

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

Did you know that leaks can account for, on average, 10,000 gallons of water wasted in the home every year, which is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool? Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent on their water bills. Keep your home leak-free by repairing dripping faucets, toilet valves, and showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts don't require a major investment and can be installed by do-it-yourselfers. The vast majority of leaks can be eliminated after retrofitting a household with new EPA WaterSense labeled fixtures and other high-efficiency appliances. Participate in Fix-a-Leak week March 15th-21st by visiting the EPA Watersense website and learning how to detect and fix leaks in your home.

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>.

Perry County Greenway, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

A greenway, parks, recreation, and open space plan is being developed for Perry County. Many groups (including SCCA) are involved in the plan development. Currently, the goals of the plan, as well as challenges and a list of the many opportunities Perry County has to offer, are included in the attached minutes from the October meeting.

The committee is seeking public input on the plan. The following meetings are scheduled for 7:00PM to discuss the new plan:

March 4, 2010 – Perry West meeting located at the DCNR building, west of Blain

March 11, 2010 – Perry Southeast meeting located at the Penn Township Building

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 attached 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!

New Macroinvertebrate section to the SCCA webpage

Coming in early March, check out our new macroinvertebrate section to our webpage. Click on "Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Program" on our website (www.shermanscreek.org) to see why studying macros is important to our streams!

SCCA Members and Community Meeting – March 22, 2010

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.

2010 Upcoming Events and Ideas

We're always looking for ideas for programs or events. Come out to our meetings to volunteer to help with an event or just come to brainstorm some ideas! At the September meeting, below is a list of the following events SCCA will try to plan for in 2010.

- Annual Stream Clean Up
- Rain Barrel workshops throughout Perry County
- Riparian plantings with Boy Scouts
- Earth Day Program: April 22, 2010. Plan a program for middle school age kids
- Kid's Creek Day w/ALLARM: If ALLARM students are available-week of July 11-19th, 2010
- Cold Water Fishery Initiative
- Healthy Yard Initiative w/Master Gardeners (see below). Check out Bay Scapes ideas.
- World Wide Monitoring Day- September 18th. ALLARM will provide kits at no charge.
- Awards for volunteers or other community members demonstrating environmental stewardship

Healthy Yard Initiative

"Healthy Yard" project with local Master Gardeners, using our Enviroscape Model as a means to demonstrate the proper use of pesticides and fertilizers, encourage the use of native plants, address runoff through buffers and to inspire others to create Habitat gardens & Wildlife corridors. Master Gardeners will also assist the SCCA and Perry County Conservation District with other public programs regarding storm water management, improving wildlife habitats, removing invasive species, planting native vegetation, butterfly gardens, non point source pollution, and other related topics of interest.

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...

Wildwood Winter Lecture Series: Stranger than fiction - the link between freshwater mussels and fish in eastern rivers and streams – March 2nd

William Lellis Branch Chief of the USGS-Leetown Science Center, Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory in Wellsboro PA, will examine the reproductive link between freshwater mussels and fish, and the services that intact mussel populations can provide to river ecosystem. For example, the river-wide population of eastern elliptio has the ability to filter 2-6 billion gallons of water and nearly 80 tons of sediment per day. Come listen to this informative lecture at the Olewine Nature Center (Wildwood Lake, Dauphin County) from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

No Till Drill and Planter Clinic March 11th

Reservations required by March 5th. Clinic held at Winding Brook Farm, Mr. Robert J. Burkholder, 200 Farm Lane, Millerstown, PA from 10AM to 2 PM. Reservations Required - Contact: Dave McLaughlin, 418-9408, mcdapa@pa.net or Scott Flanders 275-5111, sflanders@perryco.org. For more information visit Perry County Conservation District website (www.perrycd.org).

Fix a Leak Week – March 15th – 21st

Did you know that an American home can waste, on average, more than 10,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets, and other household leaks? Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. That's why EPA WaterSense is promoting Fix a Leak Week from March 15 to 21, 2010, to remind Americans to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. Visit their website for step by step instructions on how to detect and fix leaks – or, if you're a teacher, there are many kid's activities available for reproduction - http://www.epa.gov/watersense/water_efficiency/fix_a_leak.html.

