

Volume XV Number 4 Winter 2009

SPECIAL EDITION
CALENDAR

featuring



Event Highlights

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Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project Make Use of Our Rivers

April is Outdoor Heritage Month in Pennsylvania's Alleghenies

April is about renewal. New spring life breaks through the soil and stretches upward toward the sun. Animals awaken. Insects start buzzing around. Is there a better time to get outdoors and celebrate our Outdoor Heritage? Announcing Outdoor Heritage 2009: Back to the Basics, Going Old-School Green.

Brought to you by a committed partnership of more than fifty experienced conservation organizations, our Outdoor Heritage will be explored during April 2009 within the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania. Long before going green was chic, our nonprofit and governmental partners were conserving land, restoring rivers, and caring for wildlife. Outdoor Heritage partners pull together Earth Day, Global and National Youth Service Days, Arbor Day, National Environmental Education Week, and more into a complete package of educational, outreach, and conservation-action opportunities across

the Allegheny Mountains. In addition, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives designates April as Outdoor Heritage Month. Our mission is: To recognize, conserve, and celebrate the rich natural and cultural heritage of Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains and to propel its citizenry, leaders, entrepreneurs, and youth toward stewardship.



Get Out and Discover Pennsylvania's Alleghenies

Opportunities abound during the educational centerpiece of Outdoor Heritage: Outdoor Adventures, April 23-24, 2009 at Summer's Best Two Weeks at the Que. The Outdoor Adventures school field trip is an annual favorite of 1000 students and many educators. Our mission is: To educate, inspire and engage young students in outdoor exploration and natural resource conservation, thereby fostering the next generation of environmental stewards. As Conemaugh Township Area Primary School Principal Jim Carr said, "The Conemaugh Township School District believes that Outdoor Heritage provides a unique opportunity for a hands-on day of educational activities in the natural setting...It is always a great experience!"

How can you become a part of these exciting events? Volunteer. Donate. Inspire. Think about what talents, expertise, or resources you have to offer and the benefits you will gain by becoming involved! Go to our new website, www.ohmonth.com to learn more, see the Outdoor Heritage Month calendar of events, to become involved, or to donate!

DEP Acting Secretary John Hanger Visits with SCRIP

On December 10, 2008, Mr. John Hanger, PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Secretary, met with SCRIP Board members to answer questions regarding a number of environmental concerns.

Mr. Hanger discussed DEP's commitment to local watersheds when working to distribute the AML Fund monies. He mentioned they have discussed setting 30% aside for the watersheds, which was based on the feedback received from different sectors, including local watershed groups. He also said that he is "personally interested in projects that provide as much clean water as possible while at the same time having some geographical diversity and diversity in terms of who is delivering the projects." He also stated that operation and maintenance money is important for long-term sustainability of projects.

It was brought up by various SCRIP board members that there are 7 or 8 large discharges on the Little Conemaugh River that need to be

treated to help offset the downstream impacts. Robb Piper, SCRIP Board Member, estimated it would cost between \$15-20 million for two systems that would clean up most of the Little Conemaugh River. As a result, the quality of the Conemaugh River would be tremendously improved and there would be a vast increase in recreational value to draw people back to the Johnstown area. Mr. Hanger said that he is very interested in the project and would like to discuss it further at a later date.

A question was brought up about Growing Greener Funds. Mr. Hanger stated that Growing Greener II is a diminishing resource. He said that the DEP can only support local watershed groups when they have money to do so, but that he is in support of taking care of existing projects prior to initiating new ones. Also, he mentioned that the State's budget is being cut and could be for a number of years.

A discussion was initiated about the Marcellus Shale oil and gas drilling. Mr. Hanger mentioned that they require a lot of water, but production has been very strong from the wells. He said that oil and gas wells are important economic priorities, but the DEP is committed to protecting water quality. He stressed the importance of providing input to your local representatives so that the policy making can be balanced and not just industry driven.

Mr. Hanger discussed the wind energy issues, starting with how "there is no perfect way of making energy, but when compared to coal mining, wind farms are much better." He stated that "the DEP is enforcing the environmental laws of the wind farms just like anything else." Mr. Hanger closed stating that anyone can feel free to call Robert Maiden, Executive Assistant to the Secretary, at (717) 787-2814, to follow up on any of these issues.

