



10 Mt. Pleasant Road
Scottsdale, PA 15683

From the Ridge to the River



Winter 2015

2015 Tree Sale

Spring Tree Sale – Fayette County Conservation District:

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. Orders are due by March 13, 2015 and tree pick up is on March 27 and March 28 at the Fayette County Fairgrounds. For a full list of trees and a price list call the Fayette County Conservation District at 724-438-4497.

JCWA thanks its new/renewing members:

Sandi and Sam Anderson
Audrey and Kathe Crislip
Frederick DeNorscia
Bill Edwards
Ted Harhai

Margaret and Max House family
Jeannette and Robert Lindsay
Mary P. Miller
Samuel Petrill

Jim Smith
Jesse Stairs
Adam Eidemiller, Inc.
Rachel Hoza, CPA
Dr. Justin Kontir

Karen Jurkovic Communications
Pleasant Unity Supply
Standard Bank, Scottsdale
Tinker Associates

JCWA Upcoming Events

July 9: JCWA Board Meeting. Meet at the Scottsdale Borough Building at 6:30 pm to discuss JCWA's current and future projects and events. Bring your ideas and suggestions.

July 25 – August 3: Fayette County Fair. Visit JCWA's display at the Fayette County Conservation District booth in Commercial Building 3. Fairgrounds located along Rt. 119 and Pechin Road. Visit www.fayettedfair.com for details.

August 18: Scottsdale's Picnic in the Park. 2:00 pm at Louks Park. Picnic includes music, refreshments and kids' activities. Visit JCWA's booth for kids coloring contest, information on JCWA's projects and free popcorn! Visit www.scottsdale.com for details.

September 12: JCWA's 13th Annual Riffle Run Golf Scramble at Donegal Highlands Golf Course. Tee off at 8:30 am; registration begins at 7:15 am. \$80.00 per golfer includes 18 holes, cart, lunch at the turn, dinner, beverages and beer. Door prizes, 50/50 raffle, special raffle and skill prizes are available. Visit our website or call 724-887-8220, ext. 3 for details.

JCWA and Scottdale Borough Complete Storm Water Project

If you've been to downtown Scottsdale lately, you might have noticed a few exciting changes sprouting up along Pittsburgh Street. Dozens of new trees, shrubs, and flowers are lining the streets of our small town and these plants are working hard to keep our storm water flows in check.

Scottsdale Borough and JCWA have teamed up to green up this once industrial town. Thanks to a 319 EPA grant we've been able to enhance the beauty of our town and combat storm water issues that Scottsdale has been experiencing for years. These improvements include:

- 1.1 acres of Bio-retention Swales (Gazebo Park)
- 3.5 acres of Porous Pavement (Gazebo Park)
- 5 Rain Gardens (3 Residential; 2 Borough Building)
- Educational Wetland Area (Southmoreland Middle School)



Porous pavement and beautifully planted bio-retention swales surround the Scottsdale Gazebo

Over 30,000 cubic feet of storm water will be prevented from rushing into Jacobs Creek each year, thanks to the five new rain gardens. The two rain gardens at the Scottsdale Borough Building were also designed in conjunction with a new handicapped accessible ramp that meets ADA standards that was funded through a separate Borough grant.

By preventing flooding of properties below Parker Avenue and keeping the small stream along the property from washing out, the new wetland/bio-retention area at the Southmoreland Middle School is doing its job to detain storm water. Thanks to a \$5,000 biodiversity grant from the Sprout Fund, this wetland will also be used as an outdoor educational area. JCWA coordinated with Southmoreland's science teachers to design 4 educational signs for the students, so they can learn while viewing the flora and fauna of the wetland area.

The new crosswalks, porous pavers, and "bump-out" areas with plantings that you see along Pittsburgh Street and Spring Street were funded by a second grant as part of the Scottsdale Green Streets Construction Project, all of which will aid in storm water flow issues. The parking area near Rite Aid also got a new crosswalk made of porous pavers.

