



Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project Make Use of Our Rivers

Volume XIX
Number 4
Fall 2012

Trout and Smallmouth Bass Stocked in
Stonycreek River as Part of River of the Year Celebration
by Len Lichvar, SCRIP Chairman

Save the Date:

December SCRIP board meeting has been canceled!

Jan. 11– SCRIP board meeting at Gander Mountain, 9 am

Jan 26– Winter hike on West Penn Trail for CVC members only, 9:30-noon. View the website or contact CVC at cvconserv@gmail.com to become a member.



Photo by Len Lichvar
SCRIP Vice Chairman Joe Gorden releases smallmouth bass into the Stonycreek River.

As part of SCRIP's ongoing Stonycreek River of the Year (ROY) celebration both trout and smallmouth bass were planted in the Stonycreek River. Funds to purchase the fish were derived from SCRIP's allotment of ROY proceeds and supplemented with contributions from the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Jenner Rod and Gun Club.

On September 20, 1,100 brown and rainbow trout fingerlings were stocked from the mouth of Quemahoning Creek downstream to Foustwell. These locations were chosen because of the coldwater influences of the conservation release coming from the Quemahoning Reservoir and the excellent fish holding habitat found in the Stonycreek River.

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A smallmouth bass just before its release into the Stonycreek River.
Photo by Len Lichvar



Heinemyer Treatment System

by Greg Shustrick

Somerset Conservation District Watershed Specialist

Located just north of the Flight 93 Memorial site, an AMD discharge known as the “Heinemyer Discharge”, historically impaired a Stonycreek River tributary and once native brook trout stream, known as Lamberts Run. This discharge was recently abated through the efforts of the Somerset County Conservancy as well as local, state and federal partners.

The Heinemyer discharge flows at an average of 75 gallons per minute (gpm), with an iron load of 35 parts per million (ppm). The newly constructed system has reduced the iron load of Lamberts Run by nearly one-third. This system has two central components. The heart of the treatment system is a one acre retention pond that utilizes a series of floating baffles to slow the flow and hold the water for nearly three days. This retention time allows the iron to drop from the standing water. The system then discharges the water into adjacent wetlands through two level spreaders. The treated water entering the wetlands has a reduced iron load measuring less than 5ppm. The other feature of the system is a 350 foot limestone storm water channel located on the east side of the pond. This channel allows clean surface waters that drain from the National Park Service property to bypass the system and it also raises the pH of the surface water from 5.5 to 6.5 before entering Lamberts Run.

The Heinemyer Treatment System’s two central components are a retention pond and storm water channel. Water quality in Lamberts Run has improved since its installation. *Photo by Greg Shustrick*

Although this system has only been operating for less than six months it has already improved the water quality in Lamberts Run. Along with a visual and chemical improvement, minnows and other fish species have been reported inhabiting the upper reaches of Lamberts Run, where they have been void for many years.

Now that the Heinemyer discharge has been abated there is one final discharge to treat within the watershed. Several miles downstream an artesian flow mine discharge near the village of Lambertville, degrades the stream again before it enters the Stonycreek River. A strategic plan is being developed to design a system to improve the water quality of this remaining AMD impairment. Many years of work have been put into improving the waters of Lamberts Run and it’s exciting to know we are one discharge away from entire watershed recovery and restoration.

River of Year Funds Used to Purchase Sign for Rock Tunnel AMD Treatment Site

by Len Lichvar

The final contribution of SCRIP’s River of the Year celebration was the creation and purchase of a sign to be placed at the Rock Tunnel AMD treatment system located at Thomas Mills along the Bens Creek in Somerset County.

The Rock Tunnel project was the first SCRIP coordinated on the ground AMD abatement project in 1993. The sign recognizes all the project partners that worked together to fund, design and construct the system as well as those that contributed to its rehabilitation in 2002.

The Somerset Conservation District is working on an effort to have the system evaluated for potential upgrades to further enhance its effectiveness. The system is owned by the Greater Johnstown Watershed Association.



REI Staff Present a Grant Award to CVC Representatives by Melissa Reckner

Photo provided by REI

The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team / Conemaugh Valley Conservancy received a \$5,000 grant from REI for its project, Restoring Beaverdam Run. The Stream Team is currently utilizing a grant from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership to study Beaverdam Run in the Shade Creek watershed. The REI grant will allow for the implementation of study recommendations, which will include applying limestone sand at key locations within the watershed to ultimately increase the stream's biomass. Additionally, with the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority as its host, the Stream Team / CVC received a \$60K grant through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's Community Conservation Partnerships Program to complete a State of the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin. This project will update the original Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Conservation Plan published in 1999 by exploring the status of the watershed and the recommendations made in the 1999 plan, while touching on new projects and threats to natural resources.



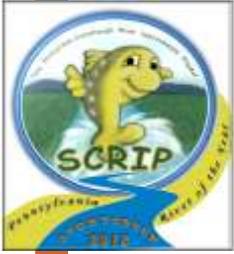
SCRIP is now on Twitter. Follow us @SCRIP5

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On September 27, 275 smallmouth bass that were 7 inches in length were stocked in the Stonycreek River from the mouth of Quemahoning Creek downstream to Ferndale.

Both stockings are intended to supplement an already existing coldwater and warmwater fishery in the lower Stonycreek River. It was also intended to draw attention to the improving aquatic life and outstanding fishery that the Stonycreek River now possess in that section of the river as well as the environmental benefits that the conservation release is providing to the ecosystem.

Somerset Conservation District Watershed Specialist Greg Shustick was instrumental in locating hatchery sources for both the trout and smallmouth as well as coordinating the stocking excursions. Assistance was also provided by volunteers from the Jenner Rod and Gun Club and local sportsmen from the Hollsopple area.



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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.

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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 or 814-444-2669.

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