Ten Years, Many Firsts for Monday Creek

by Mary Ann Borch, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

As Monday Creek Restoration Project (MCRP) approaches its 10-year anniversary this November, many notable firsts come to mind. MCRP was the first acid mine drainage (AMD) or coal-field centered watershed in Ohio dedicated to restoring streams impacted by long-gone mining. It was a daunting task to help bring this nascent organization to life. Its 1994 inception coincided with the beginning of the Office of Surface Mining’s “Clean Streams Initiative” and then Director Bob Uram’s courageous federal rule change that allows for federal money to be spent on cleaning up acid and metal laden streams. It also coincided with the beginnings of Rural Action, the organization that took the MCRP under its wing and provided the non-profit 501(c)3 status and other support.

Many coal-field watershed groups have and are now struggling through the process of writing their Acid Mind Drainage Abatement and Treatment plans (AMDAT). Monday Creek was the first organization to accomplish that task. The state of the art has progressed to include more sophisticated characterization tools then were first employed. The learning curve has been steep but rewarding. The USEPA is now accepting AMDAT plans as a part of their Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports.

Monday Creek has also been one of the first watersheds in Ohio to employ the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers and their three-part approach to biological and habitat restoration. To be honest, it has not been an easy task. However, as we now finalize Feasibility Study project proposals for 143 treatment sites and 71 stream capture closures with a construction price tag approaching $10 million, we know that this tremendous effort has set the stage for a truly comprehensive restoration approach for Monday Creek.

Restoring the watershed will require significant reductions in pollutant loadings. Over 3,000 tons of acid will have to be removed each year. A mathematical model developed at West Virginia University, known as Total Acidic Mine Drainage Loading (TAMDL), is the first used in Ohio to simulate existing stream conditions in the watershed and project future conditions based on specific AMD treatments.

In addition to the many reclamation projects already on the ground, MCRP can also be proud of the many fine environmental professionals who have been spawned in the proving grounds of Monday Creek. These include coordinators, VISTA volunteers, staffers, and Hocking College and Ohio University students, many of whom produced excellent theses from their efforts.

Briefly, here are a few more firsts:

• First Management Plan using a citizens’ comparative risk model
• First real strong public agency nonprofit partnership dealing with AMD in Ohio
• First Section 319 Clean Water Act grant for AMD in Ohio
Partners
Adelmann Lumber
American Electric Power
Athens, Hocking, and Perry Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Athens, Hocking, and Perry County Commissioners
Hocking College: National Environmental Training Cooperative
Buckingham Coal Company
Monday Creek Residents
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
ODNR Div. of Mineral Resources Management
ODNR Division of Soil & Water Conservation
ODNR Division of Wildlife
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio University - Geography & Geology Dept.
Ohio University - The Institute of Local Government Administration and Rural Development (ILGARD)
Rural Action, Inc.
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
US Offi ce of Surface Mining

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The Monday Creek Restoration Project is a collaborative venture dedicated to reclaiming the Monday Creek watershed. For more information contact:
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From the Coordinator’s Desk
by Mike Steinmaus, Monday Creek Watershed Coordinator

As we send this 10-year anniversary issue to the printer, I am amazed to see how much has been accomplished in improving the watershed during the decade. In January 1995, the first issue of this newsletter (then known as The Monday Creek News) identified a group of five individuals partnering in the watershed restoration project. Those same individuals remain active participants in our partnership, which has expanded to include a number of agencies, educational institutions, businesses and citizen groups.

As a partnership, we have leveraged funding and shared technical knowledge to complete projects on abandoned mine lands that have capped coal refuse piles, filled subsidences, designed treatment ponds and established open limestone drainages. By the time you read this newsletter, a lime kiln dust doser—essentially a water-driven neutralizing system—will be operating in the headwaters of Monday Creek. And our restoration efforts have extended far beyond impacts resulting from acid mine drainage. We have planted thousands of pine, oak, locust and other tree species on strip mine lands. We have also removed tires, appliances and household trash from our streams, stabilized eroding stream banks with willow posts and tree plantings and picked up litter along highways within our watershed.

