



Water Marks



## 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](http://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

## PHOTO CONTEST

Enter

the Huff Run Photo Contest!

Take pictures within the watershed to win cash. Up to three photos per participant can be entered. Photos are due by August 1 to the Huff Run office. Winners will be announced at the Party in the Park. Official rules can be found at [www.huffrun.org](http://www.huffrun.org) or picked up at the office.

## Mineral City Party in the Park

The Mineral City Party in the Park is on August 16! From noon onto 8pm, the park will be filled with people. Events include a kiddie tractor pull, a car show, food from local vendors, live music, booths and crafts. Huff Run will put up a big tent with crafts, games, displays and information.

## Huff Run 5K & Fun Mile

At the end of the Party in the Park, we'll have our sixth annual Huff Run 5K & Fun Mile! Registration forms can be found on our website. Come out and run for the water!

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

[www.huffrun.org](http://www.huffrun.org)

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CROSSROADS RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
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# WaterMarks

Summer 2009



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Volume XII, Issue 1

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

## Summer 2009 Restoration Projects

### Mineral Zoar Road

Long awaited and anticipated, the restoration project on the longest tributary to Huff Run on Mineral Zoar Road is finally under construction! Beaver Excavating Company won the bid and started work in early April. The Mineral Zoar Road AMD Project will be the first of its kind in Ohio as a Reverse Alkaline Producing System (RAPS). Water from a deep mine on the north east end of the project will be filtered through mushroom compost subsequently passing through a limestone bed and finally into an existing wetland. Water from a mine on the eastern section of the project will be channeled through limestone and into a new wetland. Both will meet and flow under a railroad bed and into the tributary that runs through the Mineral City Park. This project is expected to remove all acidity from the water as well as decrease metals and raise pH. The Mineral Zoar Road Project is funded by ODNR, Division of Mineral Resources Management (ODNR-MRM) and a grant from the Office of Surface Mining which is administered by Crossroads RC&D. Construction should be complete by the end of the summer. The total project will cost about \$335,000.



### Thomas

Another long term project, Thomas was one of the first identified problem sites in the watershed back in the 1990's. The site surrounds part of our Linden Bioremediation Project on Hope Road in Carroll County. Red Malcuit, Inc. of Strasburg won the bid and will commence construction in July. Much of the project involves reclamation of abandoned coal spoil piles (gob) and the related acidic impoundments left from surface mining. Four of these impoundments will be treated to meet or exceed the pH and iron concentrations within Huff Run, drained, and filled in. Limestone channels will be put in place to neutralize pH, convey water and prevent erosion. A sediment pond will help metals drop out at one of the discharge points. Thomas Reclamation is funded by a Section 319 Ohio EPA grant administered by Rural Action along with monies from ODNR-MRM and the Office of Surface Mining. Total project cost will be about \$495,000.





## Water Marks

### HUFF RUN WATERSHED RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

A COLLABORATION OF PEOPLE  
WITH CONCERNS FOR HUFF RUN

Summer 2009  
Volume XII, Issue 1

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*Assistant Huff Run  
Watershed Coordinator*

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



## Volunteer Thank You

Belle Everett has been a faithful volunteer with Huff Run since she joined in 2006. She has learned enough about bugs from our macroinvertebrate station at Awareness Day to lead the session herself. This has been a tremendous help to us to have such a dependable leader for our Awareness Days. She helps at every Awareness Day and this year was no different: she was at all four of them with her colorful boots. Belle has been one of few volunteers to help with the Environmental Explorers Club also. She is our Treasurer, volunteers for Clean Up days and is always at Party in the Park. Thank you, Belle, for being so active with our group and adding so much joy to all you do!



## Change of AmeriCorps Program

For the past three plus years, Rural Action, Huff Run's sponsor, has been able to provide a staff person to work on environmental education through the AmeriCorps VISTA program for Huff Run. Rural Action has worked with over 350 VISTA volunteers over 15 years throughout the entire organization. Now, the AmeriCorps VISTA program has decided to end their relationship with Rural Action at no fault of the organization. The resources will be given to other nonprofits in need. Rural Action has been given the opportunity to work with a very like program, the AmeriCorps State and National program, to fund positions in watershed groups. Both programs are considered to be a domestic Peace Corps, where individuals serve deserving communities and people. Huff Run will be getting one of eight AmeriCorps members sponsored through Rural Action this coming August. AmeriCorps members serve a 1700 hour year of service and receive a \$4,725 education award at the end of their term. Applications will be open through July 15. The Huff Run AmeriCorps member will work on environmental education and outreach just as Terri, Michelle and Amber - our former VISTAs - have in the past. More information about the AmeriCorps program can be found at [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org) and Rural Action's website: [www.ruralaction.org](http://www.ruralaction.org).



