

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

FALL, 2008

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JOIN US — AT THE MAIN ST. MARKET ON SEPTEMBER 4!

It has become an annual event—operating the Lemonade Stand at the Main Street Farmers Market in Washington. This year the date will be September 4th, the first Thursday of the month.

Members of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will be at the stand from 3-6 pm. Lemonade sales are an important source of income for the Association, helping to support its operating expenses, including production of the quarterly newsletter.

The lemonade stand is sponsored and organized by the Washington Kiwanis Club.

...AND AT THE HOUSTON PUMPKIN FESTIVAL, OCTOBER. 10-12

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association and the Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee will share a booth at the Houston Pumpkin Festival October 10, 11, and 12.

The Canonsburg Lake Committee will be there to tell visitors about plans to save Canonsburg Lake. Visitors also will be able to help the cause by buying ball caps, picnic blankets and other items with the *Save Canonsburg Lake* logo.

Association members will be on hand with information about the Association and its projects in the Chartiers Creek Watershed.

To be featured at 1 pm on Saturday, the 11th: a demonstration of how the Association monitors water quality. Of particular interest to many will be the collection and identification of macroinvertebrates, the small creatures that live in streams.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

4 — Lemonade Stand, Main St. Market
10 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm
27 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance Annual Meeting. (See article on this page.)

OCTOBER

9 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm
10-12 — Houston Pumpkin Festival

NOVEMBER

12 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

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

WCWA ANNUAL MEETING AT MEADOWCROFT

The Annual Meeting of the Washington County Watershed Alliance will be held on Saturday, September 27 at 10 am in Avella at the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter. The meeting will include a tour of the Rockshelter (cost \$10).

Also on the agenda: discussion of the Cross Creek Streambank Restoration Project at this site and reports on activities of other watershed groups.

To take part in the tour, send a check for \$10 to Washington County Watershed Alliance, 100 W. Beau St., Washington, PA 15301.

NEXT STEPS TOWARD SAVING CANONSBURG LAKE

STEP 1. The next big step along the way is expected early in October when the Army Corps of Engineers holds one more Public Meeting. At that meeting, the Corps' Final Plan for restoration of Canonsburg Lake will be presented and discussed.

That meeting offers the final opportunity for interested people to review the plan and comment on its proposals for the lake's restoration.

Watch local newspapers for details. At this writing, the exact date of the meeting has not been set.

STEP 2. After the Final Plan is approved, the sponsors will sign a contract for the work to be done by the Army Corps of Engineers. Then the Corps will be able to move from planning to design and construction.



BUT—and it is a big one—the necessary local funding share of the project must be assured by then.

That leads to ***THE BIGGEST STEP***—raising the required funds to add to the money that will be invested by the Army Corps of Engineers. The local share is 35% of the total, currently estimated at about \$1.5 million of the \$4.6 million estimated total cost. The newly-formed Finance Committee of the Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee has begun this huge task. The task requires identifying potential sources of donations and grants and making the appeals by letter, phone calls and meetings. It is complicated by trying to raise such a large sum of money in a short period of time.

But the goal is worth the effort. If the effort succeeds, the people in this region of Pennsylvania will enjoy Canonsburg Lake for many years to come.

“SAVE CANONSBURG LAKE” FUND-RAISER HELD AT BRUSCHETTA’S AL LAGO

On July 28 Bruschetta’s Al Lago in North Strabane Township hosted a very successful V.I.P. Reception to benefit the current effort to Save Canonsburg Lake.

The event exceeded the committee’s expectations, raising nearly \$4,000 from sales and donations. More than 170 reservations had been received for the event, which was held in the dining room overlooking the lake.

Among those attending were: Congressman Tim Murphy, PA Senator John Pippy, PA Representative John Maher, County Commissioners Diana Irey and Bracken Burns, and Washington County Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Bill McGowen. Aides for PA Senator Barry Stout and PA Representative Tim Solobay were also present—Sen. Stout and Rep. Solobay were attending other meetings.

Bruschetta’s supplied food items from their Summer Festa menu, along with a variety of beverages, and set up the room to encourage guests to mingle and chat.

Members of the Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee were on hand to explain the plans for restoring the lake. Also there for sale were the “Save Canonsburg Lake” products, including ball caps, T-shirts, and picnic blankets.

The Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee thanks all involved for their support.

ChCWA SUMMER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Wednesday morning, August 13, was a pleasant, sunny day, following a week or more with little or no precipitation. A team of volunteer monitors from Chartiers Creek Watershed Association set out to test the water at all four stations in the watershed.

Team members were Kevin LaFrance, Chris Inman, Art Kaste, and Jean Bear. The men work at Coca Cola's local Dasani bottling plant, and have had extensive practice with the colorimeter. Jean has been a volunteer monitor for about seven years.

In preparation for the testing, Kevin created a chart of the times required for each test, and brought along a second colorimeter to augment the HACH kit belonging to the Association. The chart allowed efficient use of time on each machine, run by Art and Kevin. Chris and Jean did the remaining tests on specific conductance, pH, temperature, alkalinity, and chloride, tests that require different equipment.

The first sites tested were along Chartiers Creek south of Washington and not far from Route 18. These sites represent areas high in the watershed; one will soon be impacted by new housing developments. Chemical concentrations were low at both of these sites. From there, the team traveled to Houston, where testing was done by the ballfields in town. Here, the

chemical levels were generally higher, particularly for sulfate. Finally, the team tested the water at Linden Creek.

At one site, a landowner had placed huge heaps of brush, debris, and household furnishings on a small floodplain, perhaps in the hope that his problems would simply disappear with the next high water. The situation was reported to local officials in hopes of preventing problems for residents and communities downstream. At another site, a motorist stopped to chat with the team. He showed great interest in the tests, and asked for some testing of the Little Chartiers on his farm.

Kevin's planning proved to be useful. Even with the travel time required to visit the four stations, the team completed all testing in less than four hours. Having experienced volunteers, the extra colorimeter, a large sturdy table and chairs, and fine weather made the experience quite successful. The only tense moments came when Jean, caught up in the drive to be efficient, discarded a sample moments too soon, and Chris had to hustle to the creek for another one! All in all, it was a very successful and enjoyable morning.

Jean Bear

Ode to a Biological Stream Monitor **By Jonathan Pearson**

(Jonathan Pearson wrote this poem while on staff with *Maryland Save Our Streams*.
It was printed in the *Summer '05 issue of Volunteer Monitor*.)

I kick at the riffle with hope to see
the wondrous Hydrosychidae
with ventral gills and forelegs three;
I curse the heavens should there not be.

But wait! Upon the seine I spy
my quest, for 'tis a caddisfly!

The riffle explodes as I hope and pray
to find a Siphonuridae.
Tails are three, but claws are one;
I question my faith should I find none.

Gadzooks! Do I believe my eyes?
Upon the net, two huge mayflies!

My angst-driven legs begin to feel weak.
"Plecoptera!" I shout, "It is you I must seek!"
Body of armor, displaying two claws;
I offer my soul for a stream without flaws.

Huzzah ! Could it Be?? An illusion?? Oh My!
'Tis not! For I see the seductive stonefly!

I fall to my knees, I crawl to the net.
My face fills with glee; I don't care that I'm wet.
There's crayfish and beetles, a sowbug, a midge,
a disgusting black crane fly, as large as a bridge.

I fill up my sample, relaxed and relieved
For biodiversity has been achieved.

CHARTIERS CREEK



**WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
Washington, PA 15301



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ADDRESS CORRECTION?

Send to: Joan Jessen, editor
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317;
or email: jjessen@comcast.net.

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: _____