

**Volume XXVIII
Number 1
Winter 2021**

Save the Date:

April 3 – Opening day of Trout season

April 10 – Little Paint Creek Litter Cleanup. Meet along Berwick Road in Richland Township at 8:30 AM. Contact Melissa Reckner for details: mreckner@brandywine.org

April 18 – Benscreek Litter Cleanup. Meet at Jim & Jimmies at 9AM. Contact Greg Shustrick for details: greg-scd@wpia.net

May 8– Cleanup along Clear Shade Creek. Meet at Old Iron Bridge at 9 AM.

May 21-23 – Stonycreek Rendezvous

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Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project

Reconstructed Oven Run Treatment Deemed Successful

by Len Lichvar

Now that some verified data has been collected and analyzed it proves that the reconstruction of Oven Run Passive Treatment Sites E and F on the Stonycreek River by the Somerset Conservation District has been extremely successful and effective. The District’s goal was not just to reconstruct, but to improve the functionality and effectiveness of the systems and that goal appears to have been achieved.

At Site E, Gallons per Minute (gpm) of treated water has increased from 125 gpm of treated water to 250 gpm. This results in a 100% increase in the system it was originally designed to treat. The pH level has increased from 3.5 to 7.7, aluminum has decreased from 4.4 mg/L to .5 mg/L, iron reduced from .7 mg/L to .5 mg/L and alkalinity has increased from 0 mg/L to 87 mg/L.

At Site F, GPM has increased from 125 gpm to 175 gpm being treated, pH has increased from 3.3 to 7.8, aluminum decreased from 11.5 mg/L to .5 mg/L, iron decreased from 1.2 mg/L to .3 mg/L and alkalinity increased from 0 mg/L to 151 mg/L.

The reconstruction of these systems is a task that takes time, effort and special professional skills to accomplish. The successful results at Oven Run are thanks to the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District’s Technical Assistance Group of Danielle Kalp, Phil Wilson and Phil Gardner and District’s oversight and management skills of Watershed Specialist Greg Shustrick and the administrative contributions of Sue Moon. The projects were funded by a PA DEP Growing Greener Grant. Reconstruction of Oven Sites A and D are still scheduled to take place later this year.

Nature Works 2021

by Melissa Reckner

The 5th annual NatureWorks event, coordinated by the Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center and Penguin Court, a preserve of the Brandywine Conservancy, was held virtually this year, due to pandemic restrictions. Six live presentations were going to be live-streamed with eight pre-recorded programs interspersed; however, due to technical difficulties, only the first presentation successfully streamed. *(continued on page 2)*



Kim Williams giving a video tour of her *All Creatures Great and Small* exhibition at the Bottle Works NatureWorks event on March 6. More Photos on Page 2.

NatureWorks *(continued from page one)*

All were recorded, though, and are available for viewing on the [Bottle Works' YouTube Channel](#). Some of the topics covered include an introduction to boating on local rivers and mountain biking to spring wildflowers, turkeys, and Leave No Trace principles. SCRIP Board Member, Karlice Makuchan, led a fantastic activity using red cabbage as a pH indicator and discussed the necessary treatment of abandoned mine drainage, while Kim Williams, the NatureWorks featured artist, led a gallery tour of her artwork. The REI Coop Bedford Distribution Center generously served as this year's event sponsor.

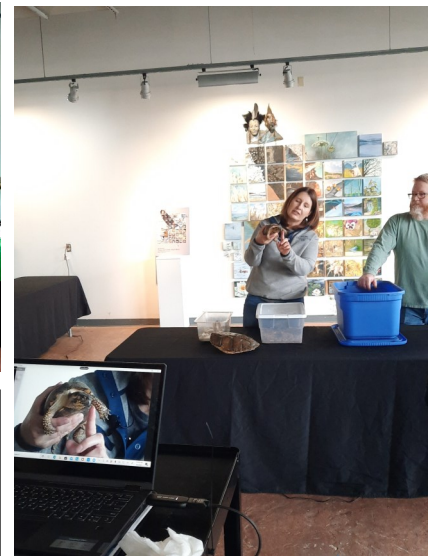


PA Fish and Boat Commission *Fish Species and Anatomy* presentation by Mandy Smith *(left)*.

