

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Spring, 2009 – Vol. 7, #2

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COMING UP: AG DAYS, MARCH 13, 14 at WASHINGTON CROWN CENTER

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will again take part in the annual event known as Ag Days. This year's dates are Friday, March 13 from noon until 9 pm, and Saturday, March 14 from noon until 8 pm. at Washington Crown Center in Washington.

Our volunteers will be there to answer questions and provide information about projects and activities of the Association, including the latest information about restoration of Canonsburg Lake.

The Association's display will be part of the Washington County Watershed Alliance's display, located next to the Washington County Conservation District.

This is the 21st year for Ag Days in Washington County. It is celebrated each year as part of National Agriculture Week.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO HELP CLEAN UP CANONSBURG LAKE

On Saturday, April 4, from 10 am until 12 noon, student and community volunteers will work together to begin a shoreline cleanup of the lake area. Sponsors of the cleanup are the Save Canonsburg Lake Committee and the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association

Volunteers are asked to sign in at the registration table in the main parking lot on McDowell Lane in Peters Township, where they will be assigned to a portion of the lake shore. A map of the lake will be provided, along with trash bags and gloves. The trash picked up will be left in dumpsters located in the main parking lot.

Do you have a kayak or canoe? If so, you could retrieve small debris from the lake itself.

Plans are underway for a major cleanup in 2010.

CALENDAR

March

11 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm

April

4 — Cleanup Day at Canonsburg Lake: parking lot, McDowell Lane. Details above. 10 am-12 noon.

8 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

18 — Save Canonsburg Lake, tent-sale; Opening Day of Trout Season; main parking lot, Canonsburg Lake.

25 — Wetlands Walk; No. Franklin Wetlands, 10 am-12. date to be announced — Water Quality Monitoring, including macro collection/identification

May

13 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

JUNE

10 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

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

ANNUAL WETLANDS WALK — April 25, 10 am-12 noon

Dr. Jason Kilgore, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Washington and Jefferson College, will lead this year's Wetlands Walk. Dr. Kilgore's doctorate is in plant physiology and ecology.

This year's walk through the North Franklin Wetlands has been scheduled for Saturday, April 25 from 10 am until 12 noon. The group will meet in the parking lot next to the North Franklin Fire Company.

The wetlands walk, first held in 2004, is a popular annual event for children as well as adults. During the walk, we will learn about the important roles that wetlands fill and observe signs of typical animal inhabitants of wetlands. And along the way,

Please sign up in advance. There is no charge, but we need to know how many will take part in this event. Call Julie Sigler, Watershed Specialist, at 724-222-3060x117.

PA LEGISLATURE ADDRESSES CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

Last year the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed Act 70 of 2008, the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act.

The act requires the PA Department of Environmental Protection to develop a climate change action plan by October, 2009. It also provides for annual greenhouse gas inventories and other activities that address climate change.

The act also set up the Climate Change Advisory Committee which held its first meeting on December 5, 2008. Detailed information, including meeting minutes, is posted on the DEP website under CCAC, Climate Change Advisory Committee. The address:
<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep>.

"SAVE CANONSBURG LAKE" TENT-SALE on April 18, 19

April 18 and 19, the opening weekend of trout season, will also be the days for another tent-sale to raise funds for restoration of Canonsburg Lake.

As they did in 2008, members of the Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee will be on site with a variety of *Save Canonsburg Lake* products to sell. The items will include ball caps, T-shirts, picnic blankets and grocery bags, all decorated with the Save Canonsburg Lake logo.

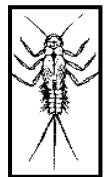
Committee members will also be able to provide information and answer questions about plans to restore the lake.

The tent will be set up in the main parking lot next to McDowell Lane.

SPRING, 2009 WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Water Quality Monitoring, including macroinvertebrate collection and identification, will be scheduled for three sites this spring.

The sites are:
Little Chartiers Creek at Linden Road and Linden Creek Road in North Strabane Township, Chartiers Creek near the Houston Park ball fields, and Chartiers Creek near Scotty's on Rt. 18.



Mayfly Larva

The specific monitoring dates will be available in early April. Anyone interested in helping with (or simply observing) the monitoring activities should call Watershed Specialist Julie Sigler at 724-222-3060x117, or Joan Jessen at 724-941-9370.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

Stormwater management has long been a difficult issue for Washington County. This issue received some concentrated attention following the widespread flooding in 2004 that was caused by Hurricane Ivan. But it seemed that nothing had come of those early efforts.

Now, however, the county is in the process of developing a county-wide stormwater management plan. The plan will include a model ordinance for municipalities to adopt.

Susan Morgan, for the Redevelopment Authority, and Joan Jessen, for the Washington County Watershed Alliance, are members of the Plan Advisory Committee and attended the latest meeting on Jan. 26. ChCWA member Tom Hart, a supervisor for North Franklin Township, is also on the Advisory Committee, as are other township and borough officials.

HRG Engineering & Related Services is the consultant contracted to prepare the plan.

At the January meeting, the goals of the plan and the tasks required to develop the plan were reviewed. The consultants stated that the Chartiers Creek and Raccoon Creek watersheds have the most miles of impacted streams in Washington Co.

To date, 45 of the county's municipalities have responded to requests for information. A draft report and model ordinance are expected in June of this year. The current schedule provides for a public hearing and county approval in January, 2011.

Washington County's plan will conform to the goals set for Pennsylvania under Act 167:

- Comprehensive program of stormwater management;
- Uniform county standards;
- Ensure current problems are not made worse by future development;
- Maintain groundwater recharge [LET'S MIMIC NATURE, the consultant said.]
- Meet PA water quality requirements.



YOUR FEEDBACK NEEDED!!

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association is considering whether to send out this newsletter by email, rather than mailing out a hard copy.

The email version could be produced in full color.

Please let us know whether you would like to receive your copy by email. Send this form to: Joan Jessen, 159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317— or by email to jrjessen@comcast.net.

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email? Yes ___ No ___

Comments on the newsletter:

CHARTIERS CREEK



**WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

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Washington, PA 15301



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ADDRESS CORRECTION?

Send to: Joan Jessen, editor
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: _____