

Do You Live in the Jacobs Creek Watershed?

Take a look at the map below. If you live within its boundaries, you live in the Jacobs Creek Watershed. Jacobs Creek Watershed lies in both Fayette County and Westmoreland County. In Fayette County, the Watershed includes portions of Bullsken Township, Everson Borough, Lower Tyrone Township, Perry Township and Upper Tyrone Township. In Westmoreland County, it includes portions of East Huntingdon Township, Mt. Pleasant Borough, Mt. Pleasant Township, Scottdale Borough and South Huntingdon Township.

If you live outside of the map, you still probably shop, dine, work or have fun at places within the Jacobs Creek Watershed. Jacobs Creek Watershed is important to us all. Improving the Jacobs Creek Watershed helps improve your quality of life.



Jacobs Creek Watershed

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

JCWA and Partners' Upcoming Events

April 17: Project Weedwack Event – Ferncliff offensive on invasive species. 9:00 a.m. at Ohiopyle State Park Office. For details call Stacie Faust @724-329-8598

May 1: Jacobs Creek Stream Clean-up. Meet at the Jacobs Creek Env. Education area along White Bridge Road at 9:00 a.m. Call Patty Miller @ 724-887-8220, ext. 3 or go to www.jacobs creek watershed.org for details.

May 3: Westmoreland County Envirothon for students at Twin Lakes Park. For information, go to www.wcdpa.org

May 8: Mountain Watershed Association's Annual Wild-flower Walk. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the entrance to Indian Creek Gorge off Rt. 381 near Mill Run. Visit www.mountain watershed.org for more details.

May 19: Fayette County Children's Water Festival at Fayette County Fairgrounds. Contact Heather Fowler @ 724-438-4497

May 22: Bird Hike at White Bridge Road Wetlands off Route 982 at 8:30 a.m. Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club will lead the hike. Contact Patty Miller @ 724-887-8220, ext.3 or go to www.jacobs creek watershed.org for details.

From the Ridge to the River



Greenlick Dam Shoreline Restoration Project

Do you remember the freezing temperatures, icy roads and tons of snow that January and February brought us? Unless you were skiing, sledding or riding your snowmobile, you probably stayed inside and kept warm as much as possible. But the frigid winter weather did not deter the brave souls of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, JCWA and local contractors who began work on the Greenlick Dam Shoreline Stabilization Project in early January. The Greenlick Dam Project, which was funded by a DEP Growing Greener grant, was conducted to repair and stabilize the severely eroded southeastern shoreline of Greenlick Lake. Due to strong winds and waves that pounded the exposed southeastern shoreline of the lake, over 12 feet of shoreline has eroded over the past 3 decades.

For almost two weeks, the workers graded and stabilized the eroded shoreline. They placed tons of large rocks in the frozen lake to form a series of underwater barriers. These rock barriers will decrease the force of the waves reaching the shoreline and prevent erosion. Two new wetland areas were also created along the shoreline. These wetlands are important for the project, as they will stabilize the shoreline, help prevent erosion and provide habitat for many plant and animal species.

The photo above clearly shows the severe erosion of the southeastern bank of Greenlick Lake. In addition to losing 12 feet of shoreline in the park, the erosion damaged fishing docks and caused tons of soil to deposit in the lakebed, destroying fish habitat and spawning areas. The rock barriers will form new fish habitat and attract species such as crappies, perch and walleye. It is estimated that the work done this winter will prevent approximately 12 tons of shoreline soil from entering the lake each year.

In early spring, JCWA will complete the project by planting trees, shrubs and native vegetation along the shoreline. Fayette County will also replace the fishing docks with new, handicap accessible ones. By summer you will be able to picnic, fish and enjoy the beautiful views of Greenlick Lake knowing that the shoreline is stabilized. In addition to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, JCWA also partnered with the Fayette County Conservation District and the Fayette County Commissioners to complete this worthwhile project.



Stuart Demanski of DEP surveys severe erosion on Greenlick Lake shoreline

JCWA hires Executive Director

Imagine coming home from a long day's work and then having to spend hours on grant applications, contractor bills, newsletter articles, and lots and lots of paperwork for your watershed group. For years, Jacobs Creek Watershed Association (JCWA) volunteers have done this extra work as part of its stream improvement projects. But now, through a 2 year grant from the R.K.Mellon Foundation in conjunction with the Mountain Watershed Association, JCWA has hired its first full-time employee. In September of 2009, Patricia Miller of Bullsken Township was hired as Executive Director of JCWA. Patty will oversee the administration of JCWA and will focus on outreach and environmental education. Patty's office is located in the Scottdale Municipal Building, which is donated to JCWA by Scottdale Borough. If you would like to learn more about JCWA or hear about volunteer opportunities, please contact Patty at 724-887-8220, ext. 3, at jcwa@juno.com or at www.jacobs creek watershed.org.



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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

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Email jcwa@juno.com
www.jacobs creek watershed.org

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association – Why is it important to you?

