



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

Volume XVIII  
Number 2  
Spring 2011

Save the Date:  
June 16– DEP Dedication  
at Lion Mining AMD Environmental Education &  
Passive Treatment System  
Site along Bens Creek-  
Rt.985,7 mi. N of Jennerstown (across from stone  
Beka House) 10:30am

June 17– SCRIP board  
meeting at Centennial  
Farms Shooting Club -  
9 am

July 15– SCRIP board  
meeting at Greenhouse Park  
-9 am . Possible tubing on  
the Stony after.  
(Continued on page 2)

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The Quemahoning Classic Fishing Tournament slated for June 25 of this year has been canceled due to extraordinarily low pre-registration figures. Money will be refunded to those who registered for the event.

Sponsors will be contacted to see how they would like their donation handled. They will have the option of having it refunded or contributed to either the general fund or SCRIP's fund at the Community Foundation. SCRIP's Board of Directors will discuss ways to improve the Que Classic at the next board meeting on June 17 so that cancellations will not be an issue in the future. SCRIP apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Note: For more information on SCRIP's Community Foundation Fund, see the article on page 2.



Photo by Kim Metzgar

SCRIP was recognized with the Government Partner Award by the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators at their awards banquet held during the PAEE Conference at Antiochian Village near Ligonier, PA in March. Karlice Makuchan (pictured on the left) accepted the award for SCRIP from Angela Belli.



Photo by Melissa Reckner

Randy Buchanan of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited shows a St. Benedict student how to fish. He was one of the volunteers that participated in the Outdoor Discovery Workshops conducted by the Stream Team as part of the Trout in the Classroom program. (See story on page 3.)

# SCRIP's 20th Anniversary Endowment Campaign

*By Len Lichvar, SCRIP Chairman*

As part of its 20th Anniversary celebration, the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP) is kicking off a fund raising campaign to build its endowment at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. Funds raised will be used for conservation, protection and restoration activities within the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh River watersheds. The goal of the campaign is to have the Endowment Fund reach the \$10,000.00 mark by the end of 2011. Thanks to previous donations, SCRIP is already half way there. With your support, SCRIP will be able to develop a paramount conservation fund in an environment of ever shrinking funding opportunities.

SCRIP was created in 1991 to address water quality problems in the Upper Conemaugh Basin. The basin includes the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh Rivers, which meet in Johnstown to form the Conemaugh River. SCRIP has been and is the organization that is primarily responsible for the historic water quality improvement in the Stonycreek River watershed.

SCRIP originated and coordinated the 6 site 5 million dollar Oven Run abandoned mine drainage (AMD) abatement project. In cooperation with its many watersheds organization partners and state and federal agencies, SCRIP has overseen the creation of additional AMD treatment systems on Quemahoning Creek, Bens Creek, Wells Creek, Paint Creek and Shade Creek.

Over 16 miles of fisheries have been restored through these efforts as well as whitewater, kayaking and floating opportunities.

SCRIP was also the organization that initiated, coordinated and made possible the public acquisition of the Manufacturers Water Company properties in Somerset and Cambria Counties that include the Quemahoning, Hinckston Run and Wilmore Reservoirs and Border and South Fork Dams. This endeavor is now hailed as one of the greatest positive recreational and economic initiatives ever achieved in the Cambria - Somerset region.

However, the work is not yet finished. Shade and Paint Creeks are still inundated with AMD and their impact on the Stonycreek River creates ongoing impairment. The Little Conemaugh is still plagued by unabated AMD discharges. SCRIP's mission is far from complete. Contributions to SCRIP's Endowment Fund will assure that its mission continues and that both the gains that have been made will not be lost and the work yet to be accomplished will be achieved.

SCRIP's Endowment Fund is housed at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. Donations to the Endowment will be matched dollar for dollar from SCRIP's own funds. Gifts to the Endowment Fund may be made directly to the Community Foundation at 116 Market Street Suite 4, Johnstown, PA 15901. *Questions regarding tax deductible donations to the Endowment can be made directly to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies at 814-536-7741.* Additional information is available at [www.cfalleghenies.org](http://www.cfalleghenies.org).

To learn more about SCRIP's past, present and future visit [www.scrippa.org](http://www.scrippa.org).

## Save the Date *(continued)*



July 19-24— CVC & Rails to Trails Conservancy bike sojourn. For details, see [www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org](http://www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org)

Aug. 4-6— PA AMR Conference at Gennetti Inn & Suites near Hazelton. For details see, <http://treatminewater.epcamr.org>.

Aug. 7— SCRIP's 20th Anniversary picnic at Boswell Community Park.

Sept. 9-11— *Tribune Democrat* hosted Outdoor Show at the War Memorial. Contact Mary Anne Rizzo at 532-5162.

Sept. 22— 10th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration in Pittsburgh.

Nov. 15-17— Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference at Rocky Gap Resort in Flintstone, MD. For details see, [www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/Masrc/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/Masrc/index.html)



**SCRIP's 20th Anniversary picnic will be August 7 at Boswell Community Park.** Details of the picnic and other 20th Anniversary activities will be discussed at a planning meeting after the SCRIP board meeting on June 17. Look for more information soon!

## Shingle Run and Wells Creek Revitalized as Trout Fisheries

Shingle Run and Wells Creek are important trout fisheries today because of the work of local conservationists.

