



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 Mineral City American Legion Hall at 5:30 pm. Please join us!

Starting March 2006, our meetings will be held in the Huff Run Office located in the former Mineral City Village Hall.

www.huffrun.org

Open Dumping

We all know about the acid mine drainage problems in the watershed. The HRWRP has identified five other issues that plague the stream as well, including open dumping. Abandoned piles of household garbage, discarded appliances, old barrels, used tires and demolition debris can be found scattered throughout the Huff Run Watershed. If allowed to remain, they often grow larger and attract more dumping by others. Disposing of such waste in unauthorized areas is illegal. Dumping has negative impacts on plants and wildlife. Many birds and small animals die after ingesting or becoming entangled in debris. Fish and other aquatic species are killed when decomposing litter and food wastes in streams deplete oxygen supplies in the water. Refuse in a stream can also clog fish spawning areas and contaminate the water. Many dumps are found in areas along the stream, not allowing the riparian zone to buffer other pollutants and create habitat as it should. These unsightly areas also decrease property value and take away citizens' pride in their community. Please be sure that your waste is taken to a landfill or recycled. Local recycling drop off points can be found at the Sandy Township garage on State Route 183, at the Bolivar Giant Eagle and at the Pike Township garage on State Route 800. More information about open dumping can be found at www.huffrun.org/dumping.html.



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

www.huffrun.org

INSIDE THIS VOLUME

- Funding Obtained
- New Environmental
- Education Programs
- Endorsed Watershed Plan
- Fun Days 2005
- What is a VISTA, anyway?
- Future Funding Uncertain
- Harsha North
- Fall Tour 2005
- Lyons Project Complete
- Mineral City Sewer System
- Thomas Project Slated
- Open Dumping

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



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
44629
MAILER'S
CHOICE



WaterMarks

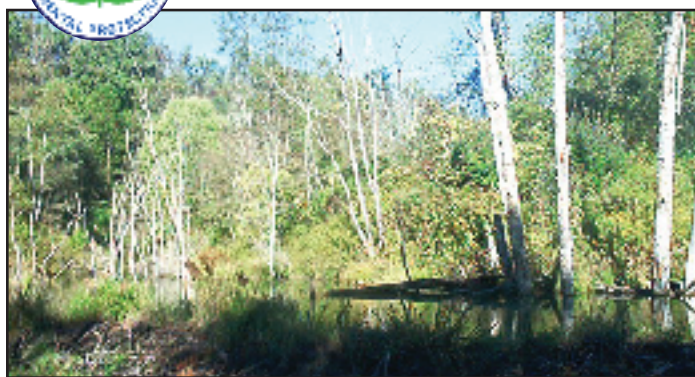
Winter 2006

Volume IX, Issue I

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



Federal, Competitive Funding Obtained



In early November, the Partnership was notified that their application for a US EPA Targeted Watershed grant was accepted. Only 12 grants were awarded nationwide in 2005.

HRWRP President, Ed Taggart reports, "We are be honored to be recognized on a national level. We are excited to move forward with the grant that will restore our Belden Project."

Among the other watersheds to receive the awards include the well-known Friends of the Cheat and the 11,478 square mile Willamette River Watershed. The US EPA states that these are "12 of the nation's most outstanding watershed coalitions" that are to be used as a national model.

The Belden Project will include reclamation of mine spoil, exposed toxic clay and related mine land as well as installation of a series of vertical flow wetlands in a successive alkaline producing system (SAPS) that will passively treat the remaining AMD. The grant will also continue to fund the HRWRP's environmental educational outreach program and administrative costs over the next three years. Rural Action will administer the grant.

Endorsed Watershed Plan!

The Huff Run Watershed Plan has been approved by the State of Ohio as a viable plan for restoration. State endorsement indicates a commitment from Ohio government agencies such as the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to aid in completing the action plan. Future funding will be easier obtained with this approval as well. Find the plan on the Huff Run webpage or contact the office to obtain a copy.



New Environmental Education Programs

By Terri Sponaugle-Schrock, Huff Run VISTA

The Environmental Education and Outreach Program has been expanded this year because of the addition of a second Huff Run staff person. This program encompasses many things including the Environmental Explorers Club, classroom and small group presentations, and Awareness Day field trips. The Environmental Explorers Club will meet one Saturday per month beginning January 21 at the Nicole Donant Mineral City Library. The club will participate in many activities including recycled arts and crafts and environmental education activities and games. In conjunction with the Awareness Day, Environmental Education Assistants (HRWRP volunteers) will be conducting classroom presentations to prepare students for the Awareness Day. The Awareness Day hands-on activities will be revamped and the participant's informational packet will get a face-lift. Small community groups may also sign-up for a presentation to learn more about HRWRP. We are looking forward to a busy spring and summer in the Huff Run Watershed! Club members, Awareness Day participants and Environmental Education Assistants are needed, sign up today by calling the Huff Run office!

