

Hello from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association!

Invasive species sounds like an alien visitor (and in a sense, they are), but what are they? Invasive species can be plants or animals and originate in another habitat or country. Invasive plants grow quickly and aggressively, spreading and replacing other plants. Invasive animals prey on or compete with other species, spread diseases, and cause economic and ecological harm. Many species of plants and animals in Pennsylvania are introduced and not native; however, a few of these introduced species become invasive in their new environment . overtaking ecosystems and spreading like wildfire. Asian clams, zebra mussels, hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, kudzu, multiflora rose, and several kinds of honeysuckles are common examples of invasives in PA. Unfortunately, there are many, many more. Prevention is our only defense . visit <http://www.pserie.psu.edu/seagrant/ais/about/about.htm> and <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildplant/cando.aspx> to find out what you can do to prevent the spread of invasive species.

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 September 27, 2010

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 Wildĭ 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/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. Contact SCCA to sign up!

Nature Conservancy Grassland Restoration Site – Future SCCA Project???

The Nature Conservancy has a 30 acre preserve adjacent to a 100 acre conservation easement in Juniata County named Westfall Ridge Prairie Preserve. This unique grassland environment needs some restoration and monitoring work . would anyone be interested in SCCA assisting the Nature Conservancy with this project? Please let us know . shermanscreek@embarqmail.com. If you are interested in learning more about this preserve, please visit the website at <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/pennsylvania/preserves/art815.html>.

2010 SCCA Memberships Needed!!! Current paid members is now 30 (was 55 this time last year)

Shermans Creek 2010 Crocks are in – 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...

Events at Little Buffalo State Park

Little Buffalo has several events coming up in July & August here is a quick summary. For a complete listing, visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp?ICSORG=6317>.

- **West End Hike, September 22, 6:30 – 7:30 PM** - Join us for a short loop hike on the western half of the beautiful Buffalo Ridge Trail. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. Hiking will be easy to moderate. Meet in front of the pool.
- **National Public Lands Day, September 25, 9:00AM – 11:30AM** - General clean-up, trail work and invasive plant removal. Meet at the park office. Gloves, Boots and Long pants recommended.
- **Fall Evening Walk, September 28, 6:00PM – 7:30 PM** - Join the park naturalist for a leisurely walk in the park. We will walk out the railroad bed on the west end of the park and return the same way. There will be plenty of stops along the way to discover seasonal wildflowers and birds, and to talk about the railway that once traversed the trail. Meet in the Pavilion 1 & 2 parking area, by turning onto Swimming Pool Road and then taking the first Right turn to the parking lot.
- **Little Buffalo Festival, October 2, 12:00PM – 7:00PM** - Enjoy 10 different musical performances, arts and craft exhibits and demonstrations, a free kid's arts fest from 12-5pm, workshops, and great food at the Little Buffalo Festival. This event is hosted by Little Buffalo State Park, sponsored by the Perry County Council of the Arts, and produced by the Buffaloes. Please visit www.littlebuffalofestival.blogspot.com for performance times and more details. **SCCA will be there!!!!** This is a free event, donations are welcome.
- **Old Fashioned Apple Festival, October 16-17, 10:00AM – 3:00PM** - Tour Shoaff's nineteenth century water-powered Mill where you can sample fresh cider you saw being made. Try some tasty cornmeal baked goods. Then head to the second floor to see the millstones grinding cornmeal, while out front apple butter is cooking away. Enjoy excellent musical entertainment both days. On Saturday there will be an old fashioned cake walk If you would like to purchase apple butter please bring your own clean marked jars. Saturday Musician Van Wagner www.vanwagnermusic.com Sunday Musician Jay Smar www.jaysmar.com

Events at Colonel Denning State Park

Lots going on at Colonel Denning State Park for a complete listing, visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp?ICSORG=6304>.

- **Volunteer Work Day, September 25, October 16, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM** - Friends of Colonel Denning volunteer work day. Meet at Pavilion#1 for work assignments which will vary according to need. Please bring bag lunch. Please dress appropriately and bring work gloves. Other equipment will be provided.
- **Bark in the Park, October 2, 10:00AM – 3:00PM** - Come participate in the first ever "Bark in the Park" event at Colonel Denning State Park - a celebration of our canine friends and the outdoors. The day's events will include demonstrations, presentations, clinics, hikes, canine competitions, vendors and more. Explore the park and learn what recreational activities you and your four-legged friend can do. Free parking and admission. The event is rain or shine.

PA Cleanways Tire Recycling Challenge, September 25 8AM - noon

Special Collection/Recycling Event in Perry County, sponsored by PA CleanWays of Perry County. We will be competing in the PA CleanWays Tire Recycling Challenge this year against Huntingdon and Mifflin Chapters. It will be at the Loysville Community Club ball field parking lot. All residents of the County are welcome to drop off tires with or without rims. There will be a fee of \$1 per car tire, \$5 per tractor trailer truck tire, and \$10 per tractor tire. Tires will not be accepted from commercial businesses. Lunch, snacks, drinks and gloves will be provided to volunteers. For more information, please contact Sally Tengeres at 717-582-5139 or e-mail. (see attachment for details)

PCWEA and SRBC host Stormwater BMP workshop – September 25

Most training doesn't get around to the details of fixing things – this session does! Come to the Peoples Stormwater Infiltration-Retrofit Workshop & Field Visit on September 25 at the Community Center of Giant Super Food Store, 2300 Linglestown Road, 8:30 am-Noon in Susquehanna Township. See attachment for more details.

