

Raccoon Creek News

Fall 2013

Autumn Adventure Awaits... You!

A Message from the Chairperson

Dear Raccoon Creek Partnership Members,

I hope everyone had a fun and safe summer, it was all go in Raccoon Creek! We had two super fun weeks of summer camp at Waterloo Aquatic Education Center including field trips to Lake Hope and the Hocking Hills - I'm not sure who had more fun, the campers or the counselors! Despite the rain, crews worked tirelessly in July and August on macroinvertebrate sampling to track the progress of biological recovery in Raccoon Creek. The weather put us behind a little, but the Indian summer is letting us catch up now. We have started fish sampling for the year and will finish that up by October - it's so exciting to see new fish in Raccoon Creek! Two new treatment projects are under construction in Little Raccoon Creek at Middleton Run and Lake Morrow, hopefully leading to more improvement of the creek! This time of year always means the end of the term of one group of Americorps members and the start of a new term - we are sad to see Rebekah and Darcy go, but are excited to welcome Rand and Kaylee to the Raccoon Creek family, say hi to them if you see them in the creek. We have also had to say farewell to our amazing ODNR intern, Alie, who is moving out to Colorado to start his career. I hope you all have a chance to Explore Raccoon Creek this fall! What's your favorite Raccoon Creek memory?



Natalie Kruse, Raccoon Creek Partnership Chair

Raccoon Creek Partnership - Current Board of Directors

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

Mark Your Calendars for the 2013 RCP Annual Dinner

When: Sunday, October 20th @ 4:00 PM
Where: New Marshfield (Waterloo) Community Center.
Located in New Marshfield, across from the post office.
What: Family style potluck, so please bring a dish to share.
More Fun: There will be our fabulous silent auction (featuring local gift certificates, homemade crafts and food items from many local businesses, artists, and gardeners) and 50/50 Raffle.

If you have ever considered serving on the RCP board, now is the time. There are **FOUR** Board positions open for election this year and nominations should be sent to Natalie Kruse at krusen@ohio.edu or Amy Mackey at mackey@ohio.edu or 740-594-1473 by October 1st. Nominees must be current RCP members in good standing by the time of the election. The annual dinner is a great time to renew your membership for the upcoming year and get caught up on the happenings in Raccoon Creek over the past year. We hope to see you October 20th, 4:00 at the New Marshfield Community Center!

Want to help Raccoon Creek? Register your Kroger Plus Card!

Sign up Today by Following These 5 Easy Steps:

1. Go to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com - Click "Sign in" or "Create an account" at the top of the screen.
2. To Create an account: simply fill in the requested information and a confirmation email will be sent to you.
3. Click on the link provided in the email from Kroger, and "Sign in".
4. Once signed in click on the "Edit Community Rewards Information" near the bottom of the screen. Then, in the "Find Your Organization" field, type in "Raccoon Creek Partnership". Select us and Save your Selection.
5. Swipe your Kroger Rewards Card every time you shop and help RCP grow!

ATHENS

GALLIA

HOCKING

JACKSON

MEIGS

VINTON

Staffing Changes in Raccoon Creek

Thanks, Farewell, Best of Luck... and Welcome Aboard!

Amy Mackey, Raccoon Creek Watershed Coordinator

Where did the summer go? Is it really fall time already?! Fall is a bittersweet time of year at Raccoon Creek. Fall is when we have to say goodbye to the interns and AmeriCorps members who have become such good friends over the past year. But we are also excited to welcome aboard our two new AmeriCorps members, Rand Romas and Kaylee Moser!

Alie Hermanutz, a recent graduate from Hocking College GeoEnvironmental Science Program completed a student internship spring semester, and was hired on as the 2013 Raccoon Creek ODNR intern for the summer. Alie has been a valuable member of the Raccoon Creek crew, assisting with chemical and biological monitoring, project maintenance, data entry and verification, outreach and education, etc. Alie is finishing up his hours in September and heading out west to pursue employment opportunities.

