



Our Mission

To restore the Huff Run Watershed by improving water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat, through community support and involvement.

Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership, Inc. meetings are typically held the third Tuesday of each month at the Huff Run Office (former Mineral City Village Hall) at 5:30 pm. Please join us!

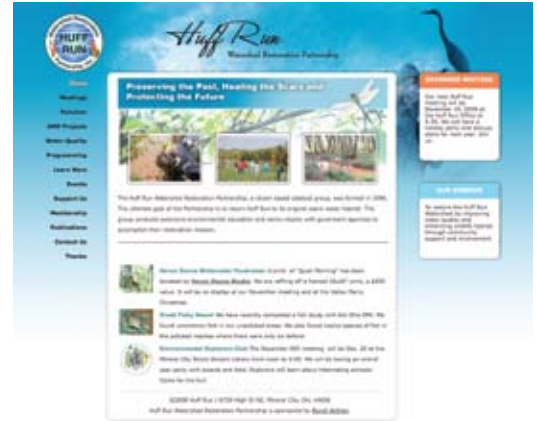
www.huffrun.org

What is a Watershed?

The region of land around a body of water (be it a river, lake, ocean, wetland or stream) that drains into it is its watershed. Watershed boundaries are always at hilltops that are higher than the rest of the land. All land throughout the entire world is part of a watershed. Huff Run's watershed is 14 square miles and starts near Morges in Carroll County and ends at its confluence with Conotton Creek south of Mineral City. Huff Run is also part of the Conotton Creek Watershed as well as the Tuscarawas, the Muskingum, the Ohio and the Mississippi.

HRWRP Officers

President – Ed Taggart
Vice President – Bo Hysong
Treasurer – Belle Everett
Secretary – Marissa Geib



Webpage Revamping Complete

Our webpage has remained the same design for the past several years. With donations of design, production and hosting assistance from WLR Advertising of Canton, Ohio, the look and feel of the site has completely changed. Navigation through the site is streamlined, plus we have the ability to accept credit card donations and memberships through PayPal. Information about our projects has been expanded with more pictures and a complete list of problem areas.

Stop by www.huffrun.org to visit and let us know what you think. Thank you WRL for your generous help!

This newsletter is paid for through a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

www.huffrun.org

**CROSSROADS RESOURCE CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**
277 Canal Avenue SE, Suite C
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

INSIDE THIS VOLUME

- What's a Watershed?
- Webpage Revamping
- Complete
- Great Fishy News
- Two Restoration Projects
- Complete
- Sixth Annual Photo Contest
- Staff News
- Continued Funding for
- Coordinator
- Party in the Park
- EEC Field Trip
- Fifth Annual 5K & Fun Mile
- Volunteer Thanks
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Fall Watershed Tours
- Community Ice Cream Social



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WaterMarks

Winter 2008/2009

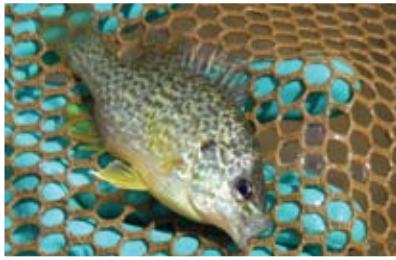


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Volume XI, Issue 2

"Preserving the Past, Healing the Scars, Protecting the Future"

Great Fishy News!



This summer, Huff Run staff assisted the Ohio EPA in completing a stream-wide study of fish populations. The most polluted section of Huff Run, downstream from the State Route 90/ New Cumberland Road Bridge in Mineral City, saw the largest increase in fish. This section only had one species of fish living there in 1998. In 2005, studies revealed six species of fish dwelling in this stream segment. This summer, twelve different species of fish were identified! Unusual wetland species were also found in this downstream location. What great progress!

Upstream, species of less common fish were found in the upper reaches of Huff Run where it is not as impacted by humans. These fish, the Golden Shiner and the Pumpkin Seed Sunfish, have not been identified in the Watershed before and are rare to find in this part of Ohio.

Although fish are returning to Huff Run, the stream is far from clean. The numbers of fish in the lower reaches are very low although there are more species found there than ever previously recorded. Only the upper reaches of the stream can be labeled warm water habitat, or an ideal place for fish and other aquatic life to live. While this is a marked improvement, the section near the State Route 90 bridge still scores poor water quality. More work needs to be done to restore our stream.

Two Restoration Projects Completed in 2008

Both our Belden and our Fern Hill Phase I Restoration Projects were constructed this summer.

