



Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project

SCRIP Scholarship Winners for 2015

**Volume XXIII
Number 1
Winter 2016**

Save the Date:
March 17– SCRIP
Board Meeting,
Windber Hotel, 3pm.

March 26– Picking
Up Paint Creek litter
cleanup. Contact
Missy at 814-444-2669
or [mreckner@
kcstreamteam.org](mailto:mreckner@kcstreamteam.org)

April 2–Mountain
Laurel Trout Unlim-
ited Spring Banquet,
Holiday Inn John-
stown, 5pm. For in-
formation, call 814-
266-4763.

April 9– Benscreek
Canoe Club’s cleanup
of Stonycreek River
access points, 9am.

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Jonathan Graffius (*left*) and Logan Lichvar were winners of the \$500 scholarships last year. Their articles appear on page 2. The SCRIP 2016 Scholarship deadline is March 30. See page 3 for application details.

Grant Awarded to Somerset Conservation District



John Dawes, (*left*) of the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and one of the sponsors of the statewide Coldwater Conference, presents a grant award to Somerset Conservation District Watershed Specialist Greg Shustrick. The grant was presented at the 2016 Coldwater Conference in State College. The project will establish stream side buffers on the North Fork of Bens Creek on the property of the North Fork Country Club. The District previously completed a Coldwater Conservation Plan for North Fork of Bens Creek watershed.

Photo by Len Lichvar

My name is **Jonathan Graffius** and I was the recipient of the \$500 SCRIP scholarship. I am currently a senior Environmental Engineering major with a concentration in Renewable Energy at Saint Francis University and will be graduating in May 2016. Along my path through Saint Francis University I was lucky enough to have two internships where I learned a lot about the real world and our environment.

My first internship was with the Blair County Conservation District where I really learned about water quality and what our streams provide for the ecosystems and ultimately us. I learned how beneficial volunteer programs are in protecting our rivers and streams. These volunteers care about their local community whether it be preserving a trout stream or assisting to help clean up an acid mine drainage impacted river. I was also able to help educate elementary to high school students about the impacts that they can have on the environment with their day to day activities and what they can do to be more environmentally friendly.

My second internship was with P. Joseph Lehman consulting engineers where I learned groundwater sampling techniques. I learned that not all polluted waters are surface waters (such as lakes and streams), but can also be located in the groundwater. This pollution can come from leaky underground storage tanks which contain gasoline. This is important to us because many people rely on drinking wells as their main source of drinking water and can be negatively affected by this pollution.

Upon graduation in May I will hopefully obtain a job in a local consulting firm where I can use my engineering education to help design remediation systems that will benefit my community. I would ultimately like to work for a renewable energy company in the future.

June 22-23—Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference, “Economics and the Environment,” IUP Kovalchick Conference Center, Indiana. For details: <http://2016.treatminewater.com>

Hi. My name is **Logan Lichvar** and last year, I was fortunate enough to receive the SCRIP \$500 Scholarship. I used the scholarship to help pay my college tuition. I am attending California University of Pennsylvania and I am majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. I am involved in the Cal U Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and I also participate in the Cal U Archery Club. I will be attending and competing in the Collegiate Indoor Nations Archery Competition this spring. When I am not at school I like to enjoy the outdoors by hunting, trapping and fishing as much as I can. Some of my academic achievements thus far have been being on the dean’s list, being named a 2016 Presidential Scholar and maintaining an overall GPA of 3.9. I am currently a junior here at Cal even though this is only my fourth semester. I plan to graduate a year early, which will be in May of 2017. After graduation I will be looking for a job in the field of wildlife biology and conservation. Pheasant hunting is one of my many passions in life and I would ultimately like to work for Pheasants Forever. I would like to do habitat restoration here in south western PA that will not only benefit pheasants, but all of the other game species as well. I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped make this scholarship possible because it has helped me further my education in the field of wildlife biology.

Save the Date (continued)



April 9 - South Fork of Bens Creek litter cleanup sponsored by the Somerset Conservation District and the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Meet at Jim and Jimmies along Route 985 at 8:00 AM.

April 15 - Trout stocking of Quemahoning Creek. Meet at the Jenner Community Sportsmen's Club at 8:00 AM. For more information contact Len Lichvar at LennyLL@yahoo.com

April 30— MLTU’s Shade Creek litter cleanup

May 20-22— Stonycreek Rendezvous. For details see: <http://benscreekcanooclub.com/rendezvous>

May 25— Outdoor Night, Pittsburgh Pirates and PA Fish & Boat Commission, PNG Park

June 2-5— Kiski-Conemaugh River Sojourn, for details see: <http://www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org/recreation/skcs.html>

June 18— Ohio River Sweep, for details see: <http://www.orsanco.org/sweep>

SCRIP \$500 Scholarship

The Stonycreek Conemaugh River Improvement Project will be awarding a \$500 Scholarship to a worthy student for the current academic year. Deadline to submit is March 30, 2016.

Eligibility—Applicant must:

- Either be a dues-paying SCRIP member or the child of a SCRIP member
- Reside in one of the counties that includes the Kiski-Conemaugh Basin (Armstrong, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, or Westmoreland). Residency means the student lives in or is a resident at a school in one of these counties.
- Be in an accredited environmental field of study at a Pennsylvania college or university.

How to Apply:

The application should contain these three parts:

- Part I-** A cover sheet with the following information: name, mailing address, email address, phone number, college or university attending, year and course of study
- Part II-** A typed statement, double-spaced, 12 pt font size, no longer than two pages explaining applicant’s professional goals, how the course of study will meet those goals and any involvement to date in the field.
- Part III-** A copy of applicant’s latest transcript

Applications must be received by March 30, 2016. Please send to: SCRIP, Scholarship 2016, P.O. Box 164, Windber, PA 15963. Award notification will be no later than April 30, 2016. Award check will be sent directly to the Financial Aid Office at the college or university.

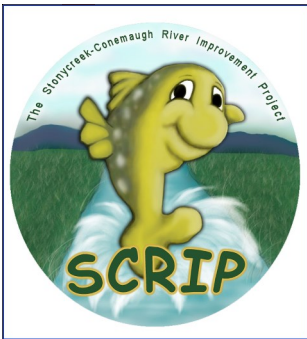
Award recipient will be required to inform SCRIP of his or her personal academic achievements, graduation and future career plans in article form for publication in the SCRIP newsletter. This information will be used to assist with promotion of any future SCRIP scholarship awards.

Any questions about eligibility or other parts of the application should be addressed to SCRIP at: info@ScripPA.org.

Join or renew* SCRIP today!

Name _____		
Street Address _____		City _____
State/Zip _____		Email _____
Phone _____	Date _____	Do you wish to volunteer? _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20)
<input type="checkbox"/> Club/Small Business (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$100)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$500)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (\$1000)	

Make your check payable to **SCRIP**, or for a tax-deductible contribution, make the check to **Southern Alleghenies Conservancy/ SCRIP**. * *If you are not sure of your membership status contact SCRIP’s secretary at 814-444-2669 or mreckner@kcstreamteam.org.* Send donations to: **SCRIP, P.O. Box 164, Windber, PA 15963**



Southern Alleghenies Conservancy
SCRIP
 10605 Raystown Road Suite A
 Huntington PA 16652-7542

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SCRIP is the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project,
 a coalition of grass-roots groups and local resource agencies working to
 restore and promote the Upper Conemaugh watershed.

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