercury, we still should limit fish consumption to once a month so there is still work to do.

Eagles may be thinking of nesting on Devol Run Conservation Area. Check out this video cam at the website below showing 2 eaglets as of March 16. This is in Virginia but may be a forerunner of what we might see locally because habitat will still be present.

<http://www.wvec.com/marketplace/microsite-content/eagle-cam.html>

Marilyn Ort
FLMR President

Farewell Friends

I want to wish everyone a fond farewell as I turn over the watershed office to the new FLMR Watershed Coordinator, Jesse Daubert. The five years I have spent with the organization have been a tremendous learning experience for me and I will put all of it to good use as I put my energy and skills into starting my own small business and promoting local sustainability and food security in SE Ohio. I'm sure I will continue to have opportunities to see you all in the future as I plan to continue as a volunteer working with FLMR to promote water quality in the Muskingum River.



Thanks especially to Marilyn & Elin for their overall support of the watershed office, thanks to Mike Bailey for all of the IT help, thanks to Karen Walker at Buckeye Hills RC&D, for all of her patience working through the grant finances with me, thanks to the Villages of Beverly & Lowell, Tri County Rural Water & Sewer District

and Putnam Community Water Corporation for their help in creating Source Water Protection Plans for their communities, thanks to all of the teachers, camp counselors and students I have worked with over the years and thanks to all of the FLMR members and community members who have come out to attend events in support of FLMR and clean water for our region!

Cheers!
Kristyn Robinson

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Meet the FLMR officers, board members, and staff

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Jesse Daubert
Watershed Coordinator

A watershed is the land area that drains to a common waterway, such as a stream, lake, estuary, wetland, and ultimately the ocean. You may not realize it, but we all live in a watershed; to be more specific most of us live in the Muskingum River Watershed. Think about it, where does the nearest stream or river by your home drain to? My bet is that stream flows directly into the Muskingum River, which in turn flows to the Ohio River, and then to the Mississippi River and finally discharges into the Gulf of Mexico. To say the least, what we do with our water here affects more than just us locally!

My name is Jesse Daubert. I have served with FLMR as an AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate in 2009 and as an Office of Surface Mining/ AmeriCrops VISTA since May, 2010. On January 31, 2011, I was offered (and happily accepted) the position as FLMR's new Watershed Coordinator. My main objective with this position is to create a Watershed Action Plan for the Southern Sub-watershed of the Lower

Planning for the Future

Muskingum River. The Southern Sub-watershed is an area of land that drains into the Muskingum from the Marietta region extending north just past Lowell, Ohio. This position became available to FLMR after the former coordinator, Kristyn Robinson, received a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

So what exactly is a Watershed Action Plan? Watershed plans are a means to resolve and prevent water quality problems that result from both point source and nonpoint source pollution. Point source pollutants are those that arise from any single identifiable source of pollution, such as a pipe, ditch, ship, ore pit, factory smokestack, etc. Non-point source pollutants then are those that effect the environment without a single point of origin. These pollutants are usually carried off the land by stormwater runoff. Common sources of nonpoint pollution are generally results of agriculture, forestry, urban areas, min-

ing, construction, dams, channels, city streets, etc.

Over my four year term I will work with stakeholders, elected officials and the residents of the Marietta region in the process of developing a Watershed Action Plan that will benefit us all. I am very excited and thankful to be the new face for FLMR and look forward to getting to know all of you. By developing this WAP we can lessen the effects of what we do in our watershed before it adversely affects us or the water quality downstream!



Jesse Daubert
 Watershed Coordinator, FLMR

History of Luke Chute and the Luke Chute Conservation Area

The following is a brief account of the history of the location known as Luke Chute, which lies on the Muskingum River between Beverly and Stockport, and is the site of dam and lock number 5. The Luke Chute Conservation Area, owned by Friends of Lower Muskingum River, is on State Route 266, half way between SR 60 and Stockport.

The portion of the Muskingum

River from Zanesville to Marietta flows in a southeasterly direction, overall. However, Luke Chute, roughly midway between these two cities, is situated between the two bends of a large "S" curve, so at this point the river flows almost due north. This makes the use of compass directions relative to the river very confusing. It can be difficult to tell which side of the river one is referring to.

