

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Summer, 2006

Vol. 4, #3

ONE MORE CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF CANONSBURG LAKE

The third public meeting for discussion of proposed recreational improvements at Canonsburg Lake will be held on June 20, 2006 at the Little Lake Theater on McDowell Lane, North Strabane. The meeting will begin at 7 pm.



This final meeting will provide one more opportunity for all those interested in the future of the lake property to review and comment on the proposed plan.. The project's Steering Committee expects to complete the Canonsburg Lake Master Site Recreational Development Plan this summer. The plan will then be sent to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for approval.

Project Manager Debra Valentino announced that representatives of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will attend the meeting. Area legislators have also been invited to attend, along with state officials who will be involved in putting the Plan's recommendations in place.

The layout of proposed recreational facilities will be on display at the meeting. Also on display--a number of maps that have been prepared for the study.

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CALENDAR

JULY

12 — ChCWA regular meeting, 7:30 pm.

AUGUST

9 — ChCWA regular meeting, 7:30 pm.

12-19 — Washington County Fair, Fairgrounds in Arden

17 — ChCWA at the Lemonade Stand, Main Street Market, So. Main St., Wash.,; 3-6 pm.

SEPTEMBER

13 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm.

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

GIRL SCOUT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT AT CANONSBURG LAKE

Junior Girl Scout Troop 1942, under the leadership of Bridget Kirwan, will soon begin a significant Community Service project at Canonsburg Lake.

Target date for the project is August 19. If that date proves unsuitable, due to scheduled family vacations, an early fall date will be announced. The meeting place for the project will be the main parking lot along McDowell Lane.

The goal of the first phase of the project is to improve the existing 1/4 mile trail that connects the two parking lots on the Peters Township side of the lake. In addition to improving the trail, activities planned for the work day include: construction and installation of bird-houses, creation of a low-maintenance perennial garden, garden crafts, memorial benches, and trail placards.

Also being planned is a special project recording the lake's history on tape and video and utilizing photographs from local residents.

Adult volunteers will be needed as well, especially to help with trail improvements, possibly including construction of a handrail.

Donations of supplies (mulch, gravel, lumber, refreshments) will be much appreciated.

To quote Bridget Kirwan: "We have hopes of making this an ongoing project to be developed over the next several years." Troop 1942 will coordinate the project.

For more information, contact:
Bridget Kirwan
128 Evergreen Drive, McMurray, PA 15317;
tel. 724-941-5681; email, oldshow@aol.com.

TRAVELING INVASIVE PLANTS DISPLAY NOW IN CHARLEROI; TO MOVE TO MONONGAHELA IN JULY

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

These are questions a gardener might ask. They are questions that can be answered at an informative traveling display. Included in the display are photos of both native plants and invasive plants. The display features field guides of invasive plants. Bonus: it tells where to get a list of deer-resistant plants.

The display is now at John K. Tener Library in Charleroi and will be moved to Monongahela Library in July. Other libraries will also be scheduled.

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

NOTE: The Canonsburg Lake Master Site Plan study is financed by a Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) Grant.

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.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR—AUG. 12-19

The days of the Washington County Fair are important dates for Washington County residents.

For the Washington County Watershed Alliance and its members, including the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, the Fair provides an opportunity to share watershed education and outreach with the hundreds of people that pass through their display.

The Alliance's exhibit, along with the Washington County Conservation District's exhibit, will be located in the air-conditioned commercial exhibit hall, on the left as you enter the side gate to the fairgrounds.

Please stop by to find out what has been happening in Washington County watersheds. See if you can name the macroinvertebrates on display. Learn about sediment erosion and how streambank restoration projects and riparian buffers minimize erosion. Find out about programs to monitor water quality.

AUGUST 17—LEMONADE FOR SALE!

On August 17 from 3:30-6:30 pm, members of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association will operate the lemonade stand at the Main Street Farmers' Market, South Main St., Washington. The Farmers Market operates on Thursdays during the summer and early fall.

This will be the second year for the Association's participation. In 2005 the lemonade stand proved to be a successful fund-raiser for the Association. We hope for similar success in 2006, and will appreciate your patronage.

The lemonade stand is sponsored and organized by the Washington Kiwanis Club.

FUNDS RECEIVED FOR WORK AT CANONSBURG LAKE

All concerned about the future of Canonsburg Lake have been encouraged greatly by a federal allocation of \$250,000 to the Army Corps of Engineers for its feasibility study.

Rep. Tim Murphy recently presented a mock check for that amount to the Washington County Commissioners, representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers and members of the Canonsburg Lake Steering Committee.

FYI — For Your Information

Building Sustainable Communities Fact Sheets

This is an excellent set of fact sheets! While written for Illinois, this set of 13 4-page fact sheets on a range of community sustainability issues are broadly applicable.

Many of the fact sheets address low impact development, aquatic habitat conservation, conservation development, and other WQ aspects of smart growth. They are excellent, and most communities could benefit greatly from having publications like these to promote community sustainability. They really wouldn't need to be modified to be useable in most locations.

More generally, you can search broadly around the web sites for www.nipc.org as well as www.growingsensibly.org and find many useful resources.

CHARTIERS CREEK



**WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

100 West Beau Street, Suite 105
Washington, PA 15301



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- ◆ Funds for Work at Canonsburg Lake
- ◆ Fact Sheets—Building Sustainable Communities

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

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
Chartiers Creek Watershed Association
Carrilee Hemington, treasurer
107 Williams Drive, McMurray, PA 15301

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ Email: _____