



# UP THE CREEK

## THE MONDAY CREEK NEWSLETTER

Monday Creek Restoration Project Volume 11 • Number 1 • Summer 2005



*Tree planting on a Sunday Creek Coal Company reclamation site on April 24, 2004. Pictured are Boy Scouts from Troop 60 (Nelsonville), youth from New Straitsville, and Betsy Gosnell. Photo by Raina Ooten, 2004.*

## Volunteering with Monday Creek *by Betsy Gosnell*

Five years ago my husband and I moved to Southeast Ohio from Greater Cleveland so he could attend school at Hocking College. We settled into the small town of Murray City and the first thing we noticed was the run-down train depot across from our house. The second thing we noticed was the orange creek running next to the depot.

The following spring, I saw a sign in the Post Office for volunteers for an archaeological dig in the park across from our house for some project called

“AMD and Art”. I didn’t know what that was, but it sounded like fun and being new, I wanted to get involved. That was my first volunteer experience with Monday Creek and from that moment on I was hooked!

I learned why the water was orange and that AMD stood for acid mine drainage, and that is what caused the water discoloration and prevented any thing from living in it.

I wanted to learn more about watersheds and the damage caused by coal

mining, so I began attending meetings: public meetings, where I met Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Interns and Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA); town council meetings where I met the Mayor, Volunteer Fire Department Chief, and staff from Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Wayne National Forest and Environmental Protection Agency. I learned about Monday Creek and what was being done to clean up the water and what still needed to be done. I learned about seeps, subsidences and gob piles; I learned about limestone channels, watershed management and dosers.

I went on trash clean-ups, canoe floats, birding hikes and watershed

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**Editors:** Tim Braun, Mike Steinmaus

**Page Design & type:** Mary Lautzenheiser

**Photos:** Tim Braun, Raina Ooten, Richard Pfeiffer, Mike Steinmaus

**Contributors:**

Andrew Bashaw  
Betsy Gosnell  
Mark Kessinger  
Mary Lautzenheiser  
Raina Ooten  
Phil Sammons  
Mike Steinmaus



**The Monday Creek Restoration Project** is a collaborative venture dedicated to reclaiming the Monday Creek watershed. For more information contact:  
MCRP, PO Box 129, New Straitsville, OH 43766  
Phone: 740-394-2047  
Rural Action, PO Box 157, Trimble, OH 45782  
Phone: 740-767-4938  
MCRP website: [www.mondaycreek.org](http://www.mondaycreek.org)  
Listserv: [Monday-creek@ilgard.ohiou.edu](mailto:Monday-creek@ilgard.ohiou.edu)  
Email: [mcrp@netpluscom.com](mailto:mcrp@netpluscom.com).

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*Mike Steinmaus and canoe at Burr oak Reservoir. Photo by Raina Ooten, 2004*

### From the Coordinator's Desk

*by Mike Steinmaus, Monday Creek Watershed Coordinator*

As I write the commentary, I'm on vacation visiting in my home state of Iowa. In reflecting on the newsletter theme of volunteering, I thought about how the concept of volunteering time and talents has been a part of my life and the lives of those around me as I grew up. I remember my Dad volunteering as the Assistant Cub Scoutmaster (although I know he wanted to be involved with camping and hiking with older boys). I think of the delicious pies my Mom baked and the food she served at church bazaars (even though she had been on her feet in the grocery store all week). I think of my uncle and fellow farmers who would leave their own crops to harvest the grain of a neighbor who was hospitalized. I learned from these examples that the value of our lives is not based on what we make in salaries, our prestigious titles or our material possessions but rather from what we give for the well being of our community.

I remember coming home for lunch on a cold January day while attending grade school. My Mom had the TV turned on and a new, young President named Kennedy was saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." A simple idea that many who heard it took to heart—the concept of volunteering.

This newsletter tells the stories of some of the many volunteers who have enhanced Monday Creek Restoration Project. These volunteers have come from various backgrounds, including scientists, biologists, teachers, students and homemakers. In their own way, each has made a difference — some have changed the water quality of the creek, making it possible for aquatic life to return; some have changed the lives of young people, who have experienced the interconnected web of life; others have changed communities, building an understanding that in working together we can build a better world.

My thanks to all volunteers!

