

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

Wow, glad it finally rained. I was getting worried there that my flowers weren't going to make it through. Those rain barrels came in handy, didn't they?! Summer is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and really appreciate our state parks and waterways. In celebration of this, I thought some fast facts about Shermans Creek and its watershed might be appropriate...

- Shermans Creek is named for a trader that drowned in the creek while trying to cross the creek on his donkey
- Shermans Creek had the highest flood on July 22, 1927. The second highest flows were during Hurricane Agnes in 1972
- Shermans Creek is 60 miles long
- SCCA was founded in 1998
- The watershed is 244 square miles and begins on top of the mountains of the Tuscarora State Forest
- The Shermans Creek watershed is well known for both its trout fisheries (headwater areas) as well as its bass fisheries (lower portion of the watershed)
- Almost 20 municipalities exist within the watershed
- It is home to 9 covered bridges and 29 historic mills
- It's also home to at least 6 state and federal endangered plants and animals, several vernal pools, and natural areas, including a National Natural Landmark near its headwaters (Hemlocks Natural Area near Big Spring State Park)

We have a **meeting on Monday, July 26th** – please come out and show your support.

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>.

SCCA Members and Community Meeting Update – Next meeting July 26, 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.

Kids Creek Day 2010

Kids from Longacres Farm came out to Shermans Creek and learned about visual habitat assessments, macroinvertebrates, the water cycle, and even some chemical parameters from the Dickinson college students in the ALLARM program. Thanks to ALLARM for a great day! Some photos from the event are posted on our website (Click on "Community events").

Nature Conservancy Grassland Restoration Site – Future SCCA Project???

The Nature Conservancy has a 30 acre preserve adjacent to a 100 acre conservation easement in Juniata County named Westfall Ridge Prairie Preserve. This unique grassland environment needs some restoration and monitoring work – would anyone be interested in SCCA assisting the Nature Conservancy with this project? Please let us know – shermanscreek@embarqmail.com. If you are interested in learning more about this preserve, please visit the website at <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/pennsylvania/preserves/art815.html>.

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!!! Current paid members is now 30 (was 55 this time last year)

Shermans Creek 2010 Crocks are in – limited supply remaining!

SCCA is on FACEBOOK (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=335349491749>)!

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

Events at Little Buffalo State Park

Little Buffalo has several events coming up in July & August...here is a quick summary. For a complete listing, visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp?ICSORG=6317>.

- **Creek Trail Hike, July 20, 3:30 – 5:00PM** – Enjoy a shady creekside hike with the park naturalist. This level trail follows Little Buffalo Creek to the west end of the park. There is always something to discover on the Creek Trail, a Blue Heron, the remains of an old bridge, or even the stately old Sycamore trees. Meet at the pavilion 1&2 parking area, the first right turn after you enter Swimming Pool Road. Great for parents and kids. Sturdy shoes and some water recommended
- **Meet the Trees, July 25, 3:30-4:30PM** – How much do you know about the trees of our local forests? Enjoy a walk in the woods and get to know these important friends. We'll cover a bit about tree identification and a bit more about their unique characteristics. Why is it good to have so many different types? Come walk with the park naturalist and find out. Walk will be less than a mile. Participants are urged to bring water and sturdy shoes. Meet in front of the performance stage in the East Area.
- **Morning Kayak Paddle, August 14, 8:30AM – 10:00AM** - Join us for a morning shoreline paddle led by the park naturalist. We'll talk about the history of the park, plants and animals too. Bring your own kayak or borrow one from the park. Registration is required and limited by the number of boats we have. Meet at the Boat Launch area on the East end of the lake. Suitable for beginners or novices. Must be 12 years or older to participate, under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register or reserve a kayak call 717-567-9255.
- **Evening Kayak Paddle, August 24 6:30-8:00 PM** - Join the park for an evening shoreline paddle led by the park naturalist. We'll talk about the history of the park, plants and animals too. Bring your own kayak or borrow one from the park. Registration is required and limited by the number of boats we have. Meet at the Boat Launch area on the East end of the lake. Suitable for beginners or novices. Must be 12 years or older to participate, under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register or reserve a kayak call 717-567-9255.
- **On the Trail of PA Black Bears, August 25 9:30 – 11:30 AM** – Join us for a full-length showing of the thrilling Game Commission film On the Trail of PA

Black Bears. This film is 100 minutes long and an intermission will be provided. Meet at the park office.

