



[About](#) [Contact](#) [Get Involved](#)

## ***A Note from the Executive Director***

As summer turns to fall, I've been struck by how beautiful these past few months have been in the watershed. Warm sunny days, cool evenings, and those first hints of color in the trees have made it the perfect time to be outdoors. Whether it's a walk along a shaded trail, an evening by the water, or just sitting outside to listen to the birds, this has been a season to slow down and really enjoy and appreciate NE Ohio.

One of the highlights of the summer was our Watershed Family Fun Day in August. We had a fantastic turnout, with families, volunteers, and partners coming together to explore, learn, and celebrate the watershed. Seeing kids crowd around the macroinvertebrate station, families getting a chance to try fish printing (Cyotaku), and people connecting with local organizations reminds me again why this work matters.

It's also been a busy season for projects and programs—from restoration work and native plantings to workshops and community events across the watershed. On top of that, we've had the joy of welcoming our fall IREX Community Solutions Program Fellows, Joseph Losi from the Solomon Islands and Jim Córdoba from Costa Rica. Their perspectives and energy have added so much to our daily work and conversations.

As we ease into fall, I hope you'll take time to get outside and enjoy all the beauty this season brings to our streams, parks, and neighborhoods. Thank you for being part of this community and for supporting the work we do every day to keep our watershed healthy and thriving.

Warmly,

*Dr. Erica Matheny*

Executive Director



## Events & Happenings

- OCT 9: [Rain Barrel Workshop, Aurora OH](#) (Registration required)
- OCT 11: Volunteer Opportunity | [Watershed Cleanup, City of Bedford](#)
- OCT 23: [Drinkers for Tinker's](#) Networking and Fundraising Event (Registration required)
- OCT 25: Free Event | [Birding Basics: Fall Migrants - Hike with Portage Parks](#)
- OCT 30: Free Webinar | [Phantom Flyers: Migratory Species from Ohio to Costa Rica](#)
- NOV 6: Free Event | [Build a Buzzin' Bee House](#) (Registration required)
- NOV 20: Free Webinar | [Discover Resilience Across Oceans](#)
- DEC 17: Free Webinar | [True Pigments Paints: Innovative Repurposing of Pollution](#)
- JAN 22: : Free Webinar | [Breaking Ground: Perspectives from Young Conservation Professionals](#)



# Drinkers for Tinker's



*Presented by:*



Your support helps protect clean water and healthy, local habitats for **river otters**.

## Thursday, Oct. 23

6 - 9 PM

- Delicious seasonal **food** & award-winning beer
- **Connect** with others making an impact
- Pinball & brewery tours included

### **Eighty-Three Brewery**

1201 E. Market St. Suite 110, Akron, OH 44305



**Tickets & Information:**

<https://tinkerscreek.org/?p=16004>



**Sponsorships available:**

<https://tinkerscreek.org/events/drinkers-for-tinkers-2025-sponsorships/>



## Meet our IREX CSP Fellows

TCWP is excited to host two IREX Community Solutions Fellows this season. Together, they bring global perspectives in conservation and community engagement to our watershed work.



### Meet Jim Córdoba Alfaro

Hailing from Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, Jim is an entomologist and conservationist passionate about rainforest preservation and biodiversity. He is the founder and president of the BioSur Foundation, which advances conservation, scientific research, and environmental education, and includes *Insectopedia*, a museum dedicated to insects and their role in our world. Jim played a key role in documenting more than 30 previously undescribed insect species and two mammals, and is known for weaving community involvement, youth engagement, and sustainable tourism into his conservation work.

Jim is excited to bring his passion to TCWP and will be hosting our October 30th Winter Webinar, ***Phantom Flyers: Migratory Species from Ohio to Costa Rica***, exploring the incredible journeys of migratory species between his home country and Ohio. Learn more and join Jim's free webinar at <https://tinkerscreek.org/event/phantom-flyers/>.

### Meet Joseph Losi

Joseph is a dedicated educator and Chair of the Paripao Ward Development Committee in the Solomon Islands, where he works with communities to improve access to education, clean water, sanitation, and other essential services. With over eight years of teaching experience, he's passionate about strengthening communities through sustainable development and environmental protection.

Coming from a region impacted by logging and climate change, Joseph is eager to grow his leadership skills and explore new strategies to support both people and the environment.

Join Joseph on November 20th for his Winter Webinar, ***Discover Resilience Across Oceans: Clean Water and Reforestation***, where he'll share how collaboration and local engagement can turn challenges into meaningful change, even with limited resources. Learn more and join Joseph's free webinar at <https://tinkerscreek.org/event/discover-resilience/>.