Cambria County Conservation District presentation by Jackie Ritko on *Turtles and Snakes* *(below right)*.



SCRIP presentation by Karlice Makuchan on *Properties of Water and At-Home Experiments* used red cabbage juice as an indicator to illustrate differences in pH *(above and left)*.



Get Your Posies! by Melissa Reckner



[Penguin Court](#) is collaborating with the Ligonier Valley Historical Society (LVHS) and the Indiana County Friends of the Parks (FOP) to hold native plant sales this spring! More and more research is showing the importance of having native, flowering plants in your landscape from early spring through late fall to serve as nectar and pollen sources, as well as host plants for the insect species we need to pollinate our plants and the birds we enjoy seeing. Native plants co-evolved with our wildlife and often have a higher value to them than introduced, invasive plant species. Plus, they provide vibrant color to our landscapes!

Cardinal Flower It's a little too early to say if physical sales will be held, so we are promoting pre-orders again this year. Due to the positive response of last year's sales, we have added even more species to our plant catalogs, and anticipate selling out of several varieties, so don't delay; get your orders in! Catalogs for both sales may be downloaded from the [Brandywine Conservancy's Event](#) webpage. Orders from the LVHS catalog are due April 30 and pickups will be scheduled at the Compass Inn in Laughlintown on May 8 – in time for Mother's Day, while orders from the FOP catalog are due May 19 with pickups scheduled on May 29 at Blue Spruce Park in Indiana.

Proceeds benefit Penguin Court, LVHS, and FOP.

In Memoriam—Ron Donlan by Len Lichvar



Ron Donlan passed away in late December at age 71, shocking those who knew him since Ron always lived life to the fullest. Ron was a professional conservationist who served as the Natural Resource Conservation Service's federal Coordinator for the Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council. The RC&D, in the 1990's and throughout the early 2000's, was a multi-county federally designated and empowered unit that was the genesis for the most significant conservation and economic initiatives ever undertaken in the region. The origin of the Oven Run AMD abatement projects on the Stonycreek River, the public acquisition of the Manufacturers Water Company properties that included the Quemahoning Reservoir, the initial efforts to create the Allegheny Highlands Trail that would later become the Great Allegheny Passage Trail are just a few of the cutting edge natural resource conservation projects that the RC&D and its implementation

arm, the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy generated and supported.

Ron was a founding board member of SCRIP and played a key role in the early years when SCRIP was the primary coordinating force that orchestrated the federal, state and local agency driven funding, and the design and construction of the first AMD passive treatment systems in the Stonycreek River watershed. Ron also provided essential assistance and direction to the conservation volunteers enabling them to create the local watershed organizations that were born out of the efforts of SCRIP.

Ron served as that support mechanism, often taking the risks that no one else wanted to, that put him in the forefront of the projects, yet still behind the scenes so that elected officials, conservation districts, watershed groups and non-profits could achieve their project goals that would not have been possible without Ron's assistance, advice and often hard-charging mentality.

Join or renew* SCRIP today!

Name _____
 Street Address _____ City _____
 State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Date _____ Do you wish to volunteer? _____

To renew or become a Member, please complete Parts 1 and 2 below.

Part 1. Check your desired membership level.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20)
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Part 2. Select Option A OR Option B:

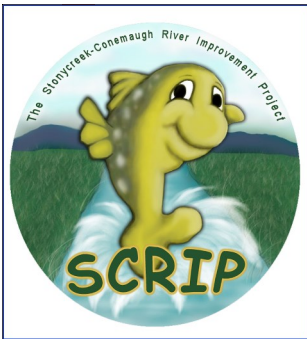
A. I am fine receiving an electronic version of the newsletter for the cost listed above for my membership level. My email address is: _____

(Please mail your check in this amount to the address below.)

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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 info@scripPA.org.* Send donations to: **SCRIP, P.O. Box 164, Windber, PA 15963**



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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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