- **Butterfly Safari, September 4, 10:30AM – 12:00PM** – Bring the kids out for a butterfly safari. There will be a short Butterfly/Moth movie in the classroom. Then we'll use the park's butterfly nets to catch some of these beautiful insects. Together we'll try to identify what we caught and set them all free. Meet at the park office.
- **Salamander Search, September 5, 4:00 – 5:00PM** – 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.
- **Campground Movie, September 5, 8:00 – 9:00PM** – Join us for a 1 hr film about the amazing journey of Monarch Butterflies. This captivating presentation is filled with close up photography that lets you enter the world of a butterfly. Meet at the Reception Hall at the Little Buffalo State Park campground. Public welcome.

Events at Colonel Denning State Park

Lots going on at Colonel Denning too...for a complete listing, visit

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp?ICSORG=6304>.

- **Come and Kayak, July 31, 9:00AM – 10:30AM; 11:00AM – 12:30PM, or 1:00PM – 2:30PM** - Never been in a kayak before? Well now is your chance to try it. Come and kayak and receive instructions on kayaking and kayak safety. All equipment is supplied. No money to try it. After your lesson, enjoy a guided paddle on the lake to explore in a different way. Warning: Kayaking is addictive. One person per kayak. You must be at least 12 to participate. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is limited. Meet at the beach area. Space is limited so please register to reserve your place today by calling the park office at (717)776-5272.
- **Astronomy/Stargazing, July 31, 8:00 – 9:00 PM** - Come and enjoy the dark skies of Colonel Denning State Park as local expert Jack Danner provides a guided tour of the night sky. Participants are encouraged to bring telescopes and/or binoculars. A limited number of binoculars will be provided by the park on a first come first serve basis. The tour will begin at the amphitheatre.
- **Rattlesnake Program, August 7, 8:00PM – 9:00PM** – Details TBA – visit the park website.
- **Bird Watching, August 15, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM** - See some of the birds that inhabit the park while taking an easy hike along the Nature Trail. Bring your binoculars and bird books if you have them. If not, plenty of binoculars and books will be available to borrow. Meet by the Nature Center at 11:00 am.
- **Volunteer Work Day, August 21, September 25, October 16, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM** - Friends of Colonel Denning volunteer work day. Meet at Pavilion#1 for work assignments which will vary according to need. Please bring bag lunch. Please dress appropriately and bring work gloves. Other equipment will be provided.
- **Nature Photography Hike, September 5, 3:30 – 5:30PM** - Join us for a hike along the Doubling Gap Nature Trail as we go out in search of pictures. The park has a limited number of cameras for use, or bring your own. Enjoy the chance to share your creativity and learn from others. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Bring your camera and plenty of water. The hiking along the trail is easy and is suitable for the family. A limited number of park cameras are available for the program or bring your own. Those who borrow a park camera will be able to take their pictures home on a disk.

Events from the Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg

For the paddlers in the watershed looking for some fellow paddlers...

http://www.ccgpha.com/sched_trips.html Contact the club prior to showing up for an event - you may have to register and not sure if you need to be a member or not...

