

ALUM SHEETS

Friends of Alum Creek
& Tributaries

Volume VIII, Issue 4
Published January 2008

Oct-Dec 2007 edition

TRUE HOPEFULNESS

By Kimberly Williams

In my conversations with FACT members, they will tell me that they joined FACT to support the actions we undertake on behalf of Alum Creek. Alum Creek is important to these individuals for a variety of reasons, childhood memories, sense of renewal, drinking water supply etc. What FACT offers is what Carl McDaniel, a professor of biology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, terms "true hopefulness" or the ability for people to act "out of hopefulness that is realistic and true." This is important in view of pressing environmental concerns. A case in point is the following excerpt from [A Strategy for Federal Science and Technology to Support Water Availability and Quality in the United States](#):



Photo by David Roseman

The United States has reaped the benefits of abundant and reliable supplies of fresh water since its founding. However, the impacts of population growth, development, and climate change are placing increasing stress on our Nation's water supplies. For example, a recent Government Accountability Office study determined that 39 U.S. states anticipate some level of water shortage within the next decade.

---by National Science and Technology Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (Sept. 2007).

The [Strategy for Federal Science](#) report essentially addressed how science and technology can be mobilized at the federal level to address the water quality issue. Efforts by federal and state governments are crucial to the success of addressing water quality issues. Ultimately, however our ability to have a livable world is up to us at the local level.

The philosophy of acting locally is not new. Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President and Founding Father of the United States, believed that in order for the fledgling democracy to survive, citizens would need to directly interact and take care of the land. Connection to the land would translate to increased connection to our neighbors, community and country. Aldo Leopold in [The Sand County Almanac](#) expanded the concept of citizenship to require that we view ourselves as members of the earth community and that our actions should promote the *integrity, stability and beauty of the land*. As a watershed group, FACT offers opportunities for individuals and local organizations to act as ecological citizens and address issues locally within the Alum Creek watershed.

Inside this issue:

<i>The Money Trail</i>	3
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	5
<i>Bexley Alum Creek Improvements</i>	5
<i>Service Committee</i>	6
<i>Fundraising & Membership Dev. Committee</i>	7
<i>Communications Committee</i>	7
<i>Watershed Watch Committee</i>	7

FACT Mission

Statement

Mission: *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.*

Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries

2820 Watkins Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207 ~ (614) 409-0511 ~ kwilliams@friendsofalumcreek.orgFACT website: www.friendsofalumcreek.org**Board of Directors:**

Joe Bonnell.....Chair and Fundraising
 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



2008 Membership Campaign is Underway

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. **Make checks payable to FACT, and return to FACT, 2820 Watkins Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43207.**

Choose a Membership Category: Name(s)_____

() Student/Senior \$10

() Individual \$20-100 Organization/Business_____

() Family \$30-100

() Supporting Member \$100-500 Address_____

() Organization/Business \$100-500

() Supporting Business \$500+ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

() Lifetime Member \$500+ Phone_____ Email*_____

Volunteer Interests:_____

Or use PayPal online feature on the FACT website to join or donate. Do not have to be a member of PayPal to utilize service.

<http://www.friendsofalumcreek.org>

* Please provide your email address to help FACT save resources.

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

The Money Trail

By Kimberly Williams—Coordinator, Leslie Fowler -Treasurer, and David Hohmann—Service Committee Chair

Recently a member asked me where does the money go that FACT raises? Since this edition of the newsletter focuses on membership, we thought it would be a good idea to show how important membership is to the efficacy of FACT's programs. Also it is important for our membership to understand how FACT operates financially as an organization. Thus, an overview of revenue, expenditures and in kind services is provided below.

Revenues

Grants (government and local), membership dues and fundraising events pay for the different projects that FACT undertakes, e.g. native tree planting and the funding of Watershed Coordinator position. "Other donations" refers to money given to FACT, without stipulations by the donor on how the funds should be used.

