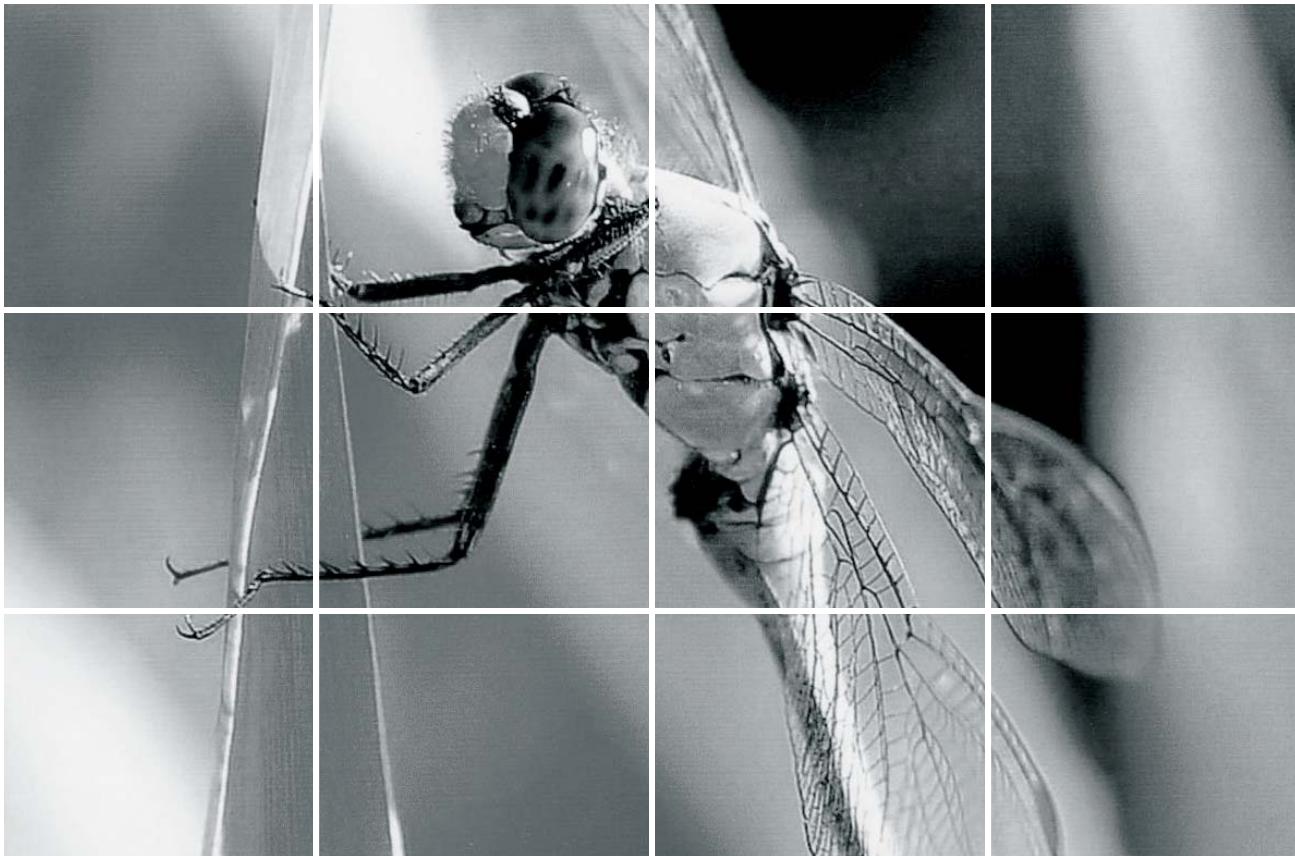


# Annual Report 2010



Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership



# From the Coordinator

## Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership

### Watershed Coordinator:

Maureen Wise

### Environmental Education AmeriCorps member 2009-2010:

Melissa Thorne

### Environmental Education AmeriCorps member 2010-2011:

Emily Ankney

### Water Quality Intern/ Secretary:

Marissa Geib

### Summer Intern:

Ariel VanNatter

### President:

Ed Taggart

### Vice President:

Bo Hysong

### Treasurer:

Belle Everett

We had a busy 2010! With new environmental education, four new restoration projects on the ground and more fish than ever before, a lot has been going on within our Huff Run Watershed.

This year, we worked closely with the Sandy Valley Elementary School in an effort to reforest our Fern Hill Restoration Project. With two grants and 120 hard working students, we were able to plant over 700 trees on the project site that formerly held only a large strip mining impoundment. These kids surprised us by planting the trees in just an hour and a half.

Our Thomas Project has been one we've been waiting to construct since the beginning of our planning in the late 1990s. Seeing it come to fruition and then win awards has been a big success for Huff Run and our partners.

