

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

FALL, 2009

Vol. 7, #3

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FALL WETLANDS WALK SET FOR SEPTEMBER 12

As requested in the spring, another guided walk through the North Franklin Wetlands has been scheduled—it will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 10 am until 12 noon. The group will meet at the parking lot next to the North Franklin Fire Hall.

Dr. Jason Kilgore will again be the walk leader. Dr. Kilgore, a professor at Washington and Jefferson College, has undergraduate degrees in environmental science and management. He also holds a Master of Science degree in tree physiology and dendrochronology, and a PhD in biogeography and the ecophysiology of southwestern pines. Moreover, Dr. Kilgore has extensive experience as a consultant for various wetlands projects.

If interested in participating in the Wetlands Walk, please register with Julie Maxwell at 724-222-3060x117. There is no charge, but we need to know how many to expect.

TOUR of MARCELLUS SHALE OPERATIONS on SEPT.29

This year's Annual Meeting of the Washington County Watershed Alliance will include a tour of Range Resources' gas-drilling operations. Alliance and Association members will join the tour that has been arranged by the Washington County League of Women Voters.

The tour will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 29, beginning at 9:30 am. If interested, please call Joan Jessen at 724-941-9370 (or email her at joanjessen159@gmail.com) to sign up and get complete details.

REMEMBER HURRICANE IVAN?

Five years ago--September 17, 2004—our area was hard hit by what had been Hurricane Ivan. Several inches of rain fell in a few hours here in the Chartiers Creek Watershed. Many people suffered as their homes were flooded; many local businesses suffered as well.

In the aftermath, there was much talk about doing something to avoid such damage when the next severe storm occurs—"when", "not "if" because it surely will happen again.

So, what has happened since then? Not much. A few meetings, lots of talk. The only concrete outcome to date is that the Washington County Planning Department is moving forward with preparation of a county-wide Stormwater Management Plan. Let's hope that a major storm won't arrive before the plan and follow-up action can be completed so as to avoid a repeat disaster!

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 9— ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm
- 12— Wetlands Walk, 10 a.m.-12 noon
- 16— Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance, 7:00 pm
- 29— Tour: Range Resources, Marcellus Shale operations

OCTOBER

- 8 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm
- 18 — Canonsburg Lake Picnic, 12-7 pm

NOVEMBER

- 9 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

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

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT CANONSBURG LAKE

Summer, 2009 was a busy period for all involved in saving Canonsburg Lake. The season began with the G.E.T.M.A.D. girls' bike ride to Washington, D.C., an effort that raised more \$3000 for the project.

Next came the family picnic at Canonsburg Lake on July 18. This event also was successful by any measure! The Giant Oaks Garden Club and the Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee organized and staffed the event, which was attended by several hundred people. The children's games were very popular, and the kids also enjoyed seeing the Peters Township fire truck and fishing in the lake after instruction by the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

The picnic raised almost \$3000, thanks to the long list of sponsors who donated food and raffle items.

The larger project is moving forward as well. As mentioned in our last issue, the contract with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected to be signed by the end of September. After that, the Corps will begin working on Design and Specifications, the next phase of the project to restore and improve the lake.

In the meantime, fund-raising for the required matching funds continues.



Awards of Achievement were presented to Ava Falcone, Erin Hannigan, Angela Mavrigh, Catherine Hannigan, and Shannon Mavrigh (Girls Empowered to Make a Difference). Others (l-r): Commissioner Larry Maggi, Linda Stettner, Senator Barry J. Stout, Jonathan Bashioum, Debra Valentino, and Congressman Timothy F. Murphy

Update on Washington County Chapter of PA Cleanways

The "Litter IQ Board" was a huge hit at the Washington County Fair. Lots of people were surprised to see how long it takes for items to biodegrade. It is important to recycle because they will be reused and it will reduce the quantity of items in the landfill that can take years to break down. Overall we enjoyed our time at the Fair and are looking forward to future outreach events.

