

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

April is the 1st anniversary of SCCA's e-update, but more importantly - Happy 40th Anniversary Earth Day! Ever wonder exactly how Earth Day started? Read its history, written by Earth Day's founder at this link <http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>. To celebrate Earth Day's 40th Anniversary, SCCA encourages you to join other Pennsylvanians and participate in iConservePA's Earth Day 40 Challenge. For 40 days between Earth Day and June 1, see if you can tick off 40 new conservation actions and make them stick. The Challenge kicks off Earth Week with an online registration and commitment form. For those who complete some of their actions, there are entered into drawings for "green" prizes. Visit www.iConservePA.com to register and find out more!

SCCA Announcements, Meetings and Upcoming Events

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. For a membership form, please print and mail the form found on our website at <http://www.shermanscreek.org/application.htm>.

Kids Creek Day with ALLARM – July 15, 2010

Bring the family to splash around in Shermans Creek (and learn a few things doing it). ALLARM will be conducting a kids creek day with SCCA – time, location, and more info coming soon.

Attention Stream Monitors – 2010 QA/QC Scheduled!!

Letter and sampling whirl pak bags will be delivered in the mail. Monitors, mark your calendars – June sampling event will be a QA/QC event to ensure the validity of your samples throughout the year.

SCCA mentioned in the National Science for Citizens Blog

SCCA Stream Monitoring Program is a registered project on scienceforcitizens.net. The website is a collection of varying types of projects that are completed by citizens throughout the country. SCCA program can be found at this link <http://scienceforcitizens.net/project/114/>. The administrators of the website write a blog where SCCA got a mention – read it here <http://www.scienceforcitizens.net/blog/2010/03/valiant-volunteers-watch-out-for-our-water/>.

Wildlife Monitors Needed – Nature Abounds Program

SCCA is offering an additional new volunteer program to our watershed residents! As a Watch the Wild™ volunteer, you observe and report what is taking place in your community, from trees and plants to weather and wildlife activity. In as little as ten minutes, your observations help us to understand how our eco-systems are changing and helps us to adapt for the future. Read more about it on the Watch the Wild website <http://www.natureabounds.org/watchthewild/index.htm>. Monitoring consists of filling out an observation form, as well as taking photos. Interested? Let us know if you'd like to volunteer. If you have a site in mind, that's great! If not, we can work with you to find one close to your home.

2010 SCCA Memberships Needed!!!

There is still a great need to provide our community with educational projects-especially our children's educational programs, watershed newsletters and stream preservation efforts to insure a healthy future for the state of the Shermans Creek Watershed. The SCCA is looking for people and youth who want to contribute to their community protection but also for those who want to learn more about the environment around them. Renew your 2010 membership or join our group by completing the attached form and send it to the address provided, for the SCCA to continue with our mission to protect and preserve our watershed and rural way of life. Thanks for your support!

Shermans Creek 2010 Crocks are in – limited supply remaining!

These crocks were again designed by Keaton's pottery and exhibit a beautiful cattail design. Don't miss out; if you didn't pre-order, there is a limited supply available of your 2010 Shermans Creek collectible crocks! Fill out order form and mail with \$29 (per crock) payment to SCCA, 385 Dark Hollow Road, Shermans Dale, PA 17090.

SCCA is on FACEBOOK!

We've created a group on Facebook – another way to update everyone on events, environmental happenings, and other issues in Perry County. Join our group and contribute to your own environmental discussions!

SCCA Members and Community Meeting Update – Next meeting May 24, 2010

Minutes are attached from the March meeting. **One item we'd like your opinion on – what kind of programs do you want to see SCCA offer – please respond!**

- Make your own Rain Barrels
- Backyard Composting
- Butterfly Program
- Bee Pollinator Program
- Native Plants
- Rain Gardens/conservation landscaping
- Macroinvertebrates
- Recycling Education
- Results of Water Quality Monitoring
- Amphibian Walks
- Energy Conservation in your home
- Water Conservation in your home
- Greening your home
- Something else we didn't mention?

