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From the Ridge to the River



Winter 2012

2011- New Beginnings for JCWA

This past year had many exciting beginnings for the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association. New projects began with the assistance of our new project manager; new initiatives for proactive stream monitoring began with the help of new partnerships; and new members brought new ideas for events and watershed improvement activities.

Projects: JCWA made amazing progress on our six active projects this year under direction of our project manager Andrew Dzurko. The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watershed's grant for Andrew's part-time position proved to be a much-needed asset to manage JCWA's busy project workload. Some of the project accomplishments include:

- **Brush Run Agricultural Project:** By the end of the year, numerous Best Management Practices (BMPs) were completed at the Zelmore Farm in Mt. Pleasant Township. JCWA and contractor Friendship Farms worked tirelessly this fall to create two stream crossings, 1,200 ft. of stream bank stabilization, 2,500 ft. of stream fencing, 2 acres of wetland fencing, 2 acres of riparian buffer plantings and an agricultural watering spring. At the nearby Hutter Farm, two agricultural watering springs were developed. Stream fencing, crossings and other BMPs similar to those at the Zelmore Farm will be completed at the Hutter Farm this spring.
- **Scottdale Storm Water Retrofit Project:** JCWA and contractor Roger Suter & Sons installed BMPs to prevent parking lot storm water from rushing into streams, causing erosion, sedimentation and stream pollution at the Southwest Regional Tax Bureau Parking Lot Project. Westmoreland Conservation District Watershed Specialist Rob Cronauer managed the construction that installed 1,800 ft. of porous pavement, 2,800 feet of underground storm water collection, a 150 square foot rain garden and 10 tree plantings within the parking lot.



JCWA was recently notified that we are the recipients of a Green Streets Project grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Green Streets grant is a pilot project to design BMPs in downtown Scottdale Borough, where there is limited room for storm water management facilities. These BMPs, including vegetated curb extensions, sidewalk plantings, landscaped medians and permeable pavement, are similar to those completed in Ohiopyle Borough and will keep JCWA busy well into 2013!

New Initiatives: With the help of our amazing allies at Mountain Watershed Association, JCWA was one of five partners to receive a grant to conduct proactive stream monitoring. This grant will allow JCWA to purchase in-stream data logger monitors to gather baseline data on stream quality and to identify new sources of pollution from industry or gas well drilling. Through this program, JCWA will add proactive stream monitoring to our resume of restoration and stream protection projects. Thanks Mountain Watershed Association!

Early in 2011, JCWA joined with other like-minded organizations to form the Youghiogheny River Partnership, a group dedicated to protect the Youghiogheny River watershed. For more information on this new organization's goals and priorities, please read the article on page 3 of this newsletter.

New members: JCWA membership has now grown to over 50 members! Several members have volunteered to help JCWA collect important stream quality by donning their waders and conducting stream monitoring in their own backyards! JCWA also welcomed a new board member this year. Joseph Kalinowski has joined the Board of Directors and with the help of his wife Arlene, will add a new dimension to JCWA activities. New member and outreach volunteer Kristina Tarasan has been a wonderful asset to JCWA, volunteering for community events, educational outreach activities and has written several interesting articles for JCWA's newsletter.

New Outreach Events: JCWA participated in several new activities this year, including:

- Adopt A Highway Cleanup along Clay Pike Road, as pictured above.
- Cache In Trash Out Cleanup at Greenlick Dam, with the help of dedicated and fun-loving geocachers
- Fall Fun Bike Ride and Food Drive – see article on page 4
- Mt. Pleasant Glass and Ethnic Festival. JCWA, Westmoreland Conservation District and Silvis Group landscapers had a booth to educate folks about storm water measures and rain gardens
- Southmoreland School District's 9th grade stream sampling days and 6th Grade Laurelville Day
- St. John the Baptist School's Environmental Day at Jacobs Creek Park.

JCWA thanks all its members and supporters for your involvement, donations and ideas this year. With your continued support, JCWA will carry on with our mission to preserve, protect and restore the Jacobs Creek Watershed.



JCWA's 1st Annual Fall Fun Bike Ride and Food Drive

What happens when you combine JCWA, two Boy Scout Troops who strive to help others, a dedicated biker from the Rural Area Concerned Citizens (RACC) and then throw in some cookies for fuel? You get JCWA's first annual Fall Fun Bike Ride and Food Drive! On November 20, 2011 JCWA and friends rode the Coal & Coke Trail from Kendi Park in Scottdale to Willows Park in Mt. Pleasant – and back again. This 10 mile journey was done in record time, likely due to friendly competition between scouts to cross the finish line first! Fourteen bikers made the ride, but many others came to support the event by dropping off donations for the food drive. In all, four large boxes of non-perishable items were taken to the food bank by the scouts, some cool prizes were given out and all involved had the satisfaction of helping others while having fun!

