

CHARTIERS CREEK

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

WINTER, 2009

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NEW COMMUNITY RECYCLING PROGRAM IS PLANNED

Plans are in the works for a major recycling event, probably in the spring of 2009. Along with the usual paper, cardboard and plastic items, auto batteries and electronics would also be accepted for recycling.

The first such recycling event, sponsored by the DASANI Production Center of Coca Cola Enterprises, Inc., was held October 3-4, 2008. Chris Inman, one of the members of the DASANI water quality monitoring team, was in charge of the event.

The collection was free of charge and open to the public. Accepted were plastics #1-7, from bottles to toys and gym sets; all kinds of papers including cardboard, waxed paper, and phone books; and all metals. Glass of any color was taken. Mixed items, such as metal lawn chairs with plastic seats, or other combinations of metal, plastic and paper were also accepted, and auto batteries were recycled. Electronics such as printers and monitors were taken, but no major household appliances. No hazardous chemicals or liquids were accepted.

During the two-day event, 2,600 pounds of materials were accepted; this represented well over a ton of material diverted from landfill to recycling. At the local DASANI plant, all solid waste generated on a daily basis is 100% recycled, according to Mr. Inman.

Participants will be asked to rinse all containers to prevent contamination. So, please save your recyclables, check this newsletter for further details, and phone Chris Inman at 724-250-2865 if you have questions.

PLANNING FOR 2009

Are there special events that you would like the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association to schedule during the coming year? Are there particular issues you think that the Association should focus on?

These are questions that will be addressed at the Association's first meeting of the new year. The meeting will be held on January 14 at 7:30 pm at the WCCD office in Meadowlands.

In addition to planning for the year's activities, the 2009 budget will be discussed and adopted, and officers and directors will be elected.

Members who cannot attend the meeting are urged to send their ideas in advance to secretary Joan Jessen (email: jrjessen@comcast.net; or: 159 Canterbury Lane, McMurray, PA 15317.)

CALENDAR

JANUARY

14 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY

11 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm

MARCH

11 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:00 pm
13, 14 — Ag Days at Wash. Crown Center

APRIL

8 — ChCWA monthly meeting, 7:30 pm

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

STATUS OF CANONSBURG LAKE PROJECT

The Save Canonsburg Lake Committee has been working steadily on raising the matching funds that are required to move forward with restoration of Canonsburg Lake.

OUR 2008 HEROES: Peters and North Strabane Townships, each of which has pledged \$100,000 as its portion of the matching funds.

By way of review: the US Army Corps of Engineers has been conducting a Feasibility Study for restoration of the Canonsburg Lake ecosystems. The plans being developed will provide for improved habitat for many different forms of life, primarily fish and other aquatic life. Doing so will also improve habitat for plants, birds, and animals.

The program under which the Corps of Engineers is operating requires that the local community match the federal funds dollar for dollar.

Which is what the Save Canonsburg Lake Committee has primarily been attempting for much of 2008. And it is what the committee will be doing for the next several months.

To date, in addition to seeking funds from the townships, the committee has submitted an application for a portion of Washington County's gaming funds, the Local Share Account. A decision on that application will be made early this spring.

The committee has also applied to area foundations, and some corporations. Additional solicitations are planned for this winter and spring.

NOTE: The Corps' timetable provides for a period of public comment once the Feasibility Study's Final Draft is complete. Check our website: www.upperchartierscreek.org to view the Final Draft and to find out where to send comments.

Financial support for this issue of the newsletter 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's Watershed Assistance Center. Through the Center, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy committed to its core mission of conserving water, land, and life.

JOIN — OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Here is a reminder that 2009 dues for membership in the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association are due!

Please send your renewal or new membership to our treasurer Carrilee Hemington (107 Williams Drive, McMurray, PA 15301). Basic dues for individuals are \$10.00 per year. For family memberships, dues are \$15; and for organization, \$50

For your convenience, there is a dues form on the back page of this newsletter.

