



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

What is a Watershed?

What's a watershed? The region of land around a body of water (be it a river, lake, ocean, wetland or stream) that drains into it is its watershed. Watershed boundaries are always at hilltops that are higher than the rest of the land. All ground throughout the entire world is part of a watershed. Huff Run's watershed is 14 square miles and starts near Morges in Carroll County and ends at its confluence with Conotton Creek south of Mineral City. Huff Run is also part of the Conotton Creek Watershed, the Tuscarawas River Watershed, the Muskingum, the Ohio and the Mississippi!

HRWRP Officers

- President – Ed Taggart
- Vice President – Bo Hysong
- Treasurer – Belle Everett
- Secretary – Jeremy Broadwater

Crossroads Project of the Year Award

In 2007, Crossroads Resource, Conservation and Development Council nominated Huff Run as their Project of the Year. The Huff Run project was given this award by the Ohio Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils. Crossroads presented the honor to Huff Run during the Council's Annual Meeting in February 2008.



Crossroads has been a very strong partner of the HRWRP since its inception in 1996. They have been instrumental with our initial organization and writing of our grants. Thanks, Crossroads!

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

www.huffrun.org

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CROSSROADS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
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WaterMarks

Summer 2008

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Volume XI, Issue 1

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

Upcoming Restoration Work

Summer 2008 will be a very busy time around the Huff Run Watershed! Restoration projects galore!

Belden



Belden is a 20 acre project in Carroll County behind the former Kopp Clay brickyard. This project encompasses exposed toxic clay and the related coal (gob), as well as a number of acidic ponds left behind from strip mining. Huff Run's US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant, administered by Rural Action, funds Belden at a cost of right around \$700,000. Tucson of New Philadelphia was awarded the project bid. Tucson will reclaim gob piles, install a settling pond, create a steel slag leach bed (the first in Huff Run!), and put in slag berms in a clean water pond similar to our Lyons Project. We are expecting a huge drop in the acidity and iron leaving this site because of this work. Belden has some of the worst water in the watershed and this will make some major changes to the stream.



Fern Hill



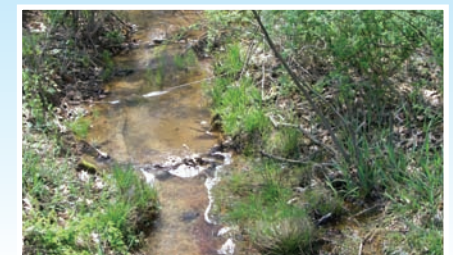
Fern Hill/ HR-42 is located near Hope Road in Carroll County. The HR-42 sampling point is directly adjacent to Huff Run and is part of a large plume of orange acid mine drainage precipitate. There is no coal mine related to this site but uphill, there are three ponds left from strip mining. Studies have shown that stone in the hillside between these two points is fractured and stained with the orange coloration of acid mine drainage. With the Fern Hill Project, we will eliminate the largest and closest of these ponds to diminish the water in the plume. This project is funded by an Office of Surface Mining grant administered by the HRWRP and in-kind funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Total costs for Fern Hill will be about \$120,000.



Mineral Zoar



Mineral Zoar is located just Northwest of Mineral City on Mineral City-Zoar Road near its intersection with Sandyville Road. The site consists of a large existing wetland and two mine entries discharging toxic water. Water from the wetland enters Huff Run's longest tributary that runs through the Mineral City Park behind our Huff Run office. A grant from the Office of Surface Mining for about \$100,000 administered by Crossroads RC&D along with match and in-kind time from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will fund the work. Total project costs will come to approximately \$315,000. The project will involve the construction of a reverse alkaline producing system (a RAPS), a second wetland, improvements to the existing wetland and small open limestone channels. This will restore much of the affected tributary and decrease the toxic metals and acidity loadings entering Huff Run itself.





