

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

So our last e-update we talked about invasive species and if you visited our display at the Little Buffalo Festival in October, you got to meet some of these face to face. I don't know if this is true for anyone else, but this year I've noticed a LOT more stink bugs hanging around than other years. It got me wondering if these annoying bugs were invasives and what kind of damage they were causing (other than the annoyance of wandering around inside my home). Google is a wonderful thing, and so is our Cumberland County Extension office. I soon found out that the stink bugs I have here are actually called Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs or BMSB. The bug was first introduced to eastern PA (accidentally) in 1998. It is an agricultural pest and is native to China, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. It feeds on several fruits and vegetables, but most commonly a problem in Pennsylvania due to damage to peaches, apples, blackberry, sweet corn, field corn, and soybeans. Bad news for farmers, but good news for homeowners. These bugs don't cause any structural damage or otherwise harm your home (although the smell in your vacuum after sucking up several may cause you to disagree). To keep stink bugs from entering your house. . make sure all cracks and crevices to the outdoors are sealed with caulk. Once they have entered your home, it's important to not use insecticides. In addition to the general harmful health effects, dead stinkbugs will attract carpet beetles, which do cause damage to your house and belongings.

On a less risky note, when you are doing your holiday preparations, keep in mind to buy local when you can. for food and gifts. A SCCA 2010 crock would be a fabulous holiday gift and would support a local conservation group and a local artist! ☺

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>.

SCCA Members and Community Meeting Update – Next meeting January 24, 2011 (Tentative Date)

Our January meeting will include elections and plan of programs for the year. Date for January meeting, as well as the remainder of 2011, will be announced at a later date. 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.

Family Watershed Monitoring – Can be suitable for all ages from 2 yrs- 102 yrs!

Become a Watch the Wild volunteer! The program can be tailored to your unique situation and the type of monitoring you would prefer. choose trees, plants, and flowers; weather; wildlife; birds; and much more. In as little as ten minutes, your family's 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/Watch_the_Wild.html. 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. Contact SCCA to sign up!

2011 SCCA Memberships Renewals Have Begun!

Shermans Creek 2010 Crock– limited supply remaining!

SCCA is on FACEBOOK (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=335349491749>)!

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

Christmas Trail at Little Buffalo State Park; Dec 17 - 23

From 6:00PM . 9:00 PM, meet Santa in the woods and enjoy the thousands of lights and holiday displays located along this quarter mile trail in the park's East Picnic Area. Enjoy live music at the stage, horse-drawn wagon rides on most nights, and hot chocolate and cookies sold by local 4H groups in the warming hut. The Christmas Trail may follow a slightly different path this year. This is a free program and flashlights are helpful for some areas of the trail. Contact Ben Ranney, Park Naturalist for more information, littlebuffsp@state.pa.us or 717-567-9255

The Appalachian Audubon Society Monthly Events

Unless otherwise noted, programs take place at Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Rd, Camp Hill, 17011 near the Cedar Cliff Plaza in the Allendale development. Call 960-9441 or 732-5615 for further information and visit <http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/events.htm>. All programs except the Annual Banquet are **free of charge**. **Public is welcome** and encouraged to attend. Enjoy a ½ hour of refreshments and social time starting at 7:00 p.m. Programs begin at 7:30.

- **December 9, 2010, Particulars about Particulates: Clean Air Board's Efforts in Education & Advocacy:** The Cumberland Valley is among the worst areas in the country for fine-particulate air pollution, which has been shown to have significant health impacts. The Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania (CAB), an interfaith citizen advocacy group, has been working to monitor fine- particulates, educate the public about the hazards of poor air quality, and advocate for reduction in particulate pollution. Duane Fickeisen of the CAB will present this program about the hazards of particulates in the air and the efforts of the CAB
- **January 20, 2011, Managing Pennsylvania's Bats:** White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats was first reported in New York three years ago, and has quickly spread to Pennsylvania and several other states. Aura Stauffer, Wildlife Biologist for PA Bureau of Forestry, has been tracking down and researching bats across Pennsylvania for many years. Aura will give us an insight into the natural history of these mysterious creatures, and will discuss bat management on state forest lands. She will also provide an update on WNS, including the latest research and how the disease is spread.