The Muskingum River was explored in the eighteenth century, before there was a "Luke Chute" or any white settlement on the river. Will's Town, at the site of present-day Duncan Falls, was the only Indian village on the Muskingum below the location of present-day Zanesville, in historic times. In the second half of the seventeenth century, the powerful Iroquois nations of upstate New York drove out all other Indian tribes living in Ohio.

In the early 1700's several tribes, including Ottawas and Wyandots, settled on the Tuscarawas River, but the lower Muskingum valley remained a vast uninhabited hunting ground.

In 1772, Moravian missionaries David Zeisberger and John Heckewelder established the village of Schoenbrunn on the Tuscarawas as a home for Christian Delaware

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History of Luke Chute and the Luke Chute Conservation Area

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Indians. In April of 1773, Rev. Heckewelder recorded his observations as he traveled with 22 canoes of Delaware Indian converts from the Big Beaver River in Pennsylvania, down the Ohio and up the Muskingum to Schoenbrunn.

Heckewelder's party made their night camp of April 25 near a huge rock on the right (facing downstream) side of the river above present-day Luke Chute Dam and near the present community of Brokaw. This rock became known as Big Rock. A much-used meeting place for Indians, it was later broken up and some of the pieces used in construction of the dam.

Heckewelder noted that bear and buffalo were common in the area. He also mentioned an island in the river (located downstream from present-day Luke Chute Dam), which still exists and will become part of the Luke Chute Conservation Area.

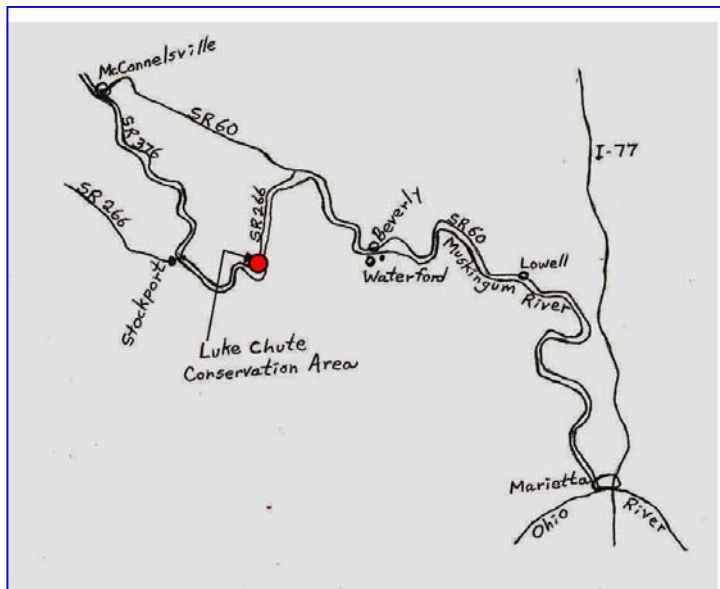
After Marietta was founded in 1788, as the first permanent white settlement in the Northwest Territory (the region north and west of the Ohio River), there was much more exploration of the Muskingum and other settlements soon followed. The first white settlers in Windsor Township were at Big Bottom, several miles up the river from Luke Chute. Big Bottom State Memorial now commemorates an Indian

massacre of these settlers in 1791.

In 1790 Josiah Harmar, com-

mander of the American army in the Northwest Territory, received orders from Secretary of War Henry Knox to take action to end the threat of Indian attack in western Ohio. Marching from Fort Washington (near present-day Cincinnati), he burned a number of Indian villages, but was then badly defeated by the Indians, with great loss of life. Harmar's ill-fated expedition served to intensify the conflict between Indians and whites, which continued in this region until 1794. In August of that year, General Anthony Wayne defeated a confederation of Indian tribes in the Battle of Fallen Timbers, near present-day Toledo. After the Treaty

of Greenville in 1795 made peace with the Indians in Ohio, settlement accelerated.



