

**Volume XXVIX
Number 1
Winter 2022**

Save the Date:

March 24– SCRIP Board Meeting, on Zoom, at 3 pm. If you would like to attend, contact Melissa R mreckner@brandywine.org to receive the link.

April 9– Paint Creek Tree Planting (*See page 2 article.*)

April 16– Kid’s Rodeo on Laurel Run. For details see [Shade Creek Watershed Association](#).

April 23- MLTU & PCRWA’s “Picking Up Paint Creek” litter cleanup. Volunteers should meet at 8:30 am at the pull off along Berwick Road.

May 7– Litter cleanup on Clear Shade Creek. Meet at old iron bridge at 9 am.

In This Issue:

Tree Planting	2
Native Plant Sale	3
Trout in Classroom	3
Trust Fund Update	3
Dumm Obituary	4
Que Oil Leak	4
In Brief	5

Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project

Reconstruction of Four Oven Run Treatment Sites Completed

by Len Lichvar

The Somerset Conservation District’s reconstruction of the four Oven Run AMD Passive Treatment systems in the Stonycreek River watershed is complete. To go along with Site E and Site F previously reconstructed, Site D was wrapped up in the Autumn of 2021 and Site A was finalized in late December. All four systems are now fully functioning and treating water.

The monumental effort and resource conservation achievement, that spanned years and invested millions of dollars from more than one source, also included redesign components.

At Site E a new wetland and additional limestone and compost were added. Site F also had additional limestone and compost added. On Site D a wetland was re-engineered and the culvert for the raw intake water was reconstructed. There was also additional water control structures added as well as emergency overflow piping. Extra compost was added to Site A as well as new rock spreaders. Also an innovative Coanda screen was installed at the intake.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) will be completing the reconstruction of Oven Run Site B this spring.

To measure the impact of the overall efforts, the District has contracted with InnoH2O Solutions LLC to conduct professional sampling for the first year at

predetermined locations to determine the water parameters and chemistry impacts. The District, in cooperation with Garrett College of Maryland, will perform fish and aquatic surveys at several locations downstream of the systems on the Stonycreek River in 2022.

It is reasonably anticipated, that with all systems fully functioning properly for the first time in years, the overall water quality of the Stonycreek River will see a documented increase in improvement for the first time in 15 years.

Oven Run Trust Fund Update page 3



AMD laden water enters Oven Run Treatment System Site D (Oaks Trail). The system utilizes natural processes to reduce the metals in the water, increase pH levels and add alkalinity. Without perpetual and ongoing operation and maintenance the systems will begin to fail and untreated water would once again enter the Stonycreek River.

