

River Waves

APRIL 2009

SPECIAL ANNUAL REPORT

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

ORF To Launch Ambitious Program To Reduce Water Pollution By 1 Million Gallons

Reducing the quantity of wastewater entering the sewer system will reduce the frequency and severity of overflows. In large metropolitan areas like Cincinnati, Lexington, Louisville, Dayton, and Cleveland where overflows and water pollution are a serious problems this new project can be an important tool to help combat a daunting problem.

Starting this summer ORF will be giving away thousands of high-tech efficient showerheads to Ohio River watershed citizens in cities across Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. These showerheads will dramatically lower water usage and energy costs for ratepayers and significantly reduce the amount of water entering sewage systems.



Ohio River Foundation Sponsors Toyota Prius Raffle



Aveda Earth Month is here and Ohio River Foundation is excited to be a partner in this year's campaign for clean water.

At Ohio Aveda locations, Ohio River Foundation is offering an opportunity to win a new Toyota Prius. Any person may go to a participating Aveda salon in Ohio and purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a Toyota Prius. To find the Aveda salon nearest

you visit www.aveda.com. Raffle ticket details can be found at: www.ohioriverfdn.org.

Also, participating Aveda locations in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky are working this April to raise funds for Ohio River Foundation work to protect clean water.

Cut-a-thons, fashion shows, and are some of the fun activities featured at different salons to raise awareness about water con-

servation and raise funds for Ohio River Foundation. You can support our partnership with Aveda by visiting your local participating Aveda salon and joining in their fundraising efforts. Go to www.aveda.com to find a location near you.

Also, participating Aveda locations in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky are working this April to raise funds for Ohio River Foundation work to protect clean water.

GORP 2009 - Now Accepting Registrations

From the Executive Director



In this issue of River Waves we share with you the details on a very successful 2008 and give you a glimpse of things to come in 2009.

Since our beginning in 2000, ORF has been seeking a paradigm shift in public sentiment about environmental protection and the need for improving the regional and local environment. With our different programs and initiatives, we work to achieve systemic changes in people's behavior that will benefit the environment. We're now seeing the fruits of our labor.

Our School River Explorer (pg. 5) and Rain Garden (pg. 6) programs are ramping up and gaining wide interest from communities throughout the watershed. Thousands of schoolchildren are learning about and exploring their local watersheds. This year we expect to again far exceed our prior record year of student participation.

Our decision in 2006 to launch our Green Initiative (with a particular emphasis on reducing stormwater pollution) received a welcome boost of funding from Aveda in 2007 and 2008, enabling us to put together the pieces of a very ambitious rain garden program. Designing and installing high visibility demonstration rain gardens in key Ohio River watershed cities is finally a goal within reach. We now have the staff in place and are lining up necessary partners where we are fast becoming the leading non-profit design firm for

rain gardens in the entire Ohio River watershed.

But we're not stopping at rain gardens. We recognize that water in is water out. So, the next logical step is to encourage citizens to use water more efficiently. Efficiency also means lower costs. It's a win-win for users and the environment. Thus, in a few short months we'll be launching a regional program whereby efficient showerheads will be given away to homeowners in several Ohio River watershed cities. This kind of program has been successful in other parts of the country and can be extremely helpful in our region's pollution battles.

With current global economic instability, the need for status quo has given way to the desire and need for change. As more people are now receptive to different ideas and more information, we see this situation as a tremendous opportunity to educate people and work with fellow citizens in the watershed to improve their environment. Furthermore, we envision more people understanding or willing to open their minds to support our efforts to protect and improve water quality.

Other projects and programs are in the works for this year. It will be an exciting one and with ongoing public support there are no limits to the success we can achieve together.

