

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Fall, 2006

Vol. 4, #4

SECOND ANNUAL WATERSHED GATHERING on SEPT. 30 FEATURES AMD TREATMENT, WETLAND PLANTS AND CANONSBURG LAKE

Mine drainage treatment, wetland plants, and Canonsburg Lake—all are included in the three-part program planned for Saturday, September 30, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Lunch is included.

The program is open to the general public, along with members of watershed groups.

The day will begin with a tour of CONSOL Energy's Hahn Treatment Plant and an introduction to wetland plants. After lunch (included) the county's watershed associations will have an opportunity to discuss their current activities and future plans. And, finally, the day will conclude with a visit to Canonsburg Lake and an overview of plans for the future.

The Hahn Treatment Plant treats water that drains from an old mine. This tour will be followed by an introduction to wetland plants by Michael Mooney of Habitat Solutions. Mooney raises 60 varieties of wetland plants at the 15-acre Hahn Treatment Plant site. The wetland plants he raises replace those lost to development.

The event is sponsored by the Washington County Watershed Alliance and the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association.

Details and a registration form are on page 3 of this newsletter. Cost for the day: \$3, includes lunch.

GIRL SCOUT COMMUNITY PROJECT AT CANONSBURG LAKE BEGINS SEPT. 30

The goal of the first phase of the project is to improve the existing 1/4 mile trail that connects the two parking lots on the Peters Township side of the lake.

Bridget Kirwan, organizer of the project, also expects the day's activities to include installation of 5 colorful memorial benches, 10 bluebird nesting boxes, a 14'x14' perennial

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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

13 — ChCWA meeting, 7:30 pm.
20 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance, Board of Directors; 7 pm, Cooper-Hinds Bldg., Meadowlands.

30 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance/Chartiers Cr. Watershed Assoc. Bus tour, program; 9:30 am-2:30 pm
Girl Scout Troop #1942 Trail Project/Work Day; at Canonsburg Lake,

OCTOBER

11 — ChCWA meeting, 7 pm
14 — ChCWA display, demonstration at Houston Pumpkin Festival
18 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance, Board of Directors; 7 pm, Cooper-Hinds Bldg., Meadowlands.

NOVEMBER

8 — ChCWA meeting, 7 pm
15 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance, Board of Directors; 7 pm, Cooper-Hinds Bldg., Meadowlands.

ChCWA regular monthly meetings: 2nd Wed., 7 p.m., (7:30 pm May-Sept.) Cooper-Hinds Building, Meadowlands.

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GIRL SCOUT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT AT CANONSBURG LAKE

garden, handmade stepping stones, and a new wildlife identification sign.

The Girl Scouts will sell black baseball caps for \$15 each. The caps are embroidered with an albino heron and the words "Canonsburg Lake Trail Project". The hats can be ordered in advance by calling Bridget Kirwan, or on site on Sept. 30.

Other activities on tap on September 30 include:

- ❖ Fly fishing demonstrations. (The instructor will also be giving autographed copies of his book on the subject.)
- ❖ Wildlife talk by a game warden.
- ❖ Scavenger hunt using compasses.
- ❖ Wetlands experiments, directed by Dr. Sarah Kohl.
- ❖ Water games for the girls (tentative).



Badge designed by
CHLOE SMITH

The Scouts held a logo design contest, won by 9-year-old Peters Township Girl Scout, Chloe Smith. It will be used on badges, which every volunteer will receive, and on the bench plaques.

For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact Bridget Kirwan

**128 Evergreen Drive, McMurray, PA 15317;
tel. 724-941-5681; email, oldshow@aol.com**

P.S. Contact Bridget Kirwan if you have stories, videos, photos about Canonsburg Lake. The Girl Scouts are working on a video about the Lake's history—to be shown on local cable and given to libraries.

ChCWA MONITORING DEMONSTRATIONS AT HOUSTON PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Curious about how the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association monitors water quality in our streams? Find the answer at the Association's display on October 14 at the Houston Pumpkin Festival.

Association members will be at the display booth with the monitoring equipment throughout the day.

