



Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project *Make Use of Our Rivers*

Volume XVII
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Winter 2010

SPECIAL EDITION

**Outdoor
Heritage**



**featuring
Event Highlights**

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April is Outdoor Heritage Month in Pennsylvania's Alleghenies.

Preparations are underway to kick-off a year of conservation and stewardship beginning with Outdoor Heritage Month this April! Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and Natural Biodiversity are leading a team of educators, conservationists, and volunteers to celebrate and promote the rich cultural and natural resources of the Pennsylvania Allegheny Mountains region. Global, national and local initiatives inspiring stewardship will be promoted throughout Outdoor Heritage Month and beyond!

The theme of Outdoor Heritage this year is **Learn and Serve Outdoors: Discovering Nature's Wonders and Working to Protect Them** and provides hands-on learning experiences intended to inspire lifelong environmental stewardship by cultivating an appreciation for the natural world.



*Get Out and Discover
Pennsylvania's Alleghenies*

Outdoor Adventures, a primary attraction of Outdoor Heritage, will be May 6 & 7, 2010 at the Summer's Best Two Weeks youth camp in beautiful northern Somerset County.

Outdoor Adventures is a favorite field trip for elementary-aged students from public, private and home schools that involves over 40 organizations, presenters, and exhibitors and educates over 1,000 children about watersheds, native plant and animal life, conservation, energy, and many other important concepts. Endorsed by the PA Association of Environmental Educators, Outdoor Adventures engages youth through creative, interactive activities and exhibits and provides experiences that will have a lasting impact on participating children.

Please plan to join in Outdoor Heritage events. Volunteers, exhibitors, and sponsors are needed for many activities. For a growing calendar of events and information on how to get involved, visit the Outdoor Heritage website at www.ohmonth.com.

Join us as we celebrate our rich natural and cultural heritage. See details inside!

Water Quality Monitoring Joint Venture in Somerset County

The Somerset Conservation District, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) are embarking on a Water Quality Monitoring Joint Venture in Somerset County. This initiative is designed to utilize technology to determine changes in water quality in every major Somerset County watershed.

The USGS currently has several stations in place that can monitor for water chemistry and will retrofit several others to do so. The District, with support from the Stream Team, has identified additional locations where in stream data loggers should be placed that will provide additional information. Although the primary impetus for the project is the potential impacts from Marcellus Shale gas drilling, the data derived from this effort will provide us information about potential impacts from abandoned mine

drainage (AMD), agriculture and other sources of impairment.

The minimal number of data loggers required to cover the identified need is five. Each logger costs \$1,500.00 each. The District and the Stream Team will provide the people power required to gather the information from the loggers that will record information continuously. Local Universities and other partners will be approached to provide additional data gathering assistance.

In order to more fully protect the water resources of Somerset County additional loggers will be required to support or expand the program. The District is currently approaching watershed groups, conservation organizations, local businesses and gas companies for financial

support. Eventually grant funds will be pursued to expand the program beyond Somerset County. To date the Somerset County Conservancy, Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Jenner Rod and Gun Club and the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited have financially contributed to this initiative.

This effort will provide a crucial early warning system for our watersheds and is a proactive approach as opposed to reacting to a problem after it is too late to correct.

To obtain additional information about this initiative or to make a contribution contact the Somerset Conservation District at 814-445-4652 Ext. 136 or email Len-scd@wpia.net or the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team at 814-444-2669 or email mreckner@kstreamteam.org.

5th Annual Que Classic to be Held on July 10, 2010

SCRIP is planning the 5th annual Quemahoning Classic Fishing Tournament, which will be held Saturday, July 10, 2010 at the Quemahoning Public Recreation Area from 7:00 a.m. till Noon. Prizes will be awarded to the man, woman, and child that catches the most total inches of a fish species in the following categories: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Trout (All species), Pike/Muskellunge, Carp, and Walleye. The grand prize winner will be the angler who catches the most species and will be awarded the Cameron Rozier Memorial Best Angler Award. You don't need a boat to participate, as shore fishing will again be permitted this year.





