Four Restoration Projects Complete
By Kaabe Shaw

By the end of 2007 the Sunday Creek Watershed Group, in cooperation with Ohio DNR-Division of Mineral Resource Management, will have finished four restoration projects, three of which occurred in 2007. These projects include the Congo Run Stream Capture Project (2004), Pine Run Stream Capture Project, Corning Gob Pile Reclamation Project and the Rodger’s Hollow Stream Capture and Natural Stream Channel Project. Post construction water quality monitoring has begun and will continue into 2008. The monitoring will determine water quality benefits of the projects.

Collectively these stream capture projects are annually preventing 168-million gallons of clean, net-alkaline water from entering into the underground mine and becoming Acid Mine Drainage. These estimates are conservative due to the complexities involved in estimating actual captured water, due to rain events and differences in the subsidence location. Capture projects are important because they are relatively inexpensive and they have a double treatment effect on the water quality. They keep the clean water on the surface, which buffers the existing Acid Mine Drainage and prevent the production of additional Acid Mine Drainage at the discharge point.

The Corning Gob Pile Project involves capping and vegetating 27 acres of old coal gob that was left behind in the early 1900’s. Fire erupted at the gob site two times in the past, once in 1988 and again in 2000. Reclaiming the gob pile prevents large slugs of sediment, iron and aluminum from being washed into the main stem of Sunday Creek during precipitation events.

The last project to be wrapped up in 2007 will be at Rodger’s Hollow, which will involve planting 10,500 trees consisting of willow, buttonbush, silky dogwood and swamp white oak trees. The Watershed Group along with ODNR, the project landowners (Maxwell’s and Kessel’s), Rural Action’s Forestry Team, and a slew of volunteers will plant the trees in late February and early March of 2008. We could use some assistance with this venture so please contact us if you would like to help out.

If you are interested in our restoration projects and would like to visit these sites or learn about our future projects don’t hesitate to contact Kaabe Shaw at shaw@Sundaycreek.org.
How did we get to be a Successful Non-profit?

By Jim Hart & Emily Boyer

Why is there a Sunday Creek Watershed Group? “It must have been the right time”, said Jim Hart. Sunday Creek begins its flow around Tatman’s Gap, Sulfur Springs Road, and the Santoy area on the northern end and flows down, around and through Hemlock, Oakfield, Corning, Burr Oak Lake, Glouster, Jacksonville, Trimble all the way to Chauncey where it joins the mighty Hock-Hocking River near the old Athens County Home property. The foundations of the group began with involvement from all regions of the watershed and people from all the communities of Athens, Perry and Morgan Counties.

In the fall of 1999, as owner of land on Dotson Creek in southern Perry County, Jim Hart was attempting to put together a meeting of local citizens concerned about the water quality of the Sunday Creek. He learned that Broc Irwin, Trimble Township Trustee, and former Athens County Commissioner, was organizing exactly the same type of meeting. A group of over twenty people attended the first meeting, which was held in the Trimble High School library. At the beginning, the group focused on organization, establishing a mission, and getting a sense of the community’s concerns for the Sunday Creek.

To ensure involvement from all regions of the watershed, people from all the communities and from Athens, Perry and Morgan Counties were invited to attend. Since then, we have seen new faces join the group, mostly by word of mouth. We still can expect 10-20 people at meetings. More would be nice, so if you’re interested, please join us! We try to keep the business part of the meetings short and attempt to have interesting speakers or presentations that will help us all to educate ourselves about watershed-related issues.

SCWG has changed a lot since the first meeting at the Trimble High School Library. Today the Sunday Creek Watershed Group is implementing the mission developed by its founders. We now have our own office in Glouster where monthly meetings with guest speakers are held to promote community input and concerns. We rely on those who attend our meetings and our volunteers for ideas, participation in events, and financial support.

