**Reports for Green Sanctuary Meeting – November 19, 2023**

Save Ohio Parks

 Oil & Gas Land Management Commission meeting November 15 (I attended):

 -Most “nominations” approved; two parcels not approved- one erroneously claimed as ODNR property is actually OSU property; some nominations around Salt Fork S.P. were redundant. As part of their approval process, the Commission adopted (and slightly revised) an “addendum” prepared by the Executive Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This addendum included items such as 500-ft set back for well pads, prohibition from using state park roadways, limiting noise and light from fracking, restrictions during hunting seasons, requirement for new steel in casings). I am skeptical about the ability of ODNR to enforce these restrictions.

 -Next step – bids in January

 -Press coverage- articles in Columbus Dispatch, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Marietta Times (November 16 edition), AP, and others

 -I have photos – will display on Zoom at our meeting.

 Salt Fork State Park will be completely surrounded by fracking well pads and equipment.

 [-The only option at this point to stop this process is to contact the governor (write or call):](https://www.google.com/maps?daddr=39.960602,-83.000503" \t "_blank)

 [Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-6117. (614) 644-4357](https://www.google.com/maps?daddr=39.960602,-83.000503" \t "_blank)

ReImagine Appalachia

 Strategic Planning Summit – January 16-17, 2024

Citizens Climate Lobby

 Mahoning Valley Chapter will plan and preside over November 20 meeting of CCL OH6.

 Congressman Bill Johnson offered presidency at Youngstown State University. Not yet decided.

 Unscheduled meeting I had with him on November10 at the Galley Restaurant

Organization of Clean Energy & Climate

 Seeking federal funds for solar panel array to power computer servers. Other options for electricity: power purchase agreement with Pickering Electric, river water idea from Buckeye Hills Regional Council.

 Seeking partnership with Nature-Miracle for three-dimensional unit in existing greenhouse. OSU Extension Agent, Marcus McCartney, advised vertical indoor gardening (30 feet).

 Other ideas for applications of recycled heat: hot water for hospitals (discussions with Memorial Health Systems for new facility in Athens), oil & gas industry (use heat instead of chemicals for evaporating brine waste), building technology.

 Applications for local grants submitted in September: not awarded by Marietta Community Foundation nor by Parkersburg Area Community Foundation. Will re-apply to MCF.

Native Plant Corridor in Devola

 My message on Next Door Devola sent on November 13:

 *The Devola sewer work and resultant disturbance to our domestic landscapes give us a unique opportunity to carry out small steps toward ecological restoration. Americans spend, collectively, three billion hours on lawn care per year. Lawn irrigation consumes over eight billion gallons of water daily. Over 40 million acres of U.S. land are taken up by lawns; this compares to 20 million acres of national parks. The machines that we use to mow our multitude of lawn areas are not required to have emission controls. By contrast, a healthy ecosystem built upon native plants produces oxygen, cleans water systems, captures carbon, builds topsoil, and prevents floods.*

*Another advantage to an ecosystem based on native plants is that this biosystem is friendly to pollinators, which are in trouble. As one group of pollinators, honeybees are essential to the multi-million-dollar fruit industry. Moving away from non-native grasses that are unfriendly to helpful insects and to the environment in general will also save us some time, money, and effort otherwise spent on lawn mowing.*

*Each household in Devola whose yard has been disturbed by the sewer installation can take a small step toward ecological restoration by designating a portion of the yard to native plants and “shrink the lawn,” to use the slogan offered by Dr. Douglas Tallamy of the U. of Delaware. We have a source of native plants and seeds in nearby Mineral Wells WV (nativerootsinc.com). I have information on how to prepare a plot for native plants and seeds (**gbanziger497@gmail.com**), as does our OSU extension agent, Marcus McCartney, who is willing to provide advice on this matter and on soil testing. Of course, with the overpopulation of deer in our community, we will need to concentrate on deer-resistant plants, of which there are many choices, e.g., bee balm, mountain mint. If enough people embark on this investment in ecological restoration, we can establish a native-plant corridor in Devola that is friendly to pollinators and other important insects. I will start a small plot of my own in the mostly sunny area of our backyard near our new sewer device. (re: attached photo). BTW, late fall is a good time to put in native plants and seeds.*

 Several positive responses and questions resulted. Over 550 views!

George Banziger