



Volume XVIII
Number 1
Winter 2011

Save the Date:

Mar. 12- Wildlife Day
Westmont Arts Center,
10-2, FREE

Mar. 18- SCRIP Board
Meeting, Russell House,
Moxham, 9am

Mar. 19- MLTU Ban-
quet, Holiday Inn, Johns-
town, 5-9. Reservations
required. Contact Randy
Buchanan at 467-4034.

Mar. 29- Biomass Boot
Camp, St. Francis Univer-
sity, Loretto, 9-4:30,
rhandley@nycap.rr.com,
518-466-6934.

Apr. 1- OH Month Kick-
off & Green Drinks, Art-
Works, Johnstown 5:30-
7:30.

Apr. 4- Laurel Highlands
Conservation Landscape
Initiative Summit, Fred
Rodgers Center, St. Vin-
cent College,
www.pecpa.org/laurel-
highlands-summitII-
overview

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Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project Make Use of Our Rivers

Lion Mining AMD Treatment System on the Bens Creek Completed

by Len Lichvar, SCRIP Chairman

The long awaited reconstruction of the Lion Mining AMD Treatment System along the South Fork of the Bens Creek in Somerset County is complete. The project was designed by Eric Robertson of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Design Team and assisted by Brent Means of the federal Office of Surface Mining. The project was funded from forfeited bond money and a Growing Greener grant administered by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The total construction cost was \$550,000.00.

The system replaces a smaller less effective system that could not properly treat the discharge. The breakout that created the need for the initial treatment system initially harmed the water quality and aquatic life in the Bens Creek when it broke out a number of years ago. Biological survey work performed by the Somerset Conservation District in recent years demonstrated that the aquatic life has recovered from that initial surge. However, although the former treatment site prevented catastrophic damage, it was never the long term answer. The new treatment system is situated on the other side of Route 281 and is designed to treat up to a 1,000 GPM discharge by connecting the new treatment site with 1600 feet of pipe of gravity flow water from the mine bore hole.

The water flows to a large settling basin and then to a series of wetlands and deep water gardens before discharging into the South Fork of the Bens Creek. A pavilion, trail and a parking lot have also been constructed at the site. The system is discharging less than one mg/l of iron.



Photo by Len Lichvar

Part of the Lion Mining AMD Treatment System on the South Fork of Bens Creek

The land for the project was donated by Kim and Mary Beth Rauch and the site was constructed by Earthshapers LLC of Ebensburg. The PA DEP plans a formal dedication of the system later this year.

Que Classic Slated for June 25 This Year

by Melissa Reckner



SCRIP is planning the 6th annual Quemahoning Classic Fishing Tournament, which will be held Saturday, June 25, 2011 at the Quemahoning Public Recreation Area from 7:00 a.m. till Noon.

SCRIP organizes the Que Classic to highlight the increasing fishery in the Quemahoning Reservoir, which is a direct result of the restoration work SCRIP and its many partners have done and will continue to do, with support of individuals like you.

The fee to participate is \$35 for adults and \$10 for youth, who are age 15 years or younger. Donations are tax-deductible if you make your check out to SAC/SCRIP. All participants must pre-register by contacting SCRIP Secretary, Melissa Reckner, at 814-444-2669 or mreckner@kcstreamteam.org.

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Allegheny Mountain Green Fest *Green Your Routine*



Many in our society have clearly recognized that our current way of life is unsustainable. If we care

about future generations, then we must act now. With that in mind, Natural Biodiversity has announced its first annual Green Fest, which will take place on May 14, 2011 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Living Learning Center from 10 am to 6 pm.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear knowledgeable speakers, attend educational workshops, learn ways to make a more sustainable lifestyle, and see and purchase green services and products, including native plants, for a very nominal fee. The keynote address will be made by Mike McGrath, host of NPR's "You Bet Your Garden."

