

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

June's e-update is a mini version, but no worries...July's e-update is just around the corner!

It seems this time of year is a dangerous one for the Pennsylvania environment – that is, unless our legislators can find a way to balance the budget without detrimental cuts to already bare minimum environmental programs. Last year huge cuts were made and departments were forced to cut major programs and cut many jobs. However, these departments' responsibilities are bigger and busier than ever. \$259 million was taken from our state environmental departments last year. This year there is now discussion of taking an additional \$132 million from clean air, clean energy development, agricultural preservation, Growing Greener, and the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund. Contact your local legislators today and let them know that this is not the solution to the budget crisis (what about that natural gas tax on the drilling companies, why is that not the solution to the budget problem?). PennFuture has an email already set up if you are unsure of what to say (and its editable if you want to add your own two cents). - [http://www.pennfuture.org/actionalerts\\_detail.aspx?ActionID=131&Home=Y](http://www.pennfuture.org/actionalerts_detail.aspx?ActionID=131&Home=Y)

### **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>.

#### ***Kids Creek Day with ALLARM – July 2, 2010 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)***

Every summer, the SCCA holds a free, fun & educational day for kids and parents to splash around in Shermans Creek (and learn a few things doing it). The ALLARM group from Dickinson College plans a fun and fact filled day to learn about macroinvertebrates, stream water quality sampling, and important stream habitat features. Geared toward ages 8 to 16. Program will start at 10:00AM and run until about 2:00PM on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Lions Club Park in Shermans Dale. Any group interested in the 2011 event, please let us know.

#### ***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.

#### ***Shermans Creek Annual Stream Cleanup – June 19, 2010***

Despite past rains and schedule conflicts, sixteen dedicated volunteers came out to clean up Shermans Creek. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! The group cleaned up trash from Drumgold's corner down to the Lion's Club Park in Shermans Dale. Tires, scrap metal, furniture, a scooter, plastic tarps, cans, a trampoline, glass & plastic bottles and dozens of other items were removed. Special thanks to the Carroll Twp Supervisors who provided payment for trash removal by Cocolamus Creek Disposal and to the McNaughton's who arranged for free removal of 15 tires.

#### ***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](mailto: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!!!**

**Shermans Creek 2010 Crocks are in – limited supply remaining!**

**SCCA is on FACEBOOK!**

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

#### **Events at Little Buffalo State Park**

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

- **Evening Kayak Paddle, July 14 6:30-8:00 PM** - Join us 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.
- **Dangerous Invaders, July 18 4:00-5:30 PM** - The park naturalist will present the short film "Dangerous Invaders". Sound like science fiction? We wish it was. Learn about the effects of invasive plant species on our environment. Movie will be followed by a short easy walk to view some of the culprits. Meet at the Park Office.

#### **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>.

- **GPS Scavenger Hunt, July 3, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** - Can you find the clues? Come out and use your GPS unit to find the locations throughout the park to complete the scavenger hunt. Borrow one of the parks GPS units or bring your own. Pick up the scavenger hunt checklist at the amphitheater between 9:00 and 10:30 AM. Beginners will receive a lesson on using the GPS unit to find a location. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring plenty of water. Dress for the weather.
- **Wild about Weather Hike, July 3, 1:30 – 3:30 PM** - Come along for a wonderful walk through weather. While we hike along the scenic trails, learn some tips to help you predict the weather and stay safe while out in the wilderness. Wear comfortable sturdy hiking shoes and bring plenty of water and a snack. Hike is easy to moderate difficulty. Meet in front of the dressing stockade.
- **Astronomy/Stargazing, July 3 and 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.

- **Bird Watching, July 4 and 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, July 17 and August 21, 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.
- **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.
- **Rattlesnake Program, August 7, 8:00PM – 9:00PM**

### **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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> annual Appalachian Audobon native plant sale, held at Meadowwood Nursery in Hummelstown, PA. More info to come later this summer!

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)*