



# EcoCity CLEVELAND

IDEAS AND TOOLS FOR A SUSTAINABLE BIOREGION

\$4

*Double Issue*

Volume 5, Numbers 8/9 Spring 1998

Editor/writer: David Beach

## **Inside**

Church in the City  
hosts national symposium



First Suburbs begin  
statewide organizing



Naming where we live:  
Our latest list of bioregional names



Historic preservation means  
preserving the soul of communities



Paying for stormwater runoff?



Bioregional calendar and more!



## **Good words**

Out here in the heart of the country  
we've rationalized every inch of earth—all  
the straight lines of highway and  
farm and township—  
but mystery and wildness still lie waiting  
deep inside every particle of the world,  
waiting to whirl or crack or ooze  
into our ordered lives,  
whether or not we're prepared for it.

—Susan Neville, *Indiana Winter*

For those who do not know  
the world is on fire,  
I have nothing to say.

—Bertold Brecht

# GLACIAL LEGACIES

Ancient evidence: Glacial grooves in the rocks of Kelleys Island.

**Mountains of ice shaped  
the bioregion of Northeast Ohio,  
and the impacts on land, water and plant  
communities linger today**

See pages 4-10

# Naming the land

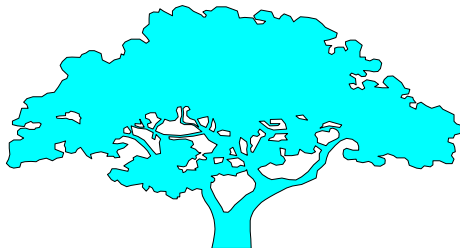
The naming of something is a sacred act. A name confers meaning and power. It separates out something from the blinding confusion of the world and makes it special in human eyes. That is why we should think carefully about what we call our home. As we define our home territory, we develop a unique sense of place and learn how to live in that place.

Over the years we have invited EcoCity Cleveland members to make up names for their home territory—their bioregion. The list of names keeps growing, and we print a current selection on page 3 of this issue. The names tell important stories about what is special in Northeast Ohio. They are the beginnings of our own bioregional mythology.

## New board members

EcoCity Cleveland is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to our Board of Trustees, Judy Rawson and Richard Shatten.

Judy is a Shaker Heights Councilwoman and a member of the executive committee of the First Suburbs Consortium. She also has served as chair of the Joint Committee on Doan Brook Watershed. Richard is Professor for the Practice of Public Policy and Management at the Weatherhead School of Management of Case Western Reserve University and interim director of CWRU's Center for Regional Economic Issues (REI). He formerly was the director of Cleveland Tomorrow and the Mandel Philanthropic Program.



Both Judy and Richard bring valuable experience to our board, as well as a commitment to helping our organization promote a vision of sustainable cities.

## Thanks to donors

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to our successful year-end fundraising solicitation (see the list on page 24). We know our members hate to see paper and trees consumed by junk mail, so we limit our direct-mail fundraising to one simple letter a year. We appreciate members' response to this mailing. Donations from individuals give us a core of flexible operating funds that help leverage additional funds from foundations and other sources.

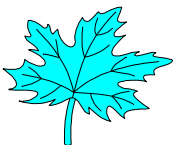
## Our new book

It's taken a long time, but our environmental guidebook is now back from the printer. It's called *The Greater Cleveland Environment Book: Caring for Home and Bioregion*, and it will soon be available in bookstores and local nature centers.

We are extremely proud of this book. It will be an enduring resource for the local environmental movement—an introduction for the environmental novice, a reference for serious activists, a personal invitation to explore the bioregion, and an inspirational guide for everyone who cares about the future of Northeast Ohio. Moreover, at \$14.95 for a 340-page trade paperback, it's a great value!

See page 25 of this issue for more information about ordering your copies directly from EcoCity Cleveland. All proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit our nonprofit programs.

—David Beach  
Editor



## Mission

EcoCity Cleveland is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, educational organization. Through the publication of the *EcoCity Cleveland Journal* and other programs, it will stimulate ecological thinking about the Northeast Ohio region (Cuyahoga Bioregion), nurture an EcoCity Network among local groups working on urban and environmental issues, and promote sustainable ways to meet basic human needs for food, shelter, productive work and stable communities.

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Articles in *EcoCity Cleveland* do not necessarily reflect the views of board members, although there's a good chance they do.

■  
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Published monthly, except for occasional double issues. Unless otherwise noted, all articles and photographs are by David Beach. Submissions from others are welcome, but please call first. We cannot be responsible for unsolicited materials.

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Supported by operating grants from the George Gund and Nord Family foundations, subscriptions and individual donations.

Printed at Orange Blossom Press in Cleveland on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper using soy-based inks.

ISSN 1084-0885

# Naming where we are

Five years ago, we began our first issue of *EcoCity Cleveland* with the following words:

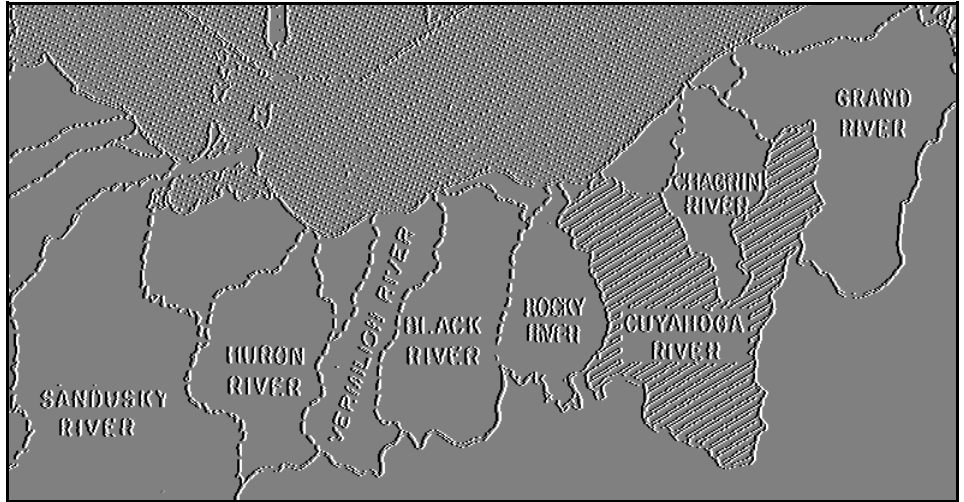
Start by erasing the artificial lines on the map. Block out all the human-drawn boundaries—city limits, county lines, census tracts, roads. Then look at what's left—the land, water, plants, wildlife, people—and think again about where you live. What is your home territory on the planet? What's your *bioregion*?

Since then, we have been asking subscribers to include their bioregional name on their subscription coupons. (We then put it on mailing labels so they actually get mail addressed to their bioregion.)

Periodically, we like to publish the list of these bioregional names. We think the names tell a lot about life in Northeast Ohio. Some of the names are serious; others are whimsical or sarcastic. Some define very small areas (the creek in the backyard); others names are expansive (the Great Lakes basin). But whatever the motivation, each name is a personal declaration of what's special about this place on the planet.

Here are some of our current favorites.

- 1870 Farm House w/ Condos Bioregion
- Akron Audubon Bioregion
- Allegheny Escarpment Bioregion
- Amish-Turf Bioregion
- Appalachia Bioregion
- Appalachian Escarpment
- Appalachian Foothills
- Appalachian Plateau Bioregion
- Asphalt Jungle Bioregion
- Asphalt-Forest Edge Bioregion
- At the Edge of Sprawl
- Beaver Creek Flood Plain
- Beech-Maple Forest Bioregion
- Belvoir Creek Watershed
- Big Creek Watershed
- Biosphere Bioregion
- Black River Watershed
- Black Swamp Bioregion
- Bluffs O'er the Mills Bioregion
- Broadway Neighborhood Bioregion
- Brown Squirrel Bioregion
- Buckeye & Lilac Bioregion
- Cain Park Ravine Bioregion
- Canesadooharie Bioregion
- Cedar-Lee Highlands
- Center of the Heights Bioregion
- Central Ohio Farm/Wilderness Area
- Chagrin River Bioregion
- Chagrin Valley Bioregion
- Chaotic Montrose Bioregion
- Clay 'n Weeds Bioregion
- Crooked River Bioregion
- Cultural Ignorance Bioregion



Places defined by water: Lake Erie watersheds of Northern Ohio.

- Cuyahoga Basin/Lake Erie Shores
- Cuyahoga Bioregion
- Cuyahoga Highrise Bioregion
- Cuyahoga River Watershed
- Cuyahoga/Black/Rocky Bioregion
- Cuyahoga/Euclid Creek Divide
- Cuyahoga/Lake Erie Bioregion
- Cuyahoga/N.E. Ohio Bioregion
- Cuyahoga/Tinkers Creek Divide
- Deciduous Arbors Bioregion
- Disturbed Area Bioregion
- Doan Brook Watershed
- Doan Brook/Cuyahoga Bioregion
- Downtown Bioregion
- Dugway Brook Watershed
- Eastern Arabica Bioregion
- Eastern Deciduous Bioregion
- Eastern Inner Ring - Cleveland Bioregion
- Eastern Temperate Postglacial Bioregion
- Ecological Crossroads Bioregion
- Ecological Literacy Bioregion
- EcoVillage Bioregion
- Edge of Rocky River Bioregion
- Edgewater/Cuyahoga Bioregion
- Erie Bioregion
- Erie Edge Bioregion
- Erie Shore Bioregion
- Erie Shores Bioregion
- Erie-Cuyahoga Bioregion
- Erie/Ontario Lake Plain
- Euclid Avenue Runoff Bioregion
- Euclid Creek Watershed
- Flat Lake Plain of Berea
- Flatlands of the West Bioregion
- Foothills of Appalachia Bioregion
- Forest Hill Watershed
- Fragmented Mesophytic Forest
- Free Cuyahoga Bioregion
- Fresh Water & Sunshine Bioregion
- Frontier of Sprawl Bioregion
- Geauga Highlands
- Geauga Maple Syrup Region
- Glacial Moraine Bioregion

- Glacial Potholes Bioregion
- Glaciated Great Lakes Plain
- Glaciated Plateau Bioregion
- Grand River Valley
- Grand-Chagrin Bioregion
- Grand/Erie Shores Bioregion
- Great Black Swamp Bioregion
- Great Lakes Basin
- Great Lakes Bioregion
- Great Lakes Watershed
- Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Bioregion
- Gull, Goose and Grebe Gathering Place
- Habitat Bioregion
- Hawthorn Heaven Bioregion
- Headwaters Bioregion
- Height's Edge Bioregion
- Hemlock Ravine Bioregion
- Hiram Lobe Bioregion
- Holden Arboretum Subregion
- Homo Sapien High Density Bioregion
- Hudson Bioregion
- Impermeable Bioregion
- Industrial-Cuyahoga River East
- Inner-Ring Burbs Bioregion
- Killbuck Watershed
- Lake Cliffs Bioregion
- Lake Effect Bioregion
- Lake Erie Basin
- Lake Erie Bioregion
- Lake Erie Central Temperate Bioregion
- Lake Erie Coast
- Lake Erie Lacustrine Plain
- Lake Erie South Shore
- Lake Erie Watershed
- Lake Erie/Ohio Bioregion
- Lake Erie/Our Gift Bioregion
- Lake Kelso Lowlands
- Lake Plain Bioregion
- Lakelands Bioregion
- Lakeshore Bikeway Bioregion
- Lakeshore Bioregion
- Lakeview Bioregion

*Continued on page 10*

# Glacial legacies

The bioregion of Northeast Ohio was shaped by mountains of ice, and the impacts on land, water and wetland plant communities linger today

By John Katko

North America's last episode of glaciation began about 2 million years ago when the earth's climate, for reasons not wholly understood (but having to do with its carbon-dioxide-oxygen cycle), cooled significantly. A vast amount of water was deposited by the planet's water cycle over the polar regions.

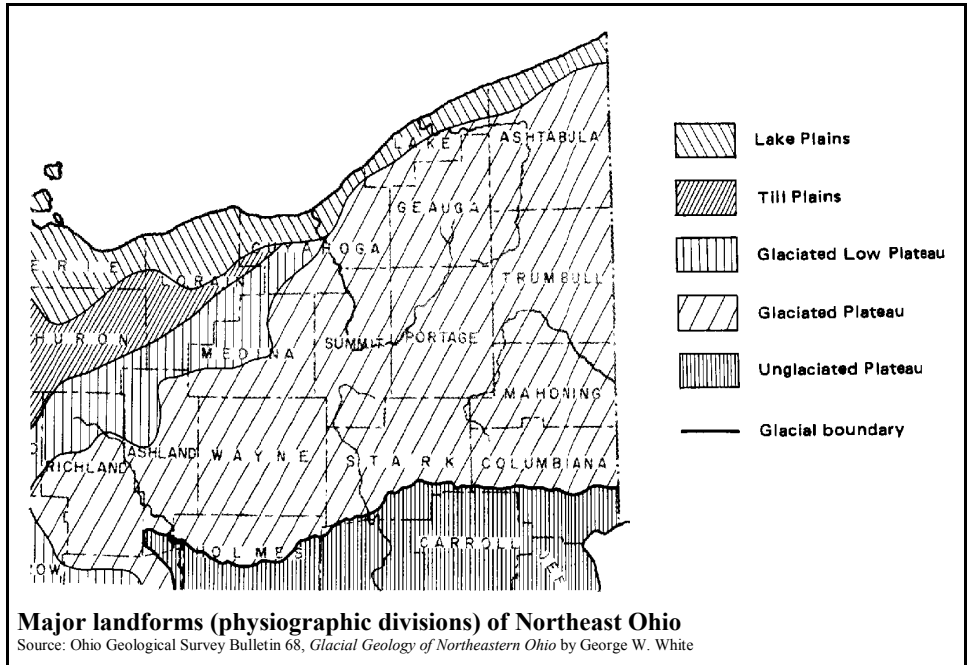
As the pile of snow accumulated to a thickness of about two miles at the center (somewhere over Greenland), the material packed itself into ice. While we think of ice as a solid material, given enough time and pressure it acts in a plastic manner—that is, it flows like a very thick, sluggish liquid.

## Ice bulldozer

This thick pile of ice thus flowed outward from its center and eventually reached latitudes as far south as Ohio. The outer edges of this mass of ice were thousands of feet thick, and melted away during the summers (with highs of perhaps 70 to 80° F. near the glacial borders). As it spread outward, rather like a very thick pancake batter will do as more and more is ladled onto the center, it bulldozed the ground, scraping and plucking up bedrock boulders and stones which became incorporated into the bottom of the ice and acted as the 'dozer blade. There was also a great deal of dirt and dust deposited upon the ice by wind, and this material may have eventually supported forests atop the glaciers, which in turn enriched the soil material with organic matter.

