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New Year, New Reason to Help Local Waterways

The year is winding down, so it's time to think about New Year's resolutions. Are there some for waterways that you can include? Here are some suggestions!

- Contact your state representatives and tell them you care about clean water
- Invest in rain barrels or install a rain garden
- Talk about the importance of protecting our water to friends and family
- Fill the sink to shave
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth
- Organize storm drain stenciling in your neighborhood
- Recycle water from pet bowls and fish tanks onto plants
- Volunteer for Clean Your Streams Day
- Clean up after pets during walks and discard the waste in the trash
- [Pledge to donate or raise funds for Partners for Clean Streams](#)

If we all resolve to take a few small steps, we can make a large difference. Do you have more ideas? Please submit them to our [Facebook](#) page.

Welcome New Board Member

Over the next two issues, we will profile new board members joining Partners for Clean Streams in 2012! The first is Shawn M. Reinhart.

Shawn is an Environmental Engineer III for First Solar Inc. and has been in the environmental business for over 19 years. He holds a Biology degree from the University of Toledo. Shawn has been involved with Partners for Clean Streams for three years. His professional interests include waste management, by-product recycling, activities with Plant Earth Day and highway cleanups. Shawn and his wife, Michelle, live in Whitehouse with their seven children.

Welcome, Shawn. In January, we'll profile another new Board member joining us for 2012.

Of course, we extend great thanks to all the returning Board members. We also extend enormous gratitude to the exiting Board members who have served since PCS was founded, Tony Sloma and Scott Ousky.

Thanks-Giving Drive Contest Winner

Since November was the time of year to reflect on being thankful, Partners for Clean Streams hosted a Facebook contest for people to describe (or show) their appreciation for PCS, our wildlife and the local rivers and streams. Called the Thanks-Giving Drive and Contest, the first way you could participate was by telling us how thankful you are for living in northwest Ohio's Maumee River basin. Participants could write a quick message, share pictures, write a poem, song, or create a video to share with everyone!

We are happy to announce that the winner was Chris Toy, a ZooTeen volunteer. He wins a one-year membership to the Beth Allen floral club (maybe a lucky somebody will be getting flowers once a month!), as well as PCS gear. Chris wrote:

"I am thankful to even have the opportunity to be around the water and connect with nature in such an amazing area. No matter where I go in this ecosystem, it will always be a part of me. It was and is my childhood."

We offer congratulations and our thanks to Chris! We can't wait to see you at one of our Get the Lead Out or Clean Your Streams events, taking an active role in caring for the environment you so appreciate!

We offer thanks to all of those who entered. It was great to see the fun and thoughtful entries. And to participate in the second part of the Facebook event, the fundraising drive, you can still go online to our Firstgiving page (an online fundraising website) to help us reach our fundraising goals for the year.

With less than \$2,000 to go, we can end the year strong with your help! It only takes a [few clicks to donate](#). And of course, PCS still accepts checks, cash and credit card payments. Just contact the office if you'd rather donate that way.

Record Rainfalls Lead to Surging Streams and Flooding

How "big" or significant was this recent rainfall event November 30th?

Recorded maximum gauge height measurements (1943-1959, 1977-present) at UT Ottawa River USGS gauging station were recorded in:

1.	March 14, 1982	14.54 ft
2.	March 11, 2009	13.94 ft
3.	March 22, 1978	13.70 ft
4.	Sept. 4, 1981	13.70 ft
5.	Nov. 30, 2011 (@3:00 a.m.)	13.24 ft
6.	June 22, 2006	13.17 ft

The gauge at UT in the Ottawa River records the height of the water level (up and down fluctuations) around the clock and can be viewed live at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=04177000.

"The 3.02 inches of rain that had fallen at Toledo Express Airport made this the wettest November on record in Toledo, with the month-to-date total of 7.14 inches breaking the previous mark of 6.86 inches set in 1982. It also left Toledo 2.46 inches shy of reaching its full-year precipitation record of 47.87 inches, set in 1950, with all of December still to go." — excerpted from *The Blade*, David Patch, Nov. 30 article.

In fact this region has received even more rainfall so far in December that is sure to put this year in the record books. The Maumee River in Waterville was nearly four feet above its 9-foot flood stage on Wednesday, Dec. 1 (and still rising then).

How is PCS helping?

PCS is working on projects, like wetland restoration areas, that can create some resilient "pockets" within our urban and suburban landscape that can help adapt to dramatic swings in water levels.

In addition, we can help homeowners reduce storm water runoff by putting them in touch with resources for native landscaping, rain gardens, and more tips on how to reduce the impact on our streams and rivers during these extreme wet weather events.

Like us? Do you really Like us?

If you are on Facebook, and have yet to [Like](#) our page, please do so. Additional tips and information, as well as news, videos and photos are posted weekly, if not more often. You can like the page by clicking the button below - it's just that easy.

If you already like us on [Facebook](#), please suggest us to your [Facebook](#) friends.

Water Saving Tip

Christmas and Christmas cooking are just around the corner! Need a waterways-friendly drain opener? Pour ½ cup baking soda into drain, follow with two cups boiling water. Or, pour ½ cup baking soda into drain then add a cup of vinegar. After it fizzes, rinse with a mixture of boiling water and salt. Repeat if necessary. If you like this tip, pass it on! For more water-saving tips, visit the [Partners for Clean Streams publications page](#).

Every drop in the bucket improves water quality.

Can you donate even \$5 this month? We can track the amount you give over the course of the year! [Donate now!](#)



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