

# ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

[www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)

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## OHMHA NEWSLETTER

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April 2006

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Is your car parked in the driveway because your garage is bulging?

Do things topple out when you open your closet?

Do you dream of extra storage space?

Here's your chance to turn all your don't want/don't use/don't need/don't like items into fun and profit—

## 2006 ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE!

Saturday, May 20

9 am~1 pm

The OHMHA will run an ad in the *Ann Arbor News* and will post signs at  
subdivision entrances and major intersections.



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### OHMHA Helps Make Tree Team Project a Huge Success



On April 29, over thirty neighborhood volunteers of all ages spent three hours working with Global Releaf, a local nonprofit, planting twenty-five trees along Lexington, Antietam, and Bunker Hill.

The tree population in Orchard Hills–Maplewood, along with the city as a whole, has been decimated by the emerald ash borer. As the Forestry department lacks the capacity to replant all of the lost trees (according to an article in the *Ann Arbor News*, the city will have to replace 20,000 trees over the next ten years), OHMHA volunteered to become a pilot neighborhood for the city's "Tree Team" project. Tree Teams are volunteers who agree to help plant trees, in their own neighborhood, on a Saturday.

After meeting with the OHMHA board to discuss piloting the Tree Team concept, City Forester Kay Sicheneder asked Global Releaf to team up with neighborhood residents on the project. Global Releaf coordinated with the city and OHMHA to provide trees such as swamp oaks, yellowwoods and maples; to make sure that sewer and utility lines were identified; and to provide help on the tree planting itself.

To encourage participation, OHMHA board members distributed fliers door-to-door in the neighborhood and sent an email to OHMHA's neighborhood listserv.

On the 29th, working with our volunteers, Melinda Jones and Kathy Gilmour from Global Releaf provided guidance on planting trees so that they grow and thrive. In addition to Melinda and Kathy, Ms. Sicheneder and several employees of the Forestry and Parks department took part in the planting. Our Tree Team even had a knowledgeable volunteer from outside Ann Arbor as Dan Kurkowski, Detroit's City Forester, joined in the effort and provided planting instruction.

Please take look at the volunteers' handiwork. Also, if you live along one of streets that were planted but did not get a tree, notify Peter Mooney at [pmooney@sflaw.com](mailto:pmooney@sflaw.com) as we are hoping for another Tree Team planting this fall.

*by Peter Mooney*

# Thurston Pond Restoration Update

*by Neal Foster*

About sixty people attended the February 22 public meeting at which two Thurston Pond restoration plans were presented:

## **MDEQ-Funded Plan**

Scott Dierks, of J.F. New, prime contractor on the 2005-2008 \$300,000 grant, awarded to the Ann Arbor Public School District (AAPSD) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency via the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Section 319 non-point source management program, spoke about the pond and restoration plans. Now the centerpiece of the AAPSD-owned twenty-four acre Thurston Nature Center, Thurston Pond was originally a wetland in the headwaters of Millers Creek, a small Huron River tributary. In 1968 it became a storm water detention pond but in the 1970s, highly efficient storm sewers were constructed for the Bromley and Orchard Hills neighborhoods, funneling most storm water and snowmelt directly into Millers Creek just south of Plymouth Road. Consequently, the only major surface water input to the pond currently is the rain/snow that falls directly on the pond, and about 80% of the pond's volume is lost each year by evaporation. Thurston Pond phosphorus concentrations are too high—levels of 93–410 parts per billion (ppb) have been measured, far above the desired level of 20 ppb. Excess amounts of phosphorus and other nutrients contribute to eutrophication, which can cause noxious algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen levels, and fish kills.

The MDEQ-funded plan would restore Thurston Pond as a functional storm water detention pond, creating a water body dominated by emergent macrophytes (aquatic plants with more leafy growth above the water than below) and with greater habitat diversity, conditions that would restore the pond's status as a useable environmental education site for the AAPSD.

