

# Raccoon Creek News

Fall 2015

Critters, Campers, and Cartography Edition

## A Message from the Chairperson

As the summer comes to a close, we get to reflect on the exciting things we've done at Raccoon Creek in the past few months. We had two successful watershed camps including trips to Lake Hope, Franklin Park Conservatory, and Dawes Arboretum. We were able to run two ACA canoe instructor trainings to certify board members and watershed personnel for future events with Water Trails. Despite all of the rain this summer, both biological and chemical sampling has kept the whole crew busy! We are sad to say goodbye to our Americorps Member, Alicia, but will be welcoming our new Member, Steve soon. Steve will join Dustin who is serving a second year with Raccoon Creek. Keep reading for more news from the watershed!!

*Natalie Kruse, Raccoon Creek Partnership Chair*

### Raccoon Creek Partnership - Current Board of Directors

Natalie Kruse (Chair), Heike Perko (Vice-chair), Amber Brookins (Treasurer), Bob Eichenberg (Secretary)  
Lauren Dick, Rocky McNickle, Rob Wiley

## 2015 RCP Annual Dinner

*You are invited to one of the best potlucks of the year!*

Want to learn more about what's happening in Raccoon Creek? Come join us for our annual potluck dinner, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle! Local businesses and artisans graciously donate pottery, art, gift cards, homemade and home grown soaps, garden baskets, and more! Funds raised through the auction and raffle are used to help Raccoon Creek Partnership continue our mission of stewardship, conservation and restoration by funding our education efforts, providing water quality monitoring equipment, and upkeep of our education center.



**When:** Sunday, November 1st @ 4:00 PM  
**Where:** New Marshfield (Waterloo) Senior Community Center.  
Located in New Marshfield, across from the post office  
**What:** Family style potluck - please bring a dish to share  
**More Fun:** Our fabulous silent auction and 50/50 Raffle

## We Need You!

Would you like to get involved with Raccoon Creek Partnership? This year there are **FIVE board positions open for election**. Nominations must be sent to Amy ([mackey@ohio.edu](mailto:mackey@ohio.edu)) by **October 1st**. Nominees must be current RCP members in good standing by the time of the election (hint: *there is a membership form on the back of this newsletter if you aren't currently a member*). The annual dinner is a great time to renew your membership and find out what's been going on in the watershed.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Just shop on Amazon Smile and 0.5% of your eligible purchase price goes to RCP.



Just go to: <https://smile.amazon.com> and enter Raccoon Creek Partnership as your charitable organization. Then remember to go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) next time you shop on Amazon! It doesn't cost you anything, and it helps to support the Raccoon Creek Partnership!

ATHENS

GALLIA

HOCKING

JACKSON

MEIGS

VINTON

## Gallia Farm City Day

*Dustin Gross, RCP Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Member, 2014-16*



Last year's Farm City Day

Gallia Farm City Day will be held Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10am-2pm at Frederick & Lawrence Burdell's Family Farm (478 Bandy Road, Bidwell, OH 45614). This year's theme will be "Celebrating 100 years of Agriculture." The aim of this annual festival is to "show the younger generation how far agricultural technology has come and hope to inspire youth to become farmers." Visitors will find info and demonstrations on manure storage facilities, watering systems, fencing, tile, tools of the trade, quilting, bees, cover crops and soil health, seed and fertilizer dealers, chicken coops, a drone display, and more. There will also be plenty of kids activities including story time by Bossard Memorial Library, hay rides, and a petting zoo. For more information, contact Gallia Soil & Water Conservation District at 740-446-6173 or [galliaswcdedu@att.net](mailto:galliaswcdedu@att.net), and don't forget to stop by the Raccoon Creek Partnership booth and say hello!

## A-MAIS-ing Creek Bugs

*Sarah Landers, Environmental Specialist, Ohio University*

Often my articles talk about projects in the watershed or I report on data that we collect. We analyze data to determine how well our acid mine drainage (AMD) projects are working to improve water quality in the Raccoon Creek Watershed. I'm here this time to explain some of the biological data collection we do every year.

Raccoon Creek is home to small animals called macroinvertebrates. These animals have no backbone and can be seen with the naked eye. Macroinvertebrates include aquatic insects, crustaceans, mollusks, and aquatic worms. These small animals are important water quality indicators because they live all or part of their lives in the water. Therefore, they are good long term water quality indicators. Also they are a food source to fish and birds and play an important role in the food chain. One group of macroinvertebrates, the dragonfly larvae, begin their life in the water and can spend most of their lives in the water (up to two years). Then when they emerge from the water, the larvae's exoskeleton cracks open and the winged adult emerges. As adults they may only live a few weeks to up to one year.

Raccoon Creek partners collect macroinvertebrates in the creek with the help of Ohio University staff & students, ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management, AmeriCorps members, other watershed groups, and community volunteers. The macroinvertebrates are collected in the summer and preserved in ethanol. During the winter the preserved bugs are identified and counted using a microscope. The number of different families found and overall number of macroinvertebrates collected are used to generate a score. They are scored using the Macroinvertebrate Aggregated Index for Streams (MAIS) to generate a score ranging from 0 "very poor" to 18 "very good." Some macroinvertebrates are sensitive to AMD pollution and some are tolerant to AMD pollution. Therefore the variety and number of each family we find determines the MAIS score. When we collect data year after year we are able to measure biological recovery over time.

