

Raccoon Creek News

Fall 2014

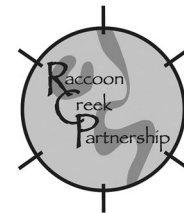
Gratitude, Giving, and Garbage Elimination Edition

Gather Round for the 2014 RCP Annual Dinner

If you have been meaning to come to our annual dinner and haven't made it yet, or it has been awhile since you came... this year is the year to join us!

You will be in for a treat because we host one of the best potlucks of the year. Local businesses and artisans graciously donate items for our silent auction that are affordable and desirable (pottery, art, gift cards, homemade and home grown soaps, garden baskets, and more!). Funds raised at the annual dinner 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, October 19th @ 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



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 Molly Gurien: paddlemerlot@yahoo.com or Amy Mackey: mackey@ohio.edu (740-597-1473) 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.

Raccoon Creek Partnership - Current Board of Directors

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

A Message from the Chairperson

Dear Raccoon Creek Partnership Members,

As summer comes to an end, Raccoon Creek Partnership has so much to be grateful for this season! The Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund supported our watershed restoration efforts with a grant for water quality meters, kayaks, nets, and more! In addition to one week of watershed camp, we were able to run a camp for Big Brothers Big Sisters through the support of a grant from Keen. We spent a whole lot of time and sweat cleaning Waterloo Aquatic Education Center, scraping the walls and roof and repainting the building. It was a huge undertaking that wouldn't have been possible without support from our partners (see page 2 for the story). Stop by the center and check it out this fall! Thank you for all your support!!

Natalie Kruse, Raccoon Creek Partnership Chair

There's a new and VERY EASY way for you to support the work being done in the Raccoon Creek Watershed! Just shop on Amazon Smile and 0.5% of your eligible purchase price goes to RCP.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Just go to: <https://smile.amazon.com> and enter Raccoon Creek Partnership as your charitable organization. Then remember to go to 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

Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund for Appalachian Ohio Supports Watershed Restoration in Raccoon Creek

Amy Mackey, Raccoon Creek Watershed Coordinator

The Raccoon Creek Partnership would like to express our sincere thanks to the Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund for Appalachian Ohio for their generous contribution toward the continuation of our water quality monitoring program.

With the grant funding provided, the Raccoon Creek Partnership has purchased / will be purchasing a new Myron field meter, dip nets, mobile data collection units, a deployable water quality sensor, kayaks, and signage for the Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association. These items will increase our chemical and biological monitoring capabilities throughout the watershed as well as increasing participation in recreational events and stream clean-ups.

Thank you Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund for Appalachian Ohio for supporting the Raccoon Creek Partnership!

Ora E. Anderson  *Conservation Fund for Appalachian Ohio*

Waterloo Aquatic Education Center Facelift! Thanks to Everyone Who Made it Possible.

Amy Mackey, Raccoon Creek Watershed Coordinator

The Raccoon Creek Partnership leases, operates, and maintains the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center located on the Waterloo Wildlife Area in New Marshfield, OH. The building, owned by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, formerly housed the ODNR DOW wildlife research laboratory. RCP utilizes the building as our "headquarters" for watershed camps, meetings, trainings, and other outreach and education events; serving hundreds of local youth and adults each year. The exterior of the building was last painted in 2008 by a local Boy Scout troop. This past winter was hard on everything, including the building; the paint was in very poor condition, with exposed metal over much of the building. Thanks to the generosity of several local businesses and organizations, we were able to purchase all of the paint and supplies needed to prepare and paint the exterior walls and roof.

How it happened...

The painting project was advertised on **www.Creeklife.com**, an environmental fundraising tool. From that site, The Painting Company out of Plain City, Ohio learned about the project. They graciously offered us a discounted rate through Sherwin-Williams on the paint and supplies that we needed for the building.



Then an RCP member nominated RCP for a grant through the Quidel QCARES Program. The funding received through this grant was used to purchase some of the paint needed for the building.

More photos are
posted on the RCP
Facebook page

Athens Paint and Decorating graciously allowed us to use their equipment to paint the roof. Thank you so much, this was a huge timesaver!

Thankfully we have a very generous and enthusiastic group of students, interns, volunteers, board members, and staff who spent countless hours out at Waterloo scraping, grinding, cleaning, and painting the building.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you all! We cannot thank you all enough for your generosity in helping to preserve this valuable resource for the community !



Water Trail Update & New Meeting Date and Time

Molly Gurien, Chair, Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association

It has been another great year on the Creek for the Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association! Weather and water cooperated for our spring float on the beautiful upper section of Raccoon Creek from Hope School to Moonville. Later in June we teamed up with ORSANCO's Ohio River Sweep, picking up trash on the section above the Village of Vinton Park. We had a great turnout of students and community members who filled our canoes with tires and trash! We plan to continue our promotion and stewardship of Raccoon Creek with a fall float, scheduled for October 5th. Our floats are open to the public and we provide the use of our canoes, free of charge. In addition to our canoes, we recently added two new kayaks to our fleet; thanks to a generous donation from the Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund.