A demonstration of macroinvertebrate collection and identification is scheduled for 1:30 pm, weather permitting. Macros, as they are called, are the small creatures, visible without a microscope, that live in the streams. The type and quantity of macros are good indicators of water quality.

WASHINGTON COUNTY WORKING ON GREENWAYS PLAN

The Washington County Planning Commission reports that the Greenways Plan is "progressing well." Much of the draft plan has been received from the consultant, Mackin Engineering.

During the summer the Planning Commission and consultant met with focus groups. Carrilee Hemington and Joan Jessen, members of the Chartiers Watershed Association, were included in two of the focus groups.

The full Steering Committee is expected to meet soon to review the completed draft plan. A Public Comment period will follow.

Financial support for this project is provided by the Dominion Foundation which is dedicated to the economic, physical, and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies. This grant program was administered by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration.

TRAVELING INVASIVE PLANTS DISPLAY NOW IN DONORA; TO MOVE TO CUP SEPT. 29

Questions about invasive plants are answered at an informative traveling display. Included in the display are photos of both native plants and invasive plants. The display also features field guides of invasive plants.

Why plant native plants?
Why be concerned about invasive plants?
How can I recognize an invasive plant?

Bonus: it tells where to get a list of deer-resistant plants.

The display is now at the Donora Public Library (Sept. 1-29). It will be moved to California University Library on Sept. 29 and remain there until Oct. 30. Other libraries will also be scheduled.

Jean Bear, a member of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, designed the display and is

INTRODUCTORY MEETING FOR CATFISH CREEK STUDY HELD AUG. 10

The kick-off meeting for the Catfish Creek flood prevention plan was held in Washington on August 10. Attending were representatives of the municipalities in the watershed, as well as representatives of several county agencies, the Washington County Watershed Alliance and the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association.

The meeting was called to begin discussion of the goals and objectives of the Growing Greener-funded "Integrated Stormwater/Flood Impact Assessment of the Catfish Creek Watershed." The study is being done by the consulting firm of Skelly and Loy Inc., which also worked with the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association on the Upper Chartiers Creek Watershed River Conservation Plan.

Public meetings will be scheduled this fall to review the data and goals of the work and take comments as the watershed planning effort progresses.

Annual Meeting/Bus Tour—Sept. 30

- 9:30 am** Meet the bus in the parking lot at Canonsburg Lake
- 10:00 am** Hahn Treatment Plant Tour and Introduction to Wetland Plants
- Noon** Lunch / Watershed Association Updates. Lunch will be provided.
- 1:15—2:30 p.m.** Tour of Canonsburg Lake/Overview of Future Plans.

Registration: There is a \$3.00 fee to help defray the cost of transportation and lunch. To register return the form below.

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Washington County Watershed Alliance Second Annual Meeting/Bus Tour

Return this slip with a check in the amount of \$3.00 made payable to the Washington County Watershed Alliance to Joan Jessen, Treasurer, 159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317.

Name _____ Watershed _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

CHARTIERS CREEK



**WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
Washington, PA 15301



Contents, Fall, 2006:

- ◆ Sept.30 Watershed Gathering/Tour—AMD Treatment, Wetlands Plant Nursery, Canonsburg Lake
- ◆ Girl Scout Community Service Project at Canonsburg Lake – Sept. 30
- ◆ Association's Display at Houston Pumpkin Festival—includes monitoring demonstration
- ◆ Progress on Wash. Co Greenways Plan
- ◆ Catfish Creek Study Underway
- ◆ Traveling Library Display Locations

ADDRESS CORRECTION?

Send to: Joan Jessen, secretary
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317;
or email: jjessen@pulsenet.com.

Chartiers Creek Watershed Association

Purpose: to enhance, protect and develop the ecosystem of the upper Chartiers Creek Watershed in Washington County, PA

Membership: open to anyone who lives in the watershed, as well as individuals, businesses and organizations that own property or are actively involved within the boundaries of the watershed.

Please join us! Annual Dues: Individual, \$10; Family,\$15;
Organization, \$50

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
Chartiers Creek Watershed Association
Carrilee Hemington, treasurer
107 Williams Drive, McMurray, PA 15301

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Email: _____