

Hi!

Welcome to the first monthly email update from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association! You are receiving this email because you are or had been a member in recent years (Thanks!). If you haven't already, please renew your membership – we need your support and volunteers! For a membership form, please go to <http://www.shermanscreek.org/application.htm>. Look out for a newsletter coming to your mailbox this May.

SCCA Announcements, Meetings and Upcoming Events

Did you know that 10 people volunteer their time every month to sample the water quality in the Shermans Creek Watershed? This monitoring program, sponsored by SCCA and ALLARM (The Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring at Dickinson College), has been going on for 9 years. We are currently looking for monitors in the Blain and Cisna Run area. In January, ALLARM ran a Data Interpretation workshop for SCCA. The workshop was a great learning experience and revealed that some areas of the watershed have increased levels of nitrate as well as bacteria in our streams. SCCA will continue to monitor these streams and try to pinpoint solutions to reduce these levels. We'll keep you updated and informed in future newsletters and monthly updates. We are also in the process of redesigning our Monitoring Plan, especially to address these new issues that have come to our attention. How can you help? Nitrate and bacterial pollution can come from many sources. Regular maintenance of your septic systems and reducing rainwater runoff into streams are two important examples of how the typical homeowner can help out. Keep on the lookout for more from SCCA on our new Healthy Yard Initiative and how we all can pitch in.

If interested in volunteering for helping with any of the following events (in blue/italics), please contact SCCA at shermanscreek@embarqmail.com or call Linda Sieber at 582-3376.

Perry County Envirothon – May 6, 2009

The 2009 Perry County Envirothon will be held at Hall's Dairy Farm just west of Millerstown on Monday May 6, 2009. Students in grades 9-12 will be competing on a team of 3-5 team members. Testing stations are: Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Soils and Land Use, Forestry and Biodiversity in a Changing World. SCCA will be providing volunteers for the day.

SCCA Members and Community Meeting – May 11, 2009

Meetings are generally held the third Monday of each month (May is an exception due to a scheduling conflict and November is another exception due to hunting season). Meetings usually involve a summary of recent past events and upcoming events that require some volunteers, as well as ideas for newsletters, grants, educational workshops, working with school districts and community partners, and much more! Meetings are held in the Carroll Township Municipal Building at 40 Rambo Road in Shermans Dale from 7PM – 8PM. Members and non-members invited to attend.

Oliver Perry District of the Keystone Area Council: Boy Scouts are having their Spring Camporee this year at Little Buffalo State Park and its theme is fishing. The dates for the event are May 15, 16, & 17th. Volunteers are needed for Sat. May 16th 8AM-3PM.

Shermans Creek Clean-Up – June 6, 2009 (rain date June 13, 2009)

Join us for our annual clean up on Shermans Creek - this year from Drumgold's Corner to the Dellville covered bridge. The clean up is done primarily by canoe or kayak, but we also need help on land. If you do not own a canoe or kayak, SCCA will provide one to all of those who sign up ahead of time. Food and drink will also be provided for those who register. More details to come in your inbox soon!

Perry County Fair – August 25 – 29, 2009

Look for the SCCA booth at the county fair! Stop by and say hello and let us thank you for being a member. If you would like to volunteer to help man the booth, please contact us!

Other items of interest in Perry County and surrounding areas...

Perry County Recycles!

Every township has a designated drop off site (and some localities even have curb-side pick up). Please remember to recycle and thank the volunteers at each site! For recycling in your community, find a schedule on Perry County Conservation District's webpage or click here <http://www.perrycd.org/per-consdist/lib/per-consdist/recycle/090608perrycountyrecyclinginfo.pdf>. Also, there will be an electronics recycling event coming up this summer. Stay tuned for details!

PA Cleanways – Illegal Dump Clean Up

PA Cleanways and the Perry County Conservation District is conducting a clean up of litter and other debris at a dumpsite on Boots Hollow Road in Ickesburg. This is the second day of the clean up and volunteers are needed to help out! The clean up is on April 18, 2009 from 9AM – 1 PM (lunch is provided). Registration deadline is April 16, 2009. A flyer is attached to this email for directions and more details. Please contact Sue Urcheck at surcheck@pacleanways.org or Sally Tengeres at stengeres@perryco.org for more information.

2009 Tree Seedling Sale

The Perry County Conservation District is holding its annual tree sale on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 from 10AM to 6PM in front of the Old Jail on McClure Street in New Bloomfield. Trees should have been ordered by March 27, 2009; however, a limited supply will be available for purchase the day of the event. For more details, visit Perry County Conservation District's webpage or click here for 2009 Tree Seedling Sale Order Form http://www.perrycd.org/per-consdist/lib/per-consdist/tree_sale/2009_tree_seedling_sale.pdf.

Solution for High Gas Prices

There are so many commuting options, check out www.PACommuterServices.com or call 1-866-579-RIDE for information on anything from a ride matching program to set up car pools to suggestions on how to arrange your work schedule. At the website, you can even find a calculator to show how much your commute costs. Their carpool and vanpool programs are confidential and offer options for rides home in case of family emergencies. The ride match program and other services are FREE.

Have a Happy Earth Day on April 22nd!

Shermans Creek Conservation Association

If you do not wish to receive future monthly updates or other announcements from SCCA, please respond to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the Subject Line. If you have any comments/suggestions or even announcements you would like included, please email us as shermanscreek@embarqmail.com