

Leading Creek News



New Beginnings and Ends

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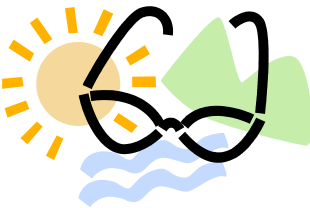
June 29th marked Raina Fullks' last day as Leading Creek Watershed Coordinator. After over 7 years of working with Raina at the Meigs SWCD, she will be sorely missed! Raina committed much of her time, effort, and cheery personality to restoring the watershed and providing environmental education by making events such as Stream Sweep, River Sweep, and Watershed Day Camps a possibility. Raina decided to take a job closer to home at the Gallia Soil and Water Conservation District. There, she is taking on the position of Floodplain Coordinator, and we all congratulate her on this new job and wish her the best of luck! The Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors has decided not to replace Raina for the last 6 months of the watershed coordinator grant. However, should new acid mine drainage reclamation projects de-

velop, we may apply for the grant again and hire a new coordinator.

Goodbye and Good Luck Raina!



In less than a month, we will also be saying goodbye to our AmeriCorps member, Lisa Prince! Lisa has committed a year of service to the Leading Creek Watershed by helping with water sampling and all of our special events and programs. She also made the addition of our rain garden (page 6) a possibility by seeking funds. Lisa is moving on to get her doctorate degree in toxicology from the University of Rochester in New York. Replacing her in mid-August will be Michelle Tarian. Best wishes Lisa!



Lisa and Jenny show off the biggest crawdad ever, caught by Southern 3rd graders!

Meigs SWCD Staff

- Steve Jenkins, *Program Administrator*
- Stephanie Allen, *Assistant Administrator*
- Jenny Ridenour, *Education Coordinator / District Technician*
- Jim Freeman, *Wildlife Specialist / Watershed Coordinator*
- Carrie Crislip, *NRCS - District Conservationist*
- Lisa Prince, *AmeriCorps member*

Our Partners

- Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District
- Agri-Drain Corporation
- American Electric Power
- AMP Ohio
- Buckeye Hills RC&D
- Boy Scouts of America
- Eastern Local School District
- Girl Scouts of the USA
- Leading Creek Conservancy District
- Leading Creek Improvement Committee
- Meigs County Commissioners
- Meigs County Engineer
- Meigs County Health Department
- Meigs County Recycling & Litter Prevention
- Meigs Local FFA
- Meigs Local School District
- Mid Valley Christian School
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Divisions of Forestry, Soil & Water Resources, Mineral Resources Management, Wildlife, and Recycling & Litter Prevention
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Surface Water
- Ohio State University Extension
- Ohio University, College of Engineering
- Ohio University, ILGARD
- PDK Construction
- Pheasants Forever
- Residents of the Leading Creek Watershed
- Rural Action, Inc.
- Rutland Village Council
- Southern Local School District
- Township Trustees of Columbia, Salem, Rutland, and Salisbury Townships in Meigs County
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Office of Surface Mining
- 4-H

Spring Cleaning

Our Annual Stream Sweep was held on April 14th. Fifty-five volunteers came out and helped us clean up the watershed, despite the chilly weather and threat of rain! Over the 3-hour timeframe, the volunteers collected 1 ton of trash, plus 10 bags at our Adopt-A-Highway site! Volunteers were all rewarded with free t-shirts, pizza, drinks, and snacks after the event.

We also coordinated 3 sites for the Ohio River Sweep on June 16th. Between Racine, Pomeroy, and Syracuse we had 154 volunteers! This is more volunteers than we have ever had before! Together, they collected an estimated 2.5 tons of trash along the Ohio River. These volunteers also received free pizza, t-shirts, and drinks after the event. We were pretty close to running out of pizza, but we made it work! Sixty-two Girl Scouts



A River Sweep volunteer shows off his find.

also cleaned up Forked Run State Park as part of River Sweep on the 22nd of June.

A huge thank you goes out to all of our volunteers and our partners and donors, including but not limited to: ORSANCO, Powell's Food Fair, OSU Extension Office, Veterans of Foreign Wars Stewart Johnson Post 9926, Pepsi, Jaymar, Inc., Home National Bank, Farmer's Bank, Leading Creek Conservancy, and Hill's Sunoco.



Boy Scouts clean up a stream at the 2012 Leading Creek Stream Sweep.



Staff and volunteers help load the dump truck with trash at Stream Sweep.

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Thomas Fork Doser Updates

Since construction of the Thomas Fork Doser early this year, we have been sampling water quality religiously. The results have shown that during medium and high flows, the doser works wonders! The pH has increased and toxic heavy metals have been dropping out of the water in response to this increase in pH.

