

**B**uckeye **L**ake for **T**omorrow [BLT] continues to make progress as a newly formed 501[c][3] corporation, charged with the responsibility of managing the Buckeye Lake Watershed.

As might be expected, much of the 1st few months of the newly created Board of Directors has been centered on identifying the challenges and opportunities that exist within the watershed.

A great deal of time has been spent focusing on the Feeder Creek and the impact that it makes on the lake itself as well as the part it plays in the watershed. Area landowners have played a major role in responding to many of our questions and have been very supportive of BLT's efforts to improve the watershed.

BLT's outreach to educational institutions has proven to be both positive and productive. Dennison University students were involved in a project that included surveying area residents. Many of you likely participated through the Beacon article, on line or as part of a door to door survey conducted by the students. The surveys focused on two areas, the Dam and the overall condition of the lake and the pollution impacts made by local residents. Results of the survey will be made available at some point in the future for those with an interest in the outcome.

Ohio University worked with BLT through their Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Affairs. Graduate students developed a marketing/awareness plan. Their focus on the primary objectives and strategies to achieve them, formed the basis for their work. Their studies included an evaluation of BLT strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. These interactions not only proved beneficial to BLT, they also provided the students the opportunity to experience "real world" challenges to compliment their academic studies.

Part of the responsibility of BLT Officers and Directors is gaining the support of local residents, businesses and organizations. Membership drives are underway and presentations to local organizations are being made in an effort to familiarize the community with the work that is being done on their behalf and to gain their support. Early results have been very positive and encouraging.

We are also grateful for all of our new members who responded to our membership solicitation in last month's Shoreline. With your support and encouragement, we will improve the quality of life in our community through improved water quality in the Buckeye Lake Watershed.

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