

# water marks

"Preserving the past. Healing the scars. Protecting the future."

## Thomas Project Complete!



The Thomas Site is one of the first problem areas identified in the watershed. With monies from the Ohio EPA and the Office of Surface Mining along with cash match from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management, the Thomas Project was completed during the Spring of 2010.

Four acidic impoundments left from surface mining were reclaimed along with a vast amount of associated coal waste piles (gob). One of these ponds was reconfigured to serve as a new settling pond that leads into the Linden Project. Another settling pond was installed to remove metals at a different location on the site. Red Malcuit of Strasburg constructed the project for just under \$500,000.

## Belden Gob Pile Reclaimed

The Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership took the summer off from large reclamation projects. Instead, the Partnership has been working to retrofit a few existing projects.

The Belden Project was first constructed in 2008 but a large gob pile (coal refuse from an abandoned coal mines) near the road and right behind the project sign still remained. The pile was not included in the original design due to funding constraints and was still leaching toxic metals into the stream.

This summer it was finally covered over and planted with legumes to restore the soil. Oak trees will be planted on the peak of the remaining hill. Limestone was put in place in a small channel at the base of the hill to help neutralize pH and boost alkalinity. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management designed and funded the project in its entirety. Red Malcuit of Strasburg, Ohio constructed the gob reclamation.





## Water Marks Newsletter

Winter 2010-2011

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### 2010 Huff Run Fall Tour

Eighteen community members and Huff Run members toured the Belden Gob Pile, Thomas, Linden and the Mineral Zoar Project on Saturday, October 23, 2010.



### ODNR Thomas Award

The Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership was recently honored with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management's annual Excellence in Reclamation award for the Thomas Project. This is the fourth of such awards that have been given to the Partnership. It was given to Huff Run representatives (Belle Everett, Maureen Wise and Marissa Geib) at the Ohio Mineland Partnership meeting in October.

### Kayak Raffle Winner!

We had an overwhelming response to our kayak raffle this summer. Thank you to everyone who entered the drawing! And of course thank you to PSC metals for their donation and Dick's Sporting Goods for the great deal!

Pat Downes, a Huff Run member who lives near Waynesburg, won the kayak. Congrats, Pat!

### Our Mission

To restore the Huff Run Watershed by improving water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat, through community support and involvement.

# Staff News



## Good Luck, Melissa!

Melissa Thorne, 2009-2010 AmeriCorps member, ended her term in August. Melissa has brought a new energy to Huff Run with her past experience with children. She organized the Sandy Valley Tree Planting Event which went beyond any expectations. Thorne states about her service, "I learned a lot about the area and how acid mine drainage effects water quality, a new issue for me. I have made many new friends. I will miss most the children at Environmental Explorers and the faithful Huff Run members." Melissa plans to pursue a Master's in Public Health at NEOUCOM and to continue performing on stage in various theater productions.

## Thank You, Summer Interns!

Marissa Geib, HRWRP Secretary, served as ODNR Summer Intern for the second year in a row. Marissa is currently attending Malone University. This summer, she helped to quality check the water quality database, organized Huff Run's participation in the Ag Expo and fundraising.

Ariel VanNatter was an unpaid intern this summer for which we are very thankful! Ariel is a sophomore this Fall at Kent State University. This summer, she helped with producing and following up with our membership drive, creating window displays and organizing crafts for Party in the Park.

Thank you, interns, for all your hard work!

## Welcome, Emily!

Emily Ankney is the 2010-2011 AmeriCorps member. Emily graduated from Ohio Dominican University in May 2010 and is originally from New Philadelphia. Her degree is in Environmental Studies and she has past experience in water quality monitoring. Emily is organizing a new High School Volunteer program, conducting water quality monitoring, managing all water quality data and leads all of Huff Run's Environmental Education and Outreach programs and efforts.

## Party in the Park and Huff Run 5K

By Emily Ankney



On August 14th and 15th Huff Run participated in the Party in the Park for Mineral City. We had a tent for Huff Run where we handed out information and balloons; sold our water bottles; recruited members; had two crafts, games, and acid mine drainage (AMD) tie-dye for the kids; and picked our kayak raffle winner. There were 29 volunteers just from Huff Run who put in multiple hours each to help out with set-up, tear-down, and the activities in the tent. Forty AMD shirts were made! Between all the activities and games in the tent, Huff Run had a major presence at the event where many people participated and learned something about Huff Run and the work that we do!

