He came out to Geauga County to see Silver Creek, a tributary of the Chagrin River. Nearly 20 years before, he had worked on an intensive study of the creek for a local watershed planning district. Back then, Silver Creek was as pristine a stream as Northeast Ohio had to offer. Now he was returning to see how things had changed. Given all the development going on in western Geauga County, he was prepared for the worst.

Story on p. 3
Still depressed?

Last month in this space, I mentioned a woman in Geauga County who didn't renew her subscription because she thought our stories were too full of gloom and doom. Stories of impending environmental crisis made her feel guilty, she wrote, because "I don't have the energy or will to help more than I do..."

I received several responses to the article, including this from subscriber Laurie von Mehren: "I have real sympathy for that woman who found our area's environmental issues so depressing. I don't think you—or EcoCity—should take it personally. It took me years of being a member of Greenpeace to be able to read their magazine. I'd take one look at the dolphin caught in a net and file that issue away in the basement. It wasn't until I became involved—hands-on active—in local issues that I began to be able to face the pictures and read the stories...Even though the issues I worked on—recycling, solid waste, pesticides—were far from helping dolphins in drift nets, I felt less helpless, more hopeful.

"I think the answer to that woman's dilemma isn't to bury her head and stop reading EcoCity," von Mehren went on, "but to join a local grassroots group working on some issue like the development in her area. I really enjoy EcoCity. Thank you for making such a contribution to the region."

Recently I came across another testimony to the power of grassroots activism to inspire hope. It comes from an article in the Fall 1994 issue of Garbage magazine about the challenges facing the environmental movement in the '90s. The article quotes Michael Kellett, founder of the Massachusetts-based grassroots group, RESTORE: the North Woods. Kellett says, "People are getting numb to crisis. There may be as many or more problems now than ever, but people are overloaded with negativity. They see clear-cutting in the ancient forests and say 'Here we go again.' They see the Exxon oil spill in Prince William Sound and say, 'Here we go again.' We're living in a time when people feel hopeless about doing anything about these things. The problems seem to get worse and worse, so why even try?"

According into Kellett, the solution is for environmentalists to put forth "a strong, positive vision of what we are for. That's what people respond to...and that's what the grassroots are really good for. They are focused on particular problems, and they are trying to create fundamental change. Ross Perot gave the impression he was for empowering people, and that's how he got so far. It may have been an illusion, but people responded to it. And that's because he gave people what they wanted to hear—we can do this, we can make a change, there is a solution."

Indeed, we can change things. Our challenge is to create the positive, compelling, inspiring vision for our bioregion.

—David Beach
Editor
"This trip is like a high school reunion for me," said Andy Vidra when we rendezvoused in the parking lot of the Russell Township Hall last September. "I'm approaching it with both anticipation and trepidation."

We had come out to Geauga County to see Silver Creek, a tributary of the Chagrin River. Nearly 20 years ago, Vidra had worked on an intensive study of the creek for a local watershed planning district. Back then, Silver Creek was as pristine a stream as Northeast Ohio had to offer. Now he was returning to see how things had changed. Given all the development going on in western Geauga County, he was prepared for the worst.

"I know what urbanization does to a stream," said Vidra, a senior environmental planner at the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency. "And I know how wonderful this was."

We spread out a topographic map on the trunk of Vidra's car and, joined by Ken Frase of Ohio EPA, plotted our route. Silver Creek has two branches, which meet about a mile east of the intersection of routes 87 and 306. We decided to check out the mainstem first.

We drove north a half mile on 306 to where subdivisions now follow the creek. At the end of Hitching Post Lane there were worrisome signs. The lawns swept down to the creek bank, creating the potential for lawn chemicals to run off into the water. In addition, several homeowners had armored the bank with concrete groins to check erosion. Unfortunately, as the groins deflected the flow of water, they seemed to be exacerbating erosion downstream.

On the plus side, homes on the other side of the creek were set farther from the water. The woods were thick and undisturbed. The stream still had a cooling canopy of trees.

Vidra looked down at the water. "It's not looking too bad," he acknowledged. "It's not totally silted in, though the water clarity isn't great. There's lots of overhanging vegetation and a decent mix of pools and riffles."

Those characteristics are among the first to look for when judging the quality of a stream. How vegetated is the riparian corridor (the buffer zone along the stream that filters out pollutants)? Is the stream channel relatively stable, or do surges of stormwater from upstream developments cause excessive scouring? Does the stream bed have cobbles and gravel (habitat for aquatic organisms and fish spawning), or is it smothered with silt from construction sites? Does it have a variety of deep pools and shallow riffles (refuges for fish and fast-flowing places where water is exposed to air and oxygenated)?

Such observations will not tell you if a factory is dumping an invisible toxic chemical into the stream or if home septic systems are overflowing nearby, but they can tell you a lot about the integrity of a watershed. The condition of the riparian zone and broader flood plain is especially important.

"If the riparian zone is intact, it can make up for other mistakes," Vidra said.

The smaller the stream, the more sensitive it is to such disturbances. Up in the headwaters—where the creeks are too small to be named—a single, encroaching subdivision can turn a little feeder stream into a silt-laden drainage ditch. In the space of a few days, bulldozers can completely upset the delicate balance of water flow, topography, plants and animals that had evolved at the site over hundreds or thousands of years. The water quality problems then flow down from the headwaters. Subdivision by subdivision, year after year, the damage grows. We keep chewing up more natural areas in Northeast Ohio, even though our population isn't growing significantly. Ultimately, it's impossible to protect the larger creeks, rivers and lakes—Silver Creek, the Chagrin River, Lake Erie—when they are forced to absorb so many insults accumulated throughout their watersheds.

We headed upstream to see new developments along the branches of Silver Creek. In the Deer Lake Estates builders had cleared the woods, pushed around acres of dirt, and dammed the south branch to make an artificial lake. At one end of the lake, a hillside of bare, eroding ground stuck out like an open wound. Although the lake captures most of the sediment running off the site, the ecology of the stream has been irrevocably changed.

Continued on the next page
Lessons ignored

The Silver Creek Watershed Pilot Project was initiated with the concept in mind that water resources might be better managed if development decisions were made in the context of the watershed involved. Observation in developing areas indicates that stream degradation has accompanied development. Such degradation does not always appear to be the result of some dramatic new point source or major land use change, but may be the result of small incremental changes whose cumulative results affect part and eventually most of the watershed.

The pressure to develop land on the periphery of suburbs of large cities is escalating as the need for housing increases, and as people desiring uncrowded living seek homes ever further removed from the city. Currently there is no adequate process by which local planning officials in rural areas can cope with this pressure and at the same time assess the impacts of a proposed development on their watersheds...

