



UP THE CREEK

THE MONDAY CREEK NEWSLETTER

Monday Creek Restoration Project

Volume 12 • Number 1 • Summer/Fall 2006

Summer camp revisited

by Matt Miller, AmeriCorps*VISTA, Monday Creek

This July, Monday Creek partnered with Rural Action's Environmental Learning Program to host its second annual round of watershed day camps. The two three-day long camps took place July 18-20 in New Straitsville, and July 25-27 in the Murray City Park. In all, over 24 kids aged 6-13 from Perry and Hocking Counties took part in fun and educational activities that gave them a deeper appreciation of their region's water resources and stream ecosystems.

Last year was the first time for MCRP to host a camp for the youth of the Monday Creek Watershed. The success of that first camp prompted MCRP to hold two day camps this summer to reach out to more communities within the watershed and engage more kids in watershed education.

The New Straitsville camp retained the format of last year's day camp, with the kids attending from 9am to 4pm and taking field trips to sites around the watershed area throughout southern Perry County. These trips included an investigation of a 'bad' stream near McCuneville where MCRP operates one of its lime dosing machines. The kids learned about AMD and its root causes, and saw the effects of AMD on aquatic organisms living in an impacted stream. As a contrast to this



Photo credits:
Lower left, James Massey; upper left and upper right, Matt Miller; lower right, Matt Miller (courtesy of Rachel Cook)

Top: Rina Caldwell and day camp participants study the aquatic insect larvae they have discovered. Above: Leaders and kids display the tie dye shirts they created, using iron oxide pigments made from AMD.

Left: ELP Interim Director Rina Caldwell teaches kids how AMD is formed. Upper left: New Straitsville camp participants Weston Johnson and Zanyle Hedges inspect the crawdads they caught.

experience, the kids were also taken to Little Monday Creek at Maxville, where aquatic life including fish and macroinvertebrates — crawdads, insect larvae, worms, etc. — are abundant. At this same site, the kids were treated to an official demonstration of fish electroshocking by Ohio EPA Surface Water specialist Kelly Capuzzi. This technique of using electric fields to lure and stun fish gave the kids a chance to see the diversity and abundance of fish

in a stream free of AMD.

The camp in Murray City was held the following week at the park shelterhouse, but in this camp the kids were free to drop in and leave as they wished, and the activities were confined to the park. MCRP partnered with the free lunch program in Murray City, headed by volunteer Teena Stambaugh, to bring the camp activities to the kids directly. In addition, we had volunteer
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Partners

Athens, Hocking, and Perry Soil & Water Conservation Districts
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Ohio University - The Institute of Local Government Administration and Rural Development (ILGARD)
Rural Action, Inc.
US Army Corps of Engineers
US EPA
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
US Office 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*



It's a good idea that I take the time to write this article in each of the newsletters. I often get into a pattern of work that involves meeting urgent needs of the watershed partnering organizations, answering email messages and phone calls, and giving guidance and encouragement to other watershed coordinators. In taking the time to reflect on the overall accomplishments that have taken place in the watershed during the past six months, I'm able to gain a perspective on the scope of our achievements.

In viewing our restoration of water quality, our greatest achievement was the startup in March of a doser in Sycamore Hollow at Essex Mine (approximately two miles southeast of New Straitsville). Although we experienced technical "bugs" that needed to be worked out, we now have the system running 24 hours a day and maintaining a pH of 6.5 all the way to Murray City (a distance of 4.5 miles!).

This past spring, we applied for and received partial funding for the watershed coordinator position for the next three years. We requested matching support from all three counties within our watershed and received support from the Athens County Commissioners. We are hopeful that Hocking and Perry Counties can assist with funding support in the future.

We also applied for a project implementation grant to place a steel slag leach bed in the vicinity of the Shawnee Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project will require funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with matching funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and support / approval from the Village of Shawnee. This project has been given preliminary approval by the Ohio EPA and is awaiting approval from the U.S. EPA.

In training, the staff at MCRP has received watershed fundraising training to help us focus on funding for salaries and operating needs. I also participated in River Network's River Rally in New Hampshire, where I attended workshops on applied hydrology, successful use of the media, and fundraising techniques.