Meetings are generally held the third Monday of each month. 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 50 Rambo Hill Road in Shermans Dale from 7PM – 8PM. Members and non-members invited to attend.

Shermans Creek Annual Stream Cleanup – June 5, 2010

Join us for our annual clean up on Shermans Creek - this year from Drumgold's Corner (Shortcut Road) to ending at the Mt. View Bridge at Delville Dam Rd. The clean up is done primarily by canoe or kayak, but we also need help on land. Canoes will only be reserved for those who call to register. Please wear sturdy creek shoes and bring gloves. During the float, volunteers will be collecting trash and debris from the creek and its banks. Lunch will be provided at the end of the float for all participants. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. For sign-up information, please call Linda Sieber at 717-582-3376. (rain date: Saturday, June 12th)

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

Spiral Path Farm – Community Sponsored Agriculture Sign Ups

Spiral Path Farm is located in scenic western Perry County, PA, between the Tuscarora and Blue Mountain ranges. Near the town of Loysville, the family farm consists of 188 diverse acres that have been under the Brownbeck Family care since 1978, and on which they grow a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and herbs. Spiral Path Farm's goal is to provide the best tasting, freshest, and highest nutritional value food we can grow, while maintaining the land in a fertile, non-toxic state. Spiral Path Farm is certified organic and food safety certified. Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship of mutual support and commitment between local farmers and

community members who pay the farmer an annual membership fee to cover the production costs of the farm. In turn, members receive a weekly share of the harvest during the local growing season. The weekly harvest share is delivered by Spiral Path to a pick-up location near you. To find out more and sign up for weekly delivery of fruits and vegetables, please visit their website <http://www.spiralpathfarm.com/>. Delivery season is from the week of May 18th through Thanksgiving week.

North Mountain Pastures Community Sponsored Agriculture

North Mountain Pastures sells naturally-raised meat and other food products in central Pennsylvania. Some of their products are grown on Longacre Farm in Markelsville. Other products are purchased from farmers who share sustainable farming philosophies. The NMP CSA season runs from February to June 2010, but you can join at any time. They make monthly deliveries to points in Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry counties. One difference between a meat CSA and the normal vegetable CSA is that you need to be present when the truck arrives for delivery, from 5-6 PM. For more information, visit <http://www.northmountainpastures.com/>.

Perry County Farmers Market

Did you know Perry County had a farmer's market? They do and if I'm not mistaken, its even open all year round. Its located on Route 849 (707 Newport Road, to be exact – used to be Bruce's furniture) between Duncannon and Newport. Its open Fridays 9AM – 7PM and Saturdays 8AM – 4 PM. There are local vendors indoors and out – includes furniture, flea market type items, as well as local cheese, meats, baked goods, jams, freshly canned goods, and a wide variety of other foods. Food items vary seasonally. Check it out, or become a vendor!

Spring Night Walk – April 13

Wednesday, April 13 from 7:30 – 9:00 PM at Wildwood Lake Park in Dauphin County. Guided tour on North Boardwalk through various habitats as you look and listen for frogs, owls, and other night creatures. Meet inside Olewine Nature Center – all ages welcome to attend the family program. Bring a flashlight! Pre-registration and \$5 fee per person required. www.wildwoodlake.org/events for more information.

Harrisburg's 1st Environmental Film Festival – April 15

Held at the Whittaker Center in Harrisburg (Directions see www.whittakercenter.org). The films include: Carpa Diem, A Simple Question on watershed project, The Last Desent about whitewater kayakers, Fun Theory, Piano Stairs, Split Estate on developing natural gas reserves and Fresh celebrating farmers, business people and thinkers who are re-inventing our food system. For some trailers, visit <http://www.youtube.com/HarrisburgWildScenic#p/c/FF9E1D66B86130CB>. See the following website for a list of films and more details http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/view_event.asp?CalendarID=13488&Location=List

Perry County Recycling Event – 2010 Medication Disposal – April 17

Perry and Cumberland Counties are joining together to offer their residents an unwanted and expired medication collection and disposal event on **Saturday, April 17, 2010, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Mutzabaugh's Market parking lot in Duncannon**. Current common medication disposal practices, such as flushing down the drain or toilet, are an emerging issue as studies continue to show trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies across the country. While the comprehensive risks are still unclear, researchers are finding evidence that even extremely diluted concentrations of pharmaceutical residues harm fish, frogs, and other aquatic species in the wild and impair the workings of human cells in the laboratory. See http://www.perrycd.org/per-consdist/lib/per-consdist/Medication_Collection_and_Disposal_Event_booklet_4.17.10r.pdf for more details, such as how to prepare the medication for the collection event.