4th Annual Que Classic to be Held on June 20, 2009

SCRIP is planning the 4th Annual Quemahoning Classic Fishing Tournament, which will be held Saturday, June 20, 2009 at the Quemahoning Public Recreation Area from 7:00 a.m. till Noon. Prizes will be awarded to the participant that catches the most total inches of a fish species in the following categories: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Trout (All species), Pike/Muskellunge, Carp, and Walleye. The grand prize winner will be the fisherman (or woman) that catches the most species and will be awarded the Cameron Rozier Memorial Best Angler Award. More information will be forthcoming as details fall into place. Please plan to participate in this great event!





Get Out and Discover Pennsylvania's Alleghenies

ohmonth.com APRIL IS OUTDOOR HERITAGE MONTH IN PENNSYLVANIA'S ALLEGHENIES!

GET READY FOR OH MONTH WITH THIS ACTIVITY:

Earth Hour—March 28th 8:30pm

Join people around the world, who will turn off their lights for one hour at 8:30pm. www.earthhour.org

OUTDOOR HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

Outdoor Heritage Month Kick-Off Festivities

April 3RD, 9:30 – 11am, REI's Bedford Distribution Center Ceremony to include presentation of PA House of Representatives Resolution, declaring April Outdoor Heritage Month in PA's Allegheny Mountains. A tour of REI's green building will follow. By invitation only – Become an Outdoor Heritage Month partner and you will be invited! Sponsored by: REI, Natural Biodiversity, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, and Outdoor Heritage Month Partners For more information, contact Kristin Sewak, Natural Biodiversity: ksewak@naturalbiodiversity.org or 814-532-5049.

WORKSHOP: Macro Madness -- What's Living in Your Water?

April 4th, 12:30 – 2:30pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center

Presenters: Melissa Reckner, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream

Team; and Kathy Randall, Shade Creek Watershed Association Workshop audience: 4th-6th graders; parents also welcome. Cost: \$5 per child, free to JAHA members Macro-invertebrates are

animals without a backbone



that are large enough to be seen without a microscope. They're scavengers, filterers, and predators -- and fish food. In this hands-on workshop, kids will collect, identify, and observe living macro-invertebrates, and learn more about what makes these critters tick. Finally, kids will have the chance to "build a bug" -- that is, design and test their own macro-invertebrate using common objects.

Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team , and Shade Creek Watershed Association

Contact Gwen Hartnett at 814-539-1889 to register.

Farmer Jason Concert

April 4th, 2:30pm, Johnstown Area Discovery Center A hit at the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest 2005 and 2008, JAHA is pleased to bring Farmer Jason back to Johnstown! Sounding as excited as a Captain Crunched 6-year old on Saturday morning, Farmer Jason dares you not to sing along. Resistance is utterly futile whether you're 7 or 70." Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association Contact Gwen Hartnett at 814-539-1889 to register.

Clear Shade Creek Fish Stocking

April 9Th 8:30 AM, Iron Bridge Sponsored by: Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited For more information, contact Randy Buchanan at 814-467-4034.

National Environmental Education Week—April 12TH – 18TH For information, visit <u>www.eeweek.org</u>.

LECTURE: The History, Evolution and Future of the American Garden

April 13th, 11:30am, Community Arts Center of Cambria County

Presenter: Kristin Sewak, National Wildlife Federation Habitat Stewards Host, Natural Biodiversity .
Learn how the influences of our European heritage have shaped the modern American garden, landscape and lawn. Increasingly, environmental considerations are changing the way we use our land. Join in the discussion about the future of our gardens—the possibilities are endless!

Sponsored by: Johnstown Garden Club

Rain Barrel Workshop

April 14^{TH,} 7:00 PM, Paint Township Municipal Building Cost: \$10.00

Learn how to manage storm water runoff, conserve water, and save money! Participate in this workshop and take home a rain barrel.

Registration required by calling Amanda Deal at 814-445-2997 or emailing amanda-scd@wpia.net.

Sponsored by: Somerset Conservation District and Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team Spring Sampling Round

April 15TH – 29TH

Contact Melissa Reckner: <u>mreckner@kcstreamteam.org</u> or 814-444-2669.

LECTURE: My Own Backyard or Yours! Poetry to Create a Sense of Place

April 16TH, 7pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center

Presenter: Johnstown Native Sandee Gertz Umbach (right)

FREE!