HUFF RUN'S NEW OFFICE SPACE

The Huff Run Office has moved again this winter! Last February, the office moved from New Philadelphia to the back of the Mineral City Hall. The travel this time will not be as extreme or as far: we're moving to the front of the Mineral City Hall! City Council is moving into the Nicole Donate Library leaving their space free. This change will give the HRWRP its own meeting space and road frontage with opportunities for window displays. Stop in to see our new workplace! The phone number and mailing address will not change.

Starting March 2006, our meetings will be held in the Huff Run Office located in former Mineral City Village Hall."





Water Marks Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership

A COLLABORATION OF PEOPLE
WITH CONCERNS FOR HUFF RUN

Winter 2006
Volume IX, Issue I

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

Contributing Writers
Terri Sponaugle-Schrock
Cheryl Socotch
Jim Gue
Charles Regula

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 staff unless otherwise attributed.

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

Fun Day 2005



Despite rain, the HRWRP had a great Huff Run Fun Day on August 23 this year!



First Place winner,
Jodi Malusky, stands by the
Huff Run Photo Contest display.



What is a VISTA, anyway?

By Terri Sponaugle-Schrock, Huff Run VISTA



Many of you may not know much about the AmeriCorps*VISTA program. AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) provides full time members to nonprofit, faith-based and public agencies. The goal of the VISTA program is to create and expand programs that help low-income communities. VISTA is the American equivalent of the Peace Corps and since 1965, more than 140,000 Americans have served in this way. AmeriCorps VISTAs work to fight illiteracy, improve health care services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, and improve environmental health, to name a few.

The VISTA fully immerses them self into the community they serve for one year. VISTAs receive a small living allowance - not a wage - based on the poverty rate in their state. At the end of the one year term, the VISTA can either choose an educational award of \$4,725 or a stipend of \$1200.

I was immediately drawn to the AmeriCorps*VISTA program. The greatest honor is to serve the community in which I grew up! If you would like more information about how to become a VISTA or would like to have a VISTA on your staff, contact me and I will get you the information you need to find out more about AmeriCorps* VISTA.

*"The song of the river ends not at her banks,
but in the hearts of those who have loved her."
-Buffalo Joe*





Mineral City Sewer System Improvements and Extensions

By Charles Regula, Sanitary Engineer,
Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District

The Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners, through the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District (TCMSD), is planning a project which will provide for sewer system improvements and sewer extensions to the Mineral City sewer system. The project consists of approximately 30,500 feet of 8" sanitary sewers, 128 manholes, 5,600 feet of 6" sanitary sewer laterals, 750 feet of 1.5" force main, 300 feet of 4" force main, several sewage pump stations, and improvements to the wastewater treatment plants. These improvements will provide sewer service to areas immediately adjacent to the incorporated area of Mineral City and for unsewered areas within the village that have a history of malfunctioning on-lot home disposal systems. Also included is replacement of undersized and failing existing sewer lines within the existing sewer area is also included in the project as well as an upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant's headworks.



The County has retained Engineering Associates, Inc. of Wooster, Ohio, to provide engineering services for the project. They have the preliminary design plans near completion and should have construction plans ready for Ohio EPA review by April 2006. Once we have all segments of the project completed a public meeting will be held to give the public an opportunity to view the preliminary design plans. This meeting will be held in late January or early February 2006.

The TCMSD will obtain funding for construction through Ohio EPA and the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). Construction is planned to begin in late 2006 and be completed within a year of the start date. The estimated project cost is \$3,500,000.

Thomas Project Slated for Spring Construction

- Jim Gue, Project Officer, Ohio Department of Natural Resources



A spring 2006 construction is planned for the Thomas project, a drastically disturbed area in the upper reaches of the watershed.

This problem area, consists of approximately twenty acres of surface mine water impoundments and barren, eroding toxic spoil and mine waste. The abandoned surface mine were operated between 1940 and 1970. Underground mines operated by the Davis Railroad Coal Company, abandoned in 1898, also contribute to the extremely poor quality flow from the site.

