

SUNDAY CREEK

SPLASH

Spring 2009

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West Branch Headwaters Project has Everything

By Kaabe Shaw, Watershed Coordinator

The West Branch Headwaters Restoration Project is currently underway and making progress towards cleaner water in the West Branch Subwatershed of Sunday Creek. Funded by Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management (ODNR-DMRM) and a USEPA 319 implementation grant, the project addresses Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) impacts to this stretch of stream. The project located in the northwestern part of the Sunday Creek watershed at Section 23 of Saltlick Township, Perry County. The mainstem of the West Branch Headwaters is approximately 1.5 miles in length. It runs east along State Route 155 before joining the main stem of West Branch Sunday Creek at the confluence with of Pine Run which creates the confluence of West Branch of Sunday Creek.

Historically, water quality within the West Branch Headwaters of Sunday Creek has been poor. Acid Loadings of 29.4 (lb/day) and Metal Loadings of 163.8 (lb/day) are present 1/2 mile downstream of the West Branch Sunday Creek Headwaters Project and these loads indicate AMD as the main cause of impairment in this area of the creek. According to the EPA the West Branch Headwaters currently fail to meet the designated aquatic life standard to be designated as Warm Water Habitat.

West Branch Headwaters is also known as the *Everything Bagel* project, due to the wide variety of mining related problems found there. This reclamation site is home to several problems that are in close proximity to each other including: 4 stream captures, 1 gob pile that makes up the southern bank of the stream and 4 AMD Discharges. We are taking a phased approach with this project because of its large and complex scope of work. Phase I is currently under way and involves installing 5 monitoring wells, sealing of 4 stream captures, creating 2,000 linear feet of Open Limestone Channels and reclaiming the 1.25 acre gob pile.

After the stream captures are sealed we anticipate the loadings of the AMD discharges will decrease, therefore reducing the amount of pollution needed to be treated. Thus, Phase I will allow for the deep mine discharges to stabilize so that we can reassess the need and scope of treatment needed due to AMD reduction. During Phase II, ODNR-DMRM and

Continued on page 7



Representatives from ODNR examine a large gob pile along the banks of the West Branch Headwaters. Under the current project this area will be reclaimed.



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The Sunday Creek Watershed Group Newsletter is published winter and summer of each year with the help of our sponsoring agency Rural Action (www.ruralaction.org). Inquiries are welcome.

Brian Blair and Kaabe Shaw, Editors
Brian Blair, Graphic Design



This publication was financed totally or in part through a grant from the Ohio EPA and the US EPA, under provisions of Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.



Printed with soy ink on 100% post-consumer recycled paper by Tribune Quality Printing.

Orange Throat Thoughts

By: Kaabe Shaw, Watershed Coordinator

Much has happened in the watershed since our last issue of Splash. 2008 turned out to be a productive year in water quality improvement as well as watershed awareness. My favorite item was the publishing of the much anticipated Sunday Creek Watershed Stewardship Booklet.

The booklet provides a snapshot of the watershed and the many resources available to watershed residents.



We said goodbye to our two year veteran VISTA, Emily Boyer and hello to two new VISTAs Brian Blair (not the one from OEPA/AOA) and Heather Sheets. Brian hails from the Missouri Ozarks and has hit the ground running (sometimes into deep holes of water). Heather is an Athens County native that is making serious traction on the Trimble Land Lab and Summer Day Camps.

The West Branch Headwaters Restoration Project and the Congo Run-Little Hocking Stream Capture Project are both currently underway and will provide the always needed buffering capacity to the West Branch of Sunday Creek. The 2008 Day Camp was a blast and we are now gearing up for another 5 day run of watershed fun in 2009. As we move towards the busy Summer of 2009, I would like to thank all of our many partners and friends that have provided the resources necessary for us do what we do. And remember if the thunder don't get ya.....the lightning will.

You can check out our website for all the latest events and updates for Sunday Creek.

Your source for information about daycamps, watershed science, events calendar, art of the Sunday Creek community and more are at your fingertips 24 hours a day at www.sundaycreek.org

Keep an eye out throughout this issue of SPLASH for the fish of Sunday Creek!



These are the paintings from our famous Fish-stine Chapel ceiling at our office and were made by the people of Sunday Creek.

Stop by the office to see them in full color, we love to show them off!

