



P.O. Box 1071  
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Fall 2012

# From the Ridge to the River



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## Healthy Streams Make Healthy Cows

Thanks to JCWA's Brush Run Project, many happy cows now graze along Brush Run in Mt. Pleasant Township. The cows at three township farms, the Hutter Farm, the Kitz Farm and the Zelmore Farm now have clean spring water to drink, their hooves don't get muddy from meandering in streams and their pastures are less mucky – all because of the agricultural Best Management Practices JCWA created at their farms. In addition to happy cows, JCWA is also happy because there is less sediment and nutrient pollution in Brush Run these days, making it a cleaner, healthier stream.



Westmoreland Conservation District's Rob Cronauer surveys stream bank restoration, stream fencing, stream crossing and plantings at the Hutter Farm

The Project began last summer and wrapped up this fall, with the oversight and hard work of JCWA Project Manager Andrew Dzurko and Westmoreland Conservation District's Rob Cronauer. Because of their hard work and great budgeting abilities, JCWA was able to expand our work from two farms to three, making even more of an impact on Brush Run. All in all, the Project completed:

- 8,900+ feet of stream fencing – This keeps cows out of the stream, preventing stream bank and stream bed disturbance as well as keeping manure out of the stream.
- 5 stream crossings – These are placed in the fenced sections of streams to allow cattle to cross the streams on a flat and stabilized section of stream bed.
- 4 spring developments – These provide source of fresh water for the cows so they no longer need to enter the streams to get a drink.
- 2 acres of wetlands fencing – This keeps cattle from trampling valuable wetland areas that protect the stream from flooding and enhance biodiversity.
- 5+ acres of riparian buffer plantings – These stabilize banks, absorb flood waters, cool the water and provide nutrients to streams.
- 1,700 feet of stream bank stabilization – This work repairs eroded stream banks and prevents the release of sediment to the stream from eroded banks.

The Project also developed Nutrient Management Plans for the three farms as well as creating drainage pathways, installing farm building gutters and downspouts and stabilizing roadways. JCWA is grateful to the three farming families who were willing to partner with us to enhance Brush Run while also helping the cows.

### JCWA Shirt & Hats for Sale

If you're looking for a unique present for your conservation-minded friend or family member this holiday season, consider purchasing a JCWA t-shirt, polo shirt or hat. They will look great in their JCWA gear and you will be supporting a worthwhile cause! T-shirts have our JCWA logo silk screened on the front, are made of 100% pre-shrunk, soft brushed cotton and come in two colors, chocolate and khaki. Hats are a medium-blue color, made with unstructured styling and have JCWA's logo embroidered on the front. Polo shirts are double pique combed cotton and are light blue with JCWA's logo embroidered on the upper left. Hats and t-shirts are \$12 each or 2 for \$20. Polo shirts are \$25. All items are created locally by TNT Embroidery & More of Mt. Pleasant. If you'd like to place an order, please call at 724-887-8220 ext. 3 or send an email to [jcwatershed@gmail.org](mailto:jcwatershed@gmail.org). Thank you for your support.



### JCWA thanks its new/renewing members:

- Jennifer Barckhoff  
Alesia Chiaramonte  
Audrey Crislip  
Andrew Dzurko Family  
Janet Halle  
Nancy Henry  
Marilee McFadden Family  
Homer McLean  
Ken and Barb Miller  
Margaret Milliron  
Rose Miller  
Carolyn Porter  
John Surmacz  
Nancy Wood  
Polish Falcon – Nest 147, Mt. Pleasant  
Tinker Associates  
TNT Embroidery & More  
Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club  
Westmoreland Conservation District



JCWA members Isaac House and Elle Crislip look at JCWA's display at the Fayette County Fair this past July

### JCWA Upcoming Events

#### November 11th: Fall Fun Bike Ride and Food Drive.

Meet at 1:30 pm at the Scottdale trail head of the Coal & Coke Trail to participate in the fun bike ride. If you're not biking, please stop by and drop off your non-perishable food items for the Scouts to take to local food banks. Light refreshments and prizes available. Visit [www.jacosbcreekwatershed.org](http://www.jacosbcreekwatershed.org); email at [jcwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:jcwatershed@gmail.com) or call 724-887-8220, ext. 3 for details.

#### November 20th: JCWA Board Meeting.

6:30 pm at the Scottdale Borough Building. Bring your ideas for projects or events to share and hear what great things JCWA has planned for 2013. Light refreshments and door prize available. Visit [www.jacosbcreekwatershed.org](http://www.jacosbcreekwatershed.org); email at [jcwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:jcwatershed@gmail.com) or call 724-887-8220, ext. 3 for details.



