



# Fall 2013 Newsletter

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## VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITORING TRAINING

**C-SAW**, the Consortium for Science Assistance to Watersheds, will conduct two sessions of training for volunteer water quality monitors. The training, intended for new volunteers and as a refresher course for those with experience, will be held on two Saturdays at the North Strabane Township Municipal Building.

The first session, on September 28, will provide water quality training. This training will run from 9:00 am until 12:30 pm. The second session, to be held on October 5 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm, will focus on identification of macroinvertebrates, which are an essential tool for determining water quality.

As attendance is limited to 25, pre-registration is important. There is no charge for the training. Note though that this training is intended for active volunteers who want to improve their skills and for new volunteers who will commit to volunteering during the coming year. Note: preference will be given to members of the Chartiers Creek and Buffalo Creek Watershed Associations.

Please sign up by calling Beth Kahkonen at 724-503-4785 or emailing [bethk@pawccd.org](mailto:bethk@pawccd.org).



**KAYAK TRIP ON CHARTIERS CREEK**

## OCTOBER DATE SET FOR FALL WETLANDS WALK

Featured on the ChCWA calendar is the Fall Wetlands Walk. The walk, scheduled for Saturday, October 12, again will be led by Dr. Jason Kilgore, Professor of Biology at Washington and Jefferson College.

Dr. Kilgore, who is thoroughly familiar with the North Franklin wetlands, has led the Wetlands Walk for several years. Dr. Kilgore's doctorate is in plant physiology and ecology.

Children are welcome to join the walk also, which makes for a wonderful family experience.

Please sign up in advance, so we know how many to plan for. To do so, call Beth Kahkonen at 724-503-4785.

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 11—ChCWA meeting
- 19—Riverboat Cruise
- 28—C-SAW Training, No. Strabane Township Municipal Building; 9:00 am

### OCTOBER

- 5—C-SAW Training, No. Strabane Township Municipal Building; 9:00 am
- 9—ChCWA meeting
- 12—Wetlands Walk
- 16—Visit to Phipps Conservatory; tour of Sustainability Center

### NOVEMBER

- 11—ChCWA meeting

Regular monthly meetings: 2nd Wed., 7 p.m.  
2800 North Main St., Suite 105,  
Cooper-Hinds Building, Meadowlands.

## BEHIND-THE-SCENES PROGRESS TOWARD CANONSBURG LAKE IMPROVEMENTS

**W**ork on the Canonsburg Lake improvement project is moving ahead this fall. While not apparent to most of us, the project's engineer is working to secure the needed state and federal permits.

Engineer Chad Davis expects to receive the permits in the next couple months, which will allow work on the weir on Little Chartiers Creek (at the upper end of the lake) to begin in the spring.



Peters Township Councilman Frank Arcuri presents a check for \$100,000 to Debra Valentino, chair of the Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee, as the township's donation toward the restoration project.

Also participating in the presentation are other members of the Peters Township Council, along with members of the Lake committee.

## WATERSHED ALLIANCE TO SPONSOR TOUR OF SUSTAINABILITY CENTER AT PHIPPS CONSERVATORY

**O**n Saturday, October 16, members and friends of the Association will join other members of the Washington County Watershed Alliance in a sustainability tour at Phipps Conservatory.

The time of the tour: 10:30 am.-noon. The tour is limited to 40 people, so reservations are necessary. (We suggest carpooling for those interested.)

The main purpose of the visit is to tour the Center for Sustainable Landscapes at the Conservatory, which "generates its own energy, and treats and reuses all water captured on site..."

To reserve a spot on the tour, call Jennifer Dann at 724-705-7098 by October 1st.

## IN APPRECIATION: SHANNON POWERS

Shannon Powers, who worked with the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association for the summers of 2012 and 2013, as an intern from the Allegheny Land Trust, has been presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association.