Because of the Thomas Project and other restoration efforts, our 2010 study found more fish downstream than in years' past. Our last three sampling sites on Huff Run near Mineral City are our most polluted. This year, we found more Northern Pike along with other species in these locations which increased our scores from "poor" to "modified warm water habitat." Getting out of this poor score is really exciting!

As we enter our 15th year of cleaning up Huff Run, I am amazed at how far we've come. Thank you for your support thus far. Let's celebrate in 2011!

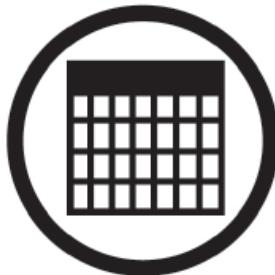


Maureen Wise  
Huff Run Watershed Coordinator

The Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership is sponsored by Rural Action.



# Major Events



- The 2010 Huff Run Awareness Days were held on May 7th, 21st, and 25th. Partners from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Mineral Resources Management(ODNR-MRM), Ohio EPA – Division of Surface Water, Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Tuscarawas SWCD, Rural Action, Yellow Creek Watershed, local Township Trustees, local Village Council members, and Huff Run members volunteered and held demonstrations for over 340 students. Countywide Recycling and Landfill Facility donated funds to buy lunches for volunteers. Classes from Bell-Herron, Tusky Valley Middle School and Sherrodsville attended as well as home school groups.

- The Mineral City Party in the Park was held on August 14th and 15th.

Huff Run's tent attracted children and parents alike to the craft table and acid mine drainage tie dying as well as River Games.

- The seventh annual Huff Run 5K and Fun Mile were held during the Party in the Park. Many runners participated and over 20 volunteers came to help with the 5K and support Huff Run.
- During Party in the Park, Huff Run raffled off a Kayak. The winner was Pat Downs from the Magnolia area.
- The eighth annual Huff Run Photo Contest was also held during the summer. This year the contest had 22 entries. The first place winner is the cover of this report.
- The Huff Run Fall Watershed Tour was held on October 23rd. The tour was very successful with about 20 guests who came and toured three projects: the Belden Gob pile, Thomas, and Mineral Zoar.
- On March 26 and October 1, Huff Run volunteers participated in clean up days for their two miles of adopted highway. The Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership (HRWRP) is a member of ODOT's Adopt A Highway Program in which they have adopted a stretch of State Route 800 south of Mineral City.
- ODNR-MRM recognized the Partnership with its Excellence in Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation for the Thomas Restoration Project in 2010.



Fun with critters at 2010 Awareness Days

# Actions Taken to Restore Issues in the Watershed:



## Acid mine drainage

- Fourteen completed reclamation projects (Mineral Zoar, Thomas, Belden [including Belden Gob Pile and the slag addition], Fern Hill [including June's Pond], HR-22 AML, HR-25 AML, Harsha North, Lyons, Lindenree, HRWRP Acid Pit, Linden, Farr, Huff Run AML Project and Jobes) are all working to increase pH, reduce iron and manganese loadings and add alkalinity.
- The Thomas Project was constructed in 2009 and 2010. The project is off of Hope Road in Carroll County. Many coal refuse piles were reclaimed as well as a number of strip mining impoundments. Two settling ponds were installed along with open limestone channels. Red Malcuit of Strausburg, Ohio constructed it. Thomas was funded by Ohio EPA, the Office of Surface Mining and ODNR- MRM.
- The Belden Gob Pile, a coal refuse area adjacent to the award winning Belden Project, was restored in 2010. The site was under an acre in size and included a small open limestone channel at the base of the hill. Oak trees were also planted on the site. The project was funded entirely by ODNR- MRM. Red Malcuit of Strausburg, Ohio constructed it.
- An addition to the Fern Hill project, also called June's Pond or Impoundment A, was constructed in 2010. This was the last strip mining impoundment associated with the HR-42 problem site. Construction was also completed by Red Malcuit and funded solely by ODNR- MRM.
- Another addition to the Belden Project included a series of berms constructed of slag and concrete briquettes. Six berms were installed throughout the Belden Project, most notably within the last channel leading to Huff Run and at the end of the sediment pond at the end of the project. Construction was completed for free by Harsco Minerals (the slag supplier). ODNR solely funded the project.

## Unconnected Streamside Buffers

- With the help of the Partnership, the Mineral City Village Council enacted a riparian setback zoning ordinance. Landowners must not build within 75 feet of all streams or rivers with a watershed between 0.5 square miles and 20 square miles. A buffer of 25 feet is required for streams with a watershed less than half a square mile.



Belden Gob Pile, after construction is complete

# Programs

- Ten Environmental Explorers Club meetings were held with an average of six members present. Highlight meetings include visiting the Akron Zoo, visiting the Carroll County Fair, hearing from Marie Schultz of the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne solid waste management district about recycling, and learning about snakes.



