



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



Watchdog Program

By Michelle Shively, Huff Run VISTA

The HRWRP wants to empower residents of the Huff Run Watershed to take a stand when they find environmental problems in the watershed. We have compiled a list of issues to look out for and who to contact when new problems arise. Contacts include a variety of local, state, and national agencies that citizens can call when they see problems concerning issues such as chemical spills, dumping and littering, wildlife problems, and public health and safety.

The Huff Run office would also like to be notified when issues are reported in order to keep a database of problems found. On the Programs page of our website, you can find a form to contact the office anonymously when you see a problem. You can also call the office at 330-859-1050 and speak with us or simply leave a message.

The Watchdog list will be mailed out to all watershed residents in December, and is also posted on our website. The Watchdog mailing is being funded as part of the US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant awarded to Huff Run last year.

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

www.huffrun.org

- Celebrating 10 years
- Environmental Explorers Club
- Open Dump Clean Up
- 4th Annual Photo Contest
- Applied Research Conference Awards
- Belden Restoration Project
- Fun Day and 5K 2006
- Huff Run 2006 Fall Tour
- Harsha North Reclamation Complete
- Watchdog Program

INSIDE THIS VOLUME

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



Printed on Recycled Paper

Volume IX, Issue I

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

Celebrating 10 years of Restoration

Thank you for your support over the past ten years!

Local Celebration

On August 15 (exactly ten years to the day from our first meeting!), a core group of HRWRP members had a party in the Mineral City Park to celebrate their ten-year birthday! A potluck dinner was served, complete with a birthday cake from Steineck's.

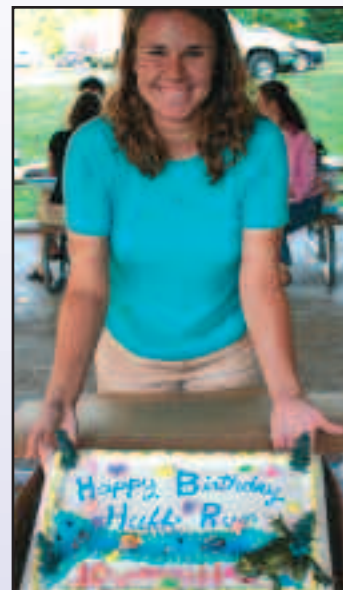
The staff amused members with a few party games: Huff Run trivia and Guess How Long You've Been a Member. Ed Taggart was honored for his eight years as President with an engraved gavel.



Ed Taggart, HRWRP President, is awarded his gavel.



Bo Hysong, HRWRP VP, starts the grill for burgers.



Michelle Shively, Huff Run VISTA, with our birthday cake.

Anniversary Banquet

On October 25, about 50 people gathered for a banquet at the Atwood Lodge to commemorate the HRWRP's anniversary. Stir fry was served, custom made for each person, as well as Cherries Jubilee for dessert. A slide show of both historical and recent photos cycled through dinner. Awards were given to all current and past HRWRP officers, VISTAs, and past Coordinators. Special awards were given to Cheryl Socotch, Jim Gue and Sandy Chenal for their long time of service and dedication to the group. Also, our strong partners were given awards: Ohio Department of Natural Resources/Mineral Resources Management, Rural Action, Crossroads RC&D, Office of Surface Mining, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Tuscarawas Soil and Water Conservation District. Instead of finding one Huff Run expert to speak, we looked to our audience and opened the floor to everyone to share their experiences. Ten people gave their account of the past ten years and their stories.



Special awards



Dinner is served



Strong Partners are honored.



