

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

Fall has officially arrived. Welcome cooler weather, change of leaf color and the nostalgia of past school memories. Humming birds have abandoned the feeder and hawks are heading southward along their migration routes. Geese and other large migratory birds are starting to form their noisy, regiment V shaped formation for more efficient flying. The aerodynamic V shape reduces the air resistance, allowing the geese to cover longer distances. In fact, a flock of geese can fly 70 percent farther by adopting the V shape rather than flying in isolation.

The V formation may offer other benefits as well. Each bird has an unobstructed field of vision, allowing flock members to see each other and communicate while in flight.

Like migrating birds, team formation works best for community service. The SCCA hopes you'll join our team to contribute ideas for 2010's children & family programs and welcome fresh ideas that benefit and preserve the Perry County rural way of life in and along our watershed.

Come to our Members and Community Meeting on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – agenda attached and further information below.

### **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>.

#### ***It's time to order the Shermans Creek 2010 Crocks NOW for Christmas delivery!***

These crocks were again designed by Keaton's pottery and exhibit a beautiful cattail design. Don't miss out; order your 2010 Shermans Creek collectible crocks! Pick up dates for the crocks will be sometime in November – plenty of time for Christmas gift giving! Fill out attached order form and mail with \$29 (per crock) payment to SCCA, 385 Dark Hollow Road, Shermans Dale, PA 17090.



#### ***SCCA Members and Community Meeting – September 28, 2009***

Meetings are generally held the third Monday of each month (November is an 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 50 Rambo Hill Road in Shermans Dale from 7PM – 8PM. Members and non-members invited to attend. ***Agenda is attached for Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> meeting!***

#### ***Carroll Township Community Day – October 3, 2009***

Come bring the whole family – its held at the Carroll Township Community Center on Church Road in Shermans Dale. Look for our display...we'll have our popular 3-D Enviroscape Model to

“Hands-On” demonstrate run-off and pollution in our community. We’ll also feature the Perry Co. Master Wildlife Gardening Display and provide hand out materials regarding pollinators and native plants, etc.

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

#### **Coins for Conservation**

Flip over the couch cushions and collect your spare change in your house! Between now and the end of October, visit any Metro Bank branch in central Pennsylvania and support the “Coins for Conservation” campaign. Look for the penny arcade machines, dump in the coins, take your receipt to the teller and tell him or her that you want to donate the money to Coins for Conservation for the PA Parks and Forests Foundation. They’ll make the deposit right into the Foundation’s account and give you a donation receipt. The dollars raised will support plantings, recreational equipment purchases, trailhead development, educational programming, and more. A penny saved is a penny earned.

#### **Carlisle Greenfest – Saturday, September 26th**

Carlisle Greenfest is a one-day event on September 26th designed to promote environmentally responsible businesses, organizations, non-profits, government institutions, and educational groups and give them a forum to speak out about how they have made a commitment to a greener community. This festival will encourage people from diverse backgrounds to connect in a fun and family-friendly environment with live music, informative optional sessions based on green issues, delicious food, and interactive games for kids. The event will host passionate individuals, green businesses, and nonprofit groups who are making an impact for the generations to come. It’s located at LeTort Park at 260 E. Pomfret St. Carlisle, PA. See website for more details or directions to the park - <http://www.carlislegreenfest.com/>

#### **Fall Eco-Fun Day – Saturday, September 26th**

The Manada Conservancy will be putting on an family eco-fun day on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM (rain date Sept. 27, same times) at Little Meadow Park (located off Union Deposit Road, between the Village of Union Deposit and the intersection of Grandview Drive) and the adjoining Manada Conservancy Nautre Preserve, in Hummelstown. The afternoon will include a variety of children’s hands-on crafts, educational displays, wildflower and insect nature walks led by Manada naturalists, as well as tours of our recent on-site riparian buffer planting. The event is free and open to the public; however, pre-registration is appreciated. For directions and more information please visit [www.manada.org](http://www.manada.org).

