

# Leading Creek News



## Thomas Fork Doser Update

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As of late January 2012, our very first acid mine drainage reclamation project is up and running! This project is located on Bailey Run Road on a tributary to Thomas Fork..

We have all been working diligently to make sure that the doser is working properly. Maintenance such as timing the wheel and keeping the leaves out of the uptake pipe is performed on a weekly basis by Meigs SWCD staff. We have also been going out weekly to do a “pH profile” of Thomas Fork. For this, we monitor 7 different sites along Thomas Fork, generally at locations where other tributaries enter into Thomas Fork.

The purpose of this pH profile is to see whether or not the doser is also treating the acid mine drainage that comes in from other tributaries.

So far, the pH is looking

good at all of the monitoring sites; much better than the staff has ever seen it, in fact! But this is dependent on stream flow. When the creeks run lower this summer the doser will be very important in keeping the pH close to neutral.

At a location directly downstream of the doser, we actually found a baby dragonfly in the stream! The water there was previously so bad that nothing could live there. Hopefully we will soon be seeing other critters move in!



Treated water leaving the Thomas Fork Doser, before entering the creek.

### Meigs SWCD Staff

Steve Jenkins, *Program Administrator*  
 Stephanie Allen, *Assistant Administrator*  
 Jenny Ridenour, *Education Coordinator / District Technician*  
 Jim Freeman, *Wildlife Specialist / Watershed Coordinator*  
 Raina Fulks, *Leading Creek 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

## Trash, Recycling, and Sewage: Oh my!

On the 5th of May, the Meigs County Health Department and Meigs County Commissioners will be sponsoring an Amnesty Day for many of your unwanted materials! Meigs County residents can drop off their unwanted electronics, appliances, tires, furniture, etc. at the Meigs County Fairgrounds. The Health Department will then properly dispose of these items, free of charge to you! However, they are not able to accept TVs or appliances that still have Freon in them, like refrigerators and air conditioners.

Certain items can also be recycled, free of charge, at any day of the year, at various drop-off points in Meigs County. These items include: newspapers, magazines, tin cans, aluminum cans, #1 and #2 plastic bottles (bottom must be wider than mouth, no clam-shell containers), and cardboard. Absolutely NO glass is accepted. If you have questions about what or where to recycle, please contact us at 740-992-4282, and we would be happy to answer your questions!



On another note, we are also partnering with the Meigs County Health Department to help Meigs County citizens learn about the possibilities of replacing and upgrading their home septic systems. If you think your septic system needs upgraded, if you are looking for funding possibilities, or if you have any questions about home septic, please contact us or the Health Department. We will work with you to show you possible funding options for these repairs. The watershed and your neighbors will thank you!

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## AmeriCorps Adventures: Apply Now!

We are looking for a new AmeriCorps member for the upcoming term! The application for the 2012 to 2013 AmeriCorps position is now available and is due July 22nd. If you're looking for a position that involves community service and/or need some beginning experience in the environmental/conservation field, this AmeriCorps position may be right for you! AmeriCorps members are given a year to complete 1700 hours of service. During this term, you will receive a living stipend of \$1000 per month, health insurance, child care, and an education award at the end of your service, which can be used to further your education or pay off those pesky student loans!

Leading Creek partners with Rural Action to obtain an AmeriCorps member at the Meigs SWCD office. Please visit [www.ruralaction.org](http://www.ruralaction.org) to learn more about this community organization. To apply for the AmeriCorps position at Leading Creek (or any other Rural Action AmeriCorps positions) visit [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov); in the "Join AmeriCorps!" box, click 'advanced options.' Then choose Ohio for the State and type in 'Rural Action' for the Program Name. 'Rural Action Stream Restore Corps' should be the only option to pop up. Here, you can read a little bit about Rural Action, partnering organizations, and member duties. Of course, you will have to register with the AmeriCorps system before you can apply.