HUFF RUN WATERSHED RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

A COLLABORATION OF PEOPLE
WITH CONCERNS FOR HUFF RUN

Winter 2006
Volume X, Issue I

Editor/Publisher
Maureen Wise

Huff Run Watershed Coordinator
(330) 859-1050

Contributing Writer

Michelle Shively
Huff Run VISTA

Tom Zechman
ODNR Inspector

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

Environmental Explorers Club

By Michelle Shively, Huff Run VISTA



What's black and white with stripes all over? If you said a zebra, you're wrong! The correct answer is a Huff Run Environmental Explorer pretending to be a zebra! Lately, the Explorers have been doing a whole lot of monkeying (and zebraing) around, but learning a lot while doing it. In October, the Explorers immersed themselves in the world of wild animals, even doing their own impressions of different animals in a lively game of Animal Charades. The group learned about some very unique adaptations that allow animals to thrive in their own habitats. Some of their discoveries were very bizarre. Did you know about the Satin Bower Bird's strange behavior? The male bird builds a beautiful nest and decorates it with shells, feathers, flowers, clothespins, jewelry and other objects that he finds. He may even paint the inside of the nest with berry juice and charcoal sticks. The females are attracted to the males who

make the prettiest nests. We also learned about a fish that spits water at insects so it can gobble them up when they fall into the water. It was hard to believe that some of the animals we learned about actually exist. After learning about these exotic animals, the Explorers thought about the adaptations that help animals native to Huff Run survive.

In November, the Explorers learned about water all around the world. We talked about the water cycle and how water affects different climates. Explorers made their own groundwater models using ice cream sundaes. Explorers also learned how water is interrelated with other resources and how that relationship can impact different countries around the world. Explorers were urged to think about how they use water and how they could be more conservation-minded regarding their daily use of water.

In December, Explorers will get a taste of the tropics, despite the cold weather here in Ohio. They'll take an adventure into the tropical rainforest and learn about one of the world's most exotic ecosystems. For more information about the Environmental Explorers Club, contact Michelle at the Huff Run office. Meetings are typically held the third Saturday of each month from 12-3pm at the Huff Run office.

Open Dump Clean Up

The HRWRP received a grant from the Tuscarawas-Stark-Wayne Solid Waste Management District to remove illegal dumps in the Tuscarawas County portion of the watershed. A team comprising of Sandy Township Trustees staff, Mineral City Streets Department personnel, Huff Run staff and Huff Run volunteers dealt with six dumps. Two major sites and one smaller area on Huff Run Road were cleaned up as well as three areas on oil and gas access roads in the watershed.





Fourth Annual Photo Contest

Although this summer's photo contest did not attract as many entries as years past, all the photographers found some great photo opts in the Huff Run Watershed. Congratulations to the winners!



First Place: Randy Hull's *Nature Thrives Despite Human Neglect*



Second Place: Gerald Wilson's *A Tasty Treat*



Third Place: Judy Crilley's *Golden Treasures*



First Runner Up: Randy Hull's *Delicate Beauty*

Applied Research Conference Awards



The HRWRP received two awards at this year's ODNr Applied Research Conference (ARC). Partners, staff and members of the HRWRP have been attending the ARC for many years and in the past, have received an award for Reclamation Excellence for our Linden Bioremediation project. This year, we received a second Reclamation Excellence award for our recently completed Lyons Restoration Project. Our annual Awareness Day Field Trips also received an award for Mining Education Excellence.

The Belden Restoration Project



The area behind the former Kopp Clay brickyard is known to the HRWRP as the Belden Project. Back in the woods, there are many acidic ponds and large piles of toxic, black coal refuse (gob) and exposed clay. The water running from this site into a tributary of Huff Run has a very low pH (usually around 3) and is laden with iron and aluminum. The project ranked eighth in priority during our initial planning stages. Construction of the Belden Restoration Project will take place next summer. Our US EPA Targeted Watershed grant, administered by Rural Action, will pay for most of the hefty construction costs with match contributions from ODNr. Although the final design is not yet complete, most of the plan is in place. Nineteen acres of reclamation will include grading, resoiling and revegetation of barren and eroding spoil, toxic-forming refuse and four acres of exposed toxic underclay. In addition, the acidic ponds will be treated, dewatered and filled in. A series of open limestone channels, like those at most of our other projects, will serve to raise pH but also to channel the water away from the site for positive drainage. Steel slag will be added to a few specific channels to improve alkalinity. A steel slag berm may also be installed in one of the impoundments. All these components working together will effectively remove the toxic metals from the water and add alkalinity to buffer the low pH.





Harsha North Reclamation Complete

By Thomas Zechman, ODNR Inspector



Laying clay liner.

