



## 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)

## Water Quality Data Available Online

Have you ever wondered just what all those restoration projects were doing? Or maybe you wonder how many fish are there near Morges as compared to Mineral City? What's the pH at the Linden project? Well now you can look it up yourself online. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development (ILGARD) have teamed up to create a webpage of water quality data from Huff Run, Sunday Creek, Monday Creek and Raccoon Creek. All four projects are included in a non point source monitoring project to quantify the effectiveness of ODNR acid mine drainage restoration projects. Biological data (quality and quantity of fish and macroinvertebrates), acid loadings, trends, as well as data from project water quality sampling will all be listed online. Huff Run and ODNR staff will be able to log in and upload the data as it is received. Visit [www.watersheddata.com](http://www.watersheddata.com) to see the database yourself.



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

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

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**CROSSROADS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

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# WaterMarks

Summer 2007



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Volume X, Issue I

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

## AML Reauthorization Update ODNR Funding Secure

By Mitchell Farley,  
ODNR ACSI/AMD/Grants Manager



On December 20, 2006, Public Law 109-432 was signed into law, reauthorizing the Abandoned Mined Land (AML) severance tax on coal. This important legislation will allow Ohio to continue to abate the hazards and environmental pollution associated with abandoned coal mines across the State.

Some key features of the new law include:

- Extension of the severance tax through 2021
- Grants to the State will be outside the Congressional appropriations process. This means that funds collected in one year will be distributed back to the State in the following year without action by Congress.
- Payments to states that have no abandoned coal mine hazards will be from the Treasury, not the AML Trust Fund.
- 25.7 million dollars in the AML Trust Fund arrears will be paid back to Ohio over the next seven years.
- Increase the amount eligible for the Acid Mine Drainage set-aside account to 30% of any one years grant.
- Increases the amount of grants based on historical coal mining in a state.

The current 2007 grant for all AML work in Ohio is 4.9 million dollars. This will increase to 8.1 million dollars in 2008 and will steadily increase until it peaks at 21.3 million dollars in 2013. After that date, funds will begin to decline. A total of 141.6 million dollars will be received by Ohio between 2007 and 2017.

Ohio's AML Program intends to concentrate over the next two years on updating the AML Inventory and preparing engineering designs in preparation of the larger grants that will be coming in 2010 and beyond. A reorganization of staffing and program areas will enable Ohio and it's partners to hit the ground running with this fortunate increase in AML funding.

## Huff Run Signage



Have you seen our new road signs? Our Targeted Watershed Grant paid for the replacement of our old signs. We erected a new sign promoting our meeting time and our webpage at the southwestern watershed boarder along State Route 800, just south of Mineral City. The second sign depicts

our HRWRP logo and is at a stream crossing on State Route 542. Thank you to landowners, Merv and Marlene Burton and Mark Beavers for allowing us to put up the signs on their property. Thank you also to the Sandy Township staff and the staff of Beavers Marine Store for helping put them up!

## Eagles Donate to Huff Run

The Sandyville Fraternal Order of Eagles recently donated \$5,000 to the HRWRP. The Eagles Club must donate a certain amount of their earnings from gaming to charity. In the past, they have given the funds to their national leadership to donate the funds to larger non-profits. The Sandyville FOE decided in early 2007 that they want their money to stay in the area and sought local charitable organizations who have the required 501(C) 3 status. In addition to Huff Run, the Eagles also gave funds to the Mineral City Senior Center, the Mineral City Historical Society, the Pike Township Historical Society, local churches and other non-profits. Thank you, Eagles, for your generosity!



### Have you visited our website lately? On it you will find:

- Minutes of monthly meetings
- List of members and donors
- 2006 annual report
- See our projects

- Read about our pollution concerns
- Anonymously make a Watch Dog report.
- And so much to explore!





### HUFF RUN WATERSHED RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

A COLLABORATION OF PEOPLE  
WITH CONCERNS FOR HUFF RUN

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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.

# The 1894 Strikes at Mineral City

By Marlene Burton

Source: Mineral Pointer



*The Federal Clay mine was on the same location as the American Fire Brick Plant.*

If you were to stroll up the Huff Run Valley in 1894, you would have come upon the new American Fire Brick Plant. The Plant was located half a mile east of town on Lindentree Road where the Norton Company was located and is now occupied by the former Slats and Nails facility, presently owned by Windy Hill Hardwoods.