The acid mine drainage flowing from the site contains high quantities of iron, manganese and aluminum. As with many problem areas in Huff Run, these metals coat Huff Run's stream bottom, destroying wildlife habitat. The project, working with the adjacent Linden Bioremediation system constructed in 2003, are designed to remove the majority of these metals from the drainage area. Eliminating the problem will provide a much healthier habitat for fish and wildlife.

The extensive project includes many items such as three mine impoundments to treat and dewater, earthwork operations to reclaim mine spoil and mine refuse piles, rock channel construction, and a permanent pond construction. Grasses, followed by tree plantings will be established on all affected areas.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources staff provided the project concept and design. The engineer's estimate is \$352,996.50.

The Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership, working with Crossroads RC&D, was awarded an Ohio EPA 319 grant for the project. Additional construction funds will be provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Construction completion is scheduled for fall of 2006.



WaterMarks

Lyons Project Construction Complete!



Main project outlet before and after construction



Slag berm on good quality pond to raise alkalinity.



Construction Overview



Construction Overview

For many years reclamation of the Lyons site, a huge source of pollution and the biggest eyesore in the watershed, seemed only a dream. But then I think of what Margaret Meade so simply and beautifully said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has." The project is a tremendously rewarding accomplishment. - Jim Gue

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

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 _____

Make checks payable to HRWRP and send to:

Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership, Inc.
P.O. Box 55 • Mineral City, Ohio 44656





Future Funding from ODNR Uncertain

The work of the HRWRP depends heavily on grants. Most of these grants are awarded because of matching funds contributed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management (ODNR/MRM). The Division aids HRWRP and other acid mine drainage (AMD) impacted watersheds through cash in kind for projects, design and inspection during construction of restoration projects. The combination of reduced federal Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding for AMD, uncertainty over reauthorization of the federal AML fee, and potential loss of 80% of State AML funding has forced ODNR/MRM to remove their support during the last round of Ohio EPA grants. At this time it is impossible to project an outcome to the AMD program funding issue. It appears that we will know with much more certainty the direction of state and federal funding for the AMD program by June 30 with decisions made in Washington DC.

Harsha North

By Cheryl Socotch, ODNR Hydrologist



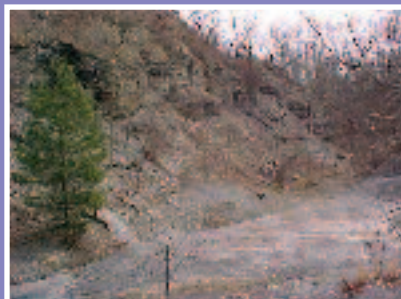
Harsha North, one of the earliest identified major problem sites in the watershed, is nearly ready for bid, followed by anticipated construction this spring/summer. With combined efforts and guidance from the HRWRP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and professional design efforts of ATC Environmental Consultants, final designs include reclamation and revegetation of over 22 acres of previously mined areas that include unreclaimed debris and water-filled pits. Reclamation efforts also include the regarding and resoiling of exposed and eroding mine

spoils, including a large 4-acre refuse pile at the southern end of the project site.

Earlier remediation plans for Harsha North included a much larger area (over 54 acres) of both unreclaimed Lower and Middle Kittanning highwalls and pit. Potential remining of remaining marketable coal in the western portion of the original project scope were eliminated from the final plan and designs.

Surface runoff and acid, metal laden water discharging from abandoned underground mine portals will be treated through passive open limestone rock channels to a large open water pond. The second phase of the project, if necessary, will include development of a passive treatment wetland system to treat and remove metals associated with those underground mine flows to Huff Run.

Upon completion of Phase 1, anticipated metal and acid reductions are expected to be reduced by nearly 50%. The Harsha North and Thomas projects are the remaining two (of four total) remediation projects funded through the Ohio EPA Section 319 grant (2002). Construction of the project is estimated at \$775,455.20.



Fall Tour 2005

On October 14, over 40 people toured the watershed with HRWRP members, staff and supporters. Visitors met at the Mineral City United Methodist Church for a lasagna lunch donated by Carl and Marlene Harsha. They then boarded a charter bus and visited three projects: Lindentree, Lyons, and either Thomas or Fern Hill (HR-42). Participants reported that they learned a great deal and enjoyed themselves. Partial funding for the tour was provided by an Ohio 319 grant administered by Crossroads RC&D.