Join Jim, Joseph, and other environmental professionals at the ***International Perspectives on Environmental Stewardship Symposium*** from 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18th at the Davey SEED Campus to discuss and share perspectives on global and local environmental stewardship. Check out our events page at <https://tinkerscreek.org/event/international-perspectives/> for more details.

FREE



# INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

## Symposium

Join TCWP's IREX Community Solutions Fellows and other local leaders for a thoughtful conversation on how communities across the globe are addressing environmental challenges. Panelists will share real-world examples from the Solomon Islands, Costa Rica, Northeast Ohio, and more, highlighting the creative solutions and shared lessons that can inspire action here at home.



**Jim Córdoba-Alfaro**  
Costa Rica



**Joseph Losi**  
Solomon Islands



Nov. 18, 2025  
8:00 – 12:00pm



Davey SEED Campus  
6700 OH-43  
Kent, OH 44240

- **Registration & Breakfast**
- **Welcome & Introduction**
- **Keynote Speeches**
- **Panel Discussion**
- **Closing Remarks**
- **Davey SEED Campus Tours (optional)**

**Registration Required**

<https://bit.ly/46X8rDU>



*Tours of Davey's new  
SEED Campus available  
after the symposium!*

**Clean Water Starts with Community**



Big impact starts with small actions and the power of community. On August 9th, families, neighbors, and nature lovers came together at the Twinsburg Community Center for TCWP's 2025 *Watershed Family Fun Day*, a hands-on celebration of clean water and healthy habitats.

Guests explored 16 interactive stations hosted by organizations from across the watershed. From live snakes and animal pelts to microscopes, native plants and watershed games, there was plenty to spark curiosity and inspire action.

Local experts shared easy ways to protect water at home like planting native species and reducing runoff. Free refreshments and ice cream, generously donated by Country Maid, made the day even sweeter.

Watershed Family Fun Day showed how community drives conservation. Whether it's planting a tree, starting a school project, or making small changes at home, every action adds up. Many guests left feeling energized and ready to put what they learned into practice.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to our exhibitors, volunteers, and partners for making this event a success. Your support helps us build a cleaner, more connected future one drop at a time.



## Student Art Inspires Clean Water



**Above:** DeWitt Elementary rain barrel helps students maintain their native plant garden while learning the value of rain barrels and stormwater mitigation.

**Below:** The University of Akron Field Station showcases their rain barrel as an educational tool for Field Station visitors.



Student-painted rain barrels are popping up across Summit County, and they're more than just eye-catching. These vibrant barrels combine art, education, and conservation, thanks to a partnership between TCWP and RB Chamberlin Middle School, supported by an ArtsNow Arts Forward grant.

You'll find them at libraries, parks, gardens, and schools, including:

- Twinsburg, Richfield, and Nardonía libraries
- Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center
- The University of Akron Field Station
- Peace Love and Little Donuts in Hudson.

One standout example is at DeWitt Elementary in Cuyahoga Falls, where staff turned the installation into a hands-on learning experience. Their custodian built a working gutter system so students could see how a rain barrel collects water. The barrel now helps students care for their native courtyard garden, which attracts butterflies, birds, and bees, and serves as a peaceful space for learning and community connection.

Keep an eye out for these colorful, educational rain barrels.

They're a fun way to celebrate **student creativity and community stewardship**, and a reminder of the simple ways we can all help protect our local watersheds.

Thank you to ArtsNow and our community partners for helping make this creative, educational project a success. Your support brings watershed awareness to life across Summit County.



ARTS  
FORWARD

A GRANT PROGRAM BY ARTSNOW



## Tracking Creek Health

Our 2025 water quality monitoring season is coming to a close, and we couldn't have done it without our dedicated volunteers.

Together, we collected nearly 120 samples at 17 sites across the watershed. With a wet and stormy early summer and a dry shift into fall, we wouldn't be surprised to see a few abnormal readings in this year's dataset.

We're also excited to be rolling out the first ever **Tinker's Creek Watershed Report Card!** This tool grades the water quality of Tinker's Creek, focusing on water quality parameters that affect aquatic organisms such as fish or macroinvertebrates.

Many aquatic plants and animals can only survive within certain ranges of these conditions, so monitoring them gives us a clearer picture of the creek's health and what we can expect to find living in its waters.

*To learn more about our water quality monitoring program, view our report card, or become a water quality monitoring volunteer, check out our website at <https://tinkerscreek.org/water-quality-monitoring/>.*



## Bell's Brewery Grant Expands Stream Monitoring



**Above:** Close-up view of a YSI monitor that will be purchased with Bell's Brewing funds.

**Below:** Volunteer Ann Schoeffler lowers a YSI probe into the creek.



Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is excited to announce a \$4,500 grant from Bell's Brewing to expand our community-based water quality monitoring program.