Rebekah Korenowsky and Darcy VanDervort have been Ohio Stream RestoreCorps AmeriCorps members with Raccoon Creek since August 2012 and have recently completed their service terms. AmeriCorps members participate in a wide variety of watershed activities, from monitoring and maintenance, to planning and facilitating summer camps and school programs. Some new events introduced by Rebekah and Darcy included the Winter Tree ID hike, Wildflower Hike, Rain Barrel Workshop, and Summer Camp overnight at Lake Hope. The AmeriCorps program has greatly increased the outreach and education capacity of the Raccoon Creek Partnership and we are grateful for all that they have contributed. Rebekah is heading out to Washington to serve another AmeriCorps term at the Shadow Lake Nature Preserve, and Darcy is at the University of Arizona in Tucson studying Environmental Science.

Thanks Alie, Rebekah, and Darcy...we will miss you all!

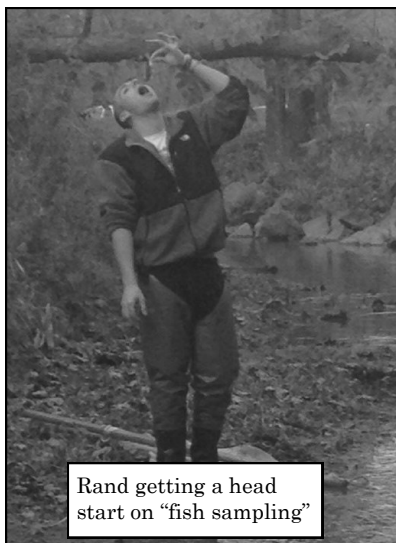
Rand Romas and Kaylee Moser just began their 12 month AmeriCorps term with Raccoon Creek on August 12th. We would like to officially welcome you to the Raccoon Creek Partnership and are excited to work with you in the future!



Alie catching some tunes on the boom box while macroinvertebrate sampling

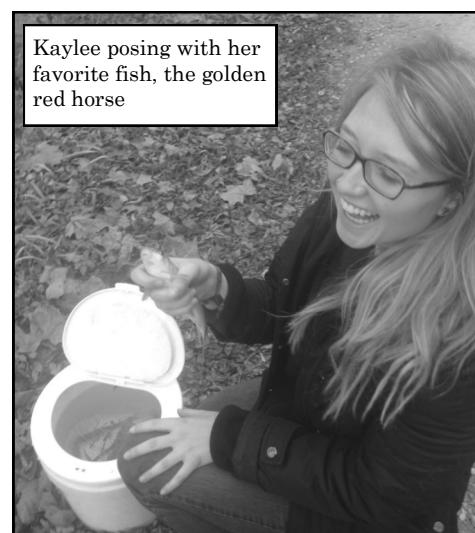
Welcome New AmeriCorps Members

Kaylee Moser: "Hello Raccoon Creek Supporters! My name is Kaylee Moser, I just graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Wildlife Conservation Biology. During my term this year with Raccoon Creek, I look forward to gaining more valuable field experience as well as learn more about stream restoration and water quality. Next year I plan to continue working with water quality issues, and eventually attend graduate school. I am very excited for this upcoming year, and I can't wait to meet all of you!"



Rand getting a head start on "fish sampling"

Rand Romas: "Hello Stream Enthusiasts! My name is Rand Romas and I am a recent Ohio University graduate with a degree in Marine, Freshwater, and Environmental Biology. I am beyond excited to put the knowledge I have gained throughout my undergraduate career to the test each and every day. I hope to help take the program as far as it has ever been with restoration and continue adding to the positives Raccoon Creek has brought throughout the community. I look forward to meeting all of you and expanding my interest within this ever-improving watershed."



