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2007 Watershed Camp

The 3rd Leading Creek Watershed Day Camp took place on June 6th and 7th at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area near Rutland. Twenty children from both Meigs and Athens County joined us for two days of fun and learning outside.

Presenters from many partnering agencies ran stations that focused on individual subjects. Some of the Camp lessons included stream morphology, acid mine drainage, and wetlands. Children explored the connections between wildlife and water quality by seeing and even holding snakes,

birds, fish, and bugs. Many great volunteers helped out each day.

Thanks to all our partners that made Camp such a wonderful event: Hocking College, Hocking Hills State Park, Kleski Environmental Consulting, Meigs SWCD staff and Auxiliary, ODNR, Division of Forestry,

ODNR, Division of Soil & Water Conservation, ODNR, Division of Mineral Resources Management, ODNR, Division of Wildlife, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Rural Action, Rutland Township Board of Trustees, Tupper Plains - Chester Water District, and US Fish & Wildlife Service.



Watershed Camp 2007: The Hocking Hills State Park naturalist, Pat Quackenbush, came down to teach kids all about birds and showed them a screech owl.

** This publication was funded by a Watershed Education Mini-Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.*

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- Mary Ann Hawk, *NRCS - District Conservationist*
- Jason Crislip, *NRCS - Soil Conservationist*

Our Partners

- Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District
- American Electric Power
- Buckeye Hills RC&D
- Boy Scouts of America
- Eastern Local School District
- Girl Scouts of the USA
- Leading Creek Conservancy District
- Leading Creek Improvement Committee
- Meigs County Commissioners
- Meigs County Engineer
- Meigs County Health Department
- Meigs County Recycling & Litter Prevention
- Meigs Local FFA
- Meigs Local School District
- Mid Valley Christian School
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Divisions of Forestry, Soil & Water Conservation, Mineral Resources Management, and Wildlife
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Surface Water
- Ohio State University Extension
- Ohio University, College of Engineering
- Ohio University, ILGARD
- PDK Construction
- Residents of the Leading Creek Watershed
- Rural Action, Inc.
- Rutland Village Council
- Southern Local School District
- Township Trustees of Columbia, Salem, Rutland, and Salisbury Townships in Meigs County
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Office of Surface Mining

Camp Pics!



Learning how to fight a forest fire



Hocking College brought the snakes back!



Tree identification and forestry



Making molds of wildlife tracks



Electro-fishing and fish id with Ohio EPA



Flower and medicinal herb ID with Rural Action



Learning about wetlands and urban sprawl



Mining history and acid mine drainage

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Great Turn Out for Stream Sweep

The 7th Annual Leading Creek Stream Sweep was held on April 21st in conjunction with Earth Day. We were thrilled with the turnout of 35 volunteers, who met at the Rutland Jim Vennari Park.

The Leading Creek Stream Sweep has faced high water, cold temperatures and spring rainstorms during much of its history. But on this April morning there wasn't a cloud in sight as 35 volunteers of all ages turned out to help clean up the Leading Creek watershed. Volunteers filled two dump trucks, belonging

to the Rutland Township Board of Trustees, with trash collected from throughout the watershed. Clean up locations ranged all around from Albany, Langsville, Rutland, Bradbury, and Laurel Cliff.

For their service, volunteers received a new Leading Creek Stream Sweep T-shirt and pizza for lunch.

The Leading Creek Stream Sweep is sponsored by the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District, Rutland Township Board of Trustees, Meigs County

Transfer Station, and the Leading Creek Conservancy District.



Volunteers loading up trash collected from streams, including a recliner.



Camp 07: Learning about stream sediments



Exploring bugs in the creek during Camp

Field Trip Along Little Leading

Several field trips with local schools were organized by the Meigs SWCD in the last few months of the school year, including one that brought nearly 70 area 5th grade students to Little Leading Creek at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area for a field day. On May 15, students from Meigs Elementary came out to New Lima Road and spent the day learning about many aspects of conservation. Meigs SWCD staff organized a series of activity stations for

teachers to bring students to during the day. The lessons included Macroinvertebrates: Bugs in the Stream, Water Quality Investigations, Wildlife Pelt Identification, and a special tree planting of native American Chestnut trees. Students and teachers alike were able to explore the Conservation Area and walk the Nature Trail there.



