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A Note from the Executive Director

As we close out spring, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a season of both challenge and resilience for our organization. The unexpected loss of our AmeriCorps program earlier this year was a heavy blow, impacting not only our staff but also the many programs and communities we serve. It forced us to adapt quickly and rethink how we deliver on our mission with fewer hands and resources.

But even in the midst of these challenges, the heart of our work has not wavered. Thanks to the dedication of our team, board, volunteers, and partners, we've continued to educate, restore, and engage across our watershed. And as we look ahead, I am hopeful. We are actively building new partnerships, exploring creative funding opportunities, and reimagining programs that will strengthen our capacity and deepen our impact.

Change is never easy, but it can be the start of something stronger. Thank you for standing with us through this transition. Your support means more than ever as we work to protect and restore the places we all call home.

With gratitude,
Dr. Erica Matheny
Executive Director



Events & Happenings

June 12: [Kid's Stream Walk- Twinsburg Library](#).

June 14: [Rain Barrel Workshop- Reminderville](#)

June 17: [Native Plant Talk- Maple Heights Senior Center](#)

June 23: [STEAM Story and Activity- Brooklyn Library](#).

July 11: [Twinsburg Summer Camp Presentation- Twinsburg Community Center](#)

July 16: [Microplastics Waste Presentation- Twinsburg Library](#).

July 18: [Bugs Below the Surface: A Creek Critter Count](#) (Tentative)

July 25: [Bat Sonics with Discover Bats Ohio, Wild Birds Unlimited, Friends of Hudson Parks- Hudson Springs Park](#)

August 9: [Watershed Family Fun Day](#)

August 23: Rain Barrel Workshop- Reminderville

Watershed FAMILY fun day



"Fred" TCWP Ambassador
Gray Tree Frog

FREE

Twinsburg, Ohio



Program Presenters:

Cleveland Metroparks, Great Lakes Science Center,
Twinsburg Library & Wild Birds Unlimited

SATURDAY
August 9
10AM-2PM

PRE-REGISTRATION

HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!

(to ensure accurate food counts)



Foraged Feast a Sold-Out Success!



Attendees enjoy Spice Catering's foraged crudités and chef active station highlighting locally foraged seasonal ingredients.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our sold-out 2025 Foraged Feast! Held at CLE Urban Winery, the evening was filled with great company, delicious food, and strong support for TCWP's mission. Guests enjoyed a creative menu from Spice Catering, featuring locally foraged and seasonal ingredients that highlighted the best of Northeast Ohio's natural bounty.

We are especially grateful to our sponsors, including Enbridge and Davey Tree, along with the many generous businesses, organizations, and individuals who contributed raffle baskets and prizes. Your support made the night a true success and helps TCWP continue protecting and restoring our local watersheds.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



TCWP Executive Director, Erica Matheny, welcomes Foraged Feast attendees.

Stream by Stream: Citizen Scientists Help Monitor Watershed Health



Water Quality Monitors use a YSI monitor like this one to collect data from our waterways.

Our 2025 volunteer water quality monitoring efforts are well underway! This year, nine trained volunteers are assisting with monitoring at 17 sites across the Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds. At each location, volunteers collect key water quality data, including water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH, that allow us to measure and observe trends in both streams over time. These parameters offer valuable insight into stream health and help identify potential stressors or changes in water quality over time. With each successive year of sampling, our dataset tells a more detailed story that we can then use to track the state of our local waterways

We're also excited to announce that a **Tinker's Creek Watershed Report Card** is in the works.

This annual report will present our monitoring findings in a clear, accessible format to keep our community and partners informed about the health of the watershed. We're grateful to our committed volunteers who make this work possible and look forward to sharing our results in the coming months.

Want to join the Volunteer Water Quality Monitor team? [Click here!](#)



Ohio Stormwater Conference: Coming Together for Clean Water

Earlier this spring, nearly 1,000 stormwater professionals gathered in Sandusky for the 2025 Ohio Stormwater Conference. It was great to see so many familiar faces and new connections as the conference continues to grow, with attendance steadily approaching pre-pandemic levels.

Over the course of three days, attendees took part in more than 85 educational sessions, certification trainings, and hands-on tours. The conference wasn't just about learning — the Thursday night reception, complete with an 80's theme, brought attendees together for a "big-hair" evening of laughter, conversation, and collaboration.

