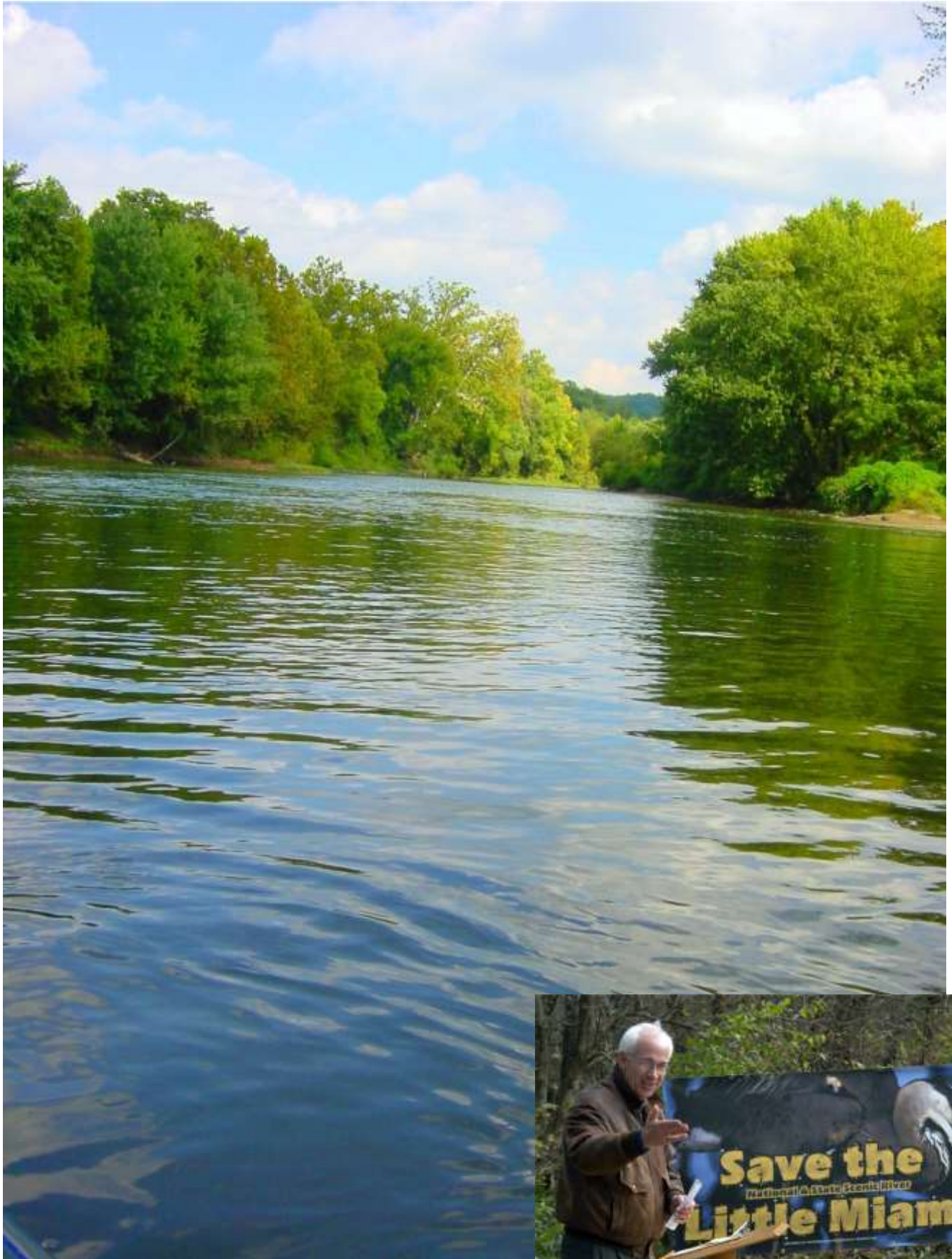


Saving a National Treasure



The Little Miami
National Wild & Scenic
River Story





Eric B. Partee, LMC Executive Director

Welcome to the Little Miami !

Little Miami Conservancy - Saving a National Treasure Since 1967



Southwest Ohio is truly blessed to have a spectacular little river running thru it. Flowing 105 miles through five counties, the Little Miami has been embraced by citizens and local leaders as a valuable natural resource for quiet outdoor recreation, wildlife, drinking water, scenic beauty and much more!



