

Brook Notes

A publication of the
DOAN BROOK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Watershed Management an Example of Regional Cooperation



by Nancy Dietrich
Vice Pres./Trustee

Regionalism. It's a word we see a lot these days, mostly in articles written by people from other places telling us that we really need to try it here in Cleveland. Do they think we've never heard of it? Don't they know the concept is alive and well in northeast Ohio?

From where I sit, as a City Council member in Cleveland Heights, folks here in greater Cleveland are making regionalism a reality in all sorts of ways, the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership being one very good example.

Through the *Doan Brook Watershed Partnership*, the cities of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, and Shaker Heights have come together in an effort to protect and improve the Doan Brook as it runs from its origins in Shaker Heights, along the southern part of Cleveland Heights, and into Lake Eric at the end of

Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in Cleveland.

Each city contributes equally to the *Partnership*, both financially and organizationally. Each is represented by a Council member and a senior staff member, so that policy and practicality both come into play. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, University Circle Inc., and The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes are also at the table, as are two at-large citizen representatives, one from the upper brook and one from the lower.

Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, and Shaker Heights all reap rewards from their participation in the *Partnership*. In addition to administering an Ohio EPA 319 Pollution Control Grant for Doan Brook, our Board and our Executive Director Keith Jones have impacted the Rockefeller Park Stream Restoration Project, the Horseshoe Lake Park Master Plan, the Dike 14/Lakefront Plan, and the three cities' compliance with the Phase II Stormwater Regulations.

The *Partnership* is not alone in its foray into regionalism. The First Suburbs Consortium and its Eco-

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Partnership Sets Priorities for 2005

In September 2004 the Partnership Board of Trustees updated its *Action Plan for the Doan Brook Watershed* and set the following priorities for the coming year:

- ✓ Restoring up to 1000 feet of brook in the upper Doan Brook watershed
- ✓ Developing a management plan to control pollutants in the Green and Marshall lakes subwatershed
- ✓ Supporting Cleveland's ambitious

Rockefeller Park Doan Brook restoration project

- ✓ Assisting the three watershed cities, Cleveland Hts., Shaker Hts. and Cleveland, with programs to improve water quality and habitat
- ✓ Providing watershed education to all residents through The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
- ✓ Fundraising for capital projects and future Partnership operations.

January 2005



Autumn on Marshall Lake
at South Woodland and Lee roads,
Shaker Heights
Photo by K. Jones

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED...

Please consider making a **tax-deductible contribution** to support the work of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership. Through our once-a-year "Request for Donations" we seek the financial support needed to help maintain operations in the coming year. If we have not yet heard from you, it's not too late!

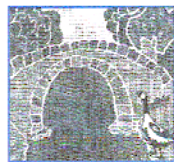
For \$30 you'll receive The Doan Brook Handbook, your 250 page complete guide to the watershed's natural history, wildlife, plants and more...

For \$50 you'll receive an unframed original 8" x 10" photograph

For \$100 you'll receive a matted and framed original 8" x 10" photograph

Pick from beautiful photos of a Blue Heron, Common Loon, Wood Ducklings, Horseshoe Lake or the Doan Brook itself.

Please call or e-mail for information.



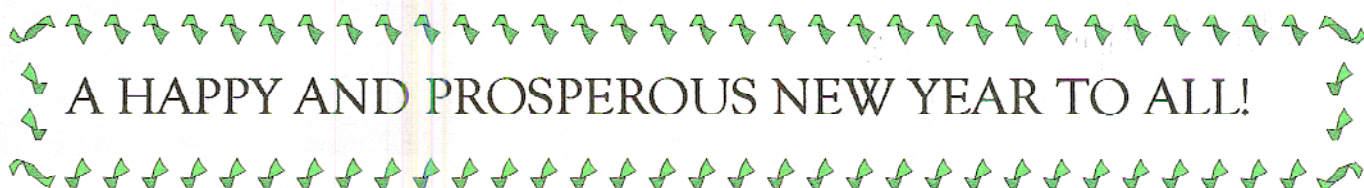
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*"The Doan Brook Watershed Partnership...
protecting, restoring and enhancing
Doan Brook and its watershed for the
benefit of future generations"*



A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Director's Report

Reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges of our young nonprofit group over the past year, several things stand out. In terms of accomplishments...

- In January, our 11-member Board of Trustees adopted the *Action Plan for the Doan Brook Watershed*, a comprehensive plan and strategy to protecting and restoring Doan Brook and its watershed, written in-house and saving substantial dollars to be used for implementation of high priority projects.
- In February, conclusion of the federal Sec. 106 historic preservation review of Cleveland's Rockefeller Park Doan Brook restoration project and subsequent completion of the project design as the year ended, allowing for the \$5.5 million project to be bid out in early-2005 with construction beginning in late-spring.
- Start up of our Watershed Education Committee and planning for our Feb. 15, 2005 seminar at the

Center for Regional Economic Initiatives at CWRU.

- Undertaking an intensive study of the use of beneficial microbes on Green, Marshall and Horseshoe lakes in cooperation with John Carroll University (thank you Prof. Nichols!).
- Dedication of Rudy Rogers Memorial Scout Park at Ambler Park in May, providing for new opportunities to improve and restore this somewhat forgotten greenspace along Doan Brook.
- Securing funding for Partnership operations as we face the strong possibility of declining city financial support.
- Ensuring that we engage the entire watershed community and offering opportunities for participation from all of our citizen, institutional, municipal and business partners.

Happy New Year!

Keith Jones, Executive Director



Annual Partners Meeting

Oct. 2004 at The Nature Center



(Regional Cooperation continued)

conomic Development Council, the Mayors and Managers Economic Development Task Force, the County Economic Development Blue Ribbon Task Force, and the First Ring Superintendents Collaborative are but a few of the other examples of regionalism at work in our backyard.

Regional approaches level the playing field. They lessen the influence of political boundaries. They require a "leap of faith," if you will, because they assume a win/win outcome as all parties give a little in order to get more in the long run.

The Doan Brook Watershed Partnership embodies the cooperative spirit that's necessary for collaborations to succeed. We are three cities, three institutions, and private citizens acting together in a harmonious way. The benefits of Partnership efforts don't always fall equally to each city, but there is never a tallying of the score based on municipal boundaries. A one-for-all, all-for-one attitude keeps the health of the watershed in the forefront, certainly a win/win for everyone.