

SUNDAY CREEK

SPLASH

SPRING/SUMMER 2002

EROSION CONTROL IN SUNDAY CREEK:

Willow Posting To Control Stream Bank Erosion

Ben Carpenter, Perry Soil and Water Conservation District

February 2nd, a good time to be inside enjoying a comfortable fire and a cup of coffee. But for a few brave souls with an interest in the watershed of Sunday Creek, it presents a time to climb into local streams and push willow stems, or drive willow posts. Volunteers with the Sunday Creek watershed group came out on such a day, to help Gailen



Karyn Tremper and Robin Bowman plant willow posts on an eroded stream bank in Indian Run, Perry County.

Maxwell address some erosion problems on his property in Monroe Township.

Willow stems and posts are just that, stems of varying sizes cut from willow trees used to help stabilize the soil in the stream bank helping to reduce erosion. Willow along a stream actually serve many important

continued on p.3

Second Annual Tree Planting, March 2002

Gailen W. Maxwell Landowner Sunday Creek Watershed

Some twenty-five volunteers assembled at the Maxwell Family Tree Farm for the Sunday Creek Watershed Group's second annual tree planting project. We only had tools for twelve planters so some prepared trees, some kept planters supplied with trees and others took turns planting. One thousand White Pine seedlings supplied by MeadWestvaco



Keith MacCartney and Robin Bowman plant a tree in Perry County at the Maxwell farm.

Corporation were planted in about three hours in an old abandoned farm field. The site was mowed and marked out with a breaking plow in advance. All in all, it was a beautiful day and everyone appeared to have a great time, planting trees for our future.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR WATERSHED

TOP 10 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

1. Pump septic tank on proper intervals
2. Reduce water waste in the home
3. Do not use septic tank additives
4. Do not overuse the garbage disposal
5. Use normal amounts of detergents, bleaches and other cleaners
6. Do not flush harmful materials down the drain
7. Keep automobiles, heavy equipment, and livestock away from drain field
8. Know where your septic system is located in your yard
9. Install riser lids over the septic tank
10. Never enter your septic tank

Information was compiled from resources of Ohio EPA, OSU Extension, and Clark County Home Buyers Guide

Understanding the challenges in Sunday Creek

Ben McCament, AMDAT Project Manager

In September of 2000, the Sunday Creek Watershed Group undertook the task of evaluating the water quality in the Sunday Creek Watershed. The group has been working over the past 2 years to identify all sources of acid mine drainage and other non-point source pollution with financial and technical assistance from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources Management and the Ohio EPA. Over 300 water quality samples have been collected and analyzed for chemical parameters related to abandoned mining impacts. Every major and most all of the smaller tributaries have been tested at least once, and areas that showed impacts have been tested at least twice. This was a huge effort by many people including SCWG staff, many volunteers, and state agency personnel. Along with the water chemistry data macro-invertebrate populations, fish populations, habitat quality, chemical measurement of stream health, and sediments were also surveyed throughout the watershed.

The question now is what does all this information mean? Well, that is the next task. Over the next several months the SCWG will be working to evaluate all the data collected into two reports; one called the "Acid Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment" (AMDAT) plan and the other a "Watershed Management Plan." The AMDAT plan will document all the sources of abandoned mining impacts and develop a blueprint and for remediating every source in the watershed. The Watershed Management Plan will take into account all sources of pollution and develop strategies to improve water quality. These plans will serve as the basis for selection of sites and activities for which future grant monies will be applied for to conduct restoration projects.

That doesn't mean we are done with collecting data of course. Due to the nature of streams, which are moving changing systems, long term monitoring sites will be monitored every three months. Monitoring around project areas will also be collected because it is critical to understanding the effectiveness of the treatment or remediation efforts.

What it does mean is that through a lot of hard work, dedicated volunteers, and technical assistance we will now better understand the challenges that present themselves in our goal of restoring Sunday Creek to healthy and viable stream, and the more you understand the problem the better chance of being successful in fixing it you have.



Sunday Creek Watershed Group

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Watershed Tour: Up Close and Personal with Subsidence Holes *Karyn Tremper*



Karyn Tremper stands near a subsidence hole located in Pine Run, Perry County. The surface water enters the ground from the creek seen here in the photo. Under the ground is an abandoned coal mine where the water will become contaminated with sulfur, iron, and sulfuric acid.