All Rural Action AmeriCorps positions, including the one at Leading Creek, run from August 10th, 2012 to August 10th, 2013. Mem-

bers are required to complete 1700 service hours within this year to qualify for the education award, which is about \$5,550.

To get you excited for this opportunity, here are some things that AmeriCorps members with Leading Creek have done:

Training- numerous training opportunities that look great on a résumé! This may include, but is not limited to: water quality sampling, macroinvertebrate sampling, habitat analysis, environmental education, volunteer management, and grant-writing.

Water Sampling- Go out into the field and test the water for dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, aquatic life, and more. This is also a great way to meet and work with volunteers and staff at agencies like ODNR and OEPA!

Clean-ups- Organize and participate in various litter clean-ups throughout the year! This includes: Adopt-A-Highway, Stream Sweep, and River Sweep.

Environmental Education- Work with local schools and youth groups to teach children about environmental issues, and organize and participate in Watershed Day Camps.

Public Outreach- Write newsletters, advertise events, and conduct public workshops. Maybe you'll even make it on TV talking about our programs!

For more information and complete job descriptions contact Candi Withem, the AmeriCorps Coordinator with Rural Action at [cswithem@yahoo.com](mailto:cswithem@yahoo.com).



## Leading Creek Stream Sweep



Volunteers show off their 2011 Stream Sweep tees.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Leading Creek Stream Sweep will be held on Saturday, **April 14<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Jim Vennari Park in Rutland, along State Route 124. The event will be held rain or shine, so come prepared for the weather!

The purpose of the Leading Creek Stream Sweep is to clean and beautify the streams in the Leading Creek watershed and to keep trash and other refuse from getting into the streams.

The first stream sweep was held in 2001, and they have been held annually every year since! Dates have been scheduled to roughly coincide with the annual Earth Day observance, and it happens to fall on the Great American Clean-up date this year. Attendance at stream sweep has varied over the years from a few dozen to over 100 volunteers! All individuals, families, and community groups are welcome to attend.

Generally, volunteers disperse from the park and return with their haul later in the morning. Clean-up sites include areas along the streams in the Leading Creek watershed and other problem areas near streams and roads,

including our Adopt-A-Highway section of Route 7 between Hiland Road and Route 124.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to collect electronic waste at this year's streams sweep, unlike in the past couple of years. So, please hold onto these items for the May 5th collection at the Meigs County Fairgrounds.

However, the winners of the 2012 Photo Contest: "Disgusting Water: Clean it Up!" will be announced at this event. Submissions for the photo contest are due to our office or by email ([LisaMPrince@gmail.com](mailto:LisaMPrince@gmail.com)) by April 6th.

Community groups and individuals who wish to participate in Stream Sweep can contact us at 740-992-4282. The first 100 registered participants will receive a free Leading Creek Stream Sweep T-shirt, and all participants will receive a free lunch!

This is a great way for groups and people to get involved in their community and to make it a more beautiful place to live!

The event is sponsored by the Meigs SWCD, Rutland Township Board of Trustees, and the Meigs County Transfer Station.



Having fun and cleaning up streams, even in the rain!

## Register for Leading Creek Watershed Camp

Register your children today for the 2012 Leading Creek Watershed Camp! This year, Camp will be held on June 13th & 14th at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area.

During these two days, students can participate in a number of hands-on activities to discover the importance of clean water and explore all the critters that make their home in and around streams. All activities at Leading Creek Watershed Camp are designed to engage students in learning while having fun!



Lessons at Watershed Camp will be prepared for students entering 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades (ages 9 to 14 years old). Note that the Camp schedule has changed slightly this year. Camp runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parents/Guardians should note that the drop-off time is 9:00 a.m. and the pick-up time is 4:00 p.m..

Watershed Camp is free! There is NO FEE for campers to attend. Please note that registration will be limited to the first 50 applicants. Lunch and one snack per day will also be provided for each camper. Sunscreen and bug spray should be applied *before* the camper arrives at camp.