Guiding this work has been the philosophy that rural development should be unsubsidized—that water needed for human consumption and use should come from water supplies within the watershed and that wastewater generated should be recycled within the watershed. Such a philosophy, by definition, limits negative environmental, economic, and social impacts of conventional water supply and, more particularly, waste collection and treatment systems, while encouraging examination of more compatible, innovative methods of handling these essential human needs.

This approach represents a change from the more traditional land development practices in the U.S. Historically the latter have been based on the philosophy that everyone has a constitutional right to do anything he wants with land he owns, regardless of how others might be affected by his actions.

There have been, to be sure, efforts to restrict this development right in the interest of the public good. This has most frequently been done through zoning and comprehensive planning, both of which have sought to separate conflicting land uses from one another. While this approach has solved some problems, it has created many others, such as large areas devoted to a single land use (i.e., residential), often separating people's homes from their shopping, recreation and work by many miles. This has, among other things, largely eliminated a sense of neighborhood and has created great energy demands. Another problem associated with traditional zoning practices is that they are often insensitive to environmental concerns. Zoning boundaries have traditionally been based on property lines, not on soil types, flood plains and geologic hazard areas. Zoning has been based primarily on compatibility of land use and economics, and has been restricted to rather arbitrary political boundaries. It has not, to any great extent, acknowledged the impact of specific land use decisions on the people in areas downstream or downwind from the planning area, because changes that occur in stream flow, soil displacement, and chemical and bacterial loading in streams, which can result when land is converted from forest or field to houses, roads, commercial areas and industrial sites, have not been considered.

From The Silver Creek Watershed Pilot Project report by the Cleveland Environmental Research Group for the Three Rivers Watershed District, 1979

Nobody has the mandate and authority to protect the health of entire watersheds.

The dam, for instance, keeps migrating fish away from the headwaters.

As we left, Vidra sighed. "Most of the development community is still environmentally illiterate. For 20 years we've been on their case, and they still don't have a clue."

Compounding the lack of awareness are regulatory loopholes. Local governments typically focus on zoning and building permits, not the quality of aquatic habitats. Ohio EPA is supposed to regulate runoff from construction sites, but doesn't have enough staff to do an effective job. Ohio EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers allow developers to fill in natural streams and wetlands if they create retention basins somewhere else and plant a few cattails for good looks. And, in the case of small developments, critical headwater streams are often overlooked entirely. Ohio's water quality standards don't even address small headwater streams. The headwaters are written off as "limited resource waters" instead of being protected as important habitats. In short, nobody has the mandate and authority to protect the health of entire watersheds.

But Silver Creek still seemed to be holding it's own. At least that's what we could observe by driving around and stopping at road crossings. To get a better look, we decided to hike into the heart of the watershed, to where the creek's branches come together in one of the largest undeveloped tracts of land left in western Geauga County.

The land is owned by ASM International (formerly known as the American Society for Metals), which has its headquarters in a futuristic, domed building on Route 87. We entered the lobby to ask permission to hike into the woods, and a prim receptionist looked at us doubtfully. She asked when we'd be back, as if we were setting out into the wilderness and a rescue might be necessary.

But the hike was easy. We followed a utility corridor into the creek valley, past clumps of goldenrod, ironweed, and, in the moist spots, wingstem just past its peak of blooming. Except for the utility corridor and a few snowmobile trails, the land was undisturbed and wild—a natural mosaic of beech-maple woods, meadows, seeps and beaver marshes. It is home to a number of potentially threatened species, including butternut tree; closed gentian and blunt mountain mint wildflowers, tall manna grass; and the mourning warbler.

It is also up for sale. Thanks to new highway access, like the U.S. 422 bypass, property values in Geauga County are soaring. Developers would love to get their hands on the 517-acre ASM property. But, acting with admirable public spiritedness, ASM turned down offers from developers and last April gave the Geauga Park District a chance to buy the land for $4 million. A local attorney and conservationist, William Ginn, stepped forward with the purchase price and will hold the land for two years while the park district raises funds to reimburse him.

The ASM land lies next to 277 acres already owned by the park district. Together, the two properties could become
the "West Woods," a park that will preserve a major
portion of the Silver Creek flood plain in its natural
state and emphasize education about water resources.
We kept hiking, and when we reached the creek's
south branch Vidra immediately saw signs of trouble.
The water was murky, and silt clogged the pores
between pebbles on the creek bed.
"It's what I expect to find in urban streams
impacted by development—a uniform bottom, wide
channel, lousy riffles," he said. "I distinctly remember
this being very different. It seems that a toll is being
paid."
He added that a study of fish populations would
be needed to confirm whether water quality had
deteriorated. Back in the late '70s researchers had
found 36 species of fish in Silver Creek, including
sensitive species that require cool, clean water.
We cut across the woods to the east branch, which
has had less development in its part of the watershed.
Although we moved just a few hundred feet, this
branch of the creek was completely different. It was
like the Silver Creek that Vidra remembered from the
days he had camped out in these woods to perform
the creek rushed through our legs and danced through the
riffles. It felt like a mountain stream from a far-away
place. We stood in awe for a long while, just watching
all the fish dart in the pools.
Here was a rare stream that made you appreciate
clean, glorious water. It tempted you to do something
natural, instinctive; yet, in today's world, almost
unthinkable—kneel down and take a drink.

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**Stream protection checklist**

- Get to know your watershed. Where
does water go when it leaves your house?
What is the condition of the streams and
adjoining riparian corridors? Where are the
headwaters? What are the major pollution
sources?
- Insist on local and regional land use
planning on a watershed basis—planning that
is based on limits of water resources and
which steers development away from streams,
wetlands and other sensitive areas. Make sure
that regulatory and planning agencies pay
attention to the cumulative impacts of
developments in a watershed.
- Protect small, fragile headwater streams,
not just major rivers.
- Support local ordinances requiring new development to be set back from
streams and the establishment of riparian buffer zones, which filter out sediment
and other pollutants.
- Tolerate no new development that does not implement an effective
stormwater management plan. Enforce stormwater runoff regulations for
construction sites.
- Reduce the amount of impervious surfaces in urban areas.
- Avoid stream channelization/modification. Limit stormwater runoff so
streams aren't turned into storm sewers.
- When correcting streambank erosion problems, use vegetative plantings
rather than structural methods such as steel pilings. Join or organize a willow
planting and other riparian enhancement projects.
- Encourage farmers to practice sustainable agriculture—reducing chemical
use, practicing conservation tillage, installing grass waterways, filter strips and
buffer areas near streams.
- Be a responsible homeowner—reduce the use of lawn chemicals, don't let
pet wastes wash into storm sewers, don't dump hazardous wastes into sewers,
make sure home septic systems work properly.
- Support park districts and land trusts that protect green space around
streams.
- Join a volunteer stream monitoring program or storm drain stenciling
project.

