



TURTLE TRACKS FALL 2002 EDITION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

NEW BOARD MEMBER, OCTOBER 2002
KRISTY FLAVIN
NEW ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBER
JOE PROSSER

Goals of TCWA

To promote the conservation of the natural resources of the Turtle Creek watershed.

To conduct educational and scientific investigations &/or research related to the conservation of the Turtle Creek watershed.

To educate individuals, schools, organizations, and communities to the value of sound conservation techniques for improving the value of property developments and natural resources.

To participate in existing beneficial government programs dealing with watershed conservation and to promote additional constructive programs beneficial for the watershed.

To promote local interest in the conservation of natural resources in the watershed and to solicit local support for the programs developed to correct or alleviate water quality problems.

Project Updates

Borland Farm Road Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Remediation; Phase I and Phase II

Completion of the total project will significantly reduce or eliminate the iron, aluminum, and pH problems associated with the Delmont Mine Discharge. Responsible for nearly 25% of the pollutant load entering Turtle Creek, the mine water will enter an anoxic limestone drain and settling ponds to be constructed. As a result, water quality will be dramatically improved for six miles of the Upper Turtle Creek sub-watershed. The PA Fish and Boat Commission can return that section to the list of approved trout waters.

While the Turtle Creek Watershed Association is the primary sponsor of this project, the PA DEP, EPA, PennDOT, the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, the Westmoreland County Conservation District, and Dave Myers & Larry Canobbio - the owners of several properties at the site, are making important contributions. As soon as one more signature is obtained for the necessary property easements, work will begin.

(continued)

Turtle Creek Watershed River Conservation Plan

Borland Farm Road AMD Remediation; Phase III

Contracts are now being signed and returned. After PennDOT funding arrangements are finalized, the next steps in the process will start.

Export Mine Discharge Remediation

Currently in the feasibility study phase, a variety of treatment options are being explored. Right now the most promising among them is to redirect water from one mine, now emptying into Turtle Creek near Export, to Brush Creek in Irwin. The polluted water will benefit from the limestone geology of the area. The new path of the water discharge will allow metals to be naturally removed and at the same time raise the pH to a more normal level. Ultimate success of this and the Borland Farm Road projects will result in eleven miles of the watershed being returned to an active fishery.

This study is being conducted by GAI Consultants in Monroeville with a grant from the PADEP Growing Greener Program.

Streambank Reclamation

See the article & pictures on page 3.)

Education Grant

This funding is designed to allow the organization to obtain equipment to enhance our ability to give presentations, to create displays and brochures, and to document projects. So far, a computer, software, and a digital camera have been purchased. More equipment for presentations will be acquired in the near future.

Comprising two volumes and an executive summary, the finished document is available for review at our office in Wilmerding, at local libraries, municipal offices, or it can be found on-line at our website. Volume 1 contains a wealth of information describing the watershed and 14 subwatershed characteristics. Basic principles of protection and planning as well as topics of citizen concern are included. Long range action plans for each subwatershed unit show the projects most needed and demonstrate the potential for success. Volume 2 contains the supporting appendices. The executive summary is an abbreviated version useful for subwatershed project planning.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of an opportunity to read through this comprehensive work. Each municipality in the Turtle Creek watershed will be receiving a copy of the plan. It can be used to assist with comprehensive planning and to apply for grant funding to implement projects that benefit both individual communities and the entire watershed.

New Executive Director

Following a search, the position of executive director was offered to Diane Selvaggio on November 1st. She accepted with pleasure.

A Chatham College graduate with a degree in biology and presently enrolled in the Environmental Science and Management Program at Duquesne University, she has an academic background in aquatic biology and a professional background in management and business with biology being secondary. She was impressed with the RCP, and working with the Turtle Creek Watershed Association will now give her the chance she's been waiting for to combine all of her prior experience.

Streambank Stabilization Project Update

Under the guidance of Craig Barras, the TCWA completed two projects this year on the Growing Greener grant for streambank stabilization. We worked with the City of Jeannette, Elliot Company, PA Association of Conservation Districts, and Westmoreland Conservation District to stabilize two sections of eroded bank totaling about 300 feet on Bull Run, a tributary to Brush Creek. A combination of rip-rap rock, trees, shrubs, and grass were utilized to stabilize the severely eroded banks.

The other site was 100 feet of bank along Brush Creek in Manor Borough. TCWA worked with the Borough Public Works Department, and Manor Leo Club to stabilize the bank with trees and shrubs.

The next site to be completed is about 300 feet of an unnamed tributary to Dirty Camp Run in the Borough of Pitcairn. The site is located in Sugar Camp Park near the border with the Municipality of Monroeville. The Association obtained a Technical Assistance Grant from the PA Association of Conservation Districts to provide survey and design for the project. The design for this project should be completed this winter, with construction to begin in the spring. TCWA will share preliminary designs with Pitcairn Borough officials to ensure their agreement and support on the project.



Raking topsoil at Manor Park, Brush Creek



Along the top of the slope, Bull Run



Looking down on the stabilized area, Bull Run

Join Us !! Become a member of the Turtle Creek Watershed Association and become a partner in a dynamic local conservation effort. A broad base of financial and volunteer support from local individuals, families, communities, businesses, and industry will allow all of us together continue improving the quality of life in this region. (Don't forget - it's tax deductible!)

Membership Form 2003

Name: _____

Individual \$10 Family \$15

Address: _____

Organization \$25 Small business \$50

Life \$100 Corporate \$150

Phone: _____ (h)

Other \$_____

_____ (w)

Please make checks payable to:

Turtle Creek Watershed Association

Mail to:

325 Commerce Street, Suite 204

Wilmerding, PA 15148

Thank you very much!

412/829-2817 phone

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