See AAS website for scheduled monthly events from February . May or stay tuned to future SCCA e-updates.

The Appalachian Audubon Society Field Trips

- **February 2011, Ramsay's Winter Road Trip:** (Date and time to be announced) Join our AAS+birder extraordinaire+on another winter birding trip. Ramsay will again surprise us with a well-researched location to maximize our experience. Be prepared to possibly travel out-of-state for a day-long trip. Contact Ramsay at 761-1871 or RKoury123@aol.com.

See AAS website for scheduled field trips from March . May or stay tuned to future SCCA e-updates.

Wildwood Park – Wreath Making Workshops – December 4th & 5th

Make a decorative holiday wreath out of natural materials. Everything will be supplied to make an evergreen wreath with natural decorations, including cones, berries, nuts and seed pods. You may bring additional decorative items and ribbon. After making your wreath outside in the

pavilion, come inside to warm up and have a cup of hot chocolate while adding some decorative touches. Dress for the weather and bring work gloves and clippers if you have them.
When & Where: Saturday, December 4, 10 am - noon or noon - 2 pm; and Sunday, December 5, 12:30 - 3 pm. Wildwood Park is located between Linglestown Road and Interstate 81, just outside of Harrisburg (100 Wildwood Way).
Registration: Call (717) 221-0292
Fee: \$15 per wreath

Wildwood Park Winter Lecture Series

Wildwood Park is located between Linglestown Road and Interstate 81, just outside of Harrisburg (100 Wildwood Way). All lectures begin at 7:00 PM and will be held in the Olewine Nature Center. All lectures are free and registration is not required.

- **Gardening with Mother Nature, January 4, 2011: (Snow Date: Tues Feb 8)** Become a kinder, gentler and better gardener and save yourself unnecessary work. Patriot-News garden writer George Weigel will describe techniques such as how to nearly eliminate bug and disease threats by wise plant selection; how to improve lousy soil with compost; how to grow a more diverse landscape that's attractive to wildlife; and how to tell the difference between real problems and cosmetic non-threats.
- **Clean Stream and a Healthy Chesapeake Bay, January 18, 2011:** After 20 years of effort, the Chesapeake Bay is still impaired and as a result EPA is requiring states to meet new pollution budgets for local streams. Lamonte Garber, Agricultural Program Manager for the Pennsylvania office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will discuss how bay-related requirements will affect residents, farmers, business and communities.
- February 1 Sustainability for the Ground UP, Bill Sutton, presenter
- February 15 Local Food: Balancing Information and Action, Cheryl Burns, presenter
- March 1 Energy Audits: Savin' the Green, Jen Briggs and Bonnie McCann presenters

Pennsylvania Farm Show - January 8, 2011 - January 15, 2011

The 95th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show will be held at the Farm Show Complex on Cameron Street in Harrisburg. Visit many exhibitors while you tour PA's largest indoor agricultural event.

PA Game Commission Needs Local Residents Assistance – Bat Counts

The PA Game Commission needs citizens to help collect bat data this summer to better assess bat mortality throughout the northeastern United States, including Pennsylvania, being caused by White-Nose Syndrome. Monitoring maternity colonies in summer roosts like houses, barns, and church steeples can give biologists a good idea of how bat populations in an area are doing from year to year. Scout groups, 4-H clubs, local environmental organizations, and individual homeowners can all participate. For more information, go to <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=712212&mode=2>

PA Fish & Boat Commission – New Fishing Licenses Go on Sale Dec. 1

The holiday shopping season is quickly approaching and that means it's time for anglers to get a jump on the 2011 sporting season. Anglers can purchase a 2011 license beginning December 1, which gives them a bonus month for free.

Boating Access Workshop Set For December 14 in Harrisburg

The Pennsylvania Water Trails Program has scheduled a boating access workshop on December 14 at the Fish and Boat Commission headquarters in Harrisburg. The workshop includes presentations about the statewide strategy for fishing and boating access, funding programs, assistance with design and engineering and permitting requirements. There is no fee for this workshop, but registration is required. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Register with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council by December 1 in order to reserve a space. For more information contact Hannah E. Hardy call 412-481-9400 or send email to: hhardy@pecpa.org.

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