

# CHARTIERS CREEK

## WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Spring, 2011

Vol. 8, #2

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## NEW GRANTS TO ChCWA & WCWA WILL ADVANCE ASSOCIATION PROJECTS IN 2011

**A** sizable grant from the **Colcom Foundation** has been awarded to the Washington County Watershed Alliance. The grant provides for the purchase and use of in-stream continuous monitors, called data-loggers, that will measure water level, temperature and conductivity. The grant provides for purchasing 22 data-loggers to monitor water quality in seven Washington County watersheds.

The instruments will take frequent measurements, providing for early identification if contamination should occur from Marcellus Shale drilling.

Four of the data-loggers will be installed in stream reaches in the Chartiers Creek Watershed.

The next step will be to identify suitable locations—places that can be accessed easily

in all kinds of weather, yet cannot be easily seen from a road or public thoroughway (to keep down potential vandalism). The stream location must always have a good flow of water. Of course, the land owner must give permission for the data-logger to be installed and for our volunteers to access the site.

In addition to the Chartiers Creek watershed, the instruments will be installed in the Buffalo Creek (4), Cross Creek (2), Peters Creek (2), Pike Run (2), Ten Mile Run (4) and Wheeling Creek (3) watersheds. One more will be available as a replacement, if needed.

The second new grant is a **Dominion mini-grant**, administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. As with the 2010 Dominion grant, the funds will help us keep our website and newsletter going, and be available for other educational and outreach efforts.

## 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The election of 2011 officers and directors took place at the February meeting, delayed due to the weather-related cancellation of the January meeting. Those elected:

President: Susan Morgan

Vice-president: Josh Dunkle

Secretary: Joan Jessen

Treasurer: Carrilee Hemington

Directors included Sheila Burcin, Barbara Rosensteel, Laurie Popeck and Virginia McAnulty.

## CALENDAR

### MARCH

19—Stream monitoring, 9am-noon  
25, 26 — Ag Days

### APRIL

2—Stream monitoring, 9 am-noon  
9—Wetlands Walk. 10 am-12 noon  
(16—raindate)  
13—ChCWA meeting  
22—Stream Cleanup, locations tba.

### MAY

11—ChCWA meeting

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

## ANNUAL WETLANDS WALK SET FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 9

The popular Wetlands Walk through the North Franklin Wetlands will be held this year on Saturday, April 9 from 10 am until 12 noon. The group will meet in the parking lot next to the North Franklin Fire Company.

Families with children are encouraged to join the Wetlands Walk. Children enjoy finding small creatures, such as baby turtles, in the places where they live. Bird watchers also enjoy the experience. On previous walks, birds of many different species have been spotted .

Once again, the walk will be led by Dr. Jason Kilgore, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Washington and Jefferson College. Dr. Kilgore holds a doctorate in plant physiology and ecology. His knowledge and experience make the walk a most worthwhile experience.

***Attendance is limited to 20 people. Please sign up in advance with Jennifer Halchak, Watershed Specialist, at 724-222-3060x117.***

## THIS SPRING'S WATER QUALITY MONITORING TO CONTINUE ON APRIL 2

**M**onitoring began this spring on March 19 at two sites in Houston Borough: on Chartiers Run near the American Legion and on Chartiers Creek at the ballfield. Identifying and counting the macroinvertebrates collected at these locations were: Jean Bear, Adam and Candy Crowe, Jennifer Sabol, and Carrilee Hemington.

The project will continue on April 2 with monitoring for both macros and chemicals. The group will go first to the site next to Scotty's in North Franklin Township and then to the Georges Run location. The volunteers expected to collect and test water samples at those locations include Jean Bear, Adam Crowe, Jennifer Sabol, Tayler Mulcahey, Joan Jessen, and Carrilee Hemington.

Monitoring has not yet been scheduled this spring at the site on Little Chartiers Creek. The creek is closed to fishing and other activities from March 1 until the opening of trout season, due to the early spring trout-stocking.