2007 Photo Contest Winners Selected

The winners of the 2007 Photo Contest sponsored by the Meigs Soil & Water Conservation District and the Leading Creek Watershed Group were announced at the Annual Leading Creek Stream Sweep on April 21.

The theme this year was **“Water: Essential for Life”** and the Meigs SWCD received many great entries from all over the county. Only three winners were chosen by a panel of judges to receive cash prizes. A point system based on attributes like focus, lighting, and creativity was used to tally the winners. Thanks go out to all the contest judges that volunteered their time and expertise to score the photo entries. This included **Sharon Dean of ‘Pro Am Pictures’** in Racine, **Shawn Richendollar of ‘A Studio in the Woods Photography’** in Jackson, and **Brian Lintala of ‘Brian Lintala Photography’** in Wellston.

Local support helped bring this contest into a second year. Thanks go out to all the banks that donated and helped make this contest possible: Farmers Bank & Savings Company, Home National Bank, Ohio Valley Bank, and Peoples Bank.

The first place winner was Everett McDaniel of Pomeroy with his entry entitled **“Ducks.”**

The second place winner was Joani Powers of Long Bottom with her entry entitled **“Water = Life, Life = Beauty.”**

The third place winner was also Joani Powers with her entry entitled **“Water Gives Life to the Beauty.”**

All photo entries can be viewed at the Meigs SWCD office, at the next Leading Creek Watershed Group public meeting, at the **SWCD’s Annual Banquet**, and at the Meigs SWCD booth during

the 2007 Meigs County Fair. Keep your eyes open for that perfect photo of Meigs County for next year!



First place photo: “Ducks” by Everett McDaniel of Pomeroy



Second place photo: **Water = Life, Life = Beauty”** by Joani Powers of Long Bottom



Third place photo: **“Water Gives Life to the Beauty”** by Joani Powers of Long Bottom



Cleaning Up Where Leading Creek Ends Up

On June 16 the 2007 Ohio River Sweep kicked off with the dash of enthusiastic volunteers and loads of trash bags. The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District organized three locations in Meigs County this year, and many other groups sponsored clean up sites all along the river. In Pomeroy volunteers met at the amphitheater in the riverside parking lot, and in Racine volunteers met at Star Mill Park. A new location this year was Portland, where volunteers met at the school that has become the Portland Community Center. Between the three sites, nearly 80 volunteers turned out for the event. At 9am volunteers picked up trash bags at each

site and headed out to make the community look a little brighter. All trash was brought back to the meeting locations and disposed in trucks provided by the village or the township. Volunteers were then treated to lunch at noon and received a new River Sweep T-shirt.

This was the 19th Annual Ohio River Sweep. River Sweep is a riverbank cleanup that extends the entire length of the Ohio River and beyond. Some tributary streams are also gradually being added to the list of clean up sites. All counties along the Ohio River participate in this extensive day of cleaning up litter.

This year our partners of the

Ohio River Sweep included the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), the Village of Pomeroy, Village of Racine, Village of Portland, Portland Community Center, Lebanon Township Trustees, the Meigs Transfer Station, Jay Hall Jr., and Ohio Valley Bank.



Volunteers hard at work at the Portland site



2007 Ohio River Sweep: By the river at the Racine site
Photo by Gary Walker



Mark Your Calendar

Join the Leading Creek Watershed Group (LCWG) for our next public meeting on July 17th in the Pomeroy Library. At 5pm the public is invited for a potluck dinner and to hear special updates on the watershed group and our reclamation plans. A feasibility study is about to begin for acid mine drainage remediation in Thomas Fork,

and we want to tell you all about it.

Also hear about the Fourth Annual Leading Creek Watershed Tour that will be held on October 20th.