Spring Tree Sale

Fayette County Conservation District will hold its annual Spring Tree Sale again in 2012. Enhance your property with fruit trees and native deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Trees available will include White Pine, Red Pine, Hemlock, Rhododendrons, Winterberry, Holly, Serviceberry, Oaks, Maples and many more. Blueberries bushes and Bluebird boxes will also be available. Orders are due by March 15, 2012 and tree pick up is on March 31st at the Fayette County Fairgrounds. You can find a full list of trees and price list in the FCCD's winter newsletter, by visiting www.fayettecd.org or by calling the Fayette County Conservation District at 724-437-2914.



JCWA welcomes newest member!

On January 10, 2012 JCWA was overjoyed to receive word that Emmett Dean McGregor was born into the JCWA family! Little Emmett is very special to us, as he's the son of Fayette County Conservation District Watershed Specialist Heather Fowler and her husband Aaron McGregor. Heather is one JCWA's most treasured assets and Aaron is a JCWA member and the creator of Silverman's facebook video. Emmett was welcomed home by his two canine siblings, Suki and Ruben, who are featured on JCWA's website. Congratulations to the new family – we wish you the joy of new beginnings!

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



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Rob Cronauer
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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

P.O. Box 1071
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Phone (724) 887-8220, ext. 3
Fax (724) 887-0195
Email jcwa@juno.com
www.jacobscreekwatershed.org

Jacobs Creek Tour Bus Enjoying winter in the Jacobs Creek watershed

Although winter is a strikingly beautiful time of year, with shimmering snow banks and clear blue skies, the icy temperatures and short daylight hours can make it a bit of a challenge to enjoy. To help cope with your annual winter doldrums, why not venture outside into the Jacobs Creek watershed this winter – the crisp winter air will wake up your senses and invigorate your body. Here are some suggestions for recreation activities that might help you survive until spring!

- Dust off your binoculars and go birding on a sunny day. Plenty of birds remain in our area during the winter and can be seen in many areas throughout the watershed. Acme, Greenlick and Bridgeport Dams are great places for birding, as is the Jacobs Creek Wetlands area. Make sure to place a bird feeder outside your favorite window, so when it's too cold to venture outdoors you can spend hours watching the antics of colorful cardinals, fluttering chickadees and delightful snowbirds from the comfort of a cozy chair.
- Take your faithful four-legged companion outside for a hike along the paths and trails surrounding Acme, Greenlick or Bridgeport Dams. Your pup will appreciate the new sights and smells and the exercise will give you a boost, too. No dog? Take yourself out for a hike! Or call a friend and schedule a weekly nature walk – the companionship and good conversation will have you looking forward to your weekly outdoor outing.
- If you're in an adventurous mood, why not try ice fishing? Greenlick Dam has become a popular spot for this winter sport over the past years.
- If you're looking for a good cardio workout, put on your cross country skis and venture out to the Coal & Coke Trail. The trail has a relatively level grade and many access points, so it's great for all levels of skiers. Main entrances are at Willows Park in Mt. Pleasant and near Kendi Park in Scottsdale, but there are several other access points along the trail that may be closer to your home. Listen for the whoosh of your skis as they glide along the snow on an otherwise quiet trail – it's exhilarating!
- Wax up the old Flexible Flier and take your kids or grandkids sledding in area parks or in your own back yard. Your outdoor fun will create cherished memories that will last forever...and don't forget to build a snowman while you're out there!
- If it's just too cold to play outside, why not visit one of our local libraries? The Scottdale Public Library and the Mt. Pleasant Public Library have a great selection of books and magazines for you to enjoy there or check out. Additionally, both have weekly programs and activities for all ages. The Scottdale Public Library has KISS (Keep It Sharp Seniors) activities for folks ages 55 and up and the Mt. Pleasant Public Library has a weekly preteen/teen program of interesting activities every Wednesday evening. For library hours or programs, call or visit their websites www.scottdalelibrary.org (724-887-6140) or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org (724-547-3850).

JCWA hopes you enjoy your winter in the Jacobs Creek watershed. Just be sure to bundle up for your outdoor adventure – and don't forget to reward yourself with a steamy cup of hot chocolate afterward!



Youghiogheny River Partnership: Providing one voice for the Youghiogheny River watershed.