Over the years, it has been the concern and involvement of citizens that has made Monday Creek Restoration Project a reality. Local citizens have participated in planning meetings, volunteered for stream sampling and litter cleanups, provided management plan input and become involved in Friends of Monday Creek events. Federal and state agency personnel, educators, scientists and volunteers have all contributed their time and talents to our projects. And past and present staff and VISTA volunteers have dedicated their skills toward a cleaner and healthier watershed.

Our goal for the Monday Creek Watershed remains the same as in 1994: to return Monday Creek and its tributaries to fishable and swimmable conditions. We have come a long way in the past 10 years, and I envision remarkable progress in the future.

Landowner Bob Roberts and watershed coordinator Mike Steinmaus at the Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study Public Meeting, held in New Straitsville June 2004. Photo by Raina Ooten, VISTA.
OU Enquiry Sparks Project

by Mary Stoertz and Daphne Metts, Ohio University

In spring 1993, students in Dr. Mary Stoertz’s Environmental Geology class at Ohio University asked if it was safe to swim in the Hocking River. Stoertz researched Ohio Environmental Protections Agency and US Geological Survey sources and discovered that acid mine drainage (AMD) dumped into the Hocking in vast amounts from Sunday Creek and Monday Creek. She became interested in the two watersheds, and considered how she might find a way to address the AMD issue. Around the same time, her first graduate student, Pam Stachler, heard of an opportunity to get involved with Monday Creek. Together they decided, “Let’s do it!” That opportunity came through the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

In 1993, JTPA operated summer youth employment programs in Athens County. Since the mid-80’s, income-eligible teens have been assigned jobs in various city, county and township offices. Daphne Metts, Program Coordinator for Athens County, asked JTPA Director, Glenn Enslen, permission to investigate job options for the 1994 summer program. Focusing on teamwork and education with exposure to academic facilities, laboratories, Alden Library, etc, Metts and Enslen decided to seek ideas from the Athens County Commissioners. If the Commissioners could identify viable projects that would supply meaningful experience for teenagers, JTPA would hire supervisors and supply a summer workforce.

The first meeting with the Commissioners proved beneficial. A recent spring flood in Buchtel caused a great deal of property damage along the banks of Monday Creek, and Commissioner Bill Thiesen led a discussion at this meeting about how to help the flood victims. When JTPA presented their proposal Theisen asked if there was a way they might help with the Monday Creek problem. The Commissioners believed that debris that had accumulated in the creek caused the unusually severe flooding but couldn’t be sure without further investigation. Since “further investigation” was not in the county budget, they looked for alternatives. Because students could not under the law complete a project for private companies or individuals, it became necessary to put a project in place that ultimately benefited the government or the public.

Speaking to a group of recent JTPA graduates, politicians and educators during an open house held at the OU Inn, Stachler so impressed Mr. Enslen that she was asked to assist in filling in gaps in the summer project plan. Her ideas helped the project plan move forward, and she agreed to become Project Supervisor. Pam’s resulting thesis work (which would become a public document) enabled six JTPA students interested in science to act as her research assistants, fulfilling public benefit requirements. Pam and her research team then spent eight weeks on the banks of Monday Creek talking to residents and collecting data, while soliciting help and advice from various sources such as ODNR. Stachler and another of Stoertz’s students, Steve Worsley, supervised two youth teams during the summer of 1994.

Together, they produced Report of the Monday Creek Flooding Project in late 1994. From this experience, Stachler and Stoertz saw the potential for a citizen-based partnership to help solve environmental problems. They applied for a USEPA Environmental Education Grant in October 1994, to form the “Monday Creek Community Monitoring Project,” and obtained support letters from county commissioners, soil and water conservation districts, Tri-County Community Action Agency, the Hocking River Commission, and Rural Action. Mary Ann Borch of Rural Action, an OU alumna, brought to the mix her interest in acid mine drainage and the new federal Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative. Although the USEPA proposal was not funded, Borch called a meeting and field trip in November 1994 that marked the formal start of the Monday Creek Restoration Project. Since its inception, MCRP has benefited from the research and teaching contributions of OU faculty and students, and has contributed to the community by hosting many volunteer projects such as tree plantings and litter pickups.
The Monday Creek Restoration Project
by Chuck Minsker, Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Rolling across three counties in Ohio, Monday Creek may look like a typical waterway, but there’s a crucial difference: the water is so acidic that many sections are dead—unable to support aquatic plant and animal life.