For the river,
Rich

OHIO RIVER FOUNDATION 2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<i>Income</i>	
Membership	3,729
Contributions	23,601
Grants - Education (incl. school RG)	78,000
River Explorer fees	9,291
Interest	248
Events	136,562
Other - Reimbursement, etc.	554
Total Income	251,985
<i>Expenses</i>	
Salary and professional services	119,135
Administration	3,878
Telecom	2,209
Travel and seminars	5,532
Supplies, Equipment	27,793
Printing, postage	16,450
Other	5,520
Total Expenses	180,517
2008 Net income	71,012
<i>Net assets as of December 31, 2007</i>	<i>57,762,</i>
Net assets as of December 31, 2008	128,774

River Waves is published by Ohio River Foundation. Ohio River Foundation is a citizen led, non-profit, non-governmental organization that works through education and conservation programs to protect and improve the natural condition of the Ohio River and its tributaries for the health and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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Ohio River Foundation Sponsors Toyota Prius Raffle

During the month of April, ORF is sponsoring a raffle where a lucky visitor at a participating Ohio Aveda salon, store, or affiliate can win a Toyota Prius. Details for the raffle can be viewed at www.ohioriverfdn.org. Visit www.aveda.com to locate your nearest Aveda location.

Why not do something nice for yourself while doing something good for the earth? In addition to the local fund raising efforts, the Aveda Earth Month campaign includes the launch of a limited edition Light the Way™ soy wax candle sold during April. This year's candle features a new, French-inspired stress-relieving aroma with 100% certified organic ingredients, including French lavender. Every penny from the \$10 Earth Month candle goes to community based water projects around the world, as carried out by Aveda's Global Earth Month Partner, Global Greengrants Fund. You can purchase a candle at any Aveda Experience Center or participating salons and spas. Visit www.aveda.com to locate your nearest Aveda location.



HELP OHIO WATER CONSERVATION

WIN A PRIUS!

OHIO RIVER FOUNDATION
Proud Aveda Earth Month Partner

More than 40% of our rivers and lakes remain polluted. These are sources of drinking water to millions of people in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Your donation will help support the Aveda and Ohio River Foundation partnership to protect and improve water quality.



CLEAN water:
IT ONLY TAKES BABY STEPS.

Ohio River Foundation
Proud Aveda Earth Month Partner

AVEDA

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SAVE WATER. SAVE \$\$.
5 Easy Steps

- 1 The average shower uses 2.5 gallons each minute. Save on energy and water costs by taking shorter showers and replacing showerheads with low-flow versions. Save over 10 gallons per shower.
- 2 Repair leaky faucets and pipes. Drips can add up to gallons!
- 3 Turn off the faucet(s) when you're brushing your teeth. Save 5 or more gallons a day.
- 4 Use Energy Star™ dishwashers and washing machines. Save hundreds of gallons annually.
- 5 Plant a rain garden. These gardens keep stormwater out of sewers, require less care and watering, and increase your property value.

To learn more about our Rain Garden Initiative and what Ohio River Foundation is doing to protect and improve water quality, visit www.ohioriverfdn.org.

ORF Clean Water note cards – contact www.ohioriverfdn.org to order your supply.

Job Openings

Part-Time (Seasonal) Educator FOR SPRING / SUMMER 2009

It's River Explorer time again and that means schoolchildren getting wet in creeks and streams with ORF. If you're an experienced and knowledgeable teacher and like being outdoors, contact us and see if we can get you wet!

See www.ohioriverfdn.org for details

**HIRING
NOW**

**APPLY
NOW**

Full-Time Outreach Manager

ORF's growth in programming and needs for membership, volunteer, and community engagement now require full-time staff commitment. We're looking for a talented, energetic, and outgoing person to launch and carry this important effort. For complete details see www.ohioriverfdn.org

New Office

Growth In Staff And Programming Leads To New Office For ORF

Another chapter in the growth of ORF takes place in May when ORF moves into its new office space in Blue Ash, Ohio. While not on the Ohio River it is centrally located in the watershed, near major highways, and proximate to many areas currently served by our growing education programs.