Participants are to meet at the Meigs SWCD office by 10am for this free driving tour and are encouraged to carpool. Project sites and

historic watershed locations will be visited. For more details and to reserve your seats today please call the Meigs SWCD at 740-992-4282.



August 2nd Summer Festival



Come out and have some fun! The Leading Creek Watershed Group and the Meigs SWCD announce our second Conservation Area Summer Festival. On Thursday, August 2nd join us at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area starting at 5pm for a Leading Creek Cook Out and see all the improvements at the Conservation Area. Join us for good food, get updates from your local watershed group, and get to know the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area. Enjoy the outdoors and see the beauty of Little Leading Creek, which runs through the property. The summer fun on August 2nd will also feature a trail walk of the **Pauline H. Atkins**

Memorial Nature Trail which opened at the festival last year. This optional trail walk will show off the nearly 2-mile stretch of wooded paths. We'll show you our plans for the Conservation Area such as our warm season grasses plantings and wildlife food plot demonstrations, construction and enhancement plans for the wetland, sediment core drilling for a possible stream

sediment capture pond, and our experimental native and blight resistant American Chestnut trees. We were delighted with the public turnout last year, as nearly fifty people gathered.

The Meigs SWCD Conservation Area is located on New Lima Road near the village of Rutland. For driving directions please call 740-992-4282.



2006 Leading Creek Summer Festival at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area.



The Atkins Trail at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area during Watershed Camp 2007.

Hot Weather Tips to Save Water

These summer tips can help conserve water and lower the water bill too.

- Water the garden between 4pm and 9am when there is less evaporation risk.
- Gardeners can skip a day or two of watering in a

week without a serious threat to plants.

- Plant hardy, native trees and **plants that don't require as much water.**
- Mulch plants to retain water.
- Check your faucets or hoses

regularly and repair any leaks immediately.

- Use a pool or spa cover to reduce the amount of water that evaporates.
- Always be sure to respect local water usage limitations and warnings.

Leading Creek Watershed Group Membership Form

Join us today! Leading Creek wants *you* to become a member!

To become a member of the Leading Creek Watershed Group simply fill in your information below and drop this form off at our office or mail it to us c/o Meigs SWCD
33101 Hiland Road
Pomeroy, OH 45769

Yes, I want to join today!

And I want to donate! (see options below)

Name (Please print) _____ Organization (if applicable) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Benefits of Membership

All members receive personal invitations throughout the year to participate in activities such as watershed tours, group contests, litter clean up days, and water sampling demonstrations.

Option to Donate

Here is your chance to help us restore and protect the watershed. All donations are used to directly benefit the efforts of the Leading Creek Watershed Group. Those who donate \$10 or more receive one of our newly designed t-shirts. Also keep in mind that your contributions are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to Leading Creek c/o Meigs SWCD.

- \$10 *Donor* Preferred Shirt Size (If applicable) _____
- \$25 *Supporter*
- \$50 *Patron*
- \$100 *Sponsor*
- \$500 *Benefactor*
- Other \$ _____

The Leading Creek Watershed Group is a partnership of residents, officials, and agencies united by common interest in restoring the Leading Creek Watershed to add to the quality of life for the residents of the watershed and surrounding communities.

Thank you for your membership and for your support!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 12th: Leading Creek Improvement Committee Meeting at 9:45 in the Meigs SWCD office

July 17th: Leading Creek Watershed Group Meeting at 5pm in the Pomeroy Library

August 2nd: Leading Creek Festival & Cook Out at 5pm
At the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area on New Lima Road near Rutland

Week of August 13th: Meigs County Fair, limited office staff

September 25th: Meigs SWCD Annual Banquet & Meeting
Please call 740-992-4282 for details and to purchase tickets

October 20th: Fourth Annual Leading Creek Watershed Tour
Meet at the Meigs SWCD office by 10am

Office Closed for Holidays:

July 4th

September 3rd

October 8th



www.geocities.com/meigsswcd

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