The Nature of Heritage

APRIL IS OUTDOOR HERITAGE MONTH
Kicking off a year of conservation each year in
Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains!
This year's theme is *Learn and Serve Outdoors.*

www.ohmonth.com

Thank you to our primary Outdoor Heritage supporters:

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Environmental Education Program
Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds
Dominion and Western PA Conservancy
Jenner Rod and Gun
Stonycreek Conemaugh River Improvement Project

Outdoor Heritage Month Opening Ceremony

April 2nd – 10am, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center
This year's ceremony will begin with the presentation of the PA House of Representatives Resolution declaring April as Outdoor Heritage Month in PA's Allegheny Mountains. Become a partner of Outdoor Heritage Month and you can attend! Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association, Natural Biodiversity, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, and Outdoor Heritage Partners. Contact Kristin Sewak, Natural Biodiversity, for more information: ksewak@naturalbiodiversity.org or (814) 509-6036.

Paint Creek Watershed Clean-up

April 3rd-10am-1pm, Meet at Windber Recreation Park
In celebration of the Great American Cleanup of PA, volunteers will join the Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association and Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team as they conduct a cleanup along Berwick Road and Weaver Run. Contact Melissa Reckner for more information at mreckner@kcstreamteam.org or 814-444-2669.

Screening of *Food, Inc.*

April 8th – 7pm, Johnstown Flood Museum
Come to the Flood Museum for a high-definition viewing of *Food, Inc.*, a documentary about the food production process in America. This film lifts the veil on the shocking truths of what we're eating and how our diets have led to environmental degradation and poor consumer health. This event is free and open to the public.
Sponsored by Natural Biodiversity and hosted by Johnstown Area Heritage Association."

WORKSHOP: Macro Madness – What's Living in Your Water?

April 10th – 10:30am -12:00pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center. Presenter: Melissa Reckner, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team.
Workshop audience: 4th -6th graders; parents also welcome.
Cost: \$5 per child, free to JAHA members. Macro-invertebrates are animals without a backbone that are large enough to be seen without a microscope. In this hands-on workshop, kids will collect, identify, and observe living macro-invertebrates. Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association and Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team.
Contact Fran Fregly at 814-539-1889 X 305 to register.

National Environmental Education Week

April 11th – April 17th
Visit www.eeweek.org for additional information.

WORKSHOP: Puppet Play and More!

April 17th – 11am – 12:30pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center
Cost: \$5 per child, free to JAHA members
Join us for puppet plays, music and crafts celebrating the region's environmental and historic heritage – presented by National Park Service rangers. Participants in grades K – 2 will receive park service badges and certificates.
Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association and the National Park Service.
Contact Fran Fregly at 814-539-1889 X 305 to register.

Great American Cleanup of PA

April 17th – May 1st
Join Pennsylvanians across the state — and Americans across the nation — in cleaning up litter and trash along our roadsides, streams, parks, forests and neighborhoods. Go to www.gacofpa.org for more information.

Earth Day, 40th Anniversary—April 22nd

The 40th anniversary of Earth Day is the perfect time to step up and make a difference! Visit www.iconservepa.org/earthday40 for more information about Pennsylvania's Earth Day 40 Challenge.

Global Youth Service Day

April 23rd – April 25th
Visit www.gysd.org for more information.

Westmoreland Earth Day

April 24th – 10-4 pm, Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve at St. Vincent College
This event, themed "Movin' and Groovin' Green," features over 80 exhibitors to bring together families around the community. The mission of this event is to demonstrate the connections that exist between members of the community and the local natural resources, heighten environmental awareness, and increase citizen involvement in environmental

organizations. Visit www.westmorelandearthday.org for more detailed information.

Children's Program: Rachel Carson, Pennsylvania, and the Nature Discovery Treasure Chest

April 24th – 2pm, Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site

Join Vivienne Shaffer as she demonstrates Rachel Carson's achieved success by using poetic language to create powerful images and convey complicated scientific information in an understandable way. The presentation features word games and writing activities, along with brief excerpts from Carson's writings. Children will especially enjoy exploring the nature discovery treasure chest. This event is free, but space is limited. To register, contact park staff at (814) 886-6150.