This is due to acid mine drainage. Water fills abandoned mines, and as it spills out into creeks and rivers it carries with it heavy metals like aluminum and magnesium which poison the water.

The area around Monday Creek has a long history of mining—more than 180 years. There are 15,000 underground acres contributing to the problem, causing acid mine drainage and aluminum discharges.

Project Engineer Mark Kessinger said, “The Monday Creek Restoration Project will be one of the biggest environmental projects for the Corps—we’re looking at an entire watershed, not just one problem.”

It’s a serious problem—in fact, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that acid mine drainage is the number one water quality problem in Appalachia. But there is a solution for the problem.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working on a feasibility study that will evaluate alternatives for acid mine abatement and aquatic ecosystem restoration. Preliminary results indicate that over 130 projects will be required throughout 14 subwatersheds along Monday Creek to remove over 3,000 tons of acid load per year.

There are several ways to tackle the problem of acid mine drainage, including: filling subsidences; plugging stream captures; creating wetlands, limestone leach beds and open limestone channels; and installing lime kiln dosers.

The cost to acquire real estate and construct the projects is estimated between $5 and $10 million dollars.

There are nine agencies working together to tackle the problem: the Corps, Ohio EPA, Ohio University’s Institute of Local Government and Rural Development, West Virginia University, the U.S. Forest Service, the Monday Creek Restoration Project, The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory.
CAROL KUHRE, Executive Director Emerita, Rural Action

I’ll never forget the day that Mary Ann Borch called together the first organizing meeting for the MCRP. We had a visitor from the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation in New York City named Vic DeLuca who was here to see if we knew how to organize.

I sent him to the meeting Mary Ann had arranged and he came back very enthused about Rural Action and what its VISTAs were doing to organize people around improving the environment and the communities in the region. I am sure we secured general operating money from the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation based partly on what Vic saw happening at that meeting. We had the first MCRP office in Albany because Rural Action only had a small office building in Athens and we had to “farm out” many of the VISTAs and programs to other locations—and on occasion into the homes of the VISTAs or staff.

Mary Ann graciously allowed us to use her upstairs for the office. Because we weren’t out “in the field” as much during the early years of writing the planning documents, it did not hinder our work to be in Albany. However, as we began to implement the plans, it became imperative that we be closer to the center of the watershed.

I also remember Mike Steinmaus’s interview. He smiled (actually beamed) throughout the whole interview. We were down to three very qualified finalists for the position—but I think it was Mike’s “can do” upbeat attitude that landed him the position. I guess my greatest contributions were in convincing Mary Ann to take the VISTA position and in meeting with all of the partners early on to make sure that we were all willing to cut through as much bureaucratic red tape as possible to get the project launched. Our pro-bono attorney Jonathon Sowash worked with me on that process. We owe him a great deal of thanks for his role in helping us with a smooth start.

The Monday Creek Restoration Project formed in November of 1994 when a group of concerned citizens joined with Rural Action to create a partnership for a healthy watershed. Since then many dedicated people have worked for Monday Creek, bringing to life a dozen reclamation projects that have been successfully completed in the last decade.

The U.S. Forest Service’s National Rural Community Assistance awards are presented annually to individuals or organizations demonstrating high levels of commitment and innovation in helping local communities diversify their economies. Each recipient has to show a commitment to the concepts of effective partnership and natural resource stewardship.

Monday Creek Restoration Project was recognized for collaborative efforts with Forest Service and other organizations that make a difference on the land and communities. Winners are selected by Forest Service employees, state agencies and community organizations. Recipients represent the diverse community-based approaches and results achieved across rural America.