On Saturday April 13th, the Sunday Creek Watershed Group held a watershed tour. The purpose of the tour was to bring people to see sites of future stream restoration projects involving closing and filling-in subsidence holes caused by abandoned coal mining. A subsidence hole is a hole in the ground above an old underground coal mine. The roof collapsed over time, and now collects surface water from the creek. The surface water washes through the old coal mine workings, collecting metals and other contaminants

**“I want to thank you,
and all the others, for
Saturday’s watershed tour. I
had a good time and learned
a lot! It’s great that there
are people like you out there
trying to make a difference.
Keep up the good work!”**

– Bob Placier

from the mine. When the water finds its way back to the surface, it carries metals and contaminates into Sunday Creek.

The tour started at the Corning discharge at the Corning Park. This discharge site has been around since the 1970’s. The Sunday Creek Watershed Group and others are working on plans to improve the water quality flowing from this hole. Next, the tour headed North to Rendville to observe water flowing into two subsidence holes. With the recent rain these sites were collecting a large amount of surface water. The holes at these sites are proposed to be filled in with the help of Ohio DNR Division of Mines and Reclamation. From Rendville, the tour moved on to a subsidence hole in Congo. An Appalachian Clean Streams grant from the Office of Surface Mining will help to fund the closing of this subsidence hole.

The final stop was in Pine Run. The group looked at two subsidence holes and two seeps. A seep is a place where contaminated sulfur water flows into the receiving stream.

This seep flows into Pine Run then into Sunday Creek. In two to three years, the Sunday Creek Watershed Group will close five subsidence holes; all were seen on this tour. Closing these holes will eliminate an estimated 173 million gallons of water annually from entering into the underground abandoned coal mines.

Alderfly



Willow Posting cont.

functions. They provide shade and cover for stream life and improve water quality by absorbing and storing chemicals or other pollutants. Their ability to withstand flooding, to stabilize soils, and grow quickly in saturated areas make them ideal for revegetating stream banks.

Over 200 postings were placed along approximately

150 feet of eroding stream bank, on Maxwell’s property. If everything goes well, these stems and posts will sprout roots and leaves and establish a vegetative cover to help hold the banks in place, reducing the sediment discharge into the stream.

Many thanks goes to Gailen for his willingness to try something new and everyone involved for their help.

Over 45 Tons of Trash Cleaned Up!

Jen Shimala
Coordinator

"I've lived on West Bailey Road for a little over a year now. It is a wonderful area to live in...except for the Trash! We knew we couldn't make a huge impact unless a group effort was made to clean everything up. That's where Sunday Creek Watershed Group came in. They were able to get all the resources together to organize a massive clean-up on not only my road but all the Bailey's in the area. The difference in one day of cleaning was amazing. Now I don't feel embarrassed to show people where I live. Thanks again Sunday Creek. I hope your clean-up inspires others to take responsibility for their trash and keep all of Southeast Ohio beautiful and clean."

– Rachel Young



Damselfly



The Sunday Creek Watershed Group received \$10,630 in January, from the Environmental Protection Agency, to organize trash clean ups throughout Athens, Morgan and Perry County. The group's goal is to clean up and dispose of 125 tons of trash. Since January, 2002 - 45 tons of trash have been properly disposed of at the Athens Hocking Landfill in Nelsonville, 824 tires have been recycled by the Central Ohio Contractors company in Columbus, and two tons of scrap metal has been recycled at McKee's scrap metal yard in Athens County.

The Sunday Creek Watershed Group would like to thank everyone who helped pick up trash and especially those people who signed up to be part of a community watch for illegal dumpers in their neighborhood. We have had over 100 people help volunteer to clean up the streets, streams, towns, and woods and 15 people signed up to be part of a community watch. Thanks for all the hard work, we still have a long way to go! For more information on how you or your community can participate in this program call 767-2225.

