



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

From the Ridge to the River



Winter 2013

JCWA Will Stabilize Eroded Stream Bank

In the heart of a popular park in Mt. Pleasant, there is a serious environmental problem that few of us would ever know about if not for the work of JCWA. If you visit Willows Park and peer down into the stream near the Little League Baseball Fields, you will see a section of stream bank that is severely eroded – and getting worse every year. This stream is Shupe Run, which flows along the Coal & Coke Trail before entering into Jacobs Creek. Storm water from the upper areas of Mt. Pleasant rushes



Project Manager Andrew Dzurko takes measurements along Shupe Run project site

downstream towards Shupe Run, gaining speed as it nears Willows Park. This water rushes into the stream at full force, scouring the soil off the banks of Shupe Run and leaving the stream banks exposed and eroded. The exposed bank is unstable and even trees are at risk, as some are now leaning perilously over the stream. If left alone, these trees may actually fall into the stream and soil that once held the bank in place will be washed into the stream, harming fish and aquatic creatures. You can see by the photo on the right how much the stream bank has been eroded.

In early spring, JCWA will begin the stabilization and restoration of the eroded Shupe Run stream banks. The project is funded by an EPA Section 319 grant and overseen by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

This Project will:

- Restore over 2,000 feet of severely eroded stream bank.
- Create riparian buffers to help stabilize stream banks and cool water temperatures.
- Create new in-stream habitat for aquatic organisms and fish.
- Prevent an estimated 33,000 pounds of soil from washing into the stream each year. Over a 5 year period, this will amount to an estimated 80 tons – or 3 tri-axle loads – of soil saved!

Mt. Pleasant Borough has already helped reduce storm water flows to Shupe Run by implementing Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs) upstream of Shupe Run, including rain gardens and porous pavement – and more work is planned. JCWA is adding to the Borough's efforts by designing BMPs for Mt. Pleasant Falcons parking lots and the Maruca Drive area, and has applied for an additional grant to design storm water BMPs for the downtown area of Mt. Pleasant. These BMPs will reduce the volume of storm water flows to Shupe Run and when combined with the stream bank restoration work, will keep Shupe Run healthy and stable for many more seasons of Little League!

JCWA thanks its new/renewing members:

Sandi Anderson Family

Mary P. Miller

Laura and William Nowakowski

Patricia Patterson

Cheryl and Don Sechrist

Jess Stairs

Barry Whoric Family

Rep. Ted Harhai

Bailey Insurance Agency

Collections by Marty

Adam Eidemiller, Inc.

Mt. Pleasant Shop N Save

Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County

Nino's Restaurant

Penn State Specialty Metals



Participants gearing up for JCWA's Fall Fun Bike Ride and Food Drive this past November

JCWA Upcoming Events

March 16: *Southern Laurel Highlands Plant Management Partnership: Project Weedwack.* Destroy invasive honeysuckle at Fort Necessity Great Meadow. Meet at 9:00 am at the park Visitor's center. Call MJ McFadden at 724-329-5811 for more details.

March 19: Gravel Driveways and Unpaved Lanes Workshop. 7:00 – 8:00 pm at the Westmoreland Conservation District. There is a \$5.00 registration fee for this worthwhile workshop. Register on-line at www.wcdpa.com or call 724-837-5271.

March 22: Last day to order trees and shrubs from the Fayette County Conservation District's Tree sale. For more information. Call 724-438 – 4497.

April 6: *SLHPMP Project Weedwack.* Remove invasive garlic mustard form Ohiopyle State Park. Meet at 9:00 am at the Park office. Contact Barb Wallace at 724-329-5818 for more information.



Board of Directors

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

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
Phone (724) 887-8220, ext. 3
Fax (724) 887-0195
Email jcwatershed@gmail.com
www.jacobscreekwatershed.org

2012 Watershed Mini Grant

For the third year in a row, JCWA was one of 28 non-profit organizations receiving a Watershed Mini Grant from the Dominion Foundation and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. JCWA received the \$500 grant to help fund our comprehensive stream monitoring program. Grant funds were used to purchase stream sampling equipment and a GPS unit to identify sampling sites and track data points. This equipment will help us more effectively monitor the streams within the Jacobs Creek watershed for years to come. Last year, JCWA received a mini grant to help fund our Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) quarterly sampling and analysis program. A 2010 mini grant helped fund an educational sign at the site of our 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 Offers Scholarship!