Photo by Len Lichvar

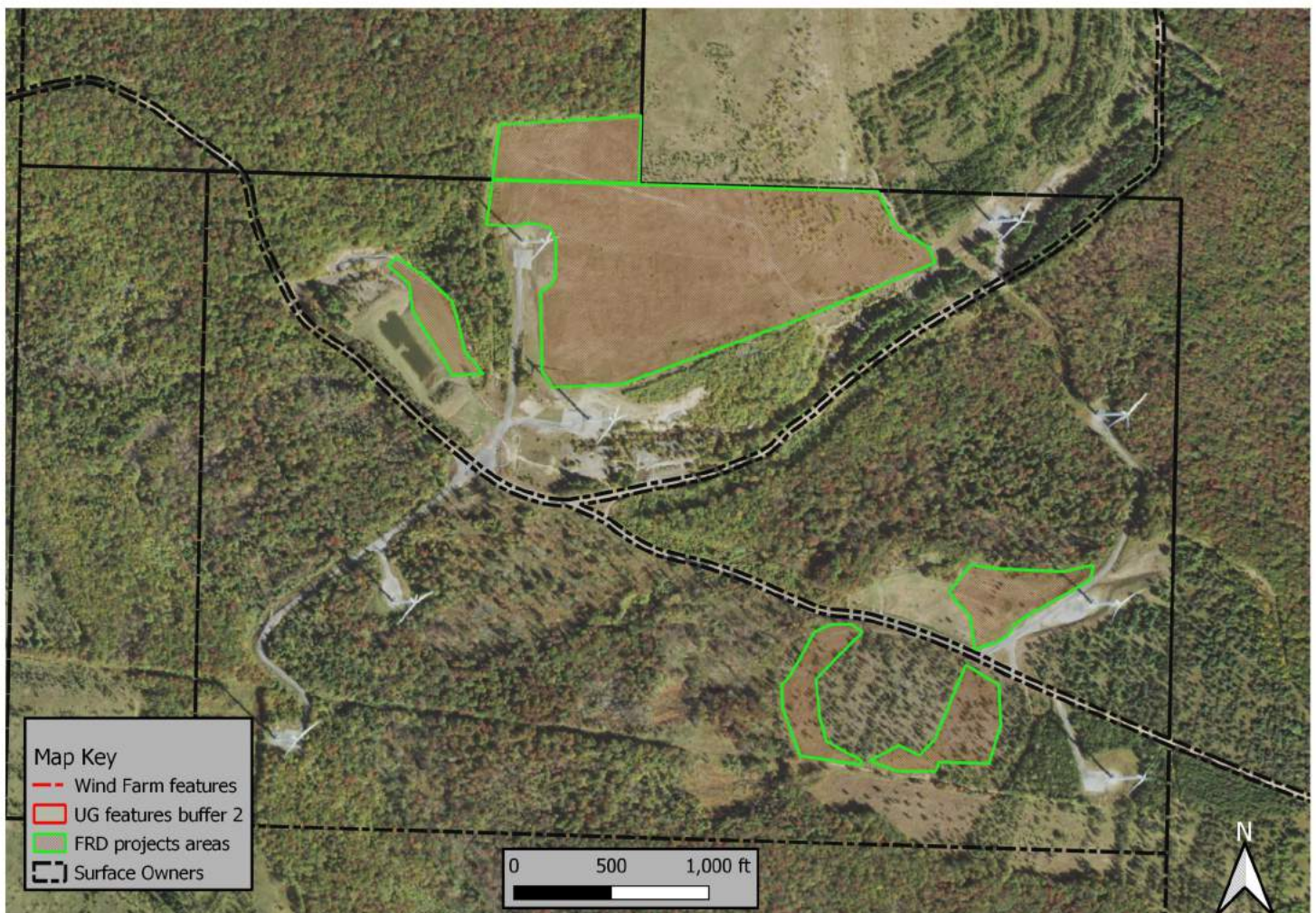
Paint Creek Tree Planting Event April 9th

by Tom Clark

The reforestation of previously mined areas is gaining steam throughout the coal region. A nearly 50-acre project will be completed this Spring on former coal mine land in the headwaters of Paint Creek combining the efforts of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Green Forests Work, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Slightly over 40,000 trees representing 16 different tree species will be planted with this 50 acres.

Trees species to be planted include American Beech, American Crabapple, Black Cherry, Black Locust, Chestnut Oak, Common Chokecherry, Northern Red Oak, Persimmon, Silky Dogwood, Sugar Maple, White Oak, White Pine, Yellow Poplar, and Red Spruce. While most of the 40,000 trees to be planted will be done so by a professional planting crew, through this effort, SCRIP would like to coordinate a **volunteer planting event on April 9th from 9AM to 12PM (lunch provided)** for the planting of the Red Spruce since they like to be planted as a monoculture and are the only trees that come as plugs making planting simpler than barefoot varieties. If interested in lending a hand to plant a few acres of Red Spruce, **please sign up by April 4th** at <https://forms.gle/nx1hXKzity9FdqqH9>.

Additional information will be supplied to people that signup closer to the planting event. For more information on the importance of Red Spruce restoration, check out <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/priority-landscapes/appalachians/stories/red-spruce-forest-restoration/>.



Native Perennials, Trees and Shrub Sale by Melissa Reckner



Joe Pye Weed

Penguin Court, the Scaife family's former estate in Laughlintown, is growing thousands of native plants for sale this spring and summer. Most are herbaceous perennials, but some trees and shrubs will be available, too. If you're looking for straight native species and not the cultivars found in most box stores and nurseries, watch for announcement of the sales listed below.

