

See threats to the Little Miami Scenic River? Call LMI 513/965-9344

# River Journal



6040 Price Rd  
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You are Invited!  
LMI Annual Dinner  
Meeting May 6th  
(see below for details)

# River Journal

Little Miami  
INCORPORATED

Spring & Summer 2009



## LMI 120 acre Nature Preserve Protects Largest Great Blue Heronry in Watershed

A 147 nest Great Blue Heron Rookery is now under the watchful protection of Little Miami Inc. On November 26, 2008 landowners Keith and Mary Linkhart signed a protective easement on 120 acres of their farm north of Xenia in Greene County. "We are absolutely thrilled that this critical habitat will now be preserved forever, said LMI Executive Director Eric B. Partee. "This permanent easement will assure that the great blue herons in this part of the state have a safe home." Funding for the acquisition is courtesy of an anonymous gift and The Clean Ohio Fund. The Rookery is thought to be one of, if not the, largest heronries in Ohio. (Left: The preserved areas of the Linkhart Farm and Heron Nests dot the canopy in many Sycamores.)

## May 6 LMI Dinner Celebrates Scenic River Milestone

You are invited to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Ohio's First State Scenic River!

**Featuring Keynote Speaker**

**Myrita Craig, Executive Director**

Cincinnati Regional Chamber

**Agenda 360 A Regional Action Plan**

and the Students from Milford presenting on ten years of river studies

**Wednesday, May 6, 2009**

**5:30pm social, 6:30pm dinner**

**Marriott Northeast**

at the I-71 Fields Ertel Road Interchange

9664 Mason-Montgomery Road

**RSVP 513/965-9344 by April 27, 2009**

with \$35 reservation check mailed by April 27, 2009

Please make check payable to: Little Miami Inc.,

6040 Price Road Milford, OH 45150-1429



LMI Photo Courtesy of Ronald G. Levy

# Finley Reserve LMI's Latest Gem Along the Little Miami

Dayton Society of Natural History Gifts 45 acre Forest to LMI for Safe Keeping. On December 22, 2008 the Dayton Society of Natural History transferred ownership of the historic Finley Reserve to Little Miami Inc. The densely wooded property (see photo left) is one of the most outstanding examples of Beech-Oak forest remaining along the Little Miami Corridor. A number of mature Shagbark Hickories also dot the forest landscape providing home to area bats. (see photo below right)

The reserve property was originally donated as a natural area to the Dayton Society by Dr. Robert and Florence Finley in 1977. The property sets on a bluff overlooking the Little Miami River two miles south of Waynesville in northern Warren County. "We are honored to accept this responsibility to preserve this wonderful resource and are most appreciative to the Society, Mark J. Meister, DSNH President & CEO, and the Finley family," Eric B. Partee, LMI Executive Director.



## South Lebanon to Protect Little Miami Scenic Riverfront Lands

The Village of South Lebanon in Warren County has signed a pre-annexation agreement with LMI aimed at preserving the natural state of the riverfront lands through the Village if a recent annexation proposal is approved. The Village would adopt river buffer zoning along several miles of the Little Miami within the Village. Perpetual conservation easements would also be given to LMI on Village-owned lands, and protection of an existing LMI preserve from any future Village actions along the river is pledged.

## Founder's Gift Enables New LMI Riverfront Land Purchase

Timing and opportunity worked hand in hand to enable LMI to purchase close to a quarter mile of riverfront forest land in Sugarcreek Township, Greene County. LMI Founder Glenn Thompson donated the funds in 1988 prior to his death to acquire this particular tract. LMI has held the funds in trust until it had the opportunity to purchase the forest land. LMI purchased the land on March 27, 2009. "Glenn would be pleased," said Eric B. Partee, LMI Executive Director, "and then he would urge us to keep at it."

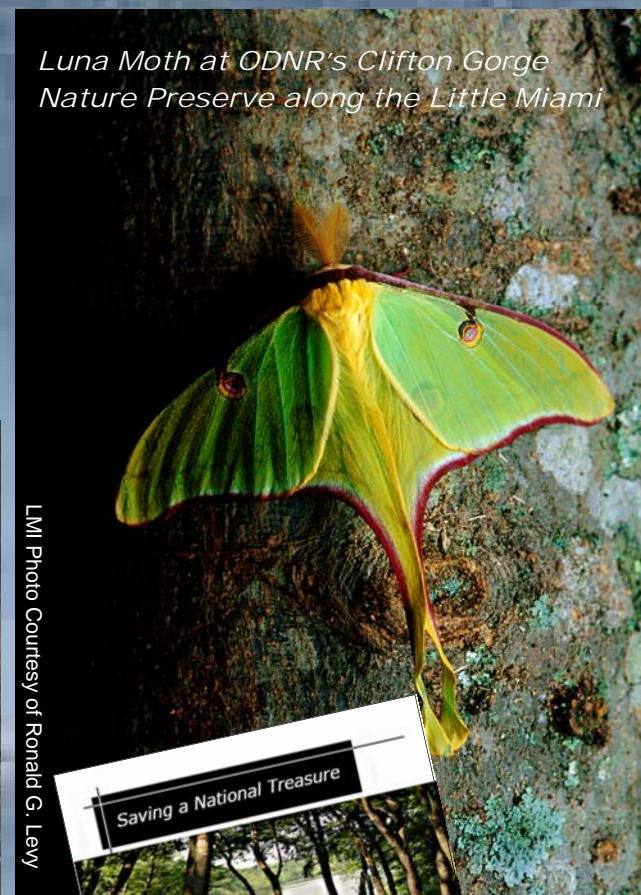


## Martin Marietta Signs Protection Agreement with Little Miami Inc.

On October 2, 2008 Martin Marietta Aggregates (MMA) signed a legally-binding agreement with LMI regarding the proposed MMA deep limestone mine in the Ancor industrial area of Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio. MMA proposes to mine limestone between 400 and 800 feet below the surface. The agreement focuses on zero discharge to the Little Miami and its tributaries and a prohibition on the discharge of any hazardous or polluted materials into the "North Lake", a former gravel pit into which runoff from the proposed MMA processing plant is to be directed. About 61 acres of MMA property would also be donated to LMI if the MMA proposal is approved by the Anderson Township Board of Zoning Appeals. The acreage extends from the river up to 1500 feet back from the Little Miami. The Township has zoning regulations aimed at prohibiting impacts on neighboring properties from noise, dust, light and other nuisances.



Luna Moth at ODNR's Clifton Gorge Nature Preserve along the Little Miami



LMI Photo Courtesy of Ronald G. Levy



### Read all about it !

Enjoy this 12 page LMI booklet outlining the past 40 years of scenic river conservation along the Little Miami. Log on to our web site at [littlemiami.org](http://littlemiami.org) , call 513/965-9344 or visit the LMI Center in Loveland for a hard copy.