You may also participate by being a Sponsor or an Exhibitor. Sponsorships range from the \$25 Seedling Level to the \$2000+ Old Growth Forest Level. If you contribute at the \$500+ Tree level or above, you can also be an Exhibitor at no extra cost. Other Exhibitor levels range from \$50 per booth for Nonprofit Organizations to \$100 per booth for For Profit Businesses making more than \$40,000 per year. Applications for Sponsorships and Exhibitors must be received by March 22, 2011. For more information or to download forms, visit www.ohmonth.com/greenfest.shtml.

Save the Date

(cont. from page one)



Apr. 7- Marcellus Shale Public Workshop, Cambria Co. Ext. Office,

Ebensburg, 7 pm, 814-472-2120.

Apr. 9- Paint Creek Litter Cleanup, 8:30-noon. Contact Melissa Reckner for details or to sign up, 814-444-2669.

Apr. 15- Quemahoning Creek Fish Stocking at Burger King along Route 30 at Ferrellton, 7:45 am.

Apr. 16- First Day of Trout!

Apr. 16- Westmoreland Earth Day, Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve, 10-4, FREE, www.westmorelandearthday.org

Apr. 22-SCRIP Board Meeting, 9am, Tentatively set at Gander Mountain.

May 12- Energy Fair, Pasquerilla Conference Center, Johnstown, noon-6, FREE, 814-266-2277.

May 13-Green Fest Kick-off & Green Drinks, ohmonth.com/greenfest.shtml

May 14- Allegheny Mt. Green Fest , UPJ Living Learning Center, 10-6, ohmonth.com/greenfest.shtml

May 13-15-Stonycreek Rendezvous, Greenhouse Park, <http://174.132.166.187/~bens/rendezvous>

May 27- Que Classic sponsor deadline

June 2-5- Stony-Kiski-Conemaugh River Sojourn, www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org/recreation/skcs.html

June 4- Sportsmen Alliance for Marcellus Shale Summit, UPJ, www.sportsmenalliance.org

June 25- Que Classic

Call For Members!



SCRIP is an all-volunteer organization that will celebrate its 20th Anniversary this year. SCRIP

remains a powerful organization that fights for the restoration and conservation of this region's abundant natural resources. SCRIP welcomes you to become a member, if you're not already. If you're not sure of your membership status, *please contact SCRIP's secretary at 814-444-2669.* Your support will help SCRIP continue its work. As a member, you will receive SCRIP's newsletter, and, if you provide your email address, event notices and meeting minutes that will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in your watershed. A membership form with rates are on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you.

Que Classic— June 25, 2011 *(cont. from page one)*

Prizes will be awarded to the man, woman, and child 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 angler who catches the most species and will be awarded the Cameron Rozier Memorial Best Angler Award. SCRIP will also award the grand prize winner a special prize, which in the past has been a trolling motor. All participants will receive a chance at nice door prizes, an event t-shirt, and a warm lunch.

You don't need a boat to participate, as shore fishing will again be permitted this year within the cove near the public recreation area.

Fishing will not be permitted beyond the Green Bridge this year.

For a complete list of rules and more details, please view the poster available under the "News" tab on SCRIP's website: www.scripPA.org.

Volunteers are also needed to serve as judges for this event. We'll have a couple kayaks available for people's use, but it would be best if they had their own kayak, john boat, or canoe. Volunteers don't need to be experts in fish ID! Guides are provided and the anglers know what they caught. The judge just has to be comfortable handling fish, as he/she is responsible for measuring it in inches on a board provided and recording the catches. Volunteers will also receive a chance at nice door prizes, an event t-shirt, and a warm lunch. If you or someone you know might like to help, please have *them contact Josh Penatzer at 814-445-4652 x 121.*

Finally, sponsors are needed for the Que Classic. A sponsor form is available on SCRIP's website or by contacting Melissa Reckner.

Please plan to participate in the Que Classic! Thank you!!

Ameri Corps and HR 1: A Perspective

by Len Lichvar

Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. That is what we always hear that we need. Then why will we allow our United States Congressional elected officials to eliminate over 650,000 jobs in this country in the holy name of budget cuts?

Well, that is what they are considering with HR 1 that would eliminate the Corporation for National and Community Service that oversees a long list of valid and essential national service programs.

