

The Ellerbe Creek Journal

Published by the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (ECWA)

www.ellerbecreek.org

News from the Board of Directors

October 2005

WATTS HOSPITAL-HILLANDALE ARTISTS CONTRIBUTE TO ECWA

The silent auction at WHHNA's FestOval on Saturday, September 17 was a resounding success. While the crowd listened to great music and ate a delicious potluck dinner, they surveyed the artwork and placed their bids between 5:30 and 7:00. When the bidding closed at 7:00, the thirteen artists who donated their work brought in over \$525 in a great show of support for ECWA.

A huge thank you to the Watts Hospital-Hillandale Neighborhood Association, to artist and neighbor Betsy Blair who did the vast bulk of the organizing

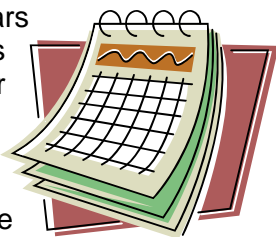


for the auction, and to all thirteen of the neighborhood's fine and generous-spirited artists: Galia Goodman, Anne Bogerd, Bryant Holsenbeck, Betsy Blair & Dale Evarts, Kathryn De Marco, Jennifer Kunz, Sarah Howe, Katherine Bliss, Nell Mincey, George Danser, Dianne Freund, and Edie Cohn. This was a great community

collaboration and lead-up to the WHHN ArtWalk that will be held on Sunday, November 6 and will feature items for sale by these artists and others. – By Kim Curtis

ANNUAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8

Mark your calendars and help us celebrate another successful year. The ECWA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening November 8th. The meeting will start at 8:00pm at Larry Brockman's home at 1407 Pennsylvania Avenue. And don't forget to vote in person or by proxy on the Bylaw changes. See the web site for more details.



BACKYARD POLLUTION WORKSHOP

With ECWA serving as catalyst and partner, the City of Durham's Stormwater Services Division and UNC's Environmental Resource Program hosted a Backyard Pollution Prevention workshop designed

to educate citizens about the most common pollutants of our streams, rivers and lakes, and what they can do in their own home environments to reduce stormwater pollution and runoff. About 15 people gathered at the downtown library for a presentation, then toured two backyards in the Northgate Park neighborhood to see examples of how runoff from roofs and driveways can be utilized. The workshop ended with lunch where participants' ideas for their own yards – rain barrels, rain gardens, backyard ponds – took shape. – By Kim Curtis



THANKS TO DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS

In addition to Josh Rose's departure (see the article in the News from the Watershed), ECWA lost two other board members recently, though they still remain part of the community.

Stormwater engineer John Schrum and trails specialist Dean Kanipe both discovered that their jobs and other

commitments left them with too little time to devote to serving on the ECWA Board of Directors. John remains in consultation with us on stormwater issues, especially with regard to the stormwater retention ponds in and around the Glennstone community and our Glennstone Nature Preserve. And Dean continues his work with the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, which is slated to cross Ellerbe Creek somewhere in the gamelands down near Falls Lake. ECWA thanks both of them for their service on the board and their continued involvement in the life of the Creek. – By Steve Hiltner

The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring Ellerbe Creek and making it an asset for the people of Durham

ECWA is searching for an experienced and dedicated individual to be its next Executive Director. Contact Larry at 286-2227.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ELLERBE CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Select Your Membership Level

Regular Membership Levels
 \$25 – Individual \$40 – Family

Advanced Membership Levels Support Much Needed Staff Positions And Programming!
 \$ 75 \$ 100 \$ 250 \$ _____

Please check your area(s) of interest:

<input type="checkbox"/> Land preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Runoff Reduction and Utilization
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising / Grant Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Garden / Habitat Restoration / Plant Rescue
<input type="checkbox"/> Networking / Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Streamwatch (monitoring water quality and aquatic life)
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	

Please send this completed form and your membership check to:

Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association
 P.O. Box 2679
 Durham, NC 27705-2679

ECWA Office Phone Number: 919-286-2227. Membership fees and donations are tax deductible. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Section at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.