With the help of over 120 sponsors and exhibitors, the conference remains a great reminder that stormwater impacts everyone. Across Ohio, organizations and individuals



TCWP Ohio Stormwater Conference Director and OSWA Board Member Harry Stark delivers the Welcome Address at the 2025 OSWC.

continue stepping up to protect our water, strengthen our communities, and build healthier watersheds for the future. We're proud to be part of this network and look forward to carrying that energy forward in the months ahead.



Buzzin' for Pollinators: Building Habitat and Raising Awareness



This year, TCWP launched an exciting new educational workshop series focused on Ohio's native bees, made possible through funding from the Enbridge Watershed Mini Grant Program. In these hands-on sessions, participants explored the vital role native bees play in our ecosystems while building their very own "bee house" — designed to provide safe and sustainable habitat for these essential pollinators. Each attendee also



Building bee-utiful habitats. These bee house builders at Hudson's Buzzin' Bee House workshop are helping give native bees a place to call home.

received a packet of native wildflower seeds to plant at home, creating a rich food source for visiting pollinators right in their own backyard.

The idea for the workshop came from our Watershed Coordinator, Matt Siefert, who was inspired after learning about the risks of poorly maintained bee houses. Improper care can lead to bacteria and fungi growth that harms bee larvae. That's why the bee houses featured in our workshop include replaceable nesting cavities — making it easy to support healthy bee populations year after year.

Interested in learning more about native bees and how you can help them thrive? Keep an eye out for our [next workshop](#) — we'd love to see you there!

Electrofishing in Action: A Closer Look at Stream Biodiversity

TCWP recently partnered with **Cleveland Metroparks** and the **Native Fish Coalition** to coordinate a public electrofishing session along Tinker's Creek. Electrofishing is a scientific sampling method in which a mild electric current is used to temporarily stun fish, allowing biologists to safely net, identify, count, and release them. This technique provides a reliable snapshot of the fish community in a specific stretch of stream—offering valuable insight into aquatic health.

Participants had the unique opportunity to observe this process up close and get a rare look at some of the smaller, more elusive fish species that are often missed by conventional



TCWP's Watershed Coordinator, Matt Siefert, admires a stonecat madtom caught during the electrofishing event.

methods. We were excited to see a healthy diversity of fish species throughout the morning, but the true highlight of the day was

the discovery of two stonecat madtoms! These small catfish are very intolerant to pollution, so finding them may mean the water quality in Tinker's Creek is doing well!





A Year of Service, Growth, and Impact: Reflecting on the Final Year of NOWCorps

The 2024–2025 program year marked both a milestone and a transition for NOWCorps—our sixth and final year as an AmeriCorps program. With 32 members serving across 17 host site organizations, it was our largest and most impactful cohort yet.

Throughout the year, members exemplified the values of **stewardship, conservation, and service**. They supported restoration projects, developed educational programming, strengthened community engagement, and expanded the capacity of environmental nonprofits throughout Northeast Ohio.

“Our members were more than just temporary staff; they were engrained in our mission and amplified our reach.”

— Dana Lettl, Holden Forests & Gardens

“We simply wouldn’t have been able to accomplish this work at the same scale without them.”

— Thomas Schreiber, Western Reserve Land Conservancy

But NOWCorps wasn’t just about expanding capacity—it **was also about building futures**. Members were encouraged to grow professionally by attending conferences, earning

certifications, refining their career goals, and expanding their networks.

“This quarter was one of growth—not only in my skills and knowledge in environmental education, but also in my confidence to perform and lead programs.”

— Brandon, NOWCorps Member at Holden Forests & Gardens

NOWCorps alumni like Thomas Schreiber exemplify that transformation:

“NOWCorps changed my career path. It gave me a way to serve my community and build a future in conservation.”

— Thomas Schreiber, Western Reserve Land Conservancy & NOWCorps alum

As we celebrate these individual and collective successes, we also acknowledge a profound change:

Due to federal defunding, the 2024–2025 service year was the final chapter for NOWCorps.

While it’s a bittersweet farewell, it’s also an opportunity to reflect on everything the program accomplished over six incredible years.

We are immensely proud to have sponsored NOWCorps at Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners, and we extend our deepest thanks to the host site supervisors who guided members with care and dedication. The program simply wouldn’t have been possible without your mentorship and support.

We’re equally grateful to the many partner organizations that opened their doors, provided meaningful experiences, and helped grow the next generation of environmental leaders.

AmeriCorps service is often described as a sacrifice—**but it’s also a transformational opportunity** that fosters leadership, strengthens communities, and supports a healthier environment for all.

While this chapter is closing, **the work is far from over.**

In the wake of NOWCorps, TCWP is actively exploring new workforce development initiatives to help fill the gap left behind. We remain committed to building local environmental leadership and creating opportunities for service, learning, and conservation impact.