Expenditures

Expenditures are not as transparent as revenues, therefore a more thorough description is provided. Expenditures are split up into four broad categories:

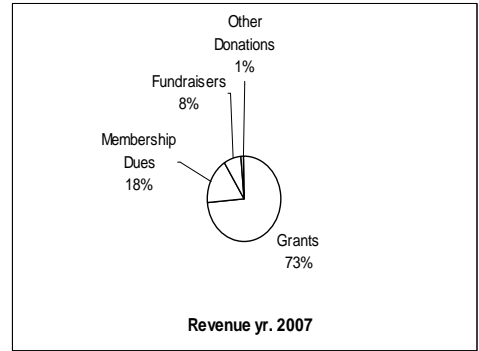
1. Personnel: Watershed Coordinator position
2. Administrative: office equipment, office supplies, postage, utilities
3. Program: newsletters, brochures, workshops, river corridor restoration with native plants, lowhead dam removal, cleanup supplies
4. Fundraising: flyers, invites, postage, food

The personnel category for the year 2007 is a significant portion of the expenditure pie, and local funds support the 30% of the Watershed Coordinator's salary (See Graph 3). In the upcoming year, FACT will be responsible for raising 40% of the funds to support the Watershed Coordinator position. To meet this challenge, sponsorship from local businesses will be sought as well as other funding opportunities. In contrast to 2007, the expenditures on program, specifically the removal of lowhead dams, will be at least 80% of the total expenditures due to forecasted expense of \$250,000.

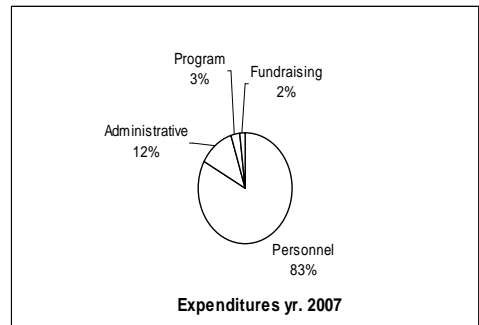
Personnel

As noted previously, in the upcoming year FACT will need to raise 40% of the salary for the Watershed Coordinator's salary. For the amount effort that this will require, the question of what does a Watershed Coordinator do, must be answered. Depending on the local environmental issues and the watershed group, the Watershed Coordinator's position or job description can vary. However, the following breakdown is used to help the FACT Watershed Coordinator (WC) organize her time.

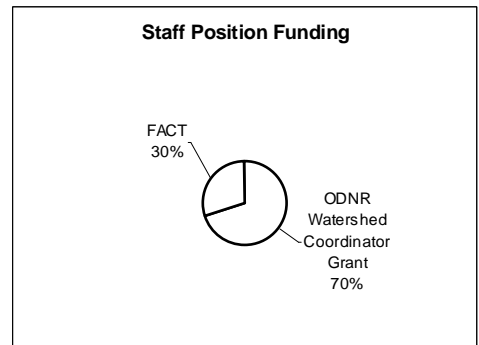
Administration (Admin): Grant reporting and budgets, office supplies, insurance, timesheets, assist Treasurer and track Lower Alum Creek Watershed Action Plan (WAP) progress. (cont. on next page)



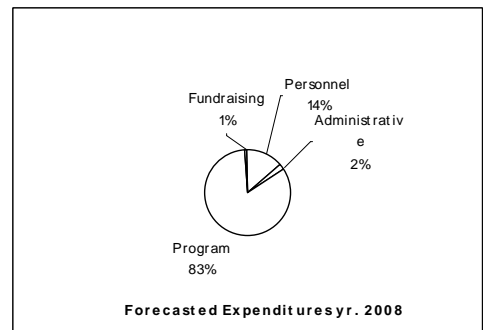
Graph 1. Percentage of each revenue source utilized in 2007.



Graph 2. Percentage of expenditures for 2007



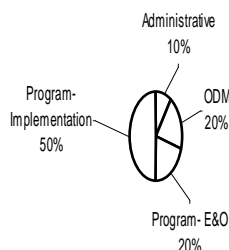
Graph 3. Percentage of ODNR Watershed Coordinator Grant funding.