*The Official Mascot of Sunday Creek
(by Jen Shimala)*

Hello From Sunday Creek's Newest VISTA

By Heather Sheets

Hi! My name is Heather Sheets and I am the new Education and Outreach VISTA working with Sunday Creek Watershed Group. I was born and raised in Athens, Ohio and am very proud of the region. After graduating from Athens High School, I decided to stay in the area and attend Ohio University. In 2007 I received a Bachelor's of Arts degree with anthropology as my major and two minors, sociology and environmental studies.

After graduation, I started job searching in the area and came upon a VISTA opening at Rural Action. I received a position as the Sustainable Forestry VISTA in December 2007. During my first year of service I surprised everyone at Rural Action with a new addition to the organization and my family, my first daughter Zeva Naira!

During my first term of service I had hoped to do more environmental education targeting the area's youth, but without funding we were unable to do so. Luckily, as my term approached its end, Sunday Creek Watershed Group needed a VISTA to oversee the summer watershed day camps as well as a new land lab project created by Trimble Local Schools and Appalachian Ohio Alliance. I was very excited to begin my second term doing exactly what I wished I could have done in my first term of service!

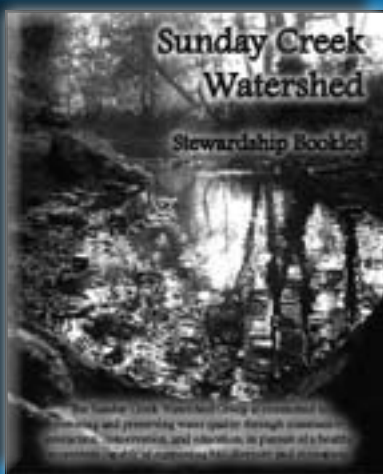
Keep an eye out throughout the newsletter for projects and events I'm currently working on for the Sunday Creek Watershed. If you have any questions or want further information on any of my projects, or if you have a project you think would fit my position feel free to call the office or email me at heather@ruralaction.org.



Heather Sheets (center) helps out during 2008's summer camp.



By: Larry Williams



Don't forget, SCWG has just published it's new Stewardship Booklet for Sunday Creek!

Find information on how you can help Sunday Creek return to the good health we all deserve and the science behind the fight to restore the watershed. History, science, and even a pictorial index of all the fish found in Sunday Creek is inside!

Stop by the office for your free copy or access it anytime at www.sundaycreek.org.

Summer Day Camps: Bigger, Better, and Back For 2009

By Heather Sheets and SCWG Staff, Photos by Michael DiBari Jr.

The summer of 2008 once again witnessed the return of the annual watershed day camps to the children of Southeast Ohio. For six years Sunday Creek Watershed Group and Rural Action have offered the camp as both a fun activity for local kids and a way to foster a spirit of stewardship in the next generation. Every year since 2003, the camps have drawn in a great group of kids and we're proud to say that 2008 saw our largest attendance yet with around 30 young folks taking part. Spearheaded by former Americorps VISTA Emily Boyer, the camps featured a number of great speakers