“Our region needs programs like this—programs that invest in people, protect natural resources, and create lasting change in the communities that need it most.”

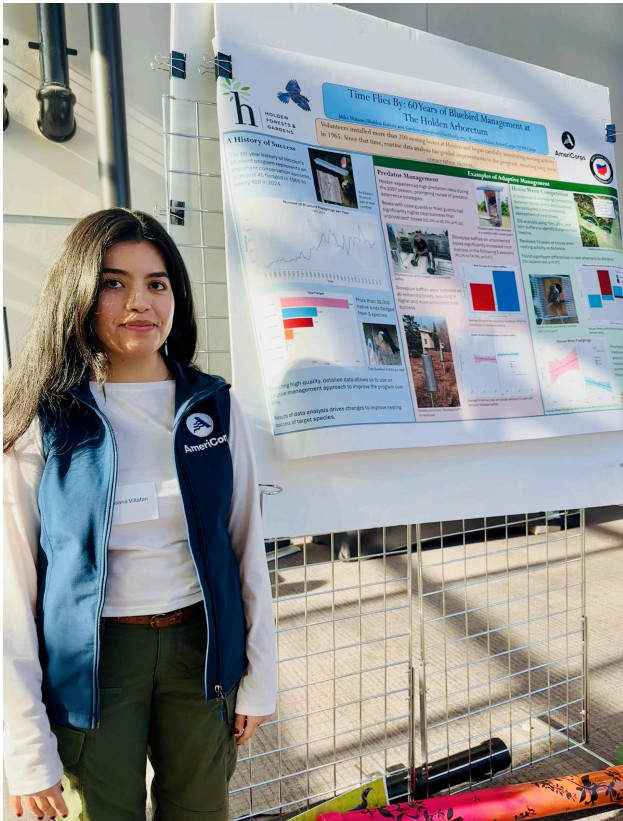
— Heather Elmer, Executive Director, Chagrin River Watershed Partners

We invite you to explore our Program Impact Report to learn more about NOWCorps’ legacy

—

and to see how the seeds planted over the past six years will continue to grow.

To every partner, mentor, and member: thank you for being part of this journey!



NOWCorps Member Rosana Villafan presenting her poster on bluebird management at HFG.



NOWCorps Members participate in macroinvertebrate sampling with Summit SWCD.



NOWCorps Members Sophia Gugliotta and Sydney Jekutis serving with West Creek Conservancy.



NOWCorps Member Ellery Schneider removing invasives at Cleveland Metroparks' Edgewater Beach.



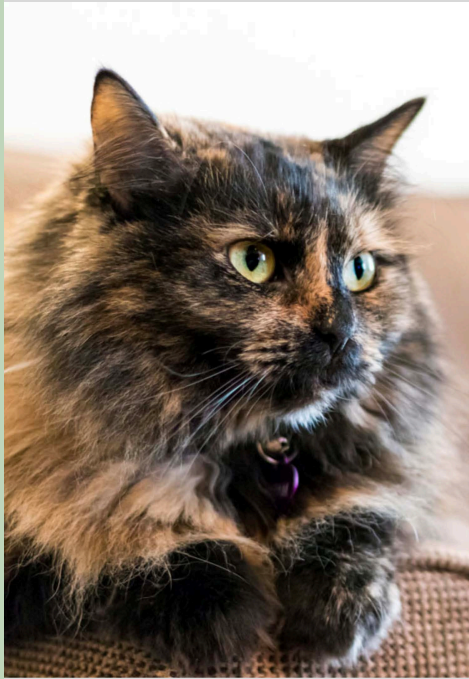
NOWCorps Member Alex Kirchner collecting water quality monitoring samples for Summit SWCD.



AmeriCorps



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



Kraken's Corner: Plant Like a Pro (Meow)!

Hello, friends! Kraken here, your favorite TCWP office cat and outdoor observer. As the humans get busy with spring planting, I've been watching from my sunny windowsill—and I have some purr-fect advice.

When you head outside with your shovels and garden gloves, skip those fancy ornamental plants that don't belong here. Instead, plant native species. Why? Because native plants are like the comfy spot on the couch—they just *belong*. They support local bees, birds, and butterflies (which I enjoy watching). They need less watering, fewer chemicals, and help keep our watershed healthy. Plus, they don't turn into invasive bullies that take over the neighborhood.

So before you pick up that flashy import at the garden center, ask: "Is this something Kraken would approve of?" If it feeds local pollinators and helps the environment, the answer is a pawsitive YES.