Vernal Pool Evening Hikes March 16-18th and March 24-27th

The Nature Conservancy is offering free evening hikes at the Forest Pools Preserve @ Kings Gap (Cumberland County) and the Mount Holly Marsh Preserve (Cumberland County) to learn about vernal pools and enjoy seeing the incredible amphibian creatures that inhabit them as they congregate after their subterranean winter slumber. A great opportunity for all ages! The guided hikes are free and open to the public; however there is a limited number of spots per hike. To reserve your spot(s), please contact Molly Anderson at molly_anderson@tnc.org or (717) 232-6001, extension 117. Wear sturdy boots that you don't mind getting wet and bring your flashlight and/or headlamp and join us as we hike to vernal pools on the preserve to discover these water-loving wonders.

Tuesday, March 16th (Kings Gap)
Wednesday March 17th (Mount Holly Marsh)
Thursday, March 18th (Kings Gap)
Wednesday, March 24th (Kings Gap)
Friday, March 26th (Mount Holly Marsh)
Saturday, March 27th (Kings Gap)

Perry County Conservation District Tree Pre-order, until March 24

The District is now taking orders for its annual tree sale, up until March 24th. Proceeds benefit environmental education programs in Perry County. Visit the conservation district website (www.perrycd.org) to download an order form. Tree sale pick up date is April 8th.

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. **March 31: Managing Your Pond or Lake (Susan Boser, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Beaver County).**

Assessing pond and lake structures, testing water quality, identifying and managing aquatic plants, managing wildlife and fisheries. –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>).

Bluebird Nesting Boxes for Sale

If you are interested in helping wildlife in your own backyard, the Game Commission is now selling bluebird nesting boxes at its Harrisburg headquarters at 2001 Elmerton Avenue. The boxes sell for \$7, and customers can select from assembled boxes or kits that can be assembled as a wood-working project. Sales will continue while supplies last, and office hours are Monday-Friday from 7:45 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Game Commission's headquarters is at 2001 Elmerton Ave., just off the Progress Avenue exit of Interstate 81 in Harrisburg. To order by phone, call the Game Commission's Harrisburg office at 1-888-888-3459. For more information, visit the Game Commission's Bluebird webpage -

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=623040&mode=2> .

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Reports Reductions In Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sediment Pollution

SRBC's findings are based on analyses of flow-adjusted trends data from 1985 to 2008. Comparison of 2008 data with baseline data, collected from 1985 to 1989, also indicates reductions in sediment and nutrient loads. Nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, are point and non-point source pollutants that impair water quality. With the Susquehanna River being the largest tributary to the Chesapeake Bay – providing more than 50 percent of its fresh water inflows – reductions in nutrient and sediment loads in the river directly benefit the bay. Full report is available on SRBC's website <http://www.srbc.net/programs/CBP/nutrientprogram.htm>.

Governor Rendell Announces \$20 Million in Grants to Help Counties Institute, Expand Recycling Programs

The 113 recycling development and implementation grants the Governor announced will reimburse municipalities for costs associated with establishing and maintaining recycling and composting programs. The Department of Environmental Protection, which administers the program, has already modified its recycling grant programs to operate at reduced funding levels in order to extend financial support to municipal recycling efforts for as long as possible. Even at these reduced levels, however, funding will no longer be available after Dec. 31, 2010, unless the fee is extended. These grants can help communities continue their recycling programs past the Dec. 31st deadline.

40th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2010 – Schools Register Now

The IConservePA website urges your school to commemorate the 40th Earth Day on **April 22** by undertaking a meaningful conservation project at your school! Register now for the Earth Day 40 School Challenge (www.iconservepa.org/earthday40/schools.html) and undertake a project to improve the environment and conserve natural resources at your school or in the nearby community. A Grand Prize package worth more than \$1,500 is up for grabs, plus three schools will receive honorable mention prizes. Every school who participates will be acknowledged on the Earth Day 40 website.

Seedlings for Schools

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is offering tree seedlings to Pennsylvania schools. Teachers can participate in the program and receive bundles of seedlings for their students. There is no charge to schools participating in this project, as the seedlings are provided by the Game Commission's Howard Nursery. The cost of shipping seedlings is covered through donations of Waste Management; Mealey's Furniture; Wildlife for Everyone Foundation; USFWS-

Partners for Wildlife; and Pheasants Forever Chapter 603. The program provides two levels of involvement based on the grade level. For more information, visit the Game Commission's Seedlings for Schools webpage (<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=648457&mode=2>).

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