



Environmental Connections

News – Courses – Lectures – Trips – Meetings

October 10, 2009



Upcoming Events

October Events

Monday, 5th

Green Oxford Meeting

5:00pm 201 Alumni Hall

NAEP Meeting

6:00pm 201 Alumni Hall

Contact: Megan Ansley,
ansleymh@muohio.edu

Wednesday, 7th

Grant-Funding Workshop

2:00-4:30pm 201 Gaskill Hall

RSVP with Helen Kiss

(513)529-3600

Saturday, 10th

Miami University Natural Areas 3rd

Annual Hike-A-Thon

8:00am-5:00pm

Open to all members of the University and the general public and friendly dogs on leash.

http://web.me.com/reidje/2008_Hikeathon/Welcome.html

Tuesday, 13th

Campus Screening: *Age of Stupid*

7:00pm in the Heritage Room

Contact: Max Blaushild,

max.blaushild@greenpeace.org

Saturday, 31st

IES Symposium and Awards Banquet

Let me know about errors and announcements.

Contact Jamie Wisenall, 529-5811,

wisenajb@muohio.edu

ERC Rain Garden Event

The Ecology Research Center (ERC) is home to a pilot study in the efficacy of rain gardens. Rain gardens are planted in sunken areas that will receive water from rooftops and other impervious surfaces following a rain event. They serve as an aesthetically pleasing way to reduce storm water runoff, improve water quality and minimize the need to water the garden. There is a growing trend to establish rain gardens on commercial and residential properties as they are an easy and pleasing way to “be green.”

Beginning in the spring of last year, Donna McCollum, IES Environmental Monitoring Coordinator, and Rodney Kolb, Manager of the ERC, along with several dedicated volunteers, have been working to establish a rain garden located by the main buildings of the research center. Excavation began in January of last year with the first planting (of trees and shrubs) in late February, followed by a planting of perennials in March and April.

Several items of note include that most species are of at least native genera, although some may be horticultural varieties, and have been carefully selected and planted for their benefits to wildlife. Some ornamentals have been added, both because they add color and because they were donated from the grounds department or community members. Finally, expenses for the project have been minimal, due to in-house labor and donation of compost, mulch, and plants. The completed rain garden encompasses enough of an area to receive storm water from the roofs of the three buildings which encircle it. Given the size and complexity of this rain garden it might take about 3 years of maintenance before it is able to essentially function on its own. Typically, home gardens take 1-2 years to reach “maturity.” Dr. McCollum is confident that the rain garden at Miami’s ERC will serve as “an educational endeavor for many audiences, including students, physical facilities staff, interested faculty and staff, and the public.”

If you would like to learn more about rain gardens, how they function, and how to begin your own, the rain garden at the ERC is a fantastic resource. Visitors are highly encouraged and volunteers are definitely needed! The next volunteer opportunity will be a fun-filled day of planting and weeding on **Saturday October**

17th 1-4pm (rain-out date of Sunday October 18th 1-4pm). Donations of any perennial plants are also much appreciated. For more information or directions, please contact Donna McCollum, mccollids@muohio.edu (513)529-9386.



Local Festivals and Farmer's Markets

Every Saturday until Thanksgiving, farmers will be selling their goods at the Farmer's Market in Uptown Oxford. Not only does the Market feature fresh fruits and vegetables, but regionally produced meats, eggs, baked goods, and sweets. Visitors also enjoy coffee and tea while listening to the sounds of local musicians. Come experience the Farmer's Market this weekend and help Oxford with their “cultivating community” campaign. For more information, visit the website: www.oxfordfarmersmarket.com.