Clothes lines, garden tomatoes and neighbors shooting the breeze across the fence – these elements can be found in many Pennsylvania backyards. What makes your neighborhood special and unique? Be inspired by the rich material of porch culture, meals in the old kitchen



and the uneven sidewalks of your early years. Hear examples of neighborhood poetry and learn how to use all of your senses to evoke rich memories through crafted writing. This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, a private, nonprofit organization that represents Pennsylvania in the Federal-State Partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sponsored by: Shade Creek Watershed Association Reservations are preferred. Contact Gwen Hartnett at 814-539-1889 to register.

Quemahoning Creek Fish Stocking

April 17TH, 8am

Sponsored by: Jenner Community Sportsmen's Club. For more information, contact Len Lichvar: 814-445-4652 Ext. 136.

FIRST DAY OF TROUT SEASON—April 18th

WORKSHOP: Back to Basics: How Families Can Save Money and the Planet Together

April 18th, 1 – 2:15pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center

Presenter: Kristin Sewak, Natural Biodiversity

Cost: \$5 per child, free to JAHA members

A workshop for K-6th graders and their parents about handson ways to conserve, while



providing wildlife with habitat and people with food - even in an urban setting.

Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association and Natural Biodiversity.

Contact Gwen Hartnett at 539-1889 to register.

WORKSHOP: Saving for a Sunny Day

April **18**th, 2:15 – 3:15, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center Presenter: Amanda Deal

Cost: \$5 per child, free to JAHA members

A workshop for parents and children about water resources - and each participant will make a rain collection barrel to take home.

Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association and Somerset Conservation District

Contact Gwen Hartnett at 539-1889 to register.

ENTERTAINMENT: Bruce Young to Present *Pennsylvania Mountain Voices* Concert

April 18th, 4pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center FREE!

Pennsylvania Mountain Voices seeks to evoke through song and music the lives and times of people living and working in 19th century Pennsylvania. Banjo, fiddle, guitar and dulcimer music will accompany the songs, which provide a lively window to view, in their own words, the people who wrote them. Based in State College, Bruce Young (pictured) is a talented multi-

instrumentalist who has been presenting folk music for 30 years. This free presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the

Pennsylvania Historical and

Museum Commission. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, inspires individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning.

Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association Reservations are preferred. Contact Gwen Hartnett at 814-539-1889 to register.

Westmoreland Earth Day

April 18th, 12-4pm, Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve at St. Vincent College

The goal of Westmoreland Earth Day is to demonstrate the connections that exist between members of the community and our local natural resources, heighten environmental awareness, and increase citizen involvement in environmental organizations. This year's theme is "Living Simple".

For more information, go to www.westmorelandearthday.org.

Native Habitat Restoration Planting

April 18th, United Elementary School, Armagh A school grounds planting, part of an outdoor classroom project. Contact Doug Beri, Natural Biodiversity, for more information dberi@naturalbiodiversity.org or 814-532-5049.

Raystown Lake Cleanup Day

April 18th, 8am – 12pm, Raystown Lake
Help remove unsightly trash from remote areas of lakeshore
– a great family volunteer opportunity!
Free volunteer lunch provided.
Sponsored by: US Army Corps of Engineers.
Contact Ranger Bean at 814-658-6812 for details.

National Park Week—April 18th -26th

For information, visit www.nps.gov/npweek/.

PA Fish and Boat Commission Quarterly Meeting

April 20th - 21st

Seven Springs Mountain Resort

For more information, contact Len Lichvar: 814-445-4652

Earth Day—April 22nd

For information, visit www_earthday.net.

LECTURE: From Nature Study to Environmental Literacy: Rachel Carson as Teacher

April 21ST, 7pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center Presenter: Vivienne Shaffer, Creative Nonfiction Foundation

FREE!

The 19th century nature study educational movement attracted scientists, naturalists, teachers and others fascinated by nature's beauty and mysteries. Its proponents advocated learning through the senses by direct observation of the natural world. The Pennsylvania hills provided fertile ground for such ideas and Maria McLean Carson explored them with her star pupil, her daughter



Pioneering environmentalist Rachel Carson, 1944. Photo courtesy of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Rachel, who went on to write several classic books. This presentation explores how nature study has influenced the 21st century concept of environmental literacy, and how Rachel Carson influenced the process.

This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and its *We the People* initiative. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, inspires individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning.

Sponsored by: Pennsylvania Environmental Council Reservations are preferred.

