

# Raccoon Creek News

Spring 2023

*What in carnation are we up to?*

## Farewell Molly!

*Emily Keil-Loudner—RCP Board Member*

From everyone at Raccoon Creek Partnership, we would like to bid a fond farewell to our longest running board member and leader of the Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association (RCWTA) Molly Gurien! Molly has positively impacted the Raccoon Creek Watershed with all her hard work and dedication. Through the creation of the RCWTA she was able to get a water trail map created for Raccoon Creek, and she was a part of many outreach events through Raccoon Creek Partnership. Molly has been there to be a part of and see through the restoration of Raccoon Creek and has brought in many people along the way.

"Molly is one if those people who makes an impact wherever she goes, because she cares deeply and is passionate about all life around her, whether its her students, community members, or the fishes in the stream. I first met Molly as a struggling freshman student at Ohio University in the introduction to biology lab. She would take the time after lab to help wherever I struggled. I can honestly say she is one of the main reasons I was able to succeed in the field of science. Fast forward 6 years, I got to take another class with Molly, but as a graduating Masters student. She invited me to volunteer at the Pawpaw festival for the Raccoon Creek Partnership booth. I absolutely loved my time volunteering with other board members and speaking with passers-by about Raccoon Creek. When I had the opportunity to work with Raccoon Creek Partnership as an AmeriCorps, I jumped right on it! She made a tremendous impact on my life and I know many others could say the same." -Emily Keil-Loudner

Happy retirement Molly! Enjoy your next phase of life!



ATHENS

GALLIA

HOCKING

JACKSON

MEIGS

VINTON



## What's in A Name?

Kaylin Callander– Lake Hope Naturalist

*“That which we call a rose/ By any other name would smell as sweet.”*

Juliet may have been metaphorically speaking to Romeo but we tend to disagree. The reference is used to state that the names of things do not affect what they really are. Often, though, the name comes from a characteristic of the organism. And since spring is a great time for flowers, if you investigate the scientific names of a few species of these spring ephemerals, you may tend to disagree with her too.

Scientific names are generally expressed as two words: the genus and the species. This is called a binomial name and it helps in widespread use with less confusion than the common or nick names tend to have. The name is usually derived from Latin or Greek language but can also come from other languages, names of people or places, or puns and jokes. For example: “*Tyrannosaurus*” is Greek for “tyrant lizard,” and “*rex*” means “king” in Latin. So, *Tyrannosaurus rex* was “King of the Tyrant Lizards.”

Here are a few of our favorite spring wildflower scientific names and their hidden meanings:

Dwarf Larkspur- *Delphinium tricornis*; “Delphinium” = from the Greek “Delphinus” meaning “dolphin”, as the emerging flowers resemble dolphins and “tricornis” means “three-horned”, named after the shape of the three-lobed fruits.

Pink Lady's Slipper- *Cypripedium acaule*; “Cypripedium” is Greek for “Aphrodite's sandal” (the goddess of love and beauty) and “acaule” meaning “stemless”.

Showy Orchis- *Galearis spectabilis*; “Galearis” from Greek “Galea” meaning “helmet-like” and “spectabilis” meaning “showy”.

Wild Geranium- *Geranium maculatum*; “Geranium” from Greek “geranos” meaning “a crane” referring to the shape of the fruiting capsules which resemble the beak of a crane and “maculatum” meaning “mottled” referring to the coloration of the leaves.

Wild Ginger- *Asarum canadense*; “Asarum” from the ancient Greek word “asaron” meaning obscure (referring to the placement of the flower on the ground hidden under the leaves and “canadense” meaning “of Canada” (often time the name of a place refers to the location of the first time it is discovered)

Hepatica- *Hepatica nobilis*; “Hepatica” from Latin “hepaticus” pertaining to the liver (as in the shape of its leaves) and “nobilis” meaning “noble, or high-born”.

If you want to learn more about how to identify our spring wildflowers and where to find them, join one of our programs happening at Lake Hope State Park this spring: April 21, 29 and May 5 at 10:00am at Hope Furnace on OH-278.



