

C H A R T I E R S C R E E K

W A T E R S H E D A S S O C I A T I O N

Vol. 3, No. 2

Spring, 2005

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CALENDAR

April 6—ChCWA regular monthly meeting; 7 p.m..

April 16—Creek cleanup on Chartiers Run (see article on this page.) Meet at 9:30 a.m. Plus: see how water testing is done.

April 23—Creek cleanup on Little Chartiers Creek. Meet at 9:30 am. (see article on this page.)

May 4—ChCWA regular monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m.

May 7—**WETLANDS WALK**, No. Franklin Township. (See article this page.) 10 a.m.-12 noon.

June 1—ChCWA regular monthly meeting; 7:30 p.m.

ChCWA regular monthly meetings: 7 p.m., (7:30 p.m. May-Aug.) at Cooper-Hinds Building, Meadowlands.

PROJECT for SPRING: CREEK CLEANUPS, WATER MONITORING—APRIL 16 & 23

This spring, even more than most springs, our creeks need a good cleaning to get rid of the junk left after 2004 and 2005 floods.

The cleanup projects on Chartiers Run on April 16 and on Little Chartiers Creek on April 23 are part of DEP's Great PA Cleanup.

On both dates, light refreshments will be provided, and trash bags and other necessary supplies will be available.

The April 23 cleanup project on Little Chartiers Creek will begin at 9:30 am. Volunteers will gather at the intersection of Linden and Linden Creek Roads.

On April 16 the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will

combine the cleanup of Chartiers Run, with our annual participation in Pennsylvania's Watershed Snapshot. The event will be held at the pavilion behind American Legion Post #902 in Houston, beginning at 9:30 am.

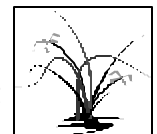
Water testing for chemicals and for macroinvertebrates will also be done at the picnic shelter.

Water samples will brought to the shelter from the three sites that are regularly monitored by members of the Association where a variety of tests will be run.

Visitors will also be able see a demonstration of sampling for macroinvertebrates that tells us a lot about water quality in a stream.

ENCORE! SPRING OUTING AT THE NORTH FRANKLIN WETLANDS—MAY 7

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will repeat last year's very successful Wetlands Walk through the wetlands in North Franklin Township. Once again, the walk will be led by botanist Dr. Thomas Hart, a retired professor of botany at Washington and Jefferson College.



Last year a press release for American Wetlands Month (May) said, "Wetlands are not wastelands at all; they are natural wonderlands." They provide habitat for many plants and animals, provide temporary storage for excess stormwater runoff, and keep pollutants out of streams.

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WHO'S DOING WHAT

Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy will hold its Enlow Fork Spring Extravaganza on Sunday, May 1; location—near Wind Ridge on Gamelands 302.

For more information: call 724-627-7871; or email cnelson@greenepa.net.

Cleanup Days: North Strabane Township, April 23; Peters Township, April 30.

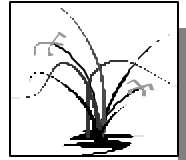
Protecting Public Drinking Water: Source Water Protection Solutions—Workshop to be held at Pitt's Greensburg campus; April 13, 6:30-9:30 pm. Interested in what can be done to protect your community's drinking water, and therefore your health? This informative workshop will help drinking water suppliers, municipal officials, watershed groups and residents find out how to safeguard their sources of drinking water. Protection of existing sources of water is the most cost-effective way to protect public health and control treatment costs.

Financial support for this project is provided 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's Watershed Assistance Center. Through the Center, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy committed to its core mission of conserving water, land, and life.

Wetlands Walk, cont. from pg. 1

To find out more about the role of wetlands, join us in the parking lot at Washington Crown Center at 10 a.m. behind Sears, near Franklin Farms Road. From there, we will travel by bus to the site.



Please call secretary Joan Jessen (724-941-9370) or Susie Carmichael, WCCD Watershed Specialist (724-222-3060x117) to register. There is no charge, but we need to know how many to plan for.

NEW GRANT RECEIVED, NEW GRANTS APPLIED FOR

DOMINION MINI GRANT:

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association has received a grant from the Dominion Foundation, administered by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The grant will finance the costs of this newsletter and of the Association's website.

EPA ASSESSMENT AND WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT:

The Association has applied for a grant under EPA's Low Impact Development program. If the grant application is approved, it will fund three workshops on Low Impact Development (same agenda for all, but different locations and dates). Both regional and nationally-known experts will give the presentations at the workshops. The overall goal: assist in resolving water quality and flooding issues within the watershed by presenting information to developers, homebuilders, home owners and local officials about the benefits of low impact development technologies. Key objective: provide tools that can help improve stormwater management and minimize flooding. The grant application was supported by a long list of local, regional, statewide and national partners.

Grant awards will be announced sometime this summer.

WREN (Water Resources Education Network)

The Association has also applied for a small grant to underwrite streambank assessments.

CONSULTANT CHOSEN FOR CANONSBURG LAKE PLAN

The Steering Committee for the Canonsburg Lake Master Site Development Plan has selected Mark R. Fickley, landscape architect and planner, as the lead consultant for the project.

Fickley will work closely with Patrick Gaghghan of Ecotune Environmental Consultants. Gary Sheffler. Sheffler & Company as Consulting Engineer and Surveyor, and Christine Davis, Christine Davis Consultants, Inc., as Consulting Archeologist, will also be associated with the project.

CANONSBURG LAKE FEATURED AT AG DAYS

The needs of Canonsburg Lake attracted a lot of attention at the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association's Ag Days display on March 18 and 19. The display featured the Canonsburg Lake Master Site Development Plan.

During the two-day period, 350 survey forms were filled out and will be tabulated. The survey is a first step in public participation in the planning process.

A copy of the survey is below. Would you like to add your opinion to the 350 we already have? If so, please clip the form and fill it out. The mailing address is on the form.



Canonsburg Lake Survey



1. Are you a resident of Washington County? Yes _____ No _____

2. If no, where do you reside? _____

3. Have you ever visited Canonsburg Lake? Yes _____ No _____

4. If yes, what types of recreational activities did you participate in?

_____ Fishing

_____ Boating

_____ Nature Observation

_____ Hiking

_____ Picnicking

Other _____

5. If improvements to Canonsburg Lake were made, what improvements would you like to see?

_____ Fishing opportunities

_____ Improved Access

_____ Picnic Areas

_____ Boat launching ramp

_____ Restroom Facilities

_____ Handicapped Fishing Pier

_____ Remove sediment from the reservoir

_____ Nature Observation Platforms

_____ Hiking trails

_____ Welcome Kiosk

_____ Trash Cans & Dumpsters

_____ Others

Please fill in and return to: Susie Carmichael, Watershed Specialist
Washington County Conservation District
PO Box 329, Meadow Lands, PA 15347

CHARTIERS CREEK



WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

100 West Beau Street, Suite 602
Washington, PA 15301

We're on the Web
www.upperchartierscreek.org

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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

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

Chartiers Creek Watershed Association
Carrilee Hemington, treasurer
107 Williams Drive, McMurray, PA 15301

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Email: _____