We hope to have things all moved in and ready for visitors by June. We'll keep you posted on our plans for an open house.



Education Program On Fire



5th grade assembly at Edwin H. Greene Intermediate School introducing Rain Garden program.

Ohio River Foundation – the leading provider of Ohio River watershed education has begun its highly anticipated School Rain Garden program. Four Cincinnati schools have been selected as the first participants in Ohio River Foundation’s School Rain Garden program. Students will learn about, design, and install a rain garden on school property. They will also receive hands-on watershed curriculum instruction from Ohio River Foundation.

About 750 students from Nagel Middle School, Sycamore High School, Cincinnati Waldorf School, and E.H. Greene Intermediate School will participate. As a part of this experience, students will also publicly present their projects to their communities. Rain gardens serve to decrease stormwater flows from the sites, filter

pollutants, reduce flooding, and serve as community models. By enabling the students to take the lead on these projects, ORF and the partner schools are setting a new standard in education.

Funding for this pilot school program is being provided by USEPA, Toyota Foundation, NLT Foundation, Charles Dater Foundation, Gannett Foundation, Ohio National Financial Services, Aveda, Inc., and other funders.

Sara Ernst, ORF’s Rain Gardens Program Manager, said “This is an exciting, hands-on exercise in local stewardship. I can’t wait for the kids to get involved and for them to see how their hard work makes a difference.”

Community Rain Garden Program Blossoming

Ohio River Foundation's and Aveda, Inc. Mid-America Division's bold initiative to install rain gardens in major metropolitan cities in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky is now experiencing regional growth. The Community Rain garden program is growing so fast that ORF is positioned to finish 2009 as the non-profit leader in design/installs in the entire watershed.

Gardens under development in Louisville, Fort Wright (KY), Columbus, and Cincinnati will demonstrate the how low cost measures can reduce stormwater pollution, treatment costs, and flooding, protect water quality and increase property values. Already, 4,000 sq. ft. of rain gardens have been installed in the region under this program.

Funds for this program have been raised through Aveda Earth Month campaigns that occur each year at participating salons in the 300+ Aveda salon, spa, and

store network in OH, IN, and KY. In 2008, during a month-long in-store Earth Month public awareness campaign, customers learned about programs at Ohio River Foundation to protect and improve water quality.

Sue Tronson, Vice President of Sales and Education, Aveda Mid-America said, "Aveda strives to set an example for environmental leadership and responsibility, not just in the world of beauty, but around the world. We are proud of the salon/spa teams who go the extra yard to make a difference in their community and with Ohio River Foundation."

Rich Cogen, Executive Director, Ohio River Foundation added, "It's an amazing experience working with a company that produces products with an environmental ethic second to none, and whose employees feel passionately about giving back to their community."



ORF and Cincinnati Zoo staff at work installing 4000 sq. ft. rain garden.

Ohio River Watershed News

EPA Delays Hundreds of Mountaintop Mining Permits

By DINA CAPPIELLO – Mar 24, 2009
(Reprinted below in-part)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency put hundreds of mountaintop coal-mining permits on hold Tuesday to evaluate the projects' impact on streams and wetlands. The decision by EPA administrator Lisa Jackson targets a controversial practice that allows coal mining companies to dump waste from mountaintop mining into streams and wetlands.

Last month, a three-judge appeals panel in Richmond, Va., overturned a lower court's ruling that would have required the Corps to conduct more extensive reviews. The appeals court decision cleared the way for a backlog of permits that had been delayed until the lawsuit was resolved.

Between 150 and 200 applications for new or expanded surface coal mines, many mountaintop removal operations, are pending. The EPA's action on Tuesday could leave those permit requests in limbo a little longer.

The permits are issued by the Army

Corps of Engineers, an agency that has been criticized by environmental groups and has been sued for failing to thoroughly evaluate the environmental impact of mountaintop removal. Under the Clean Water Act, companies cannot discharge rock, dirt and other debris into streams unless they can show that it will not cause permanent damage to waterways or the fish and other wildlife that live in them.