## Huff Run goes to School

*By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt*



Huff Run's Assistant Coordinator, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, spent most of April teaching in our local schools to prepare them for the Awareness Day Field Trips in May. She taught two days at Carrollton's Bell-Herron Middle school for Mrs. Shroyer's and Mrs. John's seventh grade science classes, two days at Sandy Valley for Miss Cover's fifth grade science classes, a day at Conotton Valley's Sherrodsville

Elementary for Mrs. Holloway's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade science classes, and a day at Tusky Valley with Mrs. Whitehair's seventh grade students.

Leasure-Earnhardt covered a range of watershed topics including water quality tests, the water cycle, macroinvertebrates, riparian ecosystems, erosion, acid mine drainage, and Huff Run.

In addition, each school was given supplies to perform a pH experiment with plants before attending the field trip. Overall, about 500 school students learned more about their water resources and the Huff Run Watershed. "It is very important for the students to take the information from the classroom and apply it to what they learn and see in the field; these connections will further the students knowledge and enthusiasm about how to care for their environment," Leasure-Earnhardt states.



## S·T·A·F·F N·E·W·S

### ODNR Intern at Huff Run



The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management, a strong supporter of the Partnership, is sponsoring a 12 week intern over the summer to help work toward revising Huff Run's Acid Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Plan. A familiar face to Huff Run: Marissa Geib, HRWRP Secretary and volunteer, has accepted the position. Geib is a graduate of Sandy Valley High School and has been taking Post Secondary Classes at

Kent State Tuscarawas Branch. She will be attending Malone College in the fall. Marissa will help with Huff Run's extensive summer water quality sampling, work on the water quality database, research the acid mine drainage pigmentation process and support the group in other ways. Congratulations, Marissa.

### We'll Miss You, Amber!



Amber Leasure-Earnhardt has served as both our last AmeriCorps VISTA (see related AmeriCorps article) and our only Assistant Coordinator. Amber will be moving to Athens, Ohio in early August so that her husband Eric, a *WaterMarks* contributor and Huff Run member, can attend Ohio University to obtain his graduate degree and eventual PhD in American Literature. Amber's enthusiasm and energy will be missed at Huff Run as well as her

artistic and homemade ventures. Amber has worked tirelessly on our Awareness Days, our Environmental Explorers Club, Huff Run fair displays, many many classroom presentations and our over the top pretty window displays. Amber expanded our occasional Ag Mailing to farmers into an Agricultural Newsletter and has reached new stakeholders through community events such as our Ice Cream Social (despite the power outage) and our Elected Officials Tour. She has gone beyond her call of duty and stayed longer than others could. We have benefited greatly from Amber's talents and will sorely miss her when she is gone. Thank you Amber, for your service, your diligence and your joy. We'll all miss you!

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Huff Run's Largest Awareness Day

Huff Run hosted four separate Awareness Day Field Trips this May with just under 600 students attending. Luckily the weather held up and we were able to go outside for all of the field trips! Awareness Day allows students to venture outside for a day and experience the Huff Run watershed first-hand. The public schools had the opportunity to conduct water quality tests, visit the recently completed Fern Hill reclamation site, collect aquatic bugs and fish, and be challenged to help take care of their environment. This has been an annual program at Huff Run for over eleven years.

The first field trip was Friday, May 1st with Tusky Valley Middle School seventh graders in attendance. The second field trip was for Sandy Valley Elementary fifth graders and Conotton Valley's Sherrodsville Elementary sixth graders on Friday, May 15th. There was a separate field trip for five home school groups on May 20th held at the Mineral City Park. Students learned about soils/ groundwater, riparian areas, and erosion; they were also able to participate in acid mine drainage tie-dyeing! Finally, Carrollton's Bell-Herron Middle School seventh graders attended on Friday, May 22nd, making this the fourth year in a row they have attended.

