

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Fall, 2007

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ChCWA BOOTH AT HOUSTON PUMPKIN FESTIVAL, OCT. 13

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will take part in the Houston Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, October 13, beginning at 10 am.

To be featured by the Association: a demonstration of collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates. "Macros" are the small creatures that live in water bodies, such as mayflies and crayfish—they are big enough to see without using a microscope. The demonstration is scheduled for 1 pm.

Macros are a reliable indicator of a stream's water quality—some kinds can tolerate pollution while others are very sensitive to it. If most of the macros identified in a stream location are the tolerant kinds, we know that water quality in that stream segment is poor.

Information about the upper Chartiers Creek Watershed will be available at the Association's booth, which will be staffed all day. Association members will be there to explain what we are doing and to answer questions

MONITOR TRAINING HELD AT ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING

On September 19, members of the Cross Creek Chartiers and Chartiers Creek Watershed Associations gathered at the Conservation District's Ag Office to learn how to use the Alliance's GPS unit and the District's water flow meter.

PHOTOS ON PG. 2

Julie Sigler, Washington County Watershed Specialist, and Gary Stokum, WCCD Manager and president of the Washington County Watershed Alliance, were the instructors for these instruments, to be used in water quality monitoring

Cont. on pg.2

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

10 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm.

NOTE TIME CHANGE

13 — Display, Macroinvertebrate Demonstration at Houston Pumpkin Festival (article, this page)

NOVEMBER

13 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm.

DECEMBER

12 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm.

Election of officers and directors

ChCWA regular monthly meetings: 1st Wed., 7 p.m., (7:30 pm April-Sept.) Cooper-Hinds Building, Meadowlands.



**GARY
STOKUM**

**Working
with the
Flow Meter**



GPS Training, Cont. from pg.1

The GPS unit is a valuable tool to identify the exact locations of stream monitoring sites, as well as important features along stream banks that are found during stream assessments.

The Alliance's GPS unit will be available for watershed associations to borrow, provided that they have someone trained in its use.



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR WEBSITE LATELY?

The address: www.upperchartierscreek.org.

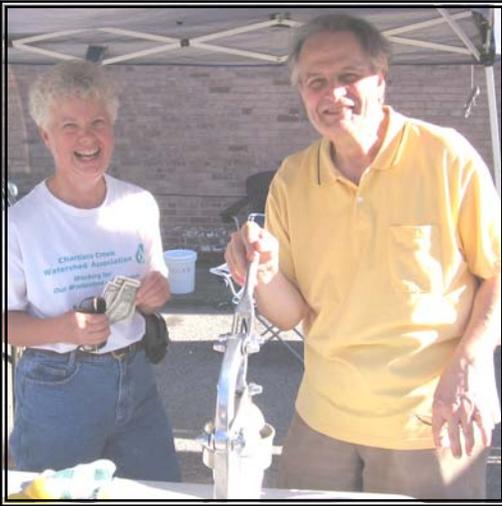
We think it can provide you with valuable information about happenings in the Upper Chartiers Creek Watershed and will keep you up-to-date with our projects and our organization.

Our excellent webmaster is Richard R. Dupree, of Dupree Solutions. Dick is quick to respond when updated information is sent to him, and makes sure that a new website posting is accurate.

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association has been maintaining the website for six years. It

was originally developed with funding provided by a Fiscal Year 2000/2001 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Growing Greener Program, combined with matching funds from Crouse & Company (the website developer) and volunteer time worked by members of the ChCWA.

In recent years, financial support for this project has been provided by a grant program of the Dominion Foundation, which is administered by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Watershed Assistance Center.



**A BUSY DAY AT THE
LEMONADE STAND AT THE MAIN
STREET FARMERS' MARKET,
SEPT. 13**

**DEMO AGORIS (who was in
charge of arrangements) with
JEAN BEAR**

**OTHER ChCWA MEMBERS
WHO HELPED:
CANDY DeBERRY,
and DONNA RIGGLE**

**CANONSBURG LAKE
PROJECTS**

Work is expected to begin this fall on two projects at Canonsburg Lake—an informational kiosk at the Main Parking Lot and a footbridge on the trail along the western edge of the lake.

The projects are the first visible results of the plans for improving recreational opportunities at the Lake. Much more will be done as funds become available.

ASSOCIATION PROJECTS

**CONCLUSION OF YEAR-LONG
EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS
ON INVASIVE PLANTS**

◆ **I**n August, the display on invasive plants that had been seen in libraries around Washington County was featured at the Washington County Watershed Alliance booth at the Washington County Fair. The Alliance was well represented there; its members welcomed the opportunity to talk with fairgoers and to supply them with reliable information about watershed-related issues.

◆ **T**he display on invasive plants has finished making the rounds of county libraries, thanks to the efforts of Jean Bear. For September it has been set up at the Avella Public Library and will make a final appearance at Avella History Day on Sept. 29.

◆ **A**nd finally—the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will donate a reference book *WILDFLOWERS OF PENNSYLVANIA* to each of the libraries in Washington County.

Funds to purchase the books have been provided by a Decade of Service grant awarded to the Washington County Watershed Alliance by the Washington Community Foundation. A portion of these funds was shared with the watershed organizations that belong to the Alliance.