If you want to read more about Raccoon Creek projects and water quality visit: [www.watersheddata.com](http://www.watersheddata.com) or contact me: [landerss@ohio.edu](mailto:landerss@ohio.edu)



Dragonfly larvae (Gomphidae Family) on the net next to a pair of forceps

## Finding your way with the help of RCWTA!

*Sarah Landers, Treasurer, Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association*



You might have read back in the spring 2015 newsletter that we were developing put-in and take-out signs to put up along the water trail. All 22 signs are now printed and complete! Funding for these signs was provided through a grant with the Ora E. Anderson Fund for Appalachian Ohio. We have purchased some of the materials to install the signs and will be purchasing more with funds raised from our kayak raffle. Raffle tickets will be available at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival or email: [www.raccooncreekpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:www.raccooncreekpartnership@gmail.com). The drawing takes place on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at our booth at the Ohio Pawpaw festival. Stop by and see us at our booth and at the lake where we will have canoes available to use for free. Donations are always appreciated.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association we could use help in the near future installing signs, assisting with water trail map sales and promotion, and help with public floats and other public outreach events. It is just a handful of us keeping RCWTA afloat and we could use your help! If you are interested in volunteering contact our Chairperson: Molly Gurien: [paddlermerlot@yahoo.com](mailto:paddlermerlot@yahoo.com) or come to one of our monthly meetings.

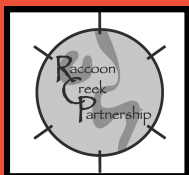
## RCP UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Visit us on **Facebook** or [www.raccooncreek.org](http://www.raccooncreek.org) for details about upcoming events and activities, as well as event and meeting locations. Unless otherwise noted, many of our educational events take place at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center (WAEC). Event dates and times subject to change!

**Monthly RCP Meetings are held the Last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM**

**Monthly RCWTA Meetings are currently being held in conjunction with RCP meetings the Last Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM and are subject to change**

<b><u>September 11th—13th</u></b>	<b>Come visit us at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival @ Lake Snowden near Albany</b>
<b><u>September 24th</u></b>	<b>Vinton County Soil &amp; Water Conservation District Annual Dinner</b> Location: Lake Hope Lodge. Call Cody Hacker 740-596-5676 for information & tickets
<b><u>September 26th</u></b>	<b>Come visit us at the Gallia County Farm City Day- 478 Bandy Road, Bidwell</b>
<b><u>October 4th</u></b>	<b>RCWTA Fall Canoe Float down Raccoon Creek (Location TBA)</b> Contact Molly Gurien at <a href="mailto:paddlermerlot@yahoo.com">paddlermerlot@yahoo.com</a> to reserve a canoe for free
<b><u>October 3rd</u></b>	<b>RCP Fall Day Camp 10am-1pm</b>
<b><u>October 17th</u></b>	<b>RCP Fall Day Camp 10am-1pm</b>
<b><u>October 31st</u></b>	<b>Come visit us at ROAR (Rural Ohio Appalachia Revisited) @ Lake Hope State Park</b>
<b><u>November 1st</u></b>	<b>RCP Annual Dinner @ 4:00pm at the New Marshfield Community Center</b>

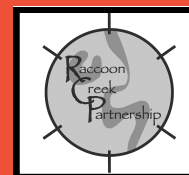


## Contact us!

[www.raccooncreek.org](http://www.raccooncreek.org)

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

[raccooncreekpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:raccooncreekpartnership@gmail.com)





## 2015 RCP Summer Science Day Camps

*Dustin Gross, RCP Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Member, 2014-16*

Again this summer, RCP held two week-long Summer Science Camps at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center. Our first camp introduced 5th-8th graders to the world of environmental careers. Campers listened to presentations by environmental and non-profit professionals, did hands-on activities related to many different environmental fields, and were given a tour of the wetlands at the Dawes Arboretum. The 1st-4th graders at our second camp got their hands (and everything else) dirty while exploring the wildlife habitats around Waterloo Wildlife Area and even got to experience jungle, mountain, and desert habitats at the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus. Kids at both camps also enjoyed archery, canoeing, hiking, crafts, and a trip to the beach and nature center at Lake Hope. We had two great groups of kids this year and are already looking forward to next summer! Thanks to all the volunteers that made these camps a success.



## Changing of the Guard at Raccoon Creek!

*Amy Mackey – Raccoon Creek Watershed Coordinator*

Every year in August we say good bye to the Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps members who have served the Raccoon Creek community for the past 12 months, and say hello to the new members who will be serving for the next 12 months. This is always a bittersweet time of year for us. We spend a year training the members, teaching them the ins and outs of the watershed. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to watch them grow from fairly inexperienced, fresh-out-of-school members, to seasoned educators and data collectors. We are sad to see them go, but also proud of the advancements that they have made during their service to Raccoon Creek.

