

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association! Spring is here and I'm sure a lot of you have been working on your gardens or landscaping and starting the weekly maintenance of your yards. Something to consider trying out this year is backyard composting. The average household generates 650 pounds of waste that could be composted each year. Composting is easy – you can build a composter yourself for minimal expense, or purchase one for a variety of prices and features. Composting is a practical and convenient way to handle your yard debris too. Then when used on your garden and landscaping, compost improves your soil and the plants growing in it. You can compost grass clippings, leaves, flowers, old plants, old potting soil, twigs, annual weeds, vegetable scraps, fruit scraps, bread, grains, paper, coffee filters, tea bags, and manure from horses, cows, chickens, and rabbits (not safe to compost pet manure). For more information, contact SCCA, Perry or Cumberland County Master Gardeners (<http://backyardcompost.cas.psu.edu/>), or DEP (<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/landrecwaste/cwp/view.asp?A=1338&Q=469423>).

### **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>.

#### ***Perry County Envirothon – May 6, 2009***

The 2009 Perry County Envirothon will be held at Hall's Dairy Farm just west of Millerstown on Monday May 6, 2009. Students in grades 9-12 will be competing on a team of 3-5 team members. Testing stations are: Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Soils and Land Use, Forestry and Biodiversity in a Changing World. SCCA will be providing volunteers for the day.

#### ***SCCA Members and Community Meeting – May 11, 2009***

Meetings are generally held the third Monday of each month (May is an exception due to a scheduling conflict and November is another 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.

***Oliver Perry District of the Keystone Area Council:*** Boy Scouts are having their Spring Camporee this year at Little Buffalo State Park and its theme is fishing. The dates for the event are May 15, 16, & 17th. Volunteers are needed for Sat. May 16th 8AM-3PM.

#### ***Shermans Creek Clean-Up – June 6, 2009 (rain date June 13, 2009)***

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. If you do not own a canoe or kayak, 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. See attached flyer for details.

#### ***Nimrod Sporting Event - 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. This year, it will be held Saturday June 27 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Marysville Sportsman's Assoc. in Duncannon. This 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. Bring your children or grandchildren for a wonderful educational experience. Free lunch provided. SCCA will be there and will be putting on a macroinvertebrate demonstration.

### ***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!

### ***Build your own rain barrel workshop – Date TBA***

Rain barrels collect and stores 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, reduces water pollution, and recharges groundwater. SCCA, Carroll Township, and Perry County Master Gardeners will be putting on a make your own rain barrel workshop sometime in the near future – stay tuned!

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

#### **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 18<sup>th</sup> through Thanksgiving week.

#### **Native Plant Sale in Dauphin County**

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) is partnering with Meadowood Nursery ([www.meadowoodnursery.com](http://www.meadowoodnursery.com)) in Hummelstown, PA to have a native plant sale on **Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 3 PM**. A portion of the proceeds from the sale is donated to PPFF. In addition to the sale, there will be expert speakers and exhibits. For directions and further information, see attached flyer or email Marci Mowery at [mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net).

#### **Native Plant Sale in Cumberland County**

Penn State Master Gardners in Cumberland County have scheduled their 2009 Plant Fest for **Saturday May 16, 2009 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. The 2009 Plant Fest and sale are held on the grounds of Claremont Nursing & Rehabilitation Center at 1000 Claremont Road in Carlise. Find the perfect new plant for your garden, have your garden questions answered, learn more about native plants, purchase gently used gardening equipment from the garden yard sale, and much more! Proceeds from the sale benefit the Master Gardner program fund. Come early for the plant sale, the best stuff tends to be sold early on! For directions and further information, see attached flyer or contact Penn State Cooperative Extension at [CumberlandExt@psu.edu](mailto:CumberlandExt@psu.edu).

#### **Electronics Recycling Day for Perry County Residents**

**Saturday June 13, 8AM-2PM** (rain or shine) at Business Campus One in Duncannon (Next to the Duncannon Family Health Center). The minimal cost to you is \$5 for 5 items or less, \$10 per carload, or \$20 per pick up load. For more information contact the Perry County Conservation District at 582-8988 ext.4. The event is sponsored by the Perry County Commissioners, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Perry County Conservation District.

#### **DEP Awards \$500,000 in Grants to Clean Up Illegal Dump Sites**

Announced on Earth Day, DEP has awarded grants throughout the state to clean up illegal dump sites. These grants will assist partnerships of communities, organizations, businesses and local governments to clean up neighborhoods and natural areas that have become eyesores and threats to the public's health and safety and the environment. These cleanup efforts are expected to remove an estimated 2,200 tons of illegally discarded trash from the environment. In Perry County, \$7,170 was awarded for cleanup of two dumps on New Ridge Road and Mays Hollow Road. Partners include the Perry County Conservation District, Tuscarora Township and local volunteers. These sites include a large amount of scrap metal and tires that will be collected and recycled.

### **National Bike to Work Day**

**Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>** is National Bike to Work Day. Join thousands of Americans in the fun, fit, and green way to get to work on National Bike to Work Day (or any day!)

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)*