

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

You are probably familiar with the concept of water quality monitoring by analyzing stream water samples for different priority pollutants. We have volunteers in SCCA that do this in various locations monthly for the Shermans Creek watershed. But did you also know that another way to assess the health of the stream is to look at the bugs in the water? These bugs are called macroinvertebrates (macro = small, but can be seen by the naked eye; invertebrates – without a backbone). Some macroinvertebrates can only survive in streams with high water quality, while others tend to thrive in more polluted or sediment ridden waters. Scientists can even identify specific pollutants in the watershed, just by knowing what bugs are living there! SCCA recently conducted a demonstration of assessing water quality using macroinvertebrates at the Nimrod Sporting Event in June (see announcement section for more details on that event). Identifying macroinvertebrates to assess the stream health can be very easy and fun for all ages (including kids)! SCCA and ALLARM will conduct a macroinvertebrate identification training workshop sometime this fall or early next spring, so stay tuned for that date announcement and join us!

### **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.



#### ***Nimrod Sporting Event held on June 27, 2009***

The Nimrod Field Day event is held annually by the AMP Nimrods, Inc. and the Marysville Sportsman's Association and is open to all children ages 8-16. The purpose of this event is to combine safety requirements and opportunities for the youth to gain an appreciation for their responsibilities as good stewards of our natural resources to provide for our future generations. SCCA put on a macroinvertebrate demonstration that explained how Macros are used as stream quality indicators. The children were instructed how to collect Macros using the Kick-Net method and then were shown how to identify them by using the Identification chart (which is found on our website). Macro samples were collected and the children and parents were able to view them through magnification lenses and the SCCA microscope. It was a great experience for all!

#### ***SCCA Website – [www.shermanscreek.org](http://www.shermanscreek.org)***

SCCA has had a website for several years, but we are in the process of updating it! Please check back regularly – all our events, meetings, newsletters, e-updates, and announcements are on the website. Copies of the 2004 Shermans Creek Watershed Report, the 2008 Southern

Perry County Watershed Plan, maps of the watershed, water quality data, and other documents are available on the website (Adobe Acrobat Reader required). Coming soon - a new macroinvertebrate program section!

### ***SCCA Members and Community Meeting – July 27, 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 40 Rambo Road in Shermans Dale from 7PM – 8PM. Members and non-members invited to attend.

### ***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. The workshop is free **for Carroll Township residents or \$15 for all other residents** to help cover the cost of supplies. **There is a limited class size so sign up early 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 Building on Rambo Road.

### ***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!

### ***Shermans Creek Clean-Up – September 12, 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.

### ***Oops – E-newsletter unavailable***

In our recent edition in "Up the Creek," we had stated an option to sign up for an e-newsletter, rather than receiving our hard copy newsletter. Turns out, due to the way they are mailed out, we can't stop a hardcopy version from going to specific households that request an e-newsletter. However, a pdf copy of the newsletter will be available on our website and we will continue sending out monthly e-updates. Sorry to all those that requested an e-newsletter!

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

#### **Don't Forget - New Perry County Recycling Guidelines**

Beginning in June, all Perry County recycling locations will now be **accepting office paper**. However, the recycling centers, will **no longer be accepting clear glass**. See attached flyer for recycling center locations and dates, as well as an updated list of acceptable items.

#### **Results of Odwalla Plant a Tree program**

The Odwalla Plant a Tree program donated trees to 11 state park systems across the nation based on the "votes" of web site visitors. If you clicked and voted for Pennsylvania – Thanks! \$6,248 will be donated to Pennsylvania's state parks to plant trees.

## State Rebates Still Available for Solar Panel Installation!

The Pennsylvania Sunshine Program still has plenty of money available for rebates for the installation of solar systems. Homeowners, small business owners, and farmers may apply, and rebates are available for both solar thermal and solar photovoltaic systems. For maximum incentives and a summary of the program, go to [http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=PA37F&re=1&ee=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=PA37F&re=1&ee=1) . For the application, guidelines, and a list of installers, visit <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/energyindependent/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=545926> . There are also federal rebates available ([www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org) lists all available rebates).

## DEP Releases Climate Change Report

The report documents research conducted by Penn State University that generally demonstrates the ups and downs of climate change. For example, the report states temperatures and precipitation are likely to increase in the decades to come. Those conditions could lead to longer growing seasons, which could increase the yield of crops like corn and soy beans. But those same conditions could also lead to a decrease in the yield of cool-temperature adapted fruits and vegetables like apples and potatoes. The 12 MB report is available on DEP's website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/energy/cwp/view.asp?a=1532&q=539829> .

## 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.

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)*