If the glacier was spreading out faster than it was melting at the edges, it was advancing. If it melted faster than it spread, it was in retreat. If the two processes happened at the same rate, the edge of the glacier would appear to stand still, but the leading edge would still be melting away and depositing anything from clay-sized particles to truck-sized boulders at its foot.

If the glacier retreated from such a situation, it would leave behind an end moraine. Retreating glaciers also left behind a more general bed of deposits called ground moraine. This material may have simply settled down onto the ground as the ice melted, or it may have been carried off or out of the glacier by



meltwater. These deposits tended to be sorted by the rate of water flow, and they formed ridges and bars called kames and eskers, which are often rich sources of sand and gravel.

The advancing glaciers often excavated new valleys and basins. Lake Erie, for example, is deeper in its eastern and central basins where the glaciers plowed through relatively soft shales and sandstones, and shallower in the western basin where the dolostones and limestones were more resistant. Other drainage valleys were filled in. Ohio's largest drainage system, the northwesterly-flowing Teays in central and southern Ohio, was largely obliterated by the glaciers.

## Three advances

There were three main glacial advances in Ohio. The first, called the Kansan (there is some evidence for an earlier Nebraskan advance, but it is of minor importance in Ohio glacial geology), began about 700,000 years ago, and its deposits are almost entirely buried by more recent advances. The Illinoian advance then began about 125,000 years ago, and again is mostly obliterated on the surface by material from the last advance, called the Wisconsinan.

The Wisconsinan ice sheet covered the

state twice—the first time about 70,000 years ago and the last time beginning about 25,000 years ago. It is this last advance that left most of the surface deposits that we see in Ohio today.

The advancing glaciers tended to flow around the Allegheny Plateau, which covers southeastern Ohio in a broad arc from just south of Ashtabula County through Morrow County and down to Adams County on the Ohio River. However, they did flow up on to the plateau in northeastern and central Ohio. Thus, there is a glaciated section of the Allegheny Plateau as well as an unglaciated section (see map above).

Ohio's unglaciated Allegheny Plateau, because of its hilly nature, has the fewest and most isolated wetlands in the state. Where the bedrock is sandstone, such as in the Hocking Hills area, most wetlands are within floodplains of the streams that dissect the hills. Other small wetlands, seldom reaching more than an acre in size, may occur where springs and seeps emerge from the rocky hillsides.

## Plants from the north

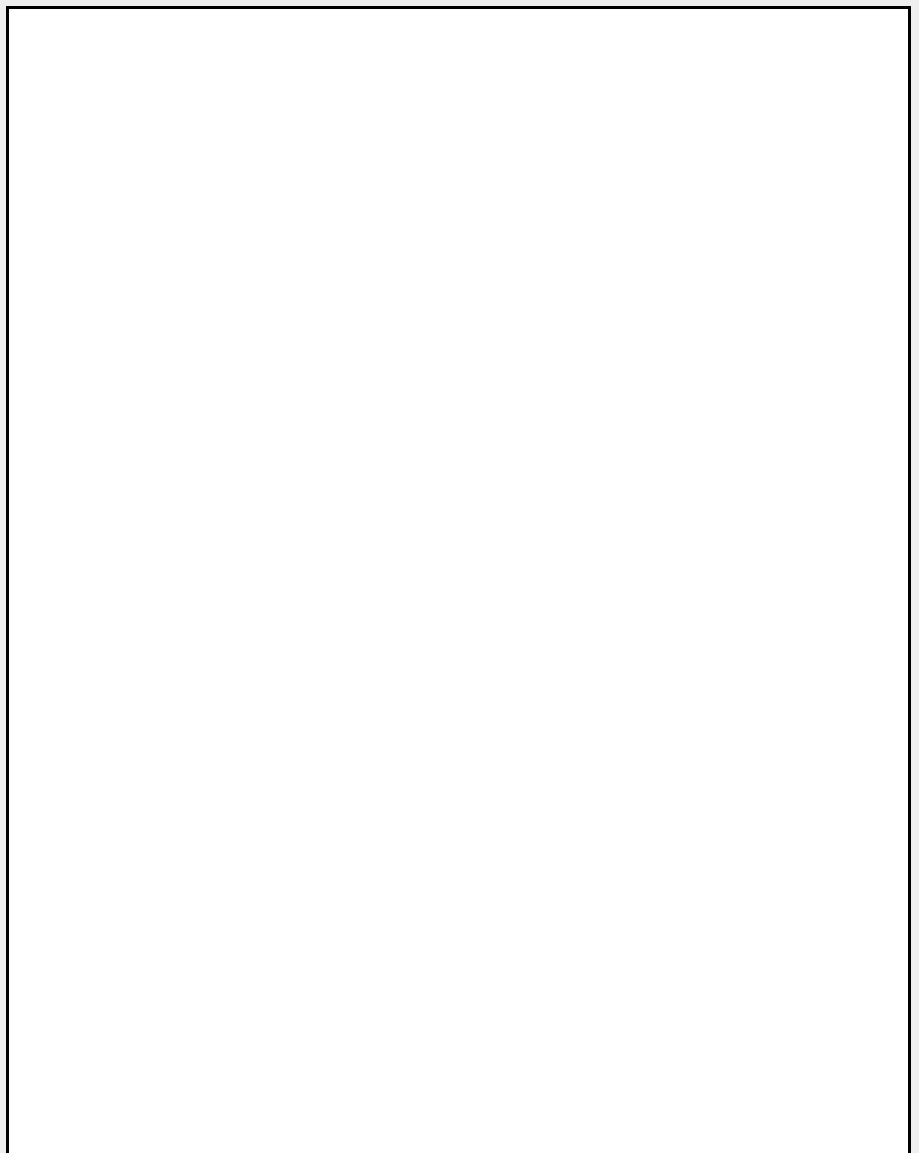
Another interesting thing about the wetlands of the unglaciated plateau is that their plant communities (as well as those of

the drier areas in this section of the state) are more closely derived from the ancient plant communities of the Smoky Mountains. Often referred to as Carolinian species (e.g., sweetgum, southern blackhaw, sweet buckeye, river birch, pignut hickory, Carolina willow, summer grape, redbud, wild hydrangea, blackjack and post oaks, pumpkin ash, persimmon), these plants were obliterated in northern Ohio by the glaciers. When the ice melted they were replaced by more northerly (boreal) and westerly species (e.g., speckled alder, leatherleaf, larch, mountain holly, nannyberry, gray birch, dune willow, shining willow, pin oak, swamp white oak, red-berried elderberry, cranberry, spiraeas, fox grape, basswood, arrowwood). These plants were brought in by the glaciation, both by seeds within the ice and by forests that actually sometimes established themselves atop the glacier.

Once the glaciers disappeared many of these newcomers were able to maintain a foothold within the landscapes and ecologies that were the legacies of the glaciers. An excellent example of such a situation is a habitat rare in Ohio called an Alvar, which is best seen on Kelleys Island where flat, porous limestone surfaces scraped bare by the glacial ice are very slow to allow soils to reform and woody vegetation to re-establish itself. Thus our plant communities of today are influenced not only by soil and bedrock chemistry, porosity, and composition, by light exposures, availability of water, and terrain features, but by the legacy of the glacial actions as well.

### **Bogs and fens**

The glaciated Allegheny Plateau in Ohio is quite rolling and is rich in end moraines and kames. Mostly underlain by shales, which are very slow to allow water to seep through, this area is rich in fens and “hydrologically isolated” bogs and marshes. Bogs are formed when blocks of ice become separated from receding glaciers and leave a depression when, after being surrounded by the material from glacial outwash, they melt. Fens form when water seeps out of material that contains “calcareous” material like limestone, which turns the water alkaline. The sorted material in the kames of this area often contains much calcareous material carried down from Canada by the glaciers, and so we have the fens of the Portage Lakes area, Herrick Fen, etc. There are also many marshes and small lakes in this area that are surrounded by marshy areas. This section of the state also has some of the largest inland wetland areas, Killbuck Marsh and the Funk Bottoms, both of which are formed along stream valleys and kames. The broad area of



**Flow and ebb: Landscape during maximum advance and after retreat of ice.**

### **Glacial deposits**

Glacial ice sheets left behind glacial drift, consisting of boulders, rock fragments, and dirt that had been gouged and scraped from the landscapes across which the ice moved. Drift deposits are classified according to their origin:

- Till: Glacial sediment composed of unsorted boulders, dirt and rock fragments deposited directly by ice.
- Ground moraine: A blanket of till of fairly uniform thickness that covers bedrock or older sediments, most often deposited when glaciers are melting.
- End moraine: A hummocky linear ridge of till deposited along a stationary ice edge.
- Kames: Hummocky mounds of stratified sand and gravel deposited by meltwater flowing across the ice and pouring its sediment load into holes and crevasses along the ice margin.
- Eskers: Linear or sinuous ridges of sand and gravel formed in channels or tunnels on, within, or beneath the ice.

Glacial moraines commonly contain large boulders, some bigger than cars, that were carried by the ice from as far away as Canada. These boulders, called erratics, are a familiar sight in the glaciated portion of Ohio.

—Adapted from "Ohio's Glaciers," Ohio Geological Survey Educational Leaflet No. 7

southwestern Ohio (and the extreme northwest corner) is called the Till Plains section. Most of this area is underlain by dolomite, which is similar to limestone but is composed of magnesium carbonate instead of calcium carbonate. Once fairly swampy (with much pin oak) and marshy with both dry and wet prairie, this rather level region has been mostly drained for agriculture and grazing. Most of its wetlands are now gone.

### **After the retreat**

The last advance of the Wisconsin glacier began to end about 14,000 years ago, and the glacier was gone from the Great Lakes region by about 9,500 years ago. It was during this time that Lake Erie was formed. As the glacier retreated, the water that ponded at its base at first covered an area that extended well to the southwest of the Lake's present shores, as far as Paulding and Van Wert Counties on the Indiana border. At first, Lake Erie drained to the southwest into the Mississippi drainage, but as the glacier retreated and uncovered other avenues of drainage (including, finally, the Niagara escarpment), the outlines and flow direction of the forming lake changed. This change was not always gradual; the forming lake went through a series of temporarily stable stages, which have been named Lakes Maumee, Whittlesey, Arkona, Warren, Grassmere, and Lundy, all of which left behind sandy beach ridges in places (see map on page 28).

By far the most wetland-rich region in Ohio is within the area once covered by ancient Lake Erie (Maumee etc.). This region of the state, called the Lake Plains section, is quite flat, has poorly drained silty or clayey soils at its surface (formed when under water), and is underlain by poorly-drained shales and by dolostones. These wetlands tend to be extensive, especially the Great Black Swamp, which once covered about 900,000 acres in northwest Ohio. Today, after decades of drainage for agriculture, practically nothing of this huge wetland is left. Inland the

Black Swamp was a mosaic of marshlands within mostly swamp forests. Along the coastline were vast emergent marshlands that were a vital part of the Lake Erie ecosystem. There were also vast marshlands within and along Sandusky and Muddy Creek Bays. Besides providing fabulous habitat and feeding grounds for amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, this was prime breeding and nursery habitat for many of Lake Erie's fish species. The disappearance of these wetlands has had a profound negative impact on the fisheries of the lake.

### **Coastal marshes**

The reason these coastal marshes were (and still are) most extensive off of the southern coast of western Lake Erie has much to do with the lay of the land along the lake. When the glaciers dug out the lake bed, they did so most shallowly across the harder dolostones exposed in the western part of Ohio. Thus there is very little gradient at the shoreline there.

An important feature of these coastal marshes were the sand bars that lay close to shore. These reefs were composed of the larger-sized sand particles that the waves eroded out of the bedrock or till material that lay along the coastline and dragged out into the lake. Because waves rarely hit the shore head-on but usually approach at an angle, this eroded material is moved by wave action to the east or west, depending on the angle of the shoreline and the prevailing direction of winds, especially during storms. This is called long-shore or littoral drift. Most of the material dragged out into the lake is composed of clay-sized particles and is washed far away, but the heavier sandy material falls out to the bottom fairly quickly, forming the sand bars that are so important in shielding the coastal marshes of the western basin from the force of waves off the lake by absorbing their energy and causing them to break before they reach the fragile vegetation (cattails, water lilies, sedges, reeds, etc.).