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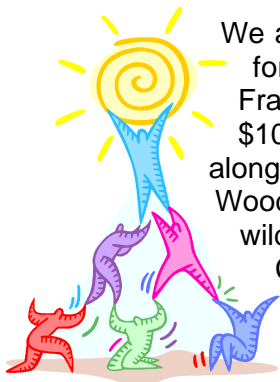
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News from the Watershed

October 2005

SOME VERY BIG THANK YOUS

If this newsletter has a theme, it is ECWA's appreciation for extraordinary acts of generosity. Our gratitude, which grows deeper with every year, goes to the BIN Foundation, whose continued support has provided the basis for funding part-time staff positions.



We are tremendously thankful, also, for a bequest from the estate of Fran Lynn, who left to ECWA \$10,000. Fran loved to take walks along Ellerbe Creek in the 17 Acre Wood Preserve, and helped tend the wildflowers along the West Ellerbe Creek Trail. As director of the Environmental Resource Program at UNC, she took a strong interest in what we all can do to reduce harmful runoff from our backyards. With input from ECWA, she and her students developed a Backyard Pollution Prevention workshop, published on the web at <http://www.cep.unc.edu/erp/stormwater/materials.html>. Her generous bequest will be used to further the sorts of public outreach and education Fran valued.

WETLAND GARDENS GET SOME TLC

There should be a better word than maintenance to describe the work it takes to keep a garden from tipping towards chaos. Starting a garden is the exciting part. And for public gardens there are often grants available to pay for plants and installation. Various awards hover out there, ready to alight on a planting that manages to look particularly good for a year or two and has a creative theme. But the true test comes in the years that follow. It's the tending to, year after year, that really tests the mettle of gardeners and their creations, and for horticultural endurance the awards and grants are few and far between.

For me, maintaining a garden is more like conducting a musical score, with each year's composition a bit different from the last. "Hey, you

guys in the frost aster section," I might say. "You're too loud! The greenheaded coneflowers have the melody here, and you're covering them up. And, look, Wisteria, I've had it with your smothering the buttonbush, and the swamp sunflowers, and everything else. We don't need primadonnas here. This is an orchestra, not a one-flower show. I'm sorry, but you've got to go."

The number of wetland gardens has grown along Ellerbe Creek in recent years. Some have "conductors" to help sustain a balanced performance; others are more catch-as-catch-can. Susan Brooks is sustaining one at Northgate Park. Fred Broadwell initiated a wetland garden this year along the South Ellerbe Creek Trail, with permission from Duke Energy. A wetland garden hosted by the city's Hillandale reservoir got attention from Steve and Edie Cohn, along with some guy who flies down periodically from New Jersey. The Museum of Life and Science just installed a rain garden near the steps leading down to its Butterfly House.



The longer-running wildflower shows, down in Indian Trail Park and at the trailhead for ECWA's 17 Acre Wood preserve, received two timely interventions this year. Volunteers pulled out the overly aggressive exotics (multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, wisteria, etc.) and the aforementioned native frost aster that was getting way out of hand. The result was a lovely, peacefully wild look of cutleaf coneflowers, late-flowering bonaset, tickseed sunflower, and all the other native coloraturas that "sing well with others." May they long hold forth.

Thanks this year goes to all who gave a hoot and a pull, among them Larry Brockman and son Matt, Steve Cohn and family, Kim Curtis and Rom, Mark Ambrose, Dale Evarts, Ned and Betsy Kennington, Marion Brisk's hardworking and engaged students at NC School of Science and Math, April Walton,

Margot Ward and her mother, Dave and Zack Milkereit, and Duke grad student Leslie Kleczek. – By Steve Hiltner

EARTH DAY ALONG PEARL MILL/EAST BRANCH

All morning long on Earth Day (April 24), some twenty eager volunteers from the neighborhood and beyond hunted out invasive garlic mustard and bags and bags full of trash from the East Branch of South Ellerbe Creek, historically known as Pearl Mill Creek. This stream flows northward from downtown, between the Trinity and Old North Durham neighborhoods. The four-year effort to eradicate garlic mustard is starting to pay off: this year, we found no plants along the stretch of stream between Trinity and Urban Avenues where they had been prolific last year, and we pulled only a few further downstream. This is great news for the flora along the stream and for neighbors whose yards abut the stream since once it gets established this exotic weed is tough to eradicate.