HUFF RUN WATERSHED RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

A COLLABORATION OF PEOPLE WITH CONCERNS FOR HUFF RUN

Spring 2008
Volume XI, Issue 1

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Contributing Writers

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Huff Run AmeriCorps VISTA

Roger Heskett
ODNR Project Officer

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

Belden Preparation Unique

On February 21, the Belden Project had its first prep work for construction. This site contains some prime Indiana Bat habitat, the first with this concern in the Huff Run Watershed. Although this sounds like a good thing to benefit an endangered species in Ohio, some of the trees that the bats would prefer will be cut down to make way for reclamation. The bats migrate back to Ohio and live here between mid April and mid September. In order to make sure that the bats are not living in the trees over the summer during construction, the trees needed to be cut down before April 15. And so a representative from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Huff Run staff, an ODNR employee, the technician from Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District, plus five Huff Run volunteers marked "bat trees" in February. Jeromy Applegate from the Fish and Wildlife Service trained the crew on what to look for in a perfect bat home. Using bright orange marking tape, the team found and marked just over 150 trees that will need to be cut down. The contractor, Tucson of New Philadelphia, who is constructing the project over the summer, downed the trees before the April deadline.



Miller Mining Forfeitures

Roger Heskett, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Project Officer

The Division of Mineral Resources Management has begun work to complete the reclamation on three Miller Mining forfeiture sites. All of these forfeitures are located in the Huff Run Watershed and can be accessed from Lindentree Road and Tunnel Hill Road. Forfeiture sites are mining sites where the coal operator was unable to complete the reclamation requirements. The State of Ohio has terminated the operator's and surety's rights thereby seizing the bond on these areas and will appropriate that money to meet the reclamation standards set forth by the Ohio Revised Code.

Phase 1 of the project has already been bid and construction in the field will begin the first week in June and be completed by Sept 30, 2008. This phase consists of approximately 40 acres. Phase 2 will be bid in June and be under contract by August/September and be completed by November 15, 2008. This phase consists of approximately 63 acres. Work on these projects includes erosion repair and stabilization, the construction of several rock channels, grass lined channels, pond removals, regrading, earthwork, and resoiling. Temporary erosion and sediment controls will also be installed until vegetation is established. Following site grading and resoiling all affected areas will be disked, limed, fertilized, seeded, and mulched. Trees have already been planted on the steeper slopes.

Completing the reclamation on these sites will enhance the Huff Run Watershed by reducing and minimizing sedimentation and acid mine drainage runoff. Redirecting and controlling the drainage through the construction of grass and rock lined channels will also lessen offsite erosion and sedimentation. The land will also be restored to productive use.

More detailed information about these projects can be obtained by contacting the Project Officer, Roger Heskett at (740) 439-9079.



Spring Highlights from Huff Run's Environmental Explorers Club

By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt,
Huff Run AmeriCorps VISTA

This spring has been an adventurous time for our Environmental Explorers Club members. Since January, our kids have traveled back in time as a part of the Lewis and Clark expedition, explored rocks, minerals and gemstones, learned about recycling and endangered species, and ventured outside to plant seeds for their own rain gardens. Through arts & crafts projects at each meeting, students have made their own nature journals, endangered species trading cards, gemstone picture frames, and recycled kites to take home and fly along with partaking in many other fun games and activities. Everyone has been excited by the chance to be amateur naturalists, geologists, and ecologists. All children ages 6-13 are welcome to attend. Meetings are usually the third Saturday of every month from 12-3 pm at the Mineral City Park Pavilion.



Explorers show off their recycled kites

Coasters for Donors

Are you a Huff Run donor? How many of our note pads do you actually have? We've been giving people who donate funds beyond their normal membership note pads for about five years now. Finally, we've run out and are upgrading our donor thank you gift to a set of coasters! These handy mats feature our pretty Huff Run logo with our contact information on the top and a base of shredded recycled tires. Donate and get a set of your own today!