<https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/events> or receive notifications when you sign up for Penguin Court's mailing list here: <https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/preserves/penguin-court-thomas-road-farm>. The first **three sales will be pre-orders only**, while **the last will be in-person**.

Penguin Court – Plant pickups on April 30 at Penguin Court

Ligonier Valley Historical Society – Plant pickups on May 7 at Compass Inn

Indiana County Friends of Parks – Plant pickups on May 21 at Blue Spruce Park

Historic Hanna's Town – June 12

The events link above also has details about upcoming virtual and in-person events that might interest you, such as presentations on native plants, spring ephemerals, and nature photography. A Project Learning Tree educator workshop will be held April 16. Programs require registration.

Trout in the Classroom Release Days

by Melissa Reckner

In partnership with the Mountain Laurel chapter of Trout Unlimited, Penguin Court, a Preserve of the Brandywine Conservancy, is organizing Release Day field trips for Cambria and Somerset County schools that are participating in Trout in the Classroom this year. **Help is especially needed teaching kids how to fly cast*** and for the **field trips that involve a fishing** component**. You must have your criminal and child abuse clearances to work with students. If you would like to help with one or more field trips, please contact me at mreckner@brandywine.org. As a thank you for your time, lunch is provided!



Brown Trout

Shade-Central City High School – May 12* **

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy – May 13*

Forest Hills Middle School – May 24*

Conemaugh Township Middle School – May 25*

Blacklick Valley High School – TBD* **

Oven Run Trust Fund Update

The intent of this fund is to provide monetary support costs for the ongoing operation, maintenance, and reconstruction of Oven Run AMD passive treatment systems located in Somerset County. To date, the trust fund total is \$50,571.92. **To donate: [Somerset Conservation District Oven Run Treatment Sites, A, D, E, and F Trust Fund – Community Foundation for the Alleghenies \(cfalleghenies.org\)](https://www.cfalleghenies.org)**

In Remembrance– Clair Dumm by John Dryzal



Clair Joseph Dumm, or Joe to many of his family and friends, passed away January 17, 2022 at his home on the family farm in Bradley Junction, outside Ebensburg. Clair was born and lived on the farm his entire life. As a fourth-generation farmer, Clair earned many awards, with his father and brothers, for eggs, potatoes and corn grown on the farm.

Conservation was a large part of Clair’s life. Clair was involved with the Cambria County Conservation District since 1970, when he became its first District Manager. He served the District in this capacity for 25 years until he retired in 1996. During his tenure, the District received several state environmental awards, including first place in the Goodyear/NACD Conservation Award contest in 1982 and 1997. During his years at the District, Clair held a number of official positions and was instrumental in founding many programs dedicated to sound conservation practices and water quality improvement.

SCRIP was one of the organizations in which Clair was instrumental in getting established. Even after his retirement, Clair continued to serve the Conservation District for another 18 years as a member of the Board of Directors and served as Chairman from 1998-2014.

His wife Dee stated that Clair thoroughly loved what he did and was eager to go into work for his entire career. Clair was an avid golfer, could often be found on the fairways of Immergrun or Cambrian Hills, and for many years enjoyed annual wintertime trips to warmer climes with golf buddies.

In lieu of flowers, the Dumm family asks that you make contributions to Rev. Demetrius R. Dumm, OSB Endowment in Biblical Studies Fund St. Vincent Archabbey 300 Frasier Purchase Road Latrobe, PA 15650.



It was estimated that 400-500 gallons of fuel oil entered the creek. A temporary dam, or Water-Gate, was installed to contain it.