The watershed group has finished it’s second acid mine drainage remediation project at Pine Run, and is currently coordinating major reclamation projects at Corning Gob And Rogers Hollow. We are at the end of our second EPA Clean Water Act Implementation Grant and have applied for our third. What began as a meeting of concerned citizens has grown into a successful non-profit organization that is cleaning up the Sunday Creek Watershed. The community continues to play a vital role in deciding our future and in cleaning up the Sunday Creek. If you would like to get more involved or learn more at the Sunday Creek Watershed Group, contact us at 767-2225 or at shaw@sundaycreek.org.
5th Annual Benefit Dinner and Chinese Auction
By Emily Boyer

Sunday Creek Watershed Group held their Fifth Annual Benefit Dinner on September 22, 2007 at the Moose Lodge on 69 ½ High St. Glouster. This year, SCWG joined forces with local Youth Act programs, to raise money for clay trashcans in Glouster. In addition to a dinner, there was a Chinese Auction. The room was filled with auction items, donated by many area businesses and many locals. Approximately 80 people attended and a total of $700 were raised! Hot dogs and hamburgers were served, complemented by delicious sides and desert items graciously donated by our friends and members.

Sunday Creek would like to thank all those who dedicated their time and energy in planning for the event, all those who volunteered, and those who donated food and auction items. This was an excellent opportunity to celebrate Sunday Creeks accomplishments in 2006-2007, interact with other friends of Sunday Creek, and for Sunday Creek to show recognition their partners.

Awards were presented to the following by Sunday Creek Watershed Group Coordinator Kaabe Shaw:

**Keeper of the Fish**
Rich, Jessica, and Noah Fox

**Partners in Restoration 2007**

**Pine Run- 2 landowners**
1) The Martin Family: Partners in Restoration 2007
2) The Richmond Family: Partners in Restoration 2007
The Pine Run Stream Capture Project annually prevented 50-million gallons of water from becoming Acid Mine Drainage.

**Rodger’s Hollow-2 landowners**
1) The Maxwell Family: Partners in Restoration 2007
2) The Kessel Family: Partners in Restoration 2007
The Rodger’s Hollow Stream Capture Project annually prevented 24-million gallons of water from becoming Acid Mine Drainage.

**Corning Gob Pile- 1 landowner**
1) The Sunday Creek Coal Company: Partners in Restoration 2007
The Corning Gob Pile Project reclaimed and revegetated a 27-acre Gob Pile along the mainstem of Sunday Creek.

**Awards of Appreciation**
Bill Theisen- Athens County Commissioner, Windy Hills Farm, Amy Mackey-ODNR Inter, Skip Ricketts- Burr Oak Canoe Rentals, Guy Riefler, PhD, PE- Assistant Professor, Barry Harper- GIS Hocking College Intern, Lonnie G. Wood Sr- Perry County Commissioner, Mark Sullivan- Athens County Commissioner, Fred Shriner- Perry County Commissioner, Charles Wilson- Trimble High School Science Teacher, Thad Cooperrider- Perry County Commissioner, Big Jim Balcom, Lenny Eliason- Athens County Commissioner
2007 Summer Day Camps
Better Than Ever!!
By Emily Boyer

Sunday Creek Watershed Group and Rural Action Environmental Learning Program started the Day Camp program in 2003. Five years later the camps are better than ever. This year SCWG put two five-day camps on with a total of 22 kids. The first camp was held in Glouster during the month of July and the second camp was held in Corning during the hottest week in August!

Each day had a theme and guest speaker. The subjects included macro-invertebrates, acid mine drainage, wildlife, bird banding, animal tracks, snakes, native plants and much more. At the end of the week there was review and celebration at Bur Oak state Park with hiking, canoeing, and swimming.

This year there was an added component to the summer day camps. With the help of Rural Action Youth Act program a service-learning component was added. This component engaged the youth in decision-making skills with the input of the community. The Glouster campers made improvements to a community garden in downtown Glouster. The campers collected broken glass from the creek and made mosaic stepping stones for the garden. Corning day campers painted a bridge in the town of Corning.

Much thanks goes out to our speakers, Ann Bonner with ODNR, Bob Placier with Hocking College, Rural Action’s Forestry Program, Dan Imoff with OEPA, and Hocking College Nature Program. And many thanks are given to all of our many volunteers.