#### **Give a Hoot – Wednesday, October 28th**

An informative talk about Pennsylvania’s eight species of owls is being held at the Hershey Public Library, starting at 7:00 PM. Dan Mummert, the Wildlife Biologist for the PA Game Commission’s southeast region will provide interesting facts and talk about the identification, distribution, habitat requirements, and food preferences of PA’s eight species of owls. Dan will also talk about a specific project called the Barn Owl Conservation Initiative, which strives to conserve this rare and declining owl species in PA. The event is sponsored by the Manada Conservancy and is free and open to the public. Please contact the Manada Conservancy office to pre-register (717) 566-4122 and visit their website for further details at [www.manada.org](http://www.manada.org).

#### **Online Going Greener Guidebook**

Stonyfield Farm and Body + Soul magazine teamed up together to create a new *Going Greener Guidebook*. The new guide describes 350 ways to green your life and make a real difference for the planet. The guide includes articles about: organics; buying better groceries; farms; food safety; green companies; recycling; and a healthy home makeover, with useful tips and online resources. Access the guidebook online for free at <http://www.zinio.com/reader.jsp?issue=416093491&o=ext> .

## **Great PA Outdoor Challenge – September 11 through October 11**

Hike, bike, paddle, or walk to support your state parks and forests in the 2nd annual Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge, September 11- October 11. Join activities across the state or create your own and help the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation reach the virtual goal of traversing 30,000 miles - representing every mile of land and water trail in the Commonwealth. Go to <http://www.paparksandforests.org/gpoc.html> to learn how to register your event, join a team, or make a donation. Participants receive a special bandana and Odwalla bar, plus are eligible for prize drawings. Get out and give back in the Great PA Outdoor Challenge.

## **Website Launched for Chesapeake Bay Executive Order**

A new website was created that will increase government transparency and expand public participation in President Obama's Executive Order on Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration. The website will serve as the clearinghouse for all Executive Order information, including news, documents and events from the various federal agencies working on new approaches to cleaning up the nation's largest estuary. The public can also provide feedback on the website and use online tools to track Executive Order activities. The website address is <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net>.

## **New Book for Pennsylvania Residents Interested in Solar Energy**

In her just-published book "Pennsylvania Homeowner's Guide to Solar Electricity," Dr. Vera Cole goes through the new state rebate program and solar technology in plain and simple language. Cole, Director for Local Power with the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association, starts with the basics of solar electricity production and site selection -- solar panels are finicky about their sunshine -- before addressing "what's the payback?" Readers are guided through step-by-step examples of how to assess their property for solar, how to estimate the size and cost of a system suitable for their household, how to choose an installer and methods for estimating rebates, tax credits, future savings and income. Cole's book avoids the hype and presents a clear picture of solar as an economically viable source of power that is clean, safe and secure. Unique to the book is a companion website where Cole, a mechanical engineer who holds a doctorate in information science, provides a financial calculator and chapter-by-chapter links and timely updates. The calculator, SunnyMoney, is free, but the rest of the website is restricted to book owners. The book is available for \$14.95 through the MAREA website or Amazon.com.

## **Public Comment Period Open for New State Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Regulations – Public Meeting in Central PA on October 1**

The Environmental Quality Board will accept public comment on proposed changes to Pennsylvania's erosion and sediment control and stormwater management regulations. These regulations play an important role during any development activities and have the potential to greatly increase protection on our streams and water resources. The proposed changes include requirements for establishing and protecting existing streamside and riverside forest buffers and increasing protection for exceptional value waterways, incorporate existing post-construction stormwater management requirements into state regulation to bring Pennsylvania into line with federal requirements, and enhance agricultural stormwater management provisions beyond plowing and tilling to include animal heavy -use areas.

A public meeting and hearing in Central Pennsylvania will be held on Oct. 1 at the Department of Environmental Protection, Southcentral Regional Office, Susquehanna Room B, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. The public meeting is at 4 p.m. and the public hearing is at 5 p.m. Individuals wishing to present testimony at a hearing are requested to contact the Environmental Quality Board, P.O. Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477, (717) 787-4526, at least one week in advance of the hearing to reserve a time to present testimony. Oral testimony is limited to 10 minutes for each witness. Witnesses are asked to submit three written copies of their oral testimony to the chairperson at the hearing. Organizations are limited to designating one witness to present testimony on behalf of the group at each hearing.

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](mailto:shermanscreek@embarqmail.com)*