The current plan would:

- (1) retrofit the storm water inlets from Georgetown and Clague School with swirl concentrators to separate out suspended oil and grit;
- (2) install a solar aerator–floating wetland device (“aquatic restorer”) to further remediate sediments (for more info: [www.oceanarks.org/restorer/](http://www.oceanarks.org/restorer/)) (please note: dredging is not eligible for funding under this grant program); and
- (3) evaluate effectiveness by collecting quantitative data on water quality and making other measurements both before and after the inlet retrofitting and aerator installation.

The final restoration plan will depend on this ongoing process of data collection and evaluation, and on continued deliberations of the AAPSD's Thurston Pond Restoration Advisory Team/Steering Committee, which includes representatives from the AAPSD Environmental and Utility Services Division, MDEQ, Thurston School, Thurston Nature Center Committee, City of Ann Arbor Public Services Area, Millers Creek Action Team, OHMHA, Huron River Watershed Council, and a consultant team comprised of engineers, biologists, limnologists, and landscape architects.

## **TNCC Plan**

Tom Edsall, who represents the Thurston Nature Center Committee on the AAPSD's Thurston Pond Advisory Team, presented the restoration plan that had been adopted in 2004 (as a stand-alone supplement to an earlier report) by the Thurston Nature Center Committee (TNCC) (for more details: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~nealfost/TNCCRestorationReport.htm>). Tom pointed out that Thurston Pond was once a clear water pond with highly diverse aquatic flora and fauna. However, as the years passed, this diversity has declined and the water has become turbid. In contrast to the MDEQ-funded plan presented by Scott Dierks on behalf of the AAPSD, the (unfunded) TNCC plan calls for a limited amount of strategic dredging to improve both deeper aquatic

habitats as well as shallower emergent plant habitats, interconnecting deeper pools by narrow channels that would facilitate periodic draining of the pond. Dredged material would be used on-site to create wildlife habitat islands or other refuges. Meanwhile, the berm or pond-retaining wall on the pond's northwest side would be reinforced and the outlet elevated by 1 to 2 feet. Optimum pond management practices (e.g., removing undesirable fish species) would require that the existing pond outlet structure be changed or retrofitted to permit the pond to be fully drained when necessary, dredging and grading the pond bottom to deepen portions to provide deeper pool-type habitat for fishes and other aquatic animals.

### **Proposed New Habitat**

Tom also described an oak savannah that is proposed for the area of Thurston School property bounded on the east by the Georgetown subdivision, on the north and west by the asphalt path leading from the end of Yorktown Street to Thurston School, and on the south by the softball field. This area is presently mowed grassland that receives little use. The land slopes down from an elevation of 920 feet east of the softball field to an elevation of 910 feet near the pond edge and towards the school and school playground to the west. A low berm adjacent to a shallow channel dug along the sidewalk would redirect snowmelt water and storm water runoff down a gentle slope to the pond. Creating this habitat would require only the planting of trees (preferably native white oak) at relatively widely-spaced intervals and periodic prescribed burns to prevent unwanted woody species from invading the area. Planting of native prairie grasses and broad-leaved, nonwoody, herbaceous plants could also be done as a continuing project by school children and the TNCC.

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The question-and-answer session was spirited and informative, and historical recollections by long-time residents revealed important new insights which may help improve pond restoration planning. For example, various changes have been observed over the years in positions of what were presumably permanent structures built to supplement or maintain the pond's water level. Inlet pipes from storm sewers have settled substantially into clay embankments and the berm on the northwest side has settled in places well below the level of the outlet drain so that the latter is no longer functional. There even may be a potential source of groundwater to supplement redirected storm water inputs to the pond on private property near the southwest corner of Georgetown and Bluett.

### **Get Involved!**

If you are interested in helping to monitor the pond by taking various measurements (e.g., phosphorus levels, temperature, pH, vegetation cover, depth), contact Scott Dierks at 734-222-9690 or [sdierks@jfnw.com](mailto:sdierks@jfnw.com).

