

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

After all the February snow, I was beginning to wonder if spring would ever get here! With the temperatures we had last week, its just a preview of what's around the corner. And with springtime, lots of environmental things are going on. Funny how spring makes people think about the environment more often than the winter.

Last month we talked about the importance of Fix a Leak week, which is this week. This month, another important issue, is National Wildlife Week (also this week). In honor of National Wildlife Week, SCCA is starting a new monitoring program that we would like everyone to participate in – Watch the Wild. More details about the program are below. Why watch the wild? Due to climate changes and other human actions, our environment is changing – from wildlife activity, to wild weather (umm, 60 inches of snow in February in MD, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, and many other current event examples). By receiving citizen observations of wildlife and nature, the program has noticed changes such as migration patterns and breeding seasons of various wildlife species, decreased food supplies for fish and mammals, as well as variations in water temperature and water chemistry. Additionally, these changes do not only affect wildlife, but it also affects trade, transportation, outdoor recreation, and tourism. “We all need to be concerned with the changes happening across the globe. By Watching the Wild, we can observe what is taking place, and then adapt accordingly.” Become a SCCA Watch the Wild volunteer and let us track the changes observed right here in Perry County.

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>.

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.

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. Public meetings took place in early March throughout Perry County. A summary update will be provided at our members and community meeting on March 22nd.

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 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!

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...

National Wildlife Week (National Wildlife Federation) – March 15th – 21st

Celebrate National Wildlife Week by doing what comes naturally. Whatever you do--at home, school or play--do it outdoors and have fun! Climb trees, chase butterflies, dig in the dirt and celebrate nature. You'll become healthier, happier and more connected to the world around you. Visit the National Wildlife Federation's website for ideas of activities to do with kids in celebration of National Wildlife Week.

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.

New Ridge Road Illegal dumpsite cleanup on March 25th

PA Cleanways of Perry County is looking for volunteers to help with a litter and trash cleanup in Tuscarora Township on Thursday March 25th from 9AM to 1PM. Lunch and drinks will be provided. All volunteers should wear sturdy boots and long pants. Please see attached flyer for more details. Contact Sally Tengeres, 582-5139 (stengeres@perryco.org) or Tuscarora Township 589-7911 (tuscaroratownship@nmax.net) with any questions or to register your participation. Registration deadline is March 22, 2010.

Mays Hollow Road Illegal dumpsite cleanup on March 27th

In addition, PA Cleanways of Perry County is looking for volunteers to help with a litter and trash cleanup also in Tuscarora Township on Saturday March 27th from 9AM to 1PM. Lunch and drinks will be provided. All volunteers should wear sturdy boots and long pants. Please see attached flyer for more details. Contact Sally Tengeres, 582-5139 (stengeres@perryco.org) or Tuscarora Township 589-7911 (tuscaroratownship@nmax.net) with any questions or to register your participation. Registration deadline is March 25, 2010.

Earth Hour Returns on March 27th

Kill the light switch at 8:30 p.m. on March 27 and unite with hundreds of millions of people around the world in the fight against climate change. Go to www.earthhour.org to sign-up and then help spread the word. Save a little energy and savor the night sky or maybe some quality quiet time with friends or family. Earth Hour is a grassroots movement fueled by passionate people like you. Last year, a billion people took part coming together to make a powerful stand for the planet. Help put Pennsylvania on the map for Earth Hour 2010.

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>).

Cumberland County Sustainable Gardening Series

Join Penn State Extension in Cumberland County for a series of four evening sessions on sustainable gardening topics. Learn tips and techniques to conserve resources in the garden and landscape. Classes will be held from 7:00-8:30 PM on Wednesdays in April. For more details, see attached brochure. April 7 – Terra Firms, April 14 – Green Roof Gardens, April 21 – Container Vegetables, and April 28 – Pruning Basics. All classes located at the Cumberland County Extension office, 310 Allen Road, Carlisle. **Registration is required by March 30th!**

