



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

Fall 2013

# From the Ridge to the River



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## JCWA thanks its new/renewing members:

*Karen Jurkovic Communications*  
*Malcolm G. Balfour*  
*Jen, Mike, Joey and Maddie Barrick*  
*Paula and Charlie Brethauer*  
*Gwen and Ed Chute*  
*Edmund G. Davis*  
*Judy and Richard Eans*  
*Cathy and Barry Firestone*  
*Ross Hackel*  
*Stuart Horner, Jr.*  
*Arlene and Joe Kalinowski*  
*Commissioner Ted Kopas*  
*Lennon, Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc.*  
*Republic Services; Allied Waste, Greenridge*  
*Jim Smith*  
*Mike, Peggy and Kristina Tarasan*  
*Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club*  
*Susan and Edwin Zylka*

## JCWA Upcoming Events

**November 16: Adopt a Highway Cleanup along Clay Pike Road.** Meet at 8:15 am in the Donegal Highlands Golf Course parking lot, near the entrance gate. Gloves, bags and reflective vests provided, as well as water and light snacks. Email [jcwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:jcwatershed@gmail.com) or call 724-887-8220, ext. 3 for more information. Directions: Take Rt. 31 and turn onto Clay Pike Road across from Brady's Restaurant. Take first left into Donegal Highlands Golf Course.

**November 23: Fall Stream Cleanup and Food Drive.** Meet at 10:00 am at the Jacobs Creek Environmental Education Wetlands. Please bring non-perishable food items for the Scouts to take to local food banks. Gloves, bags and light refreshments provided. See article inside for details or call 724-887-8220, ext. 3.

**November 19: JCWA Board meeting.** 6:30 pm at the Scottdale Borough Building. Come learn about our projects and events and share your ideas about future projects. Refreshments and chance at a fabulous door prize offered! Call 724-887-8220, ext. 3 for details.

**November 28: Happy Turkey Day**  
**Happy Holidays!**

## JCWA Receives Honors

JCWA was extremely honored last month when we received the J. Roy Houston Conservation Partnership Award from the Westmoreland Conservation District for our conservation and flood protection projects. The award reception was held on September 12 at the recently named J. Roy Houston Conservation Center, an 1880s era barn where the Westmoreland Conservation District has its offices. The award and the barn are named after the man who served as Westmoreland Conservation District's chairman of the board for 40 years.

The JCWA Board of Directors attended this event along with several long-time JCWA members and our Executive Director, Patty Miller. Board President, Mike Barrick, accepted the award on behalf of JCWA. The Award was commemorated in a stunning Stephen Simpson photograph of a waterfall in the Jacobs Creek watershed which was beautifully framed and inscribed.

JCWA received this honor not only as recognition for our current watershed improvement projects, but as an acknowledgment for one of our most significant watershed improvements: the Jacobs Creek Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Project. This project was completed in the early 1970s and has protected local businesses and residents near Acme Dam, Bridgeport Dam, Greenlick Dam and the Scottdale Channel from flooding for many years.

"The Jacobs Creek Watershed Association really stands out because of their history and what they have been able to accomplish," said WCD Landscape Artist and Storm Water Technician, Kathy Hamilton. "Jacobs Creek Flood Prevention Project is one of only a few projects of its kind done in the entire country - their model has been used as an example for other communities. They've really done a great job over the years."

In addition to the J. Roy Houston Conservation Partnership Award, JCWA was given a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, signed by Congressman Tim Murphy; a Certificate of Congratulations from the PA State Senate signed by Senator Kim Ward and a Citation for the PA House of Representatives, signed by Deborah Kula.

We are very excited and grateful to receive this award and accompanying certificates. The Westmoreland Conservation District has partnered with us with many projects and we value their continuing support!



JCWA Board of Directors accepts J. Roy Houston Conservation Partnership Award. From left, back row: President Mike Barrick, Joe Kalinowski, Project Manager Andrew Dzurko, and Vice President Kristina Tarasan. Front Row: Executive Director Patty Miller, Treasurer Barry Whoric, Sharyn Kmiecik, WCD Vice Chairman Bill Doney and WCD Chairman Ron Rohall

## Rain and Shine, JCWA Makes Parade Debuts!

Despite a soggy September Saturday, JCWA joined the Scottdale Fall Festival Parade for the first time! Rain didn't dampen our spirits, and we plan to be back next year for Scottdale's 40th Fall Festival Parade. Hopefully no umbrellas needed in 2014!