If you have question/suggestions, or are interested in joining or otherwise helping the TNCC, contact Neal Foster at 663-0756 or [nealfost@umich.edu](mailto:nealfost@umich.edu). The TNCC website is [www-personal.umich.edu/~nealfost/TNC-info.htm](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~nealfost/TNC-info.htm). The TNCC meets on the third Monday of each month in the Thurston School library.



*Scott Dierks presenting the current plan.*

# THURSTON WORK DAY

*by Mike Conboy*

This year's Spring Work Day in the Thurston Nature Center attracted sixty-four people who spread wood chips, groomed trails, burned the prairie and cared for their Adopted Trees. Surprisingly, the emerald ash borer has created a special opportunity for the Nature Center. Hundreds of ash trees were overgrowing other native Michigan trees that had been planted to assure a diverse educational habitat. As the ash trees die, these other trees and flowers receive more sunlight, water and nutrients. In addition, dead trees provide a bonanza for cavity nesting birds.

The strategy of the Adopt-A-Tree program is to organize and personalize the volunteer interest, which has always sustained the Thurston Nature Center. So far, more than a hundred adults and children have adopted trees and small areas around them; enthusiasm, learning and personal satisfaction are at high levels. However, many areas still need attention. For more information about Adopt-A-Tree, talk to a Nature Center committee member, check the kiosk or call 665-4027.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Welcome to our "meet your neighbors" section highlighting neighborhood families. Take this opportunity to learn about your neighbors and maybe make another friend! Please contact the editor if you are interested in being featured in a future newsletter.

### **The Smith Family**

After several months of interior renovations, Tracy and I moved into our home on Georgetown during Thanksgiving, 2004. I attended U of M and now work locally as an engineer at the Toyota Technical Center. Tracy recently completed her graduate studies at U of M's School of Public Health, and is now preparing for her Registered Dietician's certification exam.

I have a passion for golf while Tracy is committed to running—last month she completed her first half-marathon. Together, we enjoy cooking, home brewing beer, and traveling. Please forgive us as our latter interest may cause our lawn to suffer during the summer months. If you're looking for a golf or running partner, or are just interested in trying a home brew, we encourage you to stop by!

I am currently serving on the OHMHA Board. ~Dan Smith

### **The Foster Family**

My wife and I have lived on Georgetown Boulevard (at the Ardenne intersection) since 1983, and I serve as the current chair of, and webmaster for, the Thurston Nature Center Committee. Besides holding various posts in state and national fisheries organizations, other activities have centered on the Ann Arbor Orchid Society, which my wife and I co-founded back in 1992 and which is still going strong. I retired in 1998 from the staff of the U.S.G.S. Great Lakes Science Center on Green Road, where I was a Research Fishery Biologist.

I am currently serving on the OHMHA Board. ~Neal Foster

## Read All About It!

Take advantage of some great opportunities to be on top of neighborhood current events:

»Visit our website: [www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)

»Sign up for the OHMHA e-mail listserv to learn about OHMHA-sponsored events and relevant issues such as proposed residential and commercial developments that may impact our neighborhood. We promise not to barrage you with e-mail, but will send only pertinent announcements. (The email list is in addition to our quarterly newsletters.) To join, please email Sandy Smith: [patinfo@smith.comcast.net](mailto:patinfo@smith.comcast.net)

»Our neighbor (Bluet Street) and city council member, Stephen Rapundalo, has started the monthly *Ward 2 e-Newsbytes* to keep us informed of city affairs. The e-Newsbytes connects us to City Hall on current and upcoming hot topics, Council decisions, meeting notices, news features, and more. To join, please send your name, home address, phone number, and e-mail address to Stephen: [rapundalo@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us](mailto:rapundalo@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us)

For both e-mail lists, please be assured that your information will not be shared with anyone else, and you can unsubscribe at any time by simply contacting either Sandy (OHMHA list) or Stephen (e-Newsbytes).