Planning has also begun for the first Chapter cleanup which will take place this fall. The date and location will be determined by the Advisory Board at their September meeting. Please watch for details in following newsletters. We will need volunteers, so if you would like to help out, please contact Laurie Popeck, Chapter Coordinator, via email at washcopacw@gmail.com or via phone at 724-836-4121. To learn more about PA CleanWays, please visit their website, www.pacleanways.org.

Laurie Popeck, coordinator

water

Water Resources Education Network

This newsletter has been partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund under a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

POROUS PAVEMENT: Your Way to Cost Savings and Improved Solutions for Storm Water Runoff

A porous paving system is one of the best ways for a municipality to provide an efficient, cost-effective means to provide parking while curtailing pollution and flooding. New designs and technologies in porous paving provide solutions that work well in cold climates from New Hampshire, Minnesota, New York, to Sweden. Sound research has shown that **porous paving works**.

The wise municipal government today will utilize porous paving as part of its overall capital improvements program. Porous paving can help the municipality meet the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) Phase II permits. Its use is advocated by the National Research Council in its document, *Urban Stormwater Management in the United States*.

To find out if porous or permeable paving is right for our municipalities and developers, we hit the internet. Here's what we learned. **The answer is yes**--using properly designed, constructed, and maintained best practices. Research studies show that porous and permeable paving are reasonable, cost effective solutions that should be included in municipal land development standards—solutions that should be required or at least encouraged. Developers should propose porous paving as equivalent to or better than many existing parking lot and driveway design standards.

Various porous paving surfaces have been developed—surfaces that can store, filter, or allow infiltration of precipitation and storm runoff. Porous concrete, porous asphalt, interlocking permeable pavers, and porous grids—all are recommended choices, all are supported by sound research and testing. These applications can be used in many locations in Washington County municipalities, including office parks, strip malls, municipal facilities, schools, parks, tourist attractions and fairgrounds, including residential streets, new subdivisions, driveways and sidewalks

For example, research conducted by Dr. Robert Roseen, the Director of the University of New Hampshire Storm Water Center, shows that properly designed porous pavements can work well in cold weather environments. His four-year research effort focused on monitoring the year-round forms of porous pavement asphalt as installed on the University of New Hampshire campus.

Additional studies of sites in Sweden, constructed in 1993 through 1994 in a residential area on the outskirts of Luleå, Northern Sweden (N:65°36', E:22°13'), found that porous pavements



An example of porous paving
(photo from Landscape-Online.com)

have the potential to reduce melt-water runoff, avoid excessive on-road water during the snowmelt periods and accomplish groundwater recharge of storm water. The porous pavement was more resistant to freezing and frost heave than comparable impermeable pavement. The full-scale porous pavement construction was not damaged by irregular frost heave, and thawing of porous pavement was a rapid process.

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association would like to know of any existing porous or permeable paving in the watershed. We would also like to assist any municipalities or developers to develop a demonstration project, preferably one that could be monitored over an extended period by a qualified third party. Please contact Julie S. Maxwell, Watershed Specialist, at jmaxwell@pawccd.org or 724 222-3060 ext. 117 to respond or to get more information. And check our website, www.upperchartierscreek.org for more information on porous paving research. Look under **Resources-White Papers Other**.

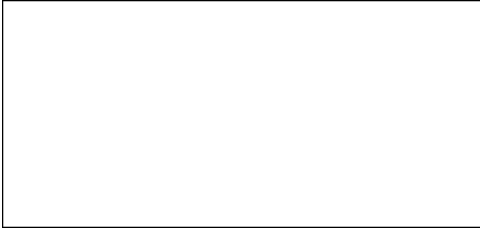
Researched and written by Barry Piacenza, Carrilee Hemington, and Barbara Rosensteel



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G.E.T.M.A.D. (Girls Empowered to Make a Difference) present check for money they raised to help save Canonsburg Lake.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION?
Send to: Joan Jessen, editor
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or email: jrjessen@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: _____