Kaylee posing with her favorite fish, the golden red horse



Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association Update

Molly Gurien, Water Trail Chair & Sarah Landers, RCWTA member & Water Quality Specialist

Where are those fabulous Raccoon Creek water trail maps that you have been just itching to get your hands on? They are at press as this article is being written and will be in our possession by the time you are reading this very article. Our sincerest apologies for the lengthy delay in getting the maps printed. We did not expect it to take so long to review and edit the proofs to assure that we have an accurate and properly formatted map. We appreciate your patience and continued support of this exciting project. If you have already ordered a map, not to worry, we are ready to start delivering them as soon as they arrive. And if you are wanting to order a map, we'll be posting detailed instructions on our website www.raccooncreek.org on how to obtain your very own copy of the map. They will be printed on water and tear resistant paper. A few unfolded copies suitable for framing will also be available.



We held a beautiful spring float down Raccoon Creek on May 18th. The float was part of the "Ready, Set, Wear It!" Life Jacket World Record Day and occurs during National Safe Boating Week. Our next float is scheduled for Sunday, October 6th and we hope you will join us.



RCWTA needs YOU~! We welcome your participation and encourage anyone with a love of paddling and interest in protecting our natural resources to become involved. We hope you can join us for this year's floats or at one of our monthly meetings. The Water Trail Association meets regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and is considering a change to the 2nd Thursday. For more information, including meeting dates and details regarding the fall canoe float, contact Molly Gurien at paddlemerlot@yahoo.com or visit our web page at www.raccooncreek.org.

RCP UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Visit 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

Monthly RCWTA Meetings are held the Second Wednesday of every month and subject to change

<u>September 13th-15th</u>	Come visit us at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival (Albany, Ohio)
<u>September 26th</u>	Vinton County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Dinner Location: Lake Hope Lodge. Call Cody Hacker 740-596-5676 for information & tickets
<u>September 28th</u>	Gallia County Farm City Day - See page 4 for details
<u>October 6th</u>	RCWTA Fall Canoe Float down Raccoon Creek Contact Molly Gurien at paddlemerlot@yahoo.com to reserve a canoe for free
<u>October 19th</u>	RCP Fall Day Camp 10am-1pm
<u>October 20th</u>	RCP Annual Dinner @ 4:00pm at the New Marshfield Community Center
<u>October 26th</u>	Come visit us at ROAR (Rural Ohio Appalachia Revisited) @ Lake Hope State Park
<u>November 2nd</u>	RCP Fall Day Camp 10am-1pm

"Like" us on Facebook!

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

Full Speed Ahead—2013 Projects Begin in the Watershed

Sarah Landers, Raccoon Creek Water Quality Specialist (Ohio Valley RC&D)

It has been a busy year here in Raccoon Creek. The Water Quality Specialist Position is a grant funded joint venture between multiple partners and we are pleased to report that the position has been funded for another two years. Yeay! - Now, back to business. Chemical water quality monitoring has continued with nearly 400 water



A longear sunfish collected using the electrofishing boat along Creek Rd in Vinton County

samples taken in the watershed since January! Water samples are collected to measure the performance of our projects before and after construction and we have long term monitoring locations spanning all six counties! The biological monitoring season for Raccoon Creek begins in July and runs til October 15th. During this time we collect macroinvertebrates and sample fish. So far in 2013 we have collected macroinvertebrates at 23 out of 30 sites. Fish electroshocking began in early

August and we have a total of 12 sites in the watershed scheduled to be sampled. Full speed ahead in Little Raccoon Creek. Construction on both the Middleton Run Reclamation and Lake Morrow projects began in August. Both projects are located in Jackson County near Wellston. The Middleton Run project is a surface mine reclamation project. Lake Morrow is being drained and a dam consisting of coal spoil will be modified and a culvert installed to keep water from collecting behind the dam. It sure has been a busy summer. Over and out.



Some of our crew collecting Macroinvertebrates in July



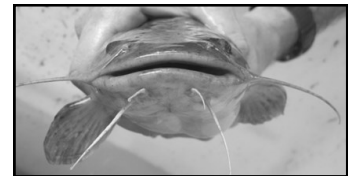
Ben McCament of ODNR at the Middleton Run Reclamation project pre-construction

2013 Gallia County Farm City Day—September 28th

Amy Mackey, Raccoon Creek Watershed Coordinator

After a 10 year hiatus, the Gallia County Farm City Day is back! The Gallia Soil and Water Conservation District and partners are organizing the event that will take place Sept 28th at Raccoon Creek County Park, O.O. McIntyre Park District (518 Dan Jones Rd, Gallipolis, OH). FREE and fun for the whole family! Events and exhibitors include farm tours, crafts, live honey bee hive, animals, electrofishing demo by the Raccoon Creek Partnership (weather permitting), gardening, conservation groups, fiber spinning, ODNR Division of Wildlife, and much more! Hope to see you there!