**Resources**

- Black River Remedial Action Plan, Kelvin Rogers at Ohio EPA, 963-
1200.
- Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan, Mary Beth Binns at 241-2414 or
Jan Rybka at 443-3700.
- Friends of Big Creek, 351-6300.
- Friends of the Black River, 322-4187.
- Friends of the Crooked River, 666-4026.
- Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (student stream
monitoring), Pete Clapham at Cleveland State University, 687-4820.
- Grand River Partners, Rob Corbett at 350-2730.
- Land trusts throughout the region (see list in our July/August 1994 issue).
- Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning Organization, 836-5731.
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources Scenic River Program, Steve
Roloson at 297-7226.
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts in each county.
The consultants have finished crunching the numbers, and now it's decision time for the Dual Hub. In March and April, local officials will pick an alternative for improving transit service between the two largest employment centers in Greater Cleveland—downtown and University Circle. The most expensive option, a $600-800 million rail link along Euclid Avenue, would be the biggest public improvement project in Cleveland history.

Regional Transit Authority general manager Ronald Tober wants to build the rail line. But a number of other public officials are looking at projections for ridership and economic development spin-offs (see table below) and are saying the expensive project won't bring much bang for the buck. Here are some of the concerns being raised in local planning circles:

**Meager ridership gains.** RTA's base scenario predicts total system ridership to increase 8,575 riders per day if the Euclid Avenue Rapid is built, a 6% gain for a $676 million investment. (RTA has lost more than 50% of its riders since 1980.)

**Modest economic development spin-offs.** RTA estimates that 6,620 long-term jobs will be created as a result of the Euclid Avenue Rapid alternative. Based on the $676 million capital cost, that works out to more than $100,000 per job.

**Uncertain financing.** RTA is counting on federal funds for half of the Dual Hub's capital cost, but the new Republican majority in Congress is threatening to slash mass transit budgets. RTA would have to shoulder the local portion of the cost alone, since the city, county (recovering from the SAFE investment debacle) and state may not have the ability to contribute. RTA's ability to finance the development depends on a

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<th>Comparing the Dual Hub alternatives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Do nothing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridership (total daily trips on RTA)</td>
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<td>Capital cost ($1,000s)</td>
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<td>Annual operation &amp; maint. ($1,000s)</td>
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<td>Local spending during const. ($1,000s)</td>
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<td>Total long-term jobs created</td>
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<td>New commercial development (1,000s of sq. ft.)</td>
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<td>New residential development (units)</td>
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**The alternatives**

Here are the major alternatives being studied for the Dual Hub corridor:

- **Do nothing.** RTA bus and Rapid lines would remain essentially as they are today. Tower City would remain the only downtown Rapid station.
- **Bus improvements/TSM (Transportation System Management).** Upgrade/expand existing bus service with new shelters, transit centers and dedicated lanes on Euclid Avenue. Relocate Red Line Rapid stations near CWRU, Little Italy, E. 79th and E. 34th.
- **Downtown Red Line extension.** Extend Red Line as a downtown subway spur from Tower City to stops at E. 9th/Euclid and E. 18th/Euclid (where it would dead end). Euclid Avenue bus service upgraded.
- **Downtown Red/Green/Blue lines relocation.** Red, Green and Blue lines relocated with subway stops at E. 9th/Euclid and E. 18th/Euclid and above ground stops at St. Vincent/Tri-C and the Main Post Office (farther east, the lines would follow existing routes). Euclid Avenue bus service upgraded.
- **Euclid Avenue Rapid.** Relocate the East Side Red Line to serve Euclid Avenue corridor between downtown and University Circle. Subway downtown, light rail in median of Euclid Avenue from CSU to University Circle. Also bus service upgrades.
- **Euclid Avenue Rapid with Shaker connector.** The Euclid Avenue subway and light rail, with the addition of a connector from University Circle to the Blue and Green lines (basically following Martin Luther King Jr. Drive). Blue and Green lines would serve the Euclid Avenue corridor, as well as present routes. Also bus service upgrades.

Source: Cleveland Dual Hub Transition study (Base Case), RTA and Euclid Consultants, 1995
Euclid Avenue Rapid proposal

One option for the Dual Hub is to move the Red Line north from its present alignment to run along Euclid Avenue between Tower City and University Circle. It would run under downtown as a subway, emerge to grade level at Cleveland State University and then continue above ground in the median of Euclid Avenue. The Blue and Green rapid lines would follow their present routes.

number of assumptions—achieving projected ridership increases, meeting construction budgets and controlling operating costs, as well as economic assumptions about interest rates for borrowing and steadily growing revenues from RTA's countywide sales tax. If one or more of these assumptions don't pan out, RTA could be forced to raise fares and cut service—and lose more riders, thus continuing the system's downward spiral.

In sum, there is concern that RTA is betting the farm on the Dual Hub. But, according to RTA planner Joel Freilich, it's a bet the agency has to make.

"We have to go for it," he says. "If a transit system is to be successful, it has to provide good transportation to areas that are built to be transit friendly."

Such areas have buildings close together and close to the street, so transit riders can easily walk to bus or Rapid stops. These pedestrian environments exist in the urban core of the region, not in the suburbs.

"RTA needs to improve suburban service, too," Freilich says. "But that's not going to attract large numbers of new riders because it's so inconvenient to walk anywhere else."

He adds that Dual Hub ridership studies have been very conservative and underestimate the number of commuters that would be attracted to a rail line serving Euclid Avenue.

"If this is built, there's no doubt in my mind it will succeed. And beyond the transit benefits, the project makes economic sense because of all the federal dollars attracted and because most of the investment stays in the region... It's a choice of sending money away or keeping it here."

Faced with an eroding ridership and customers that keep moving farther out into transit-unfriendly suburbs, RTA officials feel compelled to do something dramatic. They have to reconfigure a system that now doesn't go where people want to go. And they have to rebuild public trust and confidence.

Opponents of the Dual Hub say RTA must face reality. They say it's crazy to make huge investments in fixed rail in the core of the region when population and jobs are steadily moving out to the metropolitan fringe. They say that the region's old hub-and-spoke transportation pattern has been replaced by low-density, suburb-to-suburb commuting that can never be serviced by rail.

Of course, suburban development has been promoted by tax incentives and public infrastructure investments in roads and utilities. So perhaps the key question for the Dual Hub is whether such an investment in the core can begin to counteract sprawl. Is it the sort of amenity that would balance the competition between city and suburb? Would it promote compact development and reduce dependence on the automobile?

If we don't make significant investments in transportation alternatives, aren't we giving in to the relentless forces of sprawl? If we don't make a leap of faith in the city now, when will we?

