



Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park

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## PRESS RELEASE

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The Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park (ORWRP) at The Ohio State University released its 2007 Annual Report today to the public.

Among the important efforts described in the report for 2007 are international collaborations with wetland and ecological engineering programs in four countries—China and Korea in Asia, Botswana in Africa, and Costa Rica in Central America. For example, supported partially by a Fulbright grant, a team of ORWRP researchers initiated a successful research and teaching mission at the Okavango Delta, one of most important wetlands in Africa (See <http://swamp.osu.edu/research/tropical/>).

The ORWRP became a formal member of the Global Wetland Consortium (GWC) in 2007, a group of wetland research labs from around the world (<http://www.globalwetlands.org/>); Ohio State University and University of Florida are the only USA members of this consortium. The ORWRP was host to visiting scientists from University of Botswana, Ewha Women's University (Korea), and Shanghai University (China) in 2007.

In 2007, the ORWRP supported 35 college courses from Ohio State University and 4 other Ohio colleges and universities—Otterbein College, Columbus State, Miami University, and Denison University. The ORWRP also provide financial support through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for river monitoring equipment to four other Ohio universities—Shawnee State, Wright State, Central State, and Kenyon College [http://v4.wqdata.com/webdblink/osu\\_wetlands.php?loop=0](http://v4.wqdata.com/webdblink/osu_wetlands.php?loop=0)

There were 136 formal tours or presentations of the Olentangy River wetlands in 2007 to over 2300 participants. The ORWRP remains one of the most popular destinations for school groups, garden clubs, and nature enthusiasts in central Ohio.

Through 2007, the ORWRP has had an economic impact of \$9 million to the Ohio State University. Its contributions to the education of present and future wetland scientists and managers in Ohio and throughout the world and to the protection and restoration of rivers and wetlands are worth far more than that.

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Report is available at <http://swamp.osu.edu/research/Report2007final.pdf> or can be mailed by request to [mitsch.1@osu.edu](mailto:mitsch.1@osu.edu) Contact ORWRP Director Bill Mitsch ([mitsch.1@osu.edu](mailto:mitsch.1@osu.edu) or 614-292-9774) for additional information. See also <http://swamp.osu.edu/>