This year, we said goodbye to Alicia Rector who is off to law school in Rhode Island. Thanks Alicia for all your hard work this past year and best of luck in the future!

We are really pleased to have our first member returning to serve a second term; Dustin Gross, 2014-2015 member, is staying on for the 2015-2016 service year. Thanks Dustin, we look forward to working with you again this season!

A big Raccoon Creek welcome to Steve Malueg, the new Raccoon Creek AmeriCorps member joining the team this year. Steve is not totally new to Raccoon Creek, as he completed an internship with the Raccoon Creek Partnership last summer, assisting with chemical and biological monitoring, as well as a host of outreach and education events. Steve also assisted with summer 2015 Watershed Camps.

Dustin and Steve will be serving as AmeriCorps members with the Raccoon Creek Partnership until August 2016. Members are responsible for most of the outreach and education in the watershed as well as chemical and biological monitoring, grant writing, event planning and promotion, and much more.

We are very proud of each and every one of the members who have served at Raccoon Creek since our involvement with the Rural Action Ohio Stream Restore Corps began in 2009 and look forward to the 2015-2016 year with Dustin and Steve. When you see them out in the watershed this year, be sure to stop and introduce yourself!



## Cheers to a Great Year

*Alicia Rector, RCP Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Member, 2014-15*

August, 2014 entering my AmeriCorps term with Ohio Stream Restore Corps and starting work with Raccoon Creek Partnership I had no idea what I wanted to do with my future. Continue with school, find a job in the environmental field, or change my path altogether? My term with AmeriCorps undoubtedly led me to my final decision.

Getting exposed to environmental issues through the eyes of a non-profit and connecting with locals and academia that deal with the effects of acid mine drainage revealed that although I love being in the field and working on the scientific side of the issue, my true passion lies on the policy making side. Within the first three months of my term my experiences made me feel comfortable in making the decision to apply to law schools.

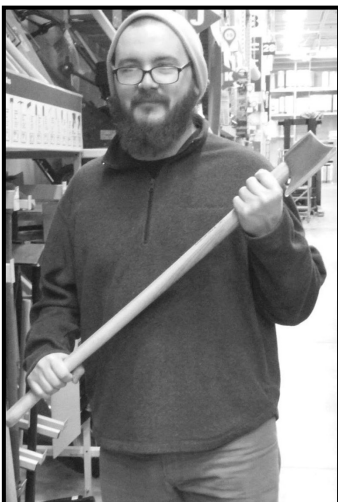
Now, I'm living in Rhode Island getting ready to start my first year of studies at Roger Williams University Law School. Hopefully at the end of this year I will be entering into a joint degree program with the University of Rhode Island and will graduate obtaining a Juris Doctor from Roger Williams University and a Masters of Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island.

When I look back on my AmeriCorps term, there is no doubt in my mind, I would do it all over again. I may not have the law firm experience like some of my future classmates, but my AmeriCorps term taught me how to live a meaningful life, to be less materialistic and focus more on my personal relationships.



## Meet RCP's New AmeriCorps Crew

*Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Members serving with Raccoon Creek 2015-2016*



Dustin

Greetings, my name is Steve Malueg and I'll be one of the AmeriCorps members serving with Raccoon Creek this coming year. I recently graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor's degree in Freshwater, Marine, and Environmental Biology. I had a chance to volunteer with Raccoon Creek Partnership last year and am very excited to have a chance to continue to give to the program. I look forward to the fieldwork and events we will be hosting this year and hope to get a chance to enjoy the watershed with all of you soon.

Hey folks! I'm Dustin Gross, returning for another year as an AmeriCorps member at RCP. I am a graduate of the Hocking College school of Natural Resources, and an avid kayaker and backpacker. I've learned a ton and had a lot of fun experiences this past year, and I am really looking forward to the next!



Steve

One great (free!) way to support Raccoon Creek is to register your Kroger card at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and select "Raccoon Creek Partnership". You must renew every April! Swipe your Kroger Rewards Card every time you shop & help RCP grow!





**Send To:**

Athens, OH 45701

The Ridges, Bldg 22

Voinovich School

c/o Amy Mackey

**Raccoon Creek Partnership**

Place  
Postage  
Stamp  
Here



## RCP Membership Application

*A local partnership working towards conservation,  
stewardship, and restoration of the watershed  
for a healthier stream and community*

### Individual Membership

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow Warbler	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood Duck	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kingfisher	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Blue Heron	\$500

### Organizational Membership

<input type="checkbox"/>	Channel Catfish	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grass Pickerel	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted Bass	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muskie	\$1000

Yes, I (we) would like to help protect Raccoon Creek

Name
Address
Phone
E-mail

Your contributions are tax deductible.

***Please make checks payable to the:***

Raccoon Creek Partnership

***and send to:***

Raccoon Creek Partnership

Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs

c/o Amy Mackey

The Ridges, Building 22 Athens, Ohio 45701