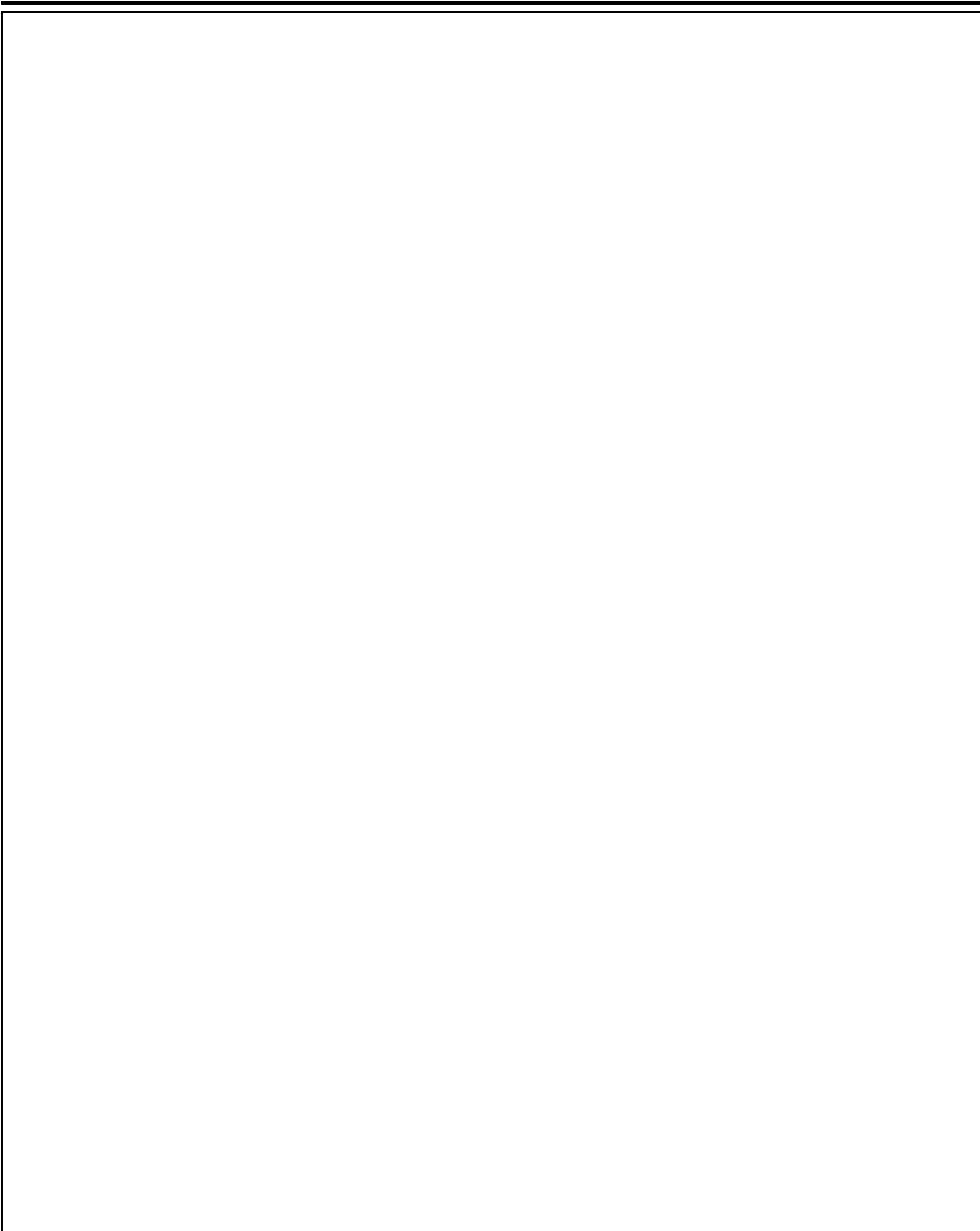
***Lake Erie is deeper in its eastern and central basins where the glaciers plowed through relatively soft shales and sandstones, and shallower in the western basin where the dolostones and***

It is important for the lake to have access to sand-sized particles in order to form these sandy reefs. When most of the shoreline of the central and western basins was diked off or riprapped with big limestone blocks, this source of sandy drift material was denied. Now, big storms have broached the near-shore reefs, and the coastal marshlands of such places as Metzger Marsh and Sandusky Bay are exposed to the full fury of the lake. These areas have either become big mud flats (e.g. Sandusky Bay and much of Metzger Marsh) or must be protected from lake energy by dikes (e.g. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and the planned rehabilitation of Metzger Marsh).

In contrast, along the more easterly shoreline of Lake Erie in Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, and Ashtabula counties, there is usually a shale bluff or cliff from five to 80 feet tall along the shore. This precludes the development of extensive coastal marshes except where rivers emptying into the lake have cut through the coastal ramparts and have supported the development of estuarine-type marshlands within broad, flat stream valleys. Most of these estuaries have been eradicated by urban and industrial development. The best surviving examples are Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Preserve and Mentor Marsh.

Also largely gone are inland wetlands within the Lake Plains section in Erie and Lorain Counties. These formerly extensive marshes and wet forests lay between the sandy beach ridges left by early Lake Erie stages. Most have been turned into residential and commercial developments. Lake Plain swamp forests are now one of the most threatened habitats in Northeast Ohio. □

*John Katko is president of Friends of Wetlands, an advocacy group based in Lorain County. For more information, write to PO Box 2016, Elyria, OH 44036, or call 440-324-7522.*



**Landforms of Northeast Ohio, showing limit of glaciation, moraines, and unglaciated Allegheny Plateau.**

Source: Detail from "Landforms of Ohio" map by James A. Bier, published by Ohio Division of Geological Survey

# Bedrock and glaciers

By Joe Hannibal

The shape of our present landscape is based on events that happened long ago. Our shale cliffs are made of muds that were laid down at the bottom of the sea when this area was a tropical water world. Our sandy ridges are the result of glacial ice and prehistoric lakes. And present-day geological processes continue to sculpt our bioregion.

Our surface and subsurface rocks have been exploited for various products including water, sandstone, natural gas and salt. Upper layers of this rock are exposed in places, providing much valued scenic outcrops. The greatest treasures found in these rocks, however, are their fossils. These fossils, together with analysis of the rock layers themselves, provide us with an increasingly detailed picture of ancient seas and landscapes. This rock sequence preserves a record of vastly different environments from those of today.

## Foundation rock

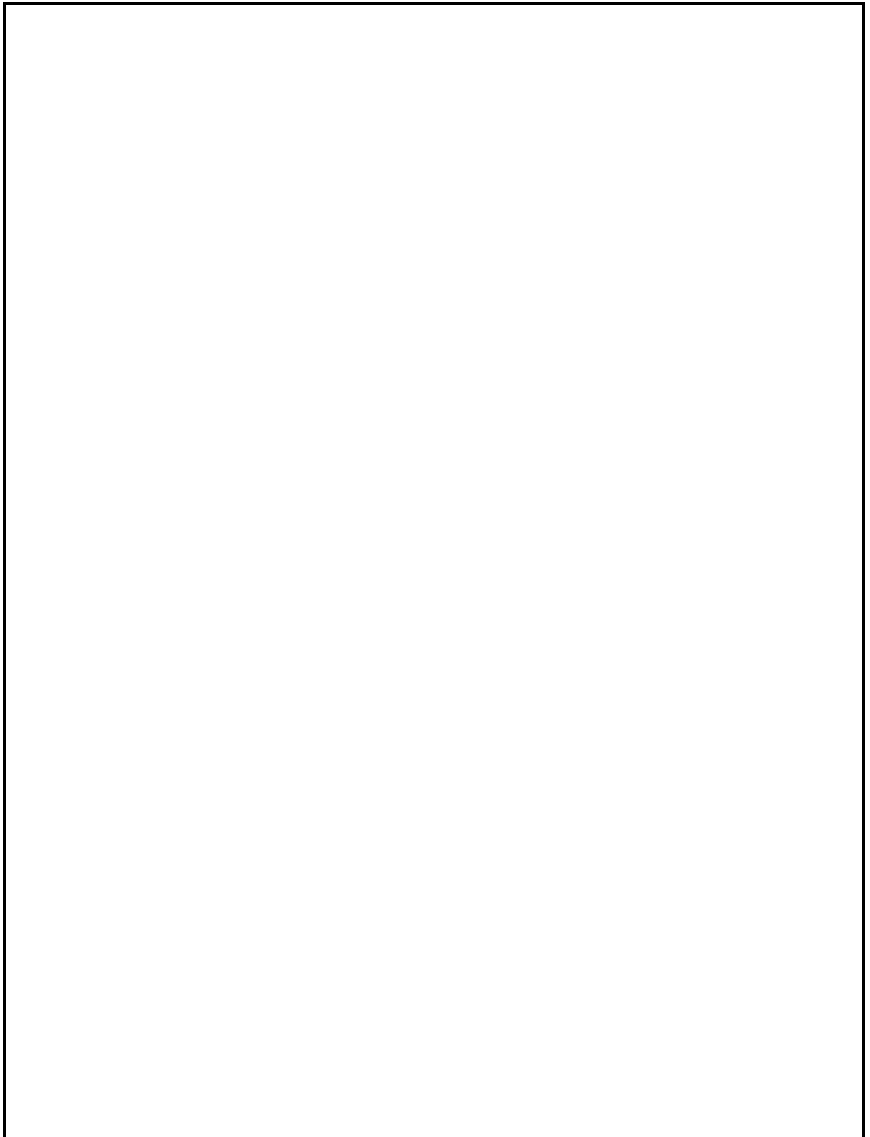
The foundation of our bioregion consists of a thick sequence of sedimentary rock laid down between 540 and 300 million years ago. These sandstones, shales and limestones lie upon "basement" rocks of even greater antiquity. The basement rocks—granites, gneisses, and related rocks—record the eroded and metamorphosed roots of a mountainous and hilly terrain. A continental suture and a rift basin are preserved in very ancient (Precambrian to Cambrian) deep rocks just to the west of us. Most of the overlying sedimentary rocks represent vast incursions of seas onto the continent and accompanying nearshore deposits. There are 6,000 to 7,000 feet of sedimentary rock—shales, sandstones, and related rocks—below us. These rocks occur in layers that are usually flat and sheetlike.

The most fascinating of these rock layers are the Upper Devonian (360 million-year-old) shales and sandstones that are exposed along streams and roadcuts across the northern part of the bioregion. These rocks contain remains of ancient fish, crustaceans, and plants, some of which resemble modern forms, others of which are quite different. These organisms lived on or offshore of a shallow, continental sea that laid on the flank of a great land mass called the Old Red Sandstone Continent. Today's shales are compacted sea-bottom muds that formed offshore of this land mass; our sandstones formed as nearshore sand bodies.

## Younger rocks

Since the rocks of our region are distributed in a more-or-less classic layer cake fashion, younger rock layers are found above the older layers. At higher elevations somewhat younger rocks can be found. These date to the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian Periods. These rocks represent fluctuating sea levels.

The Sharon Conglomerate, a pebbly sandstone, which tops our local sequence of bedrock, is a river deposit. The rivers were a type



**Bedrock exposed: Streams flowing from the Portage Escarpment to the Lake Plain, such as Doan Brook, cut through the layers of sandstone and shale. This cliff of Berea sandstone is near Roxboro Road in Cleveland Heights.**

known as "braided," very wide and very shallow (one of those "foot deep and a mile wide" rivers), replete with intertwining streamlets. The pebbles—almost all made of quartz from Canada—are known as lucky stones. On the north line of the outcrop of Sharon Conglomerate there are disjunct outliers of conglomerate. These outliers form hills, such as the hills along Interstate 480 in Twinsburg. The most famous outliers are the "knobs" of Lake and Geauga counties.

## Rivers and lakes

During and after the time of the dinosaurs (the Mesozoic Era), our area was a highland. Since highland areas tend not to accumulate sediment that becomes rock, there are no rocks in our area dating to the time of the dinosaurs or thereafter. Erosion—not deposition—of



sediments, was the dominant force during these later times.

Long after the demise of the dinosaurs, large river systems ran through our area. Most were connected to a river that ran along what is now the long axis of Lake Erie. Then, between 2 million years ago and about 10,000 years ago, came the ice. It is this glacial ice that determined the final shaping of the landscape as we know it today. The glaciers carved out and enlarged previous river valleys, and covered most everything with dirt, sand and a sprinkling of exotic, Canadian boulders. Then they melted back to form a series of lakes roughly where the Great Lakes are today.

Several former "Lake Eries," having different configurations, formed in the waning stages of the Ice Age. Some of these lakes covered what is now the northern part of our bioregion. This area is now known as the Lake Plain. The Lake Plain is a relatively narrow band running roughly east-west. The rest of our bioregion is an upland area known as the Allegheny Plateau. The Allegheny Plateau is a broad plateau leading into western Pennsylvania and, eventually, into the Appalachian Mountains themselves (though the hills of the plateau are hardly the "foothills of the Appalachians" as some have dubbed them).

### **The escarpment**

The steep area that connects the Lake Plain and the Allegheny Plateau is called the Portage Escarpment. It is best developed to the east of Cleveland. (It's why the Heights are the heights.) You can see the escarpment while driving east along Interstate 90, or you can drive up it at places like the base of Cedar Road. But, better yet, look down the escarpment onto the Lake Plain from the overlook of Garfield Memorial in Lake View Cemetery, along the Cleveland-Cleveland Heights border.

Some of our best rock outcrops are on the

escarpment. Because of the lush greenery of our bioregion, the rocks are chiefly exposed along roadcuts and streambeds. Increasingly, roadcuts are being covered over, and streambeds are being culverted (a process that might be termed sewerification). So the best rock exposures are along the larger streams (too big to transmogrify into a sewer) and along any stream that traverses the escarpment. For it is along the escarpment that the stream gradient is high, water moves faster, and erosion occurs more quickly.

### **Valleys and ridges**

During the Ice Age, prehistoric river valleys were cut into the bedrock here and there—only to be filled by the next glacial advance or retreat. Present rivers sometimes run along the same or nearly the same paths—but not always the direction—as these prehistoric rivers. Although the prehistoric valleys are filled in, they are still of great importance. They are sources of well water for some communities. And tall buildings built over the great prehistoric pre-Cuyahoga river valley in downtown Cleveland must make accommodations for the 200 feet of relatively soft glacial sediment that they are perched upon.

Prehistoric beach ridges are among the most prominent features of the Lake Plain. These sandy ridges formed along the shores of previous high levels of the predecessors to Lake Erie between 35,000 and 12,000 years ago. Several prominent east-west roads now run along these ridges. Sometimes the road names reflect this. Center Ridge Road, for example, runs on Middle Ridge. These beach ridges drop off on both sides, however, so they may not have been beaches in the strict sense, but most were surely nearshore sand bodies, often developed on top of terraces. The ridges, being sand bodies, are well drained, making good places for trails, roads and farm houses.

## **Geological sights**

The best places to see bedrock are in our region's Metropark systems. Places along the Grand River in the Lake Metroparks, for instance, contain beautiful outcrops of the Devonian Chagrin Shale.

Our Devonian rock sequence (the Chagrin Shale through the Berea Sandstone) is exposed in the Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation along Chippewa Creek (helps to be a hiker), along Euclid Creek in the Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation (very accessible), along Penitentiary Glen in Lake Metroparks Penitentiary Glen (access during organized tours only), and in Stebbins Gulch in Holden Arboretum (access during organized tours only). Some of these same layers also can be seen along the Vermilion River in the Lorain County Metro Parks.

The most accessible location to view Mississippian and Pennsylvanian rocks, including the Sharon Conglomerate, is in Summit Metro Parks Gorge Park along the Cuyahoga River. In addition, the Sharon Conglomerate can be seen almost any place that has the word "ledges" in its title, including Thompson Ledges near Thompson, Whipps Ledges in Hinckley, Nelson-Kennedy Ledges in Portage County, and the Boston and Ritchie ledges in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

Accessible places to observe ongoing shoreline processes include Edgewater Park, which is part of Cleveland Lakefront State Park, Huntington Reservation in Bay Village, and Mentor Headlands Beach State Park in Lake County.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has up-to-date exhibits on local geology. The Rocky River Nature Center of the Cleveland Metroparks and the French Creek Nature Center of the Lorain County Metro Parks have exhibits on the geology of their respective parks.



