

CONFLUENCES

FRIENDS OF THE SCIOTO RIVER

1st Quarter 2008
Volume 1, Issue 1



Friends of the Scioto River, 4719 Reed Rd #103, Columbus, OH 43220
Sciotoriverfriends.org info@sciotoriverfriends.org

A Letter from the Chair

By Alex Silbajoris

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Friends of the Scioto River quarterly newsletter. We hope this is one of many to come that will reach an ever-increasing membership base.

The Scioto River is this metropolitan area's most prominent natural feature. Columbus and its suburbs along the river are awakening to the recreational and aesthetic potential this resource offers. Various elements in the community, such as city governments, local businesses and developers, recreational and nature enthusiasts, and individual citizens, are devoting energies to improving this civic asset. The Friends of the Scioto River acts as an agent, to coordinate and channel these efforts toward a common goal.

The Friends of the Scioto River was first organized in 2003. In 2005 we obtained non-profit organization status as a 501 (c)(3) under the IRS code. In 2006 we filed articles of incorporation with the Ohio Secretary of

2008 First Quarter Calendar of Events

By Kristi Crissinger

January

January 29 - Presentation to Mayor Coleman's "communitywide brainstorming" event

This presentation will cover the Goodale rain garden project, and urge the Mayor to consider such ideas for retrofitting existing structures, and when infilling with new development.

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State, and in 2007 we registered as a charitable organization with the Ohio Attorney General. The group has a bank account, a post office box for receiving donations, and a website on our own domain named friendsofthesciotoriver.org.

The groundwork has been laid for the development of the group. We are in good standing to advance to a higher level of organization and activity. I hope to go back to this report, at the end of 2008, and check off the group's accomplishments.

February

February 6, 7:30 PM - 1st Quarter 2008 FOSR meeting, at Panera Bread on Mill Run

February 16, 10:00 - River walk - [The Bluffs of Shawnee Hills](#)

Beginning at O'Shaugnessy Dam, walk a loop along and among the bluffs on the west wall of the river gorge below the dam, then back along the bank. Get a glimpse of what the gorge looked like before the dam was built. If the lake and river are frozen, the open water below the dam attracts water birds.

Please see *2008 Q1 Events* on page 3

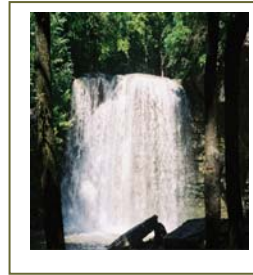
Hidden Treasures

By Kristi Crissinger

The Scioto River watershed in central Ohio provides residents of all life forms with valuable habitat, drinking water and sources of recreation and beauty. It also has many hidden treasures. Many of the treasures; such as Hayden Falls, are tucked away in places you wouldn't expect to find them.

Hayden Falls is a 35-foot natural waterfall on the west bank of the Scioto River, just south of Hayden Run road. It is a limestone gorge habitat that is home to several endangered plant species.

The City of Columbus recently installed two observation



Hayden Falls at Griggs Nature Preserve.

decks, stairs and a boardwalk to make this area more accessible to everyone. The next time you are in the area, take a minute to enjoy this beautiful treasure.

Indian Village Camp; also in the Griggs area, is home to an often dry stream bed that contains several small caves, perfect for exploring.

The Scioto Mile and More

By Kristi Crissinger

In Downtown Columbus, the Scioto River is taking on several new parks and attractions.

The Scioto Mile will be a signature riverfront park in the heart of Downtown Columbus. It will stretch from the Arena District to the Whittier Peninsula and will feature parks, water features, paths, bikeways, and more. It will provide a green corridor to reconnect the river to downtown.

On the Whittier Peninsula, a new Metro Park is taking shape. In addition to the Whittier Metro Park, the

peninsula will be home to state's first urban Audubon Center. This allows a previous "brown field" to be restored to its natural state and provide habitat for wildlife and a natural recreation spot for area residents.

Once everything is complete, which is expected to be around 2012, the Scioto riverfront in downtown Columbus; stretching from North Bank Park to the Whittier Peninsula, will be a signature spot of central Ohio that everyone can appreciate and enjoy.

"The Scioto Mile will become a symbol of Columbus and help drive new economic, commercial and residential development." – Mayor Michael B. Coleman



Future site of the Scioto Mile

2008 Q1 Events from page 1

March

March 22, 10:00 - River Walk - [The Skunk Cabbages of Dublin](#)

Tour the boardwalks of the East unit of Dublin Kiwanis Park to see skunk cabbage, watercress, and trout lilies in a forested, spring-fed wetland along the river. Expect mud! We can also tour the riverway access and spring in the West unit.

April

April 26, 9:00 - 12:00 - Greenlawn and Berliner riverbank cleanup

In conjunction with Earth Day events, this annual cleanup collects floating trash that has washed up onto the banks after winter high water. Meet by the fire training academy at the west end of the Greenlawn Bridge.

FOSR will have a booth in Goodale Park for the Earth Day event after 12:00.

Coming up 2nd Quarter 2008

APRIL

April 26, 9:00 - 12:00 - Greenlawn and Berliner riverbank cleanup

In conjunction with Earth Day events, this annual cleanup collects floating trash that has washed up onto the banks after winter high water. Meet by the fire training academy at the west end of the Greenlawn bridge.

FOSR will have a booth in Goodale Park for the Earth Day event after 12:00.

MAY

May 7, 7:30 PM - 2nd Quarter FOSR meeting, at Panera Bread on Mill Run

May 24, 10:00 - River Walk - Hayden in the Shade

Celebrate the springtime greening of the woods with a tour of the Hayden Falls gorge along Griggs Reservoir. Spot birds and wildflowers, and try out the new stairway and boardwalk.

JUNE

June 4, 7:30 PM - June FOSR meeting, location TBD

June 21 - North Bank Park Cleanup

Celebrate the first day of Summer at this annual downtown cleanup running from the confluence of the Olentangy and Scioto rivers, through North Bank Park, to the Santa Maria in Battelle Riverfront Park. This cleanup comes one week before the River Fest in North Bank Park.

