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## Wetland Completed Along Little Leading Creek

The Leading Creek Watershed Group and the Meigs SWCD are proud to announce the completion of the wetland enhancement and expansion project at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area. Many people saw the area at the groundbreaking during the second annual Conservation Area Summer Festival on August 2nd. Participants enjoyed a cook out along Little Leading Creek and learned of all the

improvements at the Conservation Area such as warm season grasses plantings and wildlife food plot demonstrations, the experimental native and blight resistant American Chestnut trees, and the wetland.

Work is now completed on the wetland. The long, winding dam, the viewing “peninsulas” and “islands,” and the water-level control structure are all installed and waiting to function. The topsoil has been replaced and the area

has been seeded and mulched. At this time the only missing ingredient is water. But at some point in the near future when precipitation begins to normalize, the wetland will be full of water along with the blend of aquatic plants and macroinvertebrates that call wetlands home. Even though the wetland is currently muddy at best, it is now

*Continued on Page 2*



*\* 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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**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

# Wetland Completed... Continued

*Continued from Page 1*

easy to see how the area will look. Designed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), it is essentially a long, low dam designed to catch and hold water draining off a hillside behind it. These enhancements will stabilize the wetland habitat next to Little Leading Creek.

When full the wetland will consist of 2.25 acres of surface area with two viewing areas or peninsulas . It will only be about three feet deep at the deepest point and a water level control structure will allow staff to fill or drain the area for maintenance as needed.

The wetland project is the result of a combination of local donations and federal funding including approximately \$8,500 from the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) of NRCS, \$2,400 from American **Electric Power's Gavin Generating Plant**, and approximately \$535 in equipment from the Agri Drain Corporation.



Representatives of American Electric Power and the contractor, Home Creek Enterprises Inc, attended the wetland groundbreaking ceremony.



Staff explain the design plans for the wetland on August 2nd



Shown here during construction is a view of one of the "islands" which may attract water fowl and will also serve as habitat for aquatic life.

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## Volunteers of the Year at Banquet

Bugs were the topic of special guest speaker David Adkins at the 64th Meigs SWCD Annual Banquet & Banquet on September 25th. Approximately 140 people attended the event which was held at the Meigs High School. Adkins, Ohio's gypsy moth program manager with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Plant Pest Control Section, gave a brief overview of the efforts to control the gypsy moth.

Ohio is one of 11 states participating in a national program to combat the gypsy

moth, an invasive species that defoliates numerous tree species and is particularly hard on oak trees. Adkins gave details about the substances being used to combat the moths in Meigs County, such as pheromones and a naturally occurring bacterium found in the soil.

Another highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony, during which Joan and Bruce May of Rutland were named the 2007 Leading Creek Volunteers of the Year. They have both been

outstanding volunteers for the watershed group and have participated in events like Leading Creek Stream Sweep and Ohio River Sweep for many years. Congratulations to Joan and Bruce! We truly appreciate your stewardship.



2007 Leading Creek Volunteers of the Year, Joan and Bruce May



4th and 5th graders learned about water quality sampling during the field trip.



One of the anoles is shown here shedding its skin.

## Watershed School Programs

Another exciting field trip with a local school brought nearly 50 area 4th and 5th grade students to Little Leading Creek at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area for a field day. On October 2nd, 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