Instructors at the camp are staff members of the Meigs SWCD, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Forked Run State Park, and many other agencies.

Topics and activities at Camp include:

- Discovering the critters in the creek
- Fish sampling demonstration

- Recycling activities
- See the bees, amphibians, and fish of Ohio
- Fun nature crafts
- Wildlife identification and exploration
- Nature hikes with plant identification
- The important functions of wetlands
- Historic coal mines and acid mine drainage
- AND MANY MORE!!



To be registered for the Camp, we must receive a completed registration form by May 31st. Please contact us to obtain the form. Registration is limited to the first 50 applicants. After registering, you will receive a packet of information including health forms. If you would like to register or have any questions please call the Meigs SWCD office at 740-992-4282.



Hocking Hills State Park staff teach campers about birds of prey at Watershed Camp 2011.



## Mark Your Calendar for Ohio River Sweep



One group and their loot from the 2011 Ohio River Sweep!

On Saturday, **June 16<sup>th</sup>**, people all over the region will come together for Ohio River Sweep. Tons of trash will be taken from waterways and properly disposed. This year the Meigs SWCD and the Leading Creek Watershed Group are sponsoring three locations for Ohio River Sweep. Each year many local businesses generously contribute to provide supplies for the event.

This year volunteers can choose to meet at 9am at either Pomeroy, Racine, or Syracuse. Meet in Pomeroy at 9am at the amphitheater stage in the river parking lot. At Racine, volunteers will meet at the Star Mill Park at 9am. At Syracuse, volunteers can meet at the shelter house by the ball fields at 9am. Gloves and trash bags will be provided to volunteers, who will also get free t-shirts and refreshments after the event ends at noon. This is a great event for families, scout groups, 4-H clubs, and all concerned citizens.

Since 1989, this award-winning cleanup for the Ohio River and its tributaries brings thousands of volunteers to the riverbanks to collect tons of trash and debris. River Sweep encompasses the entire length of the river,

from its origin in Pittsburgh, PA to its end in Cairo, IL, which includes 1,962 miles of shoreline and many tributaries!

Each year, more than 21,000 volunteers from public organizations, civic groups, recreational clubs, and the general public in six states bordering the river come together to collect more than 20,000 tons of trash and other debris from the banks of the Ohio River and tributaries.

To make this event a success, donors work with the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, an interstate water pollution agency for the Ohio River Valley, along with environmental protection and natural resource agencies from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

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## Volunteers Needed!

Adopt-A-Highway events will be held on April 14th (along with our Stream Sweep), August 30th, and October 11th. So come out and help clean up the watershed! On April 14th we will meet in Rutland at 9am. For all other dates, meet at the Meigs SWCD office at 9 AM, and walk from there to our section of 'adopted' highway along St. Rt. 7 / 124.

Don't forget to volunteer for our Stream Sweep on the 14th of April and Ohio River Sweep on the 16th of June. You can also volunteer for our Leading Volunteer Monitors Program! For more information, visit [www.meigsswcd.com](http://www.meigsswcd.com) or email our AmeriCorps member at: [LisaMPrince@gmail.com](mailto:LisaMPrince@gmail.com)

# 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

**April 6th:** Photo Contest Deadline

**April 14th:** Leading Creek Stream Sweep / Adopt A Highway Event / Photo Contest Awards Given

**June 13th & 14th:** Leading Creek Watershed Day Camp

**June 16th:** Ohio River Sweep

**August 30th:** Adopt A Highway Litter Clean Up

**October 11th:** Adopt A Highway Litter Clean Up

**Office Closed for Holidays:**

**May 28th:** Memorial Day



[www.meigsswcd.com](http://www.meigsswcd.com)

[www.facebook.com/LeadingCreek](https://www.facebook.com/LeadingCreek)

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Pomeroy OH 45769  
Permit # 101  
Non-Profit



*Please Recycle*