



# Fall, 2012 Newsletter

Vol. 10, #4

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## AMBITIOUS SUMMER STREAM MONITORING PROGRAM COMPLETED

Members of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association conducted its program of monitoring the health of Chartiers and Little Chartiers Creeks weekly from July 2 through September 7.

This monitoring for bacteria included taking stream samples at seven locations and delivering them to the laboratory operated by the Joint Municipal Authority of Bethel Park Borough and South Park Township on Piney Fork Road in South Park Township. There they were examined for fecal coliform bacteria. The lab reports are sent to the PA Department of Environmental Protection, where the stream health is evaluated. The Association will receive the DEP reports after the summer's project is finished.

The original plan included 8 sites, but one site on a tributary to Little Chartiers Creek on Galley Road had to be dropped due to low water flow.

The Association hopes that the data collected can be incorporated into the West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) QUEST program, described on pg. 3.

Carrilee Hemington again was in charge of the project. She was assisted by: Jean Bear, Donna Riggle, Tim Sheakley, Carol Jaworski, Kim Matheny, Joan Jessen, and Shannon Powers, this summer's Hamm intern with the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association.



**Jean Bear and Shannon Powers  
collecting stream samples for bacteria  
monitoring**

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 13 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm
- 19 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, WCCD office
- 27 — Ohio River Celebration

### OCTOBER

- 10 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm

### NOVEMBER

- 14 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm

### DECEMBER

- 12 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm  
Election of officers, directors  
Adoption of 2012 budget

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

## ChCWA AT WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, along with the Washington County Watershed Alliance and several other watershed associations established a display at the Washington County Fair. It was located near the



entrance to Building 2, adjacent to that of the Washington County Conservation District. As always, the Fair gives the Associations a good opportunity to introduce ourselves to visitors who may not know about the work being done by our organizations.

The ChCWA display focused on the importance of trees in stormwater management, especially by holding back run-off water from heavy rains and in the process helping to protect the water quality of receiving streams.

The Fair display also offered an opportunity to promote membership in ChCWA. Those who joined received a free hummingbird feeder.

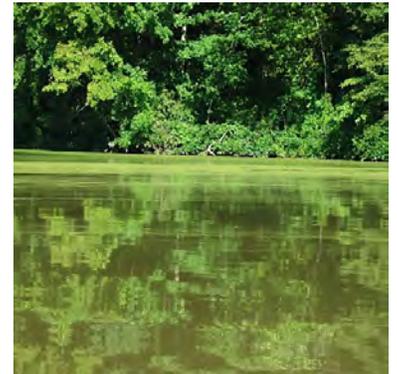


## UPDATE on the CANONBURG LAKE PROJECT

Debra Valentino, chair of the Canonburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee, has been busy this summer. She reports that she met recently with Senator Tim Solobay (PA Senate District 46) and Rep. Brandon Neumann (PA District 28), as well as with Nick DiMichelli from U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy's office. Our PA legislators and Congressman Murphy continue to be enthusiastic supporters of the lake restoration, and eager to have it move forward toward restoration of a vibrant lake in the Chartiers Creek Watershed.

Progress is also being made toward getting the necessary agreement signed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the PA Fish and Boat Commission. In the meantime, the project's engineer, Michael Baker Engineering, Inc., continues to work on the early phases of project design.

But for now—the lake is in poor condition.



Mark Wiener, an enthusiastic kayaker, took this photo of the lake in

July. His description: "Not visible in the pictures but apparent from a kayak; there was a layer of algae about 4 inches below the surface spanning the entire lake from the entry of the creek channel to the main body of the lake all the way to the bridge across the lake near The Table restaurant."

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM EXPANDS TO UPPER OHIO RIVER BASIN—NOW INCLUDES CHARTIERS CREEK WATERSHED

The West Virginia Water Research Institute has received funding to expand its QUEST Water Quality Monitoring Program. The program expansion is the beneficiary of a \$700,000 grant from the Colcom Foundation, which will allow for the continuation and expansion of the award-winning water quality monitoring and reporting program known as QUEST – Quality Useful Environmental Study Teams.

Originally focused on the Monongahela River Basin, the new Colcom-funded 3 Rivers QUEST project will also include the Allegheny and upper Ohio River Basins.

The West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) began the strategic QUEST program in July 2009 after concerns arose over high concentrations of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in the Monongahela River that exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's secondary drinking water standard. Since then, WVWRI staff has conducted sampling and monitoring at 16 locations throughout the Monongahela River Basin every two weeks.

In addition, watershed organizations are also collecting water quality data to contribute to the program. These volunteer-based watershed organizations have been monitoring at additional locations, many within the River's headwater regions. Data collected by both WVWRI and the volunteer organizations are disseminated to the public via the project's web site—<http://wvwri.nrcce.wvu.edu/about.cfm>. **NOTE:** ChCWA hopes that data collected by dataloggers in its watershed, as well as its other sources, will be useful for this project.

The program received national recognition when it was awarded a Regional IMPACT Award by the National Institutes for Water Resources.

"The new funding will allow the existing QUEST program to continue monitoring in the Monongahela River Region and also to expand the

## THANKS AND FAREWELL TO ChCWA SUMMER INTERN, SHANNON POWERS

One day a week this summer, Chartiers Creek Watershed Association was assisted by intern Shannon Powers, a local resident enrolled in the Environmental Studies program at New York University. Shannon attended our DEP Stream Monitoring training at the beginning of the summer and worked with ChCWA members and volunteers to assist with the bacterial monitoring of seven stream sites in the watershed through July. She also updated the ChCWA informational display used at community and educational events, helped with newsletter formatting, and worked on some data entry from past monitoring projects.

As one of her final projects, she completed a field assessment of two stream locations where ChCWA is hoping to do a bank restoration planting this fall.

During her time with ChCWA, Shannon was also an intern for Allegheny Land Trust and returned to school in mid-August to study abroad in Argentina. She says, "I greatly enjoyed my time with the ChCWA and learned a lot from my experiences, especially from the fieldwork I was able to help with this summer. It was wonderful to work with individuals who are so passionate about studying and protecting the watershed."

project's geographical scope to include the Allegheny and the Upper Ohio Rivers," said QUEST Coordinator Glenn Waldron. "This new funding from the Colcom Foundation will also be used to further develop and expand the data reporting capabilities on the QUEST web site."

Glenn Waldron introduced the program to members of the Washington County Watershed Alliance, including the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, at the Alliance's Board meeting in May.

**CHARTIERS CREEK**

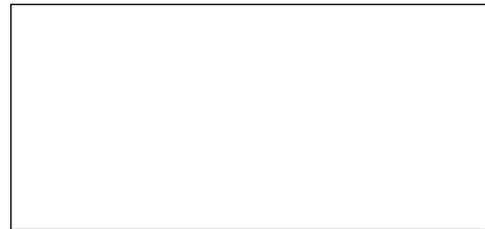


**WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION**

2800 North Main St., Suite 105  
Washington, PA 15301



**Macroinvertebrate monitoring in  
Chartiers Creek**



**We're on the Web**  
[www.upperchartierscreek.org](http://www.upperchartierscreek.org)

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION?**

Send to: Joan Jessen, editor  
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317;  
or email: [joanjessen159@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Carrilee Hemington, treasurer  
107 Williams Ave., McMurray, PA 15301

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_