- **Lehigh River Dam Release, Sat July 24 and/or Sun July 25** – River Classification II-III – Dependent upon water levels, Target CFS = 750...see website for updates and additional dates (approximately twice per month).
- **Susquehanna River, Sunday July 25**– River Classification I, Organizer Mary Klaue (mklaue1@verizon.net or 570-837-0200). Susquehanna River – Section North of Harrisburg
- **Dauphin Narrows Ledges, Wed July 28, Thurs August 5, August 12, August 19, August 26, 6-9PM** – River Classification I-II. Hone your skills or just have fun. Cancelled if river reaches over 5 feet on the Harrisburg gauge. Shuttle participants meet BEFORE 6 PM at Fort Hunter riverside parking lot, upriver from pavilion.
- **Lower Yough Weekend, July 30 – August 1** – Organizer Carol Alexander (reflection1@comcast.net or 717-926-0832). River Classification III. This is the club's annual rafting trip down the Lower Yough. To make reservations for camping and boating, contact Carol Alexander. If the Lower Yough is not to your taste, we also do a paddle down the Middle Yough Class I - II. There are great hiking and bike trails in the park too.
- **Erie Canal Weekend, August 6 – August 8** – Organizer Ron Flick (570-784-7715). River Classification I. Paddle through the locks on the Erie Canal in Upstate New York. Camping is optional.
- **Susquehanna River, Sat August 7** – Organizer Phyllis and Scott Brown (awsmpdlr@comcast.net 717-766-4527) River Classification I, Susquehanna River Duncannon to Fort Hunter
- **Susquehanna River, Sun August 15** – Organizer Len Neidig (717-756-9828) River Classification I

Central Pennsylvania Conservancy Volunteer Work Day July 26

The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) has been working to restore the Ironmaster's Mansion at the Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Please visit

<http://www.centralpaconservancy.org/node/340> to learn more about the project. Volunteers are needed to assist with landscaping, priming, taping, sanding, spackling, and repairing fences. Anyone interested in assisting with this project is encouraged to contact David Heath at dph5031@psu.edu or 717-386-8192. Currently the project is being managed by three Penn State Students, David Heath (Senior, Energy Engineering), Jordan Gleim (Sophomore, Turf Grass Science), and Ashley Roe (Second Year Masters student in Education). The project is being overseen by Debra Bowman, Executive Director of the CPC.

The Appalachian Audobon Society Native Plant Sale September 18

Save the date for the 5th annual Appalachian Audobon native plant sale, held at Meadowwood Nursery in Hummelstown, PA. More info to come later this summer!

Perry County in Drought Watch Condition

Despite recent rains (which have helped some), Perry, as well as 32 other PA counties, are in a drought watch condition, according to the PA Water Science Center and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Lack of rain leads to stressed streams and low groundwater levels. Drought conditions take a long time to develop and the summer months are generally not the time of year we can expect an improvement. Some PA counties are 5 inches below normal rainfall in the past few months. If rain amounts do not return to normal, further water problems could occur later this summer. Conserve water now to prevent problems later. Some residential tips include:

- Use your SCCA rain barrel to collect that precious rain water when it does occur
- Repair leaking toilets and faucets (a leaking toilet could lose as much as 200 gallons per day)
- Install new water saving devices, such as aerators or spray taps
- Take short showers instead of baths (A shower timer helps too)
- Use dishwashers and washing machines only when full
- Wash you car at a car wash that recycles the wash water, rather than in your driveway
- Refrain from watering established lawns – grass usually goes dormant, not dies, during dry conditions

Warmest June on Record Since 1880

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that June 2010 was the warmest June on record since data collection began in 1880. In addition, global temperatures between April and June this year were the highest ever and 2010 so far is the second warmest year (the warmest year since 1880 is 2007). So, its not your imagination, it's hot out there!

PA Game Commission Needs Local Residents Assistance – Bat Counts

The PA Game Commission needs citizens to help collect bat data this summer to better assess bat mortality throughout the northeastern United States, including Pennsylvania, being caused by White-Nose Syndrome. Monitoring maternity colonies in summer roosts like houses, barns, and church steeples can give biologists a good idea of how bat populations in an area are doing from year to year. Scout groups, 4-H clubs, local environmental organizations, and individual homeowners can all participate. For more information, go to

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=712212&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