Improvements to Graft Alley, including the addition of rain gardens, porous parking areas and porous brick street, were made possible by funds from both of the grants.

In addition to enhancing the landscape of downtown Scottsdale, these measures will reduce the amount of storm water runoff, sediment, and nutrients entering Jacobs Creek to improve the quality of our watershed. So when you see the beautiful plants, new crosswalks and the porous pavement surrounding the gazebo, remember that in addition to enhancing the esthetics of downtown Scottsdale, they are cleaning up our streams and preventing flooding.

Contributed by: Kristina Tarasan

Visit JCWA at www.jacobs creek watershed.org



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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

10 Mt. Pleasant Road
Scottsdale, PA 15683
Phone (724) 887-8220, ext. 3
Fax (724) 887-0195
Email jcwatershed@gmail.com
www.jacobs creek watershed.org
www.facebook.com/jacobs creek watershed

Foundations fund JCWA's Comprehensive Plan Expansion

JCWA's Comprehensive Plan, called our Watershed Implementation Plan or WIP, is critical for all of our watershed improvement projects. The WIP assesses the Jacobs Creek watershed and identifies all impaired areas that JCWA can restore through our watershed improvement projects. JCWA's WIP was completed in 2009 and was the first one approved by EPA without changes, which shows how comprehensive and thorough the WIP is. And that is extremely important because all projects funded by EPA's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program must have an approved WIP. Without 319 funding, JCWA would not have completed its many watershed improvement projects in the past 5 years.

But when JCWA completed the WIP, our funding was limited and only the larger middle portion of the watershed was assessed, leaving the upper and lower reaches unassessed and unavailable to EPA's 319 funding. In recent years, we realized the need to expand the WIP to assess these areas so we can complete projects there but did not have the funds to complete this expansion on our own.

JCWA reached out to two familiar foundations that have helped us in the past: The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and The Dominion Foundation's Watershed Mini-Grant Program, which is administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds readily saw the value of this project and funded \$2,000. The Foundation has funded a part-time project manager position for two years, has funded our 2014 Earth Day and Fugitive Tire Roundup events, as well as the very important Capacity Building Project in 2010. The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds is a grant-making foundation that invests in efforts to protect healthy, natural streams around the state — and also to clean up pollution and repair damaged wildlife habitat.

JCWA then applied for additional funding through Dominion's Mini Grant program and was awarded \$2,300 towards the expansion. The Dominion Mini Grant program has funded JCWA for the past 5 consecutive years, funding equipment purchases, water sampling costs and outreach supplies. 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.

JCWA Awards 2014 Scholarship

JCWA is pleased to announce that the winner of our 2014 annual environmental scholarship program is Rachel Miller, a 2014 graduate of Connellsville High School. Our selection committee reviewed many applications from high school seniors throughout the Jacobs Creek Watershed and selected Rachel as our 2014 scholarship recipient.

Rachel is the daughter of Candise and Brian Miller of Champion. The scholarship was officially given to Rachel at Connellsville High School Senior Day, but was presented again to her at JCWA's annual member picnic, where the board and members got to meet Rachel and her parents.

At Connellsville High School, Rachel was a member of the National Honor Society, orchestra, participated in various sports and studied geoscience for many years in the gifted program. She also volunteered for the Fayette County Children's Water Festival, a favorite JCWA event.

Rachel is attending Penn State University and will major in Geoscience with a minor in Environmental Science. Her decision to study the sciences "Comes from my desire to protect the environment I love", says Rachel.

To qualify for the scholarship, the applicant must show proof that s/he has been accepted for enrollment at an educational institution of higher learning and must be planning to enter a science related field of study. The applicant also must complete a short essay about why s/he is planning to enter the field of science and discuss his/her extra-curricular activities.

JCWA's annual scholarship program is funded through our annual Riffle Run Golf Scramble which is held every September. Thanks to all of our sponsors and golfers who made this scholarship possible.