ORSANCO Ohio River Sweep volunteers pictured with waste collected from the creek



The Water Trail Association has changed our meeting date and time.

We now meet in conjunction with the Raccoon Creek Partnership on the last Wednesday of the month. Water Trail meetings begin at 6:00 pm. The public is always welcome and encouraged to attend; we would love to have you join us! For more information, contact Molly Gurien at paddlemelot@yahoo.com or visit our web page at www.raccooncreek.org.

RCP UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Visit us on **Facebook** or 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

<u>September 12th—14th</u>	Come visit us at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival @ Lake Snowden near Albany
<u>September 25th</u>	Vinton County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Dinner Location: Lake Hope Lodge. Call Cody Hacker 740-596-5676 for information & tickets
<u>September 27th</u>	Come visit us at the Gallia County Farm City Day- O.O. McIntyre Park, Gallipolis
<u>October 4th</u>	Come visit us at Hocktober Fest - on the Hocking College Campus, Nelsonville
<u>October 5th</u>	RCWTA Fall Canoe Float down Raccoon Creek (Location TBA) Contact Molly Gurien at paddlemelot@yahoo.com to reserve a canoe for free
<u>October 11th</u>	RCP Fall Day Camp 10am-1pm
<u>October 18th</u>	RCP Fall Day Camp 10am-1pm
<u>October 19th</u>	RCP Annual Dinner @ 4:00pm at the New Marshfield Community Center
<u>October 25th</u>	Come visit us at ROAR (Rural Ohio Appalachia Revisited) @ Lake Hope State Park

"Like" us on Facebook!

To find RCP on Facebook, type "Raccoon Creek Partnership" in the search box and "Like" our page!

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



2014 Keen Outdoor Pursuits Camp & RCP Day Camp

Rand Romas & Kaylee Moser, Raccoon Creek's Ohio Stream Restore AmeriCorps Members, 2013-14

Raccoon Creek hosted two camps this year; one was held at Lake Hope State Park and was made possible through a grant from KEEN Outdoor Pursuits. At this year's KEEN Camp we hosted 35 youth from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens County (serving Athens, Vinton, Meigs, and Washington Counties) who spent three days exploring the biodiversity of Lake Hope, canoeing, hiking, swimming, and camping! We were able to provide an array of different activities and educational programs... often new experiences for many of our campers! The camp taught all of us more than we could have imagined and being able to work with Big Brothers Big Sisters brought a new group to our watershed and outdoors into nature. Our second Raccoon Creek Camp was held at our very own Waterloo Aquatic Education Center. We spent the week with 23 exuberant kids who learned everything from water quality to the geology of the Hocking Hills. For Kaylee and me, it was a wonderful experience full of memories we will never forget! Thank you to all of our volunteers that make these events possible. Without you we wouldn't be able to give back in the ways we have!



Photography by: Brien Vincent

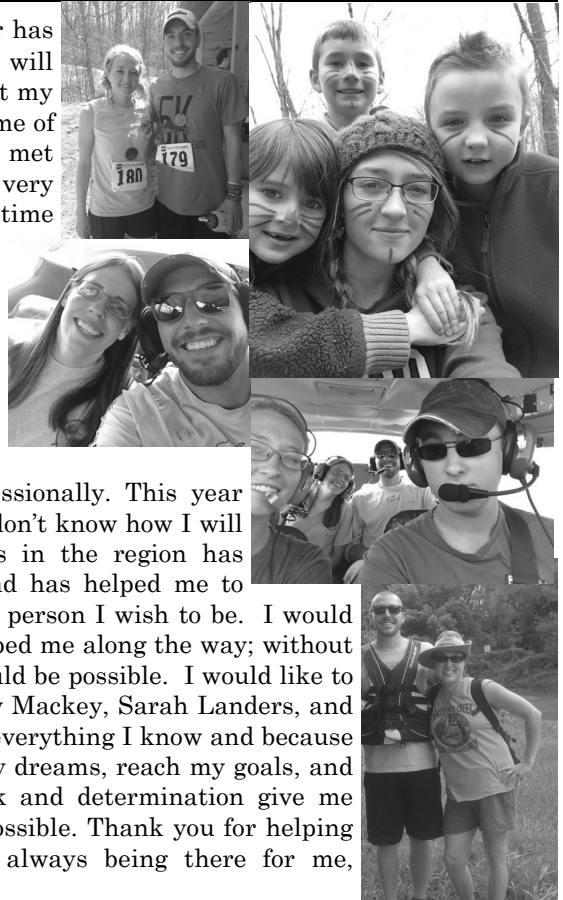
Cheers to a Great Year

Rand Romas & Kaylee Moser, Raccoon Creek's Ohio Stream Restore AmeriCorps Members, 2013-14

Kaylee Moser: I can't say enough about how amazing this past year has been. I gained so much knowledge and learned so many new skills that I will take with me in the future. I couldn't have learned all that I have without my amazing mentors and role models here at Raccoon Creek Partnership. Some of the most dedicated, hardworking and intelligent people I have met, I have met through this organization. I am very sad to be saying goodbye, but I am very grateful for all the great memories! Thank you to everyone for making my time with Raccoon Creek Partnership so wonderful.