A Milestone for the MCRP Partnership

US Forest Service Spirit Award ceremony in the historic Haydenville Methodist Church, 1999. Left to right: Scott Miller, Dan Imhoff, Harry Payne, Jen Shimala Bowman, Mike Steinmaus, Mike Dombeck, Pam Stachler, Mitch Farley, Max Luehrs, Pat Dewees, Mary Ann Borch, Norah Pons Newberg, Marsha Wikle. (MCRP file photo)
Monday Creek Restoration Project Staff

1996-1998: Mary Ann Borch, Coordinator
1999-2002: Norah Pons Newberg, Assistant Coordinator
1999-2004: Mike Steinmaus, Coordinator
2001-2003: Sue Farley, Water Quality Technician
2001-2004: Rebecca Black, Water Quality Specialist

RAINA OOTEN
My fondest memories about my time as a VISTA with Monday Creek will always be about the children of the watershed. My time working with them has been so rewarding. Visiting the schools and helping the kids understand the problems that are endemic to Monday Creek makes me feel like I am making a real difference for the future. Seeing that spark in the eyes of a child who truly cares about their watershed makes all the work worth it.

TROY MELLOTT
When I began as a VISTA volunteer, I could not have explained to anyone just what MCRP stood for, as I was clueless to watershed restoration. Norah Newberg became my guardian angel. Norah...worked hard to make many friends and get the office set up initially in New Straitsville. I felt that Mike, Norah, and I made a good team, and I always looked forward to going into work. I particularly enjoyed doing the water sampling with Norah and will always equate the experience with pulling over to help about 25 tortoises across the road safely throughout the spring. I actually used that experience at a conference as an example of how we can set our minds to the long process of the healing that needs to take place to improve our watershed... “one tortoise at a time.”

What a great group of people. I feel very fortunate to have met and worked with the dedicated MCRP crew. As for what I see in the MCRP’s future, the staff will always be patient in moving forward with the overwhelming work that needs to be done, always be courteous to the local people most affected by decisions being made and, most importantly, have some fun doing it.

SARAH ENDRISS
Congratulations, Monday Creek Restoration Project on ten years of invaluable work! The reclamation work that you have done and will continue to do is an inspiration to anyone and everyone who cares about community, history and the natural landscape. The summer and semesters that I spent working with Mike, Norah, Ben, Corie and Mitch at MCRP during my graduate studies in landscape architecture was a wonderful learning experience. Your work is not always glamorous, nor is it sometimes even recognizable to those living adjacent to it, but for a young designer bent on transforming environmental liabilities into community assets, your work was and continues to be inspirational.

JOSHUA LONG
As an OSM Watershed Intern for the Monday Creek Restoration Project (MCRP) over the fall of 2003, I experienced firsthand the ongoing reclamation effort conducted in the Monday Creek Watershed. From the analysis of a previous survey of Monday Creek Watershed residents and a current survey I conducted I was able to see a distinct increase in the viewed importance of both certain Environmental Issues (water pollution from human sewage, litter, loss of wildlife habitat, etc.) and possible Environmental Solutions (more jobs, more health department inspections, abandoned mine reclamation, etc.). This increase shows the concern residents have about their watershed. I am proud to have been a small part of this progress.

ROMAN CHIU
The day I arrived in the area, I wandered around and found Mike Steinmaus at the Murray City Chautauqua. I remember it was a beautiful sunny summer evening driving through Buchtel up to Murray City through the curves and to the field. As I was driving up there I had no clue what I was getting into!

As an Intern, I found out that “down the road” meant 10 or 15 miles down the road or up the mountain (that was the hard way), “crick” was the little stream, and “sulfur crick” was the acid mine drainage. Even though my time in the region was only for a few months, I was able to experience a spectacular Fourth of July in Murray City with the Volunteer Fire Department, which I heard is the best fireworks show in the area and probably the county!

There were the senior center lunches putting together puzzles, hanging out at the Pantry and the Station in Murray City listening to all the stories they had to tell about the town. I watched the Murray City video and asked questions about the coal mining and railroad gear. “They really used canaries to tell if there was bad air in the mines?” And after a long day of working hard and hanging out, Junior would give me potatoes, lettuce, and candy bars, which got me by that summer in southeastern Ohio.

