

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER, 2009

Vol. 7, #3

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NEW PROJECT: MONITORING FOR BACTERIA IN CHARTIERS CREEK

Beginning this summer, the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will take part in DEP's Citizen Volunteer Bacteria Monitoring Study.

During the summer months, two sites will be checked for fecal coliform bacteria. Two different sites will be sampled each year so as to identify potential sources of bacterial pollution. For 2009, the two locations selected are near the headwaters of Chartiers Creek.

Training for bacteriological monitoring was conducted on May 13 by Angela Bransteitter, Water Pollution Biologist for the Department of Environmental Protection, who is in charge of this program. The samples will be analyzed at the Brush Run Treatment Plant in Peters Township.

ChCWA members who will take the samples include: Carrilee Hemington, Josh Dunkle, Jean Bear, Donna Riggle, Debra Valentino, and Joan Jessen.

NEW: This newsletter—in color—is now available by email. Send email address to: jrjessen@comcast.net

CANONSBURG LAKE SUMMER PICNIC, Sat., July 18

Summer fun for the family—a picnic at Canonsburg Lake! Location: the grassy area next to the Canonsburg Lake Main Parking Lot off McDowell Lane.

On Saturday, July 18, from noon until 7 pm, the Giant Oaks Garden Club and the Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee will sponsor a picnic at Canonsburg Lake to raise funds for restoration of the lake.

Special kids' games are planned, and a Peters Township fire truck will be on site for their enjoyment. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, snacks, drinks, cookies will be for sale at modest prices.

All proceeds will benefit the effort to save Canonsburg Lake and will go towards the matching funds requirement for the Army Corps of Engineers project.

CALENDAR

JUNE

11— ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

JULY

8 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

18 — Canonsburg Lake Picnic, 12-7 pm

AUGUST

12 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

15-22 — Washington County Fair

SEPTEMBER

9 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

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

FIFTH ANNUAL WETLANDS WALK HELD ON APRIL 25

About 20 people took part in the April 25 Wetlands Walk through the North Franklin Wetlands, the fifth time that the walk has been conducted. Several participants were new to the Wetlands Walk and were very enthusiastic about the event.

Dr. Jason Kilgore, a professor at Washington and Jefferson College, assisted by his wife Pam, conducted the walk. It was a great experience for the participants, so much so that a fall wetlands walk was requested, which Dr. Kilgore has again agreed to conduct. Watch for an announcement for this fall activity.

Dr. Kilgore has undergraduate degrees in environmental science and management. He worked as a wetland ecologist for natural resource consulting companies in Michigan and Minnesota on projects that focused on delineation, permitting, designing, constructing, and monitoring of wetlands associated with the iron mining, utility, and land development (conversion) industries. Pam Kilgore is a horticulturist and landscape designer.

Dr. Kilgore returned to graduate school for a Master of Science degree in tree physiology and dendrochronology, and then a PhD in biogeography and the ecophysiology of southwestern pines. He taught at Michigan State University for a year before coming with his family (wife, son, and daughter) to Washington & Jefferson College – where he is considered the Botanist. Dr. Kilgore currently teach classes in Field Biology, Botany, Useful Plants, and Introductory Biology. The family lives in Washington, walking distance from W&J, Washington Park Elementary School, two libraries, and the Farmers' Market, "so we're all set"!

Reported by Carrilee Hemington, ChCWA treasurer, who hosted the event

PEDAL POWER 2009 – BIKING TO SAVE OUR LAKE

The effort to save Canonsburg Lake has a new group of supporters. Shannon Hannegan, Angela Mavrich, Erin Hannegan and Catherine Mavrich, 4th and 5th grade students at McMurray Elementary School, will leave Peters Township on June 12 on a bike trip to Washington, D.C. to help raise funds to restore Canonsburg Lake.

Organized as the G.E.T.M.A.D. group, they are **Girls Empowered To Make A Difference**. They have chosen Canonsburg Lake as their first project and are seeking sponsors for the trip.

Sponsors can pledge either a per-mile amount or a one-time flat rate sponsorship. Sponsorship forms are available from members of the Save Canonsburg Lake Committee. Sponsors are asked to call (724-942-4435) or email (milas@pitt.edu) Carole Milas, a member of the Save Canonsburg Lake Committee, to request a form. Completed forms and donations should be sent to: Carole Milas, 104 Waterside Dr., McMurray PA 15317. All checks should be made payable to WCWA (Watershed County Watershed Alliance) - Canonsburg Lake.

YOU'RE INVITED—VISIT THE ChCWA DISPLAY AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

As is the custom, members of the Charriers Creek Watershed Association plan to be at the Washington County Fair. During Fair Week, August 15-22, they hope to be able to talk with many visitors about the association's current activities and plans for the future.

The Association's display will be located next to the Washington Conservation District's booth, along with those from other watershed groups and the Washington County Watershed Alliance.

UPDATE ON PLANS TO RESTORE CANONSBURG LAKE

Another step forward: the Feasibility Study for restoration of the upper reaches of Canonsburg Lake was approved recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It is likely that the contract between the Corps of Engineers and the projects co-sponsors, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and the Washington County Watershed Alliance, will be signed by early fall.

Once that is accomplished, detailed plans and specifications will be developed, a process that will take several months. If all goes well, restoration work could begin next spring. The project should be completed in 2011.

In the meantime, fund-raising for the required matching funds continues.

STATE FUNDS TO REPAIR DAMS?

We asked that question in last summer's issue—we are pleased to say now that the answer is YES! And that means there will continue to be a lake.

Substantial funds from the PA H2O program have been awarded for repairs to the dams at Canonsburg Lake and Dutch Fork Lake. The amount granted for Canonsburg Lake is \$1.8 million; for Dutch Fork Lake, it is \$4 million. Both of these dams are managed by the Fish and Boat Commission.

Canonsburg Lake's dam, while not unsafe, is on the list because it was not built to today's standards. Repairs are expected to include installing anchors and upgrading the dam. Core samples from the lake's bedrock were taken in May—an essential first step toward deciding just what will need to be done.



CLEANUP DAY AT CANONSBURG

The first scheduled clean-up day at Canonsburg Lake was held on April 4—a very successful day. 51 individuals signed in, some of them family groups. Also taking part were about 25 cub scouts, and 15 members of the Canon-Mac H. S. National Honor Society and EAV participated as well. F&B Commission supplied a large dumpster. One Volunteer, Matthew Smith picked up trash from a kayak – he said he read about the event in our newsletter. It was a windy, chilly day, but there was no rain.



MATTHEW SMITH



AMONG THE HELPERS: CANON-MAC STUDENTS MIKE NACKOUL, JOHNNY THOMPSON, and STEVE MARKOVICH

CHARTIERS CREEK



100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
Washington, PA 15301



CORE SAMPLING AT CANONSBURG LAKE – AN EARLY STEP TOWARD UPGRADING THE DAM (see pg. 3)

We're on the Web
www.upperchartierscreek.org

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- ◆ Canonsburg Lake Cleanup

ADDRESS CORRECTION?

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