Members Receive Window Decals

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

- \$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 A Set Of Huff Run Coasters

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:

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Environmental Education Priority for Huff Run's VISTA

By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Huff Run AmeriCorps VISTA

This was a busy spring for the watershed's educational outreach efforts, with Huff Run's VISTA, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, teaching in our local schools. To the south of our watershed, Amber was asked by teacher Dan Evans to teach for a day in April to 11th and 12th graders attending Buckeye Career Center. She gave a power point presentation at the Career Center and provided activities regarding the Huff Run Watershed, highlighting points such as *What Is a Watershed?*, *Point Versus Non-Point Source Pollution*, *Acid Mine Drainage*, and the *Partnership's Reclamation Work*. To the east of our watershed, Amber ventured to Carrollton's Bell-Herron Middle School to teach Mrs. Shroyer's seventh grade students on three separate days. This was a joint effort involving Linda Yeager from Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District, who also taught the students on two separate occasions. Activities and presentations contained information about the Huff Run Watershed, a groundwater model, a cookie mining activity, water jeopardy, and a game called macroinvertebrate mayhem. All in all around 300 students learned about their local watersheds through this outreach!



Cookie Mining

Huff Run Celebrates Stewardship Week 2008

By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Huff Run AmeriCorps VISTA

As a second part of our Church Stewardship Campaign, HRWRP helped to celebrate the National Soil and Water Stewardship Week this year, April 27th through May 4th. The annual program had a theme this year that was very relevant for Huff Run: Water is Life. Prior to Stewardship week, letters were sent to over 33 local churches to raise awareness for this event. The Partnership sent out Church Leader's Guides to nine local churches and over 400 bulletins to four local churches. A display was made for the window at the Huff Run office to share information with the community about the importance of conserving water. Also, a display was made and placed at the Mineral City Nicole Donant Library where Stewardship Week bookmarks were also given out to library patrons. If you would like to learn more or become involved with next year's Stewardship Week go to www.nscd.org.

Clean Sweep 08



The Huff Run group partnered with the Sandy Township Trustees to remove litter from township roads again this year. The event was held on a cooler Saturday, April 26. Huff Run members picked up trash along roads within the watershed. Ed Taggart, HRWRP President, was at the Clean Sweep and said, "Flooding this Spring carried some of the trash away where we were working. We still knocked out a few garbage piles that had been there awhile. This has been a great joint venture with the Township."

Volunteer Thank You!

Thank you to our volunteers, Amanda Hook and Marissa Geib, for all the work they do for Huff Run. From overhauling our office gardens to stuffing envelopes to leading groups at Awareness Day, these ladies have really been a huge help to our staff. Keep up the great work and thank you!



Septic Awareness Workshop



Raw sewage in Huff Run is a problem. Both septic tanks and sewer lines are causing sewage pollution to the stream. The sewer lines around Mineral City are being extended and upgraded to fix much of the concerns but there are still septic systems in the watershed that pollute. Wanting to work with watershed residents, the HRWRP planned a Septic Awareness Workshop that was held in May. Presenters from the Tuscarawas County Health Department, the Tuscarawas Soil and Water Conservation District and the HRWRP touched on issues such as: operations, types of systems, maintenance, national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting, soils, sewage studies in the watershed and other topics. Although there was certainly plenty of room left, the Partnership was happy with the turn out.



Awareness Day:

Over 550 Students Visited Our Watershed in May

By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Huff Run AmeriCorps VISTA

The Huff Run annual Awareness Day field trip spanned over three days this May, bringing over 550 students into our watershed. The annual field trip allows students to venture outside for a day and experience the Huff Run Watershed first-hand. To challenge students to help take care of their environment, students had the opportunity to conduct water quality tests, visit a restoration site, collect bugs and observe EPA officials doing electrofishing. The popularity of

this field trip has been increasing every year for over ten years now due to the support from local schools and home school groups whose students have a great time and are challenged while they learn.

Five home school groups attended the first field trip on Friday, May 9th, along with Sandy Valley's East Sparta Elementary fifth graders. Seventh graders from Carrollton's Bell-Herron Middle School were in attendance on Friday, May 16th;

and, for the third and final day, Friday, May 30th, Tusky Valley Middle School seventh graders got to take part in the activities. Volunteers from Ohio Department

of Natural Resources, Ohio EPA, Carroll and Tuscarawas County Soil and Water Offices, Rural Action, Local Township Trustees, and HRWRP Members helped with Awareness Day. Funding for Awareness Day this year came from the US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant. A big thank you goes out to all who volunteered and for the students, teachers, and parents, all of whom made these days possible! We look forward to next year's event.

