

# Alum Creek **FACT** Sheets



Friends of Alum Creek  
& Tributaries

Volume IX, Issue 1  
Published May 2008

January-June 2008

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FACT!

**10 FACTful Years 1998-2008**

By Margaret Ann Samuels



FACT is embarked on its 10th year as a watershed advocacy organization. By this year's end we should see the accomplishment of one of our long-term goals, the removal of two lowhead dams along Alum Creek. The water will flow more freely resulting in a cleaner environment and provide more suitable habitat for a greater diversification of stream denizens that need high quality water living conditions.

What else has happened in 10 years? What does FACT do? What have FACT members done?

In 1998, the Greenways program of Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), together with the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) and Columbus Recreation and Parks Dept. (CRPD), sponsored canoe floats on Alum Creek. They gathered interested residents and soon the organization took shape. At first we were a chapter of the Community Recreation Council, supporters of Columbus parks. Thanks to CRPD and support from their Alan McKnight, we had non-profit status from the beginning. The Ohio EPA provided grant money to hire (in Oct. 2001) our first watershed coordinator, Heather Doherty, and to work with community members to prepare the Watershed Action Plan. Columbus, Westerville and Bexley City Councils have all endorsed the plan. Kimberly Williams assumed the Watershed *(continued on page 2)*

## Letter from FACT's President

By Joe Bonnell

As I sit down to write this letter, the sun is shining and the temperature has climbed into the 70's for the first time in months. Spring is finally in the air and with Spring come thoughts of renewal – spring cleaning, planting, and, of course, cleanups along Alum Creek! As I look forward I envision a summer that promises to bring big changes for Alum Creek, including the removal of two lowhead dams at Nelson Park and Wolfe Park/Academy Park. FACT also celebrates a milestone ten years of existence this year, a perfect opportunity to take stock of how far we've come and where we are headed in the months and years to come.

FACT began in 1998 when the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission called a meeting encouraging citizens in the lower Alum Creek watershed to take an active role in addressing water quality and environmental protection in their own neighborhoods and communities. Several dedicated individuals, including current board members Margaret Ann Samuels and Carol Elder responded to the call and created what is now a thriving organization—with an annual budget of over \$300,000, membership and volunteers in the hundreds, and a full-time Watershed Coordinator. More importantly, FACT has come to play a central role in bringing attention to the great resource that is Alum Creek and is known as a fair but committed defender of this often underappreciated resource. We have also managed to convene city officials, citizens, and agency professionals from the watershed to create and commit to a consensus plan of action for address-  
*(continued on page 3)*

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### FACT Mission Statement

*The mission of Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries (FACT) is to preserve and protect the quality and beauty of Alum Creek watershed and promote environmentally responsible recreation, educational opportunities, and citizen participation at many levels.*

## Lowhead Dam Removal Update

By Kimberly Williams

To recap the history of our project: The removal of two lowhead dams at Wolfe Park/Academy Park and Nelson Park is one of the steps outlined in the Lower Alum Creek Watershed Action Plan which was created by a collaborative group of agency professionals, public officials, and citizens of the watershed in 2005. The plan was endorsed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). According to studies conducted in 2003, the area between the two lowhead dams is not meeting the standards set forth in the Clean Water Act. The removal of the two lowhead dams, which do not provide any flood control, will improve the quality of Alum Creek at this location. The removal of the lowhead dams is entirely funded by OEPA 319 Implementation grant.

A public information meeting was held in August 2007 to inform residents about the dam removal project. Since that meeting, a number of actions have been taken to move the project forward. Burgess and Niple, the environmental engineering design firm was contracted to undertake this project, and OEPA have surveyed the river to more accurately describe current conditions near the dams. The aquatic insect, fish and habitat samples will provide a baseline picture of

the health of Alum Creek for comparison after the lowhead dams are removed. In addition, the physical characteristics of the channel near Wolfe Park lowhead dam have been surveyed. A similar survey will be conducted above Nelson Park lowhead dam to better predict changes in flow patterns resulting from the restoration project.