This summer, we held two excellent Watershed Day Camps for local youth. One camp was held in New Straitsville, with children learning about the value of water and experiencing the thrill of finding aquatic creatures in the creek. A second camp was held in Murray City, with a similar three-day program.

The restoration of Monday Creek is the result of a wide network of support (from state and federal agencies to newsletter readers who value our efforts). In viewing the progress being made, I see my work as watershed coordinator as only a part of the solution. The day-to-day efforts by Rebecca Black (Assistant Watershed Coordinator) and Matt Miller (Education/Outreach VISTA) to maintain our operations and expand our programs make Monday Creek Restoration Project a gem in Ohio's watershed management.

Mike

*SUMMER CAMP REVISITED**Continued from page 1*

presence from several parents and grandparents, and from Pastor Tim Poling of the Murray City Wesleyan Church. The camp was filled with educational games and presentations, including art projects and a 'watershed puppet show.' An array of macroinvertebrates was collected and brought to the park for the kids to experience, and Kelly Capuzzi joined us again, this time bringing fish from a stream near Logan. To cap the day camp experience, the kids tie dyed t-shirts with iron oxide pigment derived from AMD, resulting in dramatically patterned red shirts. Despite this camp's limitations, up to 15 kids a day participated in the activities. We are confident that next year, with the help and endorsement of our friends in Murray City, we will be able to hold an equally successful, all-day camp complete with field trips.

The Environmental Learning Program, or ELP, first partnered with Sunday Creek Watershed Group to put on watershed-focused camps in 2001. Said Rina Caldwell, interim director of the ELP, "The day camps provide youth with safe and exciting outlets to discover their watershed while creating friendships with each other as well as the plants and animals that live in those watersheds. Through hands-on activities and explorations, youth develop a critical understanding of the issues facing our watersheds and how they can make a positive difference."

A special thank you to Teena Stambaugh, Kelly Capuzzi, and Pastor Timothy Poling for making the day camps such a positive experience for the kids. Also, thank you to Rural Action VISTA Tanner Filyaw and to Rural Action Summer VISTAs Rachel Cook, Rachel Byers, Julie Gillem and James Massey for their invaluable help and enthusiasm.

Lost Run construction news

Since July 3 of this year, construction has been proceeding on the Lost Run reclamation project. This is MCRP's fifth and latest 319 Grant project, with total funding of \$1,058,945. A majority of this is Federal funding. The remainder, \$430,075, is match money and in-kind services provided by Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The Lost Run drainage area is only 1919 acres, or 3 square miles of the 116 square mile Monday Creek watershed, yet contributes 9 percent of the total AMD problem.

At time of publication, three limestone leachbeds and approximately 2800 feet of open limestone channel have been completed and are beginning to operate. Their purpose is to add alkalinity to water flowing into the Lost Run tributary of Monday Creek. This water consists of both normal runoff and AMD from seeps and highwall benches. The construction sites are just off State Route 595, on the west side of the Lost Run subwatershed. Future construction will take place farther up Lost Run, and will continue into 2007.

The construction and earthmoving are being done by Tuscon Inc. of New Philadelphia, with project oversight from ODNR.



A crew from Tucson, Inc. places limestone rock into the impervious liner of a leachbed. Water flowing through the leachbed picks up alkalinity as it dissolves the limestone. Photo by Rebecca Black

Owen (Ray) Palmerton, Construction Project Specialist for ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management, looks up one of several open limestone channels that have been installed at Lost Run.

Photo by Matt Miller



The Land Trust movement in Ohio

By Steve Goodwin, Program Consultant,
Appalachia Ohio Alliance

Today Ohio has over 40 active land trust organizations working to conserve land throughout Ohio. Nationally there are over 1600 such organizations working to conserve our landscape. A land trust is a private non-profit organization run by volunteers who possess a great passion for land conservation. Land trusts may have a regional focus such as the Hocking Hills Land Trust that is dedicated to conserving a geographic area such as the scenic Hocking Hills or may focus on a stream corridor such as the Hocking River Commission dedicated to preserving the Hocking River. Other land trusts may focus on preserving specific habitats such as wetlands or unique natural areas for example.