With this funding, we're building a **portable water quality monitoring kit** that schools, libraries, and community groups can borrow to explore stream health in their neighborhoods. The kit will include professional-grade tools, easy-to-follow guides, and short videos to help users collect real data from local waterways.

The results won't just be educational - they'll contribute to TCWP's long-term monitoring database, helping us track water quality trends, spot pollution concerns, and guide future restoration efforts.

This project builds on seven years of successful volunteer monitoring across more than 10 watershed sites. By making equipment accessible through a lending model, we're opening the door for more people to learn, engage, and contribute to protecting our streams.

We're grateful to Bell's Brewing for supporting grassroots water stewardship and helping us grow the next generation of watershed protectors.

**Are you a teacher, librarian, or community leader interested in stream monitoring with your students or group?** Contact us at [info@tinkerscreek.org](mailto:info@tinkerscreek.org) to learn more about borrowing the kit and bringing hands-on watershed science to your community.



## Explore Where Water Connects Us

We're excited to share TCWP's new interactive StoryMap: **Where Water Connects Us** - a visual tour of the projects and places that help protect clean water and wildlife across the Tinker's Creek and Brandywine Creek watersheds.

From stream restorations and wetland enhancements to community events and volunteer opportunities, this StoryMap takes you on a tour of the places and projects that help protect clean water and wildlife in our region.

Whether you're a local resident, an environmental professional, or just curious about watershed science, this is a great way to see what's happening near you and how you can get involved.

**Explore the StoryMap here:** [Where Water Connects Us](#)

Special thanks to the Dominion Energy Foundation for supporting this project and helping us bring our watershed story to life!

## Special Visitor: Coyote Peterson Stops by TCWP

We had a fun surprise at the TCWP office recently — **Coyote Peterson**, YouTube personality and star of [Brave Wilderness](#), stopped by to chat with our team. Coyote grew up in Newbury Township, Ohio, so he's no stranger to Tinker's Creek and its role in the region. During his visit, he spent time learning about our conservation work, community programs, and the impact we're making across the watershed. Our staff really enjoyed the conversation and appreciated how genuinely interested he was in the health of local waterways. It's always inspiring to connect with someone who's passionate about nature and has shared that passion with millions around the world. We're hoping this won't be the last time our paths cross — **stay tuned!**



TCWP Executive Director, Erica Matheny, and Watershed Coordinator, Matt Siefert, introduce Matt's snake "Kyle" to Coyote Peterson



TCWP Staff pose with Coyote Peterson (L-R): Matt Siefert, Kaylee Nickol, Coyote Peterson, Erica Matheny, Joseph Losi, and Jim Córdoba-Alfaro.

## Bats Take Center Stage at Hudson Springs Park

On July 25, families and nature lovers gathered at Hudson Springs Park for an evening devoted to bats. Presenters from **Discover Bats Ohio** led the workshop, sharing stories and facts about Ohio's bat species, the challenges they're facing, and why they're important to healthy ecosystems. They brought along great interactive visuals that helped everyone understand just how bats use their "fingers" to fly and how their wings compare in size to their small bodies.

After a short presentation, attendees headed out on the trails with **sonic detection equipment** to "listen" for bats as they emerged for their nightly hunt. The detectors translated ultrasonic calls into sounds we could hear, and listed the species of bats likely present based on the sound frequencies. It was a fun, hands-on way to see and hear these incredible creatures in action.

**Wild Birds Unlimited** joined the event with a table full of bat-friendly resources and raffled off a beautifully crafted **bat house**, which went home with one lucky participant. For more information, or to sign up for future events, visit [www.tinkerscreek.org](http://www.tinkerscreek.org).



Wild Birds Unlimited raffled off this beautiful bat box.



TCWP's Kaylee Nickol demonstrates the acoustic bat monitoring equipment.



## Kraken's Corner

This summer, we said goodbye to **Kraken**, our beloved (and famously standoffish) office cat, who passed away from kidney disease. Kraken came to us as an indoor feral cat and kept her distance from day one. She preferred to observe the world from a safe perch, never one for pets or cuddles. Her love language was a well-timed hiss, and nothing made her happier than a fresh serving of wet cat food.

Despite her prickly exterior, Kraken brought a special kind of energy to the office. Her watchful presence, quiet routines, and occasional dramatic appearances gave the space character. She had her own way of keeping us company—on her terms—and we loved her for it.

Kraken may not have been a lap cat, but she was very much part of the TCWP family. She'll be missed.



## **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  
P.O. Box 444, Twinsburg, OH 44087  
330-963-6863

If you no longer wish to receive emails [unsubscribe here](#)

10075 Ravenna Rd, Twinsburg, OH 44087, USA