

JCWA hosts Two Stream Clean-ups

In the past few months, volunteers from JCWA, Everson Boy Scout Troop 160 and local businesses cleaned up two illegal dumping areas along Jacobs Creek. On May 1st, volunteers cleaned the area between Jacobs Creek and the Jacobs Creek Wetlands Environmental Education Area as part of a belated Earth Day observance. JCWA members, Boy Scout Troop 160 and Jacobs Creek Outfitters helped remove litter and dumped items including tires, computer parts and unopened canned goods. Mt. Pleasant Shop N Save, Brillhart Ace Hardware and Veolia Environmental Services generously donated goods and services to make the event possible.



Everson Boy Scout Troop 160 clean up Jacobs Creek

On June 19th, JCWA held a clean-up at the Iron Bridge area along Jacobs Creek as part of the multi-state River Sweep. The dedicated scouts from Troop 160 were there, along with JCWA members, Jacobs Creek Outfitters, Acme Dam Fishing and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. The volunteers filled an entire roll off box with tires, shingles, a couch, two mattresses and even a toilet! Disposal was generously provided by Greenridge Reclamation Landfill.

JCWA appreciates the help of the volunteers who dedicated their Saturday mornings to clean up our watershed. The work was hard and we all got pretty dirty, but the sense of accomplishment was well worth it! These efforts helped prevent litter and debris from washing into the stream during heavy rains or flooding. Please join JCWA for our fall stream clean up on Sunday, November 14, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. The site is not yet selected, so please visit our Events Calendar at www.jacobs creek watershed.org for updates.

This newsletter was funded by a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

JCWA Upcoming Events

Sept. 11: Autumn Bird Outing led by Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club. 8:00 a.m. at the Jacobs Creek Wetlands Environmental Education Area

Sept. 15: Project Weedwack – Invasive Plant Attack. 9:00 a.m. at Forbes State Forest, Lick Hollow Picnic Area. Contact Bob McBride @ 724-437-7983

Sept. 17: 9th Annual Riffle Run Scramble @ Donegal Highlands Golf Course. Tee off is at 8:00 a.m. Register at jcwa@juno.com or call 724-887-8220, ext. 3

Oct. 10: Fall Family Bike Ride and Food Drive. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Coal and Coke Trail head in Willows Park in Mt. Pleasant. Bring non-perishable food items for local food bank

Nov. 11: Westmoreland Conservation District's Annual Awards Banquet. Contact www.wcdpa.com for details

Nov. 14: Fall Stream clean-up. 1:00 p.m. Site to be announced – Please check www.jacobs creek watershed.org for more details

From the Ridge to the River



Fall 2010

Greenlick Lake Shoreline Restoration – The Next Step

If you love the serenity of a placid lake on a crisp autumn day, you should stop by the newly restored southeastern shoreline of Greenlick Lake at Jacobs Creek Park. There you will see the amazing metamorphosis of the once-eroded banks into a stable and beautiful shoreline. The gently graded lake banks, newly planted trees and the two wetland areas create a wonderful habitat for waterfowl, butterflies, wetlands creatures - and humans too! JCWA completed this project in the spring of 2010, with the help of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. Come visit the lake to fish, picnic, hike or to just sit and enjoy nature. This entrance to Jacobs Creek Park is located on Greenlick Road, which is off of Mud School Road near Route 982.

JCWA's work at Greenlick Lake is not yet done, though. Severe shoreline erosion also exists on the northern banks of the lake close to the main entrance of Jacobs Creek Park. This erosion releases sediment into the lake, which can destroy aquatic habitat. Since the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission did such outstanding work on the southeastern shoreline project, JCWA will once again partner with them to repair and stabilize the northern shoreline.

The Northern Shoreline Project will include much of the same work as was done on the southeastern shoreline. Over 480 feet of shoreline will be graded and stabilized and new vegetation planted along the shoreline. This stabilization will prevent as much as 175 cubic feet of sediment from entering the lake every year. Rock barriers will be placed in the lake itself to form underwater barriers to decrease the force of waves reaching the shoreline to prevent erosion. These rock barriers will also create new fish habitat and attract species such as crappies, perch and walleye. The Project will be funded by Growing Greener funds remaining from the southeastern project and supplemented by a Fayette County Community Environmental Improvement grant. The project will begin in late fall, so you will see the benefits when you visit the lake in the spring of 2011.