Belden is behind the former Kopp Clay plant and is a very large site, encompassing about 20 acres. Large gob piles and toxic clay were reclaimed. Two steel slag leach beds were installed to boost alkalinity and raise pH. Open limestone channels were put in place to move water around the site and raise pH. A large settling pond collects all the water from the entire project. Belden was funded by our US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant, an Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Clean Stream Initiative Grant and in kind from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management (ODNR-MRM). The design was completed by ATC Associates and constructed by Tuscon.

Fern Hill, so named for its hillside of Christmas Ferns, is also known as HR-42. The site is off Hope Road in Carroll County and consists of a series of acid ponds left behind from strip mining and a large acid mine drainage (AMD) plume that sits directly beside Huff Run itself, dumping severe amounts of AMD directly into the stream. Studies have shown that the hillside between the ponds and the stream have fractured rock stained orange. We believe the ponds were causing

the seep and plume at stream level. A grant from the Office of Surface Mining along with in kind from ODNR-MRM paid for reclamation of the largest and nearest ponds to the stream this summer. Limestone channels, grass lined channels and rock check dams were also installed. The project was designed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and constructed by Red Malcuit.





Water Marks

Water Marks
**HUFF RUN
WATERSHED
RESTORATION
PARTNERSHIP**

A COLLABORATION OF PEOPLE
WITH CONCERNS FOR HUFF RUN

Winter 2008/2009
Volume XI, Issue 2

Editor/Publisher
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Huff Run Watershed Coordinator
(330) 859-1050

Contributing Writers
Amber Leasure-Earnhardt
*Assistant Huff Run
Watershed Coordinator*

Eric Earnhardt
Huff Run Member

Water Marks is a free publication. It is distributed throughout the Carroll and Tuscarawas County area. The purpose of the publication is to provide vital information and to help educate citizens so that they can take an active role in protecting and restoring the Huff Run Watershed.

Water Marks is published two times a year by the Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership, Inc.

Submissions of articles, artwork and photos are welcome. Editorial contributions from our readers sharing knowledge, experiences and/or opinions are invited. However, Water Marks cannot assume any responsibility for statements and opinions expressed by contributors. All materials in Water Marks have been prepared by the Watershed Coordinator unless otherwise attributed.

Water Marks
P.O. Box 55
Mineral City, OH 44656

Sixth Annual Photo Contest



The first place prize went to Randy Hull's *Wild Flowers Bloom on the Banks of Huff Run*.

Our annual Huff Run Photo Contest attracted a few new participants this year with many former contributors submitting photos too. The first place prize went to Randy Hull's *Wild Flowers Bloom on the Banks of Huff Run*. Second was awarded to Dan Dexter's *In the Presence of Nature: Pure Tranquility*. Both were of wildflowers. Third place was given to Judy Crilley's *Toad Stool Stadium*. Two Honorable Mentions were awarded to John Slack's *Boots and Randy Hull's Buck Fawn Hiding Along Huff Run*. All photos were displayed at the Mineral City Party in the Park, the Mineral City Nicole Donant Library and the Tuscarawas County Fair. Judges for the contest were Sheryll Celuch of Celuch Photography, Marsha Zollar of the Norma Johnson Center and Brenda James of the Mineral City Elementary Art Department.



Third place was given to Judy Crilley's
Toad Stool Stadium.



Second place was awarded to Dan Dexter's
In the Presence of Nature: Pure Tranquility.



S.T.A.F.F. NEWS

Assistant Coordinator Amber Leasure-Earnhardt has served as our Huff Run VISTA for the past year. Rural Action is moving to start an AmeriCorps program and no longer hire Volunteers in Service to America, the program that funded Amber and our two past VISTAs. This is a very similar government based volunteer program but the change will leave a staff gap from December 2008 through August 2009. Amber has been hired as the Assistant Huff Run Watershed Coordinator to stay on through July 2008. Her job will continue to focus on our environmental education and outreach. Congratulations, Amber!



Amber Leasure-Earnhardt
and Maureen Wise

Coordinator Maureen Wise has been with the Partnership since 2003 and just is never mentioned in our Staff News section because nothing has changed. She's still here working hard!

Volunteer Marissa Geib has been an active volunteer with the Partnership since her first Huff Run meeting. Marissa is now receiving college credit for her volunteer time at Huff Run. She has been helping at the office six hours a week with sampling, organizing fund raisers, helping with mailings and other work. Marissa also serves as the Partnership Secretary.