Unfortunately, during low flows, as a result of this hot and mostly dry summer that we've been having, there simply is not enough water to wash the lime product downstream and treat the acid mine drainage sources coming into Thomas Fork farther downstream.

However, the doser was never meant to be a solution to the entire issue, just one part of the solution.

Therefore, we, along with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources- Department of Mineral Resource Management, are continuing to look into additional remediation projects in the watershed. Hopefully, we will be able to treat some more AMD sources in the upcoming years!



Potential Office Transition for the Meigs SWCD

As many of you may have heard, it has officially been announced that the Meigs County Farm Service Agency, who share an office with us, will be closing and consolidating with Gallia/Lawrence County FSA office in Gallipolis.

Steve Maurer, Ohio State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced that USDA Secretary Thomas A. Vilsack has approved the closure of five FSA county offices in Ohio, a process that will begin immediately. The county offices confirmed for closure in Ohio are: Carroll, Clark, Meigs, Montgomery and Perry counties.

After the required notifications have been provided to producers, FSA employees and office landlords, closure dates will be established and made publicly available. With this being said, we are still uncertain as to what this will mean for the Meigs SWCD office, given that we share office space and other equipment with FSA. However, in case we do need to move, the staff and Board of Supervisors have been diligently looking into several close and convenient options for office space.

We will continue to inform county residents of changes as we become aware of them. Best of luck to Ann and Cindy with their move to Gallia County; they will also be missed!

Congratulations Contest Winners!

The 2012 Photo Contest winners were announced and awarded their prizes on April 14th at our Annual Stream Sweep. This year's theme was "Disgusting Water: Clean it Up!"

First place was awarded to Josephine Hill of Long Bottom with her entry entitled "Pollution on the Move" featuring lime from the Thomas Fork Doser Project treating the stream. Second place was awarded to Teresa Shiflet with her entry entitled "Taking Out the 'Trash'" featuring a flood event on Lasher Road. Third place was awarded to Amanda Taylor of Middleport with her entry entitled "Picture It" showing a before and after shot of a litter clean-up in a stream. Fourth place was awarded to Hanna King of Rainbow Lake Road with her entry entitled "Dirty Water" showing colorful water and algae. Fifth place was awarded to Levi Chapman of Pomeroy with his entry entitled "Dirty, Nasty, Water" featuring a creek with litter and debris in it.

All photos will be available to be viewed at the Meigs SWCD booth at the Meigs County fair starting August 13th, at the Meigs SWCD Annual Banquet on September 25th, and may also be displayed at various other locations throughout the county, including the Meigs County Public Libraries.

A special thanks goes out to Home National Bank, Farmer's Bank, and Ohio Valley Bank for donating the prizes to the top three winners! The 2013 contest theme will be announced early next year, so keep your eyes opened for the perfect photo!

Right. 3rd Place, Amanda Taylor:

"Picture It"



Above. 1st Place, Josephine Hill:
"Pollution on the Move"



Above. 2nd Place, Teresa Shiflet:
"Taking Out the 'Trash'"



Leading Creek Watershed Camp Fun

The Leading Creek Watershed Day Camps were held on June 13th and 14th. Camp took place at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area, outside of Rutland. Thirty campers participated in many fun activities, graciously led by staff members of partnering organizations.

During the first day of Camp, volunteers and staff helped the campers make and design their own bird feeders and nature journals. Afterwards, Theresa Caldwell from Athens SWCD taught the campers about soils. Meanwhile Anna Bonner from the Division of Forestry took a second group up on the nature trails and talked to them about trees and other flora as they enjoyed black raspberries that were growing along the path! Kaabe Shaw, from the Department of Mineral Resource Management, also took the kids on the nature trail and talked to them about mining. Some of them were really excited about finding pieces of coal! During the last two activities, one group went with Hal Kneen from the Ohio State Extension Office; Hal took the kids on a short hike around our native prairie grass stand. Lastly, Scott Moody from Ohio University came and talked to the kids about Ohio amphibians and showed them some preserved species.