Do you like to picnic at Jacobs Creek Park? Are you one of the many people fishing on Jacobs Creek the first day of trout season? Maybe you love to canoe on Greenlick or Acme dams? Perhaps you like to bike along the Coal and Coke Trail or identify birds at the White Bridge Road wetlands? All of these places are in the Jacobs Creek Watershed. JCWA is working to preserve and protect our water and land for our children, grandchildren and you!



Enjoying a fall day at Greenlick Lake

JCWA is a grass-root, non-profit association that completes valuable projects on your streams and lakes to improve the quality of the water, prevent flooding and enhance recreation in your hometown area. JCWA's projects could not be accomplished without volunteers like you. Your talents, time and expertise can help us make a difference in our environment. Please consider joining JCWA. Together we can make improvements that will last a lifetime.

Did You Know...?

Did you know that the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association was first formed in the 1960's to address severe flooding in Scottsdale Borough? JCWA's original founders partnered with various government agencies to create three dams to address this flooding: the Acme Dam, the Bridgeport Dam and the Greenlick Dam. These three dams have successfully prevented floods in the Jacobs Creek Watershed since that time.

JCWA to treat Stauffer Run Acid Mine Drainage

We've all seen the orange-red staining on the bottom of our local streams, a reminder of coal mining activities from days past. But the abandoned mine drainage that causes this discoloration can cause more than staining. It can kill aquatic life in our streams, leaving the water acidic and unusable. Stauffer Run is one of those streams. JCWA plans to take measures to reverse the effects of mine drainage on portions of Stauffer Run, which is has been rendered lifeless due to severe acid mine drainage.

JCWA has done extensive sampling on three acidic discharges that flow into Stauffer Run near the East Huntingdon Sportsmen's Club just outside of Scottsdale. Designs are almost complete for a treatment system that will treat the acid mine drainage before it enters Stauffer Run. JCWA will seek funding to construct the treatment system later this year. We hope that someday soon when you look into Stauffer Run, you will be able to see a clean, clear stream bottom with lots of minnows darting about. For more details, please visit our website at www.jacobs creek watershed.org.

Stephanie Hayes of OSM/VISTA from BARC helps JCWA sample mine drainage



Rain Garden Project in Scottdale

When you stroll past the Scottdale Gazebo this spring, keep walking towards the smell of flowers near the Scottdale Library. There you will see the plants and flowers of the Scottdale Library Rain Garden! This past November, JCWA, the Westmoreland Conservation District, the Scottdale Library and Scottdale Borough joined together to create the rain garden, which will do much more than just look beautiful. It will collect the storm water from the roof of the library. It will also minimize the amount of the storm water that will flow into Jacobs Creek. By minimizing this runoff it will reduce stream bank erosion and flooding.



Workers from Country Farms construct Scottdale Library Rain Garden

In a rural area, when the rain falls in a meadow it is absorbed into the ground. In an urban setting, when the rain falls on sidewalks, parking lots and streets it is not absorbed into the ground. It flows into the storm sewer system, which sends the water quickly into nearby streams. During heavy rainfall events, large amounts of water enter the streams with great force. This surge of rainwater can cause stream banks to erode and flooding to occur. The Library rain garden is designed to capture rain water from roof drains of the library and store the water under the garden area. The design of the garden gives it the ability to store excess water from the roof and sidewalks over an extended period of time. Included in the design of the garden is an area made of porous pavement. This pavement is constructed with porous concrete and it will allow rain water to pass through the sidewalk and enter a storage zone beneath the sidewalks and the garden. This was specifically installed to minimize storm water runoff from the sidewalks. Now visitors to the library garden will have a solid and dry area to sit after a summer rain. The water collected by the roof drains and porous concrete sidewalks will be used by the plants in the garden and the excess water will be slowly drained into the storm sewer system. The delay of the excess storm water will reduce the velocity of the water in the receiving stream, minimizing erosion and flooding.

The Library Rain Garden is the first part of a three-phase storm water project in Scottdale. This spring, JCWA will begin work on measures to minimize storm water runoff in the parking lot along Spring Street and Mulberry Street. Although the parking lot will not have a rain garden, it will have porous pavement and grass strips with trees to absorb rain water. The third phase of the Scottdale storm water project will address runoff in a municipal parking near the Scottdale Borough Building.

Watershed Words: Watershed

What exactly is a watershed? You've probably heard the term used many times but may not know exactly what one is. A watershed is an area of land where all of the water drains to a common body of water, such as a river, lake or even the ocean. In our case, that common body of water is Jacobs Creek. Watersheds are geographical areas that are not determined by political boundaries; they are determined by how the streams and rivers flow.

Everybody lives in a watershed. What happens in your watershed effects you in many ways. Watersheds are important because they provide drinking water, support habitat for plants and animals and provide areas for recreation and enjoying nature. Environmental problems in a watershed can affect people, wildlife and aquatic life. Litter, motor oil, pesticides or other pollutants that are placed on the ground can run off during rains and negatively impact streams and lakes. You can make a difference in your watershed by conserving water, not littering, cleaning up spills of pollutants and joining with JCWA to make stream improvement projects happen.

***Jacobs Creek Watershed Association has a new website!
Please visit us at www.jacobs creek watershed.org
for more information on JCWA's projects, activities and events.***



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***

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