Land trusts encourage voluntary land preservation through conservation easements or outright purchase. They help protect important lands by either seeking donations of lands or conservation easements that are worthy of preservation or may raise funds to purchase important sites. They may also partner with public agencies to preserve these areas. The federal government encourages private land conservation by offering income tax incentives to those who donate land or easements for conservation purposes.

Land trusts are run by a board of directors who serve without pay. They set the goals and determine the areas of focus for lands to be protected. Most members have a deep passion and commitment for they work they do. Land trust boards of directors also play an important role in overseeing the properties that they have conserved. Under guidelines established by the Internal Revenue Service for charitable conservation organizations, land trusts must abide by strict guidelines for the way lands are protected, how land values are applied. They must also insure that there are adequate funds to protect the

lands they have conserved.

Land trusts must also follow a set of guidelines established by the Land Trust Alliance, a national support organization for land trusts. These guidelines known as Standards and Practices provide the operating principals for which all accredited land trusts must abide by. They include business practices such as record keeping, fund raising, long-term funding and enforcement of easements.

Conservation easements have become an increasingly important tool for land conservation helping families protect thousands of acres of open space while retaining ownership of the land. Since the late 1980's the importance of conservation easements has grown. The scarcity of dollars to purchase land and federal income tax incentives associated with conservation easement donations has made the conservation easement a very attractive alternative to outright purchase of land. The Land Trust Alliance states that in 1988 land trusts preserved slightly over 290,000 acres though conservation easement. By 2003, this had grown to over 5,000,000 acres preserved by conservation easement.

When you own property you have many rights associated with ownership. You may donate or sell these rights. If you donate or sell a conservation easement, you continue to own the property. You retain the right to sell it or pass it along to your heirs. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust—a private non-profit corporation, or a governmental agency. The conservation easement limits a property's uses to protect its conservation values. The easement is a written agreement and is recorded in the same way as any other real estate transaction in the county where the property is located. A conservation easement is an enforceable binding contract.

Historic buildings can also be protected through conservation easements, as with this old barn on Doug Albaugh's land.



Riparian woods, like this stand of trees on the Luke Chute property, are increasingly scarce along the Muskingum River.



Photos courtesy of Friends of the Lower Muskingum River

Such conservation easements limit or restrict the development rights for preservation or conservation of open space, natural area protection, and agriculture or forest management. The land remains on the local property tax roles. The owner still enjoys the right to continue to use the land but within the restrictions of the conservation easement. If the property is sold the easement passes on to the next owner. The new owner must abide by the same easement terms as the original owner, thus providing continuity of the desired protections.

Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship of Appalachia Ohio and the cultural heritage of its people.

AOA promotes the conservation of

A personal experience with a land trust

by Doug Albaugh

Five miles down the Muskingum River from Stockport, on Route 266, is a thirty-acre piece of property just below Luke Chute dam. I think it's a very special place. I'm biased, no doubt, because it's my home, but I think you might agree that this land has some features that set it apart. I have a beautiful view of the river and dam. The property includes an island in the river, and has a fascinating history as a former Boy Scout camp. There are fields on three levels—floodplain and two higher benches, separated by wooded hillsides, and there is a great variety of trees, wildflowers, birds, and other wildlife.

In the twelve years since I moved back here, to the place where I grew up, I've given a lot of thought to my responsibility as a landowner, and what will happen to this land after I'm gone. Everywhere I've lived, I've seen the continual conversion of once-rural land into residential lots and businesses. When I was a kid, there were long stretches of undeveloped river frontage along the Muskingum. Now there is not much river frontage left in anything approaching its natural condition.

It troubled me to think that my property might someday be carved up and sold as lots, or commercially developed. A wonderful place like this should be preserved intact for future generations to enjoy. I have no son or daughter to whom to leave the property, but even if I had, I would have had the same troubling concerns. The younger generations often don't, or can't, follow the wishes of the older generation.

I found a solution in something called a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a legal document in which the landowner says what can and cannot be done with his property. As legal documents go, it's quite simple. The easement names an IRS-approved conservation organization, often called

a "land trust," that will be responsible for monitoring the property and making sure the provisions of the easement are followed. This document, filed with the county recorder, is permanent. It follows the property when ownership changes, and cannot be revoked. The landowner who creates the easement is called the "donor" because he gives the responsibility for the easement to a conservation organization - but the land remains his to use and dispose of as he likes, subject to the restrictions stated in the easement.