Hepatica– Kaylin Callander



Wild Ginger- Kaylin Callander



Pink Lady's Slipper– Kaylin Callander



## Recruiting Raccoon Creek AmeriCorps Members!

*Kelsey Daniels– RCP AmeriCorps Members*

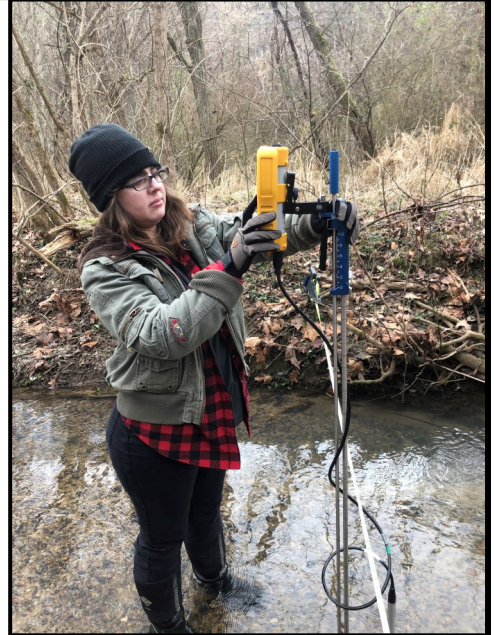
Ashley and Kelsey have been with Raccoon Creek Partnership for the past two years serving as the RCP based Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps (AORC) AmeriCorps Members. AORC is a great way to gain experience and learn new skills that pertain to your possible future career while serving the Appalachian community. If you are interested in pursuing a future in watershed management, conservation, environmental education or other wildlife or environmental fields, an AmeriCorps position with Raccoon Creek Partnership may be for you! While Ashley and Kelsey have greatly enjoyed their time with RCP and would like to stay forever, they are both on to their next journey in life using their experience gained from AmeriCorps.

“I will never forget my time with Raccoon Creek Partnership. Everyday is a different adventure whether I’m out in the field sampling fish or tabling an event. Learning new skills and educating the community are both rewarding experiences”  
-Kelsey Daniels

As an RCP AmeriCorps you would get to assist the Watershed Coordinator, environmental specialists and graduate students with Raccoon Creek and other watershed monitoring and data management. This includes chemical, biological and physical field sampling. Additionally, weekly project maintenance at the Carbondale Doser is an important responsibility given to RCP AmeriCorps members. You would also plan and execute educational and community outreach events like seasonal day camps, family outdoor day, and owl prowl, as well as go to different schools and festivals to table and teach activities within the Raccoon Creek watershed.

AmeriCorps members must have a high school diploma or GED and a valid drivers license. It is also helpful to have or be pursuing a college degree or equivalent education in a scientific field such as biology, ecology, hydrology, etc. if you would like to be an RCP AmeriCorps member. AmeriCorps members also need to be able to serve flexible hours including some evenings and weekends as needed and be capable of working in a team setting or independently. For their service to the community, AmeriCorps members receive an annual living allowance of \$19,802 and a \$6,895 Segal Education Award that can go towards future education, or towards federal student loans. In addition there is a \$1,400 mileage, training and equipment budget for reimbursement needs. AmeriCorps also has healthcare options available to those that need it and are eligible for SNAP if needed.

Contact Amy Mackey at [mackey@ohio.edu](mailto:mackey@ohio.edu) for more information on this position and apply at <https://ruralaction.org/our-work/leadership-and-service/appalachian-ohio-restore-corps/>



Ashely Grace using the Sontek to measure stream discharge.



Kelsey Daniels helping sort fish for identification after sampling



Kelsey Daniels performing Carbondale Doser maintenance



Kelsey Daniels & Ashley Grace tabling at the Discover Appalachia Travel Expo

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**Apple Grafting Workshop** \_\_\_\_\_ **April 16th, 1pm-3pm**

**Ridges Building 22, Athens, OH 45701 (Classroom 221 )**

**\$10 donation per tree grafted to cover rootstock and scion**

**Spring Nature Day** \_\_\_\_\_ **Free and open to all ages!** \_\_\_\_\_ **April 29th, 3pm-6pm**

**Dairy Lane Shelter House @ The Ridges Athens, OH ( Near the mini golf course)**

**Family Outdoor Day** \_\_\_\_\_ **Free and open to all ages!** \_\_\_\_\_ **June 3rd , 12pm-4pm**

**Lake Hope Shelter House**

**Summer Day Camp** \_\_\_\_\_ **July 17th– 21st 9am-4pm**

**Raccoon Creek Outfitters- 74815 US-50 #8010, Albany, OH 45710**

**Registration is **CLOSED AND FULL****

**\*\*All events subject to change. \*\***

For info or directions visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/raccooncreekpartnership/>

