

SPLASH!

Fall 2010 | Vol. 1 Issue 1

Two More Water Quality Improvement Projects Completed in Sunday Creek

By Amber Leasure-Earnhardt



Sunday Creek Watershed, in cooperation with Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources Management, has completed two more projects this past summer to improve water quality in the Sunday Creek Watershed on the West Branch of Sunday Creek. The two projects were West Branch Headwaters Project and West Branch 43 project, both next to State Route 155 between the Villages of Corning and Shawnee in Perry County.

Phase I of the West Branch Headwaters project closed four subsidence features that had been capturing fresh surface water. This captured water used to drain into abandoned deep mines and discharge near the stream as acid mine drainage, Sunday Creek's worst pollutant. Phase I also reclaimed a 1.28 acre gob pile, exposed mine spoil. Funding for this project was through an Office of Surface Mining Clean Streams

Initiative Grant and an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency 319 Grant and included match from ODNR-Division of Mineral Resources Management. Phase II, acid mine drainage treatment, will be put in place next summer. The West Branch 43 site also closed a subsidence feature and rerouted the stream back to the West Branch of Sunday Creek. This project was fully funded by ODNR-DMRM. We are planning a watershed tour for April 8, 2011 to showcase some of these projects.

Welcome 2010-2011 Sunday Creek Americorps Member!

We are excited to welcome Leah Graham to Sunday Creek! Leah will be with us for one year assisting with a variety of tasks including chemical and biological water sampling, and outreach and education. Leah is excited to get her feet wet in Sunday Creek this year!

Previously she worked at Huff Run as an ODNR intern, studied at Ohio University Environmental Studies Program, and led a variety of sustainability and environmental education programs. She looks forward to her year with Rural Action and to working in the watershed community.



a note from the coordinator

By Amber Leasure-Earnhardt

This summer was an eventful one with Alden Gilliom (Summer AmeriCorps VISTA), Michelle Shaw (ODNR Intern), and Joe Brehm (EE Coordinator) leading the way on summer day camps, biological and chemical water quality sampling, river sweep, library programs and many other watershed duties while I was on maternity leave. I came back at the beginning of September after being home with my son during July and August. Lochlann Donovan Earnhardt was born on July 14th, 2010 (8 lbs. 1 oz. and 21 inches). My husband Eric and I could not be more blessed with a healthy little boy!



This fall is already a busy one here at the Sunday Creek Office. There were two reclamation projects completed at the end of the summer, West Branch Headwaters Phase I and West Branch 43 (see article for details). We completed fish sampling of the watershed in collaboration with OEPA and ODNR-DMRM in order to compare with results from a fish sample completed a few years ago. Fish and bugs are good indicator species for us to see whether or not our water quality is improving and where we need to be focusing our attention in our restoration work. We are planning more events and ways for people to become involved in our watershed and our work. Please check our website www.sundaycreek.org or call the Sunday Creek Watershed Office (740) 767-2225 for details of events and how you or your group can get involved!

Kids Go Wild at Sunday Creek Day Camp!

By Joe Brehm



Rural Action facilitated a week-long watershed day camp in July 2010 in partnership with Sunday Creek Watershed Group. Approximately 20 children participated in Sunday Creek's successful camp based out of Glouster, which consisted of activities and field trips that focused on watersheds, acid mine drainage, and energy issues. Presenters from Hocking College, ODNR, Wayne National Forest, and Ohio EPA facilitated excellent learning experiences for the kids. A trip to The Wilds, another RA partner, was also a highlight for many of the campers.

As Rural Action blazes ahead for the coming year, we are excited to expand the day camp program. Three one-day camps will be held throughout the school year to supplement the week-long summer programs. For more information, or to volunteer with the Environmental Education Program, contact Joe Brehm at (740) 767-2225 or joe@ruralaction.org.

Sunday Creek Watershed Office Staff

Amber Leasure-Earnhardt Watershed Coordinator
Joe Brehm Rural Action Environmental
Education Coordinator
Leah Graham AmeriCorps Member
Michelle Shaw ODNR Intern

Getting Down and Dirty in Sunday Creek with ODNR Intern Michelle Shaw

By Leah Graham



Michelle has been busy getting her waders muddied up this fall doing water quality sampling, fish shocking, and site characterization at Sunday Creek. Over the summer, she has been busy cleaning up the watershed in River Sweep, explor-

ing the streams with kids at the summer day camps, conducting macroinvertebrate and water quality sampling (MAIS), and taking care of office needs.

Currently Michelle is doing a watershed characterization at Pine Run for her Master's Project in Environmental Studies at Ohio University. She has been compiling data from Sunday Creek's Acid Mine Drainage Abatement Treatment Plan and Watershed Plan and has been doing reconnaissance looking at the water quality in Pine Run. The outcome of her project will help Ohio Department of Natural

Resources engineers and project specialists design treatment systems for Pine Run. Pine Run is one of the most critical acid and heavy metal contributors to the West Branch.