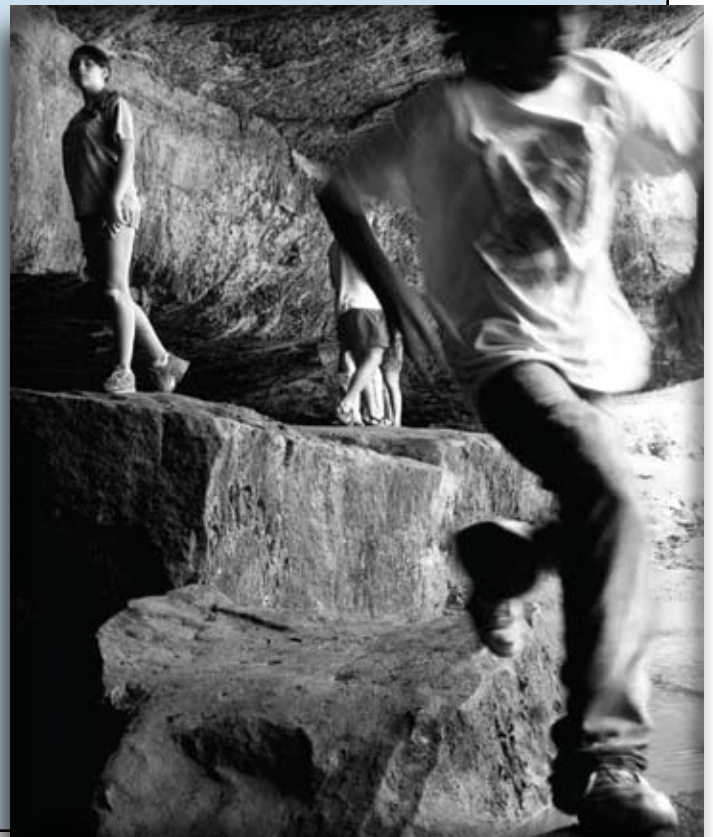


and some wonderful summer activities. Our thanks go out to Emily, our speakers, our generous sponsors, and the kids and parents who all made last summer so memorable.

Building on last year's success is our new Education and Outreach VISTA Heather Sheets. She is currently working on putting together two separate day camps this summer, one each for Sunday and Monday Creek Watersheds. Monday Creek Restoration Project's camp will be June 15-19 and Sunday Creek Watershed Group's camp will be July 20-24. Each camp will start at 8:30 a.m. and go until 4:30 p.m. Each camp will offer educational programming all day and two locally sourced, healthy meals each day. Highlights of the camps include Ohio

University's High Ropes Course, the rope swing in Congo Run, bird catching, fish seining, trips to Robinson's Cave and the New Straitsville History Museum and canoeing at Burr Oak and Lake Logan. Dave Sagan and Pat Quackenbush will also visit the camps with live reptiles and birds of prey.

Registration is now open for this Summer's camp and need-based scholarships are available. For more information on the camp please contact Heather Sheets at heather@ruralaction.org or call 740-767-2225. You can also check out our website at www.sundaycreek.org for information and a link to daycamp registration, hosted by Rural Action.



By: Mike Gosnell

Trimble Schools Land Lab Now Open!



By: SCWG Staff

Back in 2006, the Appalachian Ohio Alliance (AOA) was able to acquire a 1,200-acre tract of hardwood forest in Northern Athens County from the Sunday Creek Coal Company. The property, then known as “Taylor Ridge” was officially named the Trimble Township Community Forest in recognition of Trimble Township and its residents.

In a wonderful collaboration between forest trustees, Trimble High School, AOA, and SCWG the area has been officially opened for use as the Trimble High School Land Lab.

Principal Curtis and the science teachers of Trimble High have shown their interest and support of the Land Lab by allowing interested students to meet with committee members once a month and by allowing a group of students to assist in putting up the official signs designating the entrance to the Land Lab. These signs were designed and created by Trimble Students in Mr. Cuckler’s shop class and the students worked hard to cement them in at the official land lab entrance off Derthick Road.

Trimble High School students are well into the process of planning for their land lab. Over 40 interested students have joined the first of two planning meetings. Students met during two activity periods in February and decided their first project will be building and installing bird and bat boxes at the site and we are now in the process of seeking donations of wood and supplies to build the boxes. Heather Sheets is also working on organizing volunteers to help with a series of trash pick ups at the land lab which is sorely in need as it has been used as an illegal trash dump site for many years. One clean-up has already taken place last August by a crew of 25 generous volunteers. A public opening ceremony for the Land Lab (top right) took place on Earth Day, April 22. Principal Curtis, Brian Blair from AOA, Ken Ritchie from ODNR’s Wolf Creek Wildlife Area, Kaabe Shaw, local residents and a group of Trimble High School Students were all on hand to officially open the lab. Students planted trees, hung blue bird and kestrel boxes, and talked over their future plans for their new outdoor lab.

For more information regarding the Trimble Township Community Forest or the Trimble High School Land Lab please contact Brian Blair at 740-380-5215 or Kaabe Shaw at 740-767-2225.



By: Betti Graybeal

Paint Out in the Watershed

By Brian Blair

If you happened to notice someone off in a field dutifully studying an easel this spring, you weren't alone. The Dairy Barn in Athens was host to The Ohio Plein Air Society's April "Paint Out" and a number of artists chose to come to Sunday Creek to find their inspiration.