The Huff Run Partnership also hosted its 7th annual 5K and Fun Mile run at Party in the Park on Saturday, August 14th. This year's run, hosted on a beautiful morning, was very successful including many runners from the area who came out to support Huff Run and the work that the organization does. Courtney Oliver was the overall female winner of the race. This was her third time winning since our 5K started. John Soehnlen was the overall winner in the male category. More than 20 volunteers came out as well to help with the event doing work such as: registration, timing the 5K runners, and directing them along the course.

## Awareness Day 2010

Huff Run's annual field trips this year brought in additional schools and volunteers. A total of about 330 students attended the event to learn about water quality, fish, macroinvertebrates, land use and soil. Thank you to all the volunteers and teachers involved. An Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant paid for all supplies and transportation this year.



## Volunteer Thank You

We have been featuring a volunteer per newsletter for the past few years. George "Bo" Hysong has been our Vice President since 2006 and an active volunteer who somehow has not been honored in this segment of our newsletter. Bo is always relied on to help with Party in the Park and our 5K & Fun Mile, often working at the events as long as staff. He takes aerial photos of restoration projects from his plane for Partnership use. Bo also does so many one time tasks like hanging banners, changing clocks, moving furniture, cooking hamburgers, planning office remodeling and delivering trees. His humor and positive outlook add a lot to our Partnership.

Thanks, Bo, for your reliability!



## Tree Planting with Sandy Valley

By Melissa Thorne

The reforestation planning of the Fern Hill Project with Sandy Valley Elementary came to fruition on Thursday, April 29. The fifth grade class had been visited by Huff Run's AmeriCorps member, the Tuscarawas County Health Department and the Soil and Water Conservation office to learn about soil, trees, and their importance to land restoration throughout the school year. The students also visited the Fern Hill site to see reclamation first hand in the fall.

In April, these 120 fifth graders planted a total 730 trees in just an hour and a half throughout the site! The students arrived at the reclamation site in the fashion of a well oiled machine! They listened intently as Rural Action Forester, Tanner Filyaw, gave instructions on how to plant the trees. Afterwards the students were soldiers marching to a mission, collecting materials and trees for their group

The students then split up into pairs to plant the trees. "I have never seen so much passion, dedication, and enthusiasm in students," AmeriCorps member, Melissa Thorne remarked.

The students 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.

# **Cheri Harris Wins Photo Contest with Dragonfly**

By Emily Ankney



"Ready, Set, Takeoff" by Cheri Harris

Huff Run held its eighth annual photo contest this year during Mineral City's Party in the Park to promote our mission and spread awareness of our watershed. The photo contest is set up so that anyone can submit their own photos of the Huff Run Watershed. The photos can be taken anywhere in the watershed and are judged by an indiscriminate panel.

The judges were Sheryl Celuch of Celuch Photography, Marsha Zollar of the Norma Johnson Center and Judy Disabato of Sandy Valley School District. The winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd) receive cash prizes. The first place winner this year was Cheri Harris, a first time participant from Dover, Ohio. Cheri submitted a photo titled "Ready, Set, Take-Off!" It is a beautiful photo of a dragonfly on a long blade of grass. The second place winner this year was Chad Kinney who works for Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR) and helps Huff Run with our annual water sampling fish and macroinvertebrate studies. Chad submitted a picture of Skunk Cabbage, which looks a lot better than it smells! The third place winner this year was Jim Gue, also from ODNR. Jim helped found the Huff Run Partnership! He helps with setting up reclamation projects and our 5K logo "Jimmy Drippy" is named after Jim! He is also quoted as saying this is the first time he has ever won anything! Jim submitted a landscape photo of some tree reflections in the water of the Belden Project titled, "Wetland Wonder."

Huff Run would like to thank everyone for participating and spreading awareness of the watershed!



"Skunk Cabbage" by Chad Kinney



"Wetland Wonder" by Jim Gue

## Support Huff Run

Member benefits include voting rights at our monthly meetings, annual membership cards, a welcome packet and a car window cling. Members also receive exclusive invitations to all Huff Run events, tours and activities.

You can join our Partnership online securely and quickly through PayPal. Visit our website [www.huffrun.org](http://www.huffrun.org)

**YES!** I want to contribute to the Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of  
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Enclosed are my yearly dues of:  
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I understand that I will be contacted about the next meeting.  
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