



Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project Make Use of Our Rivers

Volume XVI
Number 1
Spring 2009

Calendar:

June 12—SCRIP Mtg @
Eckenrode Residence,
Johnstown

June 13 and August 8—
Natural Biodiversity /
NWF Habitat Stewards
Training @ Whispering
Creek, Bedford

June 16-18—Reservoir
Habitat Work Days

June 20th—Que Classic

July 10—SCRIP Mtg @
Que Family Rec Area

July 13-16—PA
Abandoned Mine
Reclamation

Conference, UPJ

Aug 11-12—Mid-
Atlantic Invasive Plant
Conference, UPJ

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and Que Classic
Outcomes!

SCRIP Honored with Western PA Environmental Award

SCRIP has been selected as an award winner at the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards (WPEA) sponsored by Dominion and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. The WPEA award recognizes and honors outstanding accomplishments in environmental initiatives in western Pennsylvania. SCRIP is being recognized for its successful and effective AMD abatement efforts, water quality initiatives, partnership building, generation of public support and the ability to accomplish conservation and economic enhancement goals that would otherwise not have been achieved.

The award ceremony took place on May 27 in Pittsburgh at the Westin Convention Center Hotel. The award also included a \$5,000.00



SCRIP Representatives at WPEA Ceremony on May 27th in Pittsburgh. Front Row, L to R: Dick Rossman, Founding Board Member; Len Lichvar, Chairman; Kristin Sewak, Board Member; and Melissa Reckner, Secretary. Back Row, L to R: Dave Steele, Board Member; Dave Kemp, Somerset Conservation District Watershed Specialist; Joe Gorden, Vice-Chairman; Rob McCombie, Board Member; Robb Piper, Board Member; Dave Sewak, Board Member; Thurman Korn, Treasurer; Ron Donlan and Dave Mankamy, Founding Board Members. Photo by Bob Hook.

cash prize that SCRIP will use to continue its mission of water quality improvements in the Cambria - Somerset region. SCRIP chairman Len Lichvar and Amanda Deal submitted the nomination for SCRIP that was chosen as one of five winners in the competitive process.

4th Annual Que Classic Set for June 20th

The Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project is holding its 4th annual Quemahoning Classic Fishing Tournament. Located in Somerset County on the Quemahoning Reservoir at the Family Recreation Boat Launch, the Classic will take place on June 20th from 7:00 AM until noon with check in beginning at 6:00 AM. The cost is 25 dollars for SCRIP members, 35 dollars for non-SCRIP members, and 10 dollars for youth 15 years or younger. To register please call 814-444-2669 or mail contact information, the number of participants, and donation to:



Quemahoning Classic
1800 Somerset Avenue
Windber, PA, 15963

Please make checks payable to SAC/SCRIP. All the proceeds from the Classic benefit SCRIP's mission to improve local water quality. All participants must be pre-registered.

Only 49 boats, without gasoline engines, will be permitted on the Reservoir in accordance with permit regulations. If you do not own a boat, new to the Classic this year is shoreline fishing. This will occur in marked areas near the Family Recreation Area.

There will be prizes for men, women, and youth. They will be awarded to the top finishers in each category. Judges will measure and score fish caught. The grand prize winner will be the fisherman that catches the most species and will be awarded the Cameron Rozier Memorial Best Angler Award. The species categories are: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, trout, pike/muskellunge, carp, and walleye. All winners will be determined by total inches in each species of those caught and released.

Environmental Conferences Visit Our Watershed This Summer

Two large environmental conferences will be held right here in the Stonycreek Watershed this summer, one dealing with abandoned mine legacies, the other with invasive plant impacts. As usual, people involved with SCRIP are assisting with the execution of these statewide and regional efforts, so consider attending one or both sessions—It's all connected!

The 2009 Pennsylvania Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Coal Mining Heritage, the longest running annual conference dealing with abandoned mine related issues in Pennsylvania, will be held July 13-16 at the Living and Learning Center at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown campus. This year's theme is "Challenges and Opportunities in Interesting Times." The conference will have a track for both Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Coal Mining Heritage. It will focus on abandoned mine sites' role in alternative energies, use of mine pools, types of coal ash, policy related to abandoned mine lands and discharges, implementation of SMCRA Title 4 and 30% Set-Aside Program, coal mining history, and much more! The conference will also feature a tour of local sites that pertain to abandoned mine discharges, alternative energies, and coal mining heritage. Please plan to attend this event in your own backyard! Check the conference website for details and register to attend! Registration is only \$40 for all four days of the event if you are a member of a watershed organization!
<http://2009.treatminewater.com>

The Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Conference is set for August 11-12, 2009 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, PA. Please consider attending this year's event, themed "Complicating Factors in Invasive Plant Management: Circumstances Beyond Our Control?" View the agenda, activities, registration, and lodging information on the conference brochure, which can be downloaded from the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council's website: www.ma-eppc.org. You can also register online by going to Morris Arboretum's Education and Seminars page at: www.morrisarboretum.org.

Freedom!

On April 28, students in Brian Madison's classes at Forest Hills High School released the Brook trout fingerlings they raised throughout the school year! Laurel Run in St. Michael was the chosen site for its proximity to the school, high water quality, and habitat.

It was an interesting first year for Forest Hills.

Many of the 250+ eggs that were shipped to the school in November hatched and combated cannibalism and the suction of the filter, but they were no

match to a pH mishap! Good intentions made the pH fluctuate too much in one day and the trout fry died. Fortunately, Trout in the Classroom at Berlin-Brothersvalley High School was going exceptionally well, and Berlin students donated some of their trout to replace the ones lost at Forest Hills. These trout survived and even thrived in the aquarium, growing to a healthy 4-5 inches.



During the field trip, students conducted water quality tests and collected and identified macroinvertebrates to prove their trout would have something to eat! The qualities of a freestone stream and good fish habitat were also explained.

Shade-Central City and Berlin-Brothersvalley High School students released their trout on May 15 and 29

respectively. After Berlin students released their trout, they participated in a fishing program led by the PA Fish and Boat Commission at Lake Somerset.



Conemaugh Township High School and the Johnstown Children's Museum will implement new Trout in the Classroom projects this fall. Volunteers are needed to help with TIC programs. Please contact Melissa Reckner at 814-444-2669 or mreckner@kcstreamteam.org if you would like to help.

Somerset Conservation District is Awarded Funds to Restore Lambert's Run

The Somerset Conservation District received a \$361,000.00 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) grant to abate the remaining unabated AMD discharges in the Lamberts Run watershed in Somerset County. The District, SCRIP, Somerset County Conservancy and many other groups have worked and planned for years to devise a plan and secure funding to restore the water quality and reestablish a fishery in Lamberts Run and more fully protect the Stonycreek River.

Phase I of the project will include a refurbishing of the Somerset County Conservancy's passive treatment system on Lamberts Run with funding already secured by the District from a PA DEP Growing Greener grant. Phase II will consist of transporting water from the Heinemyer AMD discharge to the Ant Hill AMD discharge and potentially mixing it with the high alkalinity water being produced by the PBS treatment system located upstream of the project site. The metals would then drop out in an existing wetland.

Land rights and access issues must still be resolved since much of the project will occur on what will be National Park Service property as part of the Flight 93 National Memorial. Design of the project is currently underway and construction is set for 2010.



The Southern Alleghenies Conservancy
SCRIP
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Bedford, PA 15522

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www.scrip.pa-conservation.org

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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Student	\$6
Individual	\$15
Family	\$20
Club/Small Business	\$50
Patron	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
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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 your check payable to **Community Foundation for the Alleghenies**.

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