

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

Hope to see some of you at our first Make your own Rain Barrel Workshop on the 22nd! If you can't make the date or the location, but would like to make one for your house, feel free to contact us for the instructions we used and some ideas of where to purchase supplies. My garden can't wait for me to make one so it can have some more water during these hot summer days – the plants are thirsty!

Fall is around the corner and is a great time for planting! And what better way to plant than to use native Pennsylvania plants (see announcements in surrounding areas for some upcoming native plant sales)! Native plants are plants that have evolved over thousands of years in a particular region. Plants native to a specific geographic region are generally very hardy and well adapted to the different soil types, rainfall, and temperature of that area and have a survival advantage which many imported plants do not have. Native plants provide a beautiful, hardy, drought resistant, low maintenance landscape while benefiting the environment. Once established, native plants generally do not require special watering, fertilizers or pesticides or lawn maintenance equipment. Many native plants not only provide beautiful flowers but their berries and seeds also provide food for birds and insects and the plants themselves provide shelter for many types of wildlife that are important in the ecosystem.

### **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](mailto: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>.

#### ***Shermans Creek 2010 Crocks Now Available for Pre-Order***

For 2010, the crocks were again designed by Keaton's pottery and exhibit a beautiful cattail design. Don't miss out, order your 2010 Shermans Creek collectible crocks! Pick up dates for the crocks will be sometime in November – plenty of time for Christmas gift giving! Fill out attached order form and mail with \$29 (per crock) payment to SCCA, 385 Dark Hollow Road, Shermans Dale, PA 17090.



#### ***Build your own rain barrel workshop – August 22, 2009***

Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from your rooftop to use later for things like lawn and garden watering (but not food gardens!). Water collected in a rain barrel would normally flow through your downspout, onto a paved surface, and eventually into a storm drain. Rain barrels save you money by conserving water, reduce water pollution, and recharges groundwater. SCCA, Carroll Township, and Perry County Master Gardeners will be putting on a make your own rain barrel workshop. Barrels were generously donated by Hershey! The Susquehanna River Basin Commission will also be available to talk about the benefits of rain barrels, as well as installation and maintenance procedures. The workshop is **free for Carroll Township residents or \$15 for all other residents** to help cover the cost of supplies. **There is still space available so sign up today by calling 582-3376.** We will make the rain barrels at the workshop, so make

sure you bring a vehicle that can hold a 55-gallon rain barrel when the workshop is over! The workshop is anticipated to run from 10AM – noon on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the **Carroll Township Community Center** (Church Road in Shermans Dale).

#### ***Perry County Fair – August 25 – 29, 2009***

Look for the SCCA with Perry County Conservation District 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 or help with a program, please contact us!

#### ***Shermans Creek Clean-Up – September 5, 2009 (Rain Date September 19, 2009)***

High water kept us out of the creek for the clean up in June, but hopefully we will have better luck in September! 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, but we also need help on land. If you do not own a canoe, 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.

#### ***SCCA Members and Community Meeting – September 28, 2009***

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

#### ***Carroll Township Community Day – October 3, 2009***

Come bring the whole family – its held at the Carroll Township Community Center on Church Road in Shermans Dale. Look for our display...we'll have our popular 3-D Enviroscape Model to "Hands-On" demonstrate run-off and pollution in our community. We'll also feature the Perry Co. Master Wildlife Gardening Display and provide hand out materials regarding pollinators and native plants, etc.

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

#### **Coins for Conservation**

Flip over the couch cushions and collect your spare change in your house! Between now and the end of October, visit any Metro Bank branch in central Pennsylvania and support the "Coins for Conservation" campaign. Look for the penny arcade machines, dump in the coins, take your receipt to the teller and tell him or her that you want to donate the money to Coins for Conservation for the PA Parks and Forests Foundation. They'll make the deposit right into the Foundation's account and give you a donation receipt. The dollars raised will support plantings, recreational equipment purchases, trailhead development, educational programming, and more. A penny saved is a penny earned.

#### **Susquehanna Water Gap Plaque Ceremony – Wednesday, September 9th**

The Susquehanna Water Gap has been recognized by the National Park Service as a National Natural Landmark. The water gap is an important place both locally and nationally for several reasons, including: Its year-round scenic beauty; It being a crossroads of migration with the intersection of the northeast-to-southwest Kittatinny Ridge Corridor and north-south Susquehanna Flyway; Well water recharge in the valley from surrounding forested ridges; Many wild habitat areas on the ridges, valley lands, and river islands. Other features of note within the water gap include the world famous Appalachian Trail, the Rockville Bridge – the longest and widest multiple stone arch railway bridge in the world; the Susquehanna River Water Trail; and historic Fort Hunter Park. DEP and the Susquehanna Water Gap Coalition are planning a rededication ceremony for the National Park Service plaque identifying the Water Gaps as a

"National Natural Landmark." The event will be September 9, at 1:00 in Marysville at the Scenic Overlook site just north of 850.

