

SHERMANS CREEK CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
385 Dark Hollow Road
Shermans Dale, PA 17090

Non-Profit
Organization
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Shermans Dale, PA
17090



POSTAL PATRON

Shermans Creek Conservation Association Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

I am interested in helping out with programs and projects _____

_____ Individual Membership \$15.00
_____ Family Membership \$20.00 _____ Organization \$50.00
_____ Donation *All donations are tax deductible.*

RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO: SCCA Membership
385 Dark Hollow Road
Shermans Dale, PA 17090

Mission Statement

The SCCA is a non-political association founded by a group of residents interested in the quality of Sherman's Creek.

The SCCA's main concern is the quality of life and the healthy economic development of the Watershed. We hope to maintain a natural environment while providing for the inevitable development of our rural area.

The SCCA is dedicated to protecting the Creek and to providing environmental education to the residents of the Watershed

www.shermanscreek.org



The Newsletter of the Sherman's Creek Conservation Association

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www.shermanscreek.org

May 2009

Is Sherman's Creek Healthy or Hazardous?

The SCCA monitoring program recently identified problems within our watershed, which need to be addressed. These concerns are based on data including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, nitrates, fecal coliform, and flow rates collected by volunteer monitors over four consecutive years.

High Coliform Bacteria and Nitrate levels are commonly issues in streams passing through agricultural regions, due to run-off. Agriculture is one of the dominant land uses and our monitoring efforts do show evidence of high levels of Coliform Bacteria and Nitrates in specific locations.

This count often serves as an indicator of other dangerous pathogens. Fecal coliform reduces dissolved oxygen levels and leads to the loss of helpful bacteria within a watershed.

In August 2008, a collected water sample uncovered an excessive 20000-col/100 mL, which indicates a major animal runoff or sewage issue.

Public education about these high bacterial counts allows each resident to make an informed decision about swimming or drinking from Sherman's Creek. Each of us are accountable to ensure that both human and animals waste are properly managed so our health is not compromised.

It is extremely important that care be taken in Agricultural practices to help prevent the deterioration of water quality in Sherman's Creek.

The pH remains a concern in the western end of the county. The average at one site was 5.4 and the standard levels for pH are 6-9. The addition of

limestone may be impractical over an extended period, but otherwise there are little options for improvement.

The pH seems to stabilize in the lower part of the watershed, which is labeled as a warm water fishery, but many fish species will be unable to survive if we do not reduce the negative impact of acid rain on our local waters.

Since dissolved oxygen and temperature are inversely related (when one goes up, the other goes down), stream corridor protection is vital.

Shade trees along the streams help cool the water, which in turn allows the fish to breathe easier. Roots also anchor the soil to reduce erosion and provide shelter for many fish and invertebrates.

Plant native trees and grasses along the stream on your property today!

Electronics Recycling Day

Saturday June 13, 8am-2pm (rain or shine)
\$5 for 5 items or less, \$10 per carload,
\$20 per pick up load
Business Campus One, Duncannon, PA
(Next to the Duncannon Family Health Center)
For more information contact the
Perry Conservation District. www.perrycd.org

Sponsored by the Perry County Commissioners, the
Department of Environmental Protection and
the Perry Conservation District.

SCCA-Perry County Master Gardeners

WREN Grant 2009-2010

Recently the SCCA has applied for a grant to bring several important environmental public

Due to similar missions, the SCCA is joining hands with the Perry County Master Gardeners, to put together a "Healthy Yard" program.

Whether or not we are awarded the grant, our goal is to educate citizens & officials about their role as environmental stewards to protect and improve the watershed from the impacts of non point source pollution (NPS) or polluted runoff.

Several types of NPS pollution includes drainage or runoff from inadequate erosion practices especially during development, improper Ag and timber harvesting practices, failing on-lot septic systems, waste disposal sites, improper landscaping and land use changes that affect runoff.

With the help of the Perry Co Conservation District (Sally Tengeres) we will address Responsible Pest Management, reducing use of pesticides & chemicals, elimination of invasive species and improper Ag practices.

Forester Donald Kline has graciously volunteered to speak about improper timber harvesting.

The majority of our public workshops will be held at the Carroll Twp. Community Center in Shermans Dale.

Some of our workshops will deal with on lot septic systems, building rain gardens, native gardening, creating wildlife gardens, composting, riparian buffers and erosion control and responsible environmental landscaping approaches.

Watch for dates of our upcoming SCCA-Master Gardener Community Programs in the Local Newspapers!

2010 Shermans Creek Crock Orders

Orders are being taken for the Shermans Creek Crock "2010" made by Keaton's Pottery. This year's crock is similar to past blue glazed but with a cattail design. Check out our website: www.shermanskreek.org after May 10th for the crock picture.