Map showing the Luke Chute Conservation Area between Beverly and McConnellsville, Ohio on the Muskingum River off State Route 266.

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The Wolf Creek mills, built in 1789 about a mile above the mouth of Wolf Creek and near Waterford, had continued to operate throughout the Indian war. After the peace of 1795, it was not many years until all the most desirable river-front farms on the lower Muskingum (present-day Washington and Morgan Counties) were occupied. In 1798, there was mail service by canoe between Marietta and Zanesville.

In 1798, there were at least "5,000 free male inhabitants of full age" in the Northwest Territory, and this met the requirement for electing a legislature. In 1803, Ohio was granted statehood.

Early in the nineteenth century, Luke Emerson built a grist mill just above the site of present-day Luke Chute Dam, on the left bank (facing downstream). According to "Early Mills and Milling in Morgan County," an article from the Morgan County Historical Society, this mill probably was in operation as early as 1815. The mill changed hands several times and was re-built when it burned down after many years of operation. The Luke Chute mill was the best and most patronized of the early mills in southeastern Morgan County.

To provide swift water to drive the mill, Emerson built a dam from a small island to the right bank of the river. The narrow chute thus created became known as Luke's Chute. It caused some difficulties for flatboat traffic in the early days.

Even prior to construction of the navigation dams, both flatboats and keelboats plied the Muskingum. Flatboats, built like barges, traveled downstream only, then were dismantled and the lumber sold. By 1825, flatboats (also called broadhorns) carried cargoes from Zanesville to New Orleans. They could sometimes make the trip in 17 days if they made no stops.

Keelboats, propelled by poles or oars (and much human muscle power), could go up-

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Rivers, Trails, and Ales Festival



brew! The event will kick-off on Thursday night with a laid back gathering of festival goers. This will be a great chance to chat with the locals about your adventure options for the weekend and to make some new friends.

Multiple live musical performances, contests, local brew, fire dancers and other random fun! On Sunday checkout a display of hand built Pygmy Boats that are part of the Pygmy Boat Rendezvous taking place on August 13th & 14th, put on your polo shirt and play some bike polo, join in on a boat parade or maybe the Mighty Muskingum River Raft Race is more your style!

examining 300 years of inland waterway history, games for children and adults, living history groups and exhibits concerned with current waterway usage, this too will be another fun filled weekend! Plan on staying for the week and joining in on these two great festivals! People of all ages and interests will enjoy everything there is to explore in Marietta!

Ryan Smith
Restore Marietta

Marietta, Ohio is home to numerous opportunities for outdoor adventure on the multiple rivers and streams that flow here as well as on the hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails that make their way through the rugged hills of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

The Rivers, Trails & Ales Festival is set for August 11th-14th 2011, in Downtown Marietta, to celebrate our abundant outdoor activities and abundant love for local

Friday and Saturday plan to choose one of our suggested activities. There will be options for all levels of paddlers and cyclists and activities for those without a bike or a boat. Alternative activities include: Shopping, Museums, a Wildlife Refuge, Disc Golf, Paintball, Geo Caching, Trolley Tours, an Aquatic Center, a Skate Board Park, Stern-wheeler Rides and Island Tours just to name a few.

Friday and Saturday evenings will be a wild, good time!

The Mighty Muskingum River Raft Race, brought to you by FLMR, is a chance for you or your team to build a nautical masterpiece without using any nautical parts. Line up your raft against others for a race down the Muskingum River. May the best raft win!

If one weekend isn't enough, plan on attending the Inland Waterways Festival August 5th & 6th. With demonstrations, food booths, music, hands-on activities, tours, boat displays



The Story of Big Bottom State Memorial

The summer of 1790 had been a hard one for the settlers at Marietta. Not only did sickness and crop failure hover over them, but there was talk of likely Indian war. Besides the open hostility of the restless and aggressive Shawnee and Miami to the south and west, ominous rumblings were coming from the Delaware village to the north, in the river valleys of the upper Muskingum.

The Ohio Company held its regular meeting at Campus

Martius on October the 4th and agreed to "raise payment and substance" for 30 extra guards to be distributed among the settlements. At the November meeting, they thought it necessary to add six more rangers.