The Little Miami Conservancy (fka Little Miami, Inc.) was founded in 1967 by Dayton newspaper editor Glenn Thompson as a citizen conservation organization dedicated to restoring and protecting this wonderful river resource. Through it's "win-win" approach to scenic river conservation, LMC is proud to have acquired over 100 nature preserves, provided key leadership leading to the designation as Ohio's first State Scenic River and National Wild & Scenic River, and we continue work to protect the full ecological health to this exceptional river.

Rich in bird life, endangered species, and scenic wonders, the Little Miami is enjoyed by 850,000 people annually by canoeing, biking, hiking, fishing, bird watching, and the pure enjoyment of quiet solitude in a natural setting just minutes from the urban landscapes of Greater Cincinnati, Dayton and twelve other riverfront communities.

You can help keep the Little Miami alive and well by joining the hundreds of families who are LMC members, and by volunteering for LMC's numerous conservation projects. You can leave a great natural legacy along this beautiful river for generations to come !



Rhett C. Rohrer
LMC President

Lower River Wild & Scenic Dedication Ceremony in 1980
with LMC, ODNR and legislators.

The Little Miami

**105 miles of
Wild & Scenic
beauty with a
million acre
watershed**

Located on the eastern edge of the growing Cincinnati-Dayton metropolitan area, the Little Miami is a nationally-recognized natural gem.

This historic ally agricultural watershed is experiencing growing pressure on its natural resources as urban development removes natural habitat and increases point and nonpoint discharges into the Little Miami and its tributaries.



A Wild & Scenic River

The Little Miami has the distinction of being the first river in Ohio to be included in the National Wild & Scenic River System (1974), and the first to be added to the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program (1969).



In 2003, at LMC's request the Little Miami was added to the Audubon "Important Bird Area" Program, an international bird habitat program recognizing the 255 bird species found along the river.

The National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

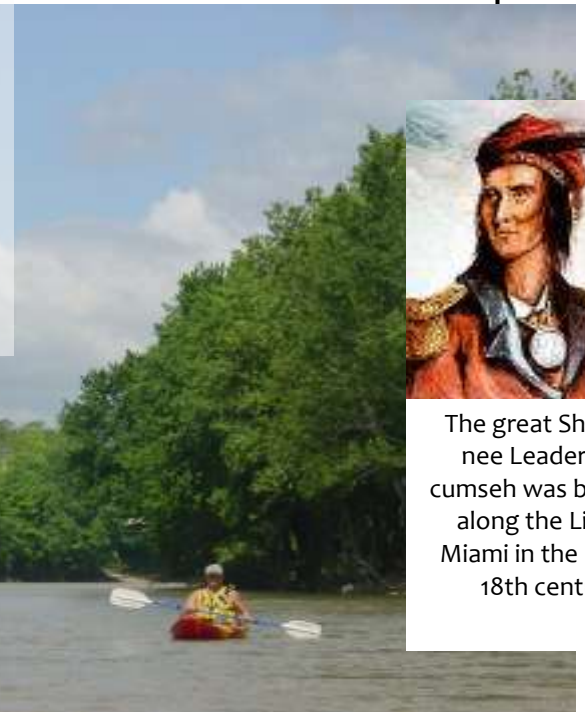


Thirty-six species of freshwater mussels have been found in the Little Miami.

The Great Blue Heron



The endangered Blue Sucker lives and reproduces in the Little Miami.



The great Shawnee Leader Tecumseh was born along the Little Miami in the late 18th century.

Six commercial canoe & kayak liveries serve 100,000 people annually on the Little Miami.

A Rich River Ecosystem



An Exceptional River RESTORED !

OEPA has designated the Little Miami as Ohio's longest stretch of "exceptional warmwater habitat" placing the river in the top 10% of the stream ecosystems in Ohio. Six Endangered and Threatened fish species reside in the Little Miami with more than 83 fish species, 36 mussel species, and 234 taxa of aquatic macro-invertebrates (insects).

Up until the end of the 20th century less than 40 % of the river' length was in "full attainment" of OEPA water quality and biological standards . The primary culprit was the devastating effects of nutrient loading (primarily dissolved phosphorus) which was feeding algae in the river with significantly lowered dissolved oxygen levels in the night time hours of warm summer days. After a number of scientific studies by OEPA and the University of Cincinnati, discussions between OEPA and wastewater treatment plant operators yielded a cost-effective plan for lowering the discharge of this nutrient from many of the 37 sewage treatment plants in the watershed. LMC provided local support for a "win-win" solution throughout.

Public Enjoyment



850,000 People Enjoy the Valley Annually

An estimated 850,000 people annually enjoy the “great outdoors” along the Little Miami either by canoeing, hiking, biking, jogging, rollerblading, fishing, bird watching, etc.