Marissa Geib

Continued Funding for Coordinator

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water (ODNR) established the Watershed Coordinator Program in 2000. Huff Run was awarded one of these first Watershed Coordinator grants to fund a full time person dedicated to the restoration of Huff Run. This first grant ended in 2006. Salary monies were secured with Rural Action's US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant for the Coordinator. Now as the US EPA grant is closing, a second ODNR Watershed Coordinator Grant has been awarded to continue funding the position through 2011. Maureen Wise has held the Huff Run Watershed Coordinator position since early 2003.



Huff Run Watercolor Raffle

Roderick MacIver of Heron Dance Studios donated a print of *Quiet Morning*, a limited edition watercolor. Framing was also donated. The HRWRP sold tickets to raffle off the print and made over \$500. The money will be used for unfunded environmental education. The winner of the raffle was Linda Thornton of Albany, Ohio. Congratulations to Linda and thank you to those who sold tickets and contributed to the raffle.

Members Receive Window Decals

Yes! I want to become a *member* of the Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership! Enclosed are my yearly membership dues of

- ☐ \$5 Individual ☐ \$10 Family
☐ \$25 Non-profit ☐ \$50 Business

Please put me on your contact list:

Name _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

City/State _____

I understand that I will be contacted about the next meeting.

Make checks payable to HRWRP and send to:

Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership, Inc.

P.O. Box 55 • Mineral City, Ohio 44656



Donors Receive A Set Of Huff Run Coasters

Yes! I want to *contribute* to the Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of

- ☐ \$25 Partner ☐ \$50 Affiliate
☐ \$100 Supporter ☐ Other _____

Please put me on your contact list:

Name _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

Address: _____

City/State _____

Make checks payable to HRWRP and send to:

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Party in the Park



Our Huff Run tent at Mineral City's annual Party in the Park this summer was packed with kids and their parents. We made recycled wind chimes and pinwheels with Huff Run pencils. Our Environmental Explorers Club gave out balloons to those who passed by. Children also participated in our H₂Olympics to honor the Summer Olympics that were occurring at the same time. Kids ran through obstacle courses with buckets of water, had a huge water balloon toss, played a water word scramble and more. The hot day made for a great time to play in the water! Our annual photo contest winners were unveiled and we made our popular acid mine drainage tie-dye shirts. We had a great time and were glad to welcome new members into our ranks.



EEC Field Trip to Noah's Lost Ark

*Amber Leasure-Earnhardt
Huff Run Assistant
Watershed Coordinator*

Huff Run's Environmental Explorers Club (EEC) took a walk on the wild side in October when they traveled to Noah's Lost Ark near Berlin Lake (Northeast Ohio), an animal sanctuary that the students were permitted to tour. The hour and a half walking tour promoted conservation, emphasized awareness, and gave the students a better appreciation and understanding of exotic animals in our world today. The kids were able to learn about and even feed some of the animals. Animals the students saw included bears, goats, sheep, tigers, lions, and even a buffalo up close. Five EEC members attended the trip and four parents/ family members came to enjoy the fun as well!



EEC is a great opportunity for children ages 6-13 to get involved and learn hands-on about their environment. Meetings are normally the third Saturday of every month (Nov-March at the Mineral City Nicole Donant Library and April-Oct. at the Mineral City Park Pavilion). If you would like to help volunteer with EEC contact Amber at our office (330) 859-1050.

Fifth Annual Huff Run 5K and Fun Mile



Our major fundraiser for the past five years has been a race for the water. This year, we made the most profit we ever have with extra 5K sponsors and a few more runners. The Partnership created a 5K committee and their work really paid off. The winners this year were Courtney Oliver, age 14 at 22:04 and Sean Jones, age 16 at 17:06. Thank you to all our volunteers, committee members and runners!

Volunteer Thanks



Taggart accepting an honorary gavel during a ten year anniversary celebration.

Last newsletter, we featured two volunteers who were relatively new to our organization. We'd also like to honor one of our longest standing and most active volunteers: Edward Taggart. Ed has served as our Huff Run President since 1998 and was VP previously. He can be found at almost every Huff Run event, including our litter clean up days, Awareness Days, Party in the Park and even our Huff Run Technical Advisory Committee meetings. It is rare not to see Ed at a Huff Run event or meeting. Thank you for being SO dependable, Ed! We couldn't do it without you.