Once the necessary permits are received from the US Army Corp of Engineers and approved by other agencies, property access agreements are obtained, and survey work completed the next step will be to hold a second public information meeting to receive input on the different removal and restoration scenarios. We anticipate removing the small dams in July or August of this year, barring unfavorable weather and other unforeseen delays. Following the structures' demise, native plants will be planted on nearby streambanks to reduce erosion and facilitate restoration of the streamside forest.

For more information concerning lowhead dam removal please check out our website [www.friendsofalumcreek.org](http://www.friendsofalumcreek.org) and click on the lowhead dam removal tab to the right, or call the FACT office (614) 409-0511.

## Celebrating 10 FACTful Years *(continued from page 1)*

-Coordinator role in 2006, now works to implement that plan. Details can be found within the *publications* section of FACT's web:

[www.friendsofalumcreek.org](http://www.friendsofalumcreek.org).

Beginning 2002, Capital University provided office space to FACT. Since the Summer 2003, office space has been provided by Franklin Co. MetroParks. Thanks to Capital University and MetroParks, FACT has had a place of operations.

Many of the early members are still active. The first three presidents each served three years. Margaret Ann Samuels, Carol Elder and Barbara Logan-Battacharya are still on FACT's board. Joe Bonnell, current Chair, has been a participant for several years. Other newer members are making

great contributions. Hundreds of members and volunteers have been part of the organization during this period.

FACT is always seeking to involve people in the watershed cause. Some of our activities would include: planting and cleanups along the creek and some tributaries; storm drain labeling to discourage dumping that drains to the creek; comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA seeking protection for streams and wetlands imperiled by development, especially in the Polaris area; naming the Woodland-Argyle tributary, working with Columbus Recreation & Parks Department (CRPD) to protect and preserve over 50 acres of riparian land of various locations along Alum Creek; testi-



*Student volunteers plant Alum Creek trail by I-70*

fyng at hearings before the OEPA and other governmental bodies; presentations about FACT and the need for stream and watershed protection at conferences and before school groups; support for CRPD, City of Westerville and MetroParks in development of the Alum Creek multi-purpose greenway trail; monitoring construction sites for the treatment of debris and runoff, and notifying state and city agencies to remedy problems that threaten the watershed.

## Letter From Our President *(continued from page 1)*

-ing the major issues impacting Alum Creek and its tributaries, including muddy runoff from construction sites and destruction of our few remaining forests, wetlands, and headwater streams.

Having accomplished so much in just ten years, we could be forgiven if we slowed down to take a deep breath and enjoy the fruits of our labors. But, we are all too aware of the work that remains to be done and as our organization grows so do our goals and commitments. One of the areas that will require an unprecedented level of commitment from the FACT Board and members is in the area of fundraising. Like all grassroots non-profit environmental organizations, FACT is dependent on the generosity of those who benefit from our work. While we have been very successful at acquiring funding through government and private foundation grants, these sources of funding tend to offer short-term assistance, come with numerous restrictions (for example, no funding for staff or operating expenses), and often require us to match grant fund-

ing with cash or in-kind services. For example, FACT currently receives grant funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to fund 60% of our Watershed Coordinator's salary. FACT is responsible for the remaining 40% of Kim's salary. In 2009, ODNR's contribution will be reduced to 50%.

Where will the money come from to maintain and increase FACT's ability to reduce pollution and protect our remaining natural areas in the Alum Creek watershed? Well, in short, from you, the citizens and business owners within the watershed. We estimate our cash needs at \$22,000 for 2008 and that number will likely increase by at least several thousand dollars in 2009. We are working to meet this need with a ramped up membership and major donor campaign and a fall fundraising event that we hope will be as fun and informative as it is financially rewarding.

What can you do to help us meet our fundraising goals for 2008 and beyond? First, consider making a spe-

cial contribution to FACT in addition to your annual membership. All your donations are tax deductible and will help us meet our needs for matching grant funds and continuing to provide the programs and services that you appreciate. Its now easier than ever to give to FACT through our on-line donation option. Second, find out if your employer will match your contributions – many do. Lastly, perhaps you have expertise in fundraising or just a willingness to donate your time to help us with our membership and major donor campaigns or our annual Fall fundraising event.