This experience led me to graduate school, where I am learning more about design and the environment. I constantly see that I am using what I learned that summer at Monday Creek in school and places I worked.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING (OSM) SUMMER INTERNS

2000: Sarah Endriss
2001: Roman Chiu
2002: Chris Alexander
2003: Josh Long
2004: Tim Clinton

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AmeriCorps*VISTA Volunteers
1994-1995: Mary Ann Borch
1995-1996: Chris Bogzevitz
1995-1996: Nancy Roberts Haines
1996: Melinda Knowlton
1996-1997: Scott Miller
1996-1998: Tracy Scott
1997-1998: Jerry Iles
1998-1999: Norah Pons Newberg
1999-2000: Troy Mellott
2000: Harriet Martin
2000-2001: Corie Thibault McCament
2001-2002: Shana Andrews
2002-2003: Matt Woods
2003-2004: Raina Ooten

JERRY ILES
My time as a VISTA volunteer at Monday Creek gave me the opportunity to get hands on experience in field sampling and project administration. It allowed me to pursue a career in watershed restoration.

One of my main duties was assisting with water sampling. I partnered with ODNR to push legislative aids towards putting into a House Bill a section that allows ODNR to give money directly to watershed groups for things other than construction costs. I also worked on the Rock Run reclamation project. The borrow area had to have the trees cleared from it. I arranged an agreement with Hocking College and Wayne National Forest to get the trees cleared in time to get the project done. This resulted in $8,000 in lumber fees for the MCRP, and that money is still used today!

In the next ten years, I hope to see aquatic life, especially fish, to return to ALL sections of Monday Creek.

SHANA ANDREWS
During my VISTA term, I never forgot the work of the past VISTAs. They worked so hard and did so much for Monday Creek that needed to be appreciated.

The most important thing about my experience at the Monday Creek Restoration Project was the people that I connected with. I met some wonderful people—from the senior citizens I had lunch with in Murray City, the gentleman at the ‘Liar’s Table’ in Karen’s Kitchen in New Straitsville, to the past VISTA volunteers and Interns I learned from.

Betty St. Clair, Ron Eaton and Hubert Dunkle were just a few of the great people in New Straitsville. Betty St. Clair was an amazing woman. She was a great supporter of what we did at the MCRP and was a true steward for New Straitsville.

Norah would take me out to do water sampling. I would sometimes get very frustrated fighting the weeds, bugs, and mud. I’ll also never forget Mike dressing up as Watershed Man for the kids!

The Monday Creek Restoration Project really is about the people in and around the watershed.

We worked for the benefit of the people. And you have to talk to people, connect with people, to get things done for a community.
TRACY SCOTT
I would first like to say happy anniversary to the MCRP partners. The partners have had many successes, small and large, over the ten years. I will never forget my experiences with the MCRP and Rural Action. I am pleased to have contributed if only in a small way by first serving a VISTA term, and then working as a private water quality contractor with the Wayne National Forest.

I enjoyed meeting with the watershed residents the most. They were very concerned about the water quality, although a little hesitant at first about the project. If you are reading this and are a watershed resident but not a member of MCRP I urge you to join or volunteer for an upcoming event.

NORAH PONS NEWBERG
I enjoyed the time I spent working at Monday Creek. I loved the woods, the field work and the wildness of the area. The people of New Straitsville befriended me and proved to be great allies. The people of the Little Cities of Black Diamonds welcomed me into their group as well. I really enjoyed working with all those fine people as well as SPICYAM. I met some very fine people through our affiliation with Rural Action. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work for the Project and hope someday to come back to see a cleaner, healthier watershed.

CORIE THIBAULT McCAMENT
One memory that I have from MCRP is about Norah Newberg. She told me that her legacy was getting the office for Monday Creek and asked me in a joking but serious way what my legacy would be. After working with the community on different projects like AMD and Art and other projects, I didn’t have anything concrete to show. However, when I first arrived as a VISTA I called up the local highway departments and had them put up Monday Creek signs at all of the state highway crossings. It’s silly that a small thing like that made me feel that my year of volunteering left a mark, so I told Norah that my legacy was the road signs.

Monday Creek left as its legacy to me the friendships that make me feel like a part of the community now, and that I fit in a place that I now call my home.

HARRIET MARTIN
I learned a lot in my 3 months as a VISTA at Monday Creek...a lot of water sampling techniques and the origin of some of the small communities in the watershed.

