



STONYCREEK-CONEMAUGH RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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Washington Crossing Event on Sunday June 28 by Len Lichvar



The Boswell Area Historical Society, in cooperation with the Jennerstown Area Recreation and Community Association, along with other local organizations, will sponsor a Washington Crossing the Que historical, conservation, and music concert event on Sunday June 28, 2026.

The event will take place at the Boswell Lions Community Park located a half mile north of the State Route 601 and U. S. Route 30 intersection, with the public entrance off Route 601 in Ferrelton located between Jenners and Boswell in

Somerset County. Parking is available at the park entrance. The event is free and open to the public.

The Society has commissioned a one-of-a-kind painting, by Johnstown artist Marcia Martyak, of Colonel George Washington crossing Quemahoning Creek in October of 1758 on the Forbes Road during the French and Indian War.

A ceremony will begin at 2:00 PM at the park that will unveil a historical interpretive sign marking the crossing. Speakers, including Fort Ligonier Executive Director Mary Manges and Forbes Road Historian Phil Light will discuss the historic connection to America's 250th Anniversary. In addition, the historic water quality improvements in the Quemahoning Creek watershed will also be recognized. Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Chairman Adam Cotchen, among others, will discuss the significant impacts of those improvements.

Following the 2:00 PM ceremony 18th century re-enactors, civic groups, non-profits and conservation groups will be in attendance. Organizations such as the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project, Bottomlands Conservancy, Shade Creek Watershed Association, Fort Ligonier, Somerset Historical Center, Boswell Lions Club, Laurel Ridge Flintlocks, Reb and His Yankee Friends, Jennerstown Area Recreation and Community Association, Mountain Playhouse, Boswell Area Historical Society, face painter Cathi Neuhof, artist Marcia Martyak and more will be on hand to further promote history, conservation, and community service efforts. Trout will be stocked in advance and fishing opportunities will be available in Quemahoning Creek and fishing instructors will be on hand to assist. *(continued on page 2)*

Save the Date

June 28- Washington Crossing Event (page 1-2)

July 9- SCRIP board meeting Greenhouse Park, 3:30 pm.

Oct 20-22- AMR Conference (page 3)

Food trucks such as Patterson's Country Cookin', Bonos Pizza, and the Grumblin' Gypsy, and beverage vendors such as the Rusty Musket and Forbes Trail Brewery will be present. A car show will also take place on site.

To celebrate the day, a Crossing Music Concert will begin at 3:00 PM with well-known local and regional musicians and bands such as Jeff Perigo and Friends, Brad Fisher, John Miller, Keith Largent, Hayley Belardi, Dopamine and Bits and Pieces playing until dark. The day will conclude with a professional fireworks display, sponsored by the Jenner Rod and Gun Club.

Youth Education Days at the Que by Len Lichvar

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission sponsored their youth education days at the Quemahoning Reservoir's Family Recreation Area on May 5 and 6. The event enables high school students from a variety of Somerset County schools to learn about local and state recreation, fisheries, and conservation opportunities and programs.

Joe Gorden, Mike Maurer and Lenny Lichvar represented SCRIP and presented a program on local and regional watersheds, AMD abatement, and benthic macroinvertebrates.



SCRIP Board member Joe Gorden discusses benthic macroinvertebrates with high school students, utilizing a display that he designed and constructed, at the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Youth Education Days at the Quemahoning Reservoir.

