

# CHARTIERS CREEK

## WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER, 2008

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Successful April Tent Sales	2
June Tent Sales	2
Possible Funding for PA Dams	2
Water Quality Monitoring	3

### ChCWA TO BE AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association again will participate in the Washington County Watershed Alliance display at the Fair August 11-18.

The Association will focus first of all on macroinvertebrates with a display and fact sheet on *The Critters That Live In Our Streams*. The display explains why we check on macroinvertebrates and what they tell us about water quality.

Equally important will be an emphasis on Canonsburg Lake. Members of the Save Canonsburg Lake Committee and other Association members will have detailed maps and other information about the current plans to restore and improve Canonsburg Lake.

Look for us at the Washington County Conservation District's booth.

### NEW FOOTBRIDGE FOR CANONSBURG LAKE TRAIL

Canonsburg Lake will benefit this summer from an Eagle Scout Project being planned by Sammy Furlong, Troop #228. The project will improve the existing trail on the west side of Canonsburg Lake, going south from McDowell Lane.

Sammy Furlong learned about this project from Wally Klein, a member of the Save Canonsburg Lake Committee. To quote Sammy: "Many thanks to Mr. Wally Klein for his help in completing my Eagle Scout work and connecting me with this project." Sammy hopes to complete construction by the end of this summer.

Cont. on pg.3

### ALSO ON THE CALENDAR: THE MAIN STREET MARKET ON SEPT. 4th

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will staff the Lemonade Stand at the Main Street Market in Washington. The sale is scheduled for September 4 from 3-6 pm.

In what has become an annual event, this appearance at the Main Street Market helps the Association inform people about its work, as well as to earn some money for current projects.

### CALENDAR

#### JUNE

- 11— ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm
- 14— Tent Sale, No. Strabane Spring Festival 12:30-6:30 pm
- 28— Tent Sale, Peters Twp. Community Day

#### JULY

- 9 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

#### AUGUST

- 11-18 — Washington County Fair
- 14 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

#### SEPTEMBER

- 4 — Lemonade Stand, Main St. Market
- 10 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

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

## APRIL TENT SALES AT CANONSBURG LAKE— A GREAT SUCCESS

The weather on April 12 and 13, the opening days of trout season, was not the best. Even so, the Tent Sale, scheduled by the Save Canonsburg Lake Committee to raise money for the Canonsburg Lake project, was highly successful.

And so was the April 19 sale. Over the 3 days, more than \$5500 was received from donations and sales.

Equally important, many people signed up to help save Canonsburg Lake, and many learned much about proposals to restore the lake and enhance its recreational facilities.

The tent was set up at the entrance to the main parking lot at McDowell Lane, marked by a large Save Canonsburg Lake banner and stocked with T-shirts, ball caps and other items with a Save Canonsburg Lake logo. It attracted many who were there to fish, as expected, but others who said they made a special trip to do their part to help save the lake.

Special thanks to Bruschetta's Restaurant for grilling hot dogs for the committee to sell, and to Mary Staley of *Graphics Plus* for donating the *Save Canonsburg Lake* banner. Thanks also to the volunteers who put in long hours to make the sale such a success.

## AND THANKS AGAIN TO BRUSCHETTA'S ...

... for hosting a general meeting on May 19 for the new volunteers who signed up at the April Tent Events.

At the meeting, Debra Valentino, who chairs the Save Canonsburg Lake committee, reviewed the plans that the committee is working on. The meeting was also designed to brief volunteers about planned projects and activities and to discover how they would like to be involved.

## MORE SUMMER TENT EVENTS: IN NORTH STRABANE, PETERS TWPS.

The Save Canonsburg Lake Committee will take its urgent message about the lake to people who attend the North Strabane Spring Festival on June 14 and Peters Township Community Day on June 28. Members of the committee will answer questions about the lake and provide detailed information about plans to restore the lake and enhance its recreational facilities.