### Board of Directors

Michael Barrick, *President*  
Kristin Tarasan, *Vice President*  
Susie Carmichael, *Secretary*  
Joseph Kalinowski  
Sharyn Kmiecik  
Frank Romeo

Patricia Miller, *Executive Director*

### Associates

Rita Coleman  
*PA DEP*

Heather Fowler  
*Fayette County Conservation District*

Rob Cronauer  
*Westmoreland Conservation District*

### 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  
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[www.jacobscreekwatershed.org](http://www.jacobscreekwatershed.org)

## JCWA's 11th Annual Riffle Run Scramble

Thanks to all JCWA supporters who golfed in or donated to JCWA's 11th Annual Riffle Run Golf Scramble this September! The Scramble raised funds needed to complete our watershed improvement projects and to promote environmental education in 2013. The golfers happily enjoyed the sunny skies, friendly competition and tasty food at the Donegal Highlands Golf Course. The race for the coveted Riffle Run 1st Place Trophy, which is topped by both a trout and golf club, was extremely close but The Grumpies unseated long-time champions The Black Snappers! The Kudlawiec Quartet was a close second and The Black Snappers took 3rd place. The beautiful autumn day made all golfers happy even if they didn't place in the top three.



2012 Riffle Run Champs The Grumpies: Mike Jones, Dan Simko, Tim Manzewitsch and Eric Rehak

A new Scramble fundraiser was instituted this year, which had small but promising rewards. For a nominal fee, golfers could pay the Riffle Run Heckling Squad to good-naturedly heckle their competition on the course. We're not sure if the golfers enjoyed it, but the Heckling Squad certainly did! A 50/50 raffle and a Special Raffle, with top prizes including a Lionel Train Set, golf bags, a silver coin and hand-made turkey call, brought in additional funds. JCWA will use a portion of these funds to create a new annual scholarship for an area high school senior who will pursue a degree in environmental science, general science or engineering! We're excited about this new scholarship and look forward to using this funding to encourage our teens to become more interested in the environment and environmental careers. Look for more information on this scholarship in our winter newsletter.

JCWA would like to thank the generous sponsors of the Riffle Run Scramble. Without these sponsors, the event could not have been possible. Tee sponsors for the event included Allied Waste - Greenridge; Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.; Hedin Environmental; Westmoreland County Commissioner Ted Kopas; Lennon, Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc.; Markosky Engineering Group, Inc.; Polish Falcons -Nest 147, Mt. Pleasant; Simko Project Management Services; Roger Suter & Sons, Inc. and The Uber Company. Prize sponsors for the event included Aaron McGregor Photography; Brillhart Ace Hardware; Cavanaugh Trucking, Inc.; Mr. Jack Crislip; Donegal Highlands Golf Course; Fayette County Conservation District; Hobbies 'N Stuff; Lennon, Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc.; Levin's Furniture; Mark IV Office Supply, Inc.; Ms. Cecilia McGough; Mountain Watershed Association; Nino's Restaurant; Mr. Ed Ritzer; Mr. Jim Smith; Stefano's Printing; TNT Embroidery & More; Texas Roadhouse; Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Westmoreland Conservation District.

A special thanks to the Riffle Run Organizing & Heckling Squad of Heather Fowler, Kristina Tarasan and Deb Simko, who volunteered their day to help organize, corral, photograph and heckle the golfers!

If you would like to support JCWA's mission while enjoying a fun day in the scenic Laurel Highlands, or if you would like to be a sponsor for next year's Scramble, please send an email to [jcwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:jcwatershed@gmail.com) or call at 724-887-8220, ext. 3. See you on the links next fall!

## Watershed Words-Litter: Still a Problem in the Jacobs Creek Watershed

It may seem strange to have litter as our watershed word. We all know that litter is harmful to the environment and surely no one would still litter in 2012. But JCWA's many stream and roadway clean-ups are evidence that litter and dumping are still very prevalent. An example of how much litter is still occurring is the amount of litter collected during JCWA's Adopt a Highway clean-ups. In March 2012, volunteers removed 58 bags of garbage from a 2 mile stretch of Clay Pike Road and only 3 months later in June, we removed 18 more bags of litter! It took just 3 months for people to throw 18 bags of litter from their vehicles!

The litter we removed during our Adopt a Highways clean-ups was the same as seen along most roadways – beer cans, pop bottles, cigarette filters, coffee cups, fast food containers and lottery tickets. But litter just doesn't look unsightly; it harms our water, wildlife and our economy. Much of the litter enters our lakes and streams from winds or gets washed into storm drains or ditches during heavy rains. Once in the water, litter deposits on the bottom, destroying macro invertebrate habitat. Litter also harms larger creatures. Animals eat harmful plastic or food wrappers; birds and fish get strangled from plastic 6-pack rings and fishing line; small creatures get stuck inside bottles and containers. Raptor sanctuaries are full of owls that get hit by cars as they dive across roadways at night to catch mice eating roadside litter. But litter is not just harmful to our environment, it's expensive too. Each year, Penn Dot spends \$10.1 million dollars of Pennsylvania's money cleaning up roadside litter!

### Here are some interesting, but unfortunate litter facts:

- Millions of animals, birds and fish die from litter each year.
- Beverage containers comprise 40-60% of litter.
- 50% of litter is caused by "accidental" littering, when winds carry away trash as car doors are opened or from the beds of uncovered trucks.
- 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered each year. They are made of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that can take as long as plastic to decompose.
- Plastic is estimated to take up to 500 years to decompose.
- Monofilament fishing line is projected to take up to 600 years to decompose in the environment.