Volunteers from Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Carroll, Tuscarawas, and Jefferson County Soil and Water Offices; Tuscarawas County Health Department; Rural Action; Local Township Trustees; Mineral City Council Members; and HRWRP Members helped with Awareness Day. Funding for Awareness Day this year comes from Rural Action's US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant; Countywide Recycling and Disposal Facility sponsored volunteer lunches for each field trip; and Mineral City United Methodist Church donated the use of their facilities for the field trips as well. A very big thank you to all those who helped make this year's Awareness Days a success!



By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt

**Zoe Shepherd and Jaime Sheppard from Bell-Herron Middle School said about their experience:**

*"The trip to Huff Run was fun and exciting. Our favorite part was the macroinvertebrates.*

*We got to go in the water and scoop macros out using a net. We also learned about other stuff like fish shocking, acid mine drainage and water quality. The 7th graders who go on this trip in later years are going to enjoy it like we did!"*





## Have you seen our Ag Newsletter?

Have you seen our Ag Newsletter? Visit our publications page on our website to download a PDF of the newsletter. You will learn about new trends, financial assistance for farmers along with state and local agricultural news.

[www.huffrun.org/publications](http://www.huffrun.org/publications)



## Grant Awarded to Sandy Valley Teacher to Plant Trees at Huff Run's Fern Hill Project

By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt

Assistant Watershed Coordinator, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, collaborated with Sandy Valley's fifth grade science teacher, Heather Covert, on a grant that will allow next year's fifth grade students to learn about their watershed and participate in a tree planting project at our newly reclaimed Fern Hill project. This will help to restore the land to its natural forest ecosystem. Miss Covert was awarded a 10,000 dollar Toyota Tapestry Grant for science teachers. The proposal was one of only 50 awarded nationwide. The grant term will begin this fall and carry-on throughout the spring of 2010. This grant is a collaborative effort between Huff Run and Sandy Valley along with support from Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Divisions of Mineral Resource Management and Forestry, and Rural Action's Sustainable Forestry Program.

## Deep Mine Slated for Upper Reaches of Huff Run

Buckeye Industrial Mining is planning on opening an underground coal mine on Heritage Road in the upper reaches of Huff Run. The mine will be 2,500 acres underground with 55 acres above ground used for offices, storage of soil and a sediment pond. This above ground area will be right off Heritage Road and directly adjacent to Huff Run itself. This site on Huff Run has been a long term monitoring site since the late 90's and is where the Golden Shiner (an uncommon species of fish that lives in nonpolluted waters) was found in 2008. The upper reaches, or headwaters, of Huff Run (upstream of State Route 542) is much cleaner than the lower portions where it is polluted by abandoned coal mines and acid mine drainage along with some other less prominent pollution concerns. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management will regulate and inspect the mine as required in state and federal guidelines. Buckeye plans to mine the coal within five years.



## Huff Run's Environmental Explorers Club has had a Busy Spring!

By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt

Springtime is an exciting point for EEC with the weather warming up and the opportunity to adventure outside. Meetings were held at the Mineral City Nicole Donant Library during the winter months. The children learned about life in the arctic, animal adaptations, honeybees, where their food comes from, the secrets of soil, and took a field trip to Sippo Lake Park in Canton. They made their own glaciers and arctic field journals; demonstrated with everyday tools and food the different adaptations of birds and reptiles; learned what was really in their food and how it is grown; became honeybees; played in the dirt; and traveled out of Mineral City for a day in the woods. A field trip is being planned to the Norma Johnson Center in July as well. All children ages 6-13 are welcome to attend, and meetings are usually the third Saturday of every month from 12-3 pm at the Mineral City Park Pavilion.

## Clean Sweep 09

Huff Run's joint venture with the Sandy Township Trustees to rid Township roads of litter was a hit despite Huff Run's low attendance this year. More groups from area organizations helped clean up roads this spring than in the past. Huff Run volunteers picked up trash on both Sattler's Bottom Road and Tunnel Hill Road collecting a total of nine bags of trash and four bags of recycling. Thank you volunteers!

