

# CHARTIERS CREEK

## WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER, 2011

Vol. 8, #1

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### SUMMER HELP FOR ChCWA

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will benefit greatly this summer from the efforts of Max Vietmeier, a John Hamm intern employed by the Allegheny Land Trust under a grant from the John Hamm Foundation. Max will begin working in the upper Chartiers Creek watershed on June 27.

The list of projects that Max will work on includes helping with installation of the dataloggers and periodically uploading the data recorded.

Max describes himself as a native of the Pittsburgh South Hills. In his words, he "grew up in Whitehall and attended Baldwin-Whitehall School District. Constantly spending time outdoors through his childhood is where he feels his passion for the outdoors has derived. With this in mind he followed his passion and recently completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State University this spring.

"Prior to his internship with Allegheny Land Trust, he has worked multiple positions at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium as an animal husbandry and aquarist intern. With Allegheny Land Trust, Max will be completing the John Hamm Internship which has a heavy focus on the Chartiers Creek Watershed. His main projects will be to maintain and improve the Wingfield Pines Abandoned Mine Drainage facility as well as assist the Washington County Conservation District with multiple projects throughout Chartiers Creek. Max says, "I'm excited for the chance to work with and learn from multiple agencies involved with the watershed. The opportunity to make a visual difference in my community makes me excited to see what different things I can accomplish during my stay with Allegheny Land Trust."

### RESTORATION OF CANONSBURG LAKE

Plans for the restoration of Canonsburg Lake are moving forward. This progress has been aided significantly by a \$500,000 grant, awarded to the project by the PA Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCED).

The application for this grant had been submitted in 2009 through the office of Senator John Pippy.

As reported late in 2010, the project also received a substantial award of \$400,000 from Washington County's Local Share Account.

The Redevelopment Authority of Washington County, which administers the Local Share Account for the county, has now begun soliciting qualifications

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### CALENDAR

#### JUNE

27 — ALLARM Water Quality Monitoring Training, Gander Mt. Meeting Room. 9 am

27 — Joint meeting: Chartiers Cr., Buffalo Cr. Watershed Assoc., Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance, Bayer Center, WCCD Ag Office. 2 pm

#### JULY

13 — ChCWA meeting

#### AUGUST

10 — ChCWA meeting

13-20 — Washington County Fair

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

## VISIT THE ChCWA DISPLAY AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

As is the custom, members of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association plan to be at the Washington County Fair. During Fair Week, August 13-20.

The 2011 display will feature our new dataloggers, and will include information about how they work. ChCWA members also expect to talk with many visitors about the association's current activities and its 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.

### Canonsburg Lake, cont. from page 1

from engineering firms that are interested in working on the Canonsburg Lake project. The firms that seem most qualified will be interviewed and invited to submit a detailed proposal for restoring the lake. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was advertised in the Observer-Reporter on June 17. It is expected that an engineering firm will be selected before the end of summer.

Plans for upgrading the dam are also moving forward. On June 29, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission will advertise for bids for this project. Bid opening is scheduled for August 10. The Commission expects that the necessary draw-down of the lake, in preparation for work on the dam, will begin this fall.

## STREAM MONITORING WITH OUR NEW DATALOGGERS

The dataloggers that were described in our Spring, 2011 issue are gradually being installed in stream locations in several Washington County watersheds. This project will give the watershed groups and the staff at the Washington County Conservation District up-to-date information about the health of the streams.



Dataloggers are electronic devices that automatically record pH, water temperature and total dissolved solids (TDS) every 15 minutes. Periodically, the data readings are downloaded to a computer for analysis.

Any unusual readings would be examined further to try to find the cause. High TDS data, for example, might result from a spill associated with Marcellus Shale drilling. Or it could simply be due to a heavy storm after a long dry period.

The dataloggers were purchased with a grant from the Colcom Foundation.



BLUE HERON, a bird often seen at Canonsburg Lake

## BAYER CENTER'S CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECT CONTINUES

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association continues to work with the Bayer Center for Non-profit Organizations in the second year of the project to improve the effectiveness of this organization.

Late this spring, the Association's Planning Committee for the project conducted a tour of the watershed for Scott Leff, who is the Bayer Center's consultant for both the Chartiers Creek and Buffalo Creek watersheds. The purpose of the tour was to highlight some of the principal features of the watershed that the Association works with.

Still to come—on June 27 at 2 p.m. at the Conservation's District is a joint meeting of the Washington County Watershed Alliance and the Buffalo Creek and Chartiers Creek Watershed Associations. Scott Leff will attend that meeting, along with John Dawes of the Foundation for PA Watersheds, which has funded these projects. The three organizations are included because the Alliance is the tax-deductible organization for watershed groups in Washington County. The agenda for this meeting includes completing an organizational assessment, which will help both watershed groups decide on changes that will help them operate more effectively.



Dr. Jason Kilgore, leader of the Wetlands Walk, talks about the characteristics of wetlands soil

## FOLLOW-UP ON SPRING EVENTS

- ◆ Laurie Popeck reported that the **cleanup in Chartiers Township** at a site on Valley Road was a success. 340 tires, 1.92 tons of trash were collected by 15 volunteers and 3 road crew members. The cleanup, which took place on April 21, 2011, was conducted by the Washington County Affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.
- ◆ The annual Spring Wetlands Walk was held on April 9. The walk was led by Dr. Jason Kilgore, who teaches biology at W & J College. The small children who joined the walk enjoyed it as much as did their parents. Below are several photos taken by Laurie Popeck during the walk.



Home of a crayfish



Brooke Popeck, an enthusiastic walker



Some of the participants in the 2011 walk through the North Franklin Wetlands.



**CHARTIERS CREEK**

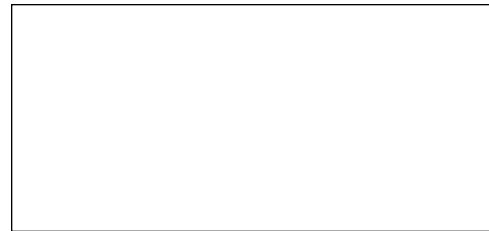


**WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION**

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Chartiers Creek  
near Houston



We're on the Web  
[www.upperchartierscreek.org](http://www.upperchartierscreek.org)

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION?**

Send to: Joan Jessen, editor  
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**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: \_\_\_\_\_