Graph 4. Forecasted expenditure percentages for 2008

The Money Trail (continued)

Percentage of Time Spent on Tasks



Graph 5. Watershed Coordinator's Time on Tasks

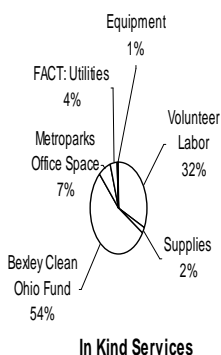
Organizational Development and Maintenance (ODM) : recruit and manage volunteers, assist Secretary, coordinate grant applications, strategic planning, project calendar, WC and Board educational opportunities, membership mailing etc.

Program - Education and Outreach (E&O): newsletters, brochures, workshops, presentations, website, event tabling, water quality monitoring, FACT bi-monthly meetings, college student projects and FACT events

Program - Implementation : Lower Alum Creek WAP Implementation, e.g. lowhead dam removal, river corridor protection overlay adoption, conservation easements, wetland and river corridor restoration etc.

The above list is not exhaustive but captures the primary tasks of what the Watershed Coordinator works on throughout the year. Please note that the program element noted in expenditures is broken down into education and implementation due to grant reporting purposes. Graph 5 provides a breakdown on the time spent on each of the four areas. This is not in stone, since working for a non-profit organization requires flexibility.

In-kind donations are goods, services and commodities that are donated and are an important source of match for non-profits. For the OEPA 319 Implementation grant, one type of in-kind donation used as match are the volunteer hours accrued during creek cleanups. Thirty-two percent of the match is derived from local citizens as well as professionals from the Columbus Recreation and Parks Dept., Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission and Ohio State University Extension Service volunteering their time. This percentage of volunteer hours is high and demonstrates the local community's support to Alum Creek and the FACT organization. Other 319 Match partners include (but are not limited to) the City of Bexley and Franklin County Metro Parks. Graph 6 depicts in-kind services relating to the OEPA 319 Implementation grant to be provided over three years (Jan. 1, 2006 – Dec. 31, 2008).



Graph 6. The Importance of In-Kind Services

Overall, we rely heavily on partnerships with local organizations and the willingness of people to volunteer to protect and restore Alum Creek. For example, significant volunteer time in 2007 has been donated by students from Capital University, Otterbein, Ohio Dominican University, Westerville South High School, St. Charles Preparatory, as well as neighborhood Rotary and garden clubs.

Importance of Local Funds

The government grants that we have received specify how we spend the money, and cannot be used for anything else. For example, the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR) Watershed Coordinator grant can only be used to fund the Watershed Coordinator position. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) 319 Implementation grant can only be used to fund the removal of two lowhead dams, four brochures, twelve newsletters, four workshops and miscellaneous supplies and costs such office paper. Thus, the support of FACT locally through membership dues, fundraisers, corporate sponsorships and local grants is very important because it enables us to perform tasks not covered by the government grants. For example, any restoration efforts undertaken in a wetland area will not be covered by government grant monies. As noted earlier, the ODNR Watershed Coordinator grant does not completely fund the Watershed Coordinator position. (cont. on top of page 6)

2007 Annual Meeting and Elections

The FACT Annual Meeting was held at the Martin DePores Center at St. Mary's of the Spring campus. After a warm welcome by the Sisters and a delicious potluck supper, David Hohmann gave a presentation of the many accomplishments that FACT has made over the last year and a peak at next year's agenda. Recognitions of outstanding partners were made to St. Charles Preparatory School and Capital University (Community Partners), Dorothy Pritchard and Bill Minckler of the City of Bexley (City Partners), and Roberta Cook (Watershed Steward). Robert Seed of Keep Columbus Beautiful made a very special presentation

to FACT Board member David Hohmann. Dave (The Tire Man) was nominated for the prestigious, national Iron Eyes Cody Award for his never-ending battle against litter and for a better environment. Congratulations David!

FACT officers and Board members for 2008 were elected (see page 2). Two new faces were elected as Board members: Dick Lorenz of Westerville Water Department and Chad King, environmental sciences teacher at Ohio Dominican University.