- The fifth grade class at Sandy Valley Elementary School was visited by the AmeriCorps member along with the Tuscarawas County Health Department and the Tuscarawas SWCD to learn about acid mine drainage, soils and the importance of reforestation after reclamation. The students visited the Fern Hill site in late 2009 and then again at the end of April 2010. During their April visit, these 120 students planted 730 trees in just an hour and a half! They planted Chinese Chestnut, Red Oak and Manchu Cherry. Funding for the project came from a Toyota Tapestry grant and an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant.



Trees planted at Fern Hill with help from Sandy Valley again at the end of April 2010. During their April visit, these 120 students planted 730 trees in just an hour and a half! They planted Chinese Chestnut, Red Oak and Manchu Cherry. Funding for the project came from a Toyota Tapestry grant and an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant.

# Volunteering

- Between clean up days, Party in the Park, Awareness Days, administrative work and meetings, Huff Run volunteers donated a total of 468 hours to the work of the Partnership!



# Press

- One Water Marks issues was published and distributed.
- Nine press releases sent to local news outlets.
- One interview on WJER.



## Grants

- In 2010, Rural Action was awarded an Office of Surface Mining grant to fund the Lyons Phase II Project.
- In 2010, Huff Run was awarded a matching grant from Thirvent Financial for Lutherans to match both the 5K and the kayak raffle profits.
- The HRWRP administered an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant (through Ohio EPA) to fund the 2010 Awareness Days.
- Rural Action administered a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to fund a Huff Run summer intern. (Awarded and closed in 2010)
- Sandy Valley Local Schools administered a Toyota Tapestry Grant to pay for a tree planting project in conjunction with the fifth grade class at the Fern Hill Project. (Awarded in 2009 and closed in 2010).
- Rural Action administered an Ohio EPA 319 grant to complete funding for the Thomas Project. (To close in early 2011)
- Rural Action administered a Watershed Coordinator grant to fund much of the Coordinator's salary through 2011.
- Rural Action administered an Office of Surface Mining grant to pay for the Thomas Restoration Project. (Closed in 2010)
- Crossroads RC&D administered an Office of Surface Mining grant to fund the Mineral Zoar Project. (Closed early 2010)
- Rural Action administered a US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant to fund the Belden Project, environmental education, much of the Watershed Coordinator's salary and the Assistant Watershed Coordinator's salary. (Closed early 2010)

## Water Quality Sampling



- Three hundred and forty six (346) chemical water quality samples were taken by the Huff Run staff and ODNR-MRM at a total of 12 projects/ sites including Belden, Fern Hill (HR-42), Lyons, Linden, Linden-tree, Farr, Mineral Zoar, Harsha North, Thomas, the HR-38 site, former AMDAT sample points and Reach Long Term sampling.
- A streamwide macroinvertebrate study was conducted in conjunction with ODNR with a total of eight sample sites.
- A streamwide fish study was conducted in conjunction with ODNR with a total of six sample sites. The study resulted in many of the lower and more polluted sites within Huff Run to go up in water quality status.
- A bacteria study was conducted in conjunction with the Tuscarawas County Health Department with a total of seven sample sites.

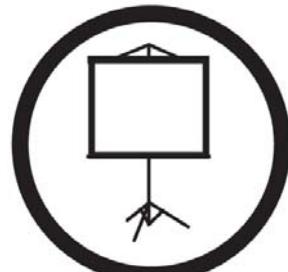
# Presentations

- Bell-Herron Seventh Grade
- Sandy Valley Fifth Grade
- Tusky Valley Seventh Grade
- Sherrodsburg Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades
- Carroll Soil and Water Fourth Grade Field Trip
- Dover Kiwanis



# Displays

- Agricultural Natural Resources Expo
- Mineral City Nicole Donant Library Family Fun Day



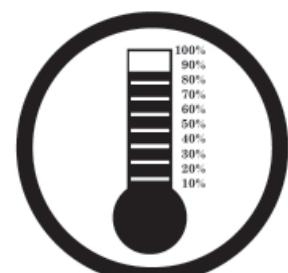
# Memberships, Sponsors & Donors: (2010-2011 to date)

- Eighty three HRWRP members
- Three Business/Nonprofit memberships
- Eight 5K sponsors



# Fundraising

- The total profit from the seventh annual Huff Run 5K and Fun Mile was \$1017.
- A total of 31 Huff Run water bottles were sold for the “Heat Huff Run Fund” in 2010. A profit of about \$275 was made.
- The total profit from the kayak raffle \$1172.



# Meetings

- Eleven HRWRP regular meetings were held with an average of nine people present.
- Fourteen Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings were held.
- Eleven Environmental Explorers Meetings were held.



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**Design & Layout** by Sarah Warda

**Cover Photo:** *Ready, Set, Take Off* by Cheri Harris , 2010 Huff Run Photo Contest Winner