

# Up the Creek

Fall 2010  
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*"We all live downstream"*

## Welcome Monday Creek's 2010-2011 AmeriCorps

Monday Creek Restoration Project welcomed two new AmeriCorps members to its team in August. Emily Hammon and Elise Gage will each be serving a one-year term as AmeriCorps through Rural Action's Watershed program.

Their duties will include assisting in chemical water quality monitoring, data entry, and environmental education and outreach activities in Monday Creek's surrounding communities.



Emily Hammon (left) is originally from Logan and graduated from The Ohio State University in June 2010 with a degree in Environmental Education. She looks forward to working with Monday Creek partners, Rural Action, and the neighboring

watersheds in the coming year and contributing to the inspiring work these organizations do.

Elise Gage is a resident of Columbus and a 2008 graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in Environment and Natural Resources with a focus on Water Law and Policy. Elise is looking forward to working closely with the local community to help restore the health of the Monday Creek Watershed.

MCRP is a partner of



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## Monday Creek's Fall Watershed Tour



**Gary Willison, Wayne National Forest, addresses the crowd about the Lost Run Project.**

Monday Creek Restoration Project hosted 24 individuals on their fall watershed tour. The tour was held on October 15 under beautiful fall weather.

The tour featured four stops at various projects and historic sites throughout the Monday Creek Watershed.

The first morning stops

were to two projects still under construction in the watershed: Lost Run and Upstream Rock Run Reclamation Site. Gary Willison, Watershed Group Leader with Wayne National Forest, presented details about these two sites. Both projects are being constructed by the Wayne National Forest and will provide treatment to tributaries of Monday Creek.

The two afternoon stops were to the Old Stone Church and the Ora E. Anderson Trail and Rutherford Wetland. Old Stone Church is a well-known historic site in New Straitsville.

It was constructed in the 1830s and was one of the first churches built in Perry County. The final stop was at Rutherford Wetland and the Ora E. Anderson Nature Trail. The Anderson trail follows an abandoned railroad grade adjacent to Rutherford Wetland and provides interpretive signage about the wetland as well as quotes and poems by Ora Anderson.

The success of this tour would not be possible without help from Little Cities of Black Diamonds, New Straitsville History Group, and volunteers, Mary Steinmaus and Rocky Myers.



Lost Run



Old Stone Church



Ora E. Anderson Trail

### Monday Creek Restoration Project Staff

MIKE STEINMAUS: WATERSHED COORDINATOR

NATHAN SCHLATER: WATER QUALITY SPECIALIST

ELISE GAGE: AMERICORPS MEMBER

EMILY HAMMON: AMERICORPS MEMBER

# Up the Creek

## Upstream Rock Run Coal Mine Remediation



Orbiston North Subsidence

### Partners include:

- ◆ Hocking College
- ◆ Monday Creek Restoration Project
- ◆ Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- ◆ Little Cities of Black Diamonds



3-acre pond, completed mid-October

Provided by Pam Stachler, USFS

The Wayne National Forest signed an agreement with Hocking College to work on a portion of the Upstream Rock Run Coal Mine Remediation. This area has been long recognized by the Forest Service, state and private partners, and surrounding communities as an opportunity to create a highly visible recreation area enabling us to explain the need for continued cleanup of old abandoned mine lands, as well as interpreting the natural history of the area.

The project site is located just east of State Route 93 between the nearby towns of New Straitsville and Shawnee. The highway gives good access to the project area. Both of the bordering towns are highly interested in cleaning up old mining areas and encouraging more avenues for economic development in the area.