For the Mount Pleasant Glass & Ethnic Festival, we were lucky to have a sunny Saturday so we could join our first Mount Pleasant parade in style! JCWA member Mike Tarasan drove his 1979 convertible Volkswagen Beetle, and Elle Crislip (daughter of Patty Miller, JCWA Executive Director), Vice President Kristina Tarasan and member Peggy Tarasan served as our honorary candy distributors! A fun day was had by all and we plan to be back next year!



JCWA parade participants Elle Crislip, Kristina Tarasan and Mike Tarasan



### Board of Directors

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

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

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[www.facebook.com/jacobscreekwatershed](http://www.facebook.com/jacobscreekwatershed)

## Jacobs Creek Tour Bus – Samuel Warden Mansion and Festival of Lights

The Braddock Trail Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has a wonderful and historic resource for their meetings and events in Mt. Pleasant - the Samuel Warden Mansion - and they are kind enough to share it with us every Christmas season when they host the annual Festival of Lights!



*Samuel Warden Mansion, site of the annual Festival of Lights*

The Samuel Warden Mansion is a 127 year old Victorian home that was constructed by local businessman Samuel Warden and his wife Margaret. Born in 1822, Mr. Warden began his career in farming but became a prominent coal and coke oven owner. The Wardens built the home in 1886 on the corner of Church and Walnut Streets and lived there until their deaths. The Warden Mansion was passed on to their descendants until 1963, when the Braddock Trail Chapter DAR was able to purchase this historic treasure.

The DAR opens up the Warden Mansion to showcase its beautiful interior every winter during its annual Festival of Lights, where beautifully and uniquely decorated Christmas trees fill the first and second floors of the mansion. About 35 trees are decorated and donated by area groups, businesses and individuals. Each tree has its own decoration theme, ranging from beautiful to whimsical to old-fashioned to patriotic! You can vote on your favorite tree and if you really like one, they are available for sale.

When you visit the Festival of Lights, you will be greeted at the door by gracious DAR hosts and allowed to spend as much time as you need to tour the mansion and be awed by the glittering trees. The 2nd floor also has wonderful baskets and items for raffle, some of them hand-made by talented DAR members! As you make your way down from the 2nd floor, you might even catch a glimpse of the mischievous Rebekah, the friendly spirit of a teenage servant who reportedly just can't seem to leave the mansion. She has been seen swishing by in her long, black Victorian dress as she keeps watch over the upper floors of the home!

When you finish the tour, don't forget to stop in the welcoming dining room on the first floor for some hot chocolate and cookies, a perfect way to end your holiday experience.

The Festival of Lights is a wonderful way to begin your holiday season and will surely become an annual family tradition. The schedule is: Sat. Nov. 30 and Sun. Dec 1st from 1:30pm to 9pm; Thurs. Dec. 5th from 7pm-9pm; Fri. Dec. 6 and Sat. Dec. 7th from 1:30pm to 9pm and Sun. Dec. 8th from noon to 4pm. There is a \$5.00 fee for adults, but children under 12 are admitted free and proceeds benefit the DAR Renovation Project.

### Watershed Word: pH

In chemistry, the pH is a measure of how acidic or basic (alkaline) a substance is. The pH value of a stream is an important indicator of the stream's overall health. This is because some aquatic plants and animals are acid-sensitive and cannot survive in streams with low or acidic pH values.

We can tell if a stream is acidic or basic by measuring its pH value. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14. Pure water is neutral, with a pH of 7. A pH less than 7 is acidic, and a pH greater than 7 is basic. For example, at a pH value of 5, most fish eggs cannot hatch and at lower pH levels some adult fish die.

Unfortunately, it's not uncommon in PA to come across streams that are bright orange. What causes this discoloration of our stream water? The answer: Acid mine drainage (AMD).

AMD is water that has been polluted from contact with mining activity and has a very low pH value. The acidic water that forms is rich in heavy metals and is highly toxic. When mixed with groundwater, surface water and soil, this acidic water can have harmful effects on people, animals and plants.

JCWA is working to address the problem of AMD in our streams by working to implement AMD Treatment Design Projects. Currently, we are looking to remediate Stauffer Run, one of the streams in our watershed that has been heavily impacted by AMD. We have designed a passive treatment system to treat the AMD in Stauffer Run and are currently working to obtain funding to construct this treatment system. We are also currently designing a treatment for AMD discharges along an unnamed tributary to Jacobs Creek that flows along Rt. 119 South in Upper Tyrone Township. Within the next few years, we hope to be well on our way to resolving AMD issues and low pH streams within the Jacobs Creek watershed.

