

Leading Creek News



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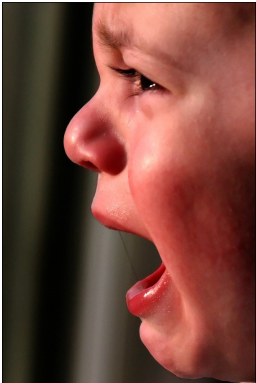
The Last Word

Leading Creek News is sad to announce this will be the final newsletter we are able to distribute. We have had a good run distributing the latest and greatest with Leading Creek but every great thing must come to an end.

There is no need to fret, we will still keep you, the audience, updated on the website and facebook. Check these postings regularly for recent Leading Creek Watershed Group news and events.

Our final issue will be dedicated to the past and the future of Leading Creek Watershed Group. Provided is an update on a few of the great things Leading Creek Watershed Group has accomplished in the last year, along with future events and projects.

Thank you to everyone who read and supported this newsletter and the Leading Creek Watershed. Without your support, the Leading Creek watershed would not be what it is today.



Moving On Up

Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District and Leading Creek Watershed Group officially moved offices. Our officemates, USDA Farm Service Agency, moved to Gallia County, and we will miss sharing an office with them.

We moved on December 11th. Our new office is located up the hill from our old office at 113 E Memorial Drive, Suite D, Pomeroy, OH 45769.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the move and make sure to stop by our open house on February 12, from 10-2. Snacks and beverages provided.



Outside the new office

Meigs SWCD Staff

- Steve Jenkins, *Program Administrator/
Watershed Coorkinator*
- Darla Staats, *Assistant Administrator*
- Jenny Ridenour, *Education Coordinator/
District Technician*
- Jim Freeman, *Wildlife Specialist*
- Carrie Crislip, *NRCS - District
Conservationist*
- Michelle Tarian, *Leading Creek Watershed
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, and Wildlife
- 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



Stories of Leading Creek

Leading from the Past : Stories of Leading Creek Watershed began in November 2009 by the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District's Leading Creek Watershed Group . The goal of the project was to educate residents of the Leading Creek Watershed and outside community members about the history, culture, and environment of the watershed region from the viewpoint of the people living within watershed communities. This goal was achieved by collecting a total of nineteen stories from a diverse group of residents and assembling them into a book.

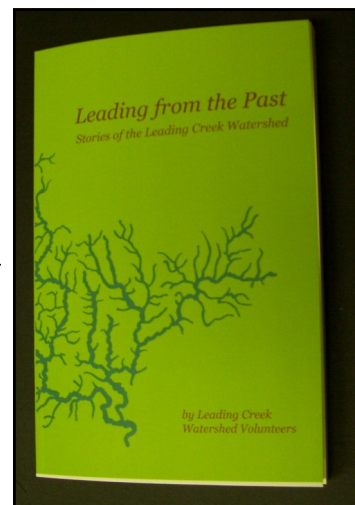
Therefore, the purpose of the project was not to make residents think a certain way about the watershed, but to learn about what residents think about the watershed, and form a glimpse of the watershed's history and culture by showcasing resident's experiences and opinions.

Borrow a copy from a library in Pomeroy, Athens, Albany, or Gallia!

-Or-

Buy a copy at the Meigs SWCD for \$15!

Supplies limited.



Welcome Americorps

The Leading Creek Watershed Group welcomes the new Americorps member, Michelle Tarian, to the Meigs Soil and Water team. Michelle studied Environmental Geography and Women and Gender Studies at Ohio University. Michelle looks forward to spending the year term working to improve the Leading Creek watershed and getting to know the surrounding community.



**Check Out Leading Creek facebook
www.facebook.com/LeadingCreek and 'like' us to view pictures, keep updated, and more!**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Thomas Fork Doser



Since the Thomas Fork doser was installed in January 2012 we have been treating the orange acid mine drainage with calcium oxide (lime). The basic lime counteracts the acidic acid mine drainage. The water seeps into intake pipes then runs over a water wheel to turn an auger to drop a dose of lime into the water. We have been studying how the inputted lime transports down Thomas Fork stream during high, medium, and low flows. There have been problems with getting the lime downstream with low flows but we are attempting to study the problem and create a solution. We are currently working with gear box and sprocket ratios to find the most efficient way of inputting lime with the given amount of flow.

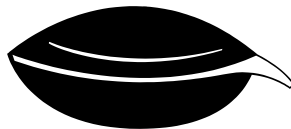
We continue to monitor The Thomas Fork doser’s success through a weekly pH profile where we monitor seven different sites downstream of where the lime is discharged. Research data will allow us to maximize the impact that the doser has on the Thomas Fork sub-watershed. Anyone interested in the Thomas Fork doser or pH profiling can contact Leading Creek Watershed Group to set up an educational field day. This information can be found on the Meigsswcd.com website.