For more information on 2008 Summer Day Camps please call 767-2225 or email Emily@sundayCreek.org
Taylor Ridge Preserve To Be Named
Trimble Township Community Forest

By Brian Blair & Kaabe Shaw

Appalachian Ohio Alliance (AOA) recently acquired a 1,200-acre tract of hardwood forest in Northern Athens County from the Sunday Creek Coal Company. The property known as “Taylor Ridge” will be officially named the Trimble Township Community Forest in recognition of Trimble Township and its residents. Thanks to our partner - the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife - who contributed the required 25% matching funds, we successfully obtained a grant through the Ohio Department of Public Works’ Clean Ohio Fund. This grant provided the remaining 75% of the seller’s price, allowing us to complete the purchase. Local residents helped make this project a success by voicing their desire to conserve wildlife habitat and provide for public lands. This large parcel of habitat will help to connect the Wayne National Forest with the Trimble Wildlife area.

AOA has established a local citizens’ land management committee for the Community Forest that meets monthly at the Sunday Creek Watershed office in Glouster. This land will then be managed with the assistance of ODNR’s Division of Wildlife as a Wildlife Area. The preserve is open to the public for hiking and hunting, and will remain as such in perpetuity.

The land management committee hit the ground running on August 25 by cleaning up the illegal dumpsite located at the entrance of the Community Forest just off of Derthic Road. A crew of 25 spent the morning cleaning up 13 cubic yards of trash, construction material, and approximately 40 tires. A group of adjacent landowners and committee members are relocating the gate closer to the road. This will prevent illegal dumpers from pulling off into the woods and conveniently dumping out of sight.

In addition to the illegal dumping project the land management committee is working with Trimble High School to adopt the Community Forest as their Land Lab. Principal Hemsly and the science teachers have shown their interest in the Land Lab by allowing a group of approximately 30 interested students to meet with committee members once a month. In October the students were asked to brainstorm ideas that they had for the Land Lab. The High School students will take a field trip to visit the Community Forest in their November meeting. Once they visit the Land Lab site they will have a better understanding of its potential.

Having a Land Lab for the Trimble High School students to develop and foster is a huge asset for the community. The 1,200 acre Forest is an ecologically diverse tract of land that will provide equally diverse educational opportunities: from installing and monitoring duck and bluebird boxes, to photography and journalism pieces detailing the Land Lab’s progress. A great deal of cooperation and teamwork between Trimble High School, local residents, AOA and the Sunday Creek Watershed Group has occurred to get this project started. We appreciate the energy that the Land Lab project has developed in the community and look forward to the future Trimble High School Land Lab.

For more information regarding the Trimble Township Community Forest or the Trimble High School Land Lab please contact Brian Blair at 740-380-5215 or Kaabe Shaw at 740-767-2225.
Who is Rural Action?
By Mary Steinmaus

Rural Action had its beginnings in the mid-1980s when a group of activists in Athens County came together to form the Appalachian Ohio Public Interest Campaign. Concerned with issues related to poverty and the environment, AOPIC worked with coalitions to fight government cuts in human services for low-income individuals, opposed strip mining and longwall mining and helped groups organize against toxic waste disposal in their communities.

As energy and funds for this work ran out and understanding that these actions placed AOPIC in the middle of the “jobs vs. the environment” debate which polarized environmentalists and blue collar workers in the region, the group committed organizational efforts in working for sustainable economic development based on economic democracy and sustainable use of our natural resources.

Around 1990, Carol Kuhre began networking with organizations and agencies in our region whose mission was working on economic development. She involved many local citizens, the AOPIC Board, affiliated groups, and 25 organizations. Together they developed a set of goals and action steps that became the Strategy for Rural Renewal that has been Rural Action’s strategic plan since the mid-1990s. This plan outlined the three major program areas—healthy economies, environments, and communities that form the basis of our work today.

Rural Action acquired office space in Athens and later moved their headquarters to the present Trimble offices. We continue to build a broad coalition of citizen organizations committed to the ideals of social justice, facilitating networking among local groups and providing training in skills related to organizational development.

Hello Sunday Creek
By: Amy Mackey

Hello Sunday Creek Watershed Group! My name is Amy Mackey and I have had the honor of working in your watershed since June. Originally from Ashtabula County, I am a Wildlife Management graduate from Hocking College, and a recent graduate of the University of Rio Grande in Wildlife and Fish Conservation and Management. In the spring of 2007, I was hired by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management to assist area watersheds with field work and other projects.