## JCWA's 12th Annual Riffle Run Scramble

Friday the 13th was no match for the plucky golfers who triumphed over superstitions and had a great, safe day of golfing at JCWA's 12th Annual Riffle Run Scramble! Even the rain was cooperative and held off until everyone was finished golfing and safely under cover eating ribs and barbecued chicken! Thanks to all JCWA supporters who golfed in or donated to JCWA's annual fundraiser at the Donegal Highlands Golf Course – we raised a record amount of funds needed to support our watershed improvement projects and to increase our environmental education work, including our Annual Scholarship for a high school senior pursuing a degree in environmental science or related field; our partnership with Mt. Pleasant Jr. High School Trout in the Classroom Program and our stream investigation days with Southmoreland 9th and 6th graders.

The coveted Riffle Run 1st Place Trophy was reclaimed by The Black Snappers IV, who were excited to regain their title. Second place was taken by The Grumpies, (last year's champs) and third place was won by The Kudlawiec Quartet, who are always in the top three. JCWA welcomed our first all-women foursome, The Connellsville Contessas, composed of Judy Morrow, Diane Cassidy, Linda Dolfi and Linda Wright.

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 Gold Level: Civil & Environmental Consultants; Silver Level: CDR Maguire, Hedin Environmental, Lennon, Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc. and The Markosky Engineering Group, Inc.; Bronze Level: Hunt Valley Environmental, Mt. Pleasant Shop N Save, Polish Falcons -Nest 147, Mt. Pleasant, Simko Project Management Services and Roger Suter & Sons, Inc. General Sponsors included Dr. John Ellis, OD; Infinity Valuations & Appraisals, Simko Project Management Services and Tinker Associates.

Prize sponsors for the event included Brillhart Ace Hardware; Mt. Pleasant Busy Beaver; Civil & Environmental Consultants, Collections by Marty, Mr. Jack Crislip; Donegal Highlands Golf Course; Fayette County Conservation District; Mr. Joel Folman, Hobbies 'N Stuff; Lennon, Smith Souleret Engineering, Levin's; Mark IV Office Supply, Inc.; Nino's Restaurant; Mr. Ed Ritzer; Mr. Jim Smith; Stefano's Printing and Texas Roadhouse.

A special thanks to Mark Shomer of Hobbies 'N Stuff in Connellsville, who donated a Lionel Train Set for our raffle! Mark has generously donated a Lionel Train to our event for the past three years, which has helped generate lots of interest and money for our special raffles.

Thanks to the Riffle Run Organizing & Heckling Squad of Heather Fowler, Deb Simko, Kristina Tarasan and Barry Whoric, who volunteered their day to help organize, corral, photograph and heckle the golfers! It was a tough job and they did it so well!

## Giving Thanks Food Drive and Cleanup – 10:00 am, Saturday Nov. 23rd

Join JCWA for a double dose of helping in one day – removing litter from around Jacobs Creek and donating food for area residents in need. In just a few hours, you will have done more good than most people do all month! The Be Thankful Food Drive and Cleanup will be held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, a time of year when we realize how thankful we are for the natural resources in our watershed and the ample amount of food we have. Please join us.

We are cleaning up one of the most scenic areas in the watershed – the Jacobs Creek Environmental Education Wetlands Area along White Bridge Road. Participants will clean around the walkways of the beautiful wetlands, the access roadway, the backwater of the Bridgeport Dam and along Jacobs Creek. This area is level and has little traffic, so you can bring the kiddies to help do their part. JCWA will provide gloves, bags, reflective vests, water and snacks – all you need to do is wear sturdy shoes and clothing and bring some energy!

And don't forget to bring non-perishable food items to donate. Scouts will take the collected food to area food banks - even if you can't clean up, please drop off food items to help those less-fortunate. We will have a collection table set up at the first parking area when you turn off of White Bridge Road. For directions or more information, please call 724-887-8220, ext. 3 or email us at [jcwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:jcwatershed@gmail.com).



*Riffle Run champions, the Black Snappers IV. From left to right: Dave Ames, Carl Massini, Marty Picklo and Ed Ritzer*



### 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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