Mussel Stocking

Once upon a time Leading Creek supported a healthy freshwater mussel population of 11 species – a typical amount of diversity for a stream of its size. But when the Meigs Mine was dewatered in 1993 all mussels downstream were destroyed. A few mussels survived upstream, but the majority had been in harm’s way. It was recognized from the beginning that the recovery of mussels in Leading Creek would be a long process. Steps towards this process were made once in 2011 and again on Sept 11, 2012 when the Leading Creek Watershed Group and - Ohio State University stocked two different species of mussels into two locations of Leading Creek. One of these species includes the endangered and relocated Northern Riffle Shell. Relocating these mussels is an essential recovery tool because of the extent of their population decline and their scattered populations.

For the Leading Creek Watershed group, mussel introductions increase the biodiversity. Sustaining improved biodiversity in water bodies shows positive developments in water quality. In other words, there must be healthy water to support healthy life. Lets keep improving Leading Creek watershed’s health and watch the mussels flourish!



Left: Jim Freeman carefully place mussels into Leading Creek.

Right: Ohio University’s Dr. Watters holding three freshwater mussels.





Photo Contest Announcement



2012 First place winner, Josephine Hill.

Theme: "Disgusting Water"

The Leading Creek Watershed Group is now accepting entries for the ninth annual amateur photo contest. The theme will be "Water and You". The purpose of the theme is to capture why the Leading Creek watershed is special to you. This contest is open to the public of all ages. The photos must be taken within Meigs County and relate to the theme. There is a limit of one photo submission per person and each submission needs to have an entry form attached. Contest photos are due no later than April 12, 2013. Three winners will be chosen for the cash prizes and announced at the Stream Sweep on April 20th. The top three photos will be displayed at the Meigs SWCD booth during the 2013 Meigs County Fair and at the SWCD's 2013 Annual Banquet.

To obtain the required entry form and detailed contest rules, please contact the Meigs SWCD office at 740-992-4282 or print one off the Leading Creek tab on the MeigsSWCD.com website. We look forward to seeing your photos!

Rain Barrel Workshop

The Leading Creek Watershed Group recently received a watershed education mini-grant to be used for hosting a rain barrel workshop in April 2013. The exact date and time are to be determined but keep checking MeigsSWCD.com and the Leading Creek Watershed Group facebook for more details.

The workshop will be free and open to the public. Attendees will have a chance to assemble a free rain barrel and take it home that night!

Some of the benefits include:

- Provide a backup during drought seasons.
- Great water source for gardens, lawns, animals, and car washes.
- Rain water is healthier for plants and lawns than treated water.
- Helps prevent contamination of surface water.
- Helps prevent soil erosion.
- Improves water entering local water systems.
- Less water is being treated at water treatment plants.



Ink Cartridge and Small Electronics Recycling



“Over 375 million empty toner cartridges and ink cartridges are thrown into the trash every year in the US.”-InkGuides.com

The Leading Creek Watershed Group and all four Meigs County Public Libraries, located in Pomeroy, Middleport, Racine, and Eastern, are accepting used ink cartridges and small electronics for recycling. Help prevent electronic waste by recycling these unwanted or used items to the Meigs County Libraries or the Meigs SWCD.

Boxes, like the one shown below, will be set up for collection at each location.

Items accepted include cell phones, pagers, ipods, ink cartridges, ink jets, game boys, cassette tapes, cds, floppy discs, calculators, remote controls, computer mouses, cameras, and most other small electronics. *Will accept old lap tops only if they are dropped off at the Meigs Soil and Water District office.

We do not accept anything that will not fit into the drop box. Please call Meigs SWCD or email Mtarian89@gmail.com if you have any questions about the items we will except.



Next for Leading Creek Watershed

The Leading Creek Watershed Group will continue to monitor the Thomas Fork doser and the effect on the Thomas Fork sub-watershed. For anyone interested in stream quality testing and analysis, we are always accepting volunteers. See the next page for more volunteer information.

The Leading Creek Watershed Group and Ohio Department of Natural Resources/ Division of Mineral Resources Management are teamed up to combat acid mine drainage in the Thomas Fork watershed. Water monitoring and field analysis are being conducted to try and find out next project location. Project information will be updated on the Meigs SWCD website.

In the spring of 2013 we will host a watershed day camp, a river sweep and a stream sweep . These events are always a hit and allow the community to get involved in cleaning up local watersheds.