Please just contact me [bonnell.8@osu.edu](mailto:bonnell.8@osu.edu) and we'll find a role for you that fits your interests and availability. Join me and the other fun and dedicated people at FACT as we enter what promises to be a fun and exciting growing season!

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## Thank You for Supporting FACT with your 2008 Memberships!

**Student, Senior, Individual, and Family Members:** Lawrence Abramson, Bill Adams, Michael & Arlene Armstrong, Helen Barber, Nancy Belay, Charlotte & Andrew Bobay, Alan & Sunny Borer, Merom & Judy Brachman, William Brandon, Sister Raymunda Brooks, Lindalee Brownstein, Duncan Campbell, Janina Chadwick, Thomas Christenson, Donald Cook, Shirley & Larry Cox, Beth Crane, Hugh Crowell, Julie Cronk, Heather & Samuel Dardinger, Mark & Christina Dilley. Heather Doherty, Carol & Michael Elder, Frank Eubanks, Tamara Evans, Celia Forker, Allan & Carol Forsythe, David Fowler, Diana Fowler & Robert Thorn, Tom & Donna Francy, Christian Gilliken, Charles & Carol Glaser, Sister Rosalie Graham, Steven Grossman, Alan & Sara Harris, Beth & Jeff Hawthorne, Luanne Hendricks, Dennis Hirsch, Chuck & Judith Hoffhine, Dr. Michael Hoggarth, John & Anne Hohmann, Jerry & Nicki Holloway, Thomas Hooker, Jr, David Horn, Barbara Hysell, Daniel Jax, Mary Kiser, Chad & Gwen & Hayden King, Terry Lahm, Burton & Elaine Lieberman, Marilyn Ann Logue, Maureen & Dick Lorenz, Bill Manierre, Patricia Marida, Sherrill Massey, Johnathon Meier, Paul & Linda Miller, William Ogden, Craig & Diane Peterson, Cheryl & John Powles, R.J. Quinn, Susan & Kenneth Quintenz, Susie Rath, SJ Ravelly & AJ Faubel, Bill & Sheila Riat, David & Sandy Roseman, Eric Saas, Jeanne Schmitt, Julia Schmitt, Dick Seebode, Mike & Toni Selsey, Allison Shaw, David F & Barbara Smith, Bill & Faye Spratley, Mark Steiner, Hank Stonerook, Adam & Leslie Strader, Julia Tague, James & Virginia Wagner, John G. Warhol Jr., Brian Wilke, Bill Williams, Janet & Rick Williams, Terry Winebrenner, Dennis Hirsch, Karen Goodheil, Janet Hofman and Jim Sisson **Supporting Members:** Joe Bonnell, Barbara Chuko, Elizabeth Crane, Paige & Mike Crane, Kitty Morton Epler, Becky and David Hohmann, Gretchen Hummel, Malcom Jeffrey. Pat McCabe, Margaret Ann Samuels, Janet Short. **Organization/Business (\$100-500):** Plaza Properties, Inc., Acorn Farms, Inc., Del-Co. Water Company, Inc., Miracit Development, Columbus State Community College, Morrow Gravel Company, Saint Mary of the Springs, MORPC. **Supporting Business (\$500 plus):** City of Westerville Service Dept., City of Bexley and The Montei Foundation. **Lifetime Personal Member (\$500 plus):** Roberta Cook.

## Protecting Streambanks with Native Plants

By Stephanie Suter, Habitat Conservationist at Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Do you enjoy the beauty and tranquility of a stream running through your backyard? If so, are you providing your stream with the protection that it needs to stay healthy and function properly? The easiest and most effective way to protect your stream is to establish a wide strip of natural vegetation along the bank. The lush growth of trees, shrubs, and wild grasses are essential to the health of a stream. Some of the valuable benefits to streamside landowners afforded by vegetated buffers include stream bank support and stabilization, erosion and flood control, water quality protection, scenic beauty, and wildlife habitat.