Or e-mail [raccooncreekpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:raccooncreekpartnership@gmail.com) or [mackey@ohio.edu](mailto:mackey@ohio.edu)



## Effortless Ways to Help RCP

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

#### Sign up Today by Following These 6 Easy Steps:

1. Go to: <https://www.kroger.com/topic/kroger-community-rewards-3> :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!
6. **Remember to renew every April**

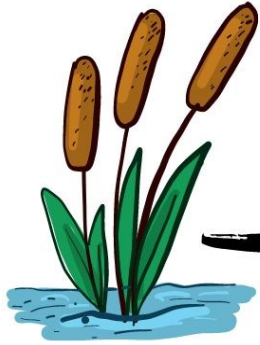
## Spotted Salamanders!

*Kelly Love –RCP General Board Member*

There were a few warm and wet nights in February this year that gave rise to SPOTTED SALAMANDERS! These salamanders get their name from the two uneven rows of yellowish-orange spots running from their head to their tail. They can be found in hardwood forest areas with vernal pools. The best time to find a spotted salamander is early spring when they migrate in large numbers to breeding pools. Raccoon Creek Partnership’s very own Amy Mackey and Nora Sullivan found these spotted salamanders at Lake Hope. They helped to move a large number of salamanders and other critters off the road and got them safely to the vernal pools.







# CREEK CRITTERS

## Word Search



N	R	S	G	X	I	Y	G	Y	Q	X	T	L	P	Q
H	S	A	L	Q	A	R	L	B	A	U	C	N	G	B
L	D	Y	C	R	X	F	L	K	Z	F	I	X	I	O
D	K	B	B	C	S	N	N	M	I	B	S	X	C	H
O	R	L	V	I	O	V	K	K	V	R	M	P	Z	X
R	F	A	D	Z	L	O	P	Z	E	X	O	O	T	A
Y	Z	D	G	B	V	I	N	T	E	A	G	L	A	D
L	A	T	I	O	C	Q	R	D	Z	D	S	F	E	M
C	J	A	T	K	N	A	C	R	A	Y	F	I	S	H
E	L	T	E	H	D	F	S	U	N	F	I	S	H	Q
Z	L	R	Y	P	J	C	L	H	F	N	K	I	N	K
B	E	F	X	U	K	G	L	Y	C	U	O	Y	Y	A
L	P	M	F	J	C	B	J	Y	K	P	R	I	M	F
X	G	F	E	I	Y	O	C	F	U	M	W	G	P	I
I	H	H	U	Y	R	W	H	N	A	C	S	E	H	A

Algae

Caddisfly

Crayfish

Darter

Dragonfly

Nymph

Pickerel

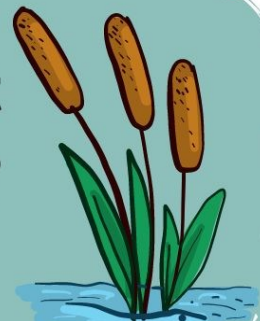
Raccoon

Riffle

Sunfish



What animal left  
these tracks?



answer: River Otter!

**Raccoon Creek Partnership**  
 c/o Amy Mackey  
 Voinovich School  
 The Ridges, Bldg 22

Place  
Postage  
Stamp  
Here

**Send To:**



*Printed on post-consumer recycled paper*

*Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service*  
*Raccoon Creek Partnership*  
*and send to:*

*Please make checks payable to the:*  
*Raccoon Creek Partnership*  
*Your contributions are tax deductible.*

Name	
Address	
Phone	
E-mail	

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

	Creek Chub	\$ 15
	Johnny Darter	\$30
	Channel Catfish	\$ 50
	Grass Pickerel	\$100
	Spotted Bass	\$500
	Paddlefish	\$1000

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