



Volume VII Number 1

The Newsletter of the Shermans Creek Conservation Association

www.shermanscreek.org

May 2006

Southern Perry County Watershed Conservation Plan

SCCA is working on a new project through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Rivers Conservation Program. The goal is to develop a comprehensive, publicly driven watershed conservation plan for the watersheds in southern Perry County, including Shermans Creek, Little Juniata Creek, Fishing Creek, and the Susquehanna tributaries between Duncannon and Marysville. Central PA Conservancy (CPC) will serve as the consultant for this project, and the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring will be a partner in this endeavor.

The Rivers Conservation Program will provide technical and financial assistance to municipalities of these watersheds to develop a Rivers Conservation Plan. The purpose of this plan will be to identify significant natural, recreational and cultural resources, and to determine methods preserve, restore, and protect them.

One of the main purposes of the plan will be to highlight the need for sound land use practices and comprehensive planning that incorporates open space protection and natural resource conservation. Perry County is facing pressure from sprawl and housing developments which are replacing prime farmland and forested mountainsides. Many of our rural municipal governments do not have adequate land use regulations in place to guide growth and development. All of this affects our waterways and watersheds. Sound land use planning now will ensure that Perry County's recreational opportunities, rural landscape and watersheds will be conserved for future generations.

The plan will support acquisition and protection of the Appalachian Trail Corridor within the watershed. It will also address further protection of the Kittatinny Ridge Important Bird Area (IBA). Riparian buffer protection and agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) will be a major emphasis of the Plan. Floodplains will be considered important natural areas and water quality protection areas that should not be developed.

When the Plan has been completed and has received the support of the local municipalities, it will be nominated to the PA Rivers Registry. Registry status is required for SCCA to obtain grants for implementation, development or land acquisition.

A Steering Committee has been formed to provide support to these communities in the development stage of the Plan. The Committee will disseminate information provided by land owners, farmers, and community members through a series of public meetings, presentations, newsletters, and surveys. (See related article inside.)

SCCA will be working on this plan for the next two years. For more information, or to volunteer your help in this large undertaking, call 582-3376.

SCCA Web Site

Our web site is www.shermanscreek.org.

You will find more detailed information regarding the CPC/DCNR Grant, as well as other interesting information here. Check it out!

The Grant in Motion

In November, 2005, key partners in the Grant began a series of organizational meetings to assess the Grant requirements and to delineate the scope of the work. Local municipalities were approached, requesting their support. The goal was to recruit volunteers for a Steering Committee. Many phone calls, emails, and conversations later, the Steering Committee was a reality.

The Steering Committee is composed of local community members. Their task is to be the "environmental eyes and ears" for their municipal officials.

On May 2nd, representatives from the CPC, SCCA, ALLARM, and the Perry County Conservation District along with some Steering Committee members met in New Bloomfield with Senator Cornman. The purpose of the meeting was to establish the goals and schedule for the group. Matt Huff, Lauren Imgrund and Linda Sieber were chosen as Project Advisors.

The group will be hosting the first public meeting for the Grant in June. This will be a casual forum

for the community to consider the importance of the health of the watershed. The Committee will solicit input from the community on concerns regarding water quality issues and other watershed issues. The goal is to develop a picture of the current health of Shermans Creek, Fishing Creek, and Little Juniata Creek watersheds, and then prioritize possible projects and quality of life issues brought to light at the meeting.

During the next few months a survey will be developed and sent to all residents of the three watersheds, as well as to the municipal officials. Please keep an eye open for this, and take a few moments to complete it and return it to us. Your input is valuable.

SCCA will be posting updates on the progress of this grant application process and the Steering Committee activity on the SCCA website, www.shermanscreek.org.

2006 Shermans Creek Heron Crock

Blue & White Stoneware Crock by Eldreth Pottery.
Second in the Shermans Creek Series

\$26.00 Each – Immediate delivery.
Crock approximately 6" tall.

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Limited number remaining – order yours before they are all gone!

How Can You Get Involved?

- Attend our public meeting to share your concerns and to help us prioritize future projects.
- Volunteer! We organize events of all types, and there are opportunities for everyone to participate.
- Stay informed by attending municipality and township meetings.
- Share this newsletter with a friend who may be interested.
- Educate yourself on the governing laws and regulations of your township or municipality.
- Preserve open spaces to control urban sprawl.
- Recycle.
- Walk or bike instead of always driving.
- Use vinegar to kill weeds instead of chemicals.
- Use a push mower and mow less often.
- Rake the leaves by hand instead of using a leaf blower.
- Recognize that we all have an impact!

2006 Schedule of Meetings & Events

SCCA Meetings are held at 7pm at the Carroll Township Building on Rambo Hill Road. 2006

May 20 Creek Cleanup

May 22 SCCA Meeting

June 20 7:00 Carroll Twp. Bldg

CPC Grant -- Public Meeting

July Macro-Invertebrate Training Workshop

July 24 SCCA Meeting

August Event to be scheduled

September 25 SCCA meeting

September Kids Creek Day at Hidden Valley

November 13 SCCA Meeting.

Community is invited to attend

Shermans Creek Cleanup

Sponsored by SCCA

Saturday, May 20th, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

To register, contact Linda Sieber (582-3376) or Janet Smith (582-2515)

Meet at the new Mt. View Bridge site on Mt. View Road, Shermans Dale.

Lunch will be provided by SCCA.

Be sure to wear creek shoes or sturdy boots and work gloves

Note: If you have a canoe, please bring it along!

(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Special thanks to Greg Deimler at Perry County Metals for trash removal.

SHERMANS CREEK CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
385 Dark Hollow Road
Shermans Dale, PA 17090

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Shermans Creek Conservation Association

Membership Form

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_____ Individual Membership \$10.00

_____ Family Membership \$15.00 _____ Organization \$40.00

_____ Donation *All donations are tax deductible.*

RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO: SCCA Membership
385 Dark Hollow Road
Shermans Dale, PA 17090
(717) 582-3376

Mission Statement

The SCCA is a non-political association founded by a group of residents interested in the quality of Shermans Creek.

The SCCA's main concern is the quality of life and the healthy economic development of the Watershed. We hope to maintain a natural environment while providing for the inevitable development of our rural area.

The SCCA is dedicated to protecting the Creek and to providing environmental education to the residents of the Watershed

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