

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Winter, 2007

Vol. 5, #1

MOLYCORP DONATION TO SUPPORT NORTH FRANKLIN WETLANDS PRESERVATION

At its November 8 meeting, the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association received a check for \$100,000 to provide long-term support for the North Franklin wetlands project. Jack Wright, Project Manager for the Molycorp Washington Remediation Project, presented the generous donation to Association President Susan Morgan.

It is expected that completed arrangements for preservation of the wetlands will be announced in a few weeks.



CHECK PRESENTATION From left: Sheila Burcin, Jack Wright, Barbara Rosensteel, Susan Morgan, Josh Dunkle, Joan Jessen, Jean Bear, Carrilee Hemington

2007 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

Now is a good time to renew your membership in the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association—or to sign up as a new member if you have not already joined the association.

2007 promises to be a year when significant projects are completed and new ones started. Much progress was made in 2006 on plans for the future of Canonsburg Lake, the North Franklin Wetlands project, and improvements to the canoe launch site on Chartiers Creek.

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CALENDAR

JANUARY

10—ChCWA meeting, 7:30 pm.
17 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance, Board of Directors; 7 pm, Cooper-Hinds Bldg., Meadowlands.
23 — Program: Preparing Your Garden, Greater Canonsburg Public Library; 7 pm

FEBRUARY

14— ChCWA meeting, 7 pm
21 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance, Board of Directors; 7 pm, Cooper-Hinds Bldg., Meadowlands.

MARCH

14 — ChCWA meeting, 7 pm
21 — Wash. Co. Watershed Alliance, Board of Directors; 7 pm, Cooper-Hinds Bldg., Meadowlands.
23, 24 — Ag Days at Washington Crown Center
1ba — Program on Invasive Plants at Donora Public Library.

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

2006 WCCD AWARDS PRESENTED IN DECEMBER

The Washington County Conservation District presented its annual awards in December, 2006. Two of the recipients are active in the Chartiers Creek Watershed. They are:

Conservation Educator: Sheila Burcin, one of the four original individuals who formed the Washington County Watershed Alliance, Sheila has served as an officer of that county-wide organization since the Alliance's first days. Sheila was also a major organizer of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association. She also chairs the Steering Committee and is one of the original organizers of the Washington County Children's Groundwater Festival. In addition to helping to obtain funding for the Festival, Sheila organizes the schedule for the presenters and instructors. She is the former Director of the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office.

Conservation Volunteer: Debra Valentino. Debra and several of her neighbors came to the Conservation District over five years ago asking for help to save Canonsburg Lake. She organized the Save Canonsburg Lake Committee and has hosted many meetings at her home, and at her expense, for legislators, Turnpike Commission Officials, and Fish and Boat Commission representatives, including the Executive Director. As Project Manager, Debra has been the leader in working with the District to obtain the Department

of Conservation and Natural Resources grant to prepare the Recreational Site Master Plan for Canonsburg Lake, now nearly completed.

Other awards included:

♦ **Conservation Organization: Vicky Michaels and the Independence Marsh Foundation** for their work with several abandoned mine treatment facilities and with environmental education activities with the Burgettstown School District and the Washington Co. Children's Groundwater Festival.

♦ **Conservation Consulting Firm: Biomost and Kyle Durrett**: Biomost is the Consulting Firm that completed the District's study and report on the Raccoon Creek Restoration Project that was funded by Growing Greener.

♦ **Director Service Award: Richard Lehman**: Dick Lehman, who has been a District Director since 1999, left the Board of Directors at the end of 2006. Mr. Lehman has represented the Washington County Farm Bureau and the Washington County Cattlemen's Association on the District Board and has been one of the most active Directors in the entire history of the district.

♦ **Conservation Farmer of the Year: Ray Furda**: Mr. Furda, who is in his 80's and has farmed all of his life, owns and operates a 285 acre beef and horse farm in Somerset Township, Washington County, and has been a conservation cooperator since October 17, 1949.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

ChCWA conducted three monitoring sessions last fall—one on Chartiers Run at the Houston Pumpkin Festival, the second on Little Chartiers Creek in North Strabane Township, and a third site (a new one) on Chartiers Creek near Scotty's in North Franklin Township.

The SAFE group from Peters Township High School assisted at the Little Chartiers site.

The Association has been working on a formal monitoring policy, prepared by Watershed Specialist Susie Carmichael. The policy is on the agenda for adoption in January.

Training sessions for both beginning and experienced volunteer monitors will be held in the spring.

MEMBERSHIPS, cont. from pg. 1

Old and new members will gather on January 10, 2007, the regular meeting date, to set priorities for the year and approve a calendar of events.

A membership form is on the back page of this newsletter. Send the form with your check to treasurer Carrilee Hemington, 105 Williams Dr., McMurray, PA 15317—or bring yourself and your check to the meeting.

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 was administered by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration.

TRAVELING INVASIVE PLANTS DISPLAY NOW AT W&J COLLEGE LIBRARY

Questions about invasive plants are answered at an informative traveling display. Included in the display are photos of both native plants and invasive plants. The display also features field guides of invasive plants.

Why plant native plants? Why be concerned about invasive plants? How can I recognize an invasive plant?

The display will move to Greater Canonsburg Public Library in February. Other libraries will be hosting the display after that, but the dates are not set at present.

The display was at the Fredericktown Public Library in November, 2006, and at Marianna Public Library in December, 2006.

Jean Bear, a member of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, designed the display and is in charge of the arrangements.

ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER

At the Annual Meeting of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association on December 13, Demo Agoris and Joan Jessen were reelected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

The 2007 Board includes: Tom Hart, Carrilee Hemington, Barry Piacenza (terms expire at the end of 2007); Sheila Burcin and Susan Morgan (2008); and Demo Agoris and Joan Jessen (2009).

The 2007 officers are:
President — Susan Morgan;
Vice-president — Tom Hart;
Secretary — Joan Jessen;
Treasurer — Carrilee Hemington.

PROGRESS REPORT on MOLYCORP SITE CLEANUP

Jack Wright, project manager for the cleanup of the Molycorp site in Canton township, reports that the work is moving along as planned.

On December 4, the removal of the tar left from the old Manufactured Gas Plant (MGS) began. As of December 22, more than 12,000 tons had been shipped to the Arden Landfill for disposal. MGP tar remediation of Area D1, the old foundation atop the hill, was finished on the 20th—including the complete removal of the concrete foundation walls.

Another important milestone was reached on December 15, 2006 when Penn DOT approved the sheet pile wall design to support the I-70 embankment. Sheet pile installation began on December 19 in the South Tar Pond area. Excavation of MGP Tar from this area is scheduled to start in January, 2007. This work was delayed until the winter months because the

coal tar is easier to handle and the odor is less.

During 2006, the cleanup of radioactive materials have been completed in several areas of the site. Jack Wright reports that about 6,500 cubic yards of waste material stockpiled for off-site disposal. Construction of the Transshipment Area pad is finished and rail spur improvements have been completed. Jack says, "We are very much on track for the start of radioactive material shipments to US Ecology's Grand View, ID disposal facility in mid-March '07."

Jack also said, in a recent letter to the community, "I am also pleased to announce that all of this work has been completed safely, and consistent with our goal to protect our workers and the community throughout the course of carrying out this project."

Anyone who has questions or concerns, should feel free to contact Jack Wright using the Community Information Line at 1-800-952-5504.

CHARTIERS CREEK



**WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
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; Organization, \$50; Business, \$100

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Email: _____