(Continued on next page)
With a background in biology and wildlife management, the devastating effect of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) on the ecosystem was nothing new to me. However, like many people, I was not aware of how much was being done in our region to monitor and remedy the situation. Sunday Creek is not alone. Nearby Monday Creek, Raccoon Creek, and Huff Run are experiencing similar challenges in dealing with historic and present-day coal mining operations. Each of these watersheds are staffed by amazing individuals who are devoting their time and energy to watershed remediation, and I have had the honor of working extensively with several of them over the past six months.

Here at Sunday Creek, I have assisted with a variety of projects:

- Water chemistry parameters and flow readings are gathered during long-term and short-term water quality monitoring.
- The water levels in underground mine pools in the Corning area are documented every month by sampling five monitoring wells.
- Macroinvertebrate (MAIS) sampling was done throughout the watershed in July. As important indicators of stream health, macroinvertebrates (insects, crayfish, snails, worms, etc.) were collected and identified. The number and diversity of organisms from each site is used to rate the quality of the aquatic habitat.
- Among my favorite Sunday Creek activities have been the Glouster and Corning summer day camps. The youth of the area are amazing! Campers participated in educational programs, stream clean-ups, community garden weeding, planting, and decorating, and even painted one of the bridges in Corning.
- And of course, there is always equipment maintenance and data entry to be done!

Though my focus has always been on the fish and wildlife inhabiting the ecosystem, none of these creatures can thrive unless the habitat is able to sustain life. In recent years, area watersheds have made great progress toward achieving a healthy and balanced ecologic system. I have grown quite fond of the Sunday Creek Watershed and hope to be a part of its continuing success. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into your community!

Geographic Information System Intern Is “Spatial”

By Kaabe Shaw

The Sunday Creek Watershed Group was fortunate to have the assistance of BJ Harper, a Geographic Information System (GIS) intern during the summer of 2007. BJ is a student at Hocking Technical College majoring in the GIS program. What is GIS, you ask? Well it is commonly referred to as software combining spatial mapping and analysis with database management. While making and displaying pretty maps are components of GIS it is not the primary function.

Going into his last year in the program BJ contacted the Watershed Group about an internship because he didn’t want to lose his skills over the summer. We gladly obliged and he assisted with organizing our GIS files, sorting and interpreting data and making maps for presentations.

What BJ didn’t know when he signed up, was that he would be assisting with other tasks, such as, water quality monitoring and our 5th annual Summer Day Camps. Actually, BJ has a sincere interest in the watershed world and was up for every opportunity to gain a new experience. Throughout the summer BJ put in about 5 weeks of work at 40 hours a week. His advisor at Hocking was truly happy to see that he didn’t loose a beat over the summer. We appreciate BJ’s assistance with GIS……and everything else!
Water, Child of Nature
by Bertha Ferguson

Time was when shore people like tumble bugs
Moving deeper under a fallen cow pie,
Also moved deeper into this new land,
The mountains felt their wagon wheels,
Their roughshod shoes, the oxen’s steady tread.
Forded streams caught their tears of separation.

Still they came, waves of moving people,
Still moving, still building this new nation.
Here they settled, working long and hard.
Dreaming, hoping for the good life.
It was here! In these hills and valleys,
Trees unnumbered, crystal clear water,
Fertile soil for the clearing,
Traces of ore in the streambeds,
Strong streams for milling grain,
Outcropping of coal, enemy of winter.

Good people worked hard, prayed often,
Built cabins, tilled the soil, raised crops,
Shared, helped each other, welcomed new comers
Lured by the black monster defiler of water.

Water, friend of man, clean and pure, soft and sweet,
Falling over rocks, rippling in the streams.
Rest for the weary mind, music to the listening ear.

They did not know. Neither would we have known
That this Black Diamond like a rogue lover
Could so defile, so besmirch this child of nature.
How do we clean water without which
We cannot clean ourselves?
Here we will try, using the science we trust
To eat the vile glop we scorn.

Like the settlers, we too can work, dream and pray
For that better day when little fishes will swim and play
Where we can only dream them, today.

How Can You Help Sunday Creek?

Want to look really cool and support our cause? Buy one of our new T-shirts made from organic cotton and water-based dye for only $15!
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Moving deeper under a fallen cow pie,
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