In my easement, the main provisions are that the property cannot be divided or commercially developed. I've included various other provisions to suite my personal preferences - for example, clear-cutting of forest is prohibited, but cutting firewood is permitted. I've donated the easement to the Friends of Lower Muskingum River, an IRS-approved land trust organization. The place is still my private property, just like before, to use as I like - except that I and all future owners must obey the restrictions in the easement.

My conservation easement gives me considerable peace of mind. Choice pieces of undeveloped real estate, especially along scenic rivers, are becoming rare. Some of those yet remaining should be protected from the insatiable appetite of "progress" and saved for protection of the riparian environment and for the enjoyment of future generations.

Another possible incentive for placing a conservation easement on your property is tax benefits. I've chosen not to pursue this myself, but with sufficient documentation, and with careful attention to all federal and state tax laws, the value of the

Continued on page 6



natural areas and open spaces in the 29 counties it serves in southeast Ohio. The Hocking Hills Land Trust, a Division of AOA, uses the conservation easement as its primary method of conserving land. AOA is currently working with several landowners concerned about forest management, agricultural land preservation and the preservation of open space, and has many more landowners who have expressed interest in conservation easements. AOA currently has 18 completed conservation easements, in nine counties, preserving over 2100 acres in southeast Ohio. If you are interested in preserving your land please contact:

Appalachia Ohio Alliance
P.O. Box 1151 Logan, Ohio 43138
Website: www.hockinghillslandtrust.org

Watershed tour

On October 14th, MCRP will be hosting its annual Watershed Tour, with a complimentary lunch. We will be focusing on work that MCRP and its partners have done over the past year to reduce the impact of Acid Mine Drainage. The tour will include visits to recent reclamation projects, including the lime doser at Essex Mine, the ongoing construction work in Lost Run Hollow, and Forest Service projects in New Straitsville. One highlight will be a visit to a huge and dramatic subsidence hole, where water from a stream plunges down into an abandoned mine. Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of the past year, and the promising future and natural beauty of the Monday Creek Watershed.

Time: Tour group departs at 10 am, returns around 2 pm.

Location: MCRP office,

115 W Main St. in New Straitsville.

Directions: From Athens, take US 33 to Nelsonville, S.R. 78 to Murray City, then S.R. 216 to New Straitsville. From Logan, take S.R. 93 North to New Straitsville.

Please RSVP by October 10th so we can make arrangements for lunch and transportation.

LAND TRUST

Continued from page 5

easement is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Land trusts and the use of conservation easements are the fastest growing arm of the conservation movement today. If you are interested in this important conservation and estate-planning tool, Friends of Lower Muskingum River can answer questions and suggest some good sources of information.

Friends of the Lower Muskingum River, a land trust and watershed group, is located in Marietta and can be reached at (740) 373-3372 or flmr@charterinter.com

Federal Funding update

The Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) Feasibility Report, completed in 2005, puts a price tag of approximately \$20 million on the reclamation projects needed for Monday Creek to meet Ohio's Warm Water Habitat standards. The Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 2006 contains an authorization for this project funding, and was recently passed by a voice vote in the Senate. The House of Representatives passed WRDA overwhelmingly last year. Both houses must now reconcile their respective versions in conference committee before a final vote can take place.

Passage of the WRDA conference report appears likely before Congress adjourns at the end of September. However, even if it does pass, one major obstacle remains: Monday Creek project funding was not included in the President's budget for 2007. According to the ACOE's Huntington District website, the White House Office of Management and Budget "believes [that] addressing acid mine drainage is not a Corps mission..." Because of this, the Monday Creek project will not receive funding unless it appears as a Congressional earmark to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill at a later date.

The future of projects prescribed by the Feasibility Report is still tenuous. Please voice your thoughts on this issue to your US Senators and Representatives, and encourage them to support passage of WRDA and funding projects in the Monday Creek Watershed.

