

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

May – springtime is a great time to think of the environment – Between backyard composting, native planting, using rain barrels, landscaping for wildlife, reducing the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers – there a ton of ways to be greener just in your own garden. And SCCA can provide programs and help on all of these topics. But not without your help! Please send in your membership application and donation today and pass this along to friends and family that would also be interested. Lots going on this spring/summer – maybe you'd like to help? Let us know, we love volunteers!

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>.

Congratulations to ALLARM!

ALLARM won the Karl Mason Award for their outstanding leadership in protecting Pennsylvania's environment. The award is administered by the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals and was presented at their annual conference on May 13th. During ALLARM's thank you and remarks presentation, SCCA's partnership with ALLARM was highlighted and presented. Thanks for the extra publicity ALLARM©

Kids Creek Day with ALLARM – July 15, 2010

Bring the family to splash around in Shermans Creek (and learn a few things doing it). ALLARM will be conducting a kids creek day with SCCA – time, location, and more info coming soon.

Attention Stream Monitors – 2010 QA/QC Scheduled!!

Letter and sampling whirl pak bags will be delivered in the mail. Monitors, mark your calendars – June sampling event will be a QA/QC event to ensure the validity of your samples throughout the year.

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!!!

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 Update – Next meeting May 24, 2010

One item we'd like your opinion on – what kind of programs do you want to see SCCA offer – please respond!

- Make your own Rain Barrels
- Backyard Composting
- Butterfly Program
- Bee Pollinator Program
- Native Plants
- Rain Gardens/conservation landscaping
- Macroinvertebrates
- Recycling Education
- Results of Water Quality Monitoring
- Amphibian Walks
- Energy Conservation in your home
- Water Conservation in your home
- Greening your home
- Something else we didn't mention?

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 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...

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. **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>).

Penn State Master Gardeners of Perry County—Are you a keen gardener? Do you love to share your gardening knowledge to help others be more successful gardeners? Then you might be interested in the Penn State Master Gardener program. Penn State Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by Penn State Extension who assist Extension staff in providing and expanding its educational programs in consumer horticulture.

Penn State Master Gardener basic training will be held in the Capital area of Penn State Extension's Southeast region in Fall 2010. In Cumberland and Perry counties, applications for the program are being accepted now through **May 31, 2010**. To receive an application and additional information about the program, please contact Annette McCoy at 717-240-6500 or ahm11@psu.edu.

Perry County Master Gardener Plant Sale and Edu Garden Display—May 29th

The Perry County Master Gardener Committee is holding their 2nd annual Plant sale on Sat May 29th from 9:00-1:00 at the Perry County Extension Garden (in the alley next to Mama's Pizza). See our new Extension Educational Garden and learn about the Penn State Master Gardener Program. Bring your questions about plants and a plant problem to the Master Gardeners—a wealth of information is available. Also, check out our Butterfly Lady and details for planting a butterfly garden. Plant sale proceeds will provide new Perry County Master Gardener educational programs.

Vote for Pennsylvania on May 25

Beginning May 25, Pennsylvania will be competing with the 49 other states in the "Plant a Tree" campaign sponsored by Odwalla fruit juices. Help Pennsylvania score the most dollars for state park trees. Vote for Pennsylvania on May 25th at odwalla.com/plantatree. It costs nothing to participate and takes only a few seconds to vote. Votes will go fast so log on early! Pass the word on!

Learn more about Marcellus Natural Gas Drilling in our State Forests

On state forest land, natural gas drilling and exploration in the Marcellus Shale formation has been a topic of great public interest. A new website has been developed to provide rock-solid information about these activities, including the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' policies, environmental issues, mitigation practices, statistics and charts, frequently asked questions, and contacts for additional questions - <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/marcellus/index.html>.

Bike to Work in May

May is National Bike Month and the League of American Bicyclists is promoting Bike-to-Work Week 2010 from May 17-21 and Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 21. Join thousands of other Americans in taking the fun, fit, and green way to work. Go to www.Bikeleague.org for a calendar of Bike Month events, an event planning guide, information on bicycle friendly communities, and other info.

Middle Ridge Hike at Little Buffalo on May 29

Join the Park Naturalist for a hike on the Middle Ridge Trail. This trail has frequent elevation changes, difficulty is moderate. We'll hike from the park office as far as Black Hill Road then return on the road along the lake. There will be frequent stops to talk about some of the forest life we encounter. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water; long pants suggested. Meet at the Park Office at 10AM.

Stream Stomp at Little Buffalo on May 30

Adults and kids, get your feet wet and help us do a stream stomp. Find out what lives in the creek by catching the interesting critters that live at the water's bottom. We'll identify what we caught

and learn what that can tell us about the health of the stream. Afterwards we set them all free. Meet by the performance stage in the park's east area.

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