In spite of the depression and other drawbacks, everything about these works was brand new: the machinery had all the latest and most modern patterns for turning out pressed brick of all kinds and styles at a high rate of speed. Of course, the mills in 1894 were not running at their full capacity. All told, thirty men worked there. But since all the coal miners were on strike, the coal for these works would have been obtained from John Stoner's Country Coal Bank, north of Rock Cut on the Valley Railroad, near the present Mineral-Zoar Road, instead of a closer mine.

Clay needed for brick production was obtained quite a distance around the hill and up

the ravine, where you would come upon the diggers in the clay deposits.

On Tuesday, May 1, 1894, Mineral Point looked almost like a grand Fourth of July celebration: about 200 miners formed a line with "Old Glory" flapping in the breeze. They paraded the streets to the enlivening music of the City Drum Corps, and then marched for Stoner's Coal Bank. They were trying to induce the two men that were still working there to lay down their picks and come out. The diggers capitulated and joined the strike for living wages with the masses of miners in the country.

On Wednesday morning, the line was formed again and another parade with flags and music was instituted. The line was not so extensive as the day before due to their destination: Somer's Coal Bank across the creek, east of the tunnel and quite a march from town.

With all the miners across the country striking, the long winded men at Mineral Point soon earned their wage change and eight hour work days.

## Fern Hill (HR-42) Plans Underway

By Henry Brummer, ODNR Engineer

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division Mineral Resources Management (ODNR-MRM) and the HRWRP are currently in the preliminary design stage for Huff Run 42 Pits or Fern Hill Project, an acid mine drainage (AMD) project located southeast of the Brass Road NW and Hope Road (Township Highway 177) intersection. HR-42 was identified in the March 2000 AMDAT report for the Huff Run Watershed as the most significant contributor of AMD to Reach 5 of Huff Run. The main impact area of this site is located directly to the south side of Huff Run. Orange iron precipitate has been identified as coming from upwelling seeps at the toe of the hillside slope bordering the Huff Run flood plain. Various design options to reduce or eliminate the upwelling seeps are currently being evaluated by the Huff Run Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). A grant from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is funding the project, which is slated for construction over the summer of 2008. Additional funds from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Natural Resources may be sought for a second phase of the project in the future.





## Earth Day Clean Sweep

For the third year in a row, the HRWRP partnered with the Sandy Township Trustees to organize a Clean Sweep to pick up trash along Township roadways. Fifteen HRWRP volunteers, including two Environmental Explorers, helped with the event, which was held on Earth Day, April 21. Four crews picked up trash along Huff Run Road, Tunnel Hill Road, Mineral Zoar Road and Bailey Road. Huff Run members recovered around 30 bags of trash and five bags of recycling. Volunteers reported that the most interesting thing they found was an old, seemingly melted windshield. They also reported that they found less trash than in past years. Everyone who helped with the event was invited to the Sandy Township Garage for lunch after the morning of hard work.



The Environmental Explorers Crew at work



Celebrating at the Township Garage



John Slack helps unload tires

### Members Receive Window Decals

**Yes!** I want to become a *member* of the Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership! Enclosed is 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 Huff Run Paper Tablets

**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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## Awareness Day

*By Michelle Shively, Huff Run VISTA*

There was a lot of action in the Huff Run Watershed on May 10th, as more than 200 seventh graders from Bell Herron Middle School in Carrollton attended the HRWRP's annual Awareness Day. Students visited four different stations which covered macroinvertebrates (aquatic bugs), water quality, a site tour of the Lyons Reclamation Project, and a fish shocking demonstration. Ohio EPA's Kelly Capuzzi demonstrated electro-fishing, a technique where she uses a net with an electric current to momentarily stun fish so that they are easily caught and identified. The fish remain unharmed and the students have the opportunity to learn more about the different fish species living in Huff Run. Students made their way into the stream to catch and identify macroinvertebrates living in Huff Run. Some of the most exciting catches were a monster of a crayfish, a bright red sided dace fish, and lots of crane fly larva and mayfly nymphs. Students toured the Lyons Reclamation Project and learned more about pH and how limestone channels and steel slag help to improve water quality on the site. A smaller Awareness Day was held for homeschool groups on May 4th. About fifteen homeschool families participated and went through the same four stations. The Awareness Day would not have been successful without the help of many Huff Run volunteers. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped on either day! The kids had a great time and really learned a lot.