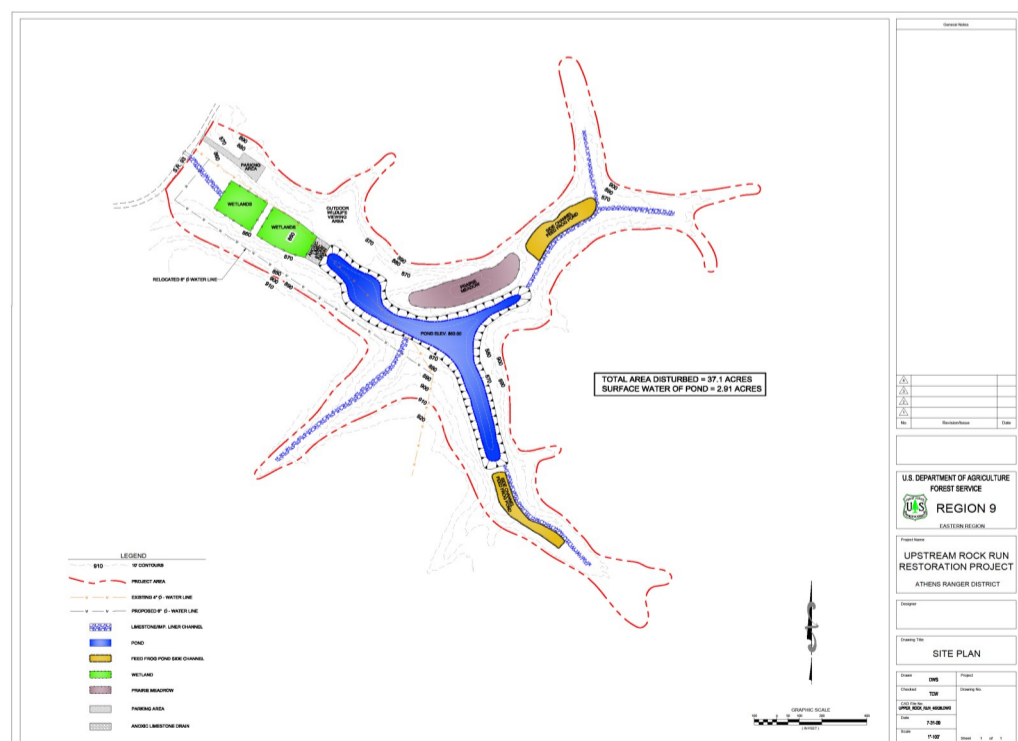
The Upstream Rock Run drainage was heavily impacted by underground mining activities in the mid-1800s and by strip mining in the 1900s. The drainages are blocked by piles of old mine waste and soils. Based on average rainfall estimates it is projected that 60 million gallons of water falls here in a typical year. The blockages have created a bowl shaped area which traps the rainfall and prevents it from flowing out of the area as a stream.

In some parts of the drainage the underground mines have collapsed causing fairly deep depressions on the surface of the land called subsidences. The subsidence depicted to the left (Orbiston) is fairly typical of most subsidences on the Forest. However, many are covered over with leaf litter and debris, or have been backfilled with dirt like the ones in the

Upstream Rock Run drainage, and they are not readily apparent on the surface. This particular subsidence is located approximately ten miles from Upstream Rock Run.

Water that is captured in these holes seeps into the underground mines and is released elsewhere as acid mine drainage. Acid mine drainage is toxic to aquatic life and has a harmful effect on the adjacent riparian vegetation. For nearly a century the aquatic life that once thrived in this watershed has been virtually dead.

The goal of this project is to construct a healthy functioning riparian corridor, restore water quality, create an integrated land management strategy, while increasing species diversity and abundance of fish and other aquatic organisms in the streams by improving overall watershed condition.



# Up the Creek

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **November 17**– Little Cities of the Forest is partnering with MCRP and other local organizations to host a Career Day at Hocking College.
- ◆ **December 8**-Join MCRP, Sunday Creek Watershed Group, and Little Cities of Black Diamonds for their annual Holiday Gathering, 6pm at Dunkle Hall in New Straitsville.
- ◆ **January 15, 2011**– MCRP will host a fundraising Chinese Auction in New Straitsville. More details to be announced.

For more information on events, please visit our website

[www.mondaycreek.org](http://www.mondaycreek.org)

## Join the Monday Creek Restoration Project

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Monday Creek Restoration Project depends on funding through grants and the generous support from people like you. Help support the work we do by making a donation today and become a member of Monday Creek Restoration Project!

<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student	Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Individual	Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Family	Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporter	Phone: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sponsor	E-mail: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Sustainer	Make checks payable to MCRP
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Please contact me about volunteering.	



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