

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Winter, 2008

Vol. 6, #1

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WILDFLOWER IDENTIFICATION BOOKS GIVEN TO COUNTY LIBRARIES

The Washington County Watershed Alliance's display about Invasive Plants has completed its tour of Washington County's libraries. It was shown for a month at each one, including the 14 public libraries and the libraries at Washington and Jefferson College and California University.

As a follow-up to this display, the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association provided copies of Dr. Mary Joy Haywood's identification book, *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*, to each library. Jean Bear presented the books to Kathy Kennedy, Director of the Citizens Library and District Library Center, on October 23, 2007. Ms. Kennedy affixed bookplates identifying the books as gifts from the Association, and distributed them to the public libraries. Copies were sent to the college libraries as well.

The Invasive Plants display is available for other groups. A Power Point Presentation and brochures are also available, free of charge. Call Julie Sigler, WCCD Watershed Specialist, at 724-222-3060x117, to schedule a display or program.

Jean Bear

SAVING, RESTORING CANONSBURG LAKE: HIGH PRIORITY FOR 2008

For the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, as well as the Canonsburg Lake Restoration and Improvement Committee, progress on saving the lake is high on the list of goals for the new year.

The way to do that became clearer in December, 2007 when the Army Corps of Engineers presented various possibilities for lake restoration to members of the committee for their comments.

FUNDING CONCERNS

Getting the necessary funding is a critical goal for 2008. The work of the Army Corps of Engineers requires a local match of 35% of the total cost (estimated at about \$3.5 million, depending on alternatives chosen). For the Canonsburg Lake project, that match will be approximately \$1.2 million.

Cont. on pg.2

CALENDAR

JANUARY

09 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm.

FEBRUARY

13 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm.

MARCH

12 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm.

14, 15 — Ag Days, Washington Crown Center

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

Canonsburg Lake, cont. from pg. 1

The first possibility for funding involves a share of Washington County's gaming funds, and the governing bodies of Peters Township and North Strabane have sponsored the necessary application. If approved, funding for lake restoration will be assured this year. If denied, other sources must be found. If the required funding cannot be obtained, the county will lose the federal funds committed to the project.

OPTIONS FOR LAKE RESTORATION

EMH&T, the Army Corps of Engineers' consultants, offered a long list of options to address the lake's problems. The final plan will combine several alternatives to improve shallow and deepwater aquatic habitats, enhance the wetlands that have developed over the years, and restore the riparian (lake-bank) zone in several locations.

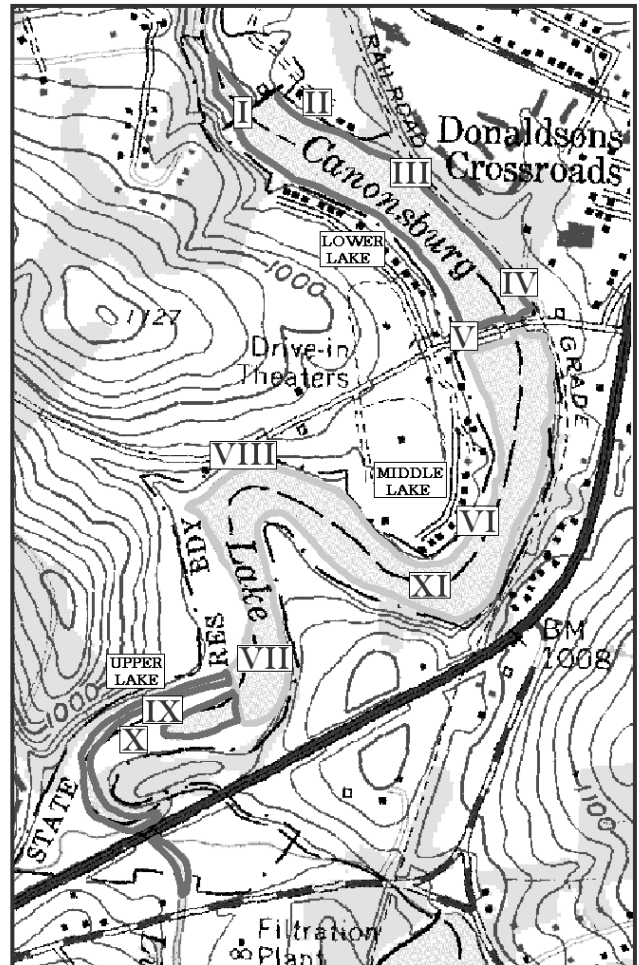
All of these measures are in keeping with the requirement of the federal program (Section 306) under which the study has been conducted. That program is limited to habitat enhancement—habitat for fish and land animals and for valuable wetland plants.