Happy planting,

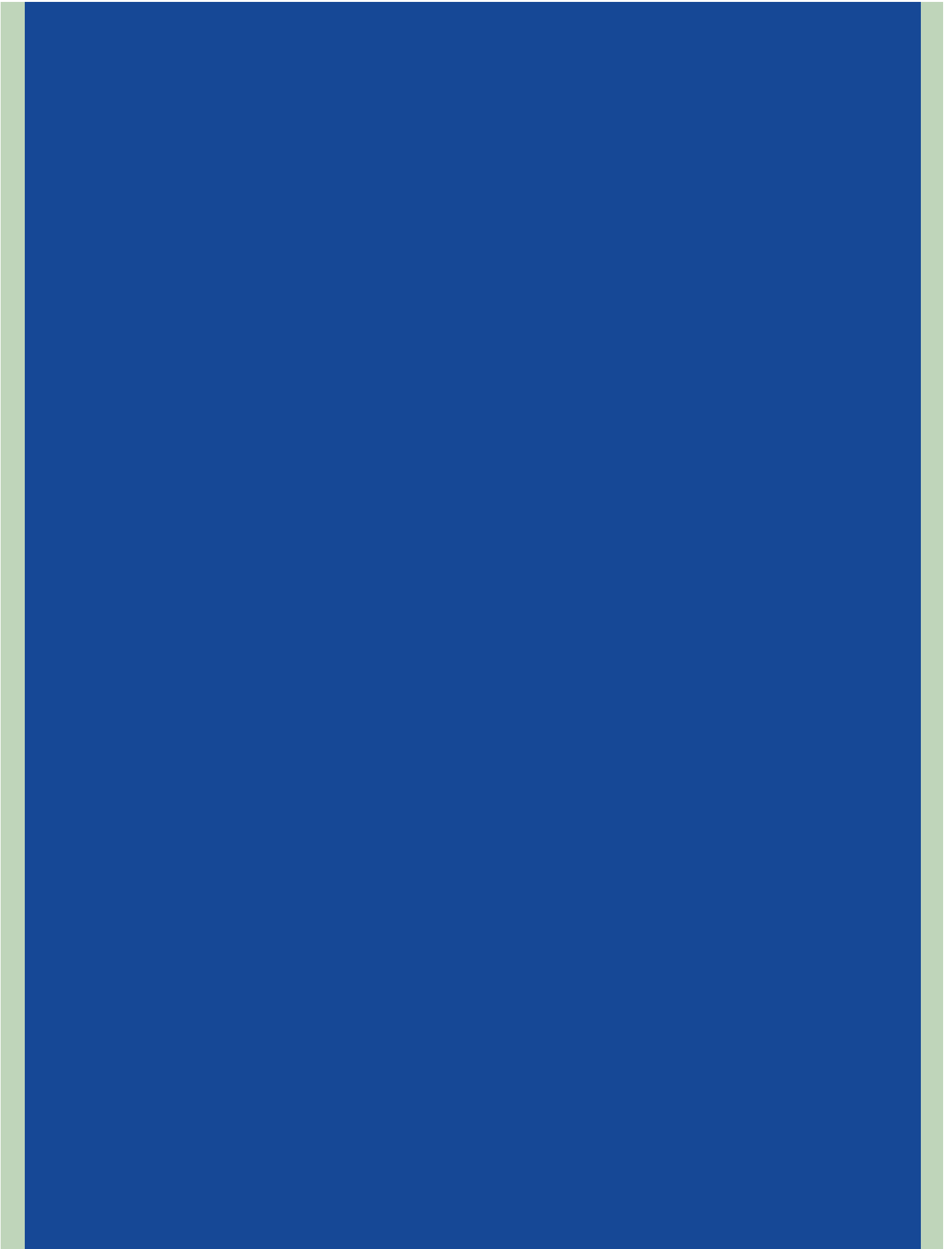
Kraken 🐾

Thank you to our Members and Sponsors!

Business Members

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our business members.

Thank you for supporting watershed work!



Thank you
to our sponsors



Our reason is water.™



Member Communities

Much gratitude to our member communities. Thank you for your partnership.

Aurora

Beachwood

Bedford Heights

Boston Heights

Franklin Township

Glenwillow

Hudson

Macedonia

Maple Heights

North Randall

Northfield

Northfield Center Township

Reminderville

Solon

Streetsboro

Twinsburg

Valley View

Walton Hills

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners stewards Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds in more than 24 communities every day. You can be part of this!

Join Today!





Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners
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330-963-6863

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