The final decision on the Dual Hub will come at the board meeting of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency on April 14. The NOACA board will vote on whether to proceed with preliminary engineering for one of several alternatives—various rail configurations, enhanced bus service in the Euclid Avenue corridor or an option to do nothing.
The Headwaters

When the U.S. 422 highway extension opened several years ago, a new part of Northeast Ohio was opened to development. You could say it includes parts of Geauga, Portage, Trumbull and Ashtabula counties. But many folks who live there think about their home in terms of watersheds. It's the headwaters area—the headwaters of the Cuyahoga River, the Grand River, and the Eagle Creek branch of the Mahoning River.

It's also the territory of one of the most active land conservancies in Northeast Ohio, the Headwaters Landtrust. In response to growing development pressures, the nonprofit organization encourages responsible land use and the preservation of the scenic, historic and environmental features of the area's rural communities.

Recently, Headwaters Landtrust volunteers produced a poster that describes the land they love. It includes a map of special places, illustrations by local artist Elizabeth Allyn and an essay about the natural history of the region. Excerpts appear on this page and the next.

For more information about the programs of the Headwaters Landtrust, contact Box 171, Hiram, OH 44234, (216) 527-4344. The group's attractive poster is available for $10.

The Headwaters Country takes in about 500 square miles of Northeast Ohio's most beautiful land. Lying on the glaciated portion of the Allegheny Plateau, it is considerably more wrinkled and varied than the flat Till Plain to the west, and certainly more gentle and accommodating than the unglaciated area to the south. Three important rivers—the Cuyahoga, the Mahoning and the Grand—flow from the country's heart, the first two ultimately north, the third east and south. Thus, we are an important watershed, provider of pure water and of habitat for an astounding variety of plant and animal species. It is this source of calm and refreshing waters that the Headwaters Landtrust seeks to preserve.

Nestled among the glacial hills and valleys of the Headwaters are small towns and villages, along with farmlands and woodlands, a rural oasis right across the garden wall from the North Coast's...
centers of population, industry and development. Yet the Headwaters Country is still something like it was when settlers first pushed west. Eagles and herons still nest, and migrating songbirds play the woods to melody and splash them to brightness. Ancient tamaracks and carpets of spring wildflowers still give a rootedness to historic barns, homes, churches and town squares. Our bountiful waters still rejuvenate and cleanse. But not for long, not of spring wildflowers still give a rootedness. Find the biggest woods you can, where centers of nature's longevity. Rough glove and the smoky furnace. But not all sphagnum pushed west. Eagles and herons still pulled back into its northern fastness.

Even now Route 422, which is marvelously convenient, slashes through the Headwaters Country; history is a little softer and faster, sashes through the Headwaters Landtrust. By area is not all poster to historic barns, homes, churches and town green-which remind about what happened when the glacier pushed back into its northern fastness. The first plants, of course, had to love arctic cold, but you can get some idea. Look for marshmallow, firewood and daisy fleabane. Find the biggest woods you can, where beeches, maples and white oaks survive, and you can walk in a forest something like the natural climax forest.

This glaciated part of the Allegheny Plateau lives in its history and in the Headwaters Country; history is a little easier to read than where the human hand has touched less gently. You will know by this point in your tour that the Headwaters area is not all "untouched," yet you will also realize that the generations of dwellers here have been good stewards. Before the coming of the Europeans, local Erie people walked lightly, living by hunting and from modest fields of corn. "Unlike the Europeans who followed," writes George Knepper in Ohio and Its People, "they did not cut down the forests, strip the soil, drain the swamps, level the high places and fill the low, nor did they change the course of river and stream."

To our enduring good fortune, that work of civilization has not gone far. Perhaps the wrinkled glacial terrain had something to do with that. More important are the Amish, whose slower pace and more intimate contact with earth, animals and woods, have taught us about keeping right with our place. Perhaps it is the New England town plan of many of our villages, which keeps nature at the center with the town green. It could be the seasonal celebrations—like the spring sugaring-off on the Burton town green—which remind us. It is also possible that it's the closeness of Youngstown, Akron and Cleveland—where the work of people could not be done without the sharp shovel, the rough glove and the smoky furnace. Whatever the causes of our good fortune, we must be thankful and cherish and preserve this wealth of body and soul. You, too, please walk softly with an open eye and an open mind, and look to see how you can help.

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Special places of Headwaters Country

- Hamden Orchard State Wildlife Area
- Cuyahoga East Branch Wildlife Area
- Middlefield Cheese and Geauga County

The Headwaters Landtrust vision

The primary assumption is that development can be accommodated and open space resources protected. Our goal is to encourage responsible land development that will preserve the scenic, historic and environmental features of our rural communities. Headwaters Landtrust wants to:

1) Preserve scenic views. Heavily traveled corridors are often slated, despite their beauty, for early and intensive development. Consideration for the entire landscape must be assured.

2) Preserve our villages. Local villages have long been viewed as the ideal for rural American settlement. New development should perpetuate our area's historic role in creating viable community.

3) Preserve farmland and woodlands. Conventional development can undermine and eventually destroy the irreplaceable agricultural landscape of the region. Large natural areas of field and woodland are needed to preserve the biodiversity of regional plants and animals.

4) Preserve areas too special for development. Some land and water resources are too delicate for indiscriminate development:
   - Extremely fertile farmland.
   - Land bordering rivers and streams.
   - Land with special significance, such as old growth forest, landscapes of unique natural beauty or possessing historical or archeological significance.
What is to be done?
David Orr's priorities for environmentalists

When magazines list prominent visionaries and futurists, David Orr is often included. The director of the environmental studies program at Oberlin College, Orr is a nationally recognized spokesperson for ecological thinking and environmental education. He is the author of several books, including Ecological Literacy, and Earth in Mind: On Education, Environment and the Human Prospect.

On January 18, Orr spoke at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in a program sponsored by local environmental and community organizations that are participating in the Northeast Ohio Regional Environmental Priorities Project. He discussed what the environmental movement should do to meet the challenges of the global environmental crisis—at a time when our state and federal governments are rejecting the idea of the common good. Below are excerpts from his remarks.

Real conservatives
I want to talk about my view of priorities and, especially at this point after the elections, about what we can expect from Gingrich and his crowd...It's a good time ask what we can do, what we do well, what has to be done. I've been thinking a lot about conservatism and conservation, and I want to say that Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole and Phil Gramm and Jesse what's-his-name are not conservatives. There is no definition of the word "conservative" that fits what they do and what they support...