The EPA said in a statement that it would be actively involved in the review of the long list of permits awaiting approval by the Corps, a signal that the agency under the Obama administration will exercise its oversight. The EPA has the authority to review and veto any permit issued by the Corps under the Clean Water Act, but under the Bush administration it did that rarely. Mountaintop mines in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee produce nearly 130 million tons of coal annually — about 14 percent of the nation's power-producing coal — which in turn generates electricity for 24.7 million U.S. customers, according to



Large mountaintop removal mines like the one pictured above loom over small communities, predisposing them to devastating floods.

industry estimates. The practice has a huge economic impact in Appalachia, employing some 14,000 people across the four states. Wages average about \$62,000 — high pay for rural Appalachia — and states make millions in taxes.

So far, over 2000 miles of Appalachian streams have been permanently buried. (photo and information courtesy of Appalachia Center for the Economy and the Environment).

TVA Coal Slurry Spill - Confusing Policy Leaves Protections for Many Streams and Wetlands in Jeopardy

Associated Press business writer Tim Huber contributed to this report from Charleston, W.Va.

(Wikipedia – updated 4/14/09) The TVA and Environmental Protection Agency estimated that the spill on December 23, 2008 released more than 5.4 million cubic yards, covering the surrounding land with up to six feet of sludge.

The 84-acre unlined aboveground ash fill, which was situated 60 feet above the ash pond and 74 feet above the Emory River winter level, contained a watery slurry of fly ash generated by the burning of finely ground coal at

the steam power plant. The fly ash, which is the consistency of face powder, is the fine particulate pollutants produced by the combustion of coal, which are collected rather than allowing them to escape into the atmosphere, then mixed with water so they can be pumped into the retaining pond. Once the particulate matter settles out, it is moved to other, drier ponds. The pond was surrounded by 60-foot tall earthen walls, which had twice developed leaks since 2002. Although the land surrounding the power plant is largely rural rather than residential, the spill caused a mudflow wave of water and ash that covered 12 homes, pushing one entirely off its

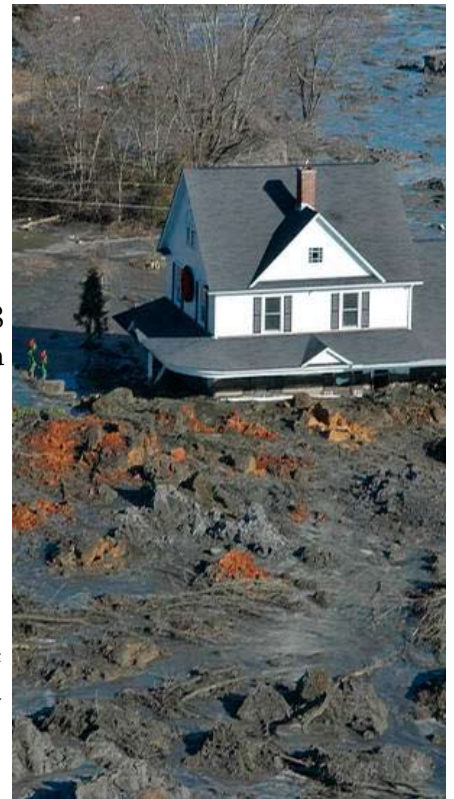
foundation, rendering three uninhabitable, and caused some damage to 42 residential properties. It also washed out a road, ruptured a major gas line, downed trees, broke a water main, and destroyed power lines. Though 22 residences were evacuated, nobody was reported injured or in need of hospitalization. It was the largest coal-related slurry spill in United States history, more than three times the size of the Martin County sludge spill of 2000, which spilled 306 million US gallons of liquid coal waste. The 1.1 billion gallons of sludge were enough to fill 1,660 Olympic-size swimming pools, and the volume released was about 50 times larger than the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. On December 23, 2008, a TVA spokesman, Gil Francis Jr., stated that, at the time of the spill, the area contained about 2.6 million cubic yards of ash, and that two-thirds of that had been released, which would later be found to cover an area of 300 acres. The New York Times noted that the amount spilled is larger than the amount stated to have been in the pond before the spill, a discrepancy the TVA was unable to explain. The containment area affected was one of three; the other two stayed intact, while only the retaining wall for the 84-acre solid waste containment area was affected.