At that November meeting, a petition was presented by a group who called themselves the "Associates for Donation Lands at Meigs Creek and Big Bottom." These 'associates' were men who had drawn lots of prime bot-

tom land along the Muskingum river about 30 miles north of Marietta, and while they fully intended to claim their land, they wanted more time to do it.

An extension of one month was granted - along with a warning that if the land was not settled by that time, no more extensions would be granted and the land would be forfeited.

These settlers immediately moved up the Muskingum and hastily built a blockhouse

on the river bank. In spite of warnings of the danger involved, they decided to settle in for the winter, cutting brush as weather permitted, and then getting crops planted as soon as possible in the spring. Waiting would mean forfeiture, and the young pioneers knew they probably would never get a second chance at land like that offered along the rich river bottom.

Their 20-foot by 24-foot blockhouse was to shelter a

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dozen adults and two children for the winter. Six men must have thought this was a little too close for comfort, so four of them built a small shack a short distance up river, and two others moved into an abandoned hunting cabin a short distance north of the blockhouse.

Late in December the temperature dropped sharply; the Muskingum froze over and snow began to fall. While there's no doubt this made living conditions unpleasant, it was also comforting due to the common belief that Indians would not be on the move nor were they likely to attack in such weather.

However, in spite of the severe cold and deepening snow, a war party of about 25 Wyandot and Delaware Indians had left their villages on the Maumee River and were headed down the Muskingum - traveling swiftly on its frozen surface - with the intention of attacking any settlements they found along its banks. Spotting the smoke from the chimney at the Big Bottom blockhouse, the warriors moved soundlessly through the snow, noting the shack below the main building, watching for dogs, scouts, or guards. The needn't have worried - the settlers were completely unaware, cooking their evening meal

The Story of Big Bottom State Memorial

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Historical marker commemorating the Big Bottom Massacre at Big Bottom Memorial State Park

and concentrating on keeping warm.

The deadly circle tightened around them, and the strike was as swift and deadly as a lightning bolt. Within a few minutes, the four men in the first dwelling were taken prisoner, and all but one in the blockhouse died - that one was taken prisoner. The warriors had not noticed the small cabin north of the blockhouse - the wind had been blowing so hard that the smoke from their chimney was swept to the ground, and so the Ballard brothers escaped - to warn the settlements on Wolf Creek and at Marietta.

The following day, January 2nd, 1791, when the men from those settlements re-

turned to Big Bottom to check for survivors, they found nothing but 12 bodies to be buried in the frozen ground. The earth where the blockhouse had stood - and where the Indians had

attempted to burn the bodies along with the building - had thawed enough to dig. The debris was cleared away, and those who had chosen to live together in this wild place were buried together in a common grave. Their story had ended, but the four years of Indian Wars had just begun.

Years later, land owner Obediah Brokaw donated the site for historic preservation. Mr. Brokaw identified the location of the blockhouse where the victims were buried, and erected a monument there in 1905. The 3 acre park, located approximately 25 miles out of Marietta on Route 60, then another 9 miles left on Route 266 has picnic tables and restrooms there today.

Two signs tell the story of Big Bottom: one posted by the city of Stockport, and one by the Ohio Historical Society. There is also a 12 foot marble obelisk with the following inscription: "Killed: John Stacy, Zebulon Throop, Ezra Putnam, John Camp, Jonathan Farewell, James Couch, Wm. James, Joseph Clark, Isaac Meeks & his wife and two children. Escaped: Asa Bullard, Eleazer Bullard, Philip Stacy.

The inscription does not explain that Philip Stacy survived only to be taken prisoner, and that he died while still in captivity. There is no mention of Frances & Eleazer Choate, Thomas Shaw, and James Patton who were also taken captive. These 4 men were eventually freed and returned home.

Note: The monument at Big Bottom State Memorial has been repaired and cleaned and returned to its site in August 2010. The site was rededicated in Fall 2010 by the Ohio Historical Society which recognized the Village of Stockport which now manages the site.