**Sandstone layers revealed by Doan Brook cutting down from the Heights.**

## Glacial remains

Up on the plateau, the major features are glacial end moraines (broad, hummocky ridges composed of sand and other debris laid down at former ice margins) and some glacial lakes. Geauga Lake, Chippewa Lake, and Twin Lakes in Kent are among these. These bodies of water were probably formed when a huge chunk of ice was surrounded by sediment as the glaciers retreated. When the ice melted, a hole—now a lake—was left behind. Many more, smaller, ice age lakes have filled in with peat.

Our soils are derived from rocks and glacial materials. Sandy soils are often developed over prehistoric beaches and sandbars. Lake bottom clays and soils developed over shales are clayey. So drainage—and farming—has a lot to do with underlying rock and glacial material (of course, all gardeners know this).

As our cities and suburbs have expanded, development of farmland and steep-sided areas has caused problems. Housing has been built on soils not especially suitable for development. Soils underlain by shales are often wet and clayey and have high water tables.

## Constant change

Geological processes are still transforming our area. Most noticeable is the erosion along the Lake Erie shore. While the shores are generally receding along most of the lake, the greatest amount of erosion is along shoreline sections composed of glacial sediment. Shores lined with bedrock erode much more slowly. Beaches afford some protection. Artificial structures can also provide protection in the short run, but they may accelerate erosion in neighboring areas. □

*Joe Hannibal is curator of invertebrate paleontology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.*

## Geology resources

- Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Drive, Cleveland, OH 44106 (216-231-4600). The museum's Science Resource Center provides loans of kits related to geological, biological, and environmental topics for teachers. The Cleveland Geological Society, a venerable geological group, is affiliated with the museum.
- *Glacial Geology of Northeastern Ohio* by George W. White, Ohio Division of Geological Survey Bulletin 68, 1982.
- *Guide to the Geology of Northeast Ohio* edited by P.O. Banks and R.M. Feldmann, Northern Ohio Geological Society, 1970 (out-of-print, but available in good libraries).
- *Living with the Lake Erie Shore* by C.H. Carter, et al., Duke University Press, 1987.
- *A Natural History of Lake County* edited by R. Szubski, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1993.
- Ohio Division of Geological Survey, 4383 Fountain Square Dr., Columbus, OH 43224 (614-265-6576). Publishes a variety of maps, bulletins, guidebooks and other works on all aspects of Ohio's geology.
- Soil surveys of local counties, available through Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

*Continued from page 3*

Lakewood Bioregion  
Land O' Lake and Wetlands  
Land of the Eternal Gray Skies  
Lawn Chemical Region  
Lip of the Appalachian Plateau  
Little Creek/Big Creek/Cuyahoga River  
Little Cuyahoga Valley  
LTV's Shadow  
Mahoning Bioregion  
Mahoning Valley Bioregion  
Medina County Bioregion  
Mentor Mall Sprawl Bioregion  
Mentor Marsh Bioregion  
Mentor/Lake/Northeast Ohio Bioregion  
Mid-Cuyahoga River Bioregion  
Middle Cuyahoga Bioregion  
Midwest Plains Bioregion  
Mill Creek Watershed  
Mismanaged NE Ohio Bioregion  
Mohican Deer-Turkey-Mushroom Bioregion  
Mountains Meet the Plains Bioregion  
My Organic & Wild Base Camp Bioregion  
Near West Lakeshore Bioregion  
Near West Side Bioregion  
Next To The Brooklyn Landfill  
Nine-Mile Creek Bioregion  
North Central Till Plain Eco-region  
North Coast Bioregion  
North Coast Forest City Bioregion  
North End of Appalachian Plateau  
Northeast Ohio Bioregion  
Norway Maple/Honey Locust/Yew Bioregion  
NW Ohio Black Swamp Turf Bioregion  
Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor  
Ohio & Erie Heritage Corridor Ohio Bioregion  
Ohio Canal Corridor Bioregion  
Ohio-Erie Summit  
Old Field Community Bioregion  
Old Shoreline Bioregion  
On the Banks of an Urban Stream  
On the Banks of the Black River Organic Bioregion  
Parking Lot Drainage Basin  
Pesticide-Free Bioregion  
Planet Earth Bioregion  
Plum Creek Watershed  
Pollutionville Bioregion  
Portage County Bioregion  
Portage Escarpment Bioregion  
Portage Lakes Bioregion  
Porter Creek Watershed  
Post-Blast Furnace Bioregion  
Post-Glacial Clay Patch Bioregion  
Precious and Limited Bioregion  
Proliferative Building Bioregion  
Realtor Bioregion  
Recovering Rubber City Bioregion  
Reforesting Farmlands Bioregion  
Rehabilitated Ex-Farm Bioregion  
Rock & Roll Region  
Rocky River Bioregion  
Rocky River Bluff Region  
Rocky River Cliffs Bioregion  
Rocky River Shores Bioregion  
Rocky River Watershed  
Scenic Rivers Bioregion  
Semi-Urban Suburb Bioregion  
Severance Asphalt Bioregion  
Shaker Lakes Bioregion  
Silver Creek Watershed  
Skyscraper Bioregion  
Slimy Salamander Sanctuary  
Snow Belt Bioregion  
South Erie Shore Bioregion  
South Lake Erie Bioregion  
South of Lorain Bioregion  
South Shore Basin Bioregion  
Southeastern Erie Bioregion  
Southern Cusp of the Metroparks  
Sprawlopa Bioregion  
Squirrel/Sparrow Urban Bioregion  
Start of the Appalachian Plateau  
Still Farm Country Bioregion  
Sub-Great Lakes Bioregion  
Suburban Forest Bioregion  
Suburban Sprawl Bioregion  
Tamarak Bioregion  
Temperate Rainforest Bioregion  
The Bog Bioregion  
The Burbs Bioregion  
The City Bioregion  
The Sprawl Frontier  
The Sprawling Edge Bioregion  
Three Rivers Headwaters  
Tinkers Creek Gorge Highlands  
Tinkers Creek Watershed  
Transit Friendly Bioregion  
Tree-Planting City  
Trumbull-Mahoning Bioregion  
Turtle Island Bioregion  
University Circle Bioregion  
Unrealized Potential Bioregion  
Upper Cuyahoga Bioregion  
Urban Bioregion  
Urban Jungle Bioregion  
Urban Lakeshore Bioregion  
Urban Near West Side Bioregion  
Urban Oasis Bioregion  
Urban Wilds Bioregion  
Urban-Cement Bioregion  
Urban/Rural Symbiot Zone  
Walworth Run Bioregion  
Was a Cornfield Russia Twp Bioregion  
Wayne-Ashland-Medina Bioregion  
West of the Wasteland Bioregion  
Western Reserve Biodiversity  
Westshore/River Bioregion  
Wetlands Bioregion  
White Picket Fence Suburbia  
Woody Plants of the Western

# Polluted runoff

## Regional Sewer District studies stormwater authority

When it rains, it pollutes. That unfortunate concept is driving more and more thinking about water quality these days.

The first generation of water quality regulations from the 1970s created permitting systems to control the gross pollution from "point sources," such as industrial discharge pipes and municipal sewage treatment plants. Now, environmental regulators and organizations are turning their attention to the myriad of "nonpoint sources" of pollution—such as the ways that pollutants wash off the land when it rains—as the major source of water quality problems.

The U.S. EPA, for example, is in the process of issuing stricter regulations on stormwater that will clamp down on small municipalities and construction sites. Currently, in much of Northeast Ohio the storm sewers (separate from sanitary sewers) that convey rainwater from rooftops, roads and parking lots directly into local

streams are unregulated. Construction sites under five acres in size are also unregulated, even though the erosion from these sites can produce large amounts of sediment pollution.

### Permits for parking lots?

The new regulations will require cities to adopt management practices, such as better street sweeping, public education programs on limiting use of lawn chemicals, or erosion control ordinances. Reductions in runoff also might be achieved with better land use management, such as programs to reduce sprawl development and protect wetlands and natural areas.

In anticipation of these new rules, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

is conducting a regional stormwater drainage study. The sewer district, which serves much of Cuyahoga County and small portions of adjacent counties, will document stormwater quantity and quality in the various watersheds of the region, compile information on flooding problems, survey the habitat quality of local streams, and review the existing stormwater ordinances of local communities.

The study could result in plans to build inter-community storm sewers to reduce flooding, and it could lead to the formation of a regional stormwater/watershed authority. The latter could take a more comprehensive approach to improving the conditions of local streams, but it would require new sources of funding.

A potential funding mechanism would be fees on water runoff from properties. If a shopping mall parking lot generates massive amounts of polluted runoff, then the mall owners might pay to help reduce the

impacts downstream, just like water users pay for the amount of sanitary sewage they produce. High fees might prompt land owners to design facilities with less pavement and more green space to retain water on the site. Communities might build fewer roads and enhance wetlands that absorb and purify stormwater.

Such approaches take a more holistic approach to water quality. They recognize that clean water depends a great deal on how we treat the land. □

*For more information about the sewer district's stormwater study, call Frank Greenland at 216-881-6600.*

***If a shopping mall parking lot generates massive amounts of polluted runoff, then the mall owners might pay to help reduce the impacts downstream—or design facilities with less pavement and more green space to retain***



## Stream restoration workshops

The latest bioengineering techniques for stream restoration will be the

topic of a series of workshops sponsored by the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency. Workshops include stream assessment and field measurement techniques on June 25-26, stream restoration design and bioengineering technique review on July 22-24, and stream restoration follow-up field sessions at later dates. For registration information, call 216-524-6580.

Bioengineering involves the use of living plant materials, such as willows, to stabilize stream banks, prevent erosion and restore natural habitat. It contrasts with conventional engineering methods, which use concrete and stone walls to channelize streams.

## Stream stewardship awards

The Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) presented 1997 Stream Stewardship awards to the following dedicated volunteers:

- Frank Barnett, for being active in the RAP's speakers' bureau and community events.
- Sue Clay, for making the Cuyahoga River a focal point for her science classes and coordinating storm drain stenciling projects.
- Cindy Frischkorn, for forming an environmental club for neighborhood children.
- Dave Vasarhelyi, for founding the West Creek Preservation Committee and working to create a recreational greenway linking to the Cuyahoga River.

## Great Lakes challenge

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the landmark 1972 commitment by the United States and Canada to protect the lakes and human health, is under review this year. Citizens groups fear that government cutbacks and weaker environmental regulations will mean a more polluted future for the Great Lakes Basin.

To push for stronger pollution prevention programs, Great Lakes United (GLU) is organizing a series of citizen hearings around the basin. The closest hearings to Cleveland are planned for July 7 in Detroit and October 6 in Buffalo. For information, call GLU at 716-886-0142.

# Calling for regional stewardship

We are one metropolitan society: Cleveland Bishop Anthony Pilla addresses the Church in the City Symposium in April.

*The week of April 20 raised the issue of urban sprawl in Northeast Ohio to new heights. On Monday of that week, about 1,400 people attended the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's national symposium on The Church in the City. And on Friday, elected officials from Ohio's inner-ring suburbs gathered at a day-long forum to begin organizing a statewide response to the policies that promote sprawl at the expense of older communities. Stories on these two historic events follow on pages 12-*

## Church in the City Symposium

In 1993, Cleveland Catholic Bishop Anthony Pilla issued a pastoral letter that outlined a new vision for Northeast Ohio and the nation. That vision, *The Church in the City*, argued that it is morally wrong for public policies and personal choices to abandon old cities and poor people in favor of sprawling new development at the edges of metropolitan areas.

Since then, the bishop's message has helped turn an academic discussion about regional development patterns into a vital public debate in Northeast Ohio. He has touched on some region's most troubling issues—from racism and housing discrimination, to alienation and lack of community.

To reflect on the fifth anniversary of *Church in the City*—as well as the 150th anniversary of the Cleveland Diocese—the diocese sponsored a national symposium on April 20 at the Temple in

University Circle. The symposium attracted about 1,400 people and was broadcast live on Cleveland's public radio station, WCPN 90.3-FM. It provided an opportunity to discuss the accomplishments of *Church in the City* and engage a wider audience with the issues of sprawl and outmigration.

"The bishop is a gutsy guy," joked symposium moderator Kenneth Woodward, senior writer and religion editor of *Newsweek* magazine. "He's trying to bring together suburbs and cities, blacks and whites, Hispanics and Anglos, business and labor, Christians and Jews and Muslims—in a diocese where you can't even get St. Ignatius grads to talk to St. Joe grads."

The Cleveland Diocese exerts a tremendous influence on Northeast Ohio. It includes a Catholic population of nearly 1 million in eight counties, making it the eleventh largest diocese in

the United States. In addition, it runs the second largest school system in the state and is one of the largest land owners and employers in the region.

The diocese has attempted to ingrain the *Church in the City* message into its programs in a number of ways. In the religious community, it has fostered new partnerships to link city and suburban parishes, schools, and human service organizations. In the public realm, the diocese has acted as a convener and catalyst for discussions about the socio-economic realities that divide the region. For example, it has initiated projects to build affordable housing throughout the region, redevelop urban brownfield sites, and promote regional planning for environmental quality.

### **Calls for action**

A diverse group of symposium panelists applauded the *Church in the City* vision. David Cornicelli of Seventh Generation emphasized that urban redevelopment must be rooted in communities, a sense of place, and the natural world. Marc Stefanski, chief executive officer of Third Federal Savings Bank, challenged other businesses to become more involved in programs that bring life back to the city. KeyCorp CEO Robert Gillespie urged people to focus on a few priorities, such as the quality of the Cleveland Public Schools.

Jay Talbot of the Cleveland Foundation called for long-term commitments to the care of the city and its civic fabric,

recognizing that there is no one quick fix and that solutions change over time. The head of the Cleveland AFL-CIO, John Ryan, called for a more socially just region and said, "We must face up to the fact that we have sprawl because we've given up on parts of Cleveland."

Samuel Miller, co-chairman of Forest City Enterprises said he hoped that the city's tide was turning because "morality, economics and God are now on the same side." He predicted that 70,000-90,000

people will move back to the city in the next decade as the costs of exclusionary, large-lot development rise in the suburbs and housing in the city becomes more competitive.

Symposium keynote speaker Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said the present strong economy provides a historic opportunity to reduce economic disparities in America. "We now have the resources to bring everybody with us," he said. "There's no excuse to leave anybody behind."

Cuomo admitted that the federal government has exacerbated disparities by "incentivising and subsidizing" urban sprawl with home mortgage deductions, highways, subsidized gasoline and other programs. Now, he said, "the federal government should play a role of convening and focusing on regional approaches." To foster such approaches in Greater Cleveland, Cuomo said that HUD would fund a joint Cleveland-Cuyahoga County economic development plan.