Fred Broadwell led a thorough cleanup of trash where Dacian Avenue dead-ends at the bike trail. Joanne Abel enticed a group of neighbors to tackle the stretch bordering Tyler Court. Tony Tschopp wrestled a huge iron snake out of the sandy shores of the creek. Several of the Youth Partners in the

MODELS program (see rain garden article) waded hip deep to get the tough across-the-creek garbage, while others pulled out bicycles, a knife, a lawn mower, and more fast food garbage than you wish ever to see anywhere. Steve, Edie, and son Marlon Cohn painstakingly picked up a huge patch of packing popcorn along the stream, while son Travis pitched in elsewhere. Durham's Stormwater Services staff provided refreshments and gloves. After three hours of good hard work, the stream and the trail looked beautiful and at peace. – By Kim Curtis

EARTH DAY FESTIVITIES BLOWN AWAY IN DOWNTOWN DURHAM

While those who didn't mind getting their hands and feet dirty got to work cleaning sections of stream and banks, a few of

us opted for the presumably lighter duty of staffing the ECWA booth at the Earth Day Festival. Little did we know how "light" it could get!

Due to construction in Durham Central Park, which will ultimately include connecting the South Ellerbe Trail/Pearl Mill Greenway to the American Tobacco Trail, the Durham Earth Day fest moved inside the downtown loop. For most of the



day, the relocation had little impact on the event, as hundreds of visitors learned about ECWA, the Eno River Association, the Museum of Life and Science, and other Durham groups with environmental connections. Josh Rose, Jane Finch, and Tony Tschopp talked with passersby about ECWA's mission and invited sign-ups for membership and the Internet listserv. Travis Cohn supplied fun for the kids with his clown costume and face painting. A highlight was seeing baby praying mantises at the Museum of Life and Science booth, and a Toyota Prius with black leather interior garnered interest at the Toyota of Durham outpost.

However, as a front blew into town in mid-afternoon, the multi-story buildings funneled increasingly powerful wind gusts through the festival tents. Around 4 PM, about an hour before the festival was officially supposed to end, one climactic gust, estimated by some present at over 50 knots, caught us all off guard, knocking tents aside like bowling balls and sending flyers and pamphlets swirling up near the top of the 17-story CCB tower. Participants took this as a sign that the Earth felt celebrated enough for one day, and packed up and left as soon as we recovered from the gust. – By Josh Rose and Jane Finch

RAIN GARDEN – YOU CAN BUILD ONE TOO

Don't miss the new rain garden at the top of the stairs leading to the Butterfly House at the Museum of Life and Science. The rain garden is part of a three-year project called MODELS (Mentors Opening Doors: Experiential Links to Science)



designed to introduce area high school students to the environmental fieldwork of researchers and scientists in the Triangle area. Six Youth Partners researched and built the garden, and they will pair up to offer workshops at the museum throughout the coming year to teachers, students, homeowners and businesses interested in rain gardens as solutions to pollution from stormwater runoff. Contact the museum for details on the workshops from these young experts. – By Kim Curtis

FALLS LAKE GAINS ATTENTION, PROTECTION

This summer, a coalition of environmental groups banded together to protect the water quality of Falls Lake. Wake County and the City of Raleigh, which draw much of their drinking water from Falls Lake, have each pledged roughly one million dollars to the effort, which will focus on protecting wetlands, headwaters, and other land with disproportionate impact on water quality. The process of replacing natural habitats with impermeable surfaces such as roofs, roads, and parking lots creates excessive stormwater runoff which dumps sediment, nutrients, and pollutants into waterways far faster than would happen otherwise.

Much of the motivation for this project was inspired by Jordan Lake, a water supply reservoir for large portions of Wake, Chatham, and Orange Counties. Signs of pollution, especially nutrient overload, were noted in Jordan Lake nearly a decade ago. However, measures to protect or improve water quality in the Jordan watershed are still being negotiated by state and local governments, and in the meantime development in the area, especially southern Durham and northern Chatham counties, has only accelerated and worsened the problems. Wake County and Raleigh authorities and Durham-area conservation groups hope to take action in the Falls watershed before a similar situation arises here; signs of excess nutrients and other pollution are already appearing in Falls Lake today, much as they did in Jordan Lake in the mid-1990's.



Protection and a resident of the Watts Hospital-

The campaign is being directed by the Conservation Trust of North Carolina. Rusty Painter, CTNC's Director of Land

Hillandale neighborhood, came to ECWA's August board meeting and briefed us on the situation. ECWA looks forward to joining this coordinated effort to maintain the quality of Falls Lake.

