

Raccoon Creek News

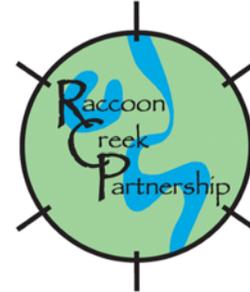
Fall 2016

Variety Edition!

A Message from the Chairperson

Greetings Fellow Raccoon Creekers,

As summer is winding down, we can look back on a very productive year, and look forward to new activities and events. We have been busy with our chemical and biological water quality monitoring, two fun-filled and educational summer camps for kids and a new event, our first annual Raccoon Creek Canoe and Kayak Slalom Race! This race was held at Lake Hope and included a buoy course that tested both skill and endurance. Look for the Second Annual Race to be held next summer! I welcome everyone to participate in our activities and attend our meetings. Another great way to find out what we are up to is to attend our Annual Meeting and Potluck in New Marshfield, Ohio in November (more info below). Hope to see you soon!



Molly Gurien, Raccoon Creek Partnership Chair

Raccoon Creek Partnership - Current Board of Directors

Molly Gurien (Chair), Heike Perko (Vice-Chair), Chelsi Hempstead (Treasurer),
Bob Eichenberg (Secretary), Jessica Makosky, Vance Rannells, Lauren Dick

2016 RCP Annual Dinner—the best potluck of the year!

Want to learn more about what's happening in Raccoon Creek? Come join us for our **10th** annual potluck dinner, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle! Local businesses and artisans graciously donate pottery, art, gift cards, homemade and home grown soaps, garden baskets, and more! Funds raised through the auction and raffle 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, November 6th, 4pm
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: Silent auction and 50/50 raffle!

RCP has 2 board positions open for election! Nominees must be current RCP members in good standing by the time of the election. If you are not yet a member, there is a membership form on the back of this newsletter! Send nominations to Amy Mackey at mackey@ohio.edu by October 16th.

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

Rain Barrel Workshops

Bob Eichenberg, Raccoon Creek Partnership Board Secretary

Here's an opportunity you can't miss!! Attend one of our Rain Barrel Workshops jointly sponsored by the Raccoon Creek Partnership and the Meigs County Soil and Water Conservation District. There is no charge to attend and the first 15 people to register will receive a free rain barrel with all the necessary hardware to put it into immediate action.

Rain barrels are a great way to collect water from your downspouts and use it to water flowerbeds and gardens. At the workshop you'll not only learn how to maintain your rain barrel but why it is important to collect and reuse your rainwater.



The first workshop is **Thursday, September 29, 2016 at the Meigs County Fairgrounds from 6:00–7:30pm**. Pre-registration is not required unless you wish to receive a free rain barrel by being one of the first 15 registrants. The second workshop will be offered on **April 13, 2017** at the Meigs County Soil and Water Conservation District Land Lab. **Call the Meigs County Soil and Water District at 740-992-4282 to register or to get more information.**

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 at 6:30 PM

Midnight at Moonville http://vintoncountytravel.com/midnight-at-moonville/	October 15
RCP Fall Archery Day Camp Waterloo Education Center	November 5 (subject to change)
RCP Annual Dinner Waterloo Senior Community Center, 4pm	November 6

“Like” us on Facebook!

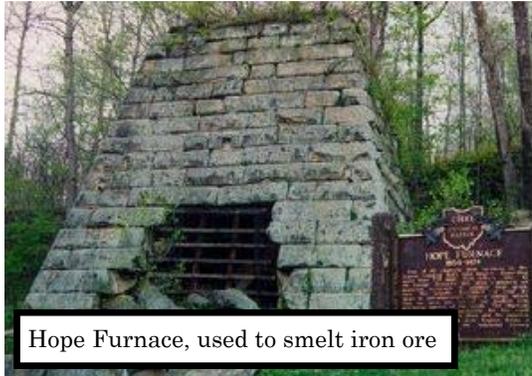
To find RCP on Facebook, type “Raccoon Creek Partnership” in the search box and “Like” our page!