While stream bank erosion is a natural process, human influences often speed up the progression. When trees and shrubs are removed along streams and grasses cut, the soil that was held in by their roots can be easily washed into nearby streams and rivers by rain or wind. Soil sediment from eroding stream banks muddy the water which will then smother aquatic life, clog fish gills, and cut off light that underwater plants need to grow. Planting native trees, shrubs, or

grasses along a stream bank (a riparian buffer) helps reduce erosion. The deep roots of native grasses, low shrubs, aquatic plants, and certain trees bind soil to stream banks and reduce erosion. Plant roots deflect the cutting action of swift-flowing storm water, expanding surface ice, and strong winds. Abundant streamside vegetation slows runoff, catches silt, softens the impact of rain, and helps prevent the undercutting and collapsing of stream banks. Streamside plants preserve property values while waterways hidden by concrete walls, culverts, and drainage ditches are generally unnoticed, unappreciated, and often neglected.

To help protect the stream in your backyard, try planting a mixture of water loving native trees and shrubs. River birch, sycamore, or willow trees have widely established root systems that reach deep into the soil and thrive on wet conditions. These trees are good for planting at the top of stream banks for long term stabilization. Shrubs such as red-osier dogwood, spicebush, or buttonbush afford an un-

derstory layer that could be planting on the stream bank slope or mixed in with trees at the top of the bank. Water tolerant wetland species, such as fox sedge or sweetgrass, may be planted close to the stream edge or within the floodplain for additional erosion control. A diverse mixture of plants creates a thick root matrix, which is ideal for preventing undercutting and unstable stream banks.

Native plants (not lawn grasses) are also suggested due to their suitability to our soils, climate, and native pollinators. These generally require less maintenance than others that might need more. To ensure success, be sure to plant the right plant in the right place. Assess your site for sun, shade, flooding, and drought conditions. Not all plants are suitable in the shade or flooding. Please call Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District for questions on streambank stabilization and native plantings (614-486-9613).

*For more resources, visit FACT's website, see 'backyard conservation' page.*

## FACT Serves up a Big Green Spring

**Service Committee Report** by David Hohmann

Cleanup and planting projects have resumed with the onset of warming weather. FACT kicked off the season with the Great American Cleanup at our adopted Academy Park area and along Nelson Road on March 29. A strong showing netted 27 bags of trash and recycled eight of them. St. Charles Preparatory School students again came out to help. April 12 saw a determined group of shovel-wielding planters hit the Alum Creek greenway trail near the I-70 underpass to rejuvenate an area that had been subject to much clearing and earthmoving during the path's construction. In the process, we noted some evidence of past dumping along local riverbanks...broken glass, pieces of metal, an airplane tire, a couch and a fridge. April 19 witnessed more riparian restoration planting near the SR-104 trail underpass. April 26 Earth Day projects included more native species and tree plantings along Alum Creek river banks—this time at Academy Park and in Westerville's soccer field complex (Cleveland Ave). The roots of viburnum, hawthorne, dogwood, river birch, oak, highbush cranberry, red buds, hazelnut, etc. will now sink into the recovering landscape, providing habitat and food for the wildlife and improved scenery for trail users. FACT utilized grant monies received last year from the Little Garden Club of Columbus to buy about \$1,700 worth of native trees and shrubs for this spring's restoration and enhancement projects. For "little" gardeners, they sure know how to make a big difference! MetroParks also provided a large share of funds. Thanks, to all and our other collaborative group efforts—both volunteers and special material donors—including Ohio Soil Recycling, DeckMasters, Leslie Fowler, Capital University, Bexley High School, Whitehall Bexley Rotary Club (*continued on next page 5*)



