

Volume XXI I
Number 1
Winter 2015

Save the Date:
March 18– SCRIP
Board meeting,
Gander Mountain,
Richland, 9am

March 30– Deadline
to apply for SCRIP
Scholarship

April 11– Paint Creek
Cleanup, meet at
pull-off along Rt. 160
between Windber
and Elton where Lit-
tle Paint Creek passes
under the road.

April 16– SCRIP
Board meeting,
Rizzo's, Windber,
6:30 pm
(cont. p. 2)

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Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project

Hawk View Rehab on the Stonycreek Has Begun

by Len Lichvar

The summer outdoor recreation season is still months away, but the Somerset Conservation District is working now to assure that angling, boating, swimming and other water oriented activities are available to local residents and the ever increasing number of visitors to Somerset County.

The District is currently rehabilitating the single most important abandoned mine drainage (AMD) passive treatment system in the Stonycreek River watershed, known as Site F or Hawk View and is located along Route 403 between Kantner and Hooversville on land owned by the Somerset County Conservancy. The 6 site Oven Run Project, **began in the 1990's and the treatment sites are now over 20 years old and have begun to fail to various degrees.** The District is the only entity charged with maintaining these systems upon which the water quality future of the Stonycreek River resides.

The District received a PA Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grant in the amount of \$704,000.00 recently to significantly rehabilitate several of the Oven Run systems. However, due to permitting, design and contracting requirements the work funded by the grant will not begin until at least late this year. The current rehab work is being funded by the much more limited District funds.



Upgrades have been recently completed at Oven Run AMD Passive Treatment System Hawk View Site along the Stonycreek River.
Photo by Len Lichvar

The District has and continues to address the current needs of these systems. The Hawk View system was designed to treat 100 GPM of AMD contaminated water. However, due to failures within the system only 20 or 25 GPM are being treated, leaving the balance of the water with an acidic pH level of 3, to discharge directly into the Stonycreek River.

Greg Shustrick, Watershed Specialist for the Somerset Conservation District, explains, **"The water is not getting to the primary treatment parts of the system because of cracked pipes and a failing valve.** *(cont. on page 2)*

Save the Date (cont from page one)

May 2– MLTU Cleanup on Shade Creek

May 13– CVC Annual Meeting, Pine Ridge Park, Blairsville

May 15-17– Stonycreek Rendezvous

May 20—SCRIP Board meeting, Gander Mountain, Richland, 9 am

June 4-7—Kiski-Conemaugh Sojourn

June 7– Family Fishing Day, Que Reservoir, 1-5 pm

June 13– Somerset Lake Fest, paddling instruction

June 18– SCRIP Board meeting, 6:30 pm, place TBD

June 25&26– AMR Conference, State College PA. Info:2015.treatminewater.com

Hawk View Rehab (continued from page one)

We decided not to wait for the more significant work planned at this and the other sites because this smaller but important part of the rehab is something we are able to correct right now.”

Earthshapers, of Ebensburg, has been contracted by the District to perform the repairs which are now completed.

As Shustrick points out, “Without the past and current oversight of the District, along with our agency and watershed partners, the Stonycreek River’s well publicized recovery from historic pollution would begin to be reversed in the wrong direction.”

Those who fish, float, kayak and otherwise use the Stonycreek’s water as well as all who benefit economically from that use should keep that in mind.

Reprinted from the *Somerset Daily American*.

We Welcome a New Board Member, Adam Cotchen



Adam Cotchen is the District Manager at the Indiana County Conservation District. Prior to his role as District Manager, he served as ICCD’s Watershed/Agriculture Specialist and also as an AmeriCorps OSM/VISTA volunteer with the Crooked Creek Watershed Association. He earned his B.S. in Wildlife & Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University and went on to work for the WVU/USGS Research Co-Op as a Fisheries Technician collecting brook trout data in the Monongahela National Forest. He is a native of the Stonycreek River watershed, growing up in along a tributary known locally as “Soap Hollow” and currently resides in Richland Township with his wife and baby daughter.