JCWA is very excited to announce its first ever scholarship program! The JCWA Board of Directors think a scholarship is a great way to provide some financial help to a college-bound student interested in the environment. We will be offering a \$500 scholarship to one area senior who is entering college to pursue studies in environmental science, biology, engineering or another science related field. To fund the scholarship, we will use money raised from JCWA's annual the Riffle Run Golf Scramble. The Riffle Run Golf Scramble is held every September and has raised funds to help defray the costs of JCWA's stream improvement projects and environmental education programs. Now, proceeds will also be used to fund the scholarship, making the generosity of the golfers and sponsors even more important!

To be eligible for the scholarship, graduating seniors must reside within or attend school within the Jacobs Creek watershed, provide proof of acceptance at an institute of higher learning, have had some involvement in environmental activities and submit an application and short essay on why they are pursuing their chosen field of study. We will be coordinating with the area high schools to get the word out, but if you know of any interested students, please have them contact us. Information will also be on our facebook page and on our under-construction website within the next month.

Riffle Run Golfers help fund JCWA projects and new scholarship!



Did You Know...

Did you know that the Jacobs Creek watershed is over 98 square miles in area and contains 177 miles of streams? Jacobs Creek alone is over 91 miles in length. Many smaller tributary streams flow into Jacobs Creek, which eventually flows into the Youghiogheny River at the town of Jacobs Creek.

Visit JCWA at www.jacobscreekwatershed.org

JCWA History Corner - Whiskey Rebellion



The Whiskey Rebellion was a well-known uprising against taxation that began in the late 1700's during the presidency of George Washington. Although the most-remembered acts of violence and insurgency occurred in the Washington County area of Southwestern Pennsylvania, some less-renowned acts of resistance did occur in and around the Jacobs Creek watershed.

The Whiskey Rebellion, also known as the Whiskey Insurrection, began after Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton's plan to fund the newly formed government and its Revolutionary War debt finally became law. The law imposed an excise tax of four pence per gallon on distilled spirits and was met by great resistance, particularly in the region west of the Alleghenies. Area farmers, many of whom were Revolutionary War veterans, turned their excess grain into whiskey. They deemed the tax onerous to the region, believing the only way to economically transport grain over the Allegheny Mountains was in the form of whiskey. The tax was so opposed in this area that it became hard to find people hardy enough – or foolish enough - to be tax collectors.

In 1793, Benjamin Wells had the misfortune of being Fayette County's collector of revenue. For his role in attempting to collect taxes on whiskey, his house – which was situated along the banks of the Youghiogheny River near Connellsville - was ransacked in April 1793. Arrest warrants issued by Justices James Meason and James Finley (creator of the 1st suspension bridge in the U.S. as noted in the spring 2011 JCWA newsletter) were not served by the sheriff, so more incidents followed. In November of that year, Philip Reagan (whose East Huntingdon Township home served as the Westmoreland County excise office) had his barn burned down. He was roughed up, bound and paraded to Well's home and again threatened. After reportedly having a gun held to his head and his house burned, Wells did indeed finally resign his position as tax collector and fled the area.

Incidents similar to these happened throughout the region. The Whiskey Rebellion divided people and politicians, and actually helped contribute to the formation of political parties. Thomas Jefferson's Democratic-Republican Party opposed Alexander Hamilton's Federalist Party and the excise tax. Jefferson was elected as President in 1800 and his Democratic Republican Party issues prevailed. The excise tax on whiskey was finally repealed in 1802.

Spring Tree Sale

Although we're in the midst of winter, the Fayette County Conservation District is thinking Spring! The District will again hold its annual Spring Tree sale, offering a great variety of hearty and healthy trees at affordable prices. Find a host of native trees and shrubbery to enhance your landscape or expand the fruits of your labor with some apple, cherry, pear or peach trees. Bluebird boxes are also being offered this year so you can provide nesting habitat to attract melodic bluebirds to your home. Trees available will include Redbud, Butternut (White Walnut), Pines, Oaks, Dogwoods, Paw Paws and many more. Highbush blueberry and cranberry bushes will be sold too. Orders are due by March 22, 2013 and tree pick up is on April 5th and April 6th at the Fayette County Fairgrounds. You can find a full list of trees and price list by visiting www.fayettedc.org, by calling the Fayette County Conservation District at 724-438-4497 or visiting JCWA's facebook page.



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
P.O. Box 1071
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Phone (724) 887-8220, ext. 3

JCWA Welcomes New Board Members

JCWA welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors recently! Joseph Kalinowski was elected to the Board last year and has been a wonderful asset. Joe is a retired engineer, and he and his wife Arlene have been active JCWA members and dedicated participants at JCWA's clean-up events. Barry Whoric was just elected to the Board at our January meeting, but he is no stranger to JCWA activities. Barry is the former Borough Manager of Scottdale and was actively involved in several JCWA projects in Scottdale. Both men believe in our mission to preserve and protect the watershed and we are elated to have these wonderful additions to the JCWA Board!