The study draft notes that fish habitats, including spawning areas and deep water areas for feeding, have been reduced greatly, due to silt and other sediments deposited in the lake. Also of concern is the reduced ability of fish to migrate from the lake to Little Chartiers Creek.

Canonsburg Lake, along with Little Chartiers Creek, is stocked with trout twice a year by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. Little Chartiers Creek, which feeds Canonsburg Lake, is classified as a High Quality Trout Stocked Fishery and is listed as a greenway in the Washington Greenways Plan. Canonsburg Lake is listed in the same plan as a hub of county importance.

The program does not address recreational improvements, such as those selected in the Master Site Plan recently completed.

But recreational benefits will occur. For example, one of the options is for dredging the main channel of the upper lake, generally along the original stream bed. The purpose is to improve deep water habitat for fish. Nevertheless, an incidental benefit for people who use the lake will be an improved channel for boating.



Canonsburg Lake

***Sketch from the Master Site Plan
for Recreational Improvements.***

***Proposed Habitat Restoration will take
place mostly in the upper lake from the
point where the lake narrows.***

ABOUT CANONSBURG LAKE

Canonsburg Lake was created in 1943 (during World War II) when Alcoa Aluminum Co. built a dam on Little Chartiers Creek. The purpose: provide power to its manufacturing plant in Canonsburg.

In 1957, the Commonwealth acquired the lake and assigned its management to the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Total size: 138 acres; size of the lake itself is 76 acres.

FROM THE 2007 CHCWA ANNUAL MEETING

Members met on December 12, 2007 to elect members of the Board of Directors and plan for the coming year.

2008 Events Planned:

The calendar will repeat several successful events of previous years, including participation in Ag Days in March, another Wetlands Walk in the spring, participation in the Alliance booth at the Washington County Fair, and a booth with activities for children and adults at the Houston Pumpkin Festival. The Association also expects to add an event or activity in early summer, but no definite plans were made. Water quality monitoring will continue in the spring and fall.

Board of Directors:

Elected to new three-year terms were Tom Hart, Carrilee Hemington and Barry Piacenza. Board members continuing in office include: Demo Agoris, Sheila Burcin, Joan Jessen, and Susan Morgan.

NEW SECTION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL TO OPEN IN 2008

Good news for all who enjoy this area's trail systems!

A new section of the Montour Trail is expected to be opened by July, 2008. Work is underway on a connecting section along Valleybrook Road in Peters and Cecil Townships. In addition, three bridges along the trail are being rehabilitated.

In this area, the route of the Montour Trail follows closely along Chartiers Creek. When construction is completed, hikers and bikers will be able to enjoy a particularly beautiful section of the creek valley.

Ned Williams, who reported on trail construction at the ChCWA Annual Meeting, noted that most of the Montour Trail in Washington County is in the Chartiers Creek Watershed. (A portion in Peters Township is in the Peters Creek Watershed.)

Ned, a member of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, is on the Board of Directors of the Montour Trail Association.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- March 23-24: Ag Days, Washington Crown Center, Washington, PA
- April 28: Annual Wetlands Walk, North Franklin Township
- Late April, early May: Semi-Annual Water Quality Monitoring
- June 9: Function at the Junction, McDonald, PA
- Aug 11-18: Display at Washington County Fair
- Sept 13: Lemonade Stand at Main St. Farmers' Market, Washington, PA
- Oct. 13: Display, demonstration at the Houston Pumpkin Festival
- Oct. 13, 15, 16: Semi-Annual Water Quality Monitoring
- Oct. 23: Copies of the Book *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania* donated to all 16 Washington County libraries.

CHARTIERS CREEK



**WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
Washington, PA 15301

We're on the Web
www.upperchartierscreek.org

Contents;

- ◆ Canonsburg Lake: High Priority for 2008
- ◆ Wildflower Identification Books Donated to Libraries
- ◆ About Canonsburg Lake
- ◆ 2007 Annual Meeting
- ◆ 2007 Highlights
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ADDRESS CORRECTION?

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