In an independent sign of public concern for North Carolina's water supplies, this summer the NC state legislature passed the Drinking Water Reservoir Protection Act. This Act will, among other measures, provide a timetable for cleaning up Falls Lake, and cap wastewater discharges into both Falls and Jordan lakes at currently permitted levels until rules for cleaning them up have been issued. (Sources: CTNC, NC Conservation Network, the Raleigh News and Observer.) – By Josh Rose

600 ACRE DEVELOPMENT THREATENS LOWER VALLEY



As this newsletter goes to press, a 600 acre development is being proposed for the last undeveloped tributary of Ellerbe Creek. Beginning at Glenn School Road and running eastward between Glenn Road and I-85, this huge development would include a shopping center and housing, essentially shattering what up to now has been a quiet, rural area with two-lane roads, forests and tobacco fields. It also poses a threat to the initiative to reduce pollution in Falls Lake.

The development, which borders the future location of the North Durham Parkway, would require a plan amendment and zoning change – two hurdles where community intervention is possible. Its sprawling residential sections do not appear to use any of the clustering techniques that allowed the nearby Glennstone development to preserve so much open space. With the Parkway planned to cross Ellerbe Creek at Glenn School Road, big changes are inevitable. ECWA could allow development to have its usual way with the landscape, or it could try to steer development in more ecological and aesthetic directions than has been the case elsewhere. To participate, email steve@ellerbecreek.org. – By Steve Hiltner

ELLERBE CREEK LOSES A CHRONICLER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Josh Rose has been a gift to Ellerbe Creek. He is a one-man foundation-at-large, dedicated to the discovery and appreciation of the world's flora and fauna. During his residency in the Ellerbe Creek watershed and tenure as ECWA's vice president, he has enlightened us about hundreds of

plant and animal species that reside in or move through the watershed. By his own calculations, he has found and/or compiled data on more than 700 species of flora and fauna. Not bad for an urban watershed.

But the numbers tell only part of the story. Josh's love for the natural world is matched by his love for people, and the city he had expected to live in for many years to come. It's clear that nature for him is not something to be experienced in isolation, but to be shared. He brought the natural world to us in the many listserve emails chronicling his explorations, and invited us to witness the creek's diversity on countless nature walks and birding excursions. Buoyed by his enthusiasm, the flurry of Latin names becomes a song.



Many folks first met Josh on one of the many nature walks he hosted.

Photo by Tony Tschopp

Josh, we'll miss you.

Below is a sampling of Ellerbe Creek life, seen through the eyes of Josh. — By Steve Hiltner

SUMMER NATURE HIKE

The ECWA 2005 summer nature hike returned to the 17-Acre Wood and West Ellerbe Greenway. The annual yellow rampage of wildflowers was just getting warmed up: goldenrod, Wild Senna, and Cutleaf Coneflower were well into bloom, but we could find only one Tickseed Sunflower opened, and many other sunflower species had yet to even make flower buds. Other colors were still well in evidence, including the reds of Scarlet Mallow and Cardinal Flower, pink and white of Marsh Mallow, purples of May-pops and Joe-Pye Weed, orange of some late Trumpet Creeper blooms, and



Tickseed Sunflower

Photo by Tony Tschopp

the white of Virginia Virgin's-Bower (and, sadly, an invasive exotic Asian Virgin's-Bower as well). We also spotted the Compass Plant; first located by Steve Hiltner last summer, it still has prominent leaves but no flowers yet. Bird activity was hard to detect, as the cicadas drowned out most other sounds in the area. We did spot a Brown-headed Nuthatch in one of the pine trees, a Gray Catbird eating Pokeweed berries, and a hummingbird cruising the flowers. Bugs spotted included a Monarch butterfly, male and female Yellow-and-Black Garden Spiders, an Arrowhead Spider, a few Common Whitetail dragonflies, a Red-footed Cannibal-fly eating a large wasp, and some strikingly colored and patterned moths, including a few Ailanthus Webworm moths a Lesser Mulberry Snout Moth (*Glyphodes pyloalis*), and a Common Spragueia (*Spragueia leo*). Photos of some of these are on the ECWA website in the photo galleries, or will be soon.