Our Creek's History

Vance Rannells, Raccoon Creek Partnership Board Member

The Allegheny, Susquehanna and Monongahela Rivers join near Pittsburgh to form the Ohio River. The Shawnee Indians named these four rivers. Many miles downstream from its "3 Rivers" origin, Raccoon Creek enters the Ohio River. By water volume, the Ohio is one of the larger contributors to the Mississippi River.

Many years ago people such as Peter Zaleski, Wellington Coe, Matt Hazeltine, and Peter Hanes realized that the Raccoon Creek watershed had an abundance of clay for bricks, hardwood trees for charcoal, and coal for energy. The Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad opened up the area and resulted in various mines and forest tree cutting. The Shawnee were also driven away from their Brown Township Raccoon Creek hunting grounds, as well as from their winter home of Chillicothe. Trees were cut for charcoal to fire the clay to make bricks, or to smelt the low grade iron ore. As this industry, along with the coal mining industry, took off, the Raccoon began to suffer. As the miners became more mechanized the shaft mines became strip mines and the soil eroded away into the creeks and streams. By 1915 the fish began to decline. By 1930 the Zaleski Company was bankrupt. And by 1960 most of the coal mines were closing or moving away. The Raccoon (and its tributaries) was essentially dead throughout the majority of its length. But people like Verner Honchell, Bob Evans and a Mr. Alderman began some of the first remedial actions for Raccoon Creek. The 4-H kids planted trees, mine shafts were sealed and the Raccoon Creek Improvement Committee was started. ODNR Division of Wildlife's Waterloo Research Station started the re-introduction of deer



Hope Furnace, used to smelt iron ore

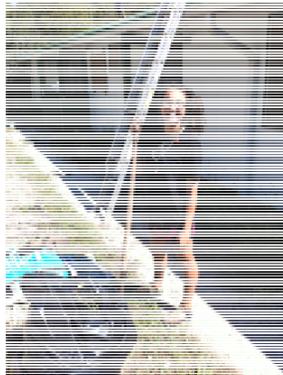
and turkey. White pine trees (which really are a non-native species in southeast Ohio) became a major part of the area's forest.

Our organization, the Raccoon Creek Partnership, was officially formed as a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization in 2007. We care about the creek. We study and apply remedial actions, and the creek now has fish! Recent EPA, OU, and ODNR sampling shows the positive results of our work, as well as the work of others. According to the 2015 Stream Health Report (http://www.watersheddata.com/UserView_Report.aspx), there are 20 completed remediation and major maintenance projects in the Raccoon Creek Watershed resulting in 42 miles of stream meeting criteria for Warm Water Habitat (our biological goal). Projects have also led to a 5,866 pound per day reduction in acidity and 962 pound per day reduction in metals entering the creek. Thanks to all of our members and partners, the Raccoon has come a long way, however...there is still a lot of work to do!

Share Your Cloud Volunteer Event

Chad Gatt, RCP Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Member 2016-17

A giant thank you must go out to our friends from the Share Your Cloud organization for their generous donation and hard work. While in town, they were able to organize more than 30 volunteers to help in the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center cleanout and raised \$1800 in donations for RCP. At the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center, the Share Your Cloud volunteers painted the roof, mowed the grass, mulched and weeded flower beds, cleaned out storage rooms, painted picnic tables, and worked on many other things to help with the education center upkeep. Their hard work was astounding and much appreciated. Keep up the good work and thank you again!



White Ash Tree Logging

Bob Eichenberg, Raccoon Creek Partnership Board Secretary



Most people have heard of the Emerald Ash Borer and its devastating effects on the White Ash trees growing in our forests. While there isn't much that can be done to stop or prevent the Borer from killing the trees, woodlot and forest owners with marketable ash trees can harvest the wood and make a little money or have some nice ash lumber for personal use.

Ash trees with a diameter of 12 inches or more and clear straight sections at least 8 feet long can be harvested and sold to local mills. If you know someone with a portable sawmill or can get your logs to a small mill, even logs only 8 inches in diameter and less than 8 feet log can be cut into boards for your own use.

I'm lucky enough to have a neighbor who let me borrow his tractor-mounted, PTO-log winch. I used a local hauler and the majority of my logs went to a mill in Vinton County. The remainder went to a neighbor with a small sawmill and those boards will be used by me for home projects or for resale.

