

Code: 517061
Subject: Elain Marsh
Date: June 24,2008
Interviewer: Joe Culley
Special Notes: Canoe paddling river reclamer

Minutes:

- 0 Personal background work with Friends of the Crooked River
- 1 Background D.O.B 1945 Cleveland Ohio Lived in N.E. Ohio "it's my home"
Father's side has a lot of connection to the region Grandmother from Pittsburgh she
- 2 was a baker came to this region to be a baker
- 3 Kid in Cleveland I use to play in Wade park all the time
!4 moved to Independence Ohio played in the canal canoed the river all the time It
- 4 was dirty, scummy at the time, but it was our river
You can comtinue to paddle and learn about river conservation and quality or you
- 5 can stop paddling
As kid she thought the city was they way the earth was and natural that human
- 6 provided everything
- 7 cosins took me camping and that is where she learned about nature
1960's in college at KSU learned about the environmental movement Public policy
- 8 and environment relationship Philosophy and english literature
Moved to Akron in 1967-68 very hot august nights summers and go into the valley
- 9 and sleep in the deserted place
- 10 Use to hike in the area
People would hardly use the area, uncared for and unappreciated, but it was very
- 11 available and very private no access
- 12 Got involved in the Sierra club in late 20's and 30's
Philosopher and writer she identifies with William Wordsworth, nature being a
- 13 metaphysical place of meaning
It's almost impossible to experience nature and wilderness, the preservation of
- 14 spirituality John Sieberling knew this and understood this

Sieberling wasone of three people responsible for the Alaskan's land act he wrote
people really don't understand wilderness it is not about a place its about who we are
- 15 and where we come from and its importance to our exisistence as human beings
Her metaphysical times in nature ledges at night bright night seeing stars in Virginia
Kendel at outlook 10pm 10 other people there everybody was silently experience the
- 16 night view and saw a red drape of northern lights
- 17
- 18 This was a leaving of the self a connect totally undefined
Her Family Husband research chemist, both enmeshed together in their joy of the
- 19 wilderness we are an exsquisit Paddling Team

20 Paddled Yokaganey in an open boat only out of 200 to have done so at that time
RAP pack singles who didn't like bars first conversation with her husband was about
- 21 faith healing
Had a job in canton at Altmen hospital of nursing decide to move and have children
- 22 near the park nature when right on the edge
Husband and her became involved in the Portage Trail group meeting involved in the
- 23 formation of the park
The Trails council what the trail system should be a 12-15 people husband very
- 24 invovled in that

Late 80's when John Diebo came here he stated in the akron Beacon Journal about
25 water quality the river has no constituency
She called him and that was not so about a year after that friends of the crooked
26 river was formed now its 19 yrs old Kitchen table

Names of the people at the first meeting Kathleen Oneil from Cleveland Area and
27 artist, Donna Bolton from KSU a teacher, Kathleen PenningGill, Peggy Boble.
28 Made a list of 19 goals How she met them
29 19 goals have check off about 13 of those in 19 years number goal River Day

30 Pulling out cars from river by Jait talked to John Diebo about it 1950-1940 era cars
31 Pulled out 113 cars April 27th first river day rained the whole day

We thoguht of a multi experiential event that celebates the river Met at Boston Mills
32 train crossing

Secretary of interior, director of national park service, John sieberling gave speaches
33 from train

34 Outdoor hotdog roast and concert great media coverage have had 19 since then

35 Doesn't hurt to ask

36 park service funds car removal even to this day erosion still happening

37 Buisness plan from point A to B keep the eye on the prize!

38 Plan a survey of the river to understand river Good Year Blimp

Good Year Blimp idea to take photos of the river Early 1990's Blimp only used for
goodwill and sporting events Put in a hundred hours of time in communication with

39 goodyear

Remedial action plan to correct toxic hot spots around great lakes EPA was part of
40 this plan

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Once goodyear understood that the EPA was going to be involved they were granted

42 soon after to use the blimp in 1997 she got to go up in the blimp

43 Really got to see the impact of the river got a toatal picture

44

Most shocking things she saw while in the Blimp. Encroachment impact on the
45 watershed around Wing Foot Lake. Highly Viseral experience.

46 Viseral is what counts to human beings has to hit us in the gut

47 Difficult landing on her first Blimp trip.

She discovers that around Wing Foot Lake are large wet lands which she didn't know
48 about

Her main lesson after the Blimp trip was to be more involved with the preservation of
49 the wetlands

Vision for future removing the dams love to see the gorge dam come down owned by
50 First Energy interested in reestablishing hydro power

Interested in the combined overflow problem of the sewers Recreational Use book of
51 the river

52 Balance between people's impact and the river

We are a living planet and we have to preserve living systems because we are living
53 systems destroying those systems we destroy ourselves

Her Soap Box message The Cuyahoga National Park is the Savior of North east
54 Ohio in every way

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Wonderful dream she had 3 weeks ago about living in a living house light supplied by
56 bio luminescncce plants someday I think that is how we'll all live

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Water trail opportunity for through paddlers in the Cuyahoga Valley difficult sell
58 because of the gorge dam and water quality

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Description of her most favorite place in the park Upper Cuyahoga river late March by
60 Sperry Pond Duck Migration

Wormer migration in the late Spring in summer walking along towpath her personal
61 place Cascade Valley Park in decommissioned section on Peck Rd.

62 Loves it because of its transformation

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