## River Voices **Welcome FACT's Newest Board Members**

*By Chad King*

I am a professor at Ohio Dominican University, where I teach courses in biology and environmental science. I have been interested in environmental education around water issues for some time. This became a focus of mine while I was teaching in Virginia where I helped guide middle school students through research on groundwater and streams in rural areas. I continued engaging students in projects around our water resources while teaching middle school science just north of Philadelphia, PA. This led to my pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Arizona, where I studied invasive species in the Colorado River, and multiple uses of water in agriculture as a means of improving water use efficiency in the arid southwest. When I took a job in Columbus, it was a bit like coming home, as I grew up in Holmes County, northeast of here. My interests in water and education began to focus in part on Alum Creek, as I watched it flow past my classroom windows every day. I am interested in encouraging university students to become involved in local environmental issues. Another desire of mine is to work with students who are in training to be teachers, and teachers in the area to engage younger students in water quality monitoring. I saw involvement in FACT as a great way to be involved in local, community water issues, and to link my students to relevant problems that surround them.

*By Dick Lorenz*

Dick Lorenz has been working with and helping protect the quality of Ohio's waters for the past 30 years. After graduating from Miami University, he did his graduate work at Ohio State University studying environmental biology and working as a scientist/diver on a USEPA research boat on Lake Erie. Dick is currently the Water Utility Manager for the City of Westerville. Westerville depends on Alum Creek for its source of drinking water. Prior to working at Westerville, Dick was with the Columbus Division of Water in their Water Quality Assurance Laboratory. He is also active in the Central Ohio Greenways Committee, Ohio Water Resources Council, American Water Works Association, National Sanitation Foundation, OEPA Advisory Council and the Ohio Dam Safety Organization. Dick's wife, Maureen works for the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and they have two daughters.



*Ed Begley, Jr. Actor & Environmental Activist, displays FACT's brochure as he meets David Hohmann & Roseman.*

## Emeralds from Trash

Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) annual Emeralds Award luncheon had a packed house at the Hilton in Easton on May 7. Thanks to Leslie Fowler's generous sponsorship, four FACT Board Members and our guests attended the ceremonies honoring the best in waste reduction, recycling, and environmental stewardship. Though FACT was bested by Adena Brook Association in receiving the Partnership Award, this provided a great opportunity to quickly network with metro area leaders.

## FACT Serves up a Big Green Spring *(continued from previous page 4)*

Mt. Union College/AmeriCorps Vista who helped FACT!

On Saturday morning May 17th will be another cleanup in the adopted area at Academy Park. By this time the spring leafy greenery should be getting thick, and we will focus on in-water efforts through the summer with canoes, barges, and waders, before returning in the fall for another land-based clean sweep. Canoeing is planned for River Sweep on Saturday morn June 21, in the Three Creeks Park portion of the southern most end of our river corridor. Many of us have never traversed this section before by boat, so it will be an adventure!

Help join FACT for fun rewarding times as we continue to raise the baseline level of quality of the sensitive Alum Creek river corridor through our city! You never know what you'll find...

## Fundraising and Membership Development Committee

*Chair: Joe Bonnell*

Our 2008 Membership Drive has been thus far a success. We of course always welcome new members and encourage past members to renew. Please see page 3 for list of current FACT members. FACT has or will receive donations raised during the Columbus Foundation PowerPhilanthropy Match Day held in March and Get Busy-EarthDay Celebration held on April 26. At the same time, planning for our annual Fall fundraiser is underway. Any ideas or suggestions for keynote speakers and/or entertainment please contact us.

## Watershed Watch Committee

*Chair: Margaret Ann Samuels*

FACT has written letters to Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency concerning the proposed development of an office/retail and hotel development by NP Limited near the intersection of Worthington Road and Polaris Parkway. We have asked for a public hearing from the Ohio EPA, so that we may express our concerns in regards to the possible duplication in stream and wetland mitigation that is possibly being used in other developments. Watershed Watch has also reported sediment erosion control issues at SR-161 near Casto Park, as well as Sunbury & Innis Rd where condominiums are being built, and reported on several illegal dumping issues which were looked into.