The spill killed a “tremendous” number of fish, according to the Chattanooga Times Free Press. Although residents feared water contamination, early tests of water six miles upstream of the ash flow showed that the public

water supply met drinking water standards.

Rain totaling six inches in ten days indicated that the Kingston Fossil Plant received a total of 6.48 inches of rain between December 1 and December 22, plus 1.16 inches on November 29 and 30, and 12 °F temperatures were identified by TVA as factors that contributed to the failure of the earthen embankment. An October 2008 inspection report had identified a “minor leak” in the faulty wall, but the report

was not finalized. Local residents said that the spill was not a unique occurrence; the 1960s-era pond had been observed leaking, and being repaired, nearly every year since 2001. A TVA news release confirmed that there had been two prior cases of seepage, in 2003 and 2006.



Coal Slurry reaches first floor of house in its path. (Photo courtesy of www.itsgettinghotinhere.org)

Millions of tons of toxic coal ash and related combustion wastes pile up in unlined ponds and pits across the United States every year. The disaster at TVA's Kingston plant dramatizes the need for federal standards for safe disposal of these wastes, which are virtually unregulated by the U.S.E.P.A.

Ohio River Quality to be studied – USEPA

West Virginia has joined with Ohio, Kentucky and three other states that border the Ohio River for a study being conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The aim is to identify and reduce any dangerous bacteria levels in the waterway.

The study, known as a total maximum daily load

study, is to determine how much bacteria sewage treatment plants, factories, farms and municipalities can discharge into the river without exceeding safety standards. According to the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), about 500 miles of the 981-mile-river contains unsafe levels of bacteria (e. g., fecal coli-

form and Escherichia coli). Ingestion of the polluted water can lead to gastroenteritis, which can result in vomiting, diarrhea and fever.

The study is scheduled to be completed next year. The water commission is providing the EPA with 15,000 water samples collected over the past five years.

The EPA study of the Ohio River will identify the bacteria present in the river but will not be able to offer funds to solve the problem. Though the study will not create any new regulatory authority, it may help state agencies identify what bacteria are in the river and where bacteria are coming from.

Donate to ORF:

Add your name to this list of people who care about clean water and a better future.

DONOR ROLLS *Donations received since January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008*

We're thankful for the support given to us by the following foundations, companies, and individuals, without whom our important work would not be possible. The Ohio River Foundation depends upon the support and generosity of individuals, foundations, and businesses to achieve our conservation mission. Ohio River Foundation is the only non-profit conservation organization dedicated specifically to protecting and improving the water quality and ecology of the Ohio River and its watershed. Ohio River Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. EVERY DONATION COUNTS.

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\$100 TO \$249

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– Create a legacy of protection and education by including Ohio River Foundation in your will or living trust.

– Designate ORF as a beneficiary of your IRA, qualified retirement plan, or a life insurance policy.
– Transfer securities or other appreciated assets through your broker.

\$100 TO \$249 cont.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26

Aveda Walk for Water - Louisville, Cleveland,
Cincinnati
www.aveda.com

May 15-16

Ohio Stormwater Conference - Mason, OH
www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org/conference2009.php

June 27

Ohio River Way Paddlefest
www.ohioriverway.org

July 18-19

Great Ohio River Paddle

(GORP)

www.ohioriverfdn.org



Sunset on the Ohio (Ken Cooke).