Good-Bye! A Review of My VISTA Program at Sunday Creek

Gina Scarano, VISTA Volunteer

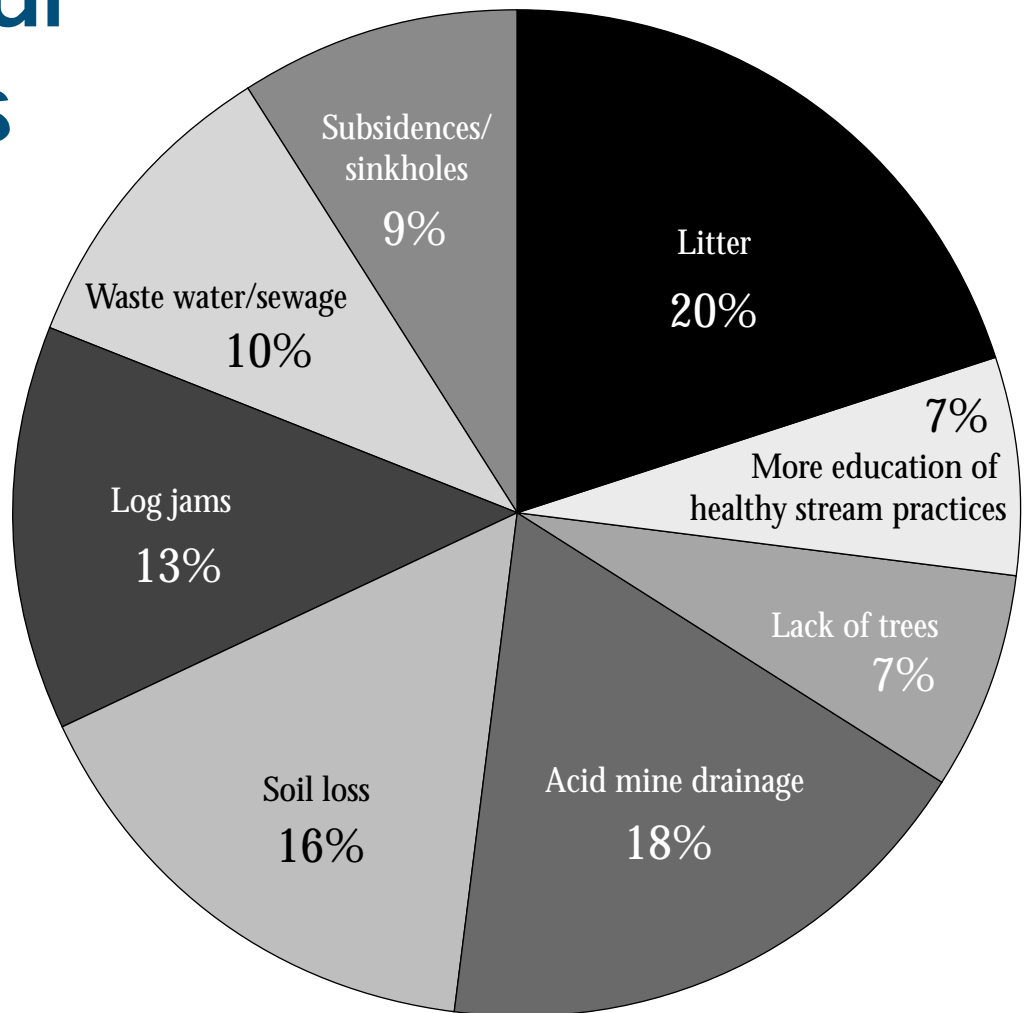
My year as an Americorp VISTA at Rural Action's Sunday Creek Watershed Group was both satisfying and fun. My job consisted of community organization and education programs in local schools and community events. Over the course of a year I taught approximately 350 children and educated many adults on issues of the Sunday Creek water-

shed. I feel upon leaving this job that I've made a positive impact on both the small communities located in the watershed and the environment that surrounds them. I've made many friends and met many interesting people and it will be a year I never forget!

Voice Your Concerns

Jen Shimala

The Sunday Creek Watershed Group has been writing a comprehensive watershed management plan with input from residents and local officials. A draft copy of this plan will be available in August. We encourage input from residents of the Sunday Creek watershed to voice your concerns. Please ask for a copy to read, edit, and make your comments heard. We will need everyone's input to insure a good plan is established to clean up Sunday Creek.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR WATERSHED RECYCLE YOUR GARBAGE – ENRICH YOUR EARTH

Yard trimmings and kitchen scraps make up 30 to 40 percent of all household waste taking up valuable space in landfills or, sometimes, just being dumped. You can recycle this waste and release a veritable gold mine of riches into your soil by composting. Composting stimulates the growth of beneficial microorganisms, loosens compacted clay, and restores nutrients to the soil. Healthy earth grows healthy plants. Healthy plants help clean air, stop erosion, add to our quality of life and protect our waterways.