## Environmental Explorers Take a Trip on the Wild Side

*By Michelle Shively, Huff Run VISTA*

In March, the Environmental Explorers Club took a field trip to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The group was able to spend the day visiting kangaroos, lions, bears, camels, and all the other animals. They also visited the Rainforest, where they saw first-hand many of the animals and plants they learned about at their December EEC meeting. In June, the group will be back in the watershed, sampling for macroinvertebrates in the stream. June's meeting will be held on the 23rd from 9am-noon. Meetings are typically held the third

Saturday of the month from 12-3 pm at the Huff Run Watershed Office. For more information (and definite times and plans), call the office. All explorers ages 6-13 are welcome to join in!

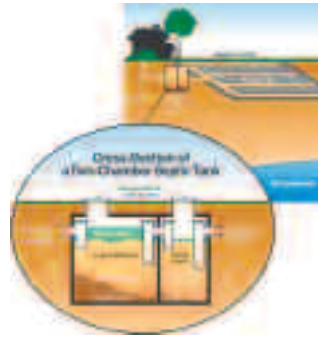






## Tips for Maintaining Your Septic Tank

Raw sewage enters Huff Run by means of both failing or improperly maintained septic tanks and decrepit municipal sewage systems. Untreated sewage is one of the six problems that the HRWRP addresses in the Huff Run Watershed Plan.



If you have a septic tank, here are some tips to be mindful of:

### Be sure to:

- Have your tank inspected every 2 - 3 years and pumped out every 3 - 5 years.
- Know the location of your septic system, drain field and flow diversion valve.
- Divert roof drains and surface water run-off from the septic system
- Keep a record of pumping, inspections and maintenance.
- Use bleach, disinfectants and toilet cleaners sparingly.

### Never:

- Allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system
- Plant trees or shrubs on or around the system. Their roots may clog or damage drain lines.
- Use septic tank additives or add yeast, sugar or septic tank cleaners. They may hurt your system in the long run.
- Pour grease, medications, disposable diapers, paper towels, plastics, paint, pesticides, cat litter or any hazardous chemicals down the drain.



**Rural Action, Huff Run's sponsoring organization, is celebrating 25 years of service this summer.**  
To learn more, visit [www.ruralaction.org](http://www.ruralaction.org).  
Working together to revitalize Appalachian Ohio

## Huff Run VISTA Visits Bell Herron

*By Michelle Shively, Huff Run VISTA*

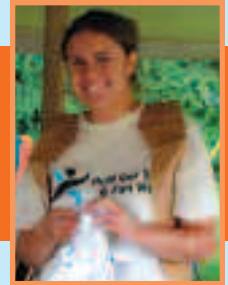
During the month of April, Huff Run VISTA, Michelle Shively, had the opportunity to spend several weeks at Bell Herron Middle School in Carrollton. Working with seventh grade teachers Mrs. Chris Shroyer and Mr. Jim Pyles and Linda Yeager from the Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District, she was able to give several presentations on topics including acid mine drainage, an overview of the Huff Run Watershed, coal

mining, groundwater, and macroinvertebrates. The students participated in hands-on activities like the EnviroScape, a land use demonstration, and played Macroinvertebrate Mayhem where they pretended to be the bugs themselves. Students also established their own mining operations and "mined" chocolate chip cookies for the chips. After mining, the classes found out how difficult reclamation can be as they attempted to put their cookies back together. The students saw pictures of the Huff Run Watershed and learned more about water quality and macroinvertebrates before their Awareness Day field trip in May.



## STAFF NEWS

### Good Bye, Michelle!



Michelle Shively will be completing her AmeriCorps \*VISTA term in July. During her time at Huff Run, Michelle has organized the Awareness Days, held Environmental Explorer meetings, printed the Watch Dog Directory, started an agricultural mailing list, created environmental education lesson plans, and so much more that we wouldn't have room on this whole page to list it. She will be getting married in August and moving to Arizona to attend grad school. Thank you Michelle, for your hard work! We wish you all the best!



"We cannot separate the needs of people from the well being of their lands and waters. In the final analysis, they are the same."

- Trout Unlimited