The Harsha North Reclamation Project was completed during the summer of 2006, ahead of schedule and within budget. The purpose of this project was to reduce the impacts of acid mine drainage (AMD) draining off of the Harsha North site into Huff Run. This was achieved by reclaiming parts of the toxic mine spoil and coal refuse piles and constructing passive AMD treatment systems which were mostly open limestone channels. The contractor was Tucson Inc. from New Philadelphia.

The project was approximately 23 acres. Over 58,000 cu yds of earthwork was excavated and redeposited. During this project, 300 tons of debris/trash was removed. A grant from the Stark-Tusc-Wayne Solid Waste District helped

pay for the disposal of debris.

Two existing impoundments of over 720,000 gallons of acid water were treated and dewatered; a third was modified and is now being utilized as a settling pond.

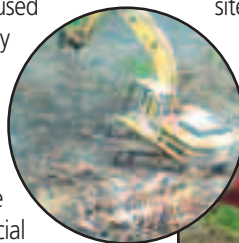
Over 8,800 tons of limestone in various sizes was used in the rock channels construction. The combined length of these rock channels is over 3000 ft.

The channel located at the highest point in the project was constructed using a new product that the ODNR has not used before. It is a geosynthetic clay liner, necessary because the existing soils in the area were toxic and by using this liner no water will come into contact with the contaminated soils. The rolls weighed so much that a special devise had to be fabricated to unroll and install it into channel. It was then covered with limestone. This channel was 1100 ft in length.

Eight hundred and thirty ft of smooth interior HDPE pipe of various sizes was also needed for this project. Two 36- inch pipes side

by side leave our site and cross Brass Road and continue on into Huff Run. This made it necessary to close Brass Road for a few days to allow us to install our culverts and construct a steel reinforced patch to cover them. This required a coordinated effort by the contractor and the county highway department, and it all came together without a problem.

Before the project, water quality leaving the site had a pH of 3.5 and iron content of 9mg/L. Upon completion, the water leaving this site has a pH of 7 and iron content of 2mg/L.



Removing debris.



Patching Brass Road.

Members Receive Window Decals

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

- ☐ \$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 _____

Make checks payable to HRWRP and send to:

Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership, Inc.

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





Fun Day and 5K 2006

For our annual Fun Day, we partnered with the rest of Mineral City's organizations to plan the Party in the Park. We put up our big tent with crafts, games, displays, popcorn, a puppet show, worm alley and a landuse demonstration. This year we also made AMD tie-dyed t-shirts! More people came through the tent and learned about our group because of the other events going on.

About 40 runners came out to the Huff Run 5K this year. The first place winners were Steve Neading and Sandy DeBose. Everyone received a t-shirt and medals were given out to those who placed in their age category.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped during both events!



AMD tie-dying

Huff Run 2006 Fall Tour

A tour of our restoration projects was held on Saturday, November 4. In the past, tours of Huff Run have been given during the work week to accommodate government officials and agency professionals. Because this year's tour was held on a Saturday, more citizens and HRWRP members were able to attend. Fifteen people attended, including three students. Visits were made to the Mineral Zoar Road project, the Linden Bioremediation project, Fern Hill (HR-42) and the Thomas Restoration project. John Slack attended the tour and took pictures for us. When he saw the Fern Hill project, he said "If you look at this project here, it highlights the need for our group. This tour was an eye opener for me - it educated me as to what Huff Run is all about. This is the battlefield. I'm glad I came." This was the third Fall Tour that the group has held in the past four years.



Viewing Fern Hill

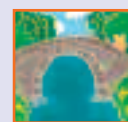


Hiking from Thomas to Linden



Oil and Gas Facts Did you know?

- There are 138 producing wells in the Huff Run Watershed.
- We have 30 plugged wells that do not operate and an unknown number of abandoned wells.
- Eighteen oil and gas companies operate in the Watershed.
- Oil and gas were discovered in this area in 1953.
- The Huff Run Watershed is part of the East Canton Consolidated Field.
- This Field has an ultimate recoverable production per well average of 150 million cubic feet of gas and between 28,000 and 63,000 barrels of oil.



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

- Buffalo Joe