Before beginning work at Sunday Creek, Michelle taught biology labs at Ohio University, worked as an Environmental Educator at Willow Bend in Flagstaff, Arizona, and was an Americorps VISTA at Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership. Michelle enjoys working in watershed restoration stating that, "Everything we do we're working towards making the world a better place. No day is the same." She enjoys the educational opportunities and exposing kids to nature in a way they might not have learned in school. When doing fish shocking and macroinvertebrate sampling, Michelle enjoys the visual it provides into the water quality at the site. Michelle grew up in Kettering, Ohio and has lived in Athens for 6 years. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, sports, working in her flowerbeds, and crocheting. We're happy that Michelle's ODNR internship has been extended to December, as she continues her work in Sunday Creek!

Sunday Creek Art in the Windows

By Leah Graham

Sunday Creek has a rotating exhibit featuring local artists' work in our windows! For the month of September, Jeff Lovett, MFA graduate student at Ohio University in Fine Arts and Sculpture, displayed his work. Lovett's research is currently centered on the extraction, processing, and use of coal and the effect it has on the history and future of Appalachian Ohio.

Girl Power, a student group from Trimble Elementary, will be displaying their work, "Connections" for part of October and November. If you would like to display your artwork in the windows please contact us at 740.767.2225!

Sunday Creek Takes Part in Ohio River Clean Sweep and Poster Contest

By: Amber Leasure-Earnhardt

On June 19th, 2010, the Sunday Creek Watershed Group hosted a clean-up site on the mainstem of Sunday Creek in the Village of Glouster as part of a greater Ohio River clean-up effort. The River Sweep is sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) and Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE). The river bank clean-up is an annual event to help clean-up the Ohio River and its tributaries.

This summer there were 14 volunteers who collected over 25 bags of trash and 11 tires from the stream. Each volunteer received a free river sweep t-shirt. Sunday Creek Watershed Group will be hosting another

clean-up this coming summer on June 18th, 2011, and is also spreading the word to local students (K-12) about the river sweep poster contest. The deadline to design a poster for the river sweep poster contest is December 10, 2010 and prizes will be awarded to winners. For more information contact the Sunday Creek Watershed Office (740) 767-2225 or check out our website, www.sundaycreek.org.



Get Involved!

- December Community Meeting- Date TBD - check website for details
- December 10, 2010- Ohio River Sweep Poster Contest Deadline
- Spring 2011 - 1st Annual Sunday Creek Watershed Photo Contest- Start snapping photos at Burr Oak and the Wayne National Forest for a head start on our photo contest for this spring.
- April 8, 2010 - Sunday Creek Spring Tour

Fall Art Fundraiser

Local Art Basket Raffle featuring beautifully crafted pieces from artists in Southeast Ohio! Includes works from: Glouster Artist Tim Lemmoine, Perry County Artist Jim Hart, Rendville Art Works, Starbrick Art Gallery, Nelsonville Pottery, Passionworks, C Square, Pottery Museum and Heritage Center, Athens Artist Leah Graham and Heron Dance

Tickets are 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, or 25 for \$20. All proceeds benefit the Sunday Creek Watershed Group. Winner of the raffle will be notified by December 17th. To buy tickets, or view basket, please contact the office at 740-767-2225 or email amber@sundaycreek.org.



MISSION:

The Sunday Creek Watershed Group is committed to restoring and preserving water quality through community interaction, conservation, and education; in pursuit of a healthy ecosystem capable of supporting bio-diversity and recreation.

MEMBERSHIP:

If you would like to renew your membership and support Sunday Creek, fill out the bottom portion below and send it back to us with your donation—thank you so much for your support!

JOIN US

The operation of a successful watershed program involves several partners. Foremost among those organizations is Rural Action, of which Sunday Creek Watershed Group is a part. Rural Action provides the non-profit status necessary to obtain grants, supports an AmeriCorps program and provides fiscal management. Rural Action also connects watershed restoration and watershed communities to a bigger agenda of building on our region's assets and fostering sustainable development.

By becoming a member of Sunday Creek, you also become a member of Rural Action. Membership at any level provides you with the benefits listed below and access to all of SCWG and Rural Action programs.

Join today and become a part of the ACTION!

Membership Level:

- \$20
 - \$40
 - \$60
 - \$100
- Membership at any level provides you with discounts on merchandise and events, our quarterly print newsletter, annual report and e-newsletter

Payment Type: Check Credit Card
 MC/VISA # _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

Please make my membership anonymous

I am interested in the following program areas:

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Forestry
- Watershed Restoration
- Environmental Education
- Energy



I prefer to receive publications electronically.

You can also join online by visiting:
www.ruralaction.org/join