Sponsored by the National Park Service.

WORKSHOP: Planting and Growing for Preschoolers

April 24 – 10:30am – 12:00pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center

Presenter: Kelli Testa

Workshop audience: Parents and children ages 3 – 5

Cost: \$5 per child, free to JAHA members

Students will learn about plant growth during story time and later through crafts and hands-on activities. Children will also make their own gardens and letter books to take home. A themed snack will be served with parents' assistance. Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association.

Contact Fran Fregly at 814-539-1889 X 305 to register.

Earth Day Celebration at Shawnee State Park

April 24 – 10:00am – 2:00pm

The Environmental Learning Network, in partnership with numerous community organizations, will host an Earth Day Celebration at Shawnee State Park, Pavilion 3.

Arbor Day

April 30th

Visit www.arborday.org to learn more.

The conservation celebrations don't end with Outdoor Heritage Month in April! Here are some events that continue throughout the spring season...

Outdoor Adventures

May 6th & 7th

9:30am – 3pm,

Summer's Best Two Weeks Camp at

Quemahoning Lake.



Outdoor Adventures is a favorite field trip for elementary-aged public, private and home school students held each spring in beautiful northern Somerset County. Over 40 organizations, presenters, and exhibitors will help educate over 1,000 children about watersheds, native plant and animal life, conservation, energy, and many other important concepts! Outdoor Adventures is endorsed by the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE). Sponsored by: Natural Biodiversity, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, and Outdoor Heritage Partners. For more information, visit www.ohmonth.com/adventures.



Native Plant Fest of the Alleghenies

May 22nd – 10am-4pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center

Come to the Native Plant Fest to learn how native plants can augment your garden, enhance wildlife habitat, and provide a sense of place and a tangible connection to the past. Local and regional native plant nurseries will provide a wide variety of showy native plants perennials. In addition, two adult workshops, a children's workshop, and a special keynote presentation from author and native plant expert, Doug Tallamy, will be offered. Dr. Tallamy's presentation is free for JAHA members and Natural Biodiversity donors and \$5 for non-members. Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association and Natural Biodiversity. For more information, contact Meghan Kerr at mkerr@naturalbiodiversity.org or 814- 509-6036.

Great Outdoors Week

May 14th – May 23rd

For more information, visit www.wallsarebad.com.

UN World Environment Day – Pittsburgh

June 5th

WED is designed to: give a face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future. Pittsburgh is this year's North American host city and our close proximity provides an excellent opportunity to reach out to a wider demographic! To see additional WED events or to learn more about this program, visit www.pittsburghwed.com.



AMD Treatment System Snapshot–Part II

In September, a team consisting of individuals from PA DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR), Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, Stream Restoration Incorporated, and others conducted a snapshot of all the publicly funded passive treatment systems located within Pennsylvania. This snapshot collected water quality data, photographs, and sketches that will be placed on Datashed, a free, web-based database designed to assist in the management of data related to passive treatment systems. Datashed makes this information available to the public, including watershed groups, academic, non-profits, government agencies and anyone else interested in passive treatment. Data may be viewed at www.datashed.org. Phase II of the snapshot will take place in late March and April to gather water quality data from passive treatment systems during the season of high flows. These data will be added to Datashed this summer. The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team will need a few extra volunteers to help with this additional monitoring. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact Melissa Reckner at 814-444-2669 or mreckner@kcstreamteam.org.



Thurman Korns, SCRIIP treasurer checks out discharge pipes at Wells Creek No. 7 AMD Treatment System

Where's the SCRIIP Website?

You may have been wondering why SCRIIP's website is no longer posted on the world wide web. Though a pioneer of early websites, the SCRIIP site was outdated. So, SCRIIP has committed to creating a new website, which is currently under development and expected to be launched sometime this spring. The new domain name (url) will be www.scrippa.org. We will do our best to let you all know when the new site becomes active, but you should be able to check it out sometime in May. We hope you like it!