Shannon's assistance with the Association's water quality monitoring data, with the DEP bacterial monitoring, field assessment for streambank work, updating of the display and materials for the Washington County Fair, organization of the ChCWA photo library, organization of the kayak trip on Chartiers Creek, and her work with the outreach program for the MS 4 program of Washington City and East Washington Borough—all these activities were greatly appreciated by all involved.

## RESULTS OF SUMMER 2012 MONITORING

The results of 2012 bacterial sampling are in and the good news is that the portion of Chartiers Creek Watershed that includes six of the stations that were monitored last summer is attaining Recreational use, based on the data. It will be placed on the Category 2 list of the DEP 2014 Integrated Quality Report which lists one or more uses attaining (uses include Aquatic Life, Fish Consumption, Potable Water Supply, and Recreation).

The areas found to be in attainment for Recreation are 1) Chartiers Creek from the mouth of Little Chartiers Creek to the mouth of Brush Run at Valley Brook Road; 2) a small unnamed tributary to Chartiers Creek located along Hahn Road; and 3) Little Chartiers Creek from its mouth at Chartiers Creek upstream to and beyond the bridge at Linden Road.

To be in attainment for Recreation, a stream must be sampled for two sets of five consecutive weeks and the lab tests must find that geometric means of the fecal coliform counts (cfu/100 ml.) for the two sets are less than 200 cfu/100 ml, the Pennsylvania Chapter 93 Water Quality Standard.

The data at the Morganza Rd. site on Chartiers Creek was inconclusive. The geometric mean calculated over the sampling days in July was less than a geometric mean of 200 cfu/100 mL, while the geometric mean calculated over the sampling days in August through early September was greater than a geometric mean of 200 cfu/100 ml Therefore, one more 30-day monitoring period (5 samples) was taken in the summer of 2013 so an assessment can be created.

### SUMMER, 2013 BACTERIOLOGICAL MONITORING

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association conducted the bacteriological monitoring during the summer. ChCWA members met in May with Megan Bradburn, from DEP, for training .

At that time, the Association received the needed supplies and visited all eight of the sampling sites. Weekly monitoring of the sites began on May 20. The results are not yet available.

### A KAYAK SPECIAL ON CHARTIERS CREEK

On a beautiful summer day on August 8, 2013, a small, but hardy group of kayakers and canoes paddled happily; and sometimes frantically, down Chartiers Creek, seeing a blue heron rookery and catching fish that jumped into their boats.

The event was planned by Shannon Powers, Hamm Intern with the Allegheny Land Trust, and Carol Jaworski, volunteer with ChCWA. One of the experienced boaters led the flotilla while Carol served as sweeper to assist those who took on water.

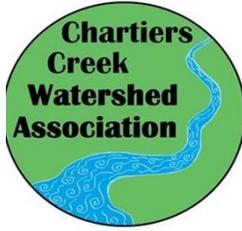
The trip was about 8 miles long beginning at Keystone Crane and Hoist on Morganza Road

and ending at Wingfield Pines in Upper St. Clair Township. Time on the water was about four hours, including a lunch break on the side of the stream.



Carol Jaworski said of Chartiers Creek, "This is a wonderful resource for Pittsburgh. We need more public access points!" Carol also took photos of trash along the stream for planning a possible future clean up.

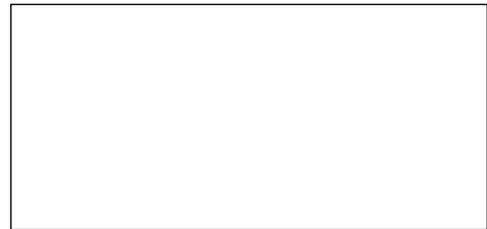
The group wants to thank Bill Krueger, owner of Keystone Crane, and Allegheny Land Trust, owner of Wingfield Pines.



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



## KAYAKING CHARTIERS CREEK



**Like us at**  
[facebook.com/upperchartierscreek](https://www.facebook.com/upperchartierscreek)

**Look for us 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

**Include Dues for Washington Co. Watershed Alliance:**  
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: \_\_\_\_\_