



Summer, 2012 Newsletter

Vol. 10, #3

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2012 Summer Program: Monitoring for Bacteria

For the third year Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will participate in the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Division of Water Quality Standards program of stream monitoring for bacteria. The samples collected will help DEP assess streams for recreational uses, swimming, boating, fishing—in this and other watersheds throughout the state.

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will need to create one or more teams of volunteers who can sample for two sets of consecutive 5 week periods. The more volunteers we have the more sites we can do and the less work for each volunteer. The sampling needs to be done in the morning on days when the labs are open so that is Monday through Thursday.

The protocol calls for a person to wade out to the middle of the stream channel and collect a bottle of water. The frequency of collection would be once a week for ten weeks during the recreational use sampling season (May 1st through September 30th). Samples would then need to be delivered to a local laboratory within six hours of collection for analysis.

DEP will provide training and all equipment needed except stream shoes or waders, transportation and pens. The association can provide waders and boots.

Those interested in taking part in this project are asked to call **Carrilee Hemington, 724-941-5615**, as soon as possible, so that we can make plans with DEP.

Summer Plans for Work at Canonsburg Lake

As the design for restoration of Canonsburg Lake continues to progress, the Canonsburg Lake Restoration & Improvement Committee is making plans to begin improving the trails along the western lake shore this summer.

The committee also is planning to begin a long-term project to get rid of knotweed near the North Strabane end of the causeway. Knotweed is a particularly noxious invasive plant. To ensure its permanent removal will require an effort that will extend over several years. Every bit of root must be removed or the plant will quickly grow back. Bits of root are not even acceptable at a landfill, because they can grow at the landfill and cause serious problems.

CALENDAR

JUNE

13 —ChCWA meeting

JULY

11—ChCWA meeting

Various —Stream monitoring for bacteria

AUGUST

8—ChCWA meeting

10-18 — Washington County Fair

ChCWA regular monthly meetings:
2nd Wed., 7 p.m.

2800 North Main St., Suite 105
Cooper-Hinds Building, Meadowlands.

High Hazard Dams: Program at May, 2012 Association Meeting

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association hosted an interesting guest speaker when Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, Associate Director for River Restoration, for American Rivers, addressed its May meeting.

As part of her work, Lisa has identified several high hazard dams in the upper Chartiers Creek Watershed, and noted that some of them may need to be removed before they fail.

The list includes Washington Dams 1, 2, 3, and 4, located on Chartiers Creek. (Dams 1 & 2 are below Washington Crown Center.) Dam #4 is now owned by CONSOL Energy. The company plans to upgrade the spillway and retain the lake to supply water for its drilling needs.



**WASHINGTON DAM #4,
North Franklin Township**

Another one of the dams is at Glencannon in North Strabane Township. Our speaker mentioned that failure of this dam could damage Route 19, and would also impact Canonsburg Lake. This is likely to be a million-dollar project, and finding the money to take care of it will be difficult.

The last one on the map is a small dam at Forest Lawn Gardens that has been identified as a high hazard dam. It is not, however, the kind of threat that the others pose, and probably would be retained by the owners.

Finally, as Lisa pointed out, the removal of dams can have a positive effect, because that action would restore the capacity to temporarily store water from heavy rains, thus helping to prevent or minimize flooding in downstream areas. From an environmental perspective and out of concern for our downstream neighbors, that is an important fact to consider.

Lisa also spoke of the need to improve ORSANCO (Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission), especially to broaden its power to regulate water withdrawals. At present, only withdrawals affecting drinking water supplies are required to secure permits. American Rivers advocates the regulation of all water withdrawals.

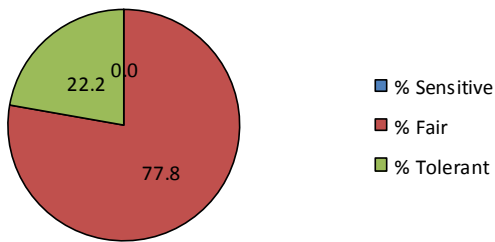
SPRING MONITORING IN OUR STREAMS

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association completed its water quality monitoring at four locations this spring, running chemical tests and identifying and counting macroinvertebrates at each of the association's established sites. Helping with the testing on Little Chartiers Creek were students from the Wesley School in Upper St. Clair. Carrilee Hemington, in charge of this project, was also assisted by Jean Bear, Tim Sheakley, Jennifer Dann and Joan Jessen. **The results:**

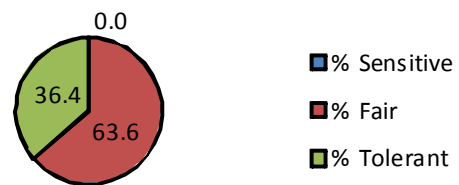
Location	Stream Name	Date	#; % of Sensitive Types	#;% of Fair Types	#;% of Tolerant Types
1. Am. Legion	Chartiers Run	5/2/12	2; 20%	5;;50%	3; 30%
2. Houston Park	Chartiers Cr.	4/21/12	0; 0%	7; 63.6%	4; 36.4%
3. Linden Cr./ Linden Rd.	Little Chartiers Cr.	4/17/12	0; 0%	7; 77.8%	22.2%
4. Scotty's Inn	Chartiers Cr.	5/5/12	1; 8.3%	6; 50.0%	5; 41.7%

Illegal fill placed within 150 feet of Little Chartiers Creek at Station #3 was noted.

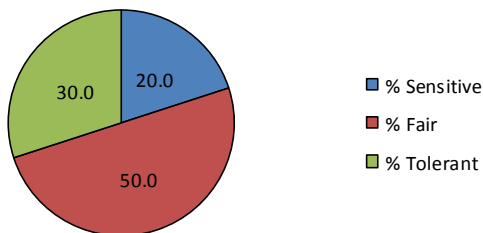
Little Chartiers Creek - April 2012



Chartiers Creek - April 2012



Chartiers Run (American Legion) - May 2012



Chartiers Creek (Scotty's) - October May 2012

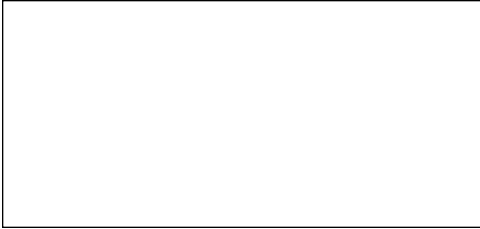




100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
Washington, PA 15301



Collecting
Macroinvertebrates
in Chartiers Creek



We're on the Web
www.upperchartierscreek.org

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- Summer Plans for Work at Canonsburg Lake
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ADDRESS CORRECTION?
Send to: Joan Jessen, editor
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317;
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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 15301

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Email: _____