Photo by Len Lichvar

Trout Stocking of Recovering Waterways

In an interview with the *Tribune Democrat* on April 2, Len Lichvar, vice chairman of SCRIP, brought up the question of the PFBC not stocking recovering waterways. "They still manage it as if it was polluted from Shanksville downstream," Lichvar said. SCRIP and the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited have repeatedly asked PFBC Fisheries Management to review and reconsider their current management of the Stonycreek River. PFBC Commissioner Don Anderson has indicated that it will now be investigated. However, changes if any at all, will still be years away. ---Len Lichvar

Jackie Ritko, Tribute to Women S.T.E.M. Honoree



SCRIP board member Jackie Ritko was a S.T.E.M. honoree at the YWCA Tribute to Women Awards banquet at the Frank J. Pasquerilla Conference Center in Johnstown on Thursday, May 21. Other Honorees were Jong Youn Lee (Arts & Letters), Brenda E. Barclay (Business), Rita King (Community Service Volunteer), Amanda Fetto-Woodruff (Education), Kristen Villarrial (Non-Profit Services), Kristin Blough (Professions), Julie Wagner, CPT, USAR, Ret. (Lady Liberty), and Meghan Stahl-Skinner (Yellow Rose Award).

In her acceptance speech, Jackie thanked the YWCA for choosing her, her parents who helped her develop an appreciation of the environment and the colleague who nominated her for the award. She described her work with the Cambria County Conservation District to restore our resources, and the challenges faced with scientific work today. She encouraged other young women to pursue STEM work because they are needed. She said, “Your ideas, your perspectives and your voices matter.” She emphasized that “she shares the recognition with colleagues, mentors and partners she has worked with over the years. None of this happens alone.”



(left photo) Jackie's family: **Katelynne Robertson, fiancé of son Dylan Ritko (beside her), husband Denny Ritko and Jackie, Jessica and Keith Froehlich, Jackie's sister and her husband, and parents Debbie and Al Roth.**
(right photo) Jackie and Melissa Reckner, who nominated her.



2026 PA AMR Conference

The 28th Annual PA AMR Conference, entitled “Meeting the Challenge,” will be held October 20-22 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg (Hershey Area) I-81 IHG, just off the Grantville/Hershey exit of I-81. Online registration for attendees and exhibitors is required. At this time, ten slots still remain for presentations. Please submit any new ones ASAP. The conference will highlight initiatives underway to ensure the continuation and improvement of reclamation programs and policies related to a number of topics. For more information, see <https://2026.treatminewater.com/>

250 New Monarch Waystations Needed

by Melissa Reckner



Penguin Court and the Westmoreland Pollinator Partners have set a goal to certify 250 new [Monarch Waystations](#) in the Laurel Highlands this year to honor the nation's 250th anniversary.

Monarch Waystations are habitats that support monarch butterflies in all their life stages from caterpillars, that can only consume milkweed plants, to adults that feed on nectar-filled flowers. The Laurel Highlands include Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties. Those who wish to participate must have property in one of these four counties that meets the criteria on the [application](#). Send completed application to mreckner@brandywine.org.

Once reviewed, participants will receive a certificate and metal sign at no cost. Signs and certificates will first be available for pickup at a Monarch Waystation Reunion event planned for July 22 from 6-8 p.m. at the Donohoe Center in Greensburg. Afterwards, they'll be available at one central location in each county, a couple of which are yet to be confirmed, so stay tuned there. Applications will be received until the goal is met.

PA Pollinator Photo Challenge

by Melissa Reckner



The 6th annual [Pennsylvania Pollinator Photo Challenge](#) is accepting submissions until August 2, 2026. Winners and honorable mentions will be announced at the "Monarchs, Milkweed and More" event at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Ligonier on Saturday, August 15 from 1-4 p.m.

Details and submission guidelines may be found at the contest webpage: www.brandywine.org/photo-contest.

Trout in the Classroom Release Days

Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited, Brandywine Conservancy, and its partners sponsored Trout in the Classroom in seven schools with their release days beginning in April and continuing through May this year at several locations including the Shade, Windber, and Ferndale Sportsmen's Clubs. As part of the day, students learned about various environmental topics such as macroinvertebrates, turtles, birds, plants, and pollination, etc. Twenty-seven individuals from 12 organizations shared their knowledge with the students and contributed over 364 hours towards these days. We thank all the organizations and volunteers who made this possible!

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

WWW.SCRIPPA.ORG

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

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