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PCWEA is on Facebook

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



### Upcoming events:

#### PCWEA MEETING APRIL 4, 2017

4:00 - 5:00 (pm)  
Location: HRG, Inc - 369 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111 -

We are planning activities for Spring 2017. Please share your ideas for upcoming events and activities at the

# Paxton Creek Watershed & Education Association Newsletter Winter 2017 (Vol. 15, Issue 1) [www.paxtoncreek.org](http://www.paxtoncreek.org)

## Letter from PCWEA President Andrew Bliss

PCWEA is on the move in 2017. Thanks to talented new Board members and the commitment and experience of existing Board members, PCWEA is taking on new exciting projects to improve the health of Paxton Creek and educate our community. After 17 years, PCWEA has accomplished a lot. From educational workshops, to demonstration projects, and a River Conservation Plan. PCWEA's past leadership and partners have made tangible, positive impacts to the Paxton Creek Watershed.

But 17 years later, we're in a different environment. Paxton Creek now has a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads- regulated pollution diet) and municipalities that drain to the watershed are putting together plans to meet that TMDL as we speak. Funding for watershed organizations, widely available through "Growing Greener" funds in the early 2000s, is more competitive than ever. Lastly, the way people participate and communicate with organizations such as PCWEA have changed. Remember - Facebook and smartphones haven't been around all that long.

So where are we going from here? To best serve the Paxton Creek and our members, PCWEA is working on the following projects.

-Education: In December, PCWEA submitted a grant application to Pennsylvania DEP to fund educational seminars throughout the watershed targeting streamside property owners, young adults, churches, business, and municipal officials.

-Partnering: We now have active participation from the three municipal entities that manage stormwater pollution for over 90% of our watershed. We will be positioning ourselves to be a resource to these partners and help make efficient improvements to the health of Paxton Creek and educate our community as only a

Letter from President continued on Page 2...

**Letter from the President on page 1 continued...**

organization like PCWEA can.

-Membership: How do you want to engage with us? That's what we'll be asking in 2017. We're looking at our membership structure, events, regular communications, and even our logo to better engage our current and future members. If you want to help or have a suggestion, please let us know!

-Nursery: PCWEA's nursery at Shutt Mill Park needs some work. We'll be out there in Spring to do a quick cleanup and assess future improvements. Once the weather gets better, we'll need your help - stay tuned for future nursery workdays! This nursery may also be the site of a future Eagle Scott project.

As you can see, thanks to our great Board Members and volunteers, PCWEA is busy reinventing itself and coming back to life. We're always looking for more ideas, projects, and volunteers so please be in touch through Facebook or our website ([www.paxtoncreek.org](http://www.paxtoncreek.org)).

Look forward to working with you,

## Randy Allen an Introduction

Mr. Allen's 32 years' experience in the commercial, industrial and residential sectors of civil engineering subdivision and land development has gained him considerable knowledge in planning, design and development of land development projects throughout central Pennsylvania. Developing Post Construction Stormwater Management Plans and Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Plans were part of Mr. Allen's responsibilities. As an Engineering Field Technician, Codes Enforcement Officer and Certified Stormwater Inspector, Mr. Allen's current obligations include assisting a local municipality in meeting compliance with current MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) regulations and responsibilities.



**Randy Allen**

# Centennial Acres Stream Clean Up

By Jeannie Glaser

The Dauphin County Community History coalition is a newly formed preservation organization, which has scheduled an organized cleanup of Paxton Creek for September 9 2017. The aim of the cleanup is to remove as much litter as possible from the stream and tributaries

. The coalition also fosters awareness and a commitment to stewardship among the general public. The coalition's outreach includes those who live in the watershed, but may be unaware of the course or size of the creek. Those who don't want to get a little muddy, or feel their talents might lie elsewhere, are encouraged to participate by surveying the historic mills, farms, and other places that relied on their nearness to the creek for local prosperity. Both aspects of the cleanup will make use of GIS tools. The signup for section cleanup will be an online map-based site: the Dauphin County Historic Places Survey uses a mobile-friendly crowd sourcing GIS app whose current iteration can be viewed and (supplemented by you!) at [dchps.org](http://dchps.org).



Volunteers for any part of the cleanup will be greatly appreciated. Girl Scouts who participate will receive a Stream Cleanup patch with a Paxton Creek rocker. Those who want to go the extra mile by volunteering as Section Captains will receive an additional Section Captain rocker. Section Captains will be responsible for, overseeing the cleanup, recruiting volunteers in their chosen neighborhoods, securing creek access from property owners, and managing check-in on cleanup day.

We hope this project will create a replicable template to be carried on in future years. If you're interested in providing any aid to this endeavor, please email [dauphinhistorycoalition@gmail.com](mailto:dauphinhistorycoalition@gmail.com). Follow us at [facebook.com/dauphinhistorycoalition/](https://www.facebook.com/dauphinhistorycoalition/), or sign up for our newsletter at [dauphinhistorycoalition.org](http://dauphinhistorycoalition.org). Many thanks to Paxton Creek Watershed & Education Association for supporting this project. And, all the help PCWEA has provided over the years to the magnificent Paxton Creek and those benefitting in and downstream of the watershed.