Will there be an ECWA autumn nature hike, or any others in the future? Well, there are lots of other birders, bug-watchers, botanists, and other naturalists left in Durham. If ECWA members and their board want to continue getting outside to observe the changing seasons, I'm sure something will be arranged. — By Josh Rose

SIGHTINGS

This spring and summer, ECWA naturalist Josh Rose discovered possibly the richest plant community so far in the watershed. Just downstream of the Glennstone Nature Preserve, Ellerbe Creek descends into some rich deciduous forest. Josh made his first visits to this area in mid-April, and found an unexpected diversity of plants in bloom. Star Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), American Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), and a number of Paw-paw (*Asimina triloba*) were all profusely flowering, while Bloodroot (*Sanguinea canadensis*) was common but past bloom, and May-Apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) hadn't quite started yet.



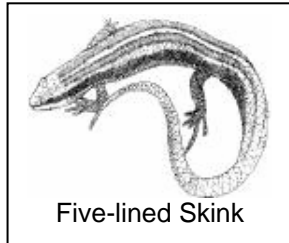
Bloodroot in bloom

Photo by Tony Tschopp

In late July, the Duke Natural History Society visited this same area. The stated goal of the trip was to relocate a population of Tubercled Orchid (*Platanthera flava*) which had been originally found about 20 years ago by Jim and Liz Pullman; in this regard the trip fell short. However, it was a success

in spite of this, finding numerous noteworthy plants and insects. One, the Star Campion (*Silene stellata*), seems to be not only a new record for the watershed, but the first time this species has been found anywhere in Durham County! Other botanical finds by the DNHS included Royal Fern, Winged Monkeyflower, Whorled Milkweed, Virginia Sweetspire, and a wild patch of Cardinal Flower in brilliant flower.

ECWA began tracking its herpetofauna in 2005. The mid-spring visit to Glennstone turned up two species of lizards, both skinks: a Ground Skink (*Scincella laterale*), a tiny brown critter, and the larger



Five-lined Skink

and more colorful Five-lined Skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*). And in late July the Duke Natural History Society discovered a member of the family Plethodontidae, the lungless salamanders, the first watershed record for any species from this large clan of amphibians. The species is still undetermined but suspected to be Three-lined Salamander.

During this year's spring bird count along Ellerbe Creek, counters Hope Taylor-Guevara, Craig Armstrong, and Josh Rose scared up 63 species before the day was over. We scored better in botanical terms, including the discovery in the headwaters of an especially large and vigorously blooming Pinxter Azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*): the shrub was at least 8 feet tall and covered with dozens, perhaps hundreds of flowers! As usual, the meadow around the WDNC radio towers was festooned with numerous Atamasco Lilies (*Zephyranthes atamasco*).

In other birding news, Ellerbe was visited by our nation's symbol just a day after Independence Day: Dan Kaplan spotted a Bald Eagle on July 5 flying over the reservoir near the intersection of Hillandale Road and Club Boulevard. Not long after that, Dan



Little Blue Heron (immature)

found an immature Little Blue Heron visiting the beaver pond, the second straight year that this coastally-breeding species has appeared there. The beaver pond also regained its resident Red-headed Woodpeckers. After

being present just about continuously for a few years, they disappeared during the winter of 2004-

05 but returned in mid-April and continued to be seen through the spring and summer. Northern Rough-winged Swallows have also been spotted regularly.

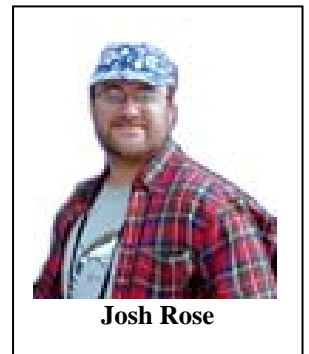
The dry summer has lowered water levels in Falls Lake and exposed mud flats, which is a recipe for attracting shorebirds. Where Ellerbe enters the lake are some of the more productive mud flats for local birders. The CarolinaBirds e-mail list has buzzed with reports of many species of sandpipers, plovers, and relatives from that area.

In a more bizarre note from the birding world, Duke Park resident Andrew Preiss spotted and eventually photographed a leucistic (mostly but not completely albino) American Robin that nested near his home.