Most of you have certainly noticed the latest wound to our watershed at the northwest corner of Morse and Sunbury Road, near Easton. We have been aware that this 6.8 acre tract of forested property including .21 acre wetland was doomed for development, that had all the proper federal 319 and State permits to fill floodplain, etc. Fortunately at least a 120 foot wide buffer strip was preserved immediately along the east side of the river bank thanks to Columbus storm-water manual which FACT positively influenced in its revision last year. On March 12, the day the woodland clearing started, FACT was on-site and alerted the City of Columbus and OEPA inspectors to closely keep tabs.

During the Ohio Environmental Council's annual Environmental Lobby Day on April 22, David Roseman personally met with several State legislators and their aides (both Ohio House & Senate) asking for their support of green energy issues including the Great Lakes Compact.

On May 6, Kim, Brian Wilke, David Roseman each formally spoke to Westerville City Council during public hearing legislative meeting...in opposition to ord. # 08-02 for the NP Limited/Zumstein development plans (of 100 fallow acres -on both sides of Polaris Parkway, along the west banks of Alum Creek) We publicly recommended a 250 feet conservation easement/buffer setback vs. the 100 foot "varying average" proposed; along with no destruction or piping of any existing streams or drainage channels vs. their planned complete piping of all such to the north. On-hand city leaders were also reminded by FACT to adhere to their own ordinance # 05-02(A) "Source Water Protection District Overlay" and ensure that this and any development plan is consistent with these guidelines. Though the Zumstein plan passed 4-3; based upon our input, an amendment was proposed by Councilmember Terry Winebrenner and accepted - holding the plans accountable to follow Westerville's ordinance 05-02 (A)! Within that year's 2005 code, a section "Site development for source water protection" dictates "Incorporate design measures and best management measures must be maintained into site planning activities for the purpose of protecting surface and ground water quality."

Protection of Alum Creek watershed involves preventing the clear-cutting of streamside forests and the filling in of wetlands and headwater streams. FACT is currently working on a stream corridor protection overlay that will help prevent the encroachment of development on Alum Creek. With your help, the goal will be to work with city and county officials to adopt a stream protection ordinance that will acknowledge the urban character of Alum Creek in Delaware and Franklin Counties, but at the same time will protect Alum Creek from further negative environmental impacts.

## Education Committee

*Chair: Jerry Holloway*

In early 2008, FACT held a successful well attended bi-monthly education meeting at the Westerville Water Treatment Plant. Dick Lorenz led an outdoor-indoor tour of the facility that processes city drinking from the Alum Creek river. Thank you Dick! Additional outreach efforts have been made on behalf of FACT: David Hohmann spoke to St. Charles High School Environmental Club and participated in a environmental roundtable discussion at Otterbein College on Sustainability. David Roseman presented to the Men's Club at Congregation Tifereth Israel, spoke to the Salem Civic Association, and made a guest TV news appearance on NBC WCMH 4 appealing for Alum Creek "Trail Watch" volunteers on behalf of CRPD. Jerry Holloway spoke to Westerville Cub Scouts Pack 961. Please contact us if you are interested in education and outreach, and can assist us with staffing some exhibits. See page 8 for 'calendar of events'.

### Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries

2820 Watkins Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207 ~ (614) 409-0511

Email: [kwilliams@friendsofalumcreek.org](mailto:kwilliams@friendsofalumcreek.org) Website: [www.friendsofalumcreek.org](http://www.friendsofalumcreek.org)



#### Board of Directors:

- Joe Bonnell.....Chair; and Fundraising & Membership
- Jerry Holloway..... Vice-Chair
- Leslie Fowler.....Treasurer
- Carol Elder..... Secretary
- Margaret Ann Samuels.....Watershed Watch Committee Chair
- David Hohmann.....Service Committee Chair
- Brian Wilke..... .Recreation Committee Chair
- David Roseman..... .Communications Committee Chair
- Jerry Holloway..... Education Events Chair
- Barbara Logan-Batthacharya...Past Chair
- Dick Lorenz.....At Large Board
- Chad King.....At Large Board



(L-R) David R, Leslie, Barbara, Joe, Dick, David H, Margaret Ann, Brian, Kim.