Louse Zimmer

History of Luke Chute and the Luke Chute Conservation Area

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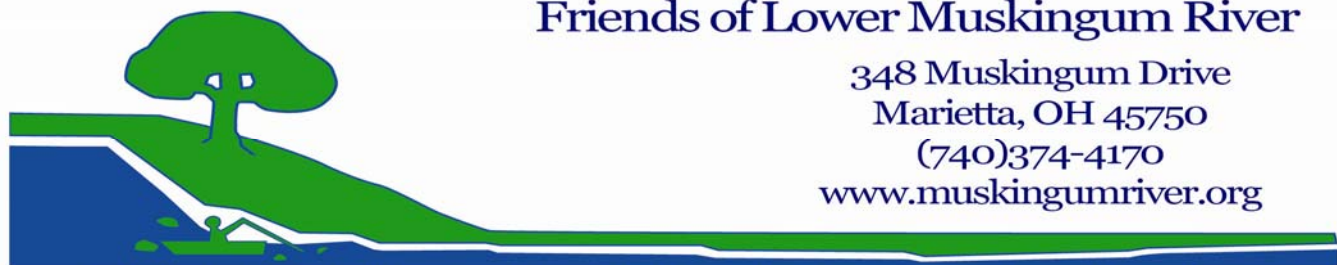
stream as well. Mike Fink, the semi-legendary keelboat captain who navigated the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in the early 1800's, gave rise to many tales about keelboats

and the phenomenal strength of the men who poled, pulled, and rowed them. Keelboats appeared on the Muskingum in 1827, and by 1830 there was regular keelboat service

between Zanesville and Pittsburgh.

To be continued. A list of sources and suggested reading will appear at the end.

Doug Albaugh
Secretary, FLMR



Friends of Lower Muskingum River

348 Muskingum Drive
 Marietta, OH 45750
 (740)374-4170
 www.muskingumriver.org

Water Quality, Watershed Management, Land Trust, Education, Economic Development, Recreation

Something To Be Proud Of

Here are just a few items FLMR is proud to have accomplished since our founding as a non-profit in 2003...

- In cooperation with the Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development (ILGARD), helped to create a management plan for the Meigs Creek watershed, one of the largest subwatersheds of the lower Muskingum River.
- Received Ohio EPA grant to partner with four Public Water Systems to develop Source Water Protection Plans and to implement management practices to reduce nitrate levels in groundwater.
- Host & conduct educational programs; fish population sampling demonstrations by means of electroshocking, by Ohio EPA; Muskingum River Parkway presentation on the design and history of the Muskingum River locks; River Adventurers Watershed Day Camp for area youth; presentations for local fairs, festivals, schools, youth & civic organizations; and watershed tours highlighting different areas of the watershed.
- Coordinate annual River Sweep and trash clean-up events in communities along the Muskingum River.
- Hold donated conservation easements protecting over 600 acres of

Upcoming Events

AEP LEED Facility Tour
 April 28

1st FLMR Potluck of 2011
 May 26

2011 River Sweep
 June 18th

3rd Annual
 Mighty Muskingum River
 Raft Race
 August 14th

For more information
 call the FLMR office at
 (740)374-4170

forest, farmland and river frontage.

- Through donations and Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, have acquired and now manage more than 250 acres of wildlife habitat that will be protected forever.
- Development of Luke Chute Conservation Area, 60 acres along the Muskingum River with several miles of volunteer developed walking trails. Open to the public
- Acquired land that contains a breeding population of eastern spadefoot toad, which is designated as Endangered in Ohio.

Want to become a FLMR member?
 Cut out this form & return to the
 address below!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Please send announcements by **email**
 Please send announcements by **mail**
 I **DO NOT** wish to receive any
 announcements

Membership Level Annual Dues

Individual \$15
 Family \$25
 Non-profit Organization \$50
 Corporate \$100

Dues: _____

Donation: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Friends of Lower Muskingum River
Mail to: Quincy Robe, FLMR Mem-
bership Chair, P. O. Box 31, Malta,
OH 43758

We're on the Web!
www.muskingumriver.org