For more information or to be involved with the event, contact the Gallia SWCD at 740-446-6173



You Guys Ever Seen a Mink?

Alie Hermanutz, 2013 ODNR Summer Intern with Raccoon Creek Partnership

A brief encounter with this critter within our watershed led me to educate myself and others about it. Resident of every county state-wide, the American mink is a staple of the Ohio wildlife enthusiast's viewing diet. The American mink is a constituent of the Mustelidae family, which identifies it as a carnivorous mammal amongst the ranks of otters, badgers and wolverines. Illusive, territorial, beady eyed and invariably found near water (due to its semiaquatic disposition) the



mink is a member of the Raccoon Creek Watershed. They sport a dark brown and notably luxurious fur with short legs, webbing between their toes and an elongate body. Historically prized for the pelt and the struggle required for the trapper to catch the creature, they must travel lightly in their natural habitat. Carnivorous in nature, the American mink feeds on sentient creatures ranging from rodents to crustaceans to many avian species. Now that you know a little more, seeing one may be even more exciting!



Reference & Photo Source: Mink. ODNR Division of Wildlife, A to Z Species Guide: Mink.

Summer 2013 Camps

Compiled by Sarah Landers, Raccoon Creek Water Quality Specialist (Ohio Valley RC&D)

Summer day camps came and went this year. The first camp aimed at youth going into 2nd - 4th grade was themed "Water Rocks!" This camp included activities introducing campers to the topics of water and geology in the Raccoon Creek Watershed. The second camp was aimed at youth going into 5th grade and up and the theme was "Biodiversity." This camp covered exploration of wildlife such as fish, birds, insects and plants. Both camps featured stream walks in Hewett Fork, canoeing on Penrod Lake or Lake Hope, an electrofishing demonstration, swimming and picnicking at Lake Hope and hiking in the Hocking Hills. For the first time this year we organized an overnight excursion to Lake Hope State Park. Although the weather had other plans, we still had a great evening hike and campfire. Thank you to all of our volunteers that make our camps possible, we couldn't do it without you. Saturday morning fall camps are already planned for October 19th and November 2nd, check out our website (www.raccooncreek.org) for details.



A Raccoon Adventure on the Mighty Muskingum River

Bob Eichenberg, Raccoon Creek Partnership Secretary

Dear Friends, On August 11th the Raccoon Creek Partners made their mark by entering (and finishing in one piece) the 5th annual Mighty Muskingum River Raft Regatta. The Regatta is part of the Rivers, Trails, and Ales Festival and is organized by The Friends of the Lower Muskingum River. The raft was worthy of the "most creative" prize that RCP won for its efforts. An impeccable design by Board member Rob Wiley, innovative construction by volunteer Eric Cornwell, trailer transport by volunteer Glenn Stout, and helpful hands from the Board and staff produced an amazing raft. It featured plastic drum flotation, a bamboo floor, two bicycles that powered a pine board paddle wheel, room for 7 pirate paddlers and pedalers, and a raccoon flag. The weather was perfect and the Raccoon pirates were glad to be on the water to help beat the heat. Fans on shore shouted encouragement and the two mile race ended quickly enough at the Harmar Bridge just shy of the Ohio River.



Photo by Tim Hoeflich via Facebook: Friends of the Lower Muskingum River

RCP is the first area watershed organization to enter the race so other watershed groups should take this as a challenge to try to come anywhere close to RCP's pirate craft!! We'll leave you in our wake!!



More information about the event is available at:

<http://www.muskingumriver.org/pages/news%20events/riverRaftRace.html>



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Postage
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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