Photo by Len Lichvar

Leaking Oil Source on Que Creek Discovered

Leaking oil was discovered flowing down Quemahoning Creek on February 21 and a temporary dam otherwise known as a Water-Gate (*pictured left*) was installed to control it from spilling farther downstream. SCRIP vice-chairman Len Lichvar was in Acosta along with officials from local, state and federal agencies. Sites that could be the source were explored by digging holes and inserting cameras in pipes. The leak was finally traced back to a malfunctioning heating system, specifically a faulty filter, inside a Sixth Street home’s basement. After a new filter was installed and the drain line was flushed, the system was retested to make sure the problem was corrected. An insurance claim was filed by the home owner to help defray the costs incurred in the cleanup. Lichvar wrote a thank you letter on behalf of the Somerset Conservation District to all the agencies and others that worked to contain the spill. *The Tribune Democrat* reported on the spill and in a March 5 editorial acknowledged this “strong collaborative effort to contain the spill” and the “long-running and successful push to improve and protect streams and rivers across the region” as well as the work and funding needed to maintain them.

In Brief

Water Quality Report

Pennsylvania releases a report card every two years on its water resources to help locals assess the quality of water in their area. A [draft 2022 report](#) issued in late January showed that acid mine drainage is the leading cause of impairments in **Cambria County**. Parts of 37 creeks and streams, including the Little Conemaugh and Stonycreek are impaired in some way. Of the 1,359 miles (96.5%) assessed, 404 miles were deemed impaired. In **Somerset County** where 524 miles were assessed, about half were impaired. Although DEP assessed the Stonycreek as impaired in 1998, and is still listed that way, its chemistry is much improved due to the passive treatment systems that were

installed. Four in Oven Run have recently been reconstructed. *(See article on page one.)* Since these systems have about a 25 year lifespan, an Oven Run Treatment Sites Trust Fund has been established and is still accepting donations. *(See update on page 3.)*

Rosebud Mine 78 Expansion

SCRIP submitted a letter and map as part of public comment to Rosebud Mining Company's proposed Mine 78 expansion project in Windber. The letter specifically cited Paint Creek as a glaring area of continued mine pollution and that SCRIP is "against Rosebud's current reclamation practices that are occurring on their Mine 78 site and planned permit expansion."

We requested that "alternative reclamation methods be required to revert the land-use back to a forested landscape as it was prior to mining."

PFAS Pollution

[Move Past Plastic](#), MPP, has a petition to tell PA's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) to reduce PFAS pollution. PFAS chemicals are highly toxic to human and environmental health and accumulate in our environment including groundwater and surface water. They are found in common everyday personal care items, clothing, carpets, plastics, food packaging and our water. More information and link to the petition is above.

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.

_____ Student (\$6) _____ Individual (\$15) _____ Family (\$20)
_____ Club/Small Business (\$50) _____ Patron (\$50) _____ Sustaining (\$100)
_____ Sponsor (\$500) _____ Lifetime (\$1000)

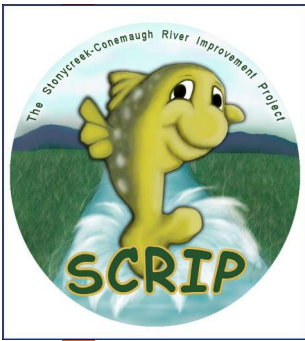
Part 2. Select Option A OR Option B:

_____ 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.)

_____ B. I would like to receive a mailed copy of the newsletter. Add \$5 to membership cost listed above. *(Please mail the membership fee plus \$5 mailing fee to the address below.)* Total Cost \$ _____

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**



SCRIP
P.O. Box 164
Windber, PA
15963

**Place
Stamp
Here**

www.scrippa.org

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.

Board of Directors

People of SCRIP

Thomas Clark, Jr. Adam Cotchen
Chairman
Len Lichvar, John Dryzal
Vice-Chairman
Melissa Reckner, Larry Hutchinson
Secretary
Jim Eckenrode, Karlice Makuchan
Treasurer
Pam Milavec
Robb Piper

New and Renewing Members
Richard & Vicky Blasic
William & Heather Brice
Malcolm Crittenden
Joe & Esther Gorden
Larry Hutchinson
Jenner Township Supervisors
Rob & Cindy McCombie
Robb & Pam Piper
Gerald & Ruth Pozun
Melissa Reckner
Scott & Diane Rugh
Somerset Conservation District
Traditional Angler of PA
Bob Wardrop