I recently went back and read some of the works of the godfather of conservatism, Edmund Burke. Writing in 1790 about the revolution in France, Burke proposes a societal contract. But his contract is different [from Gingrich's "Contract on America," as Orr described it]. It's not about dividing up the spoils. His contract is about passing an entailed imperative from the distant past to the distant future. And the present generation in that situation is a trustee. Now think about it. That's what the debate about sustainability is all about. Part of that entailed imperative isn't just laws and customs and so forth. It's also the soil, the wildlife, the biota. And if it's ecology upon which laws and customs and economies and all those other things depend, then we have a definition of conservatism that fits the realities of the 21st century. To be a real conservative now, you have to be a conservationist.

Times have changed
In trying to set priorities, we have to face some realities. One is that there is a lot of political distortion, a lot of media distortion. The American public still considers itself to be an environmentally supportive public, but it is badly confused now. And it is a lot easier to muddy the water [of public debate] than it is to clarify it, easier to make messes than to clean things up. Every mother or father of a two-year-old child knows that.

Well, Newt Gingrich and company like this. So we [in the environmental movement] have to be more eloquent, and much more sharply focused...We're going to have to show people why it's in their self-interest to do certain kinds of things that need to be done. I don't think self-interest alone is going to get us to the end of the journey, get us to a sustainable society. But we're going to have to go on that road as far as we can go...

Also, the economic situation has changed. We can't afford to pay for everything we would like to do. The fact is we now carry a huge debt load as a society. We're not nearly as rich as we once were. We're not as rich as we still think we are.

The 1994 elections were no sea change. The public is very fickle, and we could easily see this crowd thrown out in 1996 or 1998. But I think we do have to accommodate a different set of political and economic realities. That's just where we are.

The movement
The environmental movement is broad-based and deep in this country, and it is called upon now to be far more creative and energetic that it has been before...What it lacks at this point is some leadership in Washington. We're not getting the kind of support we should be getting from the White House and from Al Gore. We're not getting the kind of support we should be getting from the large, Washington Beltway environmental organizations.

But at the grassroots, this movement is alive and well. You can't go into any community across the country without finding dozens and dozens of people turning out to meetings like this, or fighting freeways and shopping malls and land use issues. The "wise-use" movement is getting a lot of attention only because they are getting a lot of corporate money. So we shouldn't back up. We haven't been defeated. In a way, the real fight has yet to begin.

Top priority: energy
There a lot of issues that we can fight—an infinite number of issues. But if we want to be successful, the one issue we have to win is energy. This generation has to prepare the way for a transition to run a civilization on sunshine. We can do it. Technically, there is no reason why it cannot happen...Part of the reason why it hasn't happened to this point is that you can't power F-15 fighters on sunlight...

Stop and think about the leverage this issue has. First, it has a built-in constituency. As a society we face about a five to eight percent cost disadvantage vis-a-vis the Japanese and the European economies for comparable goods and services because they are roughly twice as energy efficient as we are. The Japanese are moving rapidly towards being even more efficient. So if we want to compete in the world economy in the 21st century—leave acid rain and global warming and oil spills and all these other things aside—we're going to have to get efficient fast...If we didn't like what the Japanese did to us in automobiles and electronics, that's small potatoes compared to what they are about to do to us in energy efficiency. They're going to
grab the world market, and we're talking now about a trillion-dollar market. This is going to be a huge change in infrastructure. The Japanese are making serious commitments to do this. They are starting from a position where they are roughly twice as energy efficient as we are...

We have a built-in market for energy efficiency. Economically, this is a smart issue. There's nothing conservative about opposition to energy efficiency and energy taxes. That's not conservative. It's not even economically smart. This issue also has an enormous amount of environmental leverage. Think about everything that doesn't happen as we move to more energy efficient future—oil spills...acid rain...strip mining...

Staving off global warming
Ultimately, we have to go from a present level of emitting about five tons of carbon per person in the United States and make an order of magnitude shift downward to where we emit about a half a ton per person. Now that will tell you a lot about the politics of the 21st century. We have to reduce the size of our ecological footprint. And that means energy efficiency. It's the thing we have to get right.

We broke the link between energy growth and economic growth in the '70s...Now there's reason to believe that the prosperous economies of the 21st century will continue to consume less energy...Amory Lovins now believes that we can "grow" the economy on about a quarter of present energy use. These things pay back like investments. Energy efficiency, according to Lovins, is not only a free lunch, it's a lunch you're paid to eat.

Citistates
Some people say this is a national issue and we have to wait until the federal government does something about energy. No. The beauty of this is that energy is the kind of issue we can deal with right now as a region. We can have our own energy policy. If you read Jane Jacobs on cities [see her book, Cities and the Wealth of Nations], she talks about city-regions and the way cities begin to do all kinds of things themselves in advance of national governments. Cities that are smart will do this early on. They'll have ways to develop energy efficiency and begin to make this transition to renewables as cities and as regions.

We in Ohio have a particular incentive to do this because electricity here is so heavily dependent on coal. Fast-forward to a couple of hot summers like 1988...and we'll have an energy tax, a carbon tax. It will put Congress in a state of complete panic....When it hits, it's going to hit the state of Ohio very, very hard.

Ecological intelligence
I think what is missing in this country might be simply called ecological intelligence. The environmental movement has made its reputation in the public mind by stopping things. We got good at saying no to lots of things, and Lord knows there were lots of things we should have said no to...But now we have to turn the page, and we have to show how the environmental discussion and ecological intelligence can be woven into communities that work better than industrial-technological communities. We have to show how all this adds up to an economy that builds greater prosperity and a greater economic resilience than the present economy. That's going to depend on the spread of ecological intelligence...

To get a society that understands what we're about, a society that has staying power, we have to have smarter people, ecologically smarter people. We have to build a constituency that understands—people who routinely think about systems and patterns and life-cycle costs.

Educational hierarchy you move into progressively smaller boxes. And yet all the challenges that we face are systems challenges—the big, systemic things. If I could do anything with Newt Gingrich, I'd grab him by the collar and say, "Think systems, man!" And not technological systems alone, but ecosystems...

To get a society that understands what we're about, a society that has staying power, we have to have smarter people, ecologically smarter people. We will have to build a constituency that understands—people who routinely think in systems and patterns and life-cycle costs...That's going to be a big part of our challenge...And there's not an hour to spare. A pinching off of the human prospect is on the horizon.

This is not just about birds and biota, but about healing people and cities...We need to create a new economic base and sell ecology to people we thought we couldn't reach. This is an urban movement, too. It's a movement about life—what makes life prosper and thrive instead of cheapening and destroying it.