I had a good time! I think all the watershed groups in the state are very valuable. I hope that the MCRP gets more funding in the next ten years for projects and...can continue the next ten years.

BETSY GOSNELL, MCRP Volunteer
In all honesty, the quote that best sums up how I feel about the Monday Creek Restoration Project is not mine. It is a quote from Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

I see that quote reflected in the work that the Friends of Monday Creek and the MCRP has done in the watershed. Just look at the Rock Run site—that is indeed a testimony to what folks can do if they put their mind to it! I also think of that quote when I’m out cleaning trash from the side of the road. I could just look at the trash and say, “Why doesn’t somebody do something about that?” Well, I DO! It’s only one thing, but if everybody did one thing then the community, and eventually the world, would be a nicer, cleaner, better place to live! Good luck for the next ten years, Monday Creek!
Random Thoughts on the Monday Creek Restoration Project

by Scott Miller, ILGARD

I’ve always thought of the Monday Creek Restoration Project as a proving ground for new ideas and concepts. It allows us to test new and innovative solutions to issues such as increasing public involvement, improving water quality, and stretching the boundaries of cooperative, applied research.

To understand what I mean, you must first understand that this project is a partnership in every sense of the word. The agencies and institutions involved in the project share information, funding and ideas. The focus of the group is to do whatever it takes to get clean water. From the sidelines this is not always a pretty process. That’s because Monday Creek is always ahead of the pack in designing and implementing new ways of doing things, which can be a two-edged sword. Novelty and uniqueness comes at a cost: Get too far ahead of technology and your innovation is costly both in terms of time to design as well as the costs of creating new systems and working with new materials.

The largest example of just such a project is the Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study the group is in the process of wrapping up right now. The project is Ohio’s first ecosystem restoration project under the Corps’ section 206 program. The project will produce an extremely high quality plan for reducing sources of acid mine drainage, estimating the costs of treatment and coordinating efforts between more than ten different organizations.

It has taken more than seven years, countless meetings and field trips, and has cost more than $1.1 million. These are the costs of producing cutting edge technology: time, energy, and money.

However, these costs are counterbalanced by the innovation, experience, and efficiency and (ultimately) the on-the-ground results we’re beginning to see in this and similar watershed projects around the region. These successes build upon each other and build a library of success stories that speak volumes about the resolve of the people working and living in this region. Although we’ve been handed a tough social, economic and environmental problem, we’re not going to continue to live with dead streams and bad water.


There are many ways that you can give to the Monday Creek Restoration Project:

1. **Annual Membership Dues**
   Please see the membership form in this newsletter for prices.

2. **Donations**
   Donations throughout the year help us with monthly needs such as office supplies and rent payments. Our office rent was recently raised to allow renovations to take place, including a new ventilation system and new restroom facilities. Your donation will help ensure that the renovations become a reality!

3. **Challenge Grants**
   Make your dollars go even further for the Monday Creek Restoration Project. Set a challenge grant over a designated period of time. Match the contributions of others dollar for dollar.

4. **New in 2004: Planned Giving**
   Planned gifts are a way to achieve personal and financial goals while creating a legacy to promote your values and improve the lives of people in your community. Many planned gifts entitle the donor to significant capital gain and estate tax forgiveness as well as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes. A planned gift may be made during your lifetime or by bequest.

**Options for Planned Giving**
- Outright gifts of cash,
- Appreciated securities and real estate
- Will Bequests
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Life Insurance
- Retirement Plans
- Other planned options

**Planned gifts help ensure the future** of the Monday Creek Restoration Project and its critical support of the watershed’s urgent needs as they emerge year by year, for generations to come. You can extend your caring beyond your lifetime by providing a planned gift to the Monday Creek Restoration Project and Rural Action. Call Jane Forrest Redfern, 740-767-4938, about planned giving options.

**Remember: Your contribution is tax deductible.**
Support the staff and VISTA volunteers that keep Monday Creek a showcase for ecological restoration!

