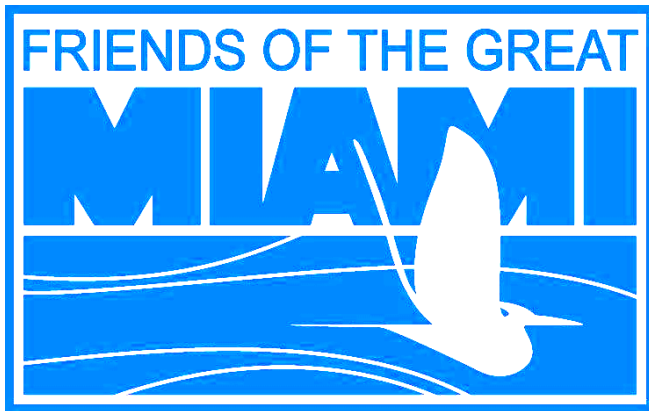


# Friends of the Great Miami need you now



Since they first organized in 1999, the Friends of the Great Miami have been guided by a clearly written mission statement. It says:

*The Friends of the Great Miami is a citizen-based, education and advocacy group established to conserve, restore and enhance the Great Miami River system for the benefit of wildlife, residents and the public interest.*

The mission inspires many activities:

- Reforestation efforts near the mouth of the Great Miami at the Oxbow wetland
- River cleanup work in May at several locations along the river's final 30 miles
- Drinking water protection projects for the Village of New Miami, St. Clair Township and Great Miami tributaries in Butler County
- Surveillance and studies of the industrial ruins and hazardous wastes left behind by the former Armco coke and steel plant at New Miami, next to the river
- Great Miami River Days, a yearly educational festival that draws thousands of people to the river in Hamilton each September

- Watchdog efforts to lessen the impact of streamside development and gravel mines
- Rain garden projects at two parks in Colerain Township and the Hamilton Campus of Miami University
- Panoramic and instructive river views photographed from an ultra-light aircraft flying at low altitudes

More can be done. In partnership with Rivers Unlimited, we seek a few good volunteers to revive pursuit of a Scenic River or Water Trail designation for the lower Great Miami River.

And, of course, the Friends seek more members. Annual membership dues are \$25. We also highly value volunteer time and participation. Your ideas, energy and companionship are welcome.

For more information, check out the Friends' website at [www.fogm.org](http://www.fogm.org) or contact Mark Fritsch, Marketing Director, at (513) 738-0889 or [fritsch@fuse.net](mailto:fritsch@fuse.net). Our mailing address is P.O. Box 141482, Cincinnati, OH, 45250-1482.



This young naturalist hands off a toad he discovered during an educational canoe outing with Friends of the Great Miami.



During the last century, Armco operated a coke and steel plant next to the Great Miami River at New Miami.



Present-day gravel mining pits border the Great Miami River near the U.S. 27 bridge at the Butler /Hamilton County line.

Friends of the Great Miami are concerned about past and present land uses along the river. We seek more members to help us find a reasonable balance among the competing demands for the river's natural resources. The Great Miami is a treasure of unrealized potential for recreation. Its vast aquifer system is a source of fresh drinking water for more than a million people in Southwest Ohio. The river corridor serves as a major flyway for migratory birds while providing precious wildlife habitat to a diversity of native plants and animals. If you would like to join, please fill in the blanks below and send the information along with membership dues to: P.O. Box 141482, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45250-1482.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Maill Address: \_\_\_\_\_