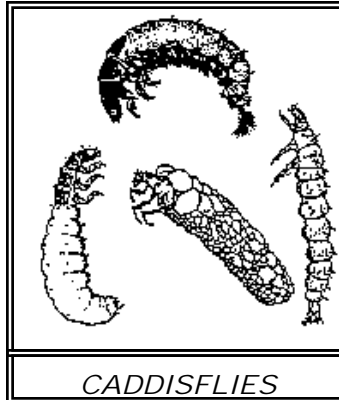
THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- March 21-22: Ag Days, Washington Crown Center, Washington, PA
- April 12-13 and 19 - Canonsburg Lake Display and Tent Sale
- April 26 - Annual Wetlands Walk.
- May 1, 3, 9 - Water Quality Monitoring
- June 14, 28 – Display and sale at North Strabane Spring Fling and Peters Township Community Day
- June 28, 08 – V.I.P. Reception at Bruschetta's Restaurant Al Lago
- Aug 8, 2008 – Washington Co. Fair
- Sept 4, 2008 – Fund-raiser—Lemonade Stand at Main St. Farmers' Market
- Oct 10-12, 2008 – Display at Houston Pumpkin Festival
- Oct. 24, 28 — Water Quality Monitoring
- Oct. 26 —Final Public Meeting on Canonsburg Lake Feasibility Study

ChCWA WATER QUALITY MONITORING

On Friday, October 24, 2008 Josh Dunkle, Jean Bear, Chris Inman, and Art Kaste ran chemical tests and conducted macroinvertebrate counts at two stations in the Chartiers Creek Watershed. Water levels were rather low due to the dry fall weather.

The first group of tests was run at Scotty's, just off Route 18 south of Washington. Chris and Art found most chemicals in the usual concentrations, except that phosphate, sulfate, and manganese levels had increased dramatically. Josh and Jean stomped around in three riffles, dislodging macroinvertebrates from underwater rocks. A look at the net afterwards showed a young crayfish, several aquatic sowbugs, riffle beetles, water boatmen, caddisfly larvae, and Mayfly nymphs. Planaria were plentiful, with 59 being counted.



Two fascinating damselfly nymphs created a sensation when they appeared.

Farther upstream, where Mounts Road crosses the creek, the teams tested again. Here, phosphate, sulfate, and chloride levels were much higher than seen before. The macro count here revealed a snail, a damselfly, a crayfish, some midges, riffle beetles, tubifex worms, leeches, and a huge population of planaria.

On Tuesday, October 28, despite cold, drizzly weather, Chris, Art, and Jean were joined by Tom Smith and Kevin LaFrance. The monitors met at the ballfield in Houston. Here, after a rainy weekend, the chemical tests results were not so unusual. The macro count included uncountable caddisfly larvae as well as

some fingernail clams, planaria, sowbugs, midges, and an alderfly larva. A big crane fly larva escaped from the group's "critter corral" and was last seen creeping through the wet grass towards the stream.

Rainfall increased as the team prepared to set up at the last site, on Little Chartiers at Linden Creek Road. Tom, who lives not far away, offered the use of his garage. Everybody was glad to get inside. Water samples showed fairly typical

concentrations for the site, and the macro varieties here showed water pennies, stonefly and Mayfly nymphs, clams, leeches, planaria, and hundreds of caddisfly larvae. As usual, this site seemed to have the most variety of critters requiring good water.

Finally, the HACH kit was cleaned up, results were tallied, and the last of the critters were released to their homes. "TEAM DASANI," as Jean calls Art, Chris, Kevin and Tom, donated a set of four new sample bottles to the kit, courtesy of Coca Cola Enterprises, Inc. They also plan to provide the distilled water we need for rinsing the equipment after our tests.

The volunteers plan to do chemical testing at the four sites again in January. Both chemical testing and macro counting are planned for April.

If any of our readers out there would like to join the excitement, please call Jean at 724-345-3503.

Jean Bear

CHARTIERS CREEK



**WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION?

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