Spiral Path Farm – Community Sponsored Agriculture Sign Ups

Spiral Path Farm is located in scenic western Perry County, PA, between the Tuscarora and Blue Mountain ranges. Near the town of Loysville, the family farm consists of 188 diverse acres that have been under the Brownbeck Family care since 1978, and on which they grow a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and herbs. Spiral Path Farm's goal is to provide the best tasting, freshest, and highest nutritional value food we can grow, while maintaining the land in a fertile, non-toxic state. Spiral Path Farm is certified organic and food safety certified. Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship of mutual support and commitment between local farmers and community members who pay the farmer an annual membership fee to cover the production costs of the farm. In turn, members receive a weekly share of the harvest during the local growing season. The weekly harvest share is delivered by Spiral Path to a pick-up location near you. To find out more and sign up for weekly delivery of fruits and vegetables, please visit their website <http://www.spiralpathfarm.com/>. Delivery season is from the week of May 18th through Thanksgiving week. **Early Registration Discount ends April 1st!**

North Mountain Pastures Community Sponsored Agriculture

North Mountain Pastures sells naturally-raised meat and other food products in central Pennsylvania. Some of their products are grown on Longacre Farm in Markelsville. Other products are purchased from farmers who share sustainable farming philosophies. The NMP CSA season runs from February to June 2010, but you can join at any time. They make monthly deliveries to points in Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry counties. One difference between a meat CSA and the normal vegetable CSA is that you need to be present when the truck arrives for delivery, from 5-6 PM. For more information, visit <http://www.northmountainpastures.com/>.

New Rebates Will Make Energy-Efficient Home Heating Equipment More Affordable

Starting in April, funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will make it possible for tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians to reduce their energy consumption and save money through a new rebate program for home heating equipment. The program will provide rebates of between \$100 and \$500 on the purchase of new, Energy Star-rated non-electric residential hot water heaters, furnaces and boilers. The higher the equipment's efficiency rating, the larger the rebate will be. Once finalized, the rebate program's guidelines and applications will be posted on www.recovery.pa.gov.

Tell Congress you Support the No Child Left Inside Act

Getting hands-on environmental education back in America's classrooms is an important part of making sure our kids will be ready to take on the complicated environmental challenges that face our communities, our nation and our planet. The National Wildlife Federation makes contacting your representative easy to do. Just go to this website <http://online.nwf.org/site/PageNavigator/ActionCenter/> and click on the No Child Left Inside Act, fill in your contact information, and add a personal message or send the template to your representatives.

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>). Deadline is April 1st!

Vegetable Gardening 101 – Cumberland County Extension Workshop

The basics of vegetable gardening will be covered: getting your garden started with the right location, size, and planning; soil preparation; seed selection; planting seeds and transplants; growing in containers; mulching, watering, and maintenance; and harvesting. You will plant seeds and seedlings in the garden. The tips and techniques you learn can help you begin your own adventure in home vegetable gardening. This workshop will be held in the school garden, rain or shine. Workshop is held at Northside Elementary School garden, 411 North Walnut Street, Mechanicsburg on Saturday, April 27, 10AM – 12 PM. Pre-registration by April 14th. Visit http://cumberland.extension.psu.edu/Horticulture/VegetableGardening101_3-2010.pdf for more details.

Little Juniata River Association 2010 River Bank Clean-up

Saturday, April 10th, 9:00 am to 1 pm. Meet at the Spruce Creek United Methodist Church parking lot. The church will provide hot drinks in the morning and lunch after the clean up is complete. LJRA volunteers will clean-up river banks and parking areas from Bellwood To Barree.

All bags and gloves furnished. If interested or for more information, contact Bill Anderson 684 5922, bjuniata@verizon.net or Gary Miller 947 0339, gmillier@skellyloy.com.

Juniata River Sojourn

The 10th Annual Juniata River Sojourn, coordinated by the Juniata River Clean Water Partnership, is scheduled for June 12-19th on the main stem of the Juniata between Huntingdon and Newport. Full registration information will be available soon...Registration opens April 1. <http://www.jcwp.org/annual%20sojourn.htm>.

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