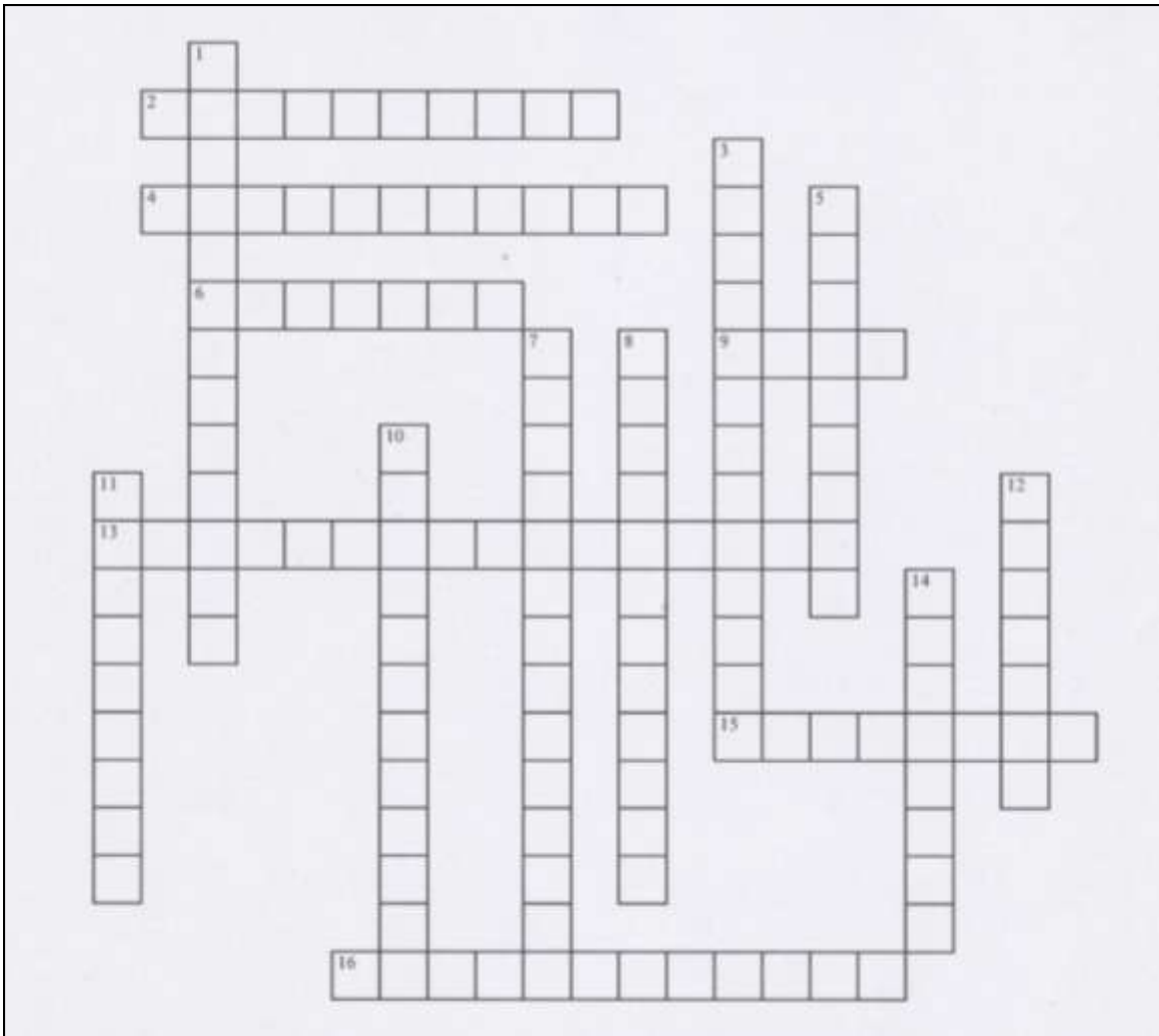
the Stream, Water Quality Investigations, and a special tour of the Conservation Area and the Nature Trail there.

During classroom visits an innovative technique is being used in the watershed. The Meigs SWCD has two lizards to bring to the schools. The green anoles are a great visual tool to teach younger students about habitats, ecosystems, and watersheds. The lessons can even be tied to the Science Standards.





# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

2. An animal with a backbone.
4. Area of vegetation between a crop field and a water body.
6. The study of how living things interact with each other.
9. Water that has this in it will turn orange or red.
13. When water enters a coal mine it can produce this.
15. Pollution that is not from a specific point.
16. An animal without a backbone.

## DOWN

1. The process that deposits soil and debris into bodies of water.
3. Snow, sleet, and rain are all forms of this.
5. The river that Leading Creek discharges into.
7. Area of vegetation adjacent to a stream.
8. The number and variety of different organisms in a habitat.
10. This is the wise use of natural resources.
11. The land draining into a stream or body of water.
12. An area that is seasonally or permanently covered in water and supports vegetation suited for these conditions.
14. The science of naming and classifying organisms.