In his free time, Adam is most likely to be found wading streams or on his boat with a rod in hand, or in the woods in a treestand or with his English setter, depending on the time of year. He is also very passionate about water quality issues and is experienced in a range of topics including stream ecology, abandoned mine drainage, agriculture, sedimentation, and stormwater management. Significant project work in Indiana County that Cotchen has helped facilitate include the development of the South Branch Plum Creek Watershed Implementation Plan, a “blueprint” for restoring a sediment-impaired high-quality watershed, and the Bear Run AMD Watershed Renaissance Initiative, a multi-partner, wild trout watershed restoration effort. He is excited to bring his experience of working with many different watershed organizations back to his “home” watershed group.

SCRIP \$500 Scholarship

The Stonycreek Conemaugh River Improvement Project will be awarding a \$500 Scholarship to a worthy student for the current academic year. Deadline to submit is March 30, 2015.

Eligibility—Applicant must:

Either be a dues-paying SCRIP member or the child of a SCRIP member

Reside in one of the counties that includes the Kiski-Conemaugh Basin (Armstrong, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, or Westmoreland). Residency means the student lives in or is a resident at a school in one of these counties.

Be in an accredited environmental field of study at a Pennsylvania college or university.

How to Apply:

The application should contain these three parts:

Part I- A cover sheet with the following information: name, mailing address, email address, phone number, college or university attending, year and course of study

Part II- A typed statement, double-spaced, 12 pt font size, no longer than two pages explaining applicant's professional goals, how the course of study will meet those goals and any involvement to date in the field.

Part III- A copy of applicant's latest transcript

Applications must be received by March 30, 2015. Please send to: SCRIP, Scholarship 2015, P.O. Box 164, Windber, PA 15963. Award notification will be no later than April 30, 2015.

Award check will be sent directly to the Financial Aid Office at the college or university.

Award recipient will be required to inform SCRIP of his or her personal academic achievements, graduation and future career plans in article form for publication in the SCRIP newsletter. This information will be used to assist with promotion of any future SCRIP scholarship awards.

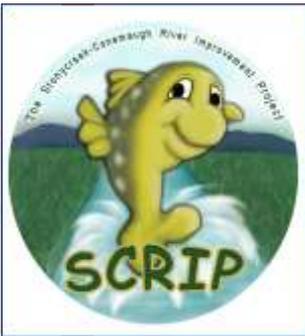
Any questions about eligibility or other parts of the application should be addressed to SCRIP at: info@ScripPA.org.



Family Fishing Program Scheduled for June 7

Are you interested in fishing and want your family to learn, too? Then take advantage of this special instruction day. At the request of SCRIP, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is holding a Family Fishing Program on Sunday, June 7, from 1-5 pm at the Que-mahoning Reservoir 's Family Recreation Area.

During the program, your family will learn basic fishing skills like knot tying, casting, baiting the hook, and taking a fish off the hook. Then you and your family will have the opportunity to fish – no fishing license required. All equipment provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Even though it is geared toward families, adults not accompanied by children are welcome too. Registration for the event can be found at www.gonefishingpa.com. Deadline to register is June 1. Hope to see you and your family there!



Southern Alleghenies Conservancy
 SCRIP
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 Huntington PA 16652-9603

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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

<u>Board of Directors:</u>	<u>New and Renewing Members</u>
Len Lichvar, <i>Chairman</i>	Patrick & Etta Albright
Joe Gorden, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Donald & Mary E. Anderson
Melissa Reckner, <i>Secretary</i>	Cambria County
Jim Eckenrode <i>Treasurer</i>	Adam & Lauren Cotchen
Adam Cotchen	Pat & Heather Ferko
Larry Hutchinson	William Glosser
Karlice Makuchan	Jonathan Graffius
Rob McCombie	Tom Grote
Kelsea Palmer	Richard Hambright
Robb Piper	Stuart Horner
Bob Ritchey	Jenner Township Supervisors
Bill Strosnider	Carl Kahl
John Vatavuk	Thurman Kornis
Herb Wilson	Logan Lichvar
	Gerald & Ruth Pozun
	Somerset County Sportsmen's League
	William & Kristina Strosnider
	Marty & Ann Torledsky
	E. Lincoln & Barbara
	Van Sickle
	Michael & Terry Vranich

Join or renew* SCRIP today!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Do you wish to volunteer? _____

___ Student	\$6
___ Individual	\$15
___ Family	\$20
___ Club/Small Business	\$50
___ Patron	\$50
___ Sustaining	\$100
___ Sponsor	\$500
___ 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 mreckner@kcstreamteam.org or 814-444-2669.

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