

## **Environmental Stewardship Team**

### **2010 Annual Report**

#### Caring for Creation (Earth Day) Observance, June 13, 20, 27.

- Film 'Food Inc' shown and discussed in two Adult Ed sessions.
- Dr. Gregory Hitzhusen, OhIPL, spoke to Adult Ed class about creation care theology on June 27.
- Handout: Our Family Pledge to Care for Creation, listed conservation activities, a special price for a home energy audit, and resources for recycling. Handout prepared by Judy Reuning and Joanne Leussing.

Vegetable garden created for Play and Learn by Rob Wendling. P & L staff had a favorable view of the project, would do it again next year. There is space to enlarge the garden a few feet.

Butterfly garden begun at south edge of parking lot with native plants that will attract butterflies and support butterfly larvae. Intent is to replace weeds in this area with plants that restore biodiversity, appeal to and educate children about nature.

#### Sept 12. Rally Day presentation.

ESTeam presented information to members about GLC energy use and ESTeam activities.

GLC energy and water use monitored by Steve Ing, who reported findings to Council. Approximately \$1,100 reduction in energy costs are attributed to closing holes in church attic.

Insulation for church attic. Funded with contributions of \$3,700. Installation scheduled for November.

OhIPL 10% Challenge to Save Energy. ESTeam signed up GLC for project in October. Our list of activities included:

- Insulate church attic;
- Evaluate energy use and need for 10 refrigerators and freezers in church building.
- Plant butterfly garden.
- Plant 2 redbud trees.
- Catalog refrigerators, hot water heaters, space heaters re: age, lifespan, and efficiency. Develop replacement schedule to take advantage of price breaks.
- Initiate a faith-based pledge program to inspire members to undertake new environmental conservation actions. This program to be done in 2011. Dick and Judy Reuning volunteered to teach a faith-based conservation series.

GLC did not qualify for a \$1,000 grant. We have received a certificate of recognition for completing the 10% Challenge. More than 250 congregations from 38 states and Canada participated.

#### Native plant landscaping for slope east of parking lot.

After a member commented that the site is difficult to mow, a planning meeting held by Rob Wendling and Joanne Leussing to eliminate lawn between the stairs. Replace with native plants. Site prep and planting to be done in spring. Objectives: Restore biodiversity. Reduce lawn mowing and mower pollutants. Nature education.

#### Water conservation

Investigating a system to capture rainwater in a cistern. Use the water to flush the 14 toilets and water landscape plants. Initial contacts made at dedication of a rain garden at Columbus Mennonite Church with contractor, funding source, and FLOW, the project coordinator. Paul Feldman scheduled Nov. 19 meeting with Rain Brothers, system designer and installer. He contacted Columbus Water Division which encouraged the project. Five members attended. Anticipate need for grant funding. Objectives: Use less treated water. Reduce rainwater to storm sewers which reduces stream erosion and adverse impact to aquatic life in rivers. Reduce water bill.

Cistern would be located at site of the catch basin on west side of lot. Estimated capture of 66,000 gal. water/year from 3,500-5,000 square feet of roof. Rain Brothers to be provided with building blueprints, plumbing records, and 6 month water use data for determining cost estimate. Expect estimate in December.

#### Composter

A member commented that leaves had been disposed of in the dumpster, recommended composting. ESTeam ordered and installed a closed composter for leaves and other yard waste.

Submitted by Joanne Leussing, Chair Environmental Stewardship Team