Stream Team Annual Report Available

A digital copy of the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team's first official annual report is available upon request by contacting Melissa Reckner, the Stream Team's director, at 814-444-2669 or mreckner@kcstreamteam.org. This report details the Stream Team's accomplishments in 2009 and nicely shows the extent of its programs. For instance, the Stream Team collected 528 water samples from 157 throughout the 1,887 square-mile Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin. It regularly monitored 26 AMD treatment systems in which over 10 million, of largely public dollars, have been invested. Resulting data were used by numerous federal, state and local agencies to design and evaluate Abandoned Mine Drainage treatment systems. If not for the Stream Team and its partnership with the PA DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, many of these systems would not be monitored, jeopardizing the investment of countless resources, leaving a huge data gap, and endangering aquatic species that are returning and flourishing in our waterways. Additionally, even with its reduced staff, the Stream Team directly engaged and educated 5,935 students of all ages through its environmental education program, which included six Trout in the Classroom projects and Outdoor Adventures. Over 300 people volunteered with the Stream Team in 2009, and \$0.88 of every dollar leveraged went directly into conservation and education programs.



Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

New Growth at Natural Biodiversity

Our 10-year old program is becoming an organization, recently securing a 7-member board of directors and filing articles of incorporation. We are also currently releasing our 2009 Annual Report and working on plenty of spring stewardship offerings, from Outdoor Heritage Month activities in April, featuring a screening of the movie *Food, Inc.* on April 8th, 7pm, Johnstown Flood Museum, to the new *Native Plant Fest of the Alleghenies*, featuring native plant sales, family backyard habitat workshops, and a keynote presentation by Doug Tallamy, author of [Bringing Nature Home](http://www.bringingnaturehome.com). Read about all of this and more in the next issue of our e-newsletter, *The Leaflet*. To sign up for the publication, go to www.naturalbiodiversity.org/leaflet.



The Southern Alleghenies Conservancy
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SCRIP is the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project, a coalition of grassroots groups and local resource agencies working to restore and promote the Upper Conemaugh watershed.

People of SCRIP

Board of Directors:

- Len Lichvar, *Chairman*
- Joe Gorden, *Vice-Chairman*
- Melissa Reckner, *Secretary*
- Thurman Korns, *Treasurer*
- Joe Allison
- Bob Deason
- Jim Eckenrode
- Larry Hutchinson
- Mark Lazzari
- Karlice Makuchan
- Rob McCombie
- Robb Piper
- Bob Ritchey
- Dave Sewak
- Kristin Sewak
- Dave Steele

New or Renewing members:

- Frank Bendick
- Rick & Vicky Blasic Family
- Richard Burkert &
- Ellen Singleton Family

- Brad & Leslie Clemenson Family
- George and Eve Cook
- Dr. Ian Cube
- Bill & Debbie Cuppett Family
- Edward & Bev Englehart Family
- David Fink
- William Fink
- William Glosser
- Joe Gorden Family
- Richard Hambright
- Stuart Horner
- Jenner Township Supervisors
- Thurman Korns
- David Latoche Family
- Karlice Makuchan
- Howard & Adelle Picking Family
- E. Gary & Susan Scott Family
- E. Lincoln & Barbara
- Van Sickel Family
- Slovenian Savings and Loan Assoc.
- Somerset Trust Company
- Eva Strang
- Richard & Carol Yeager Family

Join or renew today!

Student	\$6
Individual	\$15
Family	\$20
Club/Small Business	\$50
Patron	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Sponsor	\$500
Advocate	\$1000

Make your check payable to **SCRIP**, or for a tax-deductible contribution, write the check to **Southern Alleghenies Conservancy/SCRIP**. To support our endowed fund for the long-term operation and maintenance of our projects, make you check payable to **Community Foundation for the Alleghenies**.

Send donations to:

SCRIP
P.O. Box 164
Windber, PA 15963

***** Note New Address*****