David Hohmann receives recognition award from Robert Seed

Bexley Alum Creek Greenway Improvements

Melissa Queen Darby, Environmental Scientist for EMH&T

Using funds obtained through two Clean Ohio Fund grants, the City of Bexley began work to restore the Alum Creek Greenway on October 15, 2007. The project encompasses the majority of the riparian corridor and adjacent areas along the east bank of Alum Creek between East Main Street and Livingston Avenue, including Schneider Park.

A taskforce consisting of selected local community members, faculty of Capital University, members of FACT and others was assembled to provide insight and direction for the development of the restoration plan. EMH&T provided restoration plans and assistance with the bid process and construction inspection, and Brookside Lawn Services, Inc. (Medina, Ohio) is performing all of the restoration enhancements.

Nearly 3.5 acres of invasive Amur honeysuckle and other non-native species have been removed from the riparian understory using cut-stump methods. This involves cutting the plant near the base and treating the stump with herbicide to prevent resprouting, minimizing disturbance to the stream banks.

Removal of the dense, invasive shrub layer has had the additional benefit of discouraging vagrancy and loitering in the area, improving safety for park users and adjacent Bexley residents. Many new native trees and shrubs are being installed to promote the eventual reestablishment of a native understory along the creek and provide wildlife habitat and foraging opportunities.

Other improvements associated with the Bexley Alum Creek Greenway project include the stabilization of an existing outfall to the creek and installation of a nature path that meets ADA requirements. The path will culminate at a low-profile deck that overlooks a small existing wetland in Schneider Park. These enhancements will allow for additional educational and recreational opportunities within the park, which in turn will promote appreciation of the intrinsic value of Alum Creek. The improvements are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007.

The Money Trail (continued)

Take Home Message

For the continued health and growth of FACT, the following is needed:

1. Individuals to volunteer their time, muscle, skills, knowledge and passion
2. Expansion and renewal of partnerships with organizations and local governments
3. New members
4. Existing members renewing



(Photo by David Roseman)

The list of course can include additional grant funds, but the lifeblood of any organization are the people who deem its work important. The sustainability of FACT is therefore reliant on the local community. We thank you for your support.

SERVICE COMMITTEE

Chair: David Hohmann

FACT service projects to protect and enhance Alum Creek have continued as fall turns to winter. Perhaps the best way to warm up on a cold day, is to get active at one of our project sites! It's far more naturally rewarding than time on a treadmill at the gym.

October 27th was Make a Difference Day, and Saint Charles students joined our member volunteers to clean up the Alum Creek bank near East Broad Street and install 200 feet of wire mesh fence behind the guardrail there to reduce roadside trash from getting into the creek. We may expand on this effort if it is as successful as expected. Mesh fence installed this June behind the Main Street Kroger lot has been very good at keeping windblown trash and plastic bags out of the creek.

Partnership efforts with Capital University Service Learning program continue to flourish. On November 7th, David Hohmann participated on behalf of FACT in a community service leadership discussion for students at the school. On November 10th, 8 Capital volunteers helped to remove about 100 invasive honeysuckle trees and shrubs from riparian lowlands that Capital U. controls in Bexley. We enhanced the benefits of Bexley's concurrent project alongside the area to restore natural qualities of buffer areas along Alum Creek between East Main and Livingston Avenue.

Board members Roseman and Hohmann, as well as staffer Kim Williams participated in the MORPC Summit on Sustainability and Environment in Columbus on November 13-14, and FACT sponsored a poster session to reach the almost 500 attendees. Regional momentum seems to be building for more collaborative local environmental efforts like FACT's.

An Otterbein Lake "honeysuckle assault" workday on December 1 was supported by participation of five FACT volunteers and many community

members including some heavy equipment. The lake and shore habitat alongside Alum Creek are becoming a very attractive spot for nature and people in that area. A work party of about a dozen folks at Boyer Nature Preserve on December 15th effectively mulched the vernal wetland trail there with a fresh layer of bark, and more honeysuckle fell prey to our trusty weed wrenches.

FACT's website calendar will list upcoming service projects as they are scheduled, usually with at least three weeks of advance notice. Possible future dates to help with native planting and cleanups are the following: March 22, 29, April 5, 12 and 19 (Earth Day weekend). **PLEASE** check FACT website calendar to verify. Interested groups or individuals who would like to volunteer please call (614)409-0511 for more information.

