

Annual Report 2009



Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership



**Huff Run Watershed
Restoration Partnership**

Watershed Coordinator:
Maureen Wise

Assistant Coordinator:
Amber Leasure- Earnhardt

**Environmental Education
AmeriCorps Member:**
Melissa Thorne

President: Ed Taggart

Vice President:
Bo Hysong

Treasurer: Belle Everett

**Secretary/ ODNR Summer
Intern:**
Marissa Geib

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

From the Coordinator

This year has been a year of big environmental education numbers for Huff Run. Our annual events that we've been holding for so long swelled and exploded in 2009. I credit this to not only our talented staff but our fiercely dedicated volunteers. THANK YOU to those who have given their energy to make our programs a success.

In 2009, we held four Awareness Day field trips for local schools and home school groups. We served over 600 students from four school districts and six home school groups. Over 30 people gave of their time, materials or funds to make these events possible. What a community effort to educate community children. Previous to 2009, we have only ever held three field trips with approximately 500 students attending.

In addition to a successful Awareness Day, we had an exceptionally popular tent at Party in the Park. This was the first year that we had to process our acid mine drainage for the tie-dyed shirts and we were nervous. Being the third year of making the shirts with the community, we weren't sure if people already had shirts and wouldn't want to make another. Wow, were we wrong! Eighty shirts were made at the Party in the Park which is twice as many as were made in 2008.

We continue to work with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to construct restoration projects. Both our Mineral Zoar and Thomas Projects were started in 2009.

As our efforts carry on, we gain momentum. Thank you for your interest in our Partnership. I look forward to reporting similar successes to you for 2010.

Maureen E. Wise



Actions Taken to Restore Issues in the Watershed:



Acid mine drainage

- Eleven completed reclamation projects (Belden, Fern Hill [HR-42], AML/ HR-22, Harsha North, Lyons, Lindentree, 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 Mineral-Zoar Reverse Alkaline Producing System (RAPS) Project was completed in October 2009. The project is in Tuscarawas County just north of Mineral City. Beaver Excavating of Canton, Ohio constructed the project.
- The Thomas Project started construction in 2009 and continues into 2010. The project is off of Hope Road in Carroll County. Red Malcuit of Strausburg, Ohio is constructing it.
- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management (ODNR/ MRM) worked on three sets of plans in 2009 for projects they will design and fund in 2010: Belden Gob Pile, Lyons Phase II and Fern Hill Pond A.

Unconnected Streamside Buffers

- Meetings were held with the Sandy Township Zoning Commission to enact riparian setback zoning in Sandy Township. The Sandy Township Trustees voted to make the zoning amendment law on December 22, 2009.

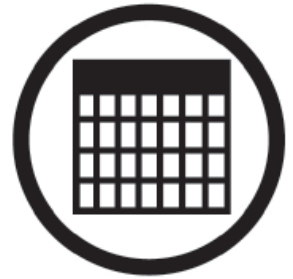
Agricultural issues

- Two biannual Agriculture Newsletters were published and sent to all agricultural landowners within the Huff Run Watershed.



Mineral Zoar Project

Events



- The HRWRP partnered with the Sandy Township Trustees to hold a “Clean Sweep” in the Huff Run Watershed and Sandy Township to pick up trash along township maintained roadways. Three members of the HRWRP met on Saturday, April 25 and picked up trash and recyclables.
- The 2009 Huff Run Awareness Days were held on May 1, 15, 20 and 22. Partners from the ODNR/MRM, EPA/Surface Water, Carroll SWCD, Tusc. SWCD, Rural Action, Yellow Creek Watershed, local Township Trustees, local Village Council members, and Huff Run members volunteered and held demonstrations for over 600 students. Countywide Recycling and Landfill Facility donated funds to buy lunches for volunteers. Classes from Bell-Herron, Tusky Valley Middle School and Sandy Valley attended. The Home School groups had one day to themselves where over 80 students attended.
- The Mineral City Party in the Park was held on August 16. 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 tie-dye was much more popular this year than year’s past – over 80 shirts were made!
- The sixth annual Huff Run 5K and Fun Mile was held during the Party in the Park. About 30 runners participated and over \$800 was raised.
- The seventh annual Huff Run Photo Contest was also held during the summer. This year the contest grew to about 35 entries.
- The Huff Run Fall Watershed Tour was held on October 8. Participants visited the Mineral Zoar Reverse Alkaline Producing System and Belden Projects. About 25 people attended the tour.
- On March 28, June 26 and September 25, Huff Run volunteers participated in clean up days for the two miles of adopted highway. The 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.