### How can you help?

- Set an example for others, especially children, and don't litter.
- Carry a litter bag in your car, truck or boat.
- Cover trash containers to prevent animals and wind from spreading litter.
- Cover truck beds.
- Take broken fishing line and bait containers with you when you're done fishing.
- Volunteer for a clean-up in your community or help JCWA at our next stream or Adopt a Highway cleanup.
- For more information on litter and clean-up events, visit Westmoreland Cleanways at [www.westmorelandcleanways.org](http://www.westmorelandcleanways.org) or PA Cleanways of Fayette County at [www.keppbeautiful.org](http://www.keppbeautiful.org).

## JC Tour Bus – West Overton Village Distillery Museum

If the chilly temperatures outside this autumn are making you migrate inside, consider taking a step back in history and into the warm interior of the West Overton Village Distillery Museum. The Museum has just re-opened after a 16 month renovation – and it was well worth the wait. The Distillery Museum is located in the original Old Overholt Distillery building, but there's more than just information on whiskey here; there's a view of life back in the late 19th century and early 20th century as well as an interesting collection of antiques.

The Overholt Distillery was built in 1859 by Abraham Overholt, the grandfather and business mentor of Henry Clay Frick, the noted industrialist who was born in West Overton Village. The distillery produced Old Farm Pure Rye Whiskey which was eventually renamed Old Overholt Rye Whiskey, rumored to be the beverage of choice of gambler and gunfighter Doc Holliday! The Museum has many aged whiskey bottles scattered throughout the displays, as well as many old whiskey advertising signs.

The Museum tells the story of the Overholt family and their various enterprises through a series of life size dioramas woven throughout the first floor of the distillery building. You can begin by viewing a wall of Overholt family photos that allows you to see the famous and not so famous family members. Continue on to the most colorful display of the Museum featuring Abraham Overholt's less famous nephew, Henry Overholt. Henry was an impressive and prolific weaver, creating over 800 colorful coverlets in his lifetime—some with his name woven into the bottom of the comfy blankets. Several of his vibrant coverlets are hanging along the walls, across from a loom depicting Henry working hard at one of his cozy creations.

There are other areas showcasing life in the Jacobs Creek Watershed over 100 years ago, including galleries on coal and coke operations, the Whiskey Rebellion of 1791-1794, the Temperance Movement, a distillery warehouse and even a large gristmill stone used to grind grain for in the whiskey. There's a restored distillery office that includes an antique desk, an adding machine, a clock, a 1919 calendar and a staple in everyone's office, a bottle of whiskey on the desk! The museum has two interesting displays that realistically show two ways of making whiskey: the farmer's pot still method and the moonshiner's mountain still method!

The Distillery Museum is just the first phase of West Overton Village's renovation – the homestead of Abraham Overholt and the second floor of the distillery building are currently being renovated and are scheduled to be open to the public in the summer of 2013. If you plan to visit, the Distillery Museum and gift shop are currently open from 12 to 5pm Friday- Sundays. For more information, visit West Overton Village's website at [www.westovertonvillage.org](http://www.westovertonvillage.org) or call 724-887-7910.



JCWA members Cheryel and Don Sechrist pick up litter during our October Adopt a Highway Clean-up



## 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/Senior
- \_\_\_ \$10 Individual
- \_\_\_ \$20 Family
- \_\_\_ \$50 Organization
- \_\_\_ \$75 Corporate

Make checks payable to:  
**Jacobs Creek Watershed Association**  
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## JCWA Receives New Storm Water Grant

JCWA President and project idea-man Mike Barrick has done it again! Mike has successfully written and received a grant for JCWA to design urban storm water measures in Mt. Pleasant Borough. This grant, like most of JCWA's watershed improvement grants, is funded by the US EPA through its 319 Storm Water Program and administered by the PA DEP. This grant is called the Mt. Pleasant – Shupe Run Retrofit Design Project and will design green infrastructure measures to address storm water runoff that rushes into and erodes Shupe Run in Mt. Pleasant Borough. This Project coordinates with JCWA's Shupe Run Stream Bank Restoration Project in Willows Park, which will repair and stabilize 2,000 feet of eroded stream bank downstream of the Project area this fall. Implementing storm water reduction and control measures upstream of the Restoration Project will decrease storm water flows and help prevent future erosion in the restored area.

The Project will design Best Management Practices for two sites in the Borough; the Mt. Pleasant Polish Falcons parking lot and the Maruca manufactured home park. These storm water Best Management Practices will include measures such as porous pavement, underground storm water collection, rain gardens, vegetated swales, and shrubbery and tree plantings. These measures will help address storm water runoff while adding natural beauty to the areas. Even though the grant has just been issued, JCWA is moving ahead full steam on the project and has already selected a design contractor; the Markosky Engineering Group. Once the design is complete, we will apply for a grant to complete construction of these green measures.

Visit JCWA at [www.jacobscreekwatershed.org](http://www.jacobscreekwatershed.org)