

**Volume XXVI  
Number 2  
Spring 2019**

**Save the Date:**

**June 19**– SCRIP Board meeting, Greenhouse Park, 3 pm. Bring grills and/or a dish to share.

**July 23**– Intro to Kayak Fishing, sponsored by SCRIP/PA Fish and Boat Commission, Quemahoning Family Recreation Area, 5-9 pm. *See page 3 for more details.*

**August 15**– Fish Habitat Structure Work Day, Que Family Area Boat Launch, 5pm. Contact Len Lichvar for more details 814-659-7057.

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# Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project

## The Return on Environment Project

by Len Lichvar



**Spencer Phillips and Anna Perry, of Key-Log Economics discuss details on the Return on Environment Project at the public meeting hosted by the Cambria County Conservation District at the District's Disasters' Edge Environmental Center.**

*Photo by Len Lichvar*

The Return on Environment Project held public meetings in mid-May to provide public information and get input for the project that will assign a dollar value to clean water in the Laurel Highlands.

In 2016 Key-Log Economics was chosen to evaluate the total economic value of clean water in the Conemaugh, Loyalhanna and Youghiogheny River watersheds and place defined economic benefits to natural resource conservation and restoration projects in the region.

The concept grew out of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Landscape Laurel Highlands Landscape Initiative and has been funded in part by the Community Conservation Partnerships Program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

and with support from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Mountain Watershed Association, Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, Casselman River Watershed Association, Chestnut Ridge and Forbes Trail Chapters of Trout Unlimited and the Cambria and Somerset Conservation Districts.

An eight member Steering Committee is overseeing the project that includes SCRIP Board member Robb Piper and SCRIP Chairman Len Lichvar. The final report is expected to be completed this summer.



**SCRIP Newsletter  
Moving to E-Version  
starting with the Winter 2020 Edition**

*See article on page 3 for details.*

## Trout in the Classroom Balloons Across Pennsylvania

by Melissa Reckner



Workshops give students experience learning the life cycle and having fun with stream macroinvertebrates like crayfish and caddisfly larvae.

*Photos by Melissa Reckner*



Trout in the Classroom is a national program that came to Pennsylvania in 2006. Since then, the program has ballooned in popularity across the Commonwealth. Trout in the Classroom (TIC) allows students to raise brook trout—Pennsylvania’s state fish—throughout the school year in a classroom aquarium, complete with a chiller to cool the water to around 52° F. Each year, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission ships eyed-eggs to participating schools around Election Day in November, and those eggs soon hatch to become sac-fry. By the holidays, the yolk sac that fed the fry is absorbed, and the trout start swimming to the surface—which is when students may begin feeding them. Students are responsible for the daily care and maintenance of the trout and aquarium system, and they get to observe the trout throughout their early growth stages. Teachers incorporate the project into their curriculum and highlight the significance of these trout to our waters. By the end of the school year, trout are between 2-5 inches long and can be released into a state-approved body of water.

### SAMA Scalp Level Artists Project Update

by Joan Hawk

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) multidisciplinary exhibition is still on track and scheduled to open on Earth Day 2021 at SAMA-Bedford, 137 E. Pitt St, Bedford, PA. 15522/814.589.3020. Chris Coughenour (Energy and Earth Resources Department at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown) and myself, as Exhibit Guest Curator, have completed most of our “exploration” along Paint Creek to look for those enchanting spots where George Hetzel and his summer contingent of Scalp Level artists gathered to sketch and paint. If you have information on any of the artists, places they may have stayed, or know people that do and would like to contribute, contact Debbie Grazier ([dgrazier@sama-art.org](mailto:dgrazier@sama-art.org)) or me ([joanhawk@comcast.net](mailto:joanhawk@comcast.net)).

Aside from my duty as SCRIP’s Secretary, I am now the Program Manager of the Brandywine Conservancy’s Penguin Court, and have been involved with TIC since 2006. Collaborating most closely with the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I currently work with nine schools, providing technical assistance and coordinating their Release Day activities. Since a bus and substitute teacher are nearly always required to transport the trout and students to an appropriate release site, an educational and fun field trip is planned to maximize the day. Usually, three to six partnering organizations, staff or volunteers will lead a 30-40-minute Outdoor Discovery Workshop that teaches a concept touched on in the classroom or that is more easily conveyed outside. In small groups, students participate in these workshops and may collect and identify macroinvertebrates, go on a tree or wildflower walk, play a game about riparian buffers’ role in pollution control or about aquatic invasive species, try their hand at fly casting, and much more! It’s a memorable day for all. This year over 480 students in grades 4-12 from three counties and 43 individuals from 19 organizations participated in eight Release Days! Thanks to everyone who helped and made these days possible!



**Thank You!**

**Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association (PCRWA) and Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited** held its annual litter cleanup on March 30, with 15 volunteers picking up 28 tires and 1.5 tons of trash from along 2.1 miles of roads in the Little Paint Creek watershed. Thanks to those who participated in this cleanup!

**SCRIP Receives Its First Lifetime Member**

SCRIP was excited to receive its first ever Lifetime Membership of \$1000 from Tony Marich, Jr. This will contribute mightily in helping SCRIP fulfill its conservation mission. Thank you Tony!

Cambria Conservation District has several **appliance and tire collections** planned through **Keep PA Beautiful**. Please visit the district's new website for details: [www.cambriaconservationdistrict.org](http://www.cambriaconservationdistrict.org)

**Intro to Kayak Fishing Scheduled for July 23**



SCRIP is partnering again with PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to host an Introduction to Kayak Fishing on July 23 from 5-9 pm at the Quemahoning Family Recreation Area in Hollsopple.

This program is designed for participants interested in learning about basic paddling skills and kayak fishing equipment. Participants must be at least 16 years of age, and a parent or guardian must accompany minors. All equipment is provided. To register for this event, please visit the PFBC website:

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/144123>

**Bill Strosnider Leaving SCRIP Board**

SCRIP board member Bill Strosnider is moving to South Carolina to accept a position there to run a marine laboratory and thus had to remove himself from our board. He said it's been a great privilege to serve on the SCRIP board and in return SCRIP gave Strosnider a round of applause and its thanks for all that he has contributed to SCRIP and the local environment. We wish him well in his new position.

**SCRIP Newsletter Moving to E-Version Starting With Winter 2020 Edition**

At the March board meeting, SCRIP directors discussed the time and cost involved with the distribution of the newsletter. To avoid a dues increase, the SCRIP board has decided to go to an all-electronic newsletter beginning with the Winter 2020 edition. Dues paying members can request a hard copy for an extra \$5/year to cover the costs and the membership form will be updated at that time.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

**Join or renew\* SCRIP today!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

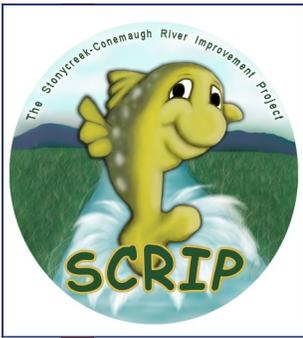
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State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 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"/> Lifetime (\$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 [info@scripPA.org](mailto:info@scripPA.org). Send donations to: **SCRIP, P.O. Box 164, Windber, PA 15963**



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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.

**Board of Directors**

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**People of SCRIP**

**New and Renewing Members**

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