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Annual Partner Award Given to Paddling Duo

During the Annual General Meeting held earlier this month, Partners for Clean Streams was delighted to present two long-distance canoe riders with the Partner Award. Matt Horvat, of TMACOG, and Steve Pollick, of *The Blade*, were recognized for their Fort-to-Port canoe excursion that brought attention to the Maumee Watershed. The 130-mile canoeing trek brought attention to the Maumee River as the team (and others) paddled from Fort Wayne to the Port of Toledo. Both men have worked to restore the natural habitat in the Maumee Watershed for many years, through environmental programs and education.

Thanks to both men for their dedication to the Maumee River Area of Concern.

Ottawa River Habitat Project at Camp Miakonda Re-Scheduled to Fall 2012

PCS continues to move forward on the Camp Miakonda restoration project. However, the complex and specialized nature of the restoration work demands technically sound and carefully thought out design plans prior to moving ahead with bidding out the project. In addition, PCS decided that it would be best to have permits in hand before bidding the work. This provides the most complete and accurate set of expectations for potential contractors.



We are in the process of securing the required permits for the project and the final plans are now in hand, but we re-scheduled the active restoration phase until next fall. This allows plenty of time to secure the permits, bid out many parts of the project, and continue to work cooperatively with the Boy Scouts on education and involvement in the project. This schedule also avoids the "busy" season for the Camp when many young Cub Scouts enjoy summer camps on the property.

In addition to the planning and regulatory tasks, PCS will continue to work with local and regional partners to:

- Secure native plants and seeds
- Work with volunteers to harvest/re-locate plants
- Educate and engage youth and adults

The extended schedule will allow us to more fully engage many partners and continue to plan for the monitoring, education and use of the project for the years to come.

Please watch for activities and future updates about our progress and check the PCS website for more information on this and other PCS projects at www.PartnersForCleanStreams.org.

Meet the New Employees!

Ava Slotnik — Outreach Coordinator



Ava graduated from Miami University of Ohio in 2009 with a bachelor of science in zoology and co-majored in environmental science. She recently became a Certified Interpretative Guide as a way to improve her ability to inspire others about the environment and animals. Growing up in Genoa, Ohio, she spent time exploring the many parks of the area and gaining a deep love of nature, especially waterways, through exploration. Even after traveling the continent on family trips and during courses in college, she came back to work in the Maumee River Watershed not only because of the remarkable ecosystems here, but also because of the great need for preservation and public awareness.

After spending a childhood of pure outdoor exploration and formal education in zoology, she found a position that utilizes the need for energetic inspiration as well as a scientific background. Ava inspires others to appreciate the environment in which we all live by sharing her passion for nature. While working in our watershed with experts in the field, she is excited to learn more about the organisms and environment, because there is always more to learn.

While not at work, Ava enjoys hiking, fossil hunting, scuba diving, skiing, camping, canoeing, kayaking, swimming and pretty much any other activity involving nature. She spends time volunteering at the Toledo Zoo, being with family, traveling and spending time with her turtle, Floyd. She also enjoys long walks on the beach, especially Maumee Bay State Park.

Kyle Spicer — Program Coordinator



Kyle is a graduate from Bowling Green State University with a bachelor of science in biology with a minor in general science. Originally from Grand Rapids, Ohio, he was a member of the local Boy Scout Troop #325, which helped spark his passion for the great outdoors and the environment. After two treks at Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico, Kyle understood the importance in preserving and maintaining the natural beauty around us all, which is one reason why he has stayed in the area to help with the Maumee River Watershed.

Kyle's goals are to further educate himself on environmental and biological matters, since the sciences are evolving every day, as well as educate others on the topics of restoration, preservation, and other environmental issues. His passion and background in education has him anxiously looking forward to the Miakonda project and continuing the cooperation between PCS and the Boy Scouts of America to help show scouts and other youth the importance of keeping their Mother Earth clean.

Outside the comforts of his job, Kyle enjoys canoeing, camping, thrilling games of

ultimate Frisbee, random pick-up-games of Euchre (the real way, none of this bidding stuff), listening to music, long walks on the beach and reading a good story.

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Water Saving Tip

The Great Lakes and their tributaries have encountered many invasive species, from lampreys to zebra mussels. The newest threat may be Asian carp, also known as silver carp. If you have not heard about this threat, [learn more by watching this dramatic video](#). This fish could dramatically change the eco-system and recreation on Lake Erie. For more water-saving tips, visit the [Partners for Clean Streams publications page](#).

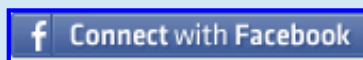


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