In his speech before the symposium, Bishop Pilla emphasized that *Church in the City* was about "surmounting the barriers that divide us through the forging of new partnerships. And sincere partnerships can take place only among friends, among people who know and trust each other."

In a divided society, this is a constant struggle. The future of cities and regions depends to a large degree on daunting issues of

race, class and the hard politics of state government.

"These conversations are not easy," summed up panelist David Bergholz, executive director of The George Gund Foundation. "Although we may never all become trusting friends, maybe we can at least be respectful partners." □

***"The bishop is a gutsy guy. He's trying to bring together suburbs and cities, blacks and whites, Hispanics and Anglos, business and labor, Christians and Jews and Muslims—in a diocese where you can't even get St. Ignatius grads to talk***

## **Being citizens of regions**

*U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo delivered the keynote address at the Church in the City Symposium. Below we have adapted some of his remarks on the importance of thinking and planning regionally.*

At HUD we bring in great thinkers from time to time to stir the thinking of the staff. We brought in Lester Thurow from MIT recently to address the 20 or so senior staff at HUD. He asked, "What do you do?" We said, "We work with cities and counties." He said, "That's funny because there are no such things as cities and counties; they're irrelevant units."

Well, this greatly upset the HUD staff because that's what we do—we work with cities and counties. And when you say there are no such things, it makes the staff very nervous. And he went on to say that the only relevant unit is an economic unit, and that cities, at one time, were relevant economically, but they aren't anymore. If you define a city as a geographical location with a boundary and a wall around it, that's not a viable economic unit, nor is a county a viable economic unit. And until you start to think outside of the circle or whatever the configuration is, and start to think of a city and a county together as a metropolitan region, you are not thinking about a viable unit for strategic planning purposes.

So it's really the Washington, DC, metropolitan region, or the Boston metropolitan region, or the New York metropolitan region, or the Los Angeles metropolitan region, all competing with one another. And not just competing with one another, but competing internationally, with the Singapore metropolitan region or the Rome metropolitan region.

But that isn't how we now live, how the funding now moves, how we now vote, how we now associate. We do not say we are from the Washington, DC metropolitan region. We say, "I'm from McLean," "you are from Arlington," "you are from Alexandria." That is how we are acculturated. But we are going to have to change that orientation—to think differently, plan differently. We have been talking about it for years, but I'm more and more convinced that this is going to be the reality, or our system isn't going to work.

# Urban disinvestment and sprawl as moral issues

The following quotes are drawn from Cleveland Catholic Bishop Anthony Pilla's speech at the Diocese's national symposium on Church and the City on April 20.

■  
We share one economy and one environment. Whether we live in the city, suburb or country, we are **one metropolitan society**. Our fates are intertwined economically, socially and spiritually. Our geographic boundaries can be illusions that distract us from the real needs and real capabilities of the region in which we live.

■  
As I looked at our diocese, which includes eight counties across Northeast Ohio and encompasses nearly 1 million members, I became increasingly worried that **development patterns were disconnecting us**, were making us more separate instead of more united and inter-related. So, for me, urban disinvestment and sprawl are not primarily economic or political issues—they challenge the very nature of what it means for us to be Church, to be community.

■  
How could we authentically proclaim that we are one church, one people, if we were more and more spread out, not connecting and not interacting? How could we maintain a vibrant urban ministry and strong worshipping presence in our central cities if the outmigration pattern was intensifying? How could we honestly strive to be good stewards of God's creation in the face of a growing **spatial mismatch between human needs and available resources?**

■  
I want to be clear: **I am not opposed to new development, but ask for a greater balance between new development and redevelopment.** So-called urban sprawl has been subsidized by billions of public dollars. Unbalanced public spending has harmed our urban neighborhoods, begun to imperil our first tier of suburbs and threatens the essential rural character that long characterized so much of northeastern Ohio. We cannot continue down a path of unplanned, wasteful, subsidized development and land use that pits our region's communities against one another without, in my opinion, causing serious economic, environmental, social and moral harm.

## Forum series

To continue community conversations about the message of *Church in the City*, the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland is planning a regional forum series, "Common Ground for the Common Good." Here is the proposed schedule:

- September 1998—Catholic social teaching and *The Church in the City*, John Carroll University.
- October 1998—Affordable housing and land use, University of Akron.
- October 1998—Pastoral ministry and *The Church in the City*, Center for Pastoral Leadership.
- November 1998—Nonprofit organizations and *The Church in the City*, Case Western Reserve University.

For more information about *Church in the City* programs and activities, call 216-696-6525 or see the Web site [www.citc.org](http://www.citc.org).

**Building diversity and community: A new church for the Hispanic community, Sagrada Familia, rises on Cleveland's west side. It is the first new parish to be created in the inner city in a generation.**

How do we exercise our rights and responsibilities as citizens at this moment in history in the richest, most powerful nation on earth? How do we work together to find common ground and advance the common good in a region as diverse as Northeast Ohio? How do we ensure a more equitable and sustainable approach to our region's resources? At their root, I think **these are moral questions**, and therefore, we in the religious community not only have a responsibility to speak out on them, but also have an important contribution to make in encouraging and facilitating civil dialogue about these matters.

■  
It is foolish to think that we can have a thriving region and a declining urban core. I am convinced that at this time in the history of our nation, and given the increasing interdependence of the global economy, **regions that are divided against themselves will languish and decline.** The challenge before us is to embrace our mutuality and to protect the human dignity of all.

■  
I believe that many people have a real sense that something is wrong, something is awry, in how we live in our society today. Despite impressive advances on many fronts, many **people are hungry for more genuine expressions of community.** We have found that many are not only ready for, but yearn for, richer and truly mutual experiences of cultural diversity... People are longing, I believe, for more holistic, better integrated lives and relationships—especially in regard to where we live and at our workplaces.

■  
In facilitating preservation and renewal we will not only be rebuilding our cities; we will be **rebuilding ourselves as a people.** The process of reshaping our approach to development and maintaining our fragile bioregion, will reinvigorate us as well. We will be a better people, a stronger people, a nobler people with a just and peaceful vision for our future. □

# First Suburbs begin statewide organizing

While Bishop Anthony Pilla and the Catholic Diocese were taking care of the moral high ground in the debate about urban sprawl, elected officials from inner-ring suburbs throughout Ohio were taking the historic first steps in a statewide political campaign for reinvestment in older urban areas.

On April 24, about 100 representatives from Ohio's older suburbs gathered in the Shaker Heights Community Building for the first Forum for the Future of Ohio's Mature Suburbs. In addition to representatives from Greater Cleveland suburbs that make up the First Suburbs Consortium, the forum attracted mayors and other officials from the metro areas of Columbus, Toledo, and Dayton (Cincinnati officials were unable to attend because they had their own conference on regionalism on the same day). Officials from Lake County's older communities of Wickliffe, Willoughby and Willowick also attended.

Many of the participants echoed the observation of Cleveland Heights Councilman Kenneth Montlack that their communities were being forced to peddle faster and faster just to stay even. Despite good management and the best of intentions, their communities were having a hard time competing with newly developing areas favored by state and federal policies.

"It seems that the new housing and exciting commercial developments are not happening in our communities but rather farther out by the highway interchanges," Montlack said. "We've concluded that we need to work together and reach out to similar cities, not just to complain about things but to change the policies causing the problems."

Mayor Gretchen Bullock of the Dayton suburb of Oakwood described a typical example of how state policies are biased against fully developed areas. Many commuters pass through her community on a state route each day, but the state has refused to help pay to upgrade the traffic

signals.

"The state saw no economic development impact," Bullock said. Thus, the message from the state is that developed communities are on their own, even if they must bear burdens imposed by growing areas beyond their boundaries.

The forum keynote speaker, Ron Young of the Maryland Office of Planning, described Maryland's new Smart Growth Initiative, which asserts that the state can no longer afford to keep subsidizing sprawl. If development trends had continued for another 20 years, Maryland was slated to use up as much new land as it had in all its history. Now, the state will invest its infrastructure dollars and economic development incentives to promote the redevelopment of existing cities and towns. For example, school funding formulas were changed to stop

favoring construction of new schools. Now nearly all the funds go for rehabilitating or expanding existing schools. In addition, Maryland is putting hundreds of millions of dollars into the protection of farmland and natural areas.

"We're changing the whole culture of how the state does business," Young said.

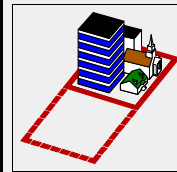
The Ohio officials agreed that such a smart growth

program would be a big step forward for Ohio. By the end of the forum they agreed to work on a statewide agenda with three areas of focus:

- Transportation financing and ODOT policies.
- State incentives for economic development.
- The link between farmland preservation and urban revitalization.

"In Ohio we're in the early stages of a grand awakening on these issues," said Euclid Mayor Paul Oyaski. □

*For more information about the First Suburbs Consortium, call Keith Benjamin at 216-291-2854.*



## Real growth for Ohio in the 21st century

*The following is taken from a position statement issued by the First Suburbs Consortium.*

In 1996, officials of Cleveland's oldest suburbs formed the First Suburbs Consortium in an effort to preserve and protect mature communities across the state and to "level the playing field" in order to achieve balanced development. The Consortium is seeking a statewide coalition to scrutinize, and then redirect, public policies and public dollars in order to promote the following goals:

- Major reinvestment in fully developed communities and in existing infrastructure (schools, bridges, sewers and roads);
- Revitalization of traditional neighborhoods and their tax base;
- Enhanced quality of life and economic stability in our mature communities;
- Preservation of farmland and open space; and
- Protection of the environment.

If Ohio is to be a strong competitor in the global economy, it must achieve *real* growth rather than simply relocating existing businesses and duplicating expensive infrastructure. It's time for leadership across Ohio to encourage thoughtful, coordinated development aimed at sustainable growth by ensuring that:

- State policies are redirected toward preserving livable, sustainable communities and a level playing field for all regions of Ohio;
- The State becomes a lead partner in encouraging long-term regional planning and significant reinvestment in existing communities;
- Ohio builds only as much infrastructure as future generations can afford to maintain; and
- Rural areas are viewed as much more than available land for development.

Only by planning and working together can we experience real growth and position Ohio as a global competitor—offering livable and sustainable communities for all citizens.

***"In Ohio we're in the early stages of a grand awakening on these***

Cleveland's West Side Market: What attracts visitors is the sense of being Someplace, not just Anyplace.

## Preserving communities, preserving our civic soul

*As we have mentioned in past issues, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has made urban sprawl a major issue because of sprawl's insidious impact on historic communities and landscapes. On March 27, the Trust's president, Richard Moe, spoke at the Cleveland City Club about historic preservation as an antidote to sprawl and as a strategy to rebuild older communities. His appearance was co-sponsored by the Cleveland Restoration Society. Below are excerpts from his remarks.*

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*By Richard Moe*

In the 1850s, when a woman named Ann Pamela Cunningham rallied the nation to save Mount Vernon as a shrine to the memory of George Washington, she defined preservation for the next century. Restoring and refurbishing historic houses as places where people could pay homage to the past—that's what preservation was all about, and it's what many people still think of when they hear the word "preservation."

But preservation today is much more than that. It is still rooted firmly in an appreciation of the value of history, but it's no longer concerned primarily with the past. We've moved beyond the meticulous restoration of a few landmarks and the creation of museums to a dedicated involvement in trying to make America's communities more livable. Preservation is in the business of saving special places and the quality of life they support. It has to do with more than bricks and iron and columns and cobblestones. It has become one of the most effective tools available for the revitalization of communities of all sizes. It is literally changing the face of America.

One of my first experiences as president of the National Trust

was a visit to Pittsburgh, the city that practically wrote the book on the effective use of preservation as the foundation for neighborhood rebirth. Preservation has played an extraordinary role in reclaiming the neighborhoods of that city from the deterioration, economic stagnation, crime and hopelessness that threatened to destroy them. Areas like Manchester, the Mexican War Streets and Brighton Place are textbook examples of preservation's role in improving the quality of the housing stock, reinforcing a sense of community and—perhaps most important—giving residents a sense of pride. If you want to see how preservation can make a difference in residential neighborhoods, go to Pittsburgh.

And if you want to see how preservation can make a difference in a downtown commercial area, go to Denver, where an enlightened city government imposed new zoning controls, demolition restrictions and preservation incentives in the historic Lower Downtown, the area where Denver was born. Within two years of the passage of the zoning package, \$30 million had been invested in Lower Downtown; 1,000 new jobs had been created and 200 housing units developed in a lively, attractive area that combines residential, commercial and light industrial uses adjacent to the new Coors Stadium. Lower Downtown is dotted with the sort of solid, handsome warehouses that are a fixture of hundreds of American cities. By making wise use of these often overlooked resources, this area has become one of the brightest lights on Denver's economic horizon.

The success of Lower Downtown in Denver is mirrored in other center-city neighborhoods across the country—including the Flats here in Cleveland, where imaginative revitalization has turned a gritty industrial backwater into an urban asset of major proportions.



Success in these areas didn't come easy. It took visionary leadership, a network of public/private partnerships, creative financing techniques, years of hard work and an enormous amount of sheer determination. But the result was worth it.

The message here is very simple. Businessmen and public officials may once have been justified in viewing preservationists as unreasonable, idealistic people for whom the slogan "just say no" was invented—but no more. Preservationists are your allies—and potentially your best friends—in your efforts to build and maintain communities that are truly livable. We know, as you do, that livability is in short supply in too many of the urban centers and older suburbs that we've neglected so callously in recent decades. And livability isn't just a warm-and-fuzzy, Hallmark-card sentiment. In an increasingly competitive global marketplace, livability is the factor that will determine which communities thrive and which ones wither. Robert Solow, Nobel prize-winning economist at MIT, puts it this way: "Livability is not some middle-class luxury. It is an economic imperative."

I'd like to mention four areas in which preservation can make a significant and sustainable contribution to a community's economic vitality and overall quality of life:

- (1) downtown revitalization;
- (2) the rehabilitation and reuse of older buildings;
- (3) as a stimulus for heritage tourism; and
- (4) as an alternative to sprawl.

### **The importance of Main Street**

One of most successful economic revitalization programs in America emphasizes preservation as one of its key elements. The National Trust's Main Street program aims to breathe new life into aging commercial districts by helping communities rediscover downtown's unique assets and leading them through a step-by-step comprehensive revitalization strategy. The National Main Street Center has worked in approximately 1,300 communities since 1980. Nationwide, the program has generated more than \$7 billion in downtown reinvestment, resulted in the rehabilitation of more than 37,000 buildings, produced almost 40,000 net new businesses and more than 143,000 net new jobs. Every dollar spent in support of a Main Street program leverages more than \$30 from other sources.