The services that these programs provide empower non-profits of all types, hospitals, schools and other cash strapped institutions to serve the human needs of students, young, middle aged and senior citizens and the economically disadvantaged all while putting to work mostly young 18-25 year olds who most need employment and job training opportunities all while accomplishing human resource tasks that the private sector does not allow for.

If HR 1 passes the immediate direct impact in Pennsylvania alone would be that more than 6,500 young people will lose Foster Grandparents, 2,400 homebound seniors will lose Senior Companions and 3,100 groups will lose Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteers who conduct safety patrols, protect the environment and respond to disasters. The lingering and indirect impacts will be even much worse.

The Ameri Corps program is one shining example of the many programs that may be extinguished. Since 1994 over 34,000 Ameri Corps members in Pennsylvania contributed 43 million hours of service to a wide range of essential organizations and their clients. In the local region 1,454 members have served through the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps (PMSC) contributing 1,993,650 hours that has brought \$15,474,951.00 of federal dollars into our region. The PMSC serves 95 different non-profits and schools each year with Ameri Corps members that provide invaluable public services that otherwise

would never exist.

In addition to the services they receive on the job training that Ameri Corps members receive has led them to be much more employable by both the public and private sectors when their Ameri Corps service ends.

As an Ameri Corps site sponsor supervisor (for which I receive no monetary compensation for by the way) for many years I can personally attest to the tremendous returns on investment of the Ameri Corps program. In the conservation sector alone many of the natural resource conservation projects that are now hailed as some of our greatest economic incentives and improvements never thought possible in our region would not have occurred without the contributions of the Ameri Corps program in the Cambria-Somerset region. I have also watched these members then enter the public and private work force with ease because of the skills they learned in Ameri Corps and attain higher paying jobs than my own.

To cut or even reduce a program with this type of track record that addresses and does something about our employment issues and service needs is reaching an erroneous conclusion in the name of today's hype and rhetoric created by an uninformed and uncaring minority in this country.

Here is a news flash for them and everyone else. Not all government is bad. So let's cure the problem by cutting the fat out of government, not the meat. Otherwise we will surely cure ourselves to an untimely and unneeded catastrophic reduction in our health, our way of life and our future.

Len Lichvar, of Boswell, has been and is involved in the public service sector as both a volunteer and professional for over 25 years.

The opinions expressed in the piece are those of the author.

Reprinted from the Somerset Daily American.

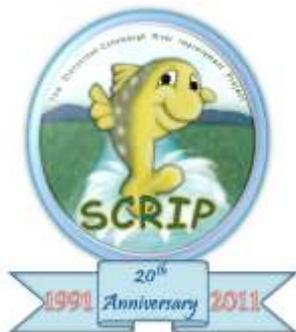
John Vatauk Joins Board



John Vatauk serves as vice chairman of the Somerset County, PA, board of commissioners. He is completing the second year of his first term, having been elected in November of 2007 and taking office in January of 2008. As a commissioner, John serves as the liaison for the following: the Conservation District Board, Family Center Board, 9-1-1 Advisory Board, Drought Task Force, Local Emergency Planning Board, Multi-Disciplinary Advisory Board, and the CYS Advisory Board. Outside of the county, he serves on two committees responsible for working toward the completion of Route 219 from Somerset to Maryland: The North/South Appalachia Highway Coalition and the Continental 1 Committee. He also attends the meetings of JARI, Cambria County's economic Development tool and is a member of the Liberal Arts and Advisory Board of the Penn Highlands Community College in Richland.

Before being elected to his current position, John was an elementary teacher, teaching in the North Star School District for 36 years. Mr. Vatauk also served for 16 years on the Windber Area School District Board of Education, 13 of them as president. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and a life long member of St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Hooversville.

John and his wife, Janet, reside in Windber, PA. They are the parents of two grown children and four grandchildren.



The Southern Alleghenies Conservancy
SCRIP
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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.

People of SCRIP

Board of Directors:

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Join or renew* SCRIP today!

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____
 State/Zip _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____

Do you wish to volunteer? _____

___ 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, 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.*

Send donations to:
SCRIP
P.O. Box 164
Windber, PA 15963