**To contact us or to make a donation:**
MCRP/Rural Action
P.O. Box 129, 115 West Main Street
New Straitsville, OH 43766
Phone: 740-394-2047
Fax: 740-394-2554
E-mail: mcrp@netpluscom.com

MCRP has received over $1300 in memberships and donations so far in 2004, and the year is not over yet!
Announcements/Events

MCRP WISH LIST

File cabinets
Office furniture, especially chairs
Laptop computer
Office PCs
Rubber boots and waders
Rubber gloves
Small refrigerator
Storage locker

Monday Creek Partners Meeting Minutes are now posted on the web!

Minutes for meetings from January 2004 to date are available at: www.mondaycreek.org

2004 Watershed Events

August through October: Build a Canoe in Buchtel. The canoe built in Shawnee last year was recently completed and painted and looks great! Anyone interested in helping us build our third community-built vessel is welcome. Contact the MCRP for building times and location details. Fun for all ages!

September 4: Southern Perry Trails Club hike on the Buckeye Trail

September 16: Friends of Monday Creek Meeting at MCRP office, 115 W. Main Street New Straitsville, potluck starts at 6:30pm, guest speaker TBA.

October 9: Southern Perry Trails Club bike tour of area churches

October 16: Annual Watershed Tour Meet at MCRP office. Time TBA. Come see the new limestone doser in Jobs Hollow!

November 3: Official MCRP 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Olde Dutch Restaurant, Rempel's Grove in Logan, Ohio. Dinner at 6 pm. This will be an evening of memories, good food and fun.

PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

OUR MISSION: The Monday Creek Restoration Project is a Partnership committed to improving the watershed health for the benefit of the community.

BENEFITS:
Newsletter, Watershed Tours, Float Trips, Volunteer Opportunities and, best of all, helping make the watershed beautiful again.

MEMBERSHIP:
MCRP’s coordinator provides support to the Monday Creek project as well as many other community endeavors, through community organizing, networking, and development efforts.

☐ $1000 Sustainer ☐ $60 Family ☐ $60 Nonprofit
☐ $500 Sponsor ☐ $40 Individual ☐ $100 Business
☐ $100 Supporting ☐ $15 Basic Grassroots

Yes, I want to be a Friend of Monday Creek!

Please specify: ☐ Donation to MCRP ☐ Membership ☐ Both

$__________ enclosed

Name ___________________________ Date __________

Organization __________________________________

Address ________________________________

City __________________________ State _____ Zip ________

Phone __________________________ FAX __________________________

E-mail ________________________________

Send your contribution or membership dues to:

MCRP
PO Box 129
New Straitsville, OH 43766

Questions? call 740-394-2047
Memories of Gore: Church and Furnace

by Raina Ooten and Lloyd Nixon

Lloyd Nixon is a citizen of Gore in Hocking County and has lived in the Monday Creek Watershed his entire life. He can recount incredible stories of what the area was like years ago. One account Lloyd told us was of a large stone building that was built by early pioneers in the watershed. The Old Stone Church, also known as St. Peter’s Church, was built in 1845 about 1 ½ miles northwest of Shawnee. It was a vital place for community gatherings and worship until 1880, when it was abandoned for another church that was built in Shawnee. There are no known photographs of this beautiful structure in its full glory when it was in use, but there was a sketch made of how the building most likely looked. The only known shots of the Old Stone Church are in its last stages of decay before it buckled to the force of time in 1911. Timothy Fagan, the builder of the famed structure, was buried behind the church, but no tombstone can be found to mark his resting spot today. In the 1960s, many stones from the ruins of the Old Stone Church were taken into Shawnee to create a shrine in the churchyard there, where the corner stone was prominently displayed. Today, one can only find remnants of the Old Stone Church where it once stood in Salt Lick Township of Perry County.

Lloyd also shared his memories of the iron furnaces that were once so prevalent in the watershed. These furnaces played a major role in cutting down the virgin forests that once covered the Monday Creek watershed. Resilient teams of horses hauled tools, supplies, and workers to the furnace sites many times a day. Lloyd remembers exploring the remains of an iron furnace in Gore at length. This particular one, known simply as the Gore Furnace, was built in 1876 and was among the largest of the Hocking Valley iron furnaces. Its remains are barely visible now. But if you ask Lloyd he just might let you in on this or another secret of the watershed that you can discover today.

We are looking for more anecdotes from the watershed past. If you would like to share a tale with us, please call 740-394-2047 or stop by our office.