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**FOLLOW-UP:
WORKING TOGETHER
FOR OUR WATERSHEDS**

The October 28th workshop organized by the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association brought together a variety of environmental organizations to discuss how we might work more closely in our watersheds on issues of water quality, environmental education, and planning.

In addition to the ChCWA, 16 other groups were represented. They were:

- ◆ Washington County Watershed Alliance,
- ◆ Chartiers Creek Watershed Association,
- ◆ Buffalo Creek Watershed Association,
- ◆ Peters Creek Watershed Association,
- ◆ Peters Township Environmental Quality Board,
- ◆ Washington County Conservation District,
- ◆ Washington County Planning Commission,
- ◆ League of Women Voters,
- ◆ Washington & Jefferson College,
- ◆ Center for Coalfield Justice,
- ◆ Allegheny Land Trust,
- ◆ Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation,
- ◆ Energy Conservation Council,
- ◆ PA Department of Environmental Resources,
- ◆ Trout Unlimited—Chestnut Ridge Chapter,
- ◆ the Ten Mile Creek Watershed.

Much of the discussion focused on sharing water quality data that has been gathered by the individual organizations. The groups agreed that there is a need to develop a joint plan to identify the threats to good water quality and what should be sampled.

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**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
PLAN PROPOSED**

The proposed Upper Chartiers Creek Watershed Management Plan will be discussed at a special meeting on January 4 at 6 pm. The meeting will take place in the meeting room at Panera's at Trinity Point, Washington.

The proposed plan has been developed as an outcome of the technical assistance that has been provided to the Association by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Members who would like to join the discussion are asked to call 724-222-3060x117, so we can be sure to have enough seating for all.

(See page 3 for more details.)

CALENDAR

JANUARY

4 — Meeting to discuss Watershed Management Plan, open to all members. 6 pm at Panera's, Trinity Point, Washington

8 — Follow-up, Capacity Building Project, Blairsville

12 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm

tba — Workshop: Working Together for Our Watersheds

FEBRUARY

9 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm

12 — Trout Unlimited's Coldwater Conservation Corps (CCC) training at Chartiers Twp. Municipal Bldg. Social Hall, 6-9 pm.

MARCH

9 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7 pm

25, 26 — Ag Days, Wash. Crown Center

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

STREAM WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM – FALL 2010

We have added to and revised our stream monitoring program, and have several new volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who has added their name to our Volunteer List. And a special thanks to Chad Larkin, Heather Kraus, Michael Nemchik, Michelle Wuenstel, and Paula Valdisera (all W&J students) and to Ellen Mavrigh, Carrilee Hemington, Jean Bear, and Virginia McAnulty for being part of our monitoring teams this fall. We simply could not do it without you!



Volunteers at Chartiers Run: Virginia McAnulty, Michelle Wuenstel, Chad Larkin, and Laurie Popeck: measuring for stream flow

On October 29, we conducted a monitoring training session at Washington & Jefferson University for W&J student volunteers. Thanks to Dr. James March for giving us the use of the Biology Lab for the training session.

Our **regular fall monitoring** was held on November 13th, and lucky for us (especially the ones who entered the stream in hip waders to collect samples and conduct the stream flow measurements), it was a beautiful sunny, warm day. We conducted monitoring at 6 sites: upper Chartiers Creek (by Scotties), downstream Chartiers Creek (in Houston), upstream and downstream Little Chartiers Creek, Georges Run (Canton Twp), and Chartiers Run (American Legion Park in Houston). We measured pH, temperature, conductivity, total dissolved solids, nitrate, phosphate, chloride, alkalinity, and flow rate and volume. We would like to thank the **Houston Volunteer Fire Company** for allowing us to use their building and facilities as our place to meet and to conduct testing of the water samples

collected at the six sites.

Our **new monitoring program** was developed in response to the growing Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling occurring in our watershed. We are collecting baseline values for conductivity and total dissolved solids (TDS) at the 6 established monitoring sites in order to be able to detect any spikes in these two parameters that may occur as a result of drilling activities. Drilling fluids have very high TDS and conductivity, which can be detected with field meters. However, there are other sources of high TDS and conductivity that are not related to drilling. Thus, as an added check, baseline values will be obtained for barium and strontium -- two elements which are present in drilling fluids but in very few other sources.