Principles of ecological design
David Orr has been involved in organizing the International Ecological Design Society, a group that seeks to reorient ecological thinking into everything we do. It calls for an ecological revolution as fundamental as the industrial revolution because conventional forms of agriculture, architecture, engineering and technology have not proven themselves sufficient to maintain either human health or the integrity of ecosystems. At a meeting last October, members of the society issued the following principles for ecological design science and craft:

- Trace the ecological footprint. Set up the books for a full ecological accounting. Evaluate designs by their environmental impacts over their complete life-cycle, for, as Orr says, what we do and build today casts a shadow on the future.
- Live off solar income. Increase the renewability of energy production and the efficiency of energy use until we can provide for our needs out of annual solar income.
- Maintain biodiversity and the locally-adapted cultures and economies that support it. We take the preservation of species, representative ecosystems, and ecologically viable landscapes as a self-evident necessity. This can only be accomplished with a diversity of cultures and economies predicated on the uniqueness of place.
- Waste equals food. Create restorative materials cycles in which all waste from one process becomes food for the next.
- Work with whole systems. Design in keeping with the greatest possible degree of internal integrity and coherence.
- Design must follow, not oppose the flows of life. Replace energy and materials with the self-designing capabilities of ecosystems. Allow living systems to unfold in a full expression of their creative capacities. Ecological design occurs in planetary time.
Ohio's new Superfund site

A 1,300-acre site along the Grand River north of Painesville will soon achieve the dubious distinction of being named to the Superfund list of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites. The area was contaminated by a Diamond Shamrock chemical plant, which operated between 1912 and 1977.

Near the plant site are three large waste pools containing chromium and other wastes. Only one of the pools has been capped. Contamination may have spread beyond the pools and may be entering the Grand River, according to Ohio EPA. The agency has investigated the site for a number of years and recently proposed that it be included in the Superfund program.

Like the Fields Brook Superfund site east of Ashtabula, the Diamond Shamrock site is an expansive, industrial wasteland that originally was out in the country—away from city zoning and other troublesome regulations. When Diamond Shamrock moved its corporate headquarters from Cleveland to Dallas (and changed its name to Maxus Energy), it left its wastes behind. Lawyers will argue for years over who will pay for the cleanup.

The site will become Ohio's 35th Superfund site. Others in Northeast Ohio include:
- Ashtabula County—Fields Brook, Big D Campground landfill, Laskin/Poplar Oil, New Lyme landfill, Old Mill.
- Lorain County—Republic Steel Quarry.
- Portage County—Summit National.
- Stark County—Industrial Excess Landfill, TRW Minerva Plant.

Online for the environment

Ohio landfills and incinerators receive transfers of more than 307 million pounds of toxic chemicals, ranking the state third in the nation. RTK NET (the Right-to-Know Computer Network) was established to help citizens access the details of these transfers, as well as access more than thirteen other health and environmental databases. The Census and several other socioeconomic databases are also available.

RTK NET, in cooperation with the Grassroots Environmental Caucus, will hold a series of three workshops sometime in late March for the environmental activist community in Cleveland and the surrounding area. The trainings will focus on effective use of RTK NET and environmental databases, as well as accessing the Internet and EcoNet through the Institute for Global Communications.

For more information contact Ben Hitchings of the Grassroots Environmental Caucus at (216) 961-4646 or Alair MacLean of RTK NET at (415) 442-0220, ext. 130.

Neighborhood organizing

In the past couple of years a new grassroots power base has been developing out of Cleveland's neighborhood churches. Called CATCH (Churches Acting Together for Change and Hope), the organization has involved 13 churches on the city's West Side and has now reached out to the East Side to work with nine churches and the advocacy group WECO (Working for Empowerment through Community Organizing).

Neighborhood leaders trained by the group are working on issues such as schools and crime. They are pushing the Cleveland Board of Education to allow parents and community leaders to take over Miles Park Elementary school as an independently managed charter school. And they are establishing "safe zones" around member churches—zones in which citizen action plans coordinate community policing programs.

Office space

The Slavic Village Broadway Development Corp., 7100 Broadway Ave., has 225 square feet of space to rent for $150 a month. Call 271-5591.

Pressure points

- Hudson master plan: A proposed Hudson Village master plan seeks to control some of the growth that is transforming the quaint village into a traffic-choked suburb. One goal is to cut new home starts in half to 100-130 a year. The plan also recommends not widening major roads, such as SR 91 and SR 303, because widening them would only encourage more traffic. The difficulties individual communities like Hudson face in coping with growth pressures illustrate once more the need for regional approaches to address urban sprawl.

- Lorain County flooding: Lorain County residents are increasingly bearing the costs of building on wetlands. County commissioners recently approved an $18,000 flood-control study to identify water detention sites. Flooding is a growing problem in the eastern portion of the county—in developing communities such as North Ridgeville, Avon and Avon Lake. As development continues to spill over into these communities from Cuyahoga County, more tax dollars will have to be spent to replace the natural (and free) flood control capacity of wetlands.

- Parks for industry: Industrial development continues to sprawl along the SR 8 and SR 91 corridors north of Akron. Plans were recently unveiled for a 220-acre industrial park in Stow and Hudson, and 600 acres nearby could be developed soon. Now that they have lured all this growth out to the country, local officials will demand that the state build a new interchange on SR 8, which would then subsidize even more sprawl.

- Industrial outmigration: Developments like the one above are part of a boom of industrial construction across the region, prompted by a tight industrial real estate market. Most of the new development is out in the suburbs, according to a recent article in Crain's Cleveland Business. "Just as the growth of suburban housing is at the expense of the inner-city housing market...the same is true for the industrial market. Much of Cleveland's and Akron's construction is due to manufacturers and distributors, many in steel-and auto-related industries, that move from older buildings inside the city to new buildings in the suburbs...[M]any of those older buildings don't appeal to companies that are looking to expand or move into the area."

- Missing the beat: People keep wondering when the PD is going to hire someone to cover the environment. Does any other major paper in the country lack such an important beat reporter?
Urban fabric department

Redevelopment pressure in downtown Cleveland is threatening more older buildings, according to a recent article by Robert Gaede in the newsletter of the Cleveland chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Gaede writes that construction of Gateway and North Coast Harbor did not require the clearing of many existing buildings, but large, open sites are now scarce. Future projects, such as the huge Federal Courts Building, could be pitted against historic structures.

Gaede argues that tourism will be enhanced by preserving and restoring the city's diverse, architectural heritage. But it won't be easy. "With a national movement underway to combat historic preservation and other legislation constraining the free use and disposition of our real estate as a 'taking' of individual rights," he says, "the pressure to give in to ill-considered developments is frequent. Preservationists, thinking that their battlefront days were over, will probably be recalled to resist efforts to overturn our protective ordinances and sympathetic review boards.

"Massive change could mean losses of major architectural/structural sites or clusters of center city building fabric. Architects need to be alerted to this and prepare to defend the valuable artifacts and structures which make us distinct from all other places."