Hollow Road Illegal Dump/Litter Clean Up - April 21

This cleanup will be held along Hollow Road in Greenwood Township. Volunteers should meet at 8:45 AM at the dumpsite. [From US-22/322: Take the Exit toward PA-17 Millerstown; Follow Market Street/W Juniata Parkway/State Route 1015 South for 0.5 miles; Turn Left onto Perry Valley Road/State Route 1010; Follow for 2.6 miles; Turn Right onto Hollow Road; End at Dumpsite on Left.] Volunteers will help remove litter and illegal dumping. For additional information, please contact Susan Carmichael at 877-772-3673 ext 107 or scarmichael@pacleanways.org or Sally Tengeres at 717-582-5139 or stengeres@perryco.org.

New Home Heating Equipment Rebate Program to Open April 21

The Pennsylvania Home Heating Equipment Rebate Program could help as many as 33,000 households to purchase Energy Star-rated, non-electric residential hot water heaters, furnaces and boilers. The \$11 million program is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Rebates will range from \$100 to \$500, depending on the equipment's efficiency rating. Details are available on the program's new Web site, www.paheatingrebates.com.

Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival – April 24

Saturday, April 24 from 9AM – 4 PM – downtown Mechanicsburg at the Trails & Tree Environmental Center – 1750 South Market Street (intersection of Main & Market Street) – Free Admission. Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival is Central Pennsylvania's Green, Compassionate Living, Music-Filled, Family-Friendly, Earth Day Festival. We're helping people learn what they can do for the Earth and its inhabitants. The combination of great music, empowering speakers, environmental, humanitarian and animal welfare non-profits, kids' activities and a delicious food court make for an earth-friendly experience that is sure to be inspiring and enjoyable for all.

Colonel Denning Park Clean Up – April 24

This is your chance to celebrate Earth Day 2010 by lending a helping hand at Colonel Denning State Park. Some of the projects will include: trail work, weed trimming/ flowerbeds, tanbark, tree care, painting, general cleanup and litter removal. The park will provide lunch. Meet at pavilion #1. Please call the park by April 14th if you plan to attend, 717-776-5272. Event Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Colonel Denning State Park (1599 Doubling Gap Rd., Newville).

Wetlands Festival at Wildwood Park – April 24

Dauphin County – activities from 8:30AM up until 4:00PM. Celebrate National Wetlands Month with a family festival of fun and educational activities for kids of all ages. Festival includes food, booths/stations, hands-on activities, live music, nature walks, and crafts. ZooAmerica will also be presenting with several animals. Go to <http://www.wildwoodlake.org/pdf/2010-flyer.pdf> for a schedule of events.

Vegetable Gardening 101 – Cumberland County Extension Workshop

The basics of vegetable gardening will be covered: getting your garden started with the right location, size, and planning; soil preparation; seed selection; planting seeds and transplants; growing in containers; mulching, watering, and maintenance; and harvesting. You will plant seeds and seedlings in the garden. The tips and techniques you learn can help you begin your own adventure in home vegetable gardening. This workshop will be held in the school garden, rain or shine. Workshop is held at Northside Elementary School garden, 411 North Walnut Street, Mechanicsburg on **Saturday, April 27, 10AM – 12 PM. Pre-registration by April 14th**. Visit http://cumberland.extension.psu.edu/Horticulture/VegetableGardening101_3-2010.pdf for more details.