The full text of WRDA (H.R. 2864) can be viewed on the Library of Congress website, <http://thomas.loc.gov>

Information on the Corps' involvement with the Monday Creek Watershed can be found at <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/current/mondaycreek>

2006/2007 Watershed Events

A Plant Rescue is scheduled for October 14 at Wayne National Forest to transplant native perennials that would otherwise be destroyed by the Nelsonville bypass. The work is taking place at the southern tip of the Monday Creek Watershed. Meet at Wayne Headquarters off US 33 at 9am; work is in three-hour shifts. Pre-registration required: call Elise at 740-742-4401.

Monday Creek Watershed Tour 10 am to 2 pm October 14 (details are in the article on this page)

Friends of Monday Creek Meetings have been rescheduled for the 4th Tuesday in alternate months. Upcoming Friends' meetings: Nov. 28 2006 and Jan. 23 2007, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Attention Partners! Monday Creek Partners' Meetings will need to be moved from their current days (second Thursdays of alternate months). October's meeting will be held on Tuesday the 17th, but a new permanent day needs to be established. You will be contacted for input on this.

Event updates will posted on the MCRP homepage at www.mondaycreek.org Check the site for new information about tours, volunteer days, and other activities.

Call MCRP at 740-394-2047

email Matt Miller at vista@mondaycreek.org

LOOKING BACK

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part of your family. Hey, I just remembered the Omar man, the milkman, the egg man and Jewell Tea man. Yes, they came to you. The pace with which we live our lives and mom in the workplace is the biggest difference I can see. Oh don't forget fast food—that was when you kept down your lunch till you could get back to playing. Yes, there were no McDonald's. Yes, you could have so much fun without any money. Yes, you could always get to the roller skating rinks to see the girls and Tom would let you in free if you didn't have any money. See, everyone knew everyone. You lived and worked either in town or in the neighbor towns. Yes, we got into trouble sometimes. Learning the lesson of life. But mom and dad knew it the moment you got home because you had maybe 40 or 50 other

moms and dads looking out for you. This is the closeness I was talking about earlier. Now gone are our national resources, our coal, oil and gas wells, and our old brick plants and along with it our stores which were many, our jobs and our economy. But left are some of our greatest assests... our people. If you really want to look back, just visit your local History Group. Most small towns have one. Or just go to the grandpa and grandma's house. Sit in the rocker and let them paint you a word picture in your mind that you will never forget.



Kids play on the tracks at Lawson Crossing in New Straitsville, at the old Chautauqua grounds. Photo courtesy of Little Cities of Black Diamonds.

Paul Nutter grew up New Straitsville, and now lives in Corning, Ohio. He is active in the New Straitsville History Group.

WE NEED YOUR 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, Potlucks, Volunteer Opportunities and, best of all, helping make your watershed beautiful again.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS US

Monday Creek Restoration Project depends on your financial support to continue our educational programs, outreach and community organizing, and the development of new projects and community assets.

- \$20 Basic Grassroots
- \$40 Individual
- \$60 Household
- \$100 Supporting
- \$500 Sponsor
- \$1000 Sustainer
- \$60 Nonprofit
- \$100 Business

Yes, I want to become a member of MCRP!

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

Monday Creek Restoration Project

PO Box 129, 115 West Main Street
New Straitsville, Ohio 43766

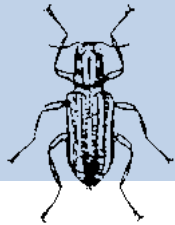
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SUMMER/FALL 2006

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Looking Back

It was a great time to be a kid...

by Paul Nutter

I grew up in a small town just like the one most of you reading this probably did. We grew up in the 40s and 50s.

It was a great time to be a kid.

We all have fond memories of our past. We can block out the bad experiences and remember the good.

Looking back, the biggest difference I can see is the things a person had to do in his own town. We walked to the local kids' hangout, went to the movies, roller skating, bowling, ice cream shops, and played pool. We had swimming holes and fishing holes all within walking range of our home, or rode our bikes.

Yes, teenagers did not have cars.

Looking back I remember the closeness we felt with everyone in town. You all went to the same small school. You knew everyone. The teachers were

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Above: The New Straitsville Little League team, 1956, included author Paul Nutter, standing 10th from left in the third row. In the rear (left to right) are managers Bob Stubs, Jack Kemper, Bill Walters and umpire Bill Butterfield.