You can begin composting by constructing or purchasing a bin of wood, plastic, or cement blocks. A simple shallow hole in a selected area of your land away from your house

will also work. Layer organic matter with earth and make sure the pile remains moist. Turn your pile regularly. When decay has turned matter to a rich, dark earthy texture, work into soil around plants and lawn.

What Goes In a Compost Pile?

- Yard trimmings (leaves, grass clippings, weeds)
- ground up brush
- wood ash
- kitchen scraps such as fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, and coffee grounds

Do not compost meat, bones, and fatty foods; they can attract rodents and other animals

Sunday Creek Fish Book *Gina Scarano, VISTA Volunteer*

In the summer of 2001 the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Sunday Creek Watershed Group conducted a water quality study on the Sunday Creek watershed.

As a result 43 species of fish were found throughout the watershed. For a stream with acid mine drainage, illegal trash dumps along the banks and poorly treated wastewater this was exciting news for us and the residents that live within its boundaries.

With these results we did some research on each fish and put together a 'Fishes of Sunday Creek'



book. In the book you will find a picture of each fish with its common name, scientific name, pollution tolerance level, and the tributary where it was found. Also included in the book is a map of the Sunday Creek watershed so you can locate where these fish were found. These books will be used for education programs in local schools and other outreach programs.

If you're interested in what species of fish live in the Sunday Creek watershed, stop in our office at 69 High Street in Glouster or e-mail us at scwg@frognet.net for a list of the fish.



New Face at Sunday Creek

Sheila Giffen, VISTA Volunteer

My name is Sheila Giffen and I have lived on a gob pile in Murray City for the past eight years. I knew there was something different about the creeks in this area, but didn't fully understand it until my 4-H group, Nothing Less Than The Best, participated in educational programs offered by Monday Creek. I hope to share what I have learned about acid mine drainage and what we can do about it with the community during my VISTA work with The Sunday Creek Watershed Group.

Sunday Creek Summer Internship

Michelle Cpak, Intern from Muskingum College

When asked to choose between research and an internship in order to complete my graduation requirements, I chose to do an internship with the Sunday Creek Watershed Group, and found it to be a great learning experience. Being an Environmental Chemistry major, it was a chance to utilize the background information I already had in water pollution and acid mine drainage and apply it to an environmental problem. Getting the opportunity to combine content knowledge with hands on experience creates a strong drive to utilize that knowledge. The internship was a wonderful experience and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in contributing his or her time to help his or her watershed and community.