As a result of recent stream surveys, Shingle Run, a tributary to Dark Shade Creek, was one of 99 streams added to the list of wild trout streams by the Fish and Boat Commission bringing the total number of documented waterways that support naturally reproducing trout populations to nearly 3,650. The lime dosing efforts of the Shade Creek Watershed Association under the direction of Larry Hutchinson helped to make this possible. For more information on this award, see the PA Fish and Boat Commission website at [www.fish.state.pa.us/newsreleases/2011press/wildtrout99.htm](http://www.fish.state.pa.us/newsreleases/2011press/wildtrout99.htm).

Wells Creek, a tributary to the Stonycreek River, although not officially recognized by the PA Fish and Boat Commission in the same way, is nevertheless another success story. It is a year round trout fishery thanks to the efforts of local, state and federal agencies and the work of many volunteers led by Thurman Korn, founder and president of the Wells Creek Watershed Association. The watershed association in cooperation with the Salisbury-Elk-Lick Hunting Club's Cooperative Trout Nursery program are able to stock the stream several times every year thanks to the AMD passive treatment systems that were constructed in the watershed. The honor of Conservationist of the Year in Somerset County was awarded to Mr. Korn for his leadership and hard work and will be added to the other awards granted the association over the years.

We congratulate both leaders, Larry Hutchinson and Thurman Korn, and all the volunteers from both watershed groups for their extraordinary accomplishments!

## Trout in the Classroom Concludes Another Successful School Year *By Melissa Reckner*

Trout in the Classroom concluded the school year as another great success with students learning about coldwater conservation and all things trout!

The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited helped eight schools implement this project where students raise brook trout fingerlings from eggs in a classroom aquarium.

In March, Penn Cambria Middle School released a total of 146 trout from their two Trout in the Classroom projects into Clearfield Creek. In April, Saint Benedict School and Conemaugh Township Intermediate School released 38 and 17 trout respectively into Bens Creek, while Forest Hills High School students released 148 trout into Laurel Run. Berlin-Brothersvalley High School released well over 150 trout into the Stonycreek and Shade-Central City High School released 11 into Beaverdam Run. While North Star East Elementary School lost all their trout earlier this year, Berlin's generosity allowed the project to continue, as they donated 25 trout to North Star, which were released into the Stonycreek, adjacent school-grounds.

After releasing their fish, many schools allowed their students to participate in Outdoor Discovery Workshops coordinated by the Stream Team and led by its volunteers and partners. Students were able to apply lessons learned in the classroom on topics like water quality, wetlands, invasive plant species, and macroinvertebrates, in the field. Randy Buchanan of MLTU demonstrated fly-casting and offered students a chance to test their skill, which was a lot of fun.

## Quemahoning Whitewater Release Project Dedicated in May

A ceremony to celebrate the official whitewater release from the Quemahoning Dam was held on May 13 at Greenhouse Park in Tire Hill. Mike Kane, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies and Treasurer of the Stonycreek Quemahoning Initiative (SQI), welcomed the crowd to the dedication. A video, "The Quemahoning: The Story of a Renewed Resource" was shown as well as the live WJAC-TV broadcast of the first release from the Que Dam.

Guest speakers represented volunteer groups and state and local agencies that made the release possible and will help to determine its success in the future: Conemaugh Township Board of Supervisors, Cambria Somerset Authority, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (PA DCNR), SQI, American Whitewater, Benscreek Canoe Club, Somerset County Board of Commissioners, Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, and Summers Best Two Weeks. Project funders were the PA DCNR, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and the Colcom Foundation.

SCRIP was also mentioned near the end of the ceremony and recognized for its contribution to the release.



*Photo by Melissa Reckner*

Two Shade High School students doing their first macroinvertebrate collection in Beaverdam Run.



The Southern Alleghenies Conservancy  
 SCRIP  
 702 West Pitt Street  
 Fairlawn Court, Suite 8  
 Bedford, PA 15522

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**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.

People of SCRIP

<u>Board of Directors:</u>	<u>New and Renewing Members</u>	
<b>Len Lichvar, Chairman</b>	Dan Albus - NEW	Jenner Township Supervisors
<b>Joe Gorden, Vice-Chairman</b>	Don & Mary Anderson	Mike Kane & Elizabeth Mayer
<b>Melissa Reckner, Secretary</b>	Brad & Leslie Clemenson	Margaret Mayer
<b>Thurman Kornis, Treasurer</b>	Fieg Bros. Coal Company	Melissa Reckner
<b>Jim Eckenrode</b>	Bill Glosser	Slovenian Savings and Loan Assoc.
<b>Larry Hutchinson</b>	Brad Goldblatt	Somerset Trust Company
<b>Karlice Makuchan</b>	Joe Gorden	David Sutor
<b>Rob McCombie</b>	Ken & Rita Halverson	Traditional Angler of PA
<b>Robb Piper</b>	Harry Hunt-NEW	Richard & Carol Yeager
<b>Bob Ritchey</b>		
<b>Dave Sewak</b>		
<b>Kristin Sewak</b>		
<b>Dave Steele</b>		
<b>Bill Strosnider</b>		
<b>John Vatavik</b>		

Join or renew\* SCRIP today!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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"/> Advocate	\$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 [mreckner@kcstreamteam.org](mailto:mreckner@kcstreamteam.org) or 814-444-2669.  
 Send donations to:  
 SCRIP  
 P.O. Box 164  
 Windber, PA 15963