Visit JCWA at www.jacobs creek watershed.org



JCWA Vice President Kristina Tarasan and President Mike Barrick present our 2014 scholarship to Connellsville High School senior Rachel Miller

Watershed Words: Dragonfly

Dragonflies are those amazingly beautiful insects that you may see near wetlands, streams and ponds, jetting sideways and backwards in the most amazing and graceful manner. If you are lucky, one or two will hover in front of you long enough for you to see their stunning markings and ferocious appendages. Dragonflies are ancient insects and have been around since the age of dinosaurs – in fact one species back then had a wing span of over two feet!



Dragonflies' family name is Odonata, which comes from the Greek word for tooth, as dragonflies were once thought to have teeth. Later studies of the insects found that they actually just had large mandibles that resembled teeth that are capable of quickly crushing their prey. Adult dragonflies use these mandibles well and are voracious eaters. Luckily for us humans, they consume mosquitos, deerflies, blackflies, midges and horseflies – all annoying to us but tasty to the dragonflies. They have been called the hawks of the insect world, as they use their barbed legs to catch and hold their prey, sometimes eating as they fly! They can consume their body weight in food in just 30 minutes – imagine attempting that feat as a human!



Dragonflies have a very interesting life cycle: the females lay their eggs on vegetation in or adjacent to water, and the nymphs live underwater until they become adults. Nymphs look very different from the slender and agile adults, as you can see from the photo. Nymphs live in the water for up to 2 years eating smaller aquatic creatures including mosquito larvae. When they are ready, they hatch into adults at night. The adults never stray far from water though, as it provides food, shelter and a place to deposit their eggs. The life of an adult dragonfly is a fleeting one, though, living only from 2 weeks to 2 months.

Many myths are associated with the graceful and colorful dragonfly: one myth has them actually being dragons in a former life and another has them searching for bad children and sewing their lips together with their claspers while they slept! We like to focus on the current, worldwide thoughts that our lovely dragonflies are a symbol of change and self-realization. So the next time you see a dragonfly hovering near you, try to catch a glimpse of its barbed legs, large jaws and stunning colors that appear when it changes from a chunky, dark nymph into an elegant, brilliantly colored adult. *Dragonfly nymph photo caption: Dragonfly nymph courtesy of Troutnut.com*

Adult dragonfly photo caption: Common Green Darner courtesy of National Park Service



James Smith

A True Conservationist, JCWA pays tribute to a life well lived

Chances are, if you had attended a recent JCWA event, you would have run into an energetic older man in a cowboy hat and thought to yourself, "That's what I want to be like when I'm in my 90s!" That man you may have chatted with about canoeing or Labrador retrievers was Jim Smith, JCWA's oldest member. We were saddened this fall to learn of his passing at the age of 92.

A man of endless energy and an avid outdoorsman, Jim had a passion for hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, sailing, and cross-country skiing. He was able to do most of these activities until the past year. Jim volunteered with JCWA and many other nature-oriented groups and was a committed member to all his organizations.

Jim was a true conservationist and said that he barely filled a bag of garbage each week. He recycled, re-used and pre-cycled by choosing not to buy convenience foods. He hunted much of his own food and always used up every inch of the animal, cooking goose stew and even tanning his own deer hides. His handmade turkey calls donated to our golfing were always among the most coveted prizes. He made beautiful homemade walking sticks out of wood he collected during his hikes, and if you were lucky, you got one that had a Roosevelt dime in the top piece of the handle. There are few people today who can create such masterpieces.

A generous, kindhearted and compassionate soul, he will be greatly missed. If we could all be a little more like Jim, imagine how wonderful the world would be.

Contributed by Kristina Tarasan

Visit JCWA at www.jacobs creek watershed.org



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 _____
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Annual Memberships

- ___ \$ 5 Student/Senior
- ___ \$10 Individual
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Jacobs Creek Watershed Association
P.O. Box 1071
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Phone (724) 887-8220, ext. 3