### Help Support the Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries – Become a Member!

Your contribution is tax deductible and enables FACT to pursue its mission of stewardship and citizen enjoyment of Alum Creek. Please make checks payable to **FACT**, return with this completed form to: FACT, 2820 Watkins Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43207.

Choose a Membership Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Personal Member \$500+

Supporting Business \$500+ Organization/Business\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Personal \$100-500

Organization/Business \$100-499 Address\_\_\_\_\_

Family \$30-99

Individual \$20-99 City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Student/Senior \$10+ Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Email\*\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Interests\_\_\_\_\_

*\* Please provide your email address to help FACT expedite news & conserve our resources.*

Save paper! Use PayPal online feature on the FACT website to join & donate with your credit card: [www.friendsofalumcreek.org](http://www.friendsofalumcreek.org) (You do not have to be a member of PayPal to utilize this service).

FACT is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer community based organization.

This product or publication was financed in part or totally through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under the provisions of Section 319 (h) of the Clean Water Act. The contents and views, including any opinions, findings or conclusions or recommendation, contained in this publication are those of the authors and have not been subject to any U.S. EPA or Ohio EPA peer or administrative review and may not necessarily reflect the views of either Agency, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

# FACT Events Calendar

## May is River Pride month!

**Academy Park cleanup** Saturday, May 17 9 AM - 1 PM Located on 250 S. Nelson Rd. just south of East Broad St. Meet at north parking lot near trail suspension bridge. Remove trash from sensitive natural areas along Alum Creek river between E. Broad and E. Main Street including greenway trail and Nelson road shoulder bank. We recycle a lot of it on site. Protect the watershed and river. Please wear sturdy shoes, long pants, hat, etc. Gloves, refreshments, and snacks provided.

**Wetland Walk Adventure!** Saturday, May 24 6 PM - 8 PM Be at parking lot by 5:45 PM sharp. Mark Dilley, Professional Wetland Scientist with MAD Scientist & Associates, will lead a tour of a rarely explored & high quality wetlands. We hope to identify indigenous, native, & rare plants, help survey the number and variety of frogs by listening for the different calls. The wetlands are adjacent to 3 Creeks Park on property owned by Macedonia Baptist Church. There are no paths, dress accordingly with boots & pants as we'll get wet & muddy. Park at 3 Creeks MetroParks ranger station - 2820 Watkins Road (@ NE corner of Spangler Rd). Quick shuttle to site.

**RiverFest 2008** May 31<sup>st</sup> Noon—5 PM at Genoa Park. Behind COSI at 303 W. Broad Street. Sponsored by MORPC. Central Ohio Watershed Groups will be exhibiting. Boating on the Scioto River, children's art activities, live stage music, educational events, the chance to win prizes, more. [www.riverfestcolumbus.org](http://www.riverfestcolumbus.org)

**Three Creeks Fest** Saturday, June 21 A park cleanup from 10 AM -Noon. The festival runs 11 AM - 3 PM. Confluence Trails Area—3860 Bixby Road, by the river confluence of Alum Creek, Big Walnut & Blacklick. Activities will include: educational exhibits, bike ride, canoeing and more.

**River Sweep** Saturday morning, June 21 at 3 Creeks Park. FACT canoe float and river cleanup. This FACT activity is planned to be held in conjunction with 3 Creeks Fest around 3 Creeks Park in southern Columbus. BYOB— bring your own boat. TBD-time & specific embarkation site.

**WessieFest** Saturday, June 21, 2008 10 AM to 2 PM at Otterbein Lake, along the Alum Creek greenway in Westerville. Activities include Lake dedication, live native creatures, wildlife exhibits, outdoor fun, children's activities.

**Noble Run (aka Spring Run) Evening Hike** Thursday July 17 6PM-8PM at Sharon Woods Metro Park

**Annual Family Bike Ride** on the Alum Creek greenway trail. Stay tuned for date & location.



Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries  
2820 Watkins Rd.  
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