



## Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries

*Preserving, protecting, and enjoying the Alum Creek together, since 1998.*

November 9, 2009

Dear Friend:

The mission of Friends of Alum Creek and 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.



One year after lowhead dam removal, more fish in Alum Creek!

Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries (FACT) needs your help now to sustain our efforts (and yours) that are making such a difference in our community's urban watershed environment.

**Your contributions for 2010 are more important than ever!** The pending expiration of a state Dept. of Natural Resources grant is putting in jeopardy our ability to retain FACT's single paid staff position. This would greatly undercut the efficient function of our efforts. While we are exploring other possible partnerships and avenues for support, member contributions by individuals, families and businesses are critical to maintaining our activities.

In 2009, with your help, FACT has moved the bar forward again in:

**RESTORING ALUM CREEK HABITAT** Two miles of river formerly "impaired" by lowhead dams may finally attain Ohio's clean water standards this year. The dams were removed in 2008. FACT has continued visible efforts in 2009 against the invasive eurasian honeysuckle in sensitive riverside areas. We've planted over 800 native trees and shrubs in Academy Park, Wolfe Park, Nelson Parks, Pumphouse Park, Casto Park, Strawberry Farms Park, and Westerville's Heritage Park. These should provide shade, habitat, and climate protection enhancements for all to enjoy for years and decades to come.

### **EDUCATING LOCAL RESIDENTS ON HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Some 15 news stories featuring FACT carried within local media in 2009 have reached several hundred thousand people in and around our watershed. A new perennial rain garden, planted by FACT, grows beside the greenway trail at Casto Park as an example of what is possible with new ways of handling runoff water. A wetland workshop, presentations to community and student groups, and many hours staffing tables at community events have allowed us to reach hundreds more with our message. New composter bins now being distributed through FACT workshops are helping to increase good backyard conservation practices.



Participants learn how to turn leaves etc. into compost.



Cleaning up Alum Creek!



Planting trees in Casto Park to protect tributary from erosion.

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Pictures by FACT

FACT is a local 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

**CLEANING UP SENSITIVE AREAS** including our adopted Nelson Road/Academy Park with over 2000 hours of volunteer labor. FACT and our partners were represented well in 2009 on Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, River Sweep, Make a Difference Day, and many other local days of action. Our 20 service events this year have involved over 500 volunteers, setting yet another new record! Over 100 tires, 243 bags of trash and 100 other oversize debris items have been removed and properly recycled/ disposed through these activities JUST DURING 2009. We've netted toxic metal bearing electronic waste items and batteries, tons of bottles and cans, fast food trash, carpeting, a mattress, auto parts, and a few old bikes from in and around the Alum Creek.

FACT continues to advocate as necessary for appropriate protection of sensitive wetlands and headwater streams and streambank protection zones along our waterways. Everyone living in the watershed has something important to share: our actions affect the quality of our rivers and streams AS WELL AS THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES.

FACT endeavors to continue these valued efforts with your help now! Please tell your friends about FACT, help us bring other members into participation and JOIN TODAY.

**The benefits of becoming a FACT member include:**

- ◆ Staying connected with a copy of the FACT newsletter conveniently delivered right to your mail box or e-mail address
- ◆ Invitations to exciting events and outings to learn about, enjoy, and protect Alum Creek
- ◆ Recognition of your support in certain FACT publications
- ◆ FACT t-shirt
- ◆ Periodic updates regarding issues that affect the health of Alum Creek via email and newsletters
- ◆ Peace of mind knowing that you have invested in an organization that is working every day to protect and improve the environment in your neighborhood

Please use the return envelope to mail your membership check today, or contribute on-line at:

<http://www.friendsofalumcreek.org/sitev2/BuyNowWithPaypal.html>

Sincerely,

J. David Hohmann  
FACT Board President

Kimberly L. Williams  
FACT Watershed Coordinator