Here in Ohio, several towns have been putting the principles of the Main Street program into practice for some time. In fact, one of them, the town of Wooster, was one of only five winners of the National Trust's Great American Main Streets Award two years ago. I'm delighted to announce that a formal statewide partnership with the National Main Street Center has recently been established, and we're confident that the same sort of success in downtown revitalization achieved in Wooster will soon be apparent in other communities across the state.

Just as small communities need viable downtowns in order to survive, urban neighborhoods need viable commercial areas in order to support and enhance the daily lives of their residents. With this fact in mind, the program has moved from small towns to big cities:

Main Street is now at work in 15 neighborhoods in Boston and three neighborhoods in Chicago, and last year San Diego and Baltimore also launched programs. It is clearly a program that works.

### **The power of older buildings**

The rehabilitation of older buildings works, too, in ways that make it one of the most effective economic development tools available. Data from the Commerce Department show that \$1 million spent on rehab creates five more construction jobs and three more permanent jobs than the same \$1 million spent on new construction. Another study shows that in Michigan, \$1 million spent on building rehab creates 12 more jobs than manufacturing \$1 million worth of cars; in Oregon, 22 more jobs than cutting \$1 million worth of timber; in Oklahoma, 29 more jobs than pumping \$1 million worth of oil. Many of these jobs require skilled craftsmanship; this means that historic rehab, combined with job training programs, can help build a corps of workers with bankable skills that will serve them well for a lifetime.

In St. Louis, the rehabilitation of a single landmark, the historic Union Station, has contributed to the rebirth of downtown with 1,600 new full-time jobs, \$4.5 million in tax revenues annually, and more than \$400 million in private investment. Statistics like these underscore a simple truth: Preservation isn't just good for the soul; it's good for business, too.

Some complain that preservation restrictions can hurt property values, but the truth is that preservation of historic buildings helps protect property values. Real estate and economic development consultant Donovan Rypkema has researched property values in historic districts—that is, areas protected by a local preservation ordinance—and come up with some very gratifying findings. He found that in some instances property values in historic districts appreciated at a faster rate than in the community as a whole. In other instances, values in historic districts were protected from the wide swings that occurred elsewhere in the community. In no instance did values in historic districts decline.

One final point about the importance of historic buildings and neighborhoods: Every mayor struggles with attempts to get middle-class taxpayers to move back to the city. When back-to-the-city migration has occurred—in Chicago, Boston and Seattle—it has been in historic inner-

city neighborhoods. Here in Cleveland, you've already seen it happen in several areas, and I'm confident that the work now being undertaken by organizations like the Cleveland Restoration Society will lead to the revitalization and enhancement of other older neighborhoods all over the city. Cities that allow these neighborhoods to disappear are cutting themselves off from the benefits of a future rebirth.

### **Places with a soul**

Preserved buildings and neighborhoods not only contribute to the sense of historic continuity and the economic health of the community, they also attract tourists. Some experts predict that tourism will be America's number-one industry by the year 2000. It

***Perhaps the biggest contributor to the destruction of older communities and the persistent growth of sprawl is federal transportation policy, which might be summed up in a short phrase: "feed the car, starve the alternative." We need transportation policy that knits communities together instead of tearing them apart. Even more fundamentally, we need to stop emphasizing movement over place—or we run the risk***

already contributes hundreds of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy every year and supports millions of jobs.

The fastest growing segment of this enormous industry is heritage tourism. That's a fairly recent term for something that people have been doing for centuries: traveling to historic and cultural attractions to learn about the past in an enjoyable way. According to a study conducted last summer by the Travel Industry Association of America, 45 percent of all adult American travelers included a visit to a museum or historic site in a trip last year. The study also showed that heritage tourists take longer trips and spend more money per trip than other travelers.

You don't need to go far to find unique tourism assets. Visitors from all over the world come to Ohio to see the historic sites that give this state its unique identity—places like Playhouse Square here in Cleveland, the statehouse in Columbus, the historic neighborhoods of Cincinnati, the mysterious monuments of the Mound Builders, and dozens of other places like Zoar, Lancaster, Marietta and Chillicothe that are rich in historic buildings.

The success of places such as these offers proof of the power of historic sites to tell compelling stories that attract, engage, inform and enlighten visitors while boosting the local economy. What attracts visitors is the sense of being Someplace, not just Anyplace. Travel expert Arthur Frommer says, "Among cities with no particular recreational appeal, those that have preserved their past continue to enjoy tourism....Tourism simply doesn't go to a city that has lost its soul." I'm not aware of any promoters that are selling tourists on the notion of visiting communities that have transformed themselves into a sad hodge-podge of nondescript cookie-cutter housing tracts, cluttered commercial strips and bleak downtowns. But all of us are aware of the crowds of visitors who flock to places that have preserved their historic character—and saved their soul.

### **Antidote to sprawl**

Finally, preservation plays a crucial role in today's communities as an alternative to sprawl.

America, in the words of Lewis Mumford, is experiencing the fourth great migration in its history. The first was the great movement westward across the continent. The second was the process of coming together in towns and cities. The third was the great migration earlier in this century from farms to urban areas. And the fourth, which is still going on, is the decentralization made possible by the development of new transportation and communication technologies. These new technologies have enabled twentieth-century America to do something unique in the history of Western civilization: We've turned our cities inside out, releasing industry, commerce and population from the core, leaving ruin and wasted investment behind.

Drive down any highway leading into any town in the country, and what do you see? You see fast-food outlets and office parks and shopping malls rising out of vast, barren plains of asphalt. You see residential subdivisions spreading like inkblots, obliterating forests and farms in their relentless march across the landscape. You see cars, thousands of them, moving sluggishly down the broad ribbons of pavement or halting in frustrated clumps at choked intersections or parked in glittering rows in front of every building. You see a lot of activity, but not much life. You see the graveyard of livability. You see communities drowning in a destructive, soulless, ugly mess called sprawl. The subdivisions and commercial strips sprouting on

the edges of Cleveland are practically indistinguishable from those surrounding Albuquerque and Nashville and Atlanta, all of them looking like what one critic has called "God's own junkyard."

Sprawl drains the life out of existing cities and towns, turning downtowns into ghost towns. Sprawl puts communities in the untenable position of having to spend millions to provide fire and police protection, new roads and new utility infrastructure in outlying areas while the enormous investment of public funds in downtown streets, sidewalks, water and sewer lines is abandoned or used at a fraction of its capacity—a trade-off that is backbreakingly expensive, shamefully wasteful and fiscally irresponsible.

Grassroots efforts are the key to managing sprawl, but they can't do the job if government policies undermine them at every turn. Government can't "fix" everything, but at least it shouldn't be an obstacle to private-sector action and innovation. This is not a call for massive new public spending programs for the cities. In fact, we might take inspiration from the words of the British statesman who told his colleagues in the darkest days of World War II, "Gentlemen,

we are out of money. Therefore we shall have to think." What's needed most here is some clear-headed thinking, accompanied by some fairly simple carrots and sticks.

### **Government's role in stopping sprawl**

As a start, government can—and should—do two important things: It should recognize that its policies have a direct effect on the health of the nation's urban centers; and it should launch initiatives to attract investment and people back to the cities.

The first thing government should do is to inventory its policies in order to catalogue their impact, whether positive or negative, on the cities. Most of these policies, dealing with things such as transportation, lending, housing, federal facility location and so on, were written with no thought whatsoever on their possible effect on the viability or livability of our urban centers. In many cases their impact on cities is unintentional, but that doesn't make the impact less real or less harmful.

The single most effective action Washington can take is to tie federal aid to rational state and local land-use decisions. Under the current system, the federal government hands out money, with few or no strings attached, that allows state and local entities to act in their own interests with little thought for the impact of their actions on other parts of their region. The result is that many suburban areas offer tax breaks, subsidies, free infrastructure, cheap land and a host of other lures to attract investment—while cities, their budgets stretched to the breaking point and their interests underrepresented in Congress and state legislatures, can't compete.

To replace this chaotic, counter-productive and fiscally irresponsible system, the federal government should actively encourage the formulation of regional strategies for dealing with regional issues. Urban decline and sprawl are practically guaranteed wherever metropolitan regions are governed by a balkanized system of local jurisdictions that engage in bidding wars for new investment. In some large metropolitan areas, competing jurisdictions number in the hundreds. The metropolitan area of my own hometown of Washington is a patchwork quilt comprising two states, the District of Columbia, and scores of counties and municipalities. The six-county area of metropolitan Chicago contains more than 1,300 local governments, including 260 separate cities and towns. The situation isn't very different here in the

Cleveland area, where the city is ringed by dozens of different units of government, each with its own budget, each pursuing its own development agenda.

### **Transcending political boundaries**

When it comes to sprawl, city limits and county lines are nothing more than irrelevant marks on a map. Limited jurisdiction hampers the ability of local government to deal with an issue of this magnitude, and efforts to control sprawl in a limited area often just shift the problem from one community to another. It's like trying to stop a flood with a picket fence. What's needed—what's essential, in fact—are regional and statewide land-use planning mechanisms that can deal effectively with issues that transcend political boundaries.

Perhaps the best such program in the country today is working in Oregon. In 1973 the state of Oregon adopted legislation that requires every community to calculate the amount of land it needs to accommodate growth during the next 20 years. Then it draws a circle—an urban growth boundary—around that land and concentrates development inside it. Other provisions of the law seek to prevent sprawl from paving over Oregon's farmland and forests and require that local transportation plans consider alternatives to the automobile and avoid reliance on any single mode of transportation. In the 25 years since it was enacted, it has been endorsed by strong majorities of the voters in several elections, reaffirmed by numerous sessions of the state legislature and supported by governors from both political parties.

For a clear indication of how Oregon's legislation works you need only look at what's happening in Portland. Knowing that it won't be called on to build new roads and water lines and provide police and fire protection to newly-developed areas sprawling farther and farther out from the urban core, the metro area can focus its energies and its tax dollars on improving the quality of life for city residents. A 1991 study showed that the Portland area's urban growth boundary had expanded by only 2 percent in the preceding 17 years—but had contained 95 percent of the area's residential growth. This concentration of development has made mass transit feasible and stimulated reuse of existing buildings downtown. *The Wall Street Journal* recently noted that "the number of downtown jobs [in Portland] has doubled since 1975 without the city adding a single parking space, widening roads or building new ones." I don't know of another city that can make that kind of claim.

### **Maryland smart growth**

There's a good example of a different approach to statewide land-use planning in Maryland. Just last year the Maryland legislature enacted a new program called Smart Growth. The program focuses state funding in existing communities where the state and local governments want to support economic development and new growth. This means that state programs that encourage growth—including highways, school construction, sewer and water lines, economic development assistance, and construction or leasing of state offices—will be targeted to areas where significant investment in infrastructure has already occurred and where growth has been planned for and can be managed. Local governments can still decide where they want development to occur—but if that development will encourage sprawl in outlying areas, they can't assume that the state will help pay for it. It's a simple approach—and it makes sense.

### **Leveling the playing field**

If we're going to bring our cities back from the brink of ruin, we

have to level the playing field. Not everybody wants to live in the city, nor should we expect them to. But people who do live in the city shouldn't have to sacrifice safety, efficient public services, good schools and basic livability—and they certainly shouldn't have to subsidize those things for people who choose to live on the suburban fringe.

People say that urban disinvestment and sprawl are merely the natural result of market forces at work. That's a myth. The fact is that policies and practices at all levels of government—federal, state and local—actually encourage, assist and even subsidize sprawl. State education departments favor the construction of new schools in outlying areas over the renovation of older schools in existing neighborhoods. Local governments engage in bidding wars for new development, offering incentives and subsidies for sprawl ranging from tax-increment financing to sales tax rebates and free water and sewer line extensions. The Rural Electrification Administration and other agencies still provide low-interest loans for infrastructure in outlying areas that stopped being "rural" years ago. The tax code is riddled with bias toward new development and the consumption of open space.

Perhaps the biggest contributor to the destruction of older communities and the persistent growth of sprawl is federal transportation policy, which might be summed up in a short phrase: "feed the car, starve the alternative." We need transportation policy that knits communities together instead of tearing them apart. Even more fundamentally, we need to stop emphasizing movement over place—or we run the risk of having no place left. Talk about the supposed need for new beltways and bypasses merely underscores the importance of recognizing a simple fact: Having an enjoyable or efficient way of getting there doesn't really mean much if "there" isn't worth getting to.

Some recent federal initiatives demonstrate an encouraging realization that public policy can and should be a catalyst for action by others in both the public and private sectors. A recent Executive Order, for instance, directs federal agencies to locate their facilities downtown—in historic buildings wherever possible—instead of out on the urban fringe. The designation of "enterprise zones" and "empowerment communities" provides tax incentives and other funding to create jobs and expand business opportunities in economically-distressed areas. Reform of the Community Reinvestment Act regulations should increase the amount of traditional bank financing for projects in distressed urban communities. A "brownfields"

initiative would allow a tax deduction for cleaning up certain hazardous substances in high poverty areas and empowerment zones and enterprise communities. A new national strategy uses a public/private partnership to reduce barriers to home ownership, and HUD has launched a program directed toward developing housing on vacant urban land.

Federal programs such as these are a step in the right direction. But more needs to be done—including the enactment of the Historic Home Ownership Assistance Act, which would extend federal tax credits to homeowners who rehabilitate their historic homes, giving residents of older neighborhoods incentives to stay and invest in their community's future, providing an incentive for others to move back into older neighborhoods, and offering cities the chance to put deteriorated property back on the tax rolls. You have more than a score of National Register historic districts here in the Cleveland area where the availability of this incentive could stimulate housing

rehab projects and generate increased revenues from property, sales and income taxes while providing families safe, affordable, attractive places to live.

## Stemming the waste

Is historic preservation relevant to the realities of life in today's America? Of course it is, for several reasons.

Rebuilding communities around existing urban centers makes more sense than unmanaged sprawl that devours rural resources. The time-honored "don't-worry-there's-plenty-more-where-that-came-from" approach won't work anymore. We don't have an infinite amount of land in this country to build upon—and even if the natural resources were available, we don't have the money to build the new roads, schools, and other infrastructure that sprawl demands. We have huge investments in the physical resources of our cities—in the sidewalks and sewer lines and utilities, not to mention the buildings themselves. We can't afford to go on wasting them as we have done.