*Answers on page 6*

## LCIC Outreach Project

The Meigs Soil & Water Conservation District and the Leading Creek Improvement Committee (LCIC) are finishing up the 2007 Outreach Project. This annual plan of natural resource-based public awareness work was made possible by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service using funds from the Leading Creek Improvement Account. This project facilitated public access to, and thus appreciation of, natural resources, with the focus being the connections between water quality and life in the Leading Creek Watershed.

The first activity funded under this project was the Leading Creek Stream Sweep, which took place in April. The

Leading Creek Watershed Day Camp was also a part of this project and took place in June at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area.

**Educator's Workshops** have been an effective part of the year, including a number of different programs such as "Healthy Water, Healthy People," "Project Learning Tree," and "Project Wild: Science and Civics."

Community Watershed Bulletin Boards were installed at six businesses throughout the watershed. These will serve as central locations for residents to get updates on events and activities, obtain membership forms, and find information



about the watershed.

New Leading Creek publications are now being created through this project. These will help to educate the public about Leading Creek and the Improvement Committee. Look for the brochures and booklets that will be available soon.



## Watershed Group Meeting

A meeting of the Leading Creek Watershed Group (LCWG) took place on July 17th in the Pomeroy Library. Updates on the watershed group were given and reclamation plans were reviewed. A feasibility study is now taking place in the Thomas Fork area to determine the best reclamation methods for the

acid mind drainage there.

Special guest speaker Jennifer Chapman Kleski updated the group on the Little Leading Creek Sediment Study. This research is headed up by Ohio University Department of Civil Engineering and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007. The finished



Jennifer Chapman Kleski of Kleski Environmental Consulting shows a map of the sediment sampling locations in Little Leading Creek.

report will characterize sedimentation in Little Leading and describe restoration recommendations.

# Fish Facts: The Freshwater Drum

The freshwater drum, or *Aplodinotus grunniens*, is a native fish of Ohio. Other common names include Sheephead, Grunter, Silver Bass, and Gray Bass. They inhabit lakes and deeper pools of rivers and smaller Ohio River tributaries. Freshwater drum are silver-gray in color with a mouth that points down, and a rounded tail. They are normally 12-30 inches long and can reach 20 pounds or more. Typical foods of a freshwater drum are mollusks, crayfish, fish, and aquatic insects. The skeletal features are unique, with the skull heavily



reinforced and large ear bones, with a characteristic "L" on one side.

Freshwater drum are primarily active at night, when they feed and breed in large schools. They communicate by making drumming, or croaking sounds with specialized muscles that vibrate against their air bladders. Freshwater drum spawn from spring to late summer. Females

broadcast eggs into water where they float on the surface and hatch in about one day and are left to survive on their own.

The drum has been abundant in Ohio since the 18th Century. Moravian missionary, David Zeisberger wrote that Indians would "commonly pierce this fish with an iron prong." In the 1800s it was considered one of the most abundant fish in the Ohio and Mahoning Rivers.

The 2007 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory cautions that freshwater drum caught in the Ohio River should be limited to one meal per month due to contamination with PCBs.

For more information please visit the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website at [www.dnr.state.oh.us](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us) and search for "Species A-Z Guide" or check out the Ohio EPA fish consumption advisory list at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/fishadvisory/limitmeals.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/fishadvisory/limitmeals.html).



These freshwater drum were found during electro fishing done in Leading Creek at river mile 10.3.

### Crossword Puzzle Answers

**ACROSS**

2. Vertebrate    4. Filter Strip    6. Ecology    9. Iron    13. Acid Mine Drainage  
15. Nonpoint    16. Invertebrate

**DOWN**

1. Sedimentation    3. Precipitation    5. Ohio River    7. Riparian Buffer    8. Biodiversity  
10. Conservation    11. Watershed    12. Wetland    14. Taxonomy

# 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

December 5h & 6th: Applied Research Conference at Ohio University in Athens  
Sessions and registration information available at [www.ohio.edu/noncredit/DMRM.htm](http://www.ohio.edu/noncredit/DMRM.htm)

December 13th: Leading Creek Improvement Committee Meeting and potluck at 10:30 at Meigs SWCD

Office Closed for Holidays:

November 22nd

November 23rd

December 25th

January 1st

January 21st

Limited Office Staff:

November 26th - 30th

December 4th

December 26th - 31st



[www.geocities.com/meigsswcd](http://www.geocities.com/meigsswcd)

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