Water Resource Webinars

Penn State Cooperation Extension is offering monthly water resource webinars. Each free webinar is offered at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the scheduled day. **April 28: Safe Drinking Water Clinic (Peter Wulfhorst, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Pike County). How to**

construct and maintain your private water well, spring or cistern to ensure safe drinking water quality including water testing strategies and water treatment methods. --May 26: Managing Your On-Lot Septic System (Dana Rizzo, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland County). Proper strategies to locate, construct, and maintain a home septic system to prevent costly failures.

You will need to pre-register to view these webinars through the Water Webinar Series webpage (<http://water.cas.psu.edu/webinars.htm>).

Spring Wildflower Walk at Little Buffalo – May 1 and May 9

Ben Ranney, Park Naturalist will lead a walk through the park looking at wildflowers in bloom. Easy hike – meet at the entertainment pavilion in the park's East Area. Program runs from 10AM – 11AM on May 1 or 3:30 – 4:30 PM on May 9 at Little Buffalo State Park (1579 State Park Road, Newport). Contact littlebuffsp@state.pa.us or 567-9255 for further information.

Penn State Master Gardeners of Perry County—Are you a keen gardener? Do you love to share your gardening knowledge to help others be more successful gardeners? Then you might be interested in the Penn State Master Gardener program. Penn State Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by Penn State Extension who assist Extension staff in providing and expanding its educational programs in consumer horticulture.

Penn State Master Gardener basic training will be held in the Capital area of Penn State Extension's Southeast region in Fall 2010. In Cumberland and Perry counties, applications for the program are being accepted now through May 31, 2010. To receive an application and additional information about the program, please contact Annette McCoy at 717-240-6500 or

ahm11@psu.edu.

Master Gardener Native Plant Festival and Sale – May 15th

Cumberland and Perry County Master Gardeners are having their annual plant sale at Trial & Idea Garden, located on the grounds of Claremont Nursing & Rehab Center in Middlesex Township near Carlisle (1000 Claremont Road, Carlisle, 17013) on Saturday, May 15th from 8:00AM – 1:00PM. For more information, see the flyer at the following link [http://cumberland.extension.psu.edu/Horticulture/MGPlantFest2010Brochure%20\(2\).pdf](http://cumberland.extension.psu.edu/Horticulture/MGPlantFest2010Brochure%20(2).pdf).

Perry County Master Gardener Plant Sale and Edu Garden Display–May 29th

The Perry County Master Gardener Committee is holding their 2nd annual Plant sale on Sat May 29th from 9:00-1:00 at the Perry County Extension Garden (in the alley next to Mama's Pizza). See our new Extension Educational Garden and learn about the Penn State Master Gardener Program. Bring your questions about plants and a plant problem to the Master Gardeners—a wealth of information is available. Also, check out our Butterfly Lady and details for planting a butterfly garden. Plant sale proceeds will provide new Perry County Master Gardener educational programs.

Morning Paddle at Little Buffalo – May 15th

From 9:30 – 11AM, join a shoreline paddle tour on Holman Lake led by Ben Ranney, Park Naturalist. Bring your own kayak or borrow one from the park. Registration is required and limited by the number of boats we have. Suitable for beginners or novices. Must be 12 years or older to participate, under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Participants must pre-register by calling 717-567-9255. Meet at the main boat launch at Little Buffalo State Park (1579 State Park Road, Newport).

Salamander Search at Little Buffalo – May 16th

Join the park naturalist for an hour of catching salamanders and learning about the different fascinating species that live in the park. Meet at the performance stage in the park's East Day

Use Area. Program runs from 3:30 – 4:30 PM at Little Buffalo State Park (1579 State Park Road, Newport). Contact littlebuffsp@state.pa.us or 567-9255 for further information.

Juniata River Sojourn

The 10th Annual Juniata River Sojourn, coordinated by the Juniata River Clean Water Partnership, is scheduled for June 12-19th on the main stem of the Juniata between Huntingdon and Newport. Full registration information will be available soon...Registration opens April 1. <http://www.jcwp.org/annual%20sojourn.htm>.

See you on Shermans Creek!!

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