On display will be a large map that shows how the lake could be restored if the necessary funds are raised. Also to be offered are the sales items—T-shirts, ball caps, picnic blankets and tote bags—that proved so popular in April.

## STATE FUNDS TO REPAIR DAMS?

The next state budget, to be adopted by June 30, will likely include funding for that purpose. Legislators, under the leadership of Senator Barry Stout, have been visiting counties listed as having "high hazard dams." There are 24 state-owned dams on the list.

Sixteen of the dams, including Canonsburg Lake and Dutch Fork Lake Dams in Washington County, are managed by the Fish and Boat Commission.

The spillway at Dutch Fork Lake was breached following Hurricane Ivan. Rebuilding this dam will be an expensive project.

Canonsburg Lake's dam, while not unsafe, is included because it was not built to today's standards. Repairs would include anchoring the dam to bedrock and modifying the spillway.

The value of Canonsburg Lake as a regional asset is underscored by the Fish and Boat Commission. The Commission's fact sheet says that "*Canonsburg lake is visited more than 22,500 times a year and the resulting fishing and boating economic impact is estimated to be \$2.0 million annually.*"

## ChCWA SPRING WATER QUALITY MONITORING

On May 1, 2008, Tom Smith and Kevin LaFrance met Chartiers Creek Watershed Association volunteer Jean Bear to test Chartiers Creek's water quality at Station 4, outside Washington.

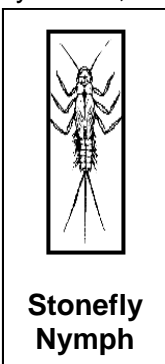
The two men work at Coca Cola's DASANI water bottling facility in Washington and have had extensive experience in doing chemical tests on water.



Tom Smith (on left) and Kevin LaFrance with kick net used for collecting macros

In addition to the tests for certain chemicals, the volunteers also collected and identified macro-invertebrates, the small creatures that live in streams. While counting the macros, the team

was excited to find eggs and some hatchlings, probably tiny minnows. The count included a stonefly and mayfly nymphs, caddis fly larvae, and other more common macroinvertebrates. (The types and numbers of macros tell us a lot about the water quality of a stream.)



Stonefly Nymph

During the chemical testing, which was performed in record time, Tom and Kevin proposed to recruit a team of co-workers who could spend a day testing at all four of the Association's stations, four times each year. The DASANI Production Center of Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. recently became a member of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, one way in which the company has expressed its interest in becoming more involved in stewardship and sustainability of environmental resources.

The team could also conduct macro studies at the sites in spring and fall.

*Jean Bear*

Jean Bear also took the lead in monitoring at other sites in the Chartiers Creek Watershed.

On May 3, Jean was joined by Carrilee Hemington and Joan Jessen in monitoring ChCWA's site on Little Chartiers Creek next to Linden Road. While the macro count here was lower than normal, the types of macros and the results of the chemical testing confirmed the good water quality of this stream.

On May 9, Jean, Kevin LaFrance, Art Kaste and Chris Inman tested the water quality at a site on Chartiers Creek in Houston. Again, the macro count was somewhat low. As is usual with the main creek, water quality needs to be improved.

And on May 16, the same group checked out a new site at Mounts Road. As the creek here was running high and muddy, only one macro sample was taken. Even so, the sample contained a large number of macros, indicating good water quality, and the chemical test results also were good.

In addition to the usual spring monitoring, Jean checked out a small wetlands site at Rt. 18 North and Welch Road. A neighbor had been concerned that the area seemed to be lacking the usual wetland creatures. The testing went well, however, with good results both for macros and chemicals.

### Canonsburg Lake, cont. from pg. 1

The main feature of these improvements will be construction of a foot-bridge across a swale. The steep sides of this depression have discouraged use of the trail.

The Master Site Plan for recreational improvements at the lake proposes that this section should become a family-friendly, handi-cap-accessible walkway.

Sammy Furlong has been responsible for researching and planning the project. Members of Troop 228 will help build the bridge and improve the adjoining portion of the trail.