*Mike*

## VOLUNTEERING

*Continued from page 1*

tours. I met a lot of people and made new friends. And the best part of all was we all believed in the same thing: that the water needed to be cleaned up so life could return to Monday Creek. I think Margaret Mead said it best: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Through my interactions with Monday Creek, I learned about a partner group called Rural Action and became a VISTA volunteer with them. I first worked in welfare to work, helping low-income folks gain skills for employment. I then became a VISTA Leader and acted as a liaison between the staff and VISTAs. I worked with Rural Action's other programs too: Earth Day with the Environmental Learning Program; Landowner's Conference with the Forestry Program; an herb harvest at the National Center for the Preservation of Medicinal Herbs and planned the Earth Ball and Annual Dinner. I took the minutes at numerous meetings and coordinated the welfare to work staff in all office needs. I attended volunteer events and county fairs, local festivals and career days at local schools to recruit and educate about VISTA service and to talk about the work Rural Action and its programs were doing.

Throughout it all, I continued to be actively involved with the Friends of Monday Creek- going to meetings, cleaning up trash with the Boy Scouts and getting our public group to adopt a stretch of the Buckeye Trail which passes through our watershed.

Having these opportunities helped me to feel more a part of the community, not just the community where I lived or worked, but the watershed community as a whole. Driving by the creek these days, I take pride in knowing that I am one of the many who are helping make the dream of cleaning up Monday Creek into a reality.

## Partnerships help plant red oaks in reclamation project

*By Phil Sammon  
Wayne National Forest*

The Monday Creek Restoration Project and Wayne National Forest staff put the finishing touches on a long-standing partnership project April 24, by planting more than 1,200 trees in Jobs Hollow near McCuneville, Ohio, on the northern edge of the Forest.

The Wayne's Watershed Team won a Regional Foresters award for the watershed partnership project in 2004.

The planting started off as a Centennial Challenge Project Fund proposal just two months ago to plant a Centennial Forest with the Monday Creek Restoration Project and school students. But when fund money went to other projects, the Monday Creek group stepped forward to handle the whole project and coordinate the volunteers to complete the tree planting.

Mitch Farley from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources worked with Gary Willison, Wayne National Forest's Watershed Group team leader and MCRP's Mike Steinmaus to get the trees. Tim Braun, MCRP VISTA

Volunteer, organized volunteers from Perry County high schools and the watershed group to work with Forest Service personnel in the effort.

More than two dozen people came together during the cloudy mid-morning, dibble bars in hand, to accomplish the plantings across three to four acres on two different sites. Working in teams and individually, Forest Service personnel and the MCRP volunteers set out to plant a borrow area and a gob pile as part of an abandoned mine lands project. The borrow area had previously been cleared of vegetation, and the topsoil had been used to reclaim parts of the abandoned mine area. The workers planted the seedlings, mostly red oak with some white pine, in about 3 hours, moving quickly across the landscape to beat the approaching rains.

The MCRP and the Forest's Watershed Team have plans to plant other project areas in the future during seasonally appropriate times as part of their overall partnership plan.



*Volunteer paints blaze during a Buckeye Trail maintenance day.  
Photo by Richard Pfeiffer, 2005.*

# New Straitsville Community Forest Project

By Andrew Bashaw, Former AmeriCorps\*VISTA Leader

After months of planning, the Village of New Straitsville gained a walking trail and nearly 75 new trees in the downtown green space this past spring. The New Straitsville Improvement Committee and Village Council, along with many community volunteers, partnered with Rural Action Sustainable Forestry and an AmeriCorps\*NCCC team in the latest effort to beautify the village's community space.

Several meetings were held in advance to educate people in the Little Cities of Black Diamonds micro-region about the care and planting of trees, volunteer management, and the purpose of the National Tree Trust Roots Grant, which helped to buy the trees and equipment along with a sizeable donation by the community of New Straitsville. Hocking Valley Concrete and Five Springs Farm also provided significant discounts for materials and trees. Rural Action Sustainable Forestry hosted the NCCC team to complete a variety of tasks, including community green space projects in Corning and Shawnee.

The trail now stretches from historic Robinson's Cave to State Route 595, meandering along a stream and through the playground area on the bed of the old railroad. Trees were planted with an emphasis on native varieties, spring flowers and fall colors. On April 9th, an overwhelming turnout of volunteers enabled us to plant all of the trees and finish up the trail. Volunteers represented the community of New Straitsville, Monday Creek Restoration Project, the Rural Action AmeriCorps\*VISTA program, Rural Action Staff and AmeriCorps\*NCCC, and included many local teens.