The Crocks will cost \$29.00 and must be ordered by November 25th, 2009 for pick up in December. Orders can be made via our website or by ordering through lsieber@comcast.net or 582-3376.

Please let us know if you are interested in purchasing any of our past 2006 and 2008 crocks.

Linking Land and Water

The conservation and restoration of streamside forests is the utmost priority of the SCCA but also that of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The loss of habitat and Riparian Forest Buffers (RFB) is one of the largest contributing factors of the Bay's ecological decline.

RFB's capture and filter rain water and sediment that wash off the land. The vegetation and roughness of the forest floor slows runoff and filters the sediment before reaching the streams.

There are many benefits of preserving and creating new Riparian Buffers.

They transform & store nutrients, stabilize floodplains, sustain aquatic and wildlife habitats and provide shade and act as windbreaks.

Trees are too many times removed by developers, which often cause many runoff problems for homeowners.

Trees are vital to the ecology. They help reduce runoff & encourage infiltration while absorbing, filtering and storing rainwater. They improve air quality and protect soil from erosion.

Request your community to adopt tree canopy coverage protection. Better yet, contact the SCCA and help organize a team.

Support Smart Growth objectives in our communities and watch for more information in coming newsletters, programs and on our website.

For more information: www.chesapeakebay.net

A Team Effort by Vice-Chair Karen Bolze

Some folks dismissively label SCCA members as "tree-huggers", but I contend most of you share our objectives. Our mission singularly revolves around the protection of Sherman's Creek. We don't elevate land, water, or wildlife over man, but we recognize the importance of stewardship of gifts like clean water and fertile land. Education is our priority.

Adult environmental awareness is just as essential, but adults are often less pliable. We stringently stick to our routines. Some adults resist recycling and carpooling despite obvious benefits for future generations. Why not carry our own reusable grocery totes to minimize plastic bag usage? Why not walk or bike when possible? Start changing your life today to lessen your impact on the environment. Research carbon imprints and lessen yours. <http://www.myfootprint.org>

Consequences from our actions sometimes don't appear immediately, but they are just beneath the water surface if we take the time to look. Scientists often investigate living things in the water to determine water quality; but I alternatively suggest we research our local water quality to expose our weak level of commitment to stewardship.

If rallying communities guard streams like Sherman's Creek, the water will teem with living things including children enjoying hot summer days. If we live only as irresponsible individuals with blinders towards the future, a glimpse underwater may reveal lifeless, murky waters.

SCCA Calendar of Events

Public Meetings 7-9 @ Carroll Twp. Bldg

May 6	Perry Co. Cons. District Envirothon
May 11	SCCA Community Mtg
June 6	Creek Clean Up Rain date 6/13
June 27	9-4:00 Nimrod Sporting Event-Dunc
July 27	SCCA Community Mtg
Aug 25-29	PC Fair at Newport
Sept 28	SCCA Community Mtg
Oct 3	Carroll Twp Community Center
Nov 16	SCCA Community Mtg

SCCA's New E-mail Update

SCCA has a new email address (shermanskreek@embarqmail.com) and will be using it to send monthly emails about local events in your area! We'll also include some quick tips and updates about environmental issues you want to hear about. Receiving the email update is open to members or non-members - just send us your email address with your request to receive email updates (or type "Subscribe E-updates" in the subject line).

The email address is also a great way for you to stay in touch with us - send us your questions or comments. Please also use this email address to report any illegal dumpsites or illicit discharges you have noticed on your travels. We'll check it out and try to organize something to clean it up, if possible!

Go Green! If you'd like to receive future newsletters in your inbox, rather than your mailbox, please send your request to shermanskreek@embarqmail.com and type "Subscribe E-newsletters" in the subject line.

Shermans Creek Clean Up

On June 6th the SCCA is holding their annual Creek Clean Up. We hope to cover a 3-mile stretch in Shermans Dale starting from Drumgold's Corner and ending at the Mt. View Bridge at Delville Dam Rd.

Rain Date will be Sat June 13th

The trip begins at 8:30 am, meeting at the Dromgold Corner Shortcut Rd. Estimated completion time will be at 1:00 with free lunch provided afterwards.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Wear sturdy creek shoes and bring gloves.

*Bring a canoe, if you can but canoes will only be reserved for those who call

To register- 582-3376 or lsieber@comcast.net

Funny Lookin' Frogs?

Have you noticed any strange looking frogs lately? The herbicide "Round-up" (Glyphosphate) has been under question for the many US-wide frog mutations, supposedly caused by the surfactant (sticking agent) agent. If you must spray, try using "Rodeo" which is basically "Round-up" with out the suspect surfactant.