On the second day of camp, the campers decorated their own hats! Then, they had two activities in the morning. Mike Greenlee, from the Division of Wildlife, came and demonstrated fish shocking in Little Leading Creek for the kids. The kids also got to see and touch the different fish species that were in the creek! Chris Gilkie, the new wildlife officer for Meigs County, showed the campers all of the neat things that he needs for his job. He even let them all test out the siren and loud-speaker in his truck! After lunch, the kids did a recycling and wetland activity. Joe Steinbrecher from Zero Waste led the recycling activity. The kids had a relay race in which they grabbed different “waste” materials and ran it to either the reuse, recycle, or trash bins. Joe then talked to them about how many of the materials could be reused. For the wetland activity, Dave Enterline, a local resident and retired Hocking College professor, and Lindsay Rist, a Division of Wildlife employee, supervised a wetland exploration and talked to the kids about the different species they found in the wetland. Lastly, Dee Kimes from Forked Run State Park came and did the Passport to Fishing program, and everyone got a free fishing pole! Chris Gilkie and Chelsea Herrick also taught the kids about archery; all of the campers got to shoot some arrows too!



Chris Gilkie helps one camper test out the loud speaker in his truck.



Chris and Chelsea help campers aim their bow and arrows.



Mike Greenlee shows campers the fish he caught while fish shocking.

Conservation Area Additions

New additions were recently made to the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area.

After several unsuccessful attempts to receive a grant to install a rain garden to collect rain from the shelterhouse roof, we decided to construct the rain garden from donations alone, and we are very grateful to these donors! The Ohio Association of Garden Clubs donated money, which allowed us to buy compost, mulch, and drainage rock for the garden. Bob’s Market and Greenhouse graciously donated all of the plants, and Forest Run Ready Mix donated all of the sand. We greatly appreciate all of the donations and the staff and volunteers who came to help us dig, fill-in, and plant the rain garden! We also give a “thank you” in advanced to the Rutland Garden Club, who agreed to help us maintain the garden.

Rain gardens are mainly used in storm-water management, where rain is collected from impervious surfaces such as roads. These gardens allows the rain to slowly filter through the soils instead of running off the land and creating erosion. Rain gardens also help to filter out any pollutants from the water before it enters into a stream. In our case, the down-spout from the shelterhouse feeds directly into the rain garden. The rain soaks down into the garden, providing the plants with water. After filtering through the soil, the excess rain will then enter into a tributary to Little Leading Creek. All of the plants that we planted in our rain garden were recommended for storm water management by the Ohio State Extension Office and are either native or naturalized, non-invasive species.



Left. Staff and volunteers help to fill the rain garden in with soil, sand, and compost.



Right. Staff pose with the finished product, after several days of hard labor

The rain garden will also be used as an educational tool for school groups, and we hope to get a descriptive sign out there soon. Stop by and check out the beautiful plants!

In addition, restroom facilities were recently finished on the property. Funds for these facilities were provided for by the Meigs County Grants Office. These restrooms will be perfect and very helpful for Watershed Camps and educational field trips held at the Conservation Area!



Left. The new restroom facilities, which were completed at the end of June!

Leading Creek Watershed Group Membership Form

Join us today! Leading Creek wants *you* to become a member!

To become a member of the Leading Creek Watershed Group simply fill in your information below and drop this form off at our office or mail it to us c/o Meigs SWCD
33101 Hiland Road
Pomeroy, OH 45769

Yes, I want to join today!

And I want to donate! (see options below)

Name (Please print) Organization (if applicable)

Mailing Address

City State Zip

Telephone Email

Signature Date

Benefits of Membership

All members receive personal invitations throughout the year to participate in activities such as watershed tours, group contests, litter clean up days, and water sampling demonstrations.

Option to Donate

Here is your chance to help us restore and protect the watershed. All donations are used to directly benefit the efforts of the Leading Creek Watershed Group. Those who donate \$50 or more receive one of our newly designed t-shirts. Also keep in mind that your contributions are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to Leading Creek c/o Meigs SWCD.

- \$10 *Donor* Preferred Shirt Size (If applicable) _____
- \$25 *Supporter*
- \$50 *Patron*
- \$100 *Sponsor*
- \$500 *Benefactor*
- Other \$ _____

**THE LEADING CREEK
WATERSHED GROUP IS
A PARTNERSHIP OF
RESIDENTS,
OFFICIALS, AND
AGENCIES UNITED BY
COMMON INTEREST IN
RESTORING THE
LEADING CREEK
WATERSHED TO ADD
TO THE QUALITY OF
LIFE FOR THE
RESIDENTS OF THE
WATERSHED AND
SURROUNDING
COMMUNITIES.**

Thank you for your membership and for your support!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week of August 13th: Meigs County Fair

August 30th: Adopt-A-Highway Litter Clean-Up at 9a.m. at Meigs SWCD Office

September 25th: Meigs SWCD Annual Banquet

October 11th: Adopt-A-Highway Litter Clean-Up at 9a.m. at Meigs SWCD Office

Office Closed for Holidays:

September 3rd: Labor Day

October 8th: Columbus Day



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