The Little Miami Conservancy played a key leadership role in turning the old Little Miami Railroad into the popular Little Miami multi-use trail. Our talks with Federal and State leaders resulted in the \$2 million of trail funding in 1983 to make it a reality.

Seven canoe liveries now afford an estimated 100,000 people the opportunity to enjoy this wild and scenic river setting each year. A dozen communities tap the river’s aquifer **daily for cool clean drinking water for their citizens and businesses.**



Little Miami Conservancy in 1967

In 1967 local citizens came together to save a local river whose health was failing. The Little Miami was lined with abandoned shacks and littered with trash, old cars, and dumping grounds. Over 500 families now support LMC.

LMC is proud to have played a key leadership role in working wonders, natural wonders, along this lucky little river, lucky because people cared enough to bring it back from the brink. Thanks to that support LMC now owns over 100 nature preserves along the river.



Over 100 LMC nature preserves and reforestation projects now help protect the wildlife, water quality, drinking water, and recreational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of families in Southwest Ohio. APR 23 2003

A History of Success

Today, some 54% of the riverbank forests are under some form of permanent natural protection, either through land ownership or conservation easements held by LMC and other conservation agencies. An additional 20% of the river-front forests receive some protection through local zoning ordinances.

Local wastewater treatment plants are now removing nutrients from their discharges. These reductions, along with possible further reductions, have all but eliminated algae blooms which threatened the very life of the river.



LMC's Scenic River & Trail Center and other educational and volunteer projects inform local citizens and youth, and afford them the opportunity for hands-on projects to monitor & restore the river.



LMC Center in Loveland



The Challenges Ahead



Restoring & Protecting the Little Miami in Ecological Health

Conservation Action Planning

LMC has undertaken comprehensive conservation action planning to guide our efforts in the coming years. Using a proven planning approach developed by The Nature Conservancy, a multi-stage peer-reviewed discussion process has yielded a plan of action for LMC which are pursuing toward implementation.



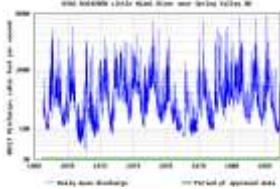
Floodplain Management

Floodplains play a key role in the health of the Little Miami. Management of land use in the high hazard floodplains along the Little Miami has long been a common goal of LMC and government policy. LMC will continue to monitor floodplain use, encourage thoughtful development, compliance with existing floodplain program regulations, and report non-complying use to responsible government agencies.



Water Quality Monitoring & Improvement

In the 1980's the health of the Little Miami was seriously degraded. Throughout the 1990's numerous discussions involving OEPA , local authorities and LMC resulted in a clean up strategy that worked wonders! Reduction in the nutrient loading from Wastewater Treatment Plants lead the way to the full attainment of Exceptional health for the main stem. LMC will continue to work with OEPA and local authorities to maintain full ecological health to the Little Miami, including the implementation of effective stormwater regulations, conservation planning for agricultural areas, and timely water quality monitoring (which will enable more timely and cost- effective implementation of water quality management strategies) , etc.



Habitat & Species Protection

LMC will continue its permanent protection of key riverfront lands to provide maximum assurance that the river's health and immediate environs will provide wildlife habitat, water quality buffers, public recreation where appropriate, clean drinking water, and more.

Public & Private Partnerships

Historically LMC partnerships with public agencies and private interests have resulted in significant positive changes for the Little Miami environment. LMC will seek out new partnerships and continue existing effective partnerships with public agencies and private landowners alike who seek to restore and protect the Little Miami.

Conservation Education

Reaching out to citizens and area leaders is key to fostering long-term concern for the Little Miami and its environ. From special meetings to informative publications to guided float trips, LMC will continue it's wild and scenic river conservation mission and reach out to future generations.

In 2006 LMC opened its Scenic River & Trail Center in downtown Loveland along the Little Maimi Scenic Park trail. LMC educates thousands of trail and river users and kids of all ages on the natural wonders of the river. LMC has published books on the fishing the river and a wonderful children's book entitled "Smallmouth Sonny of Bass Island Bar" and conducts book readings in local schools.



For more information



LMC Web site

www.littlemiami.org

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LMC Scenic River & Trail Center

211 Railroad Avenue, Loveland, OH 45140-2915
along the Little Miami Scenic Trail in
Historic downtown Loveland, OH



A 1917 photograph of fishermen along the Little Miami at Milford OH