### **Audobon Native Plant Sale – Sunday, September 13th**

The Appalachian Audubon Society will host its 4th Annual Native Plant Sale on Sunday, September 13th from 11:00 am to 4 pm. The sale will take place at Meadowood Nursery, 24 Meadowood Dr. Hummelstown, rain or shine. In addition, Steven Saffier, Audubon at Home Coordinator for Audubon PA, will be on hand to provide immediate Audubon recognition to those homeowners who already provide healthy bird habitat. To qualify, a property should include 25% or more native plants, as well as sources of water, food, shelter, and nesting sites. A simple application can be filled out at the event. Official Audubon signs recognizing your Bird Habitat will also be available for approved properties. An online application for recognition, as well as further details are available at <http://pa.audubon.org/habitat/>. More details concerning the native plant sale event can be found at <http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/native-plant-sale-2009.html>. For directions or information concerning the Meadowood Nursery, please visit <http://www.meadowoodnursery.com/>.

### **The Manada Conservancy Native Plant Sale – Saturday, September 19th**

The Manada Conservancy will host its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Native Plant Sale on Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Meadowood Nursery, 24 Meadowood Dr., Hummelstown ([www.meadowoodnursery.com](http://www.meadowoodnursery.com)). Choose from a variety of native plant offerings with the help of their experts!

### **Carlisle Greenfest – Saturday, September 26th**

Carlisle Greenfest is a one-day event on September 26th designed to promote environmentally responsible businesses, organizations, non-profits, government institutions, and educational groups and give them a forum to speak out about how they have made a commitment to a greener community. This festival will encourage people from diverse backgrounds to connect in a fun and family-friendly environment with live music, informative optional sessions based on green issues, delicious food, and interactive games for kids. The event will host passionate individuals, green businesses, and nonprofit groups who are making an impact for the generations to come. It's located at LeTort Park at 260 E. Pomfret St. Carlisle, PA. See website for more details or directions to the park - <http://www.carlislegreenfest.com/>

### **Fall Eco-Fun Day – Saturday, September 26th**

The Manada Conservancy will be putting on a family eco-fun day on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM (rain date Sept. 27, same times) at Little Meadow Park (located off Union Deposit Road, between the Village of Union Deposit and the intersection of Grandview Drive) and the adjoining Manada Conservancy Nature Preserve, in Hummelstown. The afternoon will include a variety of children's hands-on crafts, educational displays, wildflower and insect nature walks led by Manada naturalists, as well as tours of our recent on-site riparian buffer planting. The event is free and open to the public; however, pre-registration is appreciated. For directions and more information please visit [www.manada.org](http://www.manada.org).

### **Native Garden Templates Available Online**

Need some guidance on planning that garden? iConservePA has recently posted new native garden templates designed by Landscape Architect Debbie Kirkpatrick to their website. Go here to see colorful, easy-to-use plan and elevation views for sunny-dry and shady-moist gardens. Be on the lookout for additional templates – <http://www.iconservepa.org/plantnatives.html>.

### **Solar Panels on New HACC Building**

A 50.5 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the new Harrisburg Area Community College Campus Square building at North Third and Reily streets in Harrisburg will prevent nearly 61,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen from entering the atmosphere each year. Solar photovoltaic systems use the heat generated by the sun to agitate electrons on the

surface of the collector. The heat and friction generated by the process creates a static charge that is captured and turned into electrical charges that are then stored or used directly through transformers and other equipment. The solar installation is just one of the alternative energy features of the Campus Square building. The complex is heated and cooled by one of the region's most advanced geothermal systems as, coming from 48 wells dug to a depth of 400 feet. The building is also being built to LEED Silver status, one of the highest ratings for energy efficiency and conservation in new construction.

### **Columbia Gas to Help Customers Find Hidden Savings Through Home Energy Audits**

This year, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania is offering its Energy Efficiency Program to homeowners who want to maximize those savings when it comes to their energy bills. Customers who sign up for the initiative receive a free home energy audit and an energy efficiency plan outlining easy, inexpensive ways to save energy. EEP audits are available exclusively to Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania customers who may not qualify for other consumption reduction programs. To qualify, a family of four must earn between \$33,076 and \$55,125 per year. For information about eligibility guidelines and program availability call 1-866-956-0308.

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](mailto:shermanscreek@embarqmail.com)*