Hold the parking lots

The city of Cleveland and the Cleveland Restoration Society deserve applause for recent efforts to restrict new parking lots downtown. They are promoting an ordinance which would limit the development of surface lots in the central business district. The ordinance responds to a glut of parking, the recent demolition of landmark buildings in the Gateway area and air quality concerns.

Speculative demolition has left many holes in the fabric of downtown. According to the Restoration Society, "Though demolition for surface parking is often easier than trying to redevelop an older building, the city must stand firm in the face of parking lot operators who add nothing to the city, and only take away interesting, if challenging, buildings."

Real estate interests view the ordinance as an invasion of property rights, but the measure would not remove all reasonable or viable uses for a property. An owner would still have many options.

Such an ordinance should be the beginning of a larger debate on the future of downtown parking. In other cities, parking restrictions coupled with transit improvements have been important elements of urban revitalization. Instead of competing with auto-dependent malls in the suburbs, downtowns can redefine themselves as inviting places for people.

Kent plans

The Kent Environmental Council is organizing two new task forces to work on open space and transportation issues. The Open/Green Space Task Force will seek to protect one or more open spaces in or around Kent (call Sherry Gideon at 920-1517 for information). And the Transportation Alternatives Task Force will plan ways to challenge the Kent community to consider alternatives to the automobile (call Harold Walker at 673-6534 for details).

Retrenchment, not reinvention?

Transportation activists are sounding alarms over the Clinton administration's proposed budget for the Department of Transportation. The budget recasts surface transportation spending into a huge new block grant that would increase interstate and rural highway spending while slashing spending for city and suburban areas, transit systems and programs to provide access for disabled people and improve air quality.

"The 1996 budget proposal threatens the balance between state and local spending," says Hank Dittrich of the Surface Transportation Policy Project in Washington, DC. "It favors state-sponsored road projects in rural areas over programs to help suburban and urban America stuck in traffic congestion."

Environmental communications

The Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan is seeking an environmental communications specialist to produce publications and assist with community involvement activities. Send resume to the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization, Atrium Plaza 400, 668 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114.

Pictures of homelessness

A book published recently by the Federation for Community Planning in Cleveland takes a look at the problem of homelessness through the unique prism of women who are directly affected. The book, Streets are for Nobody: Homeless Women Speak, contains interviews with 21 women, nine who live in Cleveland and 12 in Boston. It's the work of Melissa Shock, a documentary photographer and an associate professor at the University of Massachusetts. Copies are $12 from the Federation, 781-2944.
Building community with cohousing

By Mary Kelsey

Across the country, people are questioning the form of their communities. They are searching for connection, dignity, security, and a way to live more sustainably. In some cases, their search for alternatives to conventional suburban and urban lifestyles has led them to reinvent the structures of traditional tribal societies, extended families or other forms of intentional community.

One way of establishing physical community is cohousing. Currently, about 100 cohousing groups are in the planning or building stage. They aim to create small neighborhoods promoting personal interaction and self-reliance, as well as more sustainable interaction with their land. Most have been inspired by the book, Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves, by Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett. Other resources include the journals, Cohousing Quarterly and Communities, as well as the Directory of Intentional Communities.

Cohousing groups build new urban or rural neighborhoods, or they renovate existing buildings. Individual housing units are typically clustered around common space, including a common house and recreation areas. Each private home is complete in itself, with the common areas providing facilities for sharing meals, chores, child care or other activities as families and individuals see fit. Sharing meals is optional, although in most groups people tend to choose the fellowship and practicality of coming together for dinner several times a week. Rotating cooking duties gives working parents more time with their children. And the arrangement fosters connections between all types of families and individuals.

While preserving privacy and individual choice, cohousing promotes sharing of common interests with neighbors on a day-to-day basis. Thus it creates bonds of community that transcend superficial exchange. Based not on ideology but on the common need to house and feed ourselves, as well as raise children, cohousing is one way to bring meaningful interaction back into our daily lives—restore the ideal of the old-fashioned neighborhood.

Cohousing can work in both urban and rural settings. In the city, it has the potential to help revitalize neighborhoods. In the country, it can help preserve land by clustering houses tightly together, leaving open space for agriculture and conservation. Some cohousing experiments, such as the EcoVillage now in the planning stages in Ithaca, NY, envision a sustainable community on a village scale, incorporating energy-efficient housing, advanced recycling methods, agriculture and even alternative economic systems.

A recent conference sponsored by Community Services in Yellow Springs, OH, brought together national and local experts on affordable, sustainable community building. Near Cincinnati, a community called New Leaf Cohousing is being planned. With such interest nearby, maybe Northeast Ohio is ready for cohousing.

Mary Kelsey is hoping to form a rural cohousing community in eastern Geauga County. Call the EcoCity Cleveland office at 932-3007 for more information.

Permits to pollute

Here are some Ohio EPA actions of interest from recent weeks. For complete and up-to-date lists of permit activities in your county, watch for weekly legal notices in your local newspaper. For more detailed information, call the Ohio EPA Northeast District Office in Twinsburg, 425-9171.

Water pollution

American Steel & Wire, Cuyahoga Heights, discharge to Cuyahoga River.
Carron Asphalt Paving, Glenwillow, discharge to Tinkers Creek.
Associated Materials, Cuyahoga Falls, revocation of NPDES permit.
Ford Motor, Lorain, discharge to Quarry Creek.
American Ultra Specialties, Boston Heights, discharge to tributary of Brandywine Creek.
Richfield Hills Development, Richfield, discharge to Furnace Run.
Zeneca, Perry, organic chemical plant discharge to Red Creek.
Pet Processing, Painesville, organic chemical plant discharge to Silver Creek.
Elyria Foundry, Elyria, discharge to Black River.
Republic Powdered Metals, Medina, discharge to tributary of Rocky River.
Garro Tread, Akron, rubber fabrication, discharge to Little Cuyahoga River.

Air pollution

Aco Polymer Products, Chardon, batch mixer.
Meto Kote Corps., Sheffield Village, coating line.
Goodyear Tire & Rubber-Polymer, Akron, new product line.
Lancer Dispersions, Akron, installation of Farrell mill.
Westinghouse Electric, Cleveland, solvent metal cleaning.
Metal Seal & Products, Willoughby, vapor degreaser.
Aero Welding, Eastlake, flame blowing line.
Lincoln Electric, Euclid, wire lube bake-off oven.
Research Oil, Cleveland, organic solvent recovery system.

Hazardous waste

Chemical Solvents, Cleveland, renewal of installation and operation permit.
Safety-Kleen, Brunswick, closure plan.
Safety-Kleen, Kent, closure plan.
Kalkor Coatings, Willoughby, closure plan.