FUNDRAISING AND MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Joe Bonnell

PowerPhilanthropy is a newly created vehicle for charitable giving by The Columbus Foundation. It is a web based tool that will link central Ohio nonprofit organizations with interested donors. In December 2007, FACT submitted their PowerPhilanthropy Portrait to the Columbus Foundation. The anticipated launch of the website will be in March of this year.

2008 FACT Membership Drive is underway. FACT undertakes a number of efforts on behalf of Alum Creek and therefore the local community. If you would like to renew or join by using PayPal, please go to the FACT website. If you have already joined or renewed, THANK YOU for your support!

www.friendsofalumcreek.org

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: David Roseman

E-mail Communications.

Do you have a new or changed e-mail address?

Please inform FACT to ensure your continued prompt receipt of our meeting and event e-announcements, watershed alerts, and other relevant news. During 2007 we have changed our communication mode defaulting to use the Internet and web as our pri-

mary channel to relay all information to our members, supporters, and collaborative groups. While you may opt to receive a hard copy of our quarterly newsletters and special bulletins, please help us reduce costs and save environmental resources by switching to email. Please visit our web calendar often to check on FACT activity dates and details.

WATERSHED WATCH COMMITTEE

Chair Margaret Ann Samuels

CRPD obtains new forested park land along Alum Creek from Dominion Homes, Inc. Paperwork is in process to transfer the deed on 4.1 acres, located along the east side of SR 3/Westerville Rd, north of Westerville Crossing to the southwest side of the river bank. It'll be good to have the last remaining section of woodlands saved along this commercial corridor. This abuts a 3.9 acreage preserve owned by Ohio-American Water Company.

Sierra Club of Central Ohio maybe pursuing formal complaint channels regarding City of Columbus bio-diesel fuel tank leak (~30,000 gallons) into the Alum Creek watershed. A preliminary spill report was filed on Nov. 21, 2007 by City of Columbus to Ohio Department of Commerce, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR); which can be viewed on FACT's website.

TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN FACT

By Carol Elder (who ain't no David Letterman!)

You get to haul stinky tires out of the creek with Dave "the Tire Man" Hohmann.

1. It's fun to act like a kid and get muddy playing in the creek.
2. Alum Creek is beautiful and worth saving.
3. You can take your aggressions out on invasive honey-suckle.
4. The ornery side of you can argue in hearings against developers who want to plunder the creek.
5. You get to meet and work with really neat people.
6. You get to haul stinky tires out of the creek with Dave "the Tire Man" Hohmann.
7. You help improve our community by improving it's biggest water feature.
8. Membership is cheap...or not if you want to help even more.
9. You can enjoy the Zen of canoeing down the creek, until David "the Tire Man" makes you haul out tires.
10. You are helping to save Mother Earth.

FACT Events Calendar

FACT meets **every other** month. Join us to learn about the watershed, discuss FACT's accomplishments, review ongoing watershed issues, hear special guest environmental presentations and civic speakers, plan future activities & community based events. We want to hear your needs and desire your activism. Check www.friendsofalumcreek.org for updates or call (614)409-0511 for additional information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Thursday, March 13, 6:30-8pm Location: Linden Branch Library (2223 Cleveland Ave.) Meeting Room

Come learn about the different volunteer opportunities and make a difference in improving and protecting Alum Creek's health.

Wetlands Walk with Mark Dilley, M.A.D. Scientist

Saturday, May 24, 6-8 PM.

Mark Dilley, MAD Scientist, will lead a tour of a high quality wetlands. Participants will be able to help survey the number and different variety of frogs by listening for the different calls. (Details forthcoming)

Evening Hike along Noble Run (aka Spring Creek) tributary with Alli Shaw, Sharon Woods Metro Park Naturalist.

Thursday, July 17th 6-8 pm Location: Sharon Woods Metro Park.

We will explore one of our local tributaries, Noble Run (aka Spring Creek) to learn about plants and wildlife and the importance of maintaining the health of our local streams.

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.



Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries

FACT
2820 Watkins Rd.
Columbus, OH 43207