For more information about how to manage your own logging project you can reach me at **740-591-2711**.

Staffing Changes in Raccoon Creek

Amy Mackey, Raccoon Creek Watershed Coordinator

Every year in August we say good bye to the Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps members who have served the Raccoon Creek community for the past 12 months, and say hello to the new members who will be serving for the next 12 months. This is always a bittersweet time of year for us. We spend a year training the members, teaching them the ins and outs of the watershed. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to watch them grow from fairly inexperienced, fresh-out-of-school members, to seasoned educators and data collectors. We are sad to see them go, but also proud of the advancements that they have made during their service to Raccoon Creek.



Kara and Chad

This year, we sadly said goodbye to Dustin Gross and Steve Malueg. Dustin and Steve have been with us at Raccoon Creek for several years, both serving as interns, then AmeriCorps members. Dustin and Steve both grew leaps and bounds while with us and have both gone on to do great things. Dustin is conducting environmental education at a YMCA camp in Michigan and Steve is teaching wilderness skills in California. Good luck to you both!

A big Raccoon Creek welcome to Kara Roberts and Chad Gatt, the new Raccoon Creek AmeriCorps members joining the team this year. Chad and Kara will be serving as AmeriCorps members with the Raccoon Creek Partnership until August 2017. Members are responsible for most of the outreach and education in the watershed as well as chemical and biological monitoring, grant writing, event planning and promotion, and much more. We are very proud of each and every one of the members who have served at Raccoon Creek since our involvement with the Rural Action Ohio Stream Restore Corps began in 2009 and look forward to the 2016-2017 year with Kara and Chad. When you see them out in the watershed this year, be sure to stop and introduce yourself!

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Just shop on Amazon Smile and 0.5% of your eligible purchase price goes to RCP.



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!

A Fond Farewell

Departing Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Members

It's crazy how fast a year can fly by. I feel like just yesterday I was going out in the field, or learning how to make copies in the office. I never really got the hang of making copies, but I gained so much more during my time with RCP. I made wonderful friends, and had great adventures, and, I guess, I grew up a little too. I had the chance to meet and work with so many amazing people in so many awesome places, and I'll carry those experiences with me as I go. Nothing makes you tougher than taking water samples while hanging from a tree covered in poison ivy, and nothing humbles you quite like a stranger thanking you for your work on bringing their childhood streams back to life. I'll always remember the laughs, the scars, and the great naps I had in the work truck. Thanks again, Amy, Sarah, all the board, and the countless other people who made my time at RCP wonderful. Best of luck to Kara and Chad, I'm sure you'll do amazingly awesome things this year.

Steve Malueg, RCP Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Member 2015-16

The past few years working with RCP have been amazing. I learned a ton, met a lot of awesome people, and accomplished things I never thought I'd be able to. I will take all these great experiences with me as I move on in my career. Thanks to all of the wonderful folks that have made my time as an AmeriCorps member at RCP so memorable.

Dustin Gross, RCP Ohio Stream Restore Corps AmeriCorps Member 2014-16



Welcome, New AmeriCorps Members!

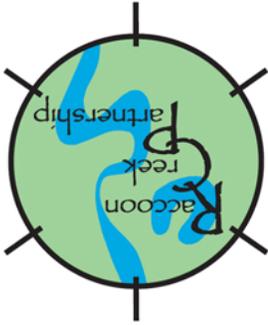


Hello! I'm Chad Gatt, one of the new AmeriCorps members that will be serving with the Raccoon Creek Partnership this year. I am a recent graduate from Ohio University where I received a Bachelor's of Science studying Environmental, Marine, and Freshwater Biology. Prior to joining the Raccoon Creek Partnership, I worked as a fish culturist for Prince William Sound Aquaculture and was an intern with the Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water. My primary areas of interest include ecological restoration and fisheries biology.



Hi all! My name is Kara Roberts and I graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor's degree in Marine, Freshwater & Environmental Biology in December of 2013. After graduation I spent a year on an environmental education/trail building corps in

New Hampshire. After moving back to southeast Ohio about a year and a half ago, I'm super excited for whatever this year of service has in store. I am especially interested in learning more about wildlife in the watershed and management of local conservation-focused non-profits.



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