We would like to conduct the TDS/Conductivity testing once a week, but to do that we need many additional volunteers. There are many ways you can participate. If you live near of the streams, you could volunteer to do only that stream, and to conduct the monitoring once a week. If you don't have a lot of time, but would like to help, you can volunteer to do one day a month at one or several streams. Or any other combination of time and stream monitoring sites is possible. A short training session will teach you what you need to know.

If you would like to volunteer, or if you have any suggestions for additional monitoring sites, please contact us.

Barbara Rosensteel

NOTE: the fall macroinvertebrate monitoring was conducted on Nov. 20 under the direction of Jean Bear, assisted by Carrilee Hemington, Joan Jessen, and Laurie Popeck and her children).



Collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTED BY WESTERN PA CONSERVANCY

The first phase of technical assistance provided by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will draw to a close with approval of a new watershed management plan for Chartiers Creek.

The draft plan will be discussed at a special meeting to be held at the meeting room at Panera's at Trinity Point. The meeting will begin at 6 pm.

As mentioned on page 1, members are welcome to attend the meeting. If interested, please call 724-222-3060x117—we want to be sure that there will be sufficient seating to accommodate all.

The draft plan describes the process used to identify threats to watershed resources. It also includes a number of maps of particular features of the watershed, such as forested areas and agricultural areas. One map will especially interest residents: it shows oil and gas development in the Washington County portion of the watershed.

A copy of the draft Water Management plan will be posted on the website of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association. The website address is: www.upperchartierscreek.org.

GEARING UP FOR THE NEW YEAR

Election of members of the 2011 Board of Directors took place at the December, 2010 meeting. The directors include: Josh Dunkle, Carrilee Hemington, Joan Jessen, Virginia McAnulty, Susan Morgan, Laurie Popeck, and Barbara Rosensteel. Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors at their January 12 meeting.

Treasurer Joan Jessen presented a preliminary budget for 2011. The final budget will be discussed and adopted at the January 12 meeting.

Also presented at the December meeting was the 2010 Annual Report. A copy is included with this newsletter.

TRAINING FOR MONITORS

The Mountain Watershed Association is sponsoring a series of Visual Assessment Training workshops which provide information on permit tracking, air and water pollution, using Fractracker, safety and filing a complaint with DEP.

One of the workshops will be held in Washington County on February 12, 6-9 pm in Room 107 of the Burnett Building at W & J College. Local sponsors are the Buffalo Creek Watershed Association, Center for Coalfield Justice, and the Washington County Watershed Alliance.

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Areas of most interest included:

- ◆ Water Monitoring and Data Management;
- ◆ Outreach and Education
- ◆ Formation of an Upper Ohio River Basin Commission
- ◆ Recruitment and retention of volunteers
- ◆ County Stormwater Management Plan Implementation
- ◆ Monitoring Marcellus Shale Activities (which could be merged with a Water Quality group.)

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will proceed with organizing task forces and plans to schedule a follow-up meeting in January.

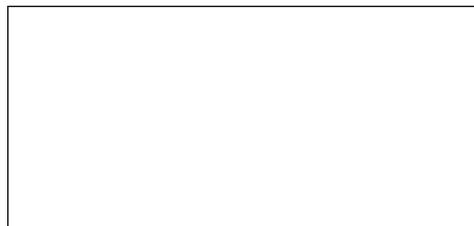
Financial support for this newsletter is provided in part by the Dominion Foundation which is dedicated to the economic, physical, and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies. This grant program was administered by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration.



100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
Washington, PA 15301



**Carrilee Hemington and
Jean Bear collecting
macroinvertebrates from
Chartiers Creek**



We're on the Web
www.upperchartierscreek.org

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ADDRESS CORRECTION?

Send to: Joan Jessen, editor
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317;
or email: joanjessen159@gmail.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

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
Chartiers Creek Watershed Association
Joan Jessen, treasurer
159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15301

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Email: _____