Contact Gwen Hartnett at 539-1889 to register.

Outdoor Adventures

April 23rd – 24th, 9am – 3pm

Daily.

Summer's Best

Two Weeks at

Quemahoning Lake.

Outdoor Adventures is a one-day field trip designed to teach elementary school children about ... empower them

Engaging Children Outdoors

to experience ... and inspire

them to nurture ... nature!
Representatives of more than 40 organizations will be there to help kids explore concepts such as watersheds, wildlife habitat, invasive species and energy. Outdoor Adventures is endorsed by the Pennsylvania Association of

Environmental Educators (PAEE).



Sponsored by: Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, Natural Biodiversity, and Outdoor Heritage Month Partners For more information, visit www.ohmonth.com/adventures.

Arbor Day—April 24th

Plant some trees & report your efforts to Outdoor Heritage Month partners, www.ohmonth.com, to help us offset Outdoor Heritage Month's carbon footprint. For more information, visit www.arborday.org.

WHITEWATER FUN: Stonycreek Rendezvous

April 24th – 26th

Rain or shine there will be plenty of activities, including a raft trip Saturday and Sunday, a moving-water/class I race Saturday, a down river race Friday late afternoon and an amateur rodeo Saturday. New for this year will be a play boat X sprint race. For friends that do not paddle (and early Saturday paddlers), there is an organized mountain bike ride Saturday afternoon as well. Sponsored by Bens Creek Canoe Club. Visit www.benscreekcanoeclub.org/rendezvous.

Global and National Youth Service Days—April 24TH -26TH For information, visit

http://ysa.org/NatlGYSD/tabid/59/Default.aspx.

WORKSHOP: Tremendous Trees

April 25th, 1 - 2:30 pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center *Workshop audience:* Kindergarten-2nd grade kids Presenter: Mallory Muir, Elementary school teacher, Tyrone

School District

Cost:\$5 per child, free to JAHA members

Join us for a fun, hands-on science and math workshop that's

all about trees! Kids will create bark and leaf rubbings, learn about the different parts of a leaf, measure trees and determine their ages. Reading activities related to trees will also be included.

Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association Contact Gwen Hartnett at 539-1889 to register.

WORKSHOP: Rocks, Mineral and Fossils

April 25th, 1 – 2:30pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center Presenter: Stephen Lindberg, adjunct UPJ professor of geology, high school geology teacher
Cost: \$5 per participant, free to JAHA members
Workshop audience: 5th-8th graders; parents also welcome
Learn how to identify rocks, minerals and fossils with JAHA's
"visiting geologist"! In this hands-on class, parents and kids
will look at a variety of rock collections and discuss
identifying characteristics. Participants are encouraged to
bring rocks to the workshop too. What's more, everyone will
go home with a small rock collection of their own.
Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association
Contact Gwen Hartnett at 539-1889 to register.

WORKSHOP: Fish Stabiles (Sculptures)

April 25th, 2:30-4:30 pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery

Presenter: Karen Mish, Elementary school art teacher, North Star School

Workshop audience: 2nd-4th graders
Cost: \$5 per child, free to JAHA
members

District

A fun, creative art workshop about sculpture! Kids will learn about mobiles, or sculptures that move, and

stabiles, sculptures that stay in one place. Using the artwork of Alexander Calder as inspiration, they'll create their own stabile to take home, using a fish theme.

Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association Contact Gwen Hartnett at 539-1889 to register.

WORKSHOP: Nature Journaling

April 25th, 2:30-4:30 pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center

Presenter: Heidi Mullendore, park naturalist, Canoe Creek State Park

Workshop audience: 5th - 8th graders

Cost: \$5 per participant, free to JAHA members

Come draw closer to nature! Learn cool tricks to draw and write about nature, and have fun creating an amazing nature journal to take back home.

Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association Contact Gwen Hartnett at 539-1889 to register.

Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscapes: the Place for our Economic Future

April 26th – 27th, Hidden Valley Four Seasons Resort Learn about the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative. Participate in conversations that will help you discover how you and your community can benefit from the CLI – a project that seeks to improve our already outstanding recreational assets & conserve the incredible natural features as part of an economic-development strategy to create sustainable communities.

For more information, contact Donna at the National Road Heritage Corridor: 724-437-9877.