More important, we can't afford to go on wasting the people in these places, people whose lives are too often plagued by the absence of opportunity, by hopelessness and crime. Many of our inner cities have become enclaves of the poor, who have never before been so isolated from mainstream society, so completely cut off from both the glittering glass towers downtown and the tidy brick houses of the suburbs. That isolation—and the frustration it engenders—cannot be allowed to continue if the very fabric of our society is to survive intact.

Finally, if we continue to allow our cities to deteriorate, we stand to lose a major part of America's memory of itself. Our cities are the tangible "flesh and bones" of our history. They are the crucible in which much of our national character was formed. They have served as ports of entry for waves of immigrants and contain in rich diversity the heritage of Americans of every culture and ethnic origin. To turn our backs on them, to bulldoze and blacktop them into sterile homogeneity, or just board them up and write them off, is to deny and reject our own history as a people. The cost of such shortsightedness could never be paid in dollars. It would be a debit against the American spirit...

Day-to-day contact with the evidence of our past gives us confidence because it helps us know where we came from. It gives us a standard against which to measure ourselves and our accomplishments. And it confronts us with the realization—sometimes exhilarating, sometimes disturbing—that we, too, will be remembered and held accountable, that future generations will look at our work as the standard by which to measure their own performance.

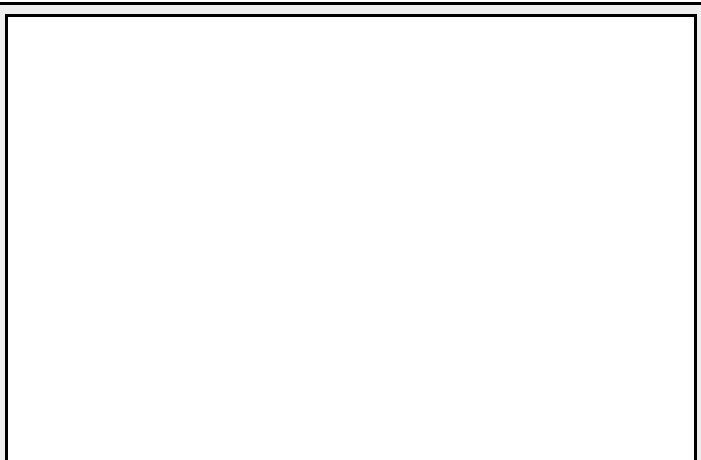
Will we go down in history as a people who turned much of our nation into a tragic patchwork of ruined cities and spoiled countryside, or will we craft a sensible, comprehensive urban policy that strengthens cities instead of ripping them apart?

Will we keep on merely accepting the kind of communities we get, or can we summon the will to demand the kind of communities we want and need and deserve?

Will we be remembered for what we have destroyed? Or will we be remembered for the livable cities we leave behind?

The choice is ours to make, and the time to make it is now. □

*In addition to being president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Richard Moe is co-author with Carter Wilkie of Changing Places: Rebuilding Community in the Age of Sprawl.*



### Hulett unloaders on Whiskey Island.

## Saving the Hulett's

When the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority held a public hearing on its maritime facilities master plan on May 1, port planners wanted to talk about bulk cargo tonnage, improved container handling capability and better warehousing—all part of \$136 million in proposed improvements. But the citizens who packed the hearing room had a different agenda: saving the historic Hulett iron ore unloaders and improving public access to the lakefront.

Civic activists, historic preservationists and planners of the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor all told port board members that the giant Hulett's on Whiskey Island were part of Cleveland's heart and soul. It was astonishing, they said, that the port's draft master plan did not consider preserving them. (Ironic, too, since the port features pictures of the Hulett's on its publications.)

"The port has a stewardship responsibility for this nationally recognized historic resource," said historian Carol Poh Miller. "The Hulett's are beloved icons of our city's industrial heritage."

One encouraging idea came from a representative of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, whose Westerly Wastewater Treatment Plant is just west of the Hulett's ore dock. He said that if the port gave a small piece of land to Westerly, the sewer plant could be reconfigured to allow for a waterfront greenspace and access to the Hulett's from Edgewater Park. Such a deal would allow both public agencies to stretch their missions to serve the broader public good.

## Farmland preservation legislation



Legislation sponsored by Ohio Reps. Gene Krebs and Sean Logan to promote farmland preservation and county land use planning has stalled in a House committee. H.B. 645, an attempt to implement the recommendations of the Ohio Farmland Preservation Task Force, got several hearings but no committee vote. It will probably be revamped and reintroduced when the General Assembly reconvenes in the fall. Although the bill's provisions are quite modest, it has been opposed by builders who want no restrictions on development in rural areas. For more information, contact Rep. Gene Krebs at 614-644-5094.

A related piece of farmland legislation sponsored by Sen. Grace Drake passed the Ohio Senate but was not acted upon by the House. It would have permitted the state and other entities to hold agricultural easements for the purpose of protecting farmland and allow local tax funds to be used to purchase such easements. The law is needed to allow voluntary programs to purchase development rights (PDR programs) from farmers, as well as to make Ohio eligible for federal funding for PDR programs. A number of Ohio counties, including Medina County, are trying to start PDR efforts.

To promote farmland preservation efforts in Ohio, the American Farmland Trust, a national nonprofit organization, recently opened a field office in Columbus. For more information, contact Kevin Schmidt at 614-469-9877.

## Medina losses

■ **Medina commissioner:** The May 5 election showed that pro-growth forces are still entrenched in Medina County. Incumbent County Commissioner Sara Pavlovicz, who has been a voice of reason in debates over the widening of I-71, lost her Republican primary to Tom Bahr. A few days before the election Medina County Republican officeholders mailed a letter to party members that endorsed Bahr and attacked Pavlovicz for acting "irresponsibly" and for being "confrontational." Pavlovicz notes that, while the letter smeared her personally, it did not dare to mention the issues she represents—especially concerns that unplanned growth is undermining the quality of life of the county.

■ **Medina parks:** Medina County voters rejected the Medina Park District's request for a 0.25-percent sales tax increase. The loss will prevent the park district from buying Chippewa Lake, and it will mean the district will not reach its goal of acquiring 1,000 acres of new parkland in the next decade.

## Pressure points

■ **Infrastructure bias:** According to a recent analysis by the First Suburbs Consortium, the outer suburbs of Cuyahoga County received \$146.95 per capita in state bond money for local infrastructure improvements, while the inner suburbs got just \$99.77 per capita—another way that the balance of public investment is tipped in favor of newer communities.

■ **ODOT's debt:** For every dollar of Ohio state transportation revenue generated, 20 percent is eaten up by debt service, according to a recent study by the Ohio Construction Information Association. Other midwestern states have much lower debt burdens.

■ **Akron water diversion:** Communities along the Cuyahoga River have sued to stop Akron's plans to divert water out of the Cuyahoga watershed to serve new development to the south (such as the project below). Although the diversion plan would return water to the river via the Ohio & Erie Canal and Akron sewer system, a stretch of the river downstream of Lake Rockwell would end up with little flow during dry weather. Kent and Cuyahoga Falls worry about impacts on water quality and riverfront development.

■ **Portage Lakes:** Dollar Lake, the last of the undeveloped lakes in the Portage Lakes area south of Akron, is slated for a large residential development. Developer Richard Buescher of Ohio Land Development in Chagrin Falls owns 82 acres around the lake. A large-scale project is possible thanks to a joint economic development agreement between Coventry Twp. and Akron that could bring city water and sewer to the site.

■ **Medina growth cap:** The city of Medina may follow Hudson's lead and impose an annual cap on permits for new homes. By reducing growth pressures, a city can manage the need to provide new services and infrastructure.

■ **Middlefield changes:** In last issue's review of November 1997 election results we forgot to mention that four incumbents were upset in Middlefield Village Council races. Observers take it as a sign of increasing concerns about rapid development in Geauga County. In recent years Middlefield has annexed considerable land for new development.

■ **Coliseum:** The National Park Service is seeking to purchase the 300-acre Richfield Coliseum and add the site to the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. Park officials worry that the closed Coliseum will become a regional shopping center that will clog the park with traffic.

■ **Bainbridge:** Environmental activist Marlene Walkush came within 37 votes of winning one of two seats for Bainbridge Township trustee last November. She campaigned for better management of growth and more openness in local government.

■ **Chester water:** In Geauga County's Chester Twp., residents and township trustees are concerned about a new water line being constructed in neighboring Gates Mills. A portion of the line could cross into Chester Twp. and promote higher density development. Hawken School already has asked to be tied into the line, and large tracts of land along Mayfield Road could be subdivided.

■ **Build it and they will go:** Another company has moved out to the country along the now-being-widened I-90. All Pro Freight Systems has moved from Cleveland to Avon.

■ **Comfortably in command:** As sport utility vehicles grow more popular, they seem to be growing bigger with ever more powerful engines. When you have to drive down those treacherous suburban cul-de-sacs, you can't be worrying about gas consumption or global warming.

■ **What Ohio is:** "Ohio is pure Middle America, the pot roast among states, a microcosm of the nation" (from a recent story about presidential politics in *The New York Times Magazine*).

■ **Phrase of the month:** "Eisenhower escape routes," the phrase used by Sam Miller of Forest City Enterprises to describe the Interstate highway system that facilitated white flight from cities like Cleveland.

## **Impact fees in Ohio: Courts decide who pays for growth**

New development imposes costs on growing communities, such as the costs of expanding roads, sewers, and schools. And many communities think it's not fair for current residents to be burdened with such costs. After all, why should a current homeowner have to pay extra to expand the wastewater treatment plant to accommodate a new housing subdivision?

To make sure that new development pays more of its own way, some communities impose impact fees—a one-time fee against new development to offset the cost of new infrastructure made necessary by the development. Impact fees are widely used around the nation and are increasingly being adopted in Ohio as important tools for managing growth.

Unfortunately, Ohio has never enacted enabling legislation specifically authorizing impact fees. So their legitimacy keeps being tested in the courts by the building industry. Two cases settled last fall provide an indication of the future of impact fees in Ohio.

### **Precedents?**

First, the fast-growing suburb of Westlake lost a case involving its impact fee for recreational facilities. Westlake imposed a fee of \$1,000 per new house for the acquisition of land for parks and to improve existing parks, but a local appeals court ruled that it was improper to earmark the fees for existing facilities. Thus, Westlake failed to prove a sufficient connection between the impacts of new construction and the use of the fees.

Second, the Dayton suburb of Beavercreek won a closely-watched case involving fees to offset traffic impacts. The Greene County Common Pleas Court decision was the first to uphold the constitutionality of traffic impact fees in Ohio. It said that such fees are fair if the municipality can show a reasonable connection (or "rational nexus" in legal terms) between the need for new roads generated by development, expenditures of fees for the roads, and benefits accruing to the development paying the fees. The court also upheld the inclusion of costs for providing curbs, gutters, storm sewers and sidewalks on the grounds that new development was responsible for changing the character of the area from rural to suburban.



## **Outrage of the month**

**Billboard blight:** Billboards are an intrusive blight on the urban and rural landscape, no matter what the message. But these two in particular have offended our sensibilities in recent months.

The news radio billboard, which can be seen at locations around Cleveland, reinforces the false stereotype of the city as a dangerous, lawless place.

And the Ohio bicentennial billboard is an example of the billboard industry's ingratiating itself with state lawmakers and regulators. The Outdoor Advertising Association of Ohio recently donated space on 400 billboards around the state to the Ohio Bicentennial Commission. A spokeswoman for the billboard industry was quoted as saying, "This is a great opportunity for the outdoor advertising industry to give back to Ohio's communities." How does the donation of billboard space give back to communities? Billboard opponents, such as Scenic Ohio, joke that the industry may be trying to make up for the visual pollution along our roadways or the targeting of lower income neighborhoods with tobacco and alcohol advertising. To add your comments about the bicentennial billboards, call Ohio Bicentennial Commission at 888-OHIO-200.

# Notable meetings and conferences

## Greenways

A conference April 5-7 in Columbus explored the importance of linear greenway corridors in meeting Ohio's future recreational needs and unveiled a strategy for a statewide greenways initiative. For more information, call Ohio Greenways at 330-657-2055.

## Bike planning

The Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency held an excellent bicycle planning workshop on April 27-28. It featured national bike experts and covered innovative road designs for safe bicycle use, the development of community bike plans, liability issues, bikes on transit and more. For more information about NOACA's bike planning program, call 216-241-2414, ext. 273.

## Streets as places

A workshop in Cleveland on May 21 explored how citizens can calm traffic and transform streets into public spaces for pedestrians and bicyclists. Practical design options were proposed for Fleet Avenue retail district in Cleveland's Slavic Village, a transit hub at W. 65th Street and Madison Avenue, the congested shopping area along Chagrin Blvd. in Woodmere, and the residential Scarborough Road in Cleveland Heights. Workshop sponsors included the New York-based Project for Public Spaces, the Cleveland Neighborhood Development Corporation and other local groups.

## Land use and transportation

The Ohio Department of Transportation often gets lambasted as an old-fashioned highway department that cares more about speeding cars than healthy communities, but there are signs of reform. One sign was a May 15 conference on land use and community design organized by ODOT's Division of Multi-Modal Planning. Speakers

included David Rusk, an advocate of metropolitan governance to reduce disparities between cities and suburbs, and Thomas Hylton, an advocate of comprehensive planning to save our cities and countryside.

## EarthSpirit Rising

More than 80 religious, environmental and peace groups from the Midwest sponsored EarthSpirit Rising, a major ecospirituality conference in Cincinnati May 22-24. Nationally-known speakers included David Orr, David Abram, Rosemary Radford Ruether, John Seed, Paula Gonzalez and Dennis Banks. Organizers hope it will be the start of the regional network dedicated to creating a sustainable future for the earth and all of its beings. For more information, call IMAGO at 513-921-5124.

## Power summit

Ohio Congressional representatives, industrial power consumers and environmental organizations sponsored a conference on electricity restructuring on May 27 in Akron. Participants discussed how competitive power markets will affect consumers, the environment, communities' tax base and school funding. For more information about the conference, contact the Public Forum Institute at 202-467-2774. For an environmental perspective on power deregulation in Ohio, call the Ohio Environmental Council at 614-487-7506.

## Churches organize

Faith-Based Organizing in Northeast Ohio sponsored a regional issues assembly on June 2 at which members of church congregations in Greater Cleveland, Lorain and Akron chose priority issues for the coming year. Top concerns included economic development in older urban areas, safety and public education. Call 216-881-2344 for details.

## Cincinnati regionalism

Community leadership groups in the Cincinnati area sponsored a "Regionalism Summit" on April 24 to promote greater cooperation in the tri-state region. For more

information, call 513-579-3100.

