

The Cherokee called this month's moon the Windy Moon and great changes are definitely blowing in with the winds. I consider this a month of vast transition. It seems the jet stream is never settled and there's a larger fluctuation between cold and warm days. I feel eager for winter to end and I'm certain animals do too. The lengthening days send a strong message that spring is arriving! The outside world is awakening from a long slumber with lengthening days and our time with the sun is extended. Ohio plants and wildlife are continuing an ageless ritual of response. Fox, skunks, opossum, and many other animals are mating. Great Horned owls are on their nests. Bald Eagles and Red-tailed hawks are on their nests. Bucks have dropped antlers. Sap is flowing and I've seen buckets hanging on Sugar Maple trees. I've awoken to Cardinals singing and even seen the return of many migrants. Killdeer call in the area around my office and bulbs are blooming or at least starting to peak through the ground.

Of course, this is a time of change for the Green Team too. If you missed our February meeting, then let me be the first to congratulate you and fill you in! Throughout the years, the city has had such a growing response to volunteerism in our parks that we grew from a single Green Team to several teams including one for Bluebirds, Plant Salvaging, and Certified Naturalists. Whew!

Still, I wanted to add more. I have been bringing up the Amphibian Team with Christine Nardecchia for a few years now. I also wanted to add a Butterfly Team. I greatly believe in citizen science and want to see this grow in our community. However, along with these excited thoughts of expansion, something else was growing. Christine's and I had concern about time and commitment. One of the many things she and I share is a strong commitment to ensure your time with us is fruitful and meaningful. We are in constant awe of the wonderful people we deal with and their giving spirits.

We were also concerned about our time. I am responsible for a plethora of things and volunteerism is only a small part of my job. Although we've seen her hands in the dirt many times now and it has become common for her to tell me an interesting ecological fact, Christine concurs that she is not the person to deal with nature.

After a lot of discussion, she and I decided to look back to our roots. We also wanted to listen to the many voices that had grown us to where we are today. We had been hearing from all of you for some time, that you were ready to work on your own and felt comfortable with leadership. We have also heard that you understood our time commitments and that you too feel busy. Therefore, I am excited to tell you we have made some changes that will hopefully fulfill much of our needs and desires.

From now on, there will be just one team, the GREEN TEAM. This team includes everybody and here's how it will work. We will all meet quarterly for an update and educational session. I've attached this year's schedule. You'll also find some advanced trainings. I am particularly excited about these because they'll allow for leadership opportunities and a chance for volunteerism anytime; not just when we plan to be there. Yes, we'll still get together for planned events such as Earth Day, Bicycle Recycling,

Shoe Recycling, and the Mike Utt Memorial River Clean Up. You'll find this in the second attachment. You can also look on the volunteer page for more opportunities.

No, you won't see an amphibian training. It'll have to wait for one more year. However, watch for more citizen science programming such as backyard bird counts and butterfly surveys. Furthermore, if there's something you feel inclined to do, contact us and ask! We've gained such confidence in your abilities and we're excited to see the team spread its wings.

Happy Spring from Christine and me.
Mime

2009 Green Team Dates

Learning Sessions

Date: **April 23, 2009**

Location: Service Center, 6555 Shier-Rings Road

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Topic: Living with Wildlife

Speakers: Míme Migliore, City of Dublin and Marne Titchenell, Wildlife Program

Specialist, OSU Extension

Date: **June 18, 2009**

Location: Service Center, 6555 Shier-Rings Road

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Topic: Water: Fish to Fawcett to Flush

Speaker: Lorraine Winters, Water Protection Coordinator, Columbus Division of Power & Water

Date: **September 17, 2009**

Location: Service Center, 6555 Shier-Rings Road

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Topic: Green Living, Sustainable Ways

Speaker: To Be Announced

Date: **November 12, 2009**

Location: Service Center, 6555 Shier-Rings Road

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Topic: To Be Announced

Speaker: To Be Announced

On-going Volunteer Opportunities

Trainings must be completed prior to volunteer time.

Bluebird Box Maintenance

Date: April 2, 2009

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Location: Service Center, 6555 Shier-Rings Road

Stream Quality Monitoring

Date: May 30, 2009

Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Start at the Service Center, 6555 Shier-Rings Road

Invasive Species Removal

On-Line Training

Watch for the training on the Volunteer Page

FYI and Calendars!

Saturday, April 11, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Eco Dublin Expo

Dublin Community Recreation Center

Volunteers needed to welcome guests, serve as booth attendants, and answer general questions about Dublin at this popular "expo" all about green and eco friendly living. Call 614-410-4406 or cnardecchia@dublin.oh.us. Pre-registration to volunteer is required.

Saturday, April 11, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Shred It! at the Eco Dublin Expo

Dublin Community Recreation Center

Help residents with their boxes of materials to be shredded by ShredDirect, parked at the Dublin Community Recreation Center. Welcome residents, help them with boxes, obtain data and needed information from them. Call 614-410-4406 or cnardecchia@dublin.oh.us. Pre-registration to volunteer is required.

Saturday, April 18, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Earth Day Planting

Red Trabue Nature Reserve, Coffman Park, Coventry Woods, Woods of Indian Run

Join HUNDREDS of volunteers for a massive native planting project and invasive plant removal project at five Dublin park sites. Headquarters location: Trabue Nature Reserve. Call 614-410-4406 or cnardecchia@dublin.oh.us. Pre-registration to volunteer is required. Our thanks to resident leader Rich Brown for his coordination efforts!

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Ashland, Inc.

Adult volunteers are needed to greet hundreds of cars in line to turn in household hazardous waste, survey drivers on what materials they are dropping off, and gathering other needed information and data. Call 614-410-4406 or cnardecchia@dublin.oh.us. Pre-registration to volunteer is required.

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Leadership Dublin's Community Service Day

Headquarters Location: Dublin Community Recreation Center

It's Dublin's "spring clean up day" & Leadership Dublin's flagship project. Volunteers are needed to go to various sites throughout Dublin including schools, places of worship, non-profit organizations and the homes of our senior citizens to clear out brush, rake, clean debris, and plant spring plants. Contact Jan Walton Rozanski at 614-761-0694 or leadershipdublin@yahoo.com.

Keepin' it Green throughout May, June, July and August with more...water quality projects, bluebird box maintenance, bicycle recycling and more, so stay tuned!