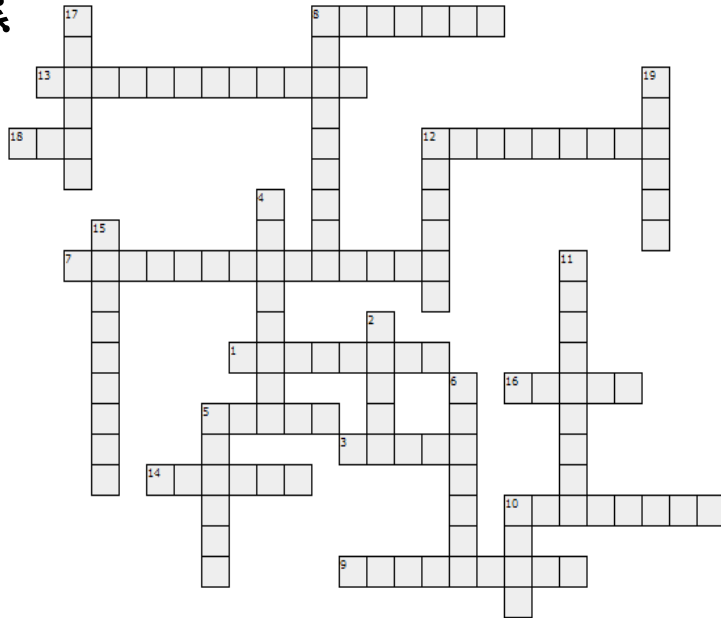
In 2013 we will host four Adopt-A-Highway events. Come help us clean up our highways and treat yourself to free pizza at the end.

Specific dates for the above events and more are seen on the back page of the newsletter under “Calendar of Events”.



Winter Fun

Winter



Across:

1. Time off from school or work
3. Formed when solid surfaces are cooled to below the dew point
5. State of water when frozen
7. Days are shortest and nights are longest
8. Sports team using brooms and stones
9. Used to help someone walk across snow
10. sliding down a hill, usually on a piece of plastic
12. No two are alike
13. Form of sculpture that uses ice as the raw material
14. Spike of ice formed when water dripping freezes
16. Something you wrap around you to keep warm
18. Frozen water

Down:

2. Drink it to warm up. Made from apples.
4. Projectile that you can throw
5. Activity that you strap long boards to your feet.
6. Keeps your hands warm
8. Winter Holiday
10. Frozen precipitation that falls from the sky
11. Sudden drastic flow of snow down a slope
12. Tool used to remove snow
15. Some animals do this all winter
17. Sport that takes place on ice
19. Water will do this at 32 degrees Fahrenheit



Winter Owl Hike

Leading Creek Watershed Group and Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a Winter Owl Hike on January 20 at 5:30 at the Meigs SWCD conservation area (directions on the MeigsSWCD.com). The hike is FREE and open to the public. Dress warm and bring a flashlight if possible. All ages welcome.

Presenting will be Ron Cass who is the Hocking College wildlife expert and professor of natural resources.

We will begin with a pre-hike discussion on Southeast Ohio owls accommodated with free hot chocolate. On the hike we will learn owl calls and hopefully hear some back and investigate owls in the area.

For more information call Meigs SWCD at 740-992-4282 or visit MeigsSWCD.com



Call for Volunteers

Ever wondered about water quality in your community? Interested in environmental issues? Help the Leading Creek Watershed Group monitor the water quality of Meigs County. Understand how water quality is identified and how its health is evaluated. Volunteers will be trained on how to use monitoring equipment to measure water chemistry parameters and stream flow. All data collected will be displayed on an interactive website:

www.watersheddata.com. Become a volunteer for the Leading Creek Watershed Group!

Volunteers will also have the opportunity to clean up the watershed by participating in our Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups, stream sweeps, and river sweeps. The goals of this program are: to increase our watershed data collection, improve watershed conditions, prevent future watershed impairments, and build a sense of community. If interested in this invaluable opportunity, please contact us! For more information, call Meigs SWCD or visit the the Leading Creek tab on Meigsswcd.com.

“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.” -Helen Dyer

Leading Creek Watershed Group Membership Form



Become a Leading Creek Watershed Member by filling out this membership form below or online at meigsswcd.com. Return the forms to Meigs SWCD office by hand, mail, or email. Receive updates on all of our upcoming events without the hassle of searching online.

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
113 E. Memorial Drive
Suite D
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*

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 20: Winter Owl Hike, meet at 5:30 at Meigs SWCD conservation area

February 12: Meigs SWCD open house 10-2, 113 E. Memorial Dr. Suite D

March 8: Adopt-a-Highway, meet by 9am at Meigs SWCD office

March 22: World Water Day

April: Rain Barrel Workshop date to be announced

April 20: Stream Sweep and Adopt-A-Highway

April 12: Photo Contest submissions due

May 30: Adopt-A-Highway, meet at 9am at Meigs SWCD office

June 15: River Sweep, check online for more details

July 11: Adopt-A-Highway, meet at 9am at Meigs SWCD office

Sept. 5: Adopt-A-Highway, meet at 9am at Meigs SWCD office

Office Closed for Holidays:

January 21: Martin Luther King Jr.

February 18: Presidents Day



www.meigsswcd.com

Leading Creek Watershed Group
c/o Meigs SWCD
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Pomeroy, OH 45769
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Email: mtarian89@gmail.com

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