Volunteering



- Between clean up days, Party in the Park, Awareness Days, administrative work and meetings, Huff Run volunteers donated a total of 309 hours to the work of the Partnership!



Programs



- Eleven Environmental Explorers Club meetings were held with an average of six members present. Highlight meetings include visiting the Norma Johnson Center, making butter, creating spore prints to learn about mushrooms and learning about wolves.



In April, EEC members learned about soil.

Grants

- The HRWRP administers an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant (through Ohio EPA) to fund the 2010 Awareness Days. (Awarded in 2009)
- Rural Action administered a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to fund a Huff Run summer intern. (Awarded and closed in 2009)
- Sandy Valley Local Schools administers 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).
- Rural Action administers an Ohio EPA 319 grant to complete funding for the Thomas Project.
- Rural Action administers a Watershed Coordinator grant to fund much of the Coordinator's salary through 2011.
- Rural Action administers an Office of Surface Mining grant to help pay for the Thomas Restoration Project.
- Rural Action administers the US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant that paid for the Belden project, many new and continuing environmental education programs and some of the Coordinator's salary into 2010.
- Crossroads RC&D administers an Appalachian Clean Stream grant from the Office of Surface Mining for restoration at the Mineral-Zoar Road Project.
- The HRWRP administered an Appalachian Clean Stream grant from the Office of Surface Mining for restoration of the Fern Hill (HR-42) Pits. (Closed in 2009)





Press

- Two Water Marks issues were published and distributed.
- Seven press releases sent to local news outlets.
- One interview on WJER.
- One interview on WOUB.



Displays

- Tuscarawas County Fair
- Carroll County Fair
- Agricultural Natural Resources Expo
- Mineral City Nicole Donant Library Family Fun Day



Presentations

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

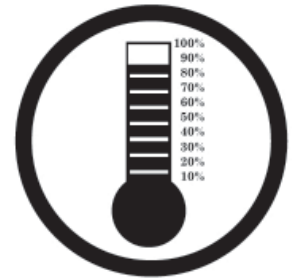
Memberships, Sponsors & Donors: (2008-2009 to date)

- Seventy HRWRP members
- Seven Business/Nonprofit memberships
- Twelve 5K sponsors



Fundraising

- The total profit from the fifth annual Huff Run 5K and Fun Mile was \$862.
- A total of 32 Huff Run water bottles were sold for the “Heat Huff Run Fund” in 2009. Along with donations, a profit of just over \$600 was made.



Meetings

- Twelve HRWRP regular meetings were held with an average of ten people present.
- Five Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings were held.



Water Quality Sampling

- Three hundred and thirty one (331) chemical water quality samples were taken by the Huff Run staff and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at a total of 13 projects/ sites including Belden, Fern Hill (HR-42), Lyons, Linden, Lindentree, HRWRP Acid Pit, Tributaries, Farr, Mineral Zoar, Harsha North, Thomas, former AMDAT sample points and Reach Long Term sampling.
- A streamwide macroinvertebrate study was conducted in conjunction with ILGARD and OU with a total of eight sample sites.
- A bacteria study was conducted in conjunction with the Tuscarawas County Health Department with a total of seven sample sites.
- A stream bank sediment study was conducted in conjunction with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency with a total of seven sample sites.



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Cover Photo: Bullfrog by Linda Hull, 2009 Huff Run Photo Contest Winner.