



STONYCREEK-CONEMAUGH RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Volume XXXIII Number 1 Winter 2026

Save the Date

March 28- Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited (MLTU) banquet. For tickets, contact Gary Cooper 814-266-4763.

March 29- MLTU Bens Creek Litter Cleanup, Jim & Jimmie's Conemaugh Township, 8:30 am.

April 11- MLTU Paint Creek Litter Cleanup, Berwick Road, Richland Township, 8:30-11:30 am.

April 25- Somerset Uptown Earth Day Tour, 10am-2 pm.

May 2- Shade Creek Watershed, Kids Fishing Day, Reitz #1 Treatment System, 9 am-noon.

Historical and Conservation Event Sunday, June 28 at 2 pm

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 and conservation event on Sunday June 28, 2026. The event will take place at the Boswell Lions Community Park located half a mile north of State Route 601 at the U.S. Route 30 intersection in Ferrelton between Jenners and Boswell in Somerset County.

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, will discuss the historic connection to America's 250th Anniversary.

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Painting of Colonel George Washington crossing Quemahoning Creek in October of 1758 during the French and Indian War.

Drawing by Johnstown artist Marcia Martyak.

Historical/ Conservation Event *(continued from page one)*

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 ceremony, 18th century re-enactors, vendors, civic groups and conservation groups such as the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be on hand to further promote both the history and conservation efforts. Also, food trucks will be present, and a car show is being planned.

To further celebrate the day, a Crossing Music Concert will be held with local and regional musicians and bands playing until dusk when a fireworks display will conclude the day's activities.

The event is free and open to the public.

Save the Date *(continued)*

May 3- MLTU's Crum Road Litter Cleanup, Shade Township, 8:30 am.

May 5 & 6- PA Fish and Boat Commission event at the Que.

May 7- Scrip board meeting at Malcolm Crittenden's cabin in Foustwell at 3:30 pm. Directions will be emailed.

May 21- YWCA Tribute to Women, SCRIP board member Jackie Ritko is an honoree, Frank J. Pasquerilla Conference Center, 6 pm. [Tickets](#) and [Sponsorship](#) available here.

June 28- Washington Crossing the Que event. *See article p.1-2.*

August 12-Oct. 28 -Master Naturalist Fall Training Course, Wednesdays 6-8:30 pm & select Saturdays. *See blurb on this page.*

October 20-27-PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference, Grantville, PA. More information when website is online:
<https://2026.treatminewater.com>.

Master Naturalist Fall Training Course

The Cambria County Conservation District (CCCD) is coordinating a Fall Training Course for the Master Naturalist program. Classes will be held weekly on Wednesday evenings (6:00-8:30pm) from August 12 to October 28 with four field sessions on select Saturdays (August 22, September 12 and 26, and October 17).

Apply by April 3 for early-bird discount.

For more details on the curriculum, requirements for completion, documents and forms, etc., see the CCCD's website. QR code is below.



NatureWorks 2026 Draws a Large Crowd This Year



The 9th annual NatureWorks, a free community event held on March 14 at the BottleWorks in Johnstown, drew a large crowd again this year. Visitors look forward to this introduction to area nature/conservation education, and outdoor recreation opportunities available in the Laurel Highlands. At least 86 exhibitors and volunteers (including SCRIP, pictured left) were on hand for the approximately 450 people that attended.

Melissa Reckner, who organizes the event along with Sue Konvolinka and BottleWorks staff, remarked, "I want to give a special shout out to the following groups who financially sponsor Nature Works: AmeriServ, Anonymous, Bottle Works, Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation (Allegheny Plateau), Penguin Court, and Stonycreek Conemaugh River Improvement Project." Plans are to do it again next year.



Ian and Sara Paterson of Ligonier brought their two children, Graham and Dory Sue to the event this year. Pictures above are from their visits to the Penguin Court, Master Naturalists, and Benscreek Canoe Club tables.
Photos courtesy of the family.



Bottomlands Conservancy has its own logo. The woodcock image for the conservancy logo was created and drawn by 11-year-old Mackenzie Rosenbaum of Stoystown.

Penguin Court Native Plant Sale

Online orders accepted April 1-26. Plant pickups at Penguin Court on May 1 & 2.

See link above for details.

Somerset Conservation District

2026 Spring Tree & Shrub Sale

Order deadline is Friday April 3. Pick up date is Friday, April 10, 6022 Glades Pike, Somerset PA 15501, 8am- 6 pm. They are out of honey crisp and paw paw. See link above for details.



Pheasants Forever Banquet at Oakhurst Grille and Event Center in Somerset on March 7.

The Somerset County Chapter of Pheasants Forever had their 27th annual banquet on March 7 with 120 people in attendance. Proceeds from the banquet help the chapter raise funds to continue habitat improvement and youth education programs that support all forms of wildlife. Note: Mike Maurer has access to reasonably priced seed if you need any. Contact him at mauer19@icloud.com.

SPRING Happenings

Penguin Court Programs

April Showers Bring May Flowers, Part 1
Tuesday, April 7, 6:30-7:30 pm., Pay what you wish.

This virtual event by Penguin Court Program manager, Melissa Reckner, will share information on over two dozen common wildflowers that you might spy in Pennsylvania this spring.

April Showers Bring May Flowers, Part 2
Tuesday, April 14, 6:30-7:30 pm, Pay what you wish.

Another virtual event with more wildflowers to see. Join Melissa Reckner for this second presentation.

Orchid Care Workshop at Penguin Court
April 28, 6:30-8:00 pm, Penguin Court, \$25 per person

Join Andy McAllister and Warren Mitchell, owners of Stone & Sky Nursery in Ligonier, to learn how to care for orchids. They will also reveal which native orchids may be found in the Laurel Highlands.



Listen on FM Radio, Friday 7:30 pm, Saturday 3 pm.

90.5 Pittsburgh
100.5 Johnstown
104.1 Somerset

The Allegheny Front covers environmental issues in our area. For more information, including podcasts, visit their website:

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/>

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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