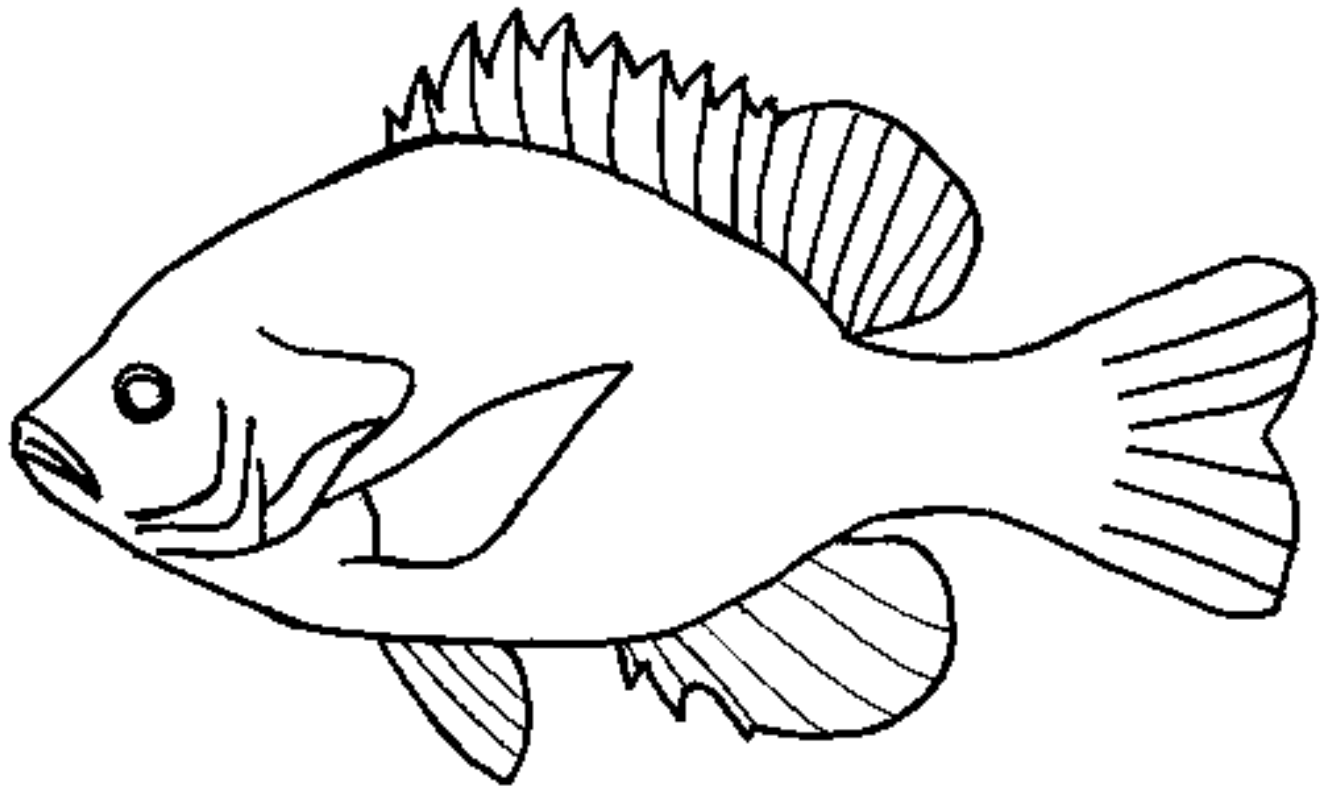


Michelle Cpak stands near a seep.

Add your coloring to the Sunday Creek Watershed Window Display!

Color this bluegill and mail it to Sunday Creek Watershed Group, 69 High Street, Glouster, Ohio 45732.
Your fish will hang in our front window as part of our display.

**SUNDAY CREEK
WATERSHED GROUP**



BLUEGILL

WATERSHED EVENTS

July 13th *Stream Sweep*

Meet at the Sunday Creek Office at 10am. Wear boots!

July 24th *Sunday Creek Public Meeting-Annual Picnic*

6:30 Potluck. 7-8:30 Meeting with guest speaker

July 30th, 31st and Aug 1st *Watershed Day Camps*

Federal Valley Watershed: for 6th grade kids. Contact Lisa King @ 740-448-1012 for registration information.

August 28th *Sunday Creek Public Meeting*

6:30 Potluck. 7-8:30 Meeting with guest speakers

September 25th *Sunday Creek Public Meeting*

6:30 Potluck. 7-8:30 Meeting with guest speaker

October 13th *Athens Area Sustainability Festival*

10am - 7pm Athens County Fairgrounds

October 19th *Buckeye Trail Hike*

October 23rd *Sunday Creek Public Meeting*

6:30 Potluck. 7-8:30 Meeting with guest speaker

November 9th *Watershed Tour*

November 20th *Sunday Creek Public Meeting*

6:30 Potluck. 7-8:30 Meeting with guest speaker

The Moon's Journey

Bertha Ferguson, Corning resident

The moon rose above the sea,
To meet the wind wild and free.
It's silver fingers clutched the sand
And drew it forth across the land.
Up a hill and then back down
To wander lonely through a town.
To snuggle close to a field of wheat
And dance along a silent street.
To light a lovers hidden bower
And leave them a shining hour.
To tip the night birds wings with gold,
Many thousand sights to unfold.
Then with a smile or so it seems
To leave us our earthly dreams.
To walk again on some foreign strand
Trailing silver fingers in the sand.

Bertha is a lifetime resident of Corning, 88 years. She is a prolific writer with writings in the Corning-Monroe Readers, the Jitney and other collections of community writings.

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Watershed Group**



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