Elle, Isaac and Max investigate Greenlick Lake's newly restored shoreline

Riffle Run Golf Scramble – Friday Sept. 17th, 2010 There's still time to register!

Enjoy a beautiful autumn day in the scenic Laurel Highlands for JCWA's 9th Annual Riffle Run Golf Scramble. The Scramble will be held at the Donegal Highlands Golf Course just off of Rt. 31 near the Donegal Highlands Turnpike Exit. The entry fee of \$75.00 includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, lunch, dinner and beverages. Skill prizes, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle will also be available. Tee off is at 8:00 am and registration begins at 7:15 am. All proceeds benefit JCWA's watershed and stream improvement projects. Reserve your foursome by calling call 724-887-8220, ext. 3. We hope to see you there!



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Mission

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of our natural resources, rehabilitation of the creek and watershed, environmental education and recreation.

For More Information

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Jacobs Creek Tour Bus Highlighting interesting places in our watershed Jacobs Creek Wetlands Environmental Education Area

Have you ever wanted to just escape from it all, even for just an hour or two? To go someplace where you can relax and get back to nature, but not have to drive very far or spend any money? Well, we've got just the place for you. The Jacobs Creek Wetlands Environmental Education Area (Jacobs Creek Wetlands) is a hidden gem with a bounty of nature's gifts awaiting you.

Whether your favorites are birds, frogs, butterflies or native plants and flowers, Jacobs Creek Wetlands has them all. Take a leisurely stroll around the 9 ponds on the site – it's relatively level and very easy to walk around. Peek through the cattails to see a Little Green Heron or walk close to the edge of the ponds to see the frogs jump at your approach. Bring your binoculars to see who may be hiding in one of the many bird boxes, too. Don't forget to take a look into the stream while you're there – it's just a few steps away across the access road.

Constructed in 2006 by Penn Dot Fayette County Maintenance as a part of a replacement wetlands project, Jacobs Creek Wetlands is currently owned and maintained by Westmoreland County Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Display signs in the parking lot describe the area's history, findings from an archaeological survey and provide interesting wetlands information.

Jacobs Creek Wetlands is also a great place to take your children. Let them experience the wonders of nature when they see a majestic Great Blue Heron, hear a bullfrog croak or feel the water with their bare toes. Your child's visit may be the beginning of a beautiful, life-long friendship with nature. Directions: From Mt. Pleasant, take Rt. 31 East past Lenox and turn right onto White Bridge Road. Cross the bridge and make immediate right into Jacobs Creek Wetlands. From Connellsville, take Rt. 119, turn onto Rt. 982. Go 6.7 miles and turn left onto White Bridge Road. Go 0.4 miles and turn left into Jacobs Creek Wetlands before you cross the bridge.



Great Blue Heron at Jacobs Creek Wetlands

Watershed Words: Marcellus Shale

Marcellus shale has been in the news a good deal lately, but what exactly is Marcellus Shale? It is a black shale formation lying several thousand feet beneath the ground which contains large amounts of natural gas. Natural gas had not been frequently extracted from Marcellus shale formations in the past because the tightness of the shale formations made gas extraction difficult and costly. Recent improvements in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing have now made it more feasible to drill and extract the natural gas.

Horizontal drilling is when wells are first drilled vertically to the depth of the gas but then drilled horizontally to capture a larger area of gas. Hydraulic fracturing is when fluids, consisting of water, chemicals and sand, are pumped into the well under high pressure to create fractures in the shale, releasing the gas. Each well may use from 1 to 5 million gallons of water, usually taken from local waterways. There is concern that the water used in the fracturing process may cause damage to streams or the environment if it's not properly treated and disposed of or if a spill would occur.

If you are considering leasing your land for Marcellus Shale gas extraction, The Mountain Watershed Association has put together some tips for your benefit in an article entitled "Are You Considering Leasing Your Gas for Marcellus Shale?" The article is too lengthy to include in its entirety, but the following are a few leasing tips from the article:

- 1. There may be more than one type of gas or field under your property. Make sure you lease only the types/fields you want to lease.*
- 2. If the words GRANT or CONVEY are used in your lease, you may be selling the rights to your land permanently.*
- 3. If you lease 40 acres but only 10 are used for extraction, you may want to be able to lease the other 30 to a different company. Make sure your lease allows that. (This is called a Pugh clause)*
- 4. Leases do not have to be 5 years. You can negotiate shorter terms, like 3 years.*
- 5. Royalty amounts are negotiable. You can also determine what part of the month your payments are paid.*

To see the entire article with many more tips or to learn more about Marcellus Shale drilling, please visit Mountain Watershed Association's website at www.mtwatershed.com.