Central Pennsylvania Conservancy - Iron Master's Mansion Native Planting October 9, 2010 (9:00 am-3:00 pm)

Volunteers are needed to help plant native plants around the Iron Masters Mansion at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Some tools will be available. Please bring gloves and any garden tools you might have. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to info@centralpaconservancy.org so they can be properly prepared with enough food.

The Appalachian Audobon Society Bird Seed Sale – October 1 & 2

The annual Appalachian Audobon bird seed sale will be held on October 1 & 2 (pre-orders accepted, but deadline this week). See attachment for details!

The Appalachian Audobon 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.

- **October 21, 2010, Wild About Bluebirds:** AAS welcomes John Rogers, a recognized authority on bluebird conservation from Brewerton, New York. For decades, John has maintained hundreds of bluebird nest boxes in the southern region of Tug Hill, north of Oneida Lake, and has fledged over 12,100 Eastern Bluebirds. His presentation will encompass the life history of the Eastern Bluebird, nest box management, other birds that nest in bluebird boxes, and more. John will also share his passion for the natural world, imparting broader and deeper messages about nature and life with beautiful photographs, bird song audios, creative graphics, and a sincere, enthusiastic presentation style. An experienced birder, John is a member of the Onondaga Audubon Society near Syracuse, NY.

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

The Appalachian Audobon Society Field Trips

- **September 25, Annual Ralph Kinter Memorial Wildflower Walk:** Host Dan Welte will lead our group to the Cornwall area to search for gentians and other fall wildflowers. Meet at 8AM at the back of the Harrisburg WalMart parking lot off Route 322 to carpool. Contact Dan at 717-728-0421 or dcmawelte@paonline.com for further details.

- **Saturday, October 23, 2010, Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch:** Join AAS President Paul Zeph in watching for raptors and other species in their fall migration. Paul will also give an overview of the Cliff Jones Field Station and other projects at Waggoner's Gap. Meet at 11AM in the parking lot. Contact Paul at 717-691- 0288 or pzeph1@verizon.net.

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

Perry County in Drought Watch Condition

All summer and still now in September, Perry County, as well as 43 other PA counties, are in a drought watch condition, according to DEP. Lack of rain leads to stressed streams and low groundwater levels. Some PA counties are over 5 inches below normal rainfall in the past few months. Some residential tips include:

- Use your SCCA rain barrel to collect that precious rain water when it does occur and use it on your gardens, lawns, and wherever else that is feasible
- Repair leaking toilets and faucets (a leaking toilet could lose as much as 200 gallons per day)
- Install new water saving devices, such as aerators or spray taps
- Take short showers instead of baths (A shower timer helps too)
- Use dishwashers and washing machines only when full
- Wash you car at a car wash that recycles the wash water, rather than in your driveway
- Refrain from watering established lawns . grass usually goes dormant, not dies, during dry conditions

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>

iConserve Challenge – Sept 10-Oct. 10

Get outdoors on behalf of state parks and state forests by participating in the Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge, September 10 through October 10. Take part in one of many events across the commonwealth or create your own and help hike, bike, walk, swim, ride, or paddle towards the virtual target of 30,000 miles . the number of trail miles in Pennsylvania. Try the new category . Puppy and Me - as an excuse for an outing with your four legged friend (even your dog receives a bandana). Consider setting a fundraising goal and/or a mileage goal. Maybe even build a team.

Register at http://t.lt01.net/q/rfMzGiL5XPKS5o-SqcVwOgasXyZaMzEXWeTysgyNQ_t_J56G1HoDV0jiH and get all the details.

PA Plan to Reduce Pollution Going to Chesapeake Bay Does NOT Meet EPA Requirements

Matthew Ehrhart, Executive Director of Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Pennsylvania office, released this statement after completing a preliminary review of the Department of Environmental Protection's draft Watershed Implementation Plan designed to reduce nutrients and sediment in Pennsylvania streams going to the Chesapeake Bay. (Full statement available at <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=16814>)

Rather than providing a tangible roadmap on how to achieve goals necessary to restore clean water in Pennsylvania and the Bay, it is our conclusion that the draft WIP is largely a summary of

programs and initiatives that already exist. The plan does not clearly articulate the strategy, programs, resources, and timing to be employed to meet the obligations of the TMDL and provide reasonable assurance that our goals will be met.+

EPA Public Meetings Concerning PA Watershed Implementation Plan

States within the Chesapeake Bay watershed were required to create %Watershed Implementation Plans+outlining initiatives and a plan to reduce pollution leading to the Chesapeake Bay. In March the Chesapeake Bay Foundation issued a special report on Pennsylvania efforts to cleanup the Bay watershed which concluded the state will have to double or triple its efforts to install agricultural best management practices if it hopes to meet the aggressive cleanup milestones established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA public meetings on the draft Watershed Implementation Plan (formal notice) are scheduled for:

- October 18, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Best Western Eden Resort, 222 Eden Road, Lancaster;
- October 19, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 850 Stratford Drive, State College;
- October 20, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Lycoming College, Wendle Hall, 700 College Place, Williamsport. A webinar of this meeting is also scheduled; and
- October 21, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Bentley's of Northern Pennsylvania, 2300 Route 309, Ashley.

A copy of the draft Watershed Implementation Plan is available online at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/chesapeake_bay_program/10513.

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