A method with a rich history, Plein Air painting is centered around the idea that painting outdoors, in natural light, can offer advantages over studio created pieces.

Jeff Risner, the president of the Ohio Plein Air Society contacted Sunday Creek's office after hearing about the call for Art of the Sunday Creek Community to be featured in our newsletters, website, and windows. He and a group of enthusiastic painters had a short tour of the watershed before the scheduled paint out and then eagerly set to work painting the people and places of Sunday Creek.



We would like to thank Jeff and all the members of the Ohio Plein Air Society for coming out to Sunday Creek and capturing the beauty of our region with their works of art.

Find out more information about the Ohio Plein Air Society at ohiopleinairsociety.com

Plein Air Artist Jim Pol-lacheck paints a scene along the marshy banks of Sunday Creek

SCWG is committed to promoting the beauty of our towns and streams. If you have art that you would like to share please contact us at brian@sundaycreek.org. Any and all creativity is welcome, you work in all media, so we do too.

To check out Art of the Sunday Creek Community just go to www.sundaycreek.org/art

A Current VISTA Looks Back

By Brian Blair



Brian Blair, fresh from an unexpected plunge into some AMD.

Photo by Jenny Byers

You may have noticed a new voice in the Sunday Creek office over the past six months, Brian Blair, the last watershed VISTA, who has been working hard and splitting his time between the Sunday and Monday Creek watersheds as they prepare for the transition away from VISTA and to regular Americorps volunteers. Brian and his wife Kate moved to the area almost two years ago from Washington state and are glad to have found a place to settle in for a while. After moving every couple of years from Missouri, to Louisiana, then Montana, and Washington they arrived in Ohio with a determination to stay as long as possible. Kate is finishing her degree at Ohio University and Brian was looking for work that was more than just a job. He found that opportunity at the offices of Sunday Creek.

"I have really enjoyed my time here," says Brian, "it has helped me feel like a part of the community in such a short time. I'm looking forward to making the Sunday Creek Watershed my home for many years to come."



By: Robbie James

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to our membership drive over the holidays! Without the generous support of our watershed communities we wouldn't be able to afford events like our daycamps, trash pick-ups, and tree plantings.

If you haven't yet become a member of Sunday Creek or would like to renew your membership it isn't too late!! Now that spring has sprung we have our hands full planning for our yearly daycamps and we could really use your help to make them the best ever for the kids in our community!

Please take a moment to look over our membership form on page 7 and support Sunday Creek in your community!

Sunday Creek’s new “Streamulator” ready for action

By SCWG Staff

You’ll be noticing a new addition to the Sunday Creek educational arsenal this Spring as festivals and events throughout the area witness the unveiling of our brand new Streamulator!

Built and donated to SCWG by OU student Jessica Bartlett who clearly went above and beyond, burning our name and a streamside scene across the sides and creating a truly polished machine.

A Streamulator simulates erosion patterns by running water through a landscape constructed of sand and teaches children about the natural forces that govern our waterway.

Look for us this year and bring the kids so they can construct their own miniature watershed!



West Branch Headwaters cont. from pg.1-

the Sunday Creek Watershed Group will establish and implement site specific treatment concepts to address the remaining pollutant loadings associated with the discharges.

The main goal of the West Branch Headwaters Sunday Creek Restoration Project is to reduce acidity and metal loadings. A best case scenario would be removing all acid and metal loadings from the West Branch. This would equate to annual acid and metal reductions of 10,731 (lb/year) and 59,787 (lb/year) respectively.

If you are interested in this or any restoration project or would like to visit the sites don’t hesitate to contact Kaabe Shaw at shaw@Sundaycreek.org or sign-up for a tour at Sundaycreek.org

Membership Form

Levels of Sponsorship

- (\$10) **Stoneroller** - (\$25) **Channel Cat** - (\$50) **Warmouth**

- (\$100) **Orangethroat Darter** - \$? **Hellbender** (Amount _____)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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Please make checks payable to:
Sunday Creek Watershed Group
69 High St.
Glouster, OH 45732

Membership includes a subscription to our newsletter SPLASH and a Sunday Creek Stewardship Book delivered right to your door!

Art of the Sunday Creek Community



Landscape By Tim Lemoine of Glouster, OH
(See it in full color at www.sundaycreek.org/art)

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