JCWA Funded for 3 Watershed Improvement Projects



Cattle crossings help prevent stream bank erosion

gutters and downspouts, mine belt diversions on access roads, an animal stream crossing, spring development and stream bank fencing. The BMPs and stream bank stabilization will significantly reduce sediment and agricultural nutrient loading to Brush Run.

Shupe Run Stream Bank Restoration – Phase II Project: JCWA will complete stream bank restoration and stabilization on 1,000 feet of Shupe Run, a tributary to Jacobs Creek, in Willows Park in Mt. Pleasant. The work will include vegetative bioengineering, rock placed at the toe of the bank and some reshaping of the stream bank. This project will greatly reduce the amount of sediment entering Shupe Run and the watershed.

Little Sherrick Run Restoration Project: JCWA will complete multiple projects in Scottdale and East Huntingdon Township to reduce erosion, minimize parking lot runoff and stabilize stream banks in residential areas. The work will include planting a grass-lined swale in a cultivated field to decrease runoff, installing infiltration and bio-retention beds in the Scottdale Fireman's Club parking lot and stabilizing the stream bank near several residential properties. This project will decrease the amount of sediment and parking lot contaminants entering Little Sherrick Run.

These projects are scheduled to begin in early 2011 and will be completed by the end of 2012. We'll keep you updated on their progress in future newsletters and on our website at www.jacobs creek watershed.org.

JCWA History Corner

Have you ever wondered how Jacobs Creek got its name? You might be surprised to learn that it was likely named after a Delaware (Lenape) chief who was called Captain Jacob by early settlers. Captain Jacob, whose real name was Tewea, lived in the area during the French and Indian War. Although he did speak English, he was no fan of early settlers. In fact, he was a fierce warrior who led numerous raids on English settlers in the 1750's. Captain Jacob's raids led him to the village of Kittanning, a Delaware stronghold and base for raids on colonial settlements. He was killed in a surprise raid at dawn on Kittanning by Colonel John Armstrong in September of 1756.

Prior to being called Jacobs Creek, our namesake was called Salt Creek by early settlers, due to the many salt licks along its banks and the brackishness of the water. In the late 1700's, salt was actually commercially produced along Jacobs Creek close to the Alliance Furnace site. So, if Captain Jacobs had not been such a prominent warrior in the French and Indian War, you might be reading the Salt Creek Watershed Association's newsletter today!

Next newsletter: The Alliance Furnace – The first Iron Furnace west of the Alleghenies.

JCWA Selected for Capacity Grant Project

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association was one of only three nonprofit groups chosen to participate in a pilot Capacity Building Project sponsored by the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and implemented by the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management. The Project will help JCWA grow and continue to complete watershed improvement projects well into the future. JCWA has already participated in an organizational evaluation and a Board Retreat, which helped us identify ways to increase our membership, invigorate our board members, locate new project funding and make more people aware of JCWA's goals and mission. The Project is already beginning to work, as JCWA was featured in the July 21, 2010 Allegheny Front radio broadcast on WYEP FM 91.3. The broadcast highlighted the Capacity Building Project and featured interviews from JCWA's May 22nd bird outing with the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club. If you missed the show, you can listen or read the transcripts at www.alleghenyfront.org. JCWA will continue to work with the Bayer Center throughout 2010 and we hope you will soon be seeing the results of the Project: a stronger and revitalized watershed association.



Be The Change You Want To See In The World -- Gandhi

Members and volunteer efforts help the JCWA to continue our mission. Without them the strength of our voice and the power of our actions is diminished.

Please become a MEMBER today.
You'll be glad you did!

Yes! I want to help preserve and protect the Jacobs Creek Watershed

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Annual Memberships

- ___ \$ 5 Student
- ___ \$10 Individual
- ___ \$20 Family
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Make checks payable to:
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