

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. 3
Summer, 2005

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CALENDAR

June 20—Steering Committee, Canonsburg Lake Study.

July 6—no meeting

July 16—Picnic at Mingo Creek Park, Pavilion #1; 12 noon—for all watershed associations. (See article this page.)

Aug. 1—Public Meeting for Canonsburg Lake Study; 7 pm, Little Lake Theater, North Strabane Twp. (See article this page.)

Aug. 3—ChCWA regular monthly meeting.

Aug. 13-20—Wash. Co. Fair.

ChCWA regular monthly meetings: 1st Wed., 7 p.m., Cooper-Hinds Building., Meadowlands.

YOUR COMMENTS WANTED— COME TO THE CANONSBURG LAKE MEETING ON AUGUST 1 AT LITTLE LAKE THEATER

Do you like to fish in summer? Go ice-skating in winter? Watch birds any time? Many people who have filled out survey forms say that they enjoy these and other activities at Canonsburg Lake. Now the Steering Committee for the Canonsburg Lake Study is looking for a more detailed discussion of the lake's future.

The first Public Participation Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, August 1 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Theater, located on the North Strabane side of the Lake.

Several different types of maps will be on display at the meeting, including the property's boundaries, contours, and habitat zones, existing and proposed highway development, and others. Field identification of plant, fish and animal species is underway. Recommendations for future development will be based on environmental considerations.

At the meeting consultant Mark Fickley will describe the work being done now, and what will be done in the next several months. After the brief presentation, there will be plenty of time for comments and discussion by those in attendance.

JULY 16 PICNIC AT MINGO CREEK PARK— FOR ALL COUNTY WATERSHED GROUPS

On Saturday, July 16 the Washington County Watershed Alliance will sponsor a picnic at Pavilion #1 in Mingo Creek County Park for all who are interested in finding out what our watershed groups are doing. The time: 12 noon. Bring your picnic lunch—the Alliance will provide dessert and beverages.

Highlight: training in stream assessment techniques and identification of macroinvertebrates. The picnic will also provide an opportunity to find out what our watershed groups are doing and to evaluate current monitoring programs and water testing equipment.

OTHER SUMMER PLANS FOR ChCWA

AT THE WASHINGTON FARMER'S MARKET:

Association members will staff the lemonade stand on July 21 from 3:30-6:30 pm. Come chat with us about our work and sample a cup of good fresh lemonade.

AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR:

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will feature the recreational study of Canonsburg Lake in its display at the Washington County Fair. As with the Ag Days display, the Association will again ask visitors to fill out the Canonsburg Lake survey.

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

REMEMBER AUGUST 1
for the Public Meeting
on the Future of Canonsburg Lake
Location: Little Lake Theater, on the
west shore of the lake.
Time: 7 p.m.

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 is 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.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Draft Washington County Comprehensive Plan

The Washington County Planning Commission will hold three public open houses in June to present the Draft Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will guide future development in Washington County in ways that protect natural resources, revitalize our communities and encourage logical and orderly growth.

The meetings, open from 3-6 pm, offer an opportunity for all county residents to comment on the Plan's proposed goals, concepts and policies in a casual setting. Come any time from 3-6 pm.

The dates and locations:

Tuesday, June 21, Charleroi Area High School, Fecsen Rd., Charleroi;

Wednesday, June 22, Courthouse Square, 100 West Beau St., Washington;

Thursday, June 23, Burgettstown Area Elementary Center, Bavington Rd., Burgettstown.

For more information—check the website:
www.washingtoncountyplan.com.

LAKE SURVEY

The PA Dept. of Environmental Protection is in the process of assessing all PA's surface waters, including lakes. According to a recent memo, little information about private lakes has been recorded. (Note: "Lake" generally means water bodies of 10 or more surface acres, not farm ponds.)

Anyone interested in helping to reduce that data gap by filling out a form should contact Aaron Frey at 717-787-9637, email—afrey@state.pa.us.

WASHINGTON COUNTY FLOOD PREVENTION TASK FORCE

What can be done to prevent or reduce flooding in Washington County? That is the big question that is asked every time county residents experience another flood.

The first response is that there is no single easy answer, and that most of the promising solutions will take time and money to put in place.

The Washington County Flood Prevention Task Force, chaired by Jeff Yates, the county's Director of Public Safety, has been meeting regularly for several months. The county commissioners directed formation of the task force after the disastrous flooding last fall from Hurricane Ivan. Task Force membership includes representative of municipalities, county agencies and citizens' groups (including the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association).

The Flooding Task Force has agreed with that first response and is now working toward some solutions. The Department of Public Safety is developing improvements in handling such emergencies—by building up an early warning system for possible flooding and by improving communications with emergency responders in the municipalities. This first step is essential to protect the lives of people and reduce damage from flooding. After all, heavy rains will occur again, threatening homes and businesses with flooding, and safety is the first concern.

The second agreement among Task Force members is that enhanced stormwater management is key to reducing flooding. Washington County does not have a county-wide stormwater management plan. Efforts are underway to develop one, as well as to encourage municipalities to adopt their own ordinances that will mesh with the county plan when it is complete.

As these measures go forward, the Task Force is also researching other flood prevention and reduction measures, such as techniques for stream restoration, along with ways to finance improvements.

Task Force members agree that this a long-term effort. This newsletter will try to keep readers informed.

SPRING CLEANING on CHARTIERS RUN and LITTLE CHARTIERS CREEK

Stream cleanups held in April have resulted in improvements for both Chartiers Run and Little Chartiers Creeks. More could be done, but a good start was made.

The Chartiers Run cleanup on April 16 resulted in removal of 18 tires from a short stretch of the creek near the American Legion building. Thanks to Firestone's participation in the Great PA Cleanup, the tires have been taken care of.

While Demo Agoris was pulling the tires from the creek, Tom Hart and Carrilee Hemington checked the creek for macroinvertebrates. The count was rather low, perhaps a consequence of last fall's flooding. Joan Jessen did the chemical testing at the site.

Water quality monitoring was also done on Little Chartiers Creek while three groups cleaned up trash. About 26-28 trash bags were filled by Gabrielle, Ashley and Amanda Szafranec, Pam and Neil Kelly, and Carrilee Hemington, Jean Bear and Phyllis Smith. Joan Jessen ran the chemical tests—assisted by Phyllis Smith after she finished picking up trash.

WETLANDS WALK

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association's 2nd Annual Wetlands Walk was held on May 9. Eighteen adults and children spent two hours under the guidance of Dr. Thomas Hart, exploring the North Franklin wetlands. This area is an ecological treasure that is well worth exploring—and, incidentally, one that should be preserved.

While the weather wasn't the greatest, the experience was, thanks to the location and to Dr. Hart's knowledge and teaching ability.

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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ADDRESS CORRECTION?

Send to: Joan Jessen, secretary
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317;
or email: jjessen@pulsenet.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

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Email: _____

FLOWPATHS

Newsletter of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association