Huff Run's Community Ice Cream Social

Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Huff Run Assistant Watershed Coordinator

Despite the power outage in all the surrounding communities, including Mineral City, Huff Run pulled through and had their community ice cream social on September 16th. Held at the Mineral City Park Pavilion behind the Huff Run office, the social was a huge success with over 40 people attending and with the Mineral City Boy Scout Troop 88 coming to help scoop the ice cream. Members of Huff Run and locals came together to play corn hole and to eat as much ice cream as they could manage! Huff Run members donated all the toppings for the event. A big Thank-You to all those who helped make our ice cream social a blessing in disguise for locals and members who were without electricity.

A representative from the Tusc. Soil and Water office was planning on delivering a presentation on rain gardens and other lawn care practices but was unable to come because of the power situation. This presentation has been re-scheduled for the spring.

Sustainable Agriculture

Eric Donovan Earnhardt, Huff Run Member

"Soil is as much of a non-renewable resource as oil...The total movement of earth by humans is estimated to be around 40-45 billion tons per year. The glaciers gave us fertility by pulverizing the rocks, releasing essential minerals available for life. We agriculturists send those valuable minerals toward a watery grave. Nearly 40 percent of the soils of the world are now seriously degraded. Globally, nearly one-third of the land devoted to farming has been lost to erosion in the last forty years and continues to be lost at a rate of some 25 million acres per year."

This quote, taken from an article by Kansas farmer and scientist Wes Jackson titled "The Agrarian Mind: Mere Nostalgia or a Practical Necessity," is a reminder of the little known fact that there is only so much good soil. Jackson is concerned that if humanity does not stop now, it may have to learn the hard way that many large-scale, industrialized agricultural practices, though able to produce more food on less land with less manpower, have only begun to show their consequences in soil erosion and water pollution, adverse health effects, and decreased efficiency, productivity, and quality.

To solve this problem, Jackson has founded The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, a non-profit research center devoted to finding a more sustainable agriculture by modeling growing practices on the natural ecosystems of native tall-grass prairies. These ecosystems, made up of deep-rooted plants that hold in soil, filter water, and provide ground cover all year round while sustaining diverse plant, animal, and insect populations, are the perfect example, says he, of what agriculture could look like. Through methodical experimentation, Jackson believes that he has begun a process that will lead to discovering a new way of growing our food that is better for us, the land, and the water. But until we all know exactly where the future of sustainable agriculture may go, we must work to do what we can to reduce sedimentary run-off, the number one pollutant of waterways. Though Huff Run's most serious priority remains combating acid mine drainage from abandoned mine lands, the group continues to do everything it can to help farmers stay informed about the importance of maintaining healthy buffers and riparian zones, rotating crops, keeping ground cover, and preventing overgrazing.

If you would like to learn more about ways in which Huff Run can help you, contact Amber Leasure-Earnhardt at (330) 859-1050, or by email at amber@ruralaction.org. Ask to receive Huff Run's free Agriculture Newsletter that is printed twice a year. If you would like to learn more about Wes Jackson's work at The Land Institute, check out their website at the www.landinstitute.org or check out some of his titles like *Becoming Native to This Place*, or *Altars of Unhewn Stone* at your local library.

Huff Run Fall Watershed Tours

Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Huff Run Assistant Watershed Coordinator



Huff Run was busy this year hosting two different watershed tours in October. The first was an Elected Officials' Tour on Friday October 10th. All elected officials of the watershed (federal, state, and local) were formally invited to the event. Those in attendance were Tuscarawas County Commissioner, Chris Abbuhl; Mineral City Councilman, Tyler Isaacs; and Sandy Township Trustee, Bo Hysong. Five employees of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) were present, representing the offices in Salem, New Philadelphia, Athens, and Columbus that have worked directly with Huff Run over the past twelve years. Furthermore, five Huff Run members attended the tour, including three officers: Ed Taggart (President), Bo Hysong (Vice-President), and Marissa Geib (Secretary).

The tour consisted of a brief PowerPoint presentation about the Huff Run Watershed by AmeriCorps VISTA, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, at Slutz Park in Mineral City and a tour of the newest restoration project, Belden, led by Jim Gue of ODNR. The weather was beautiful and those in attendance had a great time learning about the work that has been done in Huff Run.

In addition, on Saturday, October 25th, Huff Run hosted its second community watershed tour. There were six people in attendance. The tour consisted of the Belden project and Fern Hill, the two most recent additions to the Partnership's restoration efforts.