Rand Romas: Wow! I don't even know where to begin. These past 12 months have gone by faster than I would've ever expected. The memories and friendships that I gained through AmeriCorps and Raccoon Creek will last a lifetime. Never in a million years would I have thought I would be able to gain the knowledge and confidence to lead camps, training events, and community programs. Being an AmeriCorps member for the Raccoon Creek Partnership has enabled me to grow both personally and professionally. This year opened my eyes and heart to so many new experiences and people that I don't know how I will

be able to leave. Spending 5 years in the region has turned me into the person I am and has helped me to establish a course guiding me to the person I wish to be. I would like to thank everybody that has helped me along the way; without you none of my future endeavors would be possible. I would like to give a very special thank you to Amy Mackey, Sarah Landers, and Kaylee Moser. You have taught me everything I know and because of you I want to go out and follow my dreams, reach my goals, and change the world. Your hard work and determination give me strengths that I didn't know were possible. Thank you for helping me see my full potential and for always being there for me, whether personally or professionally.



Serving Time: Meet RCP's New AmeriCorps Crew

2014-2015 Rural Action Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Members serving with Raccoon Creek



Hi all! My name is Alicia Rector and I am one of the new AmeriCorps members. I'm a recent graduate of The Ohio State University with a BS in Environment and Natural Resources. I majored in Environmental Policy and Decision Making with a specialization in Water Conservation. The past three summers I have spent my time interning with Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water as a storm water intern, a mitigation intern, and as an intern with the wetland ecology group. I love anything and everything to do with water and policy and I'm looking forward to what this next year with AmeriCorps can teach me about the watershed and this community.

Hey folks! I'm Dustin Gross, one of the new AmeriCorps members at RCP. I recently graduated from Hocking College with my Associates of Applied Science, majoring in Geo-Environmental Science. My main focus at Hocking was soil and ground water quality. Prior to attending college, I served as an outreach coordinator for a national animal rights organization. I'm also a musician and avid backpacker. I was lucky enough to intern for RCP this past summer and I'm excited to continue working with the great people here at the Raccoon Creek Partnership.



Alicia & Dustin: First day on the job!

Water Quality at Your Fingertips: www.watersheddata.com

Sarah Landers, Raccoon Creek Water Quality Specialist

If you are wondering how 14 reclamation and treatment projects and to-date over 12 million dollars spent in the Raccoon Creek watershed have improved water quality; look no further. All of our chemical and biological data is entered into the Ohio Watershed Data database online and that data, as well as annual reports and details on specific projects, can be viewed by anyone at anytime. Simply visit: www.watersheddata.com. There you will also find under "AMD Projects" our "Annual NPS Reports." The 2013 report is brimming with never before seen improvements in Raccoon Creek water quality. In 2013, the acid load going into the Raccoon Creek Watershed from acid mine drainage was reduced by 5,626 lbs/day, and the metal load was reduced by 888 lbs/day as a result of reclamation and treatment projects. In 2013, two new families of mayfly larvae were collected in the watershed. And for the first time EVER, all 117 of stream miles that are monitored were meeting a pH target of 6.5 or higher. What an achievement!

Village of Wilkesville Considers Sewage Project

Mindy Pozenel, AETcom

The Wilkesville Village Council has been considering the installation of a village-wide sewage collection and treatment system. Village officials have been working with Advanced Engineering Technologies Company (AETcom) to evaluate the options available to the village for funding and treatment technologies. The goal is to reduce the public health hazard associated with failing septic systems in the village and ultimately improve the water quality of the Raccoon Creek Watershed. Members of council are interested in pollution control and setting the base for future growth in the village.

AETcom has presented initial cost estimates to the village and village residents at a public meeting. AETcom works with small communities, like Wilkesville, to assist them in obtaining funding, planning, design, and construction oversight for sewer and wastewater implementation, upgrades, and improvements. The Wilkesville project is anticipated to receive anywhere from 90% - 100% grant funding which would provide sewer service to the village at approximately \$25 per user per month. The most cost effective, efficient treatment system for the Village of Wilkesville is a proposed low-pressure collection system and a lagoon treatment system. This would serve 69 homes and 5 or 6 businesses to start and all customers will be located inside the village.

The village is exploring the option because officials want to avoid any future mandates. If this were to happen, the price of projects tend to rise dramatically because the funding sources may not be available and may not align with mandated timelines.

If the project moves forward, Wilkesville would become the fourth village in Vinton County to offer sewer service. Currently, the others are McArthur and Hamden and a system in Zaleski is now under construction.



Place
Postage
Stamp
Here

Send To:

Raccoon Creek Partnership
c/o Amy Mackey
Voinovich School
The Ridges, Bldg 22
Athens, OH 45701



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