Looking back on the work completed in April, nearly all of the trees have survived (despite a poor site for planting) due to the care of volunteers, and the quarter-mile trail remains



*New Straitsville gained a walking trail and new trees in its downtown green space.*

*Left: Paul Nutter and Andrew Bashaw plant trees.*

*Below: Volunteers finish the walking trail.*

*Photos by Tim Braun, 2005*



weed-free. This project's success is in large part due to the helpfulness of local volunteers, including Ron Eaton, Paul Nutter, Bill Lanning and Don McGathey (to name a few), who showed up with tools and time to lend a hand and continue improving the village. Bill Lanning actually brought more than tools. He works with youth throughout Perry County and brought about a dozen helpers with him who helped spread gravel for the trail and worked to make the area around the playground look nice. Monday Creek Restoration Project would like to thank Bill, his volunteers, and all of the community members for their help on this project and many others throughout the year.

*Our May stream cleanup was a success. We removed three tires, a bike, bedsprings and about 20 bags of trash from the stream.*

*Photo by Tim Braun, 2005*



## Former VISTA says Thanks

By Raina Ooten, Watershed Coordinator, Leading Creek

*"If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in the water."—Loren Eiseley*

Water has always fascinated me, as it does so many. In my childhood, I would often play for hours by a stream watching and listening to the babbling life. When I discovered that so much of the planet's water was polluted from human activity, I was appalled and determined to do something about it. During college, I learned of the watershed-based approach to restoration and protection of water resources and searched for a way to join in. Finally, the opportunity presented itself in the form of a summer internship with the Raccoon Creek Watershed, where I was familiarized with water sampling methods and acid mine drainage remediation techniques.

That taste of the field increased my passion for the work, so I became an AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteer with MCRP. From November 2003 to November 2004 I lived and worked in the Monday Creek Watershed in a position that let me work in all aspects of watershed management. The outreach and education program gave me the chance

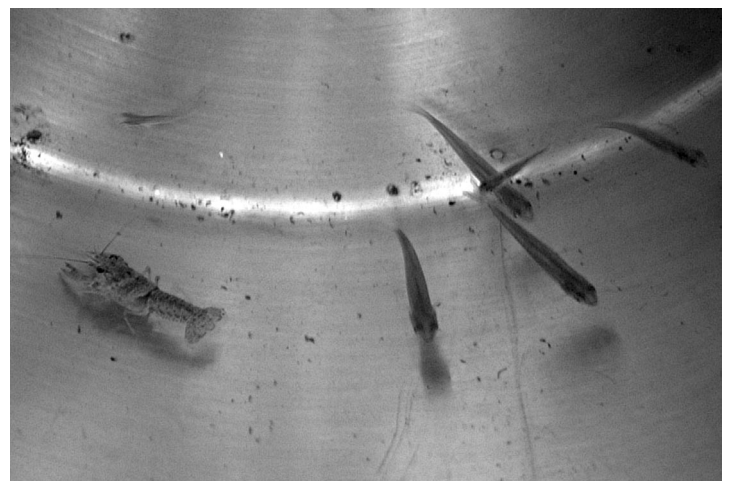
to work with the children of the area during tree plantings and litter clean ups. I also planned and conducted public meetings to involve and inform citizens, and I conducted monitoring and reconnaissance at current and past reclamation projects.

My time with Monday Creek Restoration Project gave me the confidence and skills to move forward. Recently, I was fortunate to become the Watershed Coordinator for nearby Leading Creek. Since joining the team in Pomeroy, I've been busy planning some of our first water quality projects to reduce sediment and acid mine drainage.

My thanks go out to the great people at the Monday Creek and Raccoon Creek watershed groups. Their guidance and expertise helped me go on to a career that I enjoy where I can

*Above: Raina Ooten. Canoeing at Burr Oak Reservoir. Photo by Mike Steinmaus, 2004.*

make positive changes in my surroundings. To the residents of the Monday Creek Watershed, I also say thank you. Everyone was so supportive and kind to me for that year when I was the newcomer in town. New Straitsville will always inspire a feeling of nostalgia in me.



