

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Spring, 2007

Vol. 5, #2

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ANNUAL WETLANDS WALK TO BE HELD ON SAT., APRIL 28

The popular Wetlands Walk will take place this year on April 28 from 10 am until noon. The walk through the North Franklin Wetlands will be led, as before, by botanist Dr. Thomas Hart, who formerly taught at Washington and Jefferson College.

Wetlands are an essential part of the web of life, supporting many different plants and animals. The North Franklin Wetlands are a particularly fine example of several different types of wetlands and therefore host to



varied natural communities

To find out more about the role of wetlands, join us on the walk.

Information about the meeting place is incomplete as the newsletter goes to print, but will be available when you register.

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

BECOME A WATER QUALITY MONITOR! TRAINING DATE: MAY 5

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will hold a volunteer monitor training session on Saturday, May 5 from 10 am until noon at the site of the American Legion Post in Houston.

The training will introduce new volunteers to the procedures needed to carry out a monitor's assignment. It will also be a refresher for current monitors and those who have been monitors previously.

The training session will include techniques for measuring stream flow, as well as chemical testing and identification of stream macroinvertebrates.

Advance registration will be appreciated. Please register by calling or emailing the WCCD Watershed Specialist, Susie Carmichael at 724-222-3060x117, email: wccdws@yahoo.com

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 11 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm.
- 21 — Invasive Plants Program, Donora Library
- 28 — Wetlands Walk in North Franklin Township wetlands, near Washington Crown Center. See article this page.

MAY

- 5 — Monitor Training, Houston; 10-12 noon
- 9 — ChCWA regular meeting, 7:30 pm.
- 19 — Invasive Plants Program, Hickory

JUNE

- 9 — Function at the Junction—celebration of Montour & Panhandle Trail connection, McDonald, PA
- 14 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE CANONSBURG LAKE PROJECT?

With the Canonsburg Lake Master Site in hand, people have asked, "What's next?"

"What's next?" has a simple answer—**implementation**, that is, bringing the recommendations of the plan to reality. While the answer is simple, actually achieving implementation is not. It will take time—and a lot of money and effort.

That said—a start was made last fall when the Girl Scouts began improving the existing trail on the east side—the Peters Township side—of the lower lake. A number of benches were installed and a perennial garden was planted.

This year an informational kiosk will be added in the main parking lot. The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association received a mini-grant from Dominion Gas Co. to finance this project.

The Canonsburg Lake Restoration and Improvement Committee (formerly the Steering Committee for the Master Site Plan) is also making plans to improve trail access on the west side of the lower lake in North Strabane. The committee has placed a high priority on the project because the area provides for excellent fishing. Yet getting close to the lake on that side is difficult at present—many have trespassed on private property to do so.

Work on the Feasibility Study by the Army Corps of Engineers is continuing and we hope soon to have their recommendations for restoring the lake.

NOTE: The Canonsburg Lake Master Site Plan study was financed in part by a Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) Grant.

PETERS TOWNSHIP ROTARY CLUB CONTRIBUTES TO WORK AT CANONSBURG LAKE

The Peters Township Rotary Club has donated \$1000 for Canonsburg Lake projects. The check was presented to Debra Valentino and Joan Jessen, Canonsburg Lake Restoration and Improvement Committee, following their program at the March 15 meeting.

The donation is one of many that Rotary makes from money it raises from such efforts as its Spaghetti Dinner. The next Spaghetti Dinner will be held at Peters Township High School on Saturday, April 28.

PROGRAMS ABOUT NATIVE and INVASIVE PLANTS SET FOR DONORA AND HICKORY

Following up on the Traveling Display, the, Donora Public Library will host a special program about invasive and native plants in our area. The program will be held on April 21 at 1:00 p.m.

The program will be presented by Jean Bear, a member of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, and Susie Carmichael, Watershed Specialist for Washington County.

On May 19 a demonstration display on invasive plants will be included in the Gardening Day at Hickory United Presbyterian Church. At the Demonstration Displays, people will be able to get their questions answered. This event runs from 9 am to 3 p, and includes a variety of activities and programs.

Jean Bear designed the display and is in charge of arrangements as it makes the rounds of county libraries .

WATER WEBSITE ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS

The website of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will now include a link to a new website. While the site is primarily for kids, it can also be a resource for teachers and parents.

GreenTreks Network, Inc., based in Philadelphia, asked us to take a look at and comment on the new website. We did so—and are delighted with it.

The site is called the American Water Hydro School and it is a fun, fact-filled interactive online community. GreenTreks' aim is to create a new generation of environmental stewards through games, activities, and inspirational stories posted by ordinary kids.



You can see for yourself at www.amwaterkeds.org

GreenTreks says: "There are plenty of web sites focused on water, but how many make learning about watersheds interactive and fun? The American Water Hydro School does—and it's helping create a new generation of "watershed heroes" by making it easy for children to gain knowledge while playing online games, conducting activities in the field, and telling others what they are doing to protect the planet's most essential resource."

The organization emphasizes that the site is not for kids only, however; it's also a valuable teaching resource.

The American Water Hydro School is a project of American Water and Green-Treks Network and was developed with input from numerous water education organizations: www.amwaterkids.org

FUNCTION AT THE JUNCTION

**Sat., June 9 — 12-5 pm
(rain or shine)**

Location: intersection of Johns Ave. & Noblestown Rd., McDonald

Function at the Junction will celebrate the completion of two new rail-to-trail segments in Washington County: the Montour-Panhandle Connector Trail and the Primrose-Joffre section of the Panhandle Trail.

The festive event will feature live music, organized rides and walks, food and drink, and attractions for children.

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will staff a display, highlighting our current projects and concerns and touching a little of the area's history.

Sponsors include:

- ◆ Ft. Cherry Friends of the Montour Trail
- ◆ McDonald Area Redevelopment Assoc.
- ◆ McDonald Borough Council
- ◆ Montour Trail Council
- ◆ Panhandle Trail Council
- ◆ Wash. County Board of Commissioners
- ◆ Wash. County Tourism Promotion Agency

COUNTY BEGINS WORK ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

County-wide storm water planning, required under PA Act 167, is finally underway. A consultant for Phase I has been selected, and the process will begin soon. As an implementation strategy of the Washington County Comprehensive Plan, the storm water plan will be developed through the county Planning Commission.

Phase I will develop the process and give guidance as to how the Phase 2 Stormwater plans will be developed for each watershed in Washington County.

While better stormwater management is much needed in Washington County, such a plan is not a flood prevention plan, and will not directly solve old problems.

Look for more on the stormwater management plan in future issues of the newsletter.

CHARTIERS CREEK



**WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
Washington, PA 15301



Contents;

- ◆ Wetlands Walk Scheduled—April 28, 10 am.
- ◆ Volunteer Monitoring Training—May 5, 10am
- ◆ Canonsburg Lake Progress
- ◆ Peters Township Rotary donates to Canonsburg Lake Project
- ◆ Invasive Plants programs in Donora, Hickory
- ◆ ChCWA to be part of Function at the Junction
- ◆ County Stormwater Management Plan

ADDRESS CORRECTION?

Send to: Joan Jessen, secretary
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317;
or email: jjjessen@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: _____