## Great Lakes citizens

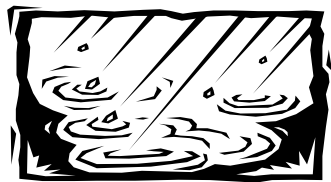
Great Lakes United, the citizen advocacy group for the Great Lakes, held its annual meeting on June 5-6 in Milwaukee. Topics of discussion included watershed protection strategies, public information about toxics, forest ecosystem protection, and making the transition to clean production methods. Call 716-886-0142 for details.

## Great Lakes law and policy

The Legal Institute of the Great Lakes presented its first annual conference on Great Lakes law, science and policy on May 21-22 at the Maumee Bay State Park Lodge near Toledo. Sessions focused on the status of water quality regulations, mercury pollution, chemicals that mimic hormones, the air pollution impacts of energy deregulation and other issues. The Legal Institute is based at the University of Toledo College of Law.

## Stormwater

On May 9, the Chagrin River Watershed Partners hosted a conference on new stormwater regulations and innovative approaches to manage stormwater problems at the watershed level. Call 440-975-3870 for more information.



## Medina County visioning

The Medina County Community Guide Committee sponsored a two-day workshop, May 29-30, to explore alternate land use futures for the county. Participants mapped out options for housing, shopping, industry, agriculture and open space. For more information, call the Medina County Planning Commission, 330-722-9219.

## Medina County farmland

The Medina County Farmland

Preservation Task Force continues to educate citizens about techniques to save farmland and protect rural character. At a May 27 workshop, the task force hosted smart growth experts from Maryland, who explained the economic value of productive agriculture and how even the real estate industry has a stake in preserving farmland. About 40 acres of land are developed each week in Medina County. Nearly all the county's farmland is zoned residential and could be developed in the next 30-40 years if outmigration continues from Cuyahoga County. For more information, call Joe Daubenmire at Medina County Extension, 330-725-4911.

## Student congress

The Earth Day Coalition organized its second annual Northeast Ohio Student Environmental Congress at the Cleveland City Club on March 18. Students from nearly a dozen high schools presented environmental projects related to recycling, hazardous waste, alternative energy sources, water quality and other topics. For more information about the program, call 216-281-6468.

## Living simply in the community

On May 8-9, the Center for Plain Living sponsored a conference for high school students and teachers called "Think Locally: Rebuilding Local Economies and Communities." The event, held at the Bethesda Learning Center in Bethesda, Ohio, featured nationally-known writers Bill McKibben, Stephanie Mills, and Jerry Mander speaking on how to regain local control of the global economy.

**NOACA officers**

Willoughby Mayor David Anderson is the new governing board president of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency. Other officers for 1998 include Medina County Commissioner Sara Pavlovicz (Vice President), Cleveland Planning Director Hunter Morrison (Assistant Vice President), Cleveland Councilman Ed Rybka (Secretary), and Brecksville Mayor Jerry Hruby (Treasurer). NOACA is the transportation and environmental planning agency for Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Medina and Lorain counties.

**Transitions**

- Former Citizens League director Janis Purdy has landed at the Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs, where she has become a senior policy fellow working on regional issues. She has been replaced at the Citizens League by J. Lee Bailey, formerly of Centerior Energy.
- Chris Knopf has become the staff person of the new Cleveland field office of the Trust for Public Land.
- Cynthia Sibrel has replaced Margaret Koran as coordinator of the Ohio Sierra Club's transportation project.

**A loss for the Wayne**

Sierra Club members and their attorneys were disappointed recently when the U.S. Supreme Court lifted a logging ban affecting the Wayne National Forest in southern Ohio. The Sierra Club had persuaded a lower appeals court that the U.S. Forest Service's management plans for the Wayne were biased in favor of logging and against the value of recreational uses, such as hiking, birdwatching and tourism. But Supreme Court justices ruled unanimously that, in this case, the Club failed to prove that logging actually harmed a recreational user.



Conservationists had hoped that the case would force the general reform of forest management plans nationwide. The Forest Service has long promoted logging in national forests by building roads for timber companies and by selling trees at a loss to taxpayers.

For more information, call the Ohio Sierra Club at 614-461-0734.

**New gem for Emerald Necklace**

Construction will begin this summer on the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation, the Cleveland Metroparks' newest reservation. The \$2.4 million phase 1 project will lay the infrastructure of the new reservation including roads, utilities and a parking lot. Expected to be complete this fall is the 4.3-mile extension of the Towpath Trail along the Ohio & Erie Canal. By next year, work will be completed on a visitor center, picnic area and rest rooms.

**Thanks to our donors!**

*EcoCity Cleveland gives thanks to the following members who contributed to our 1997 year-end fundraising letter.*

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**Book signings by EcoCity's David Beach**

On Saturday, June 27, David Beach will appear at the following bookstores to sign copies of EcoCity Cleveland's new publication, *The Greater Cleveland Environment Book*:

- Mac's Backs, 1820 Coventry Rd. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  - The Bookstore on W. 25th St., 1921 W. 25th St. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- For more information, call 321-2665 or 566-8897.

**Summer learning for kids**

- Earth Camp for ages 6-12, sessions July 20-24 and August 10-14 at the Crown Point Ecology Learning Center, 3220 Ira Rd. in Bath. To register, call 330-666-9200.
- The Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area will present a series of young naturalist and young archaeologist programs from June to August. For children ages 7-12 and adult companions. Call 216-524-1497 to register.

**Land use conflicts**

The Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs will offer a short course, Resolving Land Development and Environmental Conflicts, on June 13 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The class will focus on environmentally-oriented planning and site design. Call 216-687-2138 for details.

**Events on-line**

Northeast Ohio has a new computer e-mail listserv to keep people informed about labor, peace, environmental, women's, civil rights and other issues. The free service allows groups to post and receive announcements about upcoming events.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to [Majordomo@igc.org](mailto:Majordomo@igc.org) with the words "subscribe whatsup-neohio" in the body of the message.

**June 16**

Annual meeting and awards luncheon of the **Cleveland Neighborhood Development Corporation**, 11:30 a.m. at Windows on the River in the Flats. Call 216-268-3130 for reservations.

**June 18**

Workshop on **native birds** and bird banding, 9:30 a.m. at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Bay Village. Call 440-871-2900 to register.

**June 18**

Presentation on photographing the **Lake Erie shore** by Connie Smith Girard, 7 p.m. at the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area Happy Days Visitor Center on SR 303. Sponsored by the Cuyahoga Valley Photographic Society.

**June 18**

Presentation of EcoCity Cleveland's **Citizens' Bioregional Plan** project and the Portage County Regional Planning Commission's indicators for sustainable development, 7 p.m. at the Portage County Garden Center, 5154 S. Prospect St. in Ravenna Twp. Meeting sponsored by the Kent Environment Council, PLACE, and the Portage County Environmental Roundtable.

**June 19**

Opening of "**Invasion of the Aliens**" exhibit (about the nonnative plants and animals that have invaded Ohio and are overwhelming native species) at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in University Circle.

**June 20**

**Northeast Ohio Land Trust Coalition** conference, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Holden Arboretum. For registration information, call 440-256-1110.

**June 20**

**Summer Tour of the Metro Parks** (STOMP) bicycle tours of the Summit Metro Parks. Call 330-865-8065 to register.

**June 20**

**Ohio transportation activists network** meeting, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Columbus with discussions of rail alternatives to widening I-71 and the development of a statewide transportation strategy. For more information and directions, call the Ohio Sierra Club at 614-461-0734. (A Northeast Ohio activists meeting may take place on June 24 in Cleveland. Call EcoCity Cleveland at 216-932-3007 for details.)

**June 20**

**Summer solstice** commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Cleveland Metroparks' Look About Lodge on Miles Road in Bentleyville, featuring 1930s activities and a swing dance, noon to 8 p.m. Call 440-247-7075.

**June 21**



**Summer solstice sunrise** observation, 5:30 a.m. at Cleveland Metroparks' Huntington Reservation. Call 440-734-6660.

**June 21**

Hike along the **valley walls of the Rocky River**, 2 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks' Rocky River Reservation. Call 440-734-6660.

**June 21**

Hike along the new **Lorain County bike trail** from Kipton City Park, 2 p.m.

**June 21**

**Summer solstice celebration**, 7 p.m. at the Crown Point Ecology Learning Center, 3220 Ira Rd. in Bath. To register, call 330-666-9200.

**June 23**

Conference in Buffalo on **global warming impacts on the Great Lakes**, sponsored by the U.S. EPA. For registration information, call 703-247-2410.

**June 23**

Monthly meeting of the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club **Urban Sprawl Committee**, 7 p.m. at the Lakewood Public Library. Call 216-521-2434.

**June 24**

**Lorain County 2020 "Passing the Torch"** celebration, 4 p.m. at the Spitzer Conference Center of Lorain County Community College. Call 440-366-2020 for more information.

**June 24**

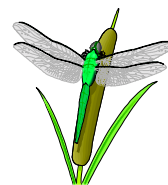
The future of **sustainable energy** in Northeast Ohio will be the topic of the monthly public program of the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club, 7:30 p.m. at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Blvd. in Shaker Heights. Call 216-843-7272 for more information.

**June 25**

Monthly meeting of the **Inter-Community Coalition**, 7 p.m. at the offices of the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, 6100 W. Canal Rd. in Valley View. For information, call 216-237-4541.

**June 27**

**Dragonfly monitoring**, 9 a.m., in wetlands near the Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Nature Center.



**June 27**

Class on **native trees**, 2 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks' Rocky River Nature Center. Call 440-734-6660 to register.

**July 3**

Guided tour of the unusual habitats of **Kent and Triangle Lake bogs**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For reservations, call the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, 216-861-5093.

**July 4**

**Kent Heritage Festival** with information from the Kent Environmental Council about making the community friendlier for bicyclists and pedestrians.

**July 5**

Hike through geologic history at **Stebbins Gulch**, 1 p.m. at Holden Arboretum in Kirtland (repeated August 2 and August 29). Call 440-946-4400 to register.

**July 7**

Citizen hearing in Detroit on **Great Lakes water pollution**. For details, call Great Lakes United at 716-886-0142 or Citizens' Environmental Alliance at 519-973-1116.

**July 7**

**Environmental brown bag lunch** series at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Blvd. in Shaker Heights. Call 216-321-5935.

**July 9**

Quarterly meeting of the **Western Reserve Resource Conservation and Development Council**, 9:30 a.m. at the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District offices, 6100 W. Canal Rd. in Valley View. Presentation of EcoCity Cleveland's Citizens' Bioregional Plan.

**July 9-12**

"Moving the Economy," an international conference in Toronto exploring **sustainable transportation** as a key to economic progress. For registration information, call 416-392-0071 or see [www.city.toronto.on.ca](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca).

**July 10**

John Barbo, author of the new **Cleveland Fishing Guide**, will speak on fishing opportunities in Greater Cleveland, 7 p.m. at the Geauga Park District's Meyer Center, 9160 Robinson Rd.

**July 11**

**Birdwatching in flood plain forests** of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 7 a.m. at the Station Road Bridge Trailhead of the Towpath Trail.

**July 11**

Guided tour of **Kent Bog** south of Kent, 2 p.m. Program repeated July 25 and August 8. Call 330-527-5118.



**July 11**

Class on **native shrubs and vines**, 2 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks' Rocky River Nature Center. Call 440-734-6660 to register.

**July 14**

Public meeting of the **Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor Coalition** to discuss projects occurring throughout the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor, 7 p.m. at the J.D. Define Building in Navarre. Call 330-434-5657.

**July 18**

**Summer dune walk**, 8:30 a.m. at Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve. Call 440-563-9344.

**July 18-19**

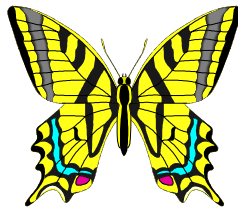
**Tour du Corridor** bike ride along the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor. For information, call 330-434-5657 or 216-348-1825.

**July 19**

**Butterfly count**, noon to 3:30 p.m. at the Woods Edge area of Geauga Park District's Swine Creek Reservation. For more information, call 440-285-2222, ext. 5420.

**July 25**

**Birdwatching in old field habitats** of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 7 a.m. at the Special Events Site on Riverview Road.



**Public meetings on ODOT transportation priorities**

Should our gas tax dollars be spent on new highways or to maintain existing communities? ODOT's Transportation Review Advisory Committee (TRAC) is conducting a series of public meetings to hear comments on major new transportation capacity projects and the selection criteria used to prioritize them.

Northeast Ohio meetings will be on June 25 at the Kent Holiday Inn (at SR 43 and I-76) and on June 26 at the Independence Holiday Inn (Rockside Road and I-77). The meetings start at 8:30 a.m. and are scheduled to conclude at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting on June 26 could be particularly important if ODOT follows through on its plans to present recommendations for the reconstruction of 116 miles of I-71 between Cleveland and Columbus. Though strong arguments have been made for widening only small sections of the highway where traffic congestion is high or truck climbing lanes are necessary, ODOT is expected to propose widening the entire corridor. Call Michael Cull at ODOT for more information (614-644-7101).

**Board meetings of regional agencies**

Here are the regular, monthly meeting times of agencies that are shaping our region. Call to confirm.

- **Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority**, 101 Erieside Ave. Cleveland, 241-8004. Friday of first full week at 10 a.m.
- **Cleveland Metroparks**, 4101 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland, 351-6300. Second and fourth Thursdays at 9 a.m.
- **Cuyahoga County Planning Commission**, 323 Lakeside Ave. West, Cleveland, 443-3700. Second Tuesday at 2 p.m.
- **Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA)**, State Office Building, 615 Superior Ave. NW, Cleveland, 566-5100. First and third Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
- **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA)**, 668 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, 241-2414. Board meeting second Friday at 9:30 a.m. Transportation Advisory Committee third Thursday at 10 a.m.
- **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District**, 3826 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, 881-6600. First and third Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

# Ancient beach ridges

A series of glacial lakes—precursors to Lake Erie—formed beach ridges across northern Ohio. Early trails followed the ridges, as do modern roads such as Detroit Road and Center Ridge Road. The map shows the abandoned beach ridges of glacial lakes Maumee, Whittlesey and Warren.

Source: *Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair Handbook* edited by Stanley J. Bolsenga and Charles E. Herdendorf, 1993.

**"Indispensable reading for those who want to know what's really going on in the region or what the headlines may be a decade from now."**

—David Orr, Oberlin College Environmental Studies Program

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