*Note from Tim Braun, AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteer at MCRP: "Here is a picture of minnows and a crayfish that we caught in Monday Creek near Oreville. We also found minnows near Rock Run on Monday Creek—an area where we had not seen minnows previously." Photo by Tim Braun, 2005.*

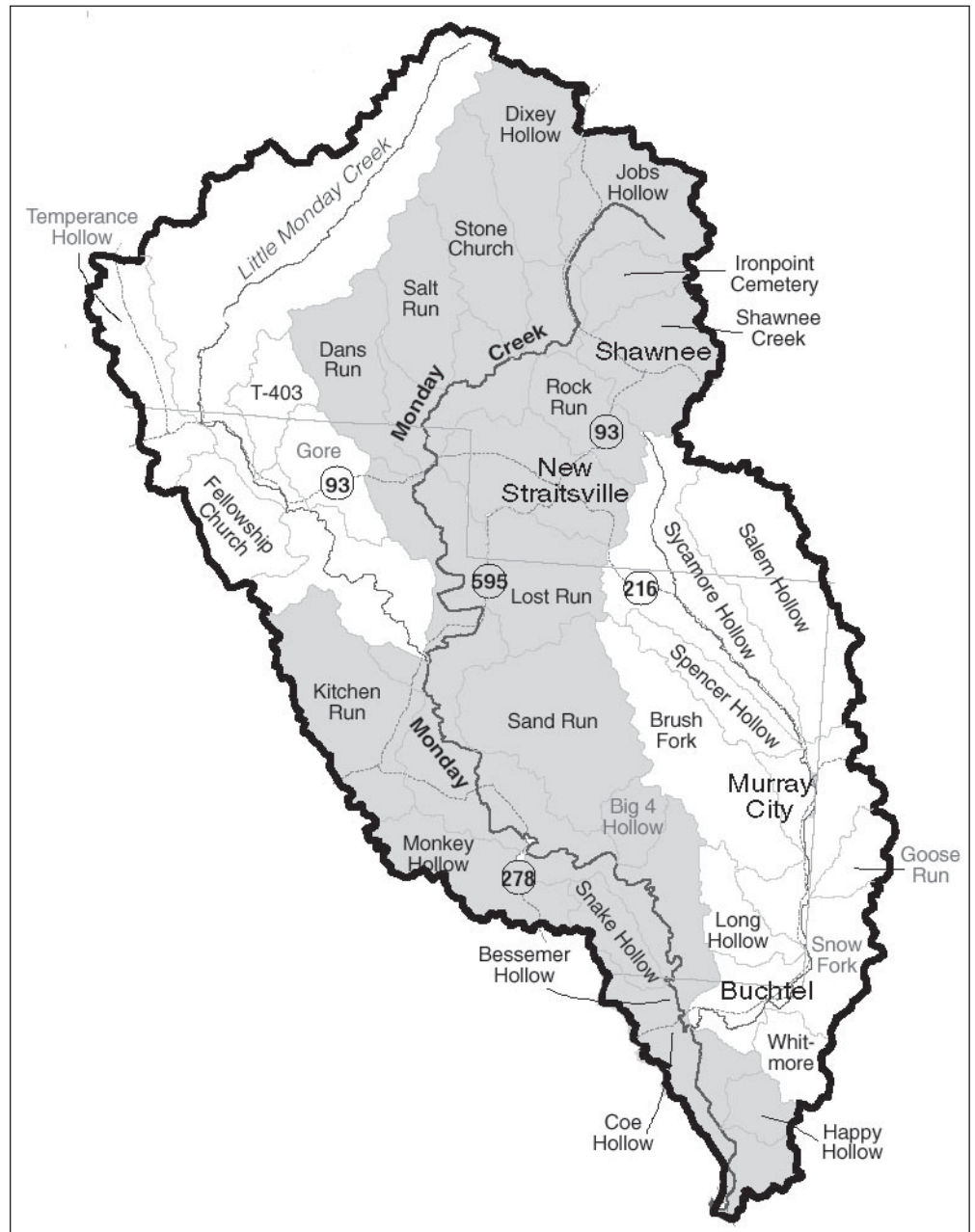
# Feasibility Report goes through public review

by Mark Kessinger, Project Manager  
Army Corps of Engineers,  
Huntington, West Virginia

On May 2, 2005, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the draft Feasibility Report and draft Environmental Assessment of the project in the Monday Creek Watershed for public review. For those wishing to review them, the documents could be downloaded from the Huntington District's website and copies were placed in the New Straitsville Public Library, the Logan-Hocking County District Library and the Nelsonville Public Library. The comment period for both documents ended in early June. Comments received during the review period will be incorporated into the final Feasibility Report and final Environmental Assessment.

The Huntington District will then forward both documents to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Office in Cincinnati and Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C. for review and approval. Typically, it takes 2-3 months to gain approval. Following Division and Headquarters approval, the documents will be sent to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at the Pentagon for that office's approval. From there it goes to the Office of Management and Budget and finally on to Congress for authorization of construction.