Sewer/ water line extensions

Royalton Heights Subdivision No. 5, North Royalton.
Colony at Breitenh., Breitenh.
Timberlane Estates Subdivision Phase 1, North Royalton.
Rocky Cellars Subdivision, Chardon.
Devonshire Meadows Condos Phase 1 & 2, Avon.
Fairfield Pla, Amherst.
Homestead Vineyards, North Ridgeville.
Woodlodge Condos, Aurora.
Ethene Green Phase 2A, Twinsburg.
Park Hill at Fairlawn, Fairlawn.
Woods of Westbrook, Hudson.
Virginia Estates, Subdivision, Westlake.
Fairways Subdivision, Brunswick.
Shakespeare Place Subdivision, Wadsworth.
Fox Meadow Subdivision Phase 1, Montville Twp.
Wintergreen Development Phase 3 & 4, Wadsworth.
Glenshire Woods Phase 2, Medina.
Waterford Crossings Subdivision No. 6, Strongsville.
Briarwood Development Phase 2, Wadsworth.

Wetland (401) permits

Army Corps of Engineers, Rocky River harbor.
Lorain County Engineer, West Branch of Black River.
Meridian Condominiums, Lakewood, Lake Erie.
City of Mentor, Martin Olm Channel.
William DeForo, Madison, Lake Erie.
William Whitley, Twinsburg, Tinkers Creek.
March 6
Greater Cleveland Audubon Society program on conservation programs in Costa Rica, 8 p.m. at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in University Circle. Call 861-5093.

March 6
Quarterly meeting of the Friends of the Crooked River, 7:30 p.m. at Sleepy Hollow of the Cleveland Metroparks. Dave Stroud from Ohio EPA will show slides of the Cuyahoga River taken from the Goodyear Blimp. Call 666-4026 for more information.

March 7
Monthly meeting of the Black River Audubon Society, 7:30 p.m. at the Lorain County Metro Parks Carlisle Visitor Center in LaGrange. Rick Sahli of the Ohio Environmental Council will speak on key environmental issues in the state.

March 7
Public meeting on the RTA Dual Hub transit project, 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Road. Call 566-5134 for more information.

March 10
Hiking the summit, an exploration of the Ohio & Erie Canal just south of Akron at the watershed divide between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. Meet at Young's Restaurant, 2744 Manchester Rd., at 1 p.m.

March 11
John Forester, author of the safe cycling textbook, Bicycle Transportation and Effective Cycling, and controversial opponent of bike paths and bike lanes, will speak at an all-day bike seminar in Columbus sponsored by the American Youth Hostels Columbus Council and the Ohio Bicycle Federation. Registration is $20. For details and vanpool information, call 575-7551.

March 12
"From Mastodon to Maize: Prehistoric Indian Lifeways in Northeast Ohio," a talk about the region's first human inhabitants by Brian Redmond, curator of archaeology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 2 p.m. at the museum in University Circle.

March 14
Program on socially responsible investing, 7 p.m. at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd. in Bay Village. Presented by local financial advisors. Free. Call 348-8013 for more information.

March 15
Slide show and discussion of clean water issues, including recent attempts by the Voinovich administration to roll back standards which protect Ohio's streams, 7:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center. Call the Sierra Club at 382-1853 for more information.

March 21
Celebration of the vernal equinox, the balance of light and darkness, 7 p.m. at the Crow Point Ecology Learning Center, 3220 Ira Rd., in Bath. Call 666-9200.

Special events

Paul Hawken's ecology of commerce
Paul Hawken, businessman and founder of the Ecowhon Trading Company, co-founder of Smith & Hawken, and author of the visionary book, The Ecology of Commerce, will make two public appearances in Cleveland:
- March 9 at 7:30 p.m., Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management Enterprise Hall (enter from the Case Quad). Free presentation.
- March 10 at noon, the Cleveland City Club Forum, E. 9th and Euclid Avenue. Call 621-0082 for luncheon reservations.

Hawken is one of the leading theorists pointing the way to a more ecological economy. He says: "Commerce contains the means to transform society. No other institution in the modern world is powerful enough and creative enough to bring about the changes that must be made. We have the capacity and the ability to create a remarkably different economy, one that can restore our ecosystem and protect the environment while bringing forth innovation, prosperity, meaningful work and true security."

The road to paradise or the road to ruin?
On March 22 the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club will host a special program on the impact of urban sprawl in Northeast Ohio. The program will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in University Circle. Speakers will include:
- Tom Bier, director of the Housing Policy Research Program at Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs, on the process of urban outmigration in the region.
- Lynne Erickson, director of the Portage County Regional Planning Commission, on how urban sprawl affects rural communities.
- Chris Warren, director of Cleveland's Department of Community Development, on the challenges sprawl presents to the urban core.

The event is free and open to the public.

L.A. Eco-Village comes to Cleveland
Lois Arkin of the Los Angeles Eco-Village demonstration project will present a slide show about the complex process of creating healthy neighborhoods, at 7:30 p.m., March 25, at the Unitarian Society of Cleveland, 2728 Greatest Rd. in Cleveland Heights (near Coventry and Euclid Heights Blvd.). $2 donation suggested.

Arkin is the founder and director of the Cooperative Resources and Services Project, a nonprofit organization committed to small, ecological, cooperative communities. She is also the author and co-editor of two books: Sustainable Cities: Concepts and Strategies for Eco-City Development and Cooperative Housing Compendium: Resources for Collaborative Living. With the L.A. Eco-Village project, she has been involved in community gardening, recycling, traffic calming, a community-based economic system and youth programs.

Arkin's appearance is sponsored by EcoCity Cleveland, the Earth Day Coalition, Environmental Health Watch, Northeast Ohio Greens, Northeast Ohio Sierra Club, and SEED Ohio (Sustainable Energy for Economic Development). For more information, call 932-3007.

Changing urban/rural landscapes
"Managing Northeast Ohio's Urban/Rural Landscape," a conference on balancing urban and rural development to preserve cultural and natural landscapes, will be held March 27 at the Kent State University Student Center. Keynote speaker is Robert Tester, former director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Workshop topics include land trusts and conservation easements, purchase and transfer of development rights, urban redevelopment, small town and business development, urban brownfields, and agricultural zoning.

For registration information, contact the Crossroads Resources Conservation & Development Office, 10874 SR 212 #A, Bolivar, OH 44411, tel. 874-4692.

March 22
Bicycle equipment rally, 7 p.m. at Happy Days Visitor Center of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area on SR 303. Learn the basics of bicycle maintenance from representatives of local bike shops and CVNRA staff.

March 31-April 2
National Jobs with Justice Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn Lakeside in Cleveland. Call (202) 434-1106 for registration information. For information on the Cleveland area Jobs with Justice campaign, call 749-0500.
MAP OF THE MONTH

Glacial deposits of Ohio


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