PRESENTATION: Out of the Ground

April 30th, 7pm, Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center Presenter: Andy McAllister

A documentary - Southwestern Pennsylvania has been profoundly shaped by its industrial past. Coal was the fuel of this region's rise to prominence through the steel industry, and the most important fuel of the Industrial Revolution. With particular focus on our largely immigrant ancestors who lived, worked, and died in the region's coal mining communities during the late 19th and early to mid 20th centuries, Out of the Ground ties our present-day lives to theirs and sheds light on the region, its people, and their contribution towards the shaping of a nation.

Sponsored by: Johnstown Area Heritage Association and Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Contact Gwen Hartnett to register: 814-539-1889.

Support for the workshops at Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center are partially funded through the Grable Foundation.

Stay tuned to www.ohmonth.com for developing details, to post an event, or to become a partner!

APRIL IS ALSO:

Children & Nature Awareness Month <u>www.childrenandnature.org</u>

> & National Garden Month www.nationalgardenmonth.org

POST OUTDOOR HERITAGE MONTH ANNOUNCEMENT:

Somerset County Envirothon May 12th, Laurel Hill State Park

Trout in the Classroom Recognizes Supporters

On December 16, 2008, approximately 50 school administrators, teachers, students, and conservation organization representatives gathered at Forest Hills High School to recognize individuals and groups that are working together and expanding the Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

program in area schools.

TIC, a statewide program, is in its third year in Pennsylvania. Through TIC, students raise trout fingerlings from eggs during the school year and release surviving trout into a state-approved body of water. Students not only

learn about the life cycle and anatomy of trout, ecosystems, and water quality issues, but they are deeply engaged in the care of living organisms and connected to their environment in a very hands-on manner. Students observe the trout, feed them, maintain the aquarium, and perform the water quality tests. Guest speakers lead special lessons related to TIC, such as fly-tying and casting.

At the TIC Recognition Ceremony, Forest Hills High School teacher, Brian Madison, described how he has

Junior and senior members of the Beaverdale Sportsmen's Club pose with their Certificate of Appreciation presented by the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited for their involvement in TIC.

incorporated TIC into his curriculum and students shared their experience with the project. Tom Kakabar and Bob McCormick, presidents of the Beaverdale Sportsmen's Club and Laurel Run Rod & Gun Club respectively, each presented a \$250.00

check to Randy
Buchanan, president of
the Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited. These
monies matched a grant
received from the
Pennsylvania Council of
Trout Unlimited
(PATU) to implement
TIC at Forest Hills. Mr.
Buchanan and Melissa
Reckner, KiskiConemaugh Stream
Team, presented

certificates of appreciation to these clubs and others who support TIC in the area. Currently, North Star East, Berlin-Brothersvalley, Forest Hills, and Shade-Central City school districts participate in TIC.

If you would like to get involved in this program, please contact Melissa Reckner at 814.444.2669 or mmeckner@kcstreamteam.org. It's a great way to teach our young people about coldwater resources and share with them our knowledge and love of the outdoors.

Signage on Aquatic Invasives to be Installed Thanks to Fly Fishing Show & 1% For the Planet

In the fall, Chuck Furimsky, President of Somerset-based Fly Fishing Show, presented a check for \$300 to Len Lichvar of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited, Kristin Sewak of Natural Biodiversity, and Tom Kakabar of Cambria Somerset Authority for the design and installation of signage at Que Family Recreation Area. The focus is on educating lake users on how they can be stewards by preventing the further spread of invasive species via boats and gear. Partners are aiming to design and install the signage near the boat launch in time for spring recreation activities. Matching funds are provided by Natural Biodiversity. Thank you, Fly Fishing Show and 1% For the Planet!



Pictured, I to r: Len Lichvar, Chuck Furimsky, Kristin Sewak, and Tom Kakabar. Photo by Logan Lichvar.



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

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www.scrip.pa-conservation.org

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

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The People of SCRIP

Join or renew today!	
Student	\$6
Individual	\$15
Family	\$20
Club/Small Business	\$50
Patron	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Sponsor	\$500
Advocate	\$1000

Make your check payable to **SCRIP**, or for a tax-deductible contribution, write the check to **Southern Alleghenies Conservancy/SCRIP**. To support our endowed fund for the long-term operation and maintenance of our projects, make you check payable to **Community Foundation for the Alleghenies**.

Send donations to: SCRIP P.O. Box 153 Johnstown, PA 15907