I'm explaining all of this because even though the report is complete, it takes about a year, and in some cases longer, to reach the House and Senate to be enacted into law. It would be nice if we could move right to construction, but that's not how things work. Even after construction is authorized, another appropriations bill must be passed designating federal funds for the project. The nation's 2006 budget has been developed and work is currently underway on the 2007 budget.



There's a slim chance that funding for Monday Creek construction could get into the 2007 budget, but most likely, the earliest we might see federal funding for the project is 2008. And that's just Uncle Sam's part, which pays 65% of the cost for construction. The other 35% is the responsibility of the State of Ohio. In the case of Monday Creek, the non-federal sponsor for the project is the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

I'm fully confident that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project in the Monday Creek Watershed will be built. The question is when. In today's climate of constrained budgets at both federal and state levels, projects may not get built as fast as we would like them to. So all of us will need to keep our eyes on the future and our minds on the end result — a cleaner, greener Monday Creek Watershed.

## 2005 Upcoming Watershed Events

Monday Creek Partners' Meetings are held on alternate months. Dates: September 8 and November 10. Details TBA; meeting minutes are posted at [www.mondaycreek.org](http://www.mondaycreek.org).

Friends of Monday Creek Meetings at MCRP office, 115 W. Main Street New Straitsville, potluck starts at 6:30 pm, guest speaker. Friends meetings are: August 11 and October 13.

August 16-17-18: Monday Creek Watershed Daycamp for kids 9-13

September 17: Buckeye Trail Hike

October 15: Annual Monday Creek Watershed Tour

October 22: Stream cleanup.

Details: visit [www.mondaycreek.org](http://www.mondaycreek.org) or call MCRP at 740-394-2047.

## LOOKING BACK Continued from page 8

pipe clenched in his teeth and a tin of Five Brothers Tobacco close at hand.

The Kings kept their house in Dundee while mining in the Monday Creek watershed: Kathryn spent a year in New Lexington, summers in Nelsonville, and went to Carbon Hill to high school, but was fondest of their house in Sand Run. Friends and family were constant visitors, but at first she wondered how anyone would find their place in the hills. A photo of the puffing steam shovel in Sand Run shows Frank King and (probably) Uncle Frank Walter, Kathryn and three young friends in its cab.

Eventually Frank King realized they could not produce and sell enough coal from the Sand Run mine. He brought the shovel north where several other relatives operated mines. In 1932 the B-2 was put to



Above: Viola Walter King with 5-year-old Kathryn at a coal tipple near Dundee, circa 1920.

work mining coal on a farm belonging to Ed Machan near Dundee, which produced enough coal to pay off the burdensome equipment debt.

Several years ago Kathryn and one of her daughters drove back to see the old home in Sand Run, but they weren't able to find it, she says: the road is gone.

## 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.

- |   |  |   |
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# Looking Back

## Family Ties

by Mary Lautzenheiser

Kathryn King Gardner Weber and my father, Herman Lautzenheiser, are first cousins. Both grew up in Dundee, a Tuscarawas County community along Ohio Rt 93 when mining (for coal or clay) and farming were the two main ways to make a living.

John and Martha (Walter) Lautzenheiser had a farm north of Dundee; my dad remembers flash floods in the creek and a large sow teaching her piglets to swim across to a safe pasture. In places, the streambed was stained turquoise from mining debris. When the Beach City Dam was built in the 30s, their place was in its path and they moved to a farm in Wayne County.

Frank and Viola (Walter) King took up housekeeping in the village of Dundee after their marriage. Frank King worked at the Wayne Coal Company on a coal shovel (he oiled the equipment) until the mine folded in the 1920s. He followed the steam shovels south to New Lexington, Nelsonville, Sand Run, and Carbon Hill. In 1928, he and a partner bought a Bucyrus Erie

steam shovel (a model B-2) and established a mine at Sand Run.

The worsening economic climate soon forced his partner to sell out to Uncle Frank (\$5,000 was an overwhelming burden at the time). His brother-in-law, Frank Walter, joined him to operate the shovel. My dad remembers the two uncle Franks' skill with heavy equipment: they moved the dragline with precision and delicacy, he says, and Uncle Frank King always had his

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*Top: Bucyrus Erie B2 steam shovel on location in Sand Run. Below: The Kings' house in Sand Run. Family photos courtesy of Kathryn King Gardner Weber.*

## Monday Creek Restoration Project

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