— By Josh Rose

JOSH'S FAREWELL

I've lost count of the number of hours I've spent exploring the watershed. Over 450 plant species, 400 of them native; better than 135 species of birds; more than 80 species of butterfly and moth, and over 40 of dragonfly and damselfly; more than 20 reptiles and



Josh Rose

amphibians, and all sorts of other creatures. The spectacular wildflowers of the Piedmont prairie remnants at Glenn Road and Bennett Place, and the one on Hillsborough Road that now exists only in Steve's photo gallery on the website, and in the plants we rescued and planted elsewhere. The unexpected expanse of wilderness along the lower creek, and the even bigger surprise of the beaver pond and surrounding habitat right next to downtown. K-Mart is gone, but the beavers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, Green Treefrogs, and Devil's Walking-sticks still live behind the vacant building.

But they say all good things must come to an end. Sometime this October, my family and I are packing up and moving not only out of the watershed, but out of the state. It's been a difficult decision. My head is full of unfinished projects, unvisited places, and unexplored possibilities.

I want to see prescribed burns happen at Glennstone and Bennett Place, and to see the wildflower explosion that will follow whenever one finally happens. I want the 17 Acre Wood to finally be free of the menace of the Wisteria Monster and its fellow invaders English Ivy, Japanese Privet,

Wintercreeper and the rest. I want to find that elusive orchid in the gamelands downstream of Glenn Road. I want to spot a Least Clubtail, a dragonfly thus far recorded only as a larva caught by the Durham Stormwater Services survey of aquatic macroinvertebrates. I want to see the land around the WDNC radio towers somehow protected, as an easement, park, whatever it takes; and the same for the beaver pond. I want to see the endangered Smooth Coneflower return to the watershed.

Think y'all can arrange that for me? Heh heh heh heh....

Have to thank everybody. Most of all Noland Martin, who first brought me to ECWA. Steve Hiltner, of course, without whom none of us would be here, and who remains irreplaceable for ECWA even though he lives in New Jersey now. Larry, who recommended me for a new job even though it meant my leaving. Tony, for doing all the thankless behind-the-scenes work with the website, by-laws, minutes, and everything; and Candace, for doing the even more thankless job of making sure we don't get busted by the IRS. Jane, holding things together; Dean, a non-stop source of amusement; Kim, Marion, Fred, Heather, Galia, Phil Ray, Rusty Painter, and everybody else.... and the BIN Foundation, which made it possible for me to actually earn a salary as a part-time ECWA employee for a few months.

See ya,

Josh

Joshua S. Rose, Ph.D.

Editor's note:

Want to see where Josh has headed off to? Go to <http://www.worldbirdingcenter.org/>

THANKS TO FREDDY'S TREE SERVICE

Special thanks go to Freddy Divallerino for donating his time, energy and expertise to ECWA. Freddy took down a couple dead trees that were threatening a neighbor's property down near the 17-Acre Wood kiosk. Please consider contacting Freddy at 621-0637 for a free estimate when you need tree trimming or removal.



ECWA WISH LIST

The following lists some priority needs we have in order to support and more effectively serve our membership and accomplish our goals. Please let us know if you would like to assist us in any of these endeavors by contacting Larry Brockman, 286-2777, or any other board member. We would welcome any level of activity you would like to contribute!

- Kiosk Info Coordinator – we need someone to create environmental education information every 3 months for our kiosk at the 17 acre woods. This might include rotating pictures of seasonal critters: birds, butterflies, snakes, dragonflies, spiders, etc., updates on volunteer workdays, how native plants are doing, and other interesting facts and observations that might inform, surprise and delight. This could be a fun project for a parent/child team, or a pair of friends or, of course, for an individual.
- Naturalist/Botanist – we would like to find someone who has expertise in plant identification and could help out on a couple of exotic weed removal workdays (i.e., show others the good vs. bad plants) and/or lead a couple nature walks throughout the year.
- ECWA Newsletter - we recently lost Josh Rose who provided a lot of the written material for our newsletter. We could use someone with an interest in helping to write for and coordinate with others to create our bi-annual newsletter.
- Board Members – we are looking for a few new board members. What's needed is simply a commitment to bring your own energy, interests and skills to help strengthen ECWA.
- Committee Members- we are in the process of building up our committees. If you have interest, we would love to have you. Please contact the chair to find out more:
 - Fundraising Committee – Tony Tschopp (tony@ellerbecreek.org)
 - Land Stewardship Committee – Steve Hiltner (steve@ellerbecreek.org)
 - Outreach Committee – Kim Curtis (kim@ellerbecreek.org)
 - Membership Committee – Jane Finch (jane@ellerbecreek.org)
 - Budget and Finance Committee – Candace Turney (candace@ellerbecreek.org)