

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Vol. 8. #4

Fall, 2010

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FALL HIGHLIGHT: WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR WATERSHEDS

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association plans to hold a workshop this fall that will bring together a variety of Washington County organizations. The purpose of the workshop is to explore ways that all can work together more closely on common issues of water quality, environmental education, and planning.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, October 28 from 6:30-9 pm at Courthouse Square in Washington.

ChCWA has suggested using the first half of the workshop to exchange information about each organization and its primary issues, activities, and plans. During the second half of the workshop, round-table discussions will explore ways that the organizations can help each other, particularly to share information and data, and to keep connected.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAVE CANONSBURG LAKE COMMITTEE

on its First Place Award for the committee's educational display at the Giant Oaks Garden Club Flower Show.

The event was held at the Peters Township Library in August.

WE WELCOME W & J STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

During the Volunteer Fair held at Washington and Jefferson College on Sept. 14, twelve students signed up to volunteer with the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association. Most are interested in helping with the Association's water quality monitoring program.

An early October meeting with the students is now being planned. The meeting will provide training for the monitoring program and also explore other volunteer opportunities through the Association.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 13 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm
- 23 — Prescription, OTC Drug Collection Mt. Lebanon Municipal Bldg., 8 am-2 pm
- 28 — Workshop: Working Together for Our Watersheds

NOVEMBER

- 10 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm

DECEMBER

- 8 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm
Election of officers, directors
Adoption of 2011 budget

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

UPDATE ON ChCWA WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association's well-established water quality monitoring program has undergone some revisions. In the process, some tests have been eliminated and new ones added.

Summer activities for the Association included a thorough review of monitoring procedures, with recommendations for some changes. Supplies were inventoried and new chemicals and equipment have been ordered.

New tests for total dissolved solids (TDS), conductivity, and suspended solids have been added to the program. Some new sampling sites will be added as well.

One goal of the monitoring program has been to provide a long-term baseline record of water quality, against which any future changes can be compared. A recently added goal is to

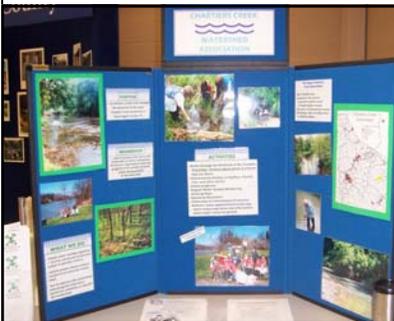
determine the TDS and conductivity in selected streams over time as a baseline in subwatershed areas where new natural gas drilling is or will be occurring.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with stream water quality monitoring, please contact Jennifer Halchak, Watershed Specialist, at 724-222-3060x117.

Funding for this update of supplies and equipment has been provided in large part by an Opportunity Grant from the Water Resources Education Network (WREN) of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. Supplies and equipment were also donated by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Technical assistance was provided by WPC and Washington County Conservation District. The Association is most grateful for this financial support.

Financial support for this newsletter is provided in part 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.

CHARTIERS CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION AT THE 2010 WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR



ChCWA display at 2010 Washington County Fair

Members of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association were among those staffing the display area for the Washington County Conservation District, the Washington County Watershed Alliance, and other watershed associations that belong to the Alliance.

Featured for the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association was a new display, created by Watershed Specialist Jennifer Halchak with the assistance of association members.

Also included were discussions and demonstrations of procedures for monitoring water quality in the streams of the watershed—testing for chemicals and for Total Dissolved Solids and collecting, identifying and counting the macroinvertebrates that live in the streams.



Ellen Mavrigh, ChCWA member, and John Hewitt, WCCD Ag Administrator, at the 2010 Washington County Fair

PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG COLLECTION IN MOUNT LEBANON ON OCTOBER 23

If you have unused, unwanted, or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and have been wondering how to dispose of them safely, here is your answer!

Several local police departments are joining forces with the U. S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration in the National Take Back Initiative.

The next collection is planned for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23 at the Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building, 710 Washington Road.

The collections are anonymous—no questions asked. You can bring drugs collected from your neighbors and friends if they are unable to get to the collection site. Just bring the unwanted, unused or expired pills to the site and dump them in the bin.

There are several reasons for participating in this free drug collection program.

One is the potential for these drugs to be abused if they fall into the wrong hands. (According to the DEA, two in five teens believe prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs, and three in 10 teens believe prescription pain relievers are not addictive.)

There is also the potential for an accidental overdose if a child or family pet finds them.

Disposing of prescription and over-the-counter drugs by dumping them down the drain or flushing down the toilet should be avoided because of the potential and measured effects on aquatic life, groundwater, and on public water supplies.

NEW PA WATER QUALITY STANDARDS ADOPTED

DEP Secretary John Hanger recently announced that Pennsylvania now has new and stricter water quality standards for gas well wastewater. The rules took effect on August 23.

The new standards require that water from gas drilling cannot be discharged to streams unless total dissolved solids (TDS) are no more than 500 milligrams per liter (mg/l) and chloride content is no more than 250 mg/l. High levels of these contaminants can damage or destroy aquatic life.

There is also a new rule that requires 150-foot buffers for Pennsylvania's approximately 20,000 miles of high-quality streams.

It should be noted that high amounts of TDS can also come from other sources, including stormwater runoff, coal mining and other industrial processes.

"DEP's proposal of these new limits has already driven industry investment in new technologies to treat this wastewater which is high in TDS," Hanger said. "We are proving that if we hold the environmental bar high, the industry can and will rise to meet Pennsylvania's expectations."

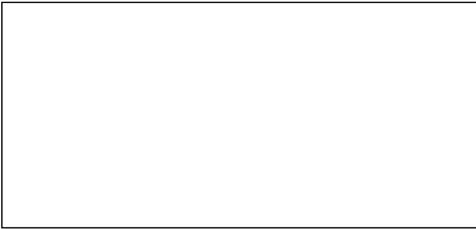
More information is available on the web at www.depweb.state.pa.us or by calling 412-442-4000.



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**An Island in
Chartiers Creek**



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ADDRESS CORRECTION?
Send to: Joan Jessen, editor
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or email: joanjessen159@gmail.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
Joan Jessen, treasurer
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15301

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Email: _____