Early in 2010, a group of watersheds and conservation districts met to lament a common problem: how to address Youghiogheny River watershed issues with limited resources. Each group was located within the larger Youghiogheny River watershed, but felt too small to tackle watershed problems on its own. With the encouragement of Fayette County Conservation District's Watershed Specialist Heather Fowler, the Youghiogheny River Partnership (YRP) was formed. YRP works together to provide a unified voice, pooled resources and information sharing to help protect and preserve the Youghiogheny River watershed. Though in its early stages, YRP members have met quarterly to discuss issues important to our organizations. These meetings have created a list of 10 priorities for the group to focus on:



Heather Fowler, Silverman and Mark Killar at a recent YRP meeting

1. Secure a greater voice in policy development
2. Implement a basin-wide communication system
3. Create and implement a comprehensive water monitoring plan
4. Secure additional land acquisition & preservation within the Youghiogheny River watershed
5. Develop a proactive protection strategy
6. Support an enforcement provision in the state water plan
7. Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan for restoration efforts
8. Cultivate strong watershed organizations
9. Promote ongoing efforts to remediate sources of pollution
10. Secure upward stream re-designations

Members of the YRP include Casselman River Watershed Association, Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited, Fayette County Conservation District, Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, Mountain Watershed Association, Sewickley Creek Watershed Association and Somerset Conservation District.

To help promote the group the YRP enlisted the help of its new ambassador, Silverman, who is pictured above. It's YRP's hope that Silverman will add a bit of humor to some serious issues affecting the watershed. To view Silverman in action, watch "The Adventures of Silverman" on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUBtmUOQY0> or send him a tweet at [@SilverMan9](http://www.twitter.com/SilverMan9).

To learn more about YRP, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/youghpartners.

History Corner: Mt. Pleasant Doughboy Statue

The Doughboy statue in downtown Mt. Pleasant has been an icon for as long as anyone can remember. Everyone who has driven through Mt. Pleasant has navigated around the stately soldier standing proudly, high above traffic. But as you made your turn around the Doughboy, did you ever wonder about the statue's origins or what is inscribed on its marble base?

At the end of the Great War, or World War I as we now know it, there was a national interest to permanently honor those who died, were wounded or served in World War I and other wars. As did many other towns throughout America, Mt. Pleasant decided to honor its veterans by erecting a statue of a U.S. soldier, commonly referred to



as a Doughboy. While most towns erected Doughboy statues made of pressed copper and placed them in parks or near government offices, Mt. Pleasant's statue is special. It is composed of marble, not copper, and is placed in a most prominent place - on a traffic island in the middle of the main intersection in town. With this central location, no one can miss him! The Doughboy was dedicated by the citizens of Mt. Pleasant on November 11, 1924.

The Doughboy is sculpted from white marble and stands atop a round column and base made of pink marble. The column is decorated with a circle of stars and laurels and is inscribed with the following: "Erected to the memory of our gallant sons who endured the hardships and fought our nation's battles". The Doughboy stands over 21 feet tall and is dressed in full military uniform, including helmet. He carries a 1903 Springfield bolt-action service rifle, the official U.S. military standard infantry rifle in World War I. The Springfield is slung over his right shoulder with his right hand holding the gun strap. The Doughboy is looking towards the east, possibly contemplating his next valiant mission.

The Doughboy has had a tumultuous history in its place of honor, though. Because of its busy location, the statue has been damaged from automobiles and replaced twice – once in 1968 and again in the mid 1980's. So please keep the Doughboy safe by driving carefully around this famous tribute to our military heroes.

If you plan to visit the Doughboy, he is located at the intersection of West Main Street and Diamond Street in Mt. Pleasant Borough, just across from Veteran's Park. In addition to the Doughboy, Veteran's Park also has the Wall of Honor and many other tributes to those who served our nation.



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
- ___ \$50 Organization
- ___ \$75 Corporate

Make checks payable to:
Jacobs Creek Watershed Association
P.O. Box 1071
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Phone (724) 887-8220, ext. 3

JCWA receives 2011 Watershed Mini Grant

For the second year in a row, JCWA was one of 30 non-profit organizations that received a Watershed Mini Grant from the Dominion Foundation and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. JCWA received the \$500 grant to help fund its Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) quarterly sampling and analysis program. The data collected from this program will help JCWA identify stream impairment locations and determine possible stream restoration project sites.

Last year, JCWA received a mini grant to help fund an educational sign at the site of its Greenlick Dam Shoreline Restoration project. JCWA is grateful for the continuing support of the Dominion Foundation and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Financial support for the grant was provided by the Dominion Foundation which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies. The grant was administered by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration. JCWA is grateful for the support of both of these organizations.

Visit JCWA at www.jacobscreekwatershed.org