OHMHA FINANCIAL REPORT			
Income Statement		Balance Sheet	
6/1/05-3/11/06		3/11/06	
Income		Assets	
Contributions, 05-06	\$660.00	Legal account	\$1833.86
Dues, 2005-2006	5000.00	Operating account	5655.40
Interest earned	6.84	<i>Total Assets</i>	\$7489.26
<i>Total Income</i>	\$5666.84		
Expenses		Liabilities and Equity	
Bank charges	\$0	Liabilities	\$0
Entrance work	2947.00	Equity	7489.26
Garage sale signs	44.52	<i>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</i>	\$7489.26
Garage sale ads	58.00		
Lawn and landscaping	548.63		
Mail permit fee	160.00		
Newsletter expense	632.80		
Political fliers	24.38		
Rental expense	10.00		
Website expense	31.34		
Expenses, other	0		
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$4456.67		
<i>Total Income/(Expenses)</i>	\$1210.17		

*Just a Reminder*

Spring brings sunshine and flowers  
~and showers and blustery winds~  
Please secure your recycle bins  
to keep trash where it belongs!

**CIRCLE THESE DATES!**

**Thursday, May 11, 7:30 pm** OHMHA Board Meeting, Thurston Library. Public invited.

**Saturday, May 20, 9 am–1 pm** Neighborhood Garage Sale

**Friday, June 2, 6–8 pm** OHMHA annual meeting and board member election at the  
Thurston Ice Cream Social~~cast your ballot, pay your dues, and enjoy some ice  
cream at the Social!

**ORCHARD HILLS~MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR JUNE 1, 2006–MAY 31, 2007**

**(Make check for \$20.00 payable to OHMHA ~ additional contributions gratefully accepted.)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please remove my name from your email list.

COMMENTS (we welcome suggestions and/or offers to volunteer on OHMHA projects):

Mail or deliver your dues to: Denise Schlotfeldt, OHMHA Treasurer, 3356 Yellowstone Drive.

*Many thanks to former board members Sylvia Ertman and Sakina Zerrel  
for all they've done for our neighborhood!*

#### **OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS**

Stuart Baggaley	3111 Cedarbrook	332-1874	Vice-Chair/Neighborhood Watch
Henry Brysk	3032 Cedarbrook	369-2986	
Wendy Carman	2340 Georgetown	761-8693	
Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2285	
Emily Eisbruch	2561 Bunker Hill	665-0533	Webmaster
Neal Foster	2115 Georgetown	663-0756	
Anita Jones	3359 Yellowstone	761-2748	Secretary
Peter Mooney	3352 Yellowstone	213-0440	Chair
Jill Rheinheimer	2518 Georgetown	663-1489	Newsletter <a href="mailto:zooina2@sbcglobal.net">zooina2@sbcglobal.net</a>
Denise Schlotfeldt	3356 Yellowstone	913-0738	Treasurer
Daniel Smith	2377 Georgetown	320-4494	
Sandy Smith	3188 Rumsey	769-2663	

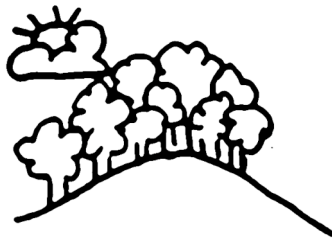
#### **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

John Hieftje (Mayor)	1800 Traver	996-0493	<a href="mailto:jhieftje@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us">jhieftje@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us</a>
Joan Lowenstein (Council Member, Ward 2)	502 Burson	761-5248	<a href="mailto:jlowenstein@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us">jlowenstein@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us</a>
Steve Rapundalo (Council Member, Ward 2)	3106 Bluett	476-0648	<a href="mailto:SRapundalo@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us">SRapundalo@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us</a>

**OHMHA**  
**3352 Yellowstone Dr.**  
**Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

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**GARAGE SALE  
MAY 20**



# **NEWSLETTER**

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**ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOC**

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