Jean Bear is in charge of scheduling and managing the monitoring project for the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association.

## STREAM CLEANUP: THURSDAY, APRIL 21

. The Washington County Affiliate of **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful** is conducting a volunteer trash and tire cleanup in conjunction with the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association and Chartiers Township on Thursday, April 21st.

Interested volunteers should meet at 8:30 am at the Chartiers Township Municipal Building (2 Buccaneer Drive, Houston, PA 15342). From there the group will carpool to the site.

Volunteers are asked to wear comfortable clothes (long sleeved shirts and pants) and closed toed shoes (preferably boots). Bring an extra set of clothes and shoes for after the cleanup.

To participate in the cleanup, volunteers must be at least 12 years old. (Anyone under 18 needs to have a guardian present).

Gloves, vests, and trash bags will be provided, and drinks will be available throughout the day. Lunch will be provided at approximately 1pm, after the cleanup ends.

To register as a volunteer, please contact Laurie Popeck, Affiliate Coordinator, via email at washcokpb@gmail.com or via phone at 724-413-5528 by Monday, April 18th.

## CANONSBURG LAKE UPDATE

The Save Canonsburg Lake Committee is delighted to report that the Canonsburg Lake Project has been selected by the Washington County Commissioners to receive \$400,000 through Washington County's 2011 Local Share Account (LSA) program. The money will be applied toward the restoration of Canonsburg Lake.

The county's Redevelopment Authority, which handles the LSA funds, has submitted the list of LSA projects to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Final approval of the Commissioners' selections by DCED is expected by June 30, 2011.

The grant for Canonsburg Lake will be administered by the Washington County Redevelopment Authority. The intent of the grant is that work on the project will begin this year.

In related news—work on upgrading the dam installation at Canonsburg Lake is also expected to begin this summer. The Fish and Boat Commission reports that work on the dam must be completed by June of 2012.



Perennial Garden at Canonsburg Lake

## ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST PROJECT

Recently, Emily Cooper of the Allegheny Land Trust informed the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association of a summer intern program for the Chartiers Creek Watershed. A portion of the intern's time will be spent on work in the Washington Co. section of the watershed, possibly as assistance with the new monitoring program.

More about the program in the next issue.

## NEW WETLANDS PROJECT IN CHARTIERS TOWNSHIP

Rob McHale, a geologist who is Environmental Manager for Mark West, responsible for environmental compliance, spoke to the March meeting of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association about an educational project that he is working on.

The restoration project will include an outdoor classroom which could be used by the schools, youth groups, scouts, and other community groups. It will be located along Rt. 519 in Chartiers Township on the site of the Mark West natural gas processing plant.

This area formerly had a jurisdictional wetland along one side of the road, a jurisdictional pond along the other; both draining into Chartiers Run. (The property had been the site of a one-room schoolhouse, which was moved to the Paxton Farm.)

McHale noted that Barbara Rosensteel had looked over the site, identifying pond and wetlands as of high value. DEP agrees that this would be a good location for a restoration project. He showed the group a diagram of the proposed outdoor classroom, as well as a photo of the current state of the site, obviously polluted by orange-colored waste. A passive system will be used to treat the discharge.

McHale would like the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association to participate in whatever way we think appropriate. One suggestion was to help prepare and present educational programs for students who will visit the outdoor classroom.

### IN APPRECIATION:

Of all the time and effort devoted to the work of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association by  
BARBARA ROSENSTEEL.

We wish her well  
as she begins a new job in Tennessee.



100 West Beau Street, Suite 105  
Washington, PA 15301



Chartiers Creek  
near Houston



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This newsletter has been partially funded from a Dominion Watershed Mini-grant, administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

**ADDRESS CORRECTION?**  
Send to: Joan Jessen, editor  
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317;  
or email: 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 15317

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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