## Clean Water is Everybody's Business by Betsy Logan

Did you know that because of impervious surfaces like pavement and rooftops, a typical city block generates more than 5 times more runoff than a woodland area of the same size? Instead of getting soaked into the ground, runoff from rain and snowmelt carries pollutants such as oil, dirt, chemicals, and lawn fertilizers into storm drains, which flow directly into streams and rivers. These pollutants have a serious impact on water quality and groundwater resources. Individuals can help improve water quality by using good housekeeping practices to improve water quality:

- *Routinely sweep paved areas to remove and pick up dirt and debris for proper disposal in trash. Avoid using water to hose down paved areas.*
- *Chemicals, materials, and waste stored outside should be contained and covered when not in use.*
- *When rain or snow are forecasted, reschedule activities such as painting, chemical application (spraying for weeds or pests), or fertilizing to prevent chemicals from polluting storm runoff.*
- *Seek non-toxic or alternative products and practices for cleaning, pest control, and degreasing.*
- *Check your storm gutters frequently for leaves or debris that can prevent the rainwater from flowing properly.*
- *Direct roof downspouts to areas of the yard that can quickly absorb the excess water.*
- *Consider planting trees, shrubs and other well-rooted plants. A mature tree's network of leaves slows rainfall during a storm, reducing the velocity of raindrops hitting the ground, hence reducing the erosion of soil into the stream. Plants and trees absorb rain, and leaves drip rainfall onto the ground for hours after a storm, allowing more water to seep slowly into the ground. A tree's roots hold the soil, preventing soil from washing into waterways.*
- *Maintaining grass at a height of at least four inches slows the growth of weeds while better absorbing stormwater.*
- *Take your car to a commercial car wash. These facilities are designed to process waste water properly, keeping oils and dirt from your car out of storm drains.*



# STORMWATER SPOTLIGHT

By Matthew S. Bonanno, P.E.

In this issue....

*Best Management Practice* – “Rain Garden”

*Benefits* – This “Rain Garden” filters pollution from stormwater runoff, recharges local groundwater by infiltration, reduces stormwater runoff by evapotranspiration, creates habitat, enhances curb appeal and increases garden enjoyment. It also helps develop a sense of community and place.

*Location* – Susquehanna Township, intersection of Heister Road, N 4<sup>th</sup> St & N 6<sup>th</sup> St – Across from Mr. G’s Place.

*Installation Date* – May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*Installation Details* – Installed curb cuts to allow stormwater runoff to enter into the “Rain Garden”. Native plants and mulch were selected and placed. Stones were installed to slow down the velocity of stormwater runoff, promoting infiltration and water filtration.

Plantings included:

- 3 Ornamental Flowering Trees
- 18 Native Deciduous Shrubs
- 18 Native Evergreen Shrubs
- 26 Native Grasses
- 18 Perennials

*Overview* – This successful project was a joint effort by Susquehanna Township, the Citizens of First Ward Neighborhood Watch, Township Engineer Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. and Stauffer’s of Kissel Hill.

**STORMWATER SPOTLIGHT** continued on page 6...



# STORMWATER SPOTLIGHT Continued from page 6

Existing Site –



Final Construction –



**We hope everyone enjoyed our “Freedom From Membership Dues” in 2016. Unfortunately, it will be necessary to charge membership dues in 2017.**

Take a look, where else can you get reasonable membership dues like this:

- Individual - \$5
- Student - \$0
- Family - \$15
- Business - \$35
- Lifetime - \$100

Membership runs from January to January. 2017 dues should be paid by January 31, 2017. Please see the Membership Form at the end of this Newsletter for details.

We'd like to give a warm thank you to all of our Lifetime Members. These generous members will never have to be bothered by paying dues again. Have you considered becoming a Lifetime Member?

### **Lifetime Members:**

Frank & Judy Beskid, Matt Bonanno, E. Drannon Buskirk, Robert J. Davis, Tom Embich, Jan Sieger, Bryan Genesse, Frederick Heagy, Jr., Erik Johnson, Kevin Kelly, Joseph V. Link, David Sheridan, and Arlene Taylor.

### **About the**

### **Paxton Creek Watershed & Education Association (PCWEA)**

The Paxton Creek Watershed & Education Association (PCWEA) was founded in 2001 with a three-part mission: to protect and enhance watershed resources, solve watershed problems, and facilitate hands-on environmental education.

The Paxton Creek watershed covers 27-square miles northeast of the City of Harrisburg, in central Pennsylvania. Upstream portions of the watershed historically consisted of woodlands and farmland. While downstream portions of the watershed are situated within the City of Harrisburg where Paxton Creek flows through industrial and commercial properties. In places, downstream, the creek is channelized and receives heavy sediment loads eroded from rapidly developing areas upstream.

Development in the upland areas of the watershed has led to the construction of impervious surfaces in the form of roads, parking lots, commercial, and residential buildings. These impervious surfaces severely limit infiltration of surface water into the ground and perpetuate storm water runoff problems. Paxton Creek Watershed generates 15 times the amount of suspended sediments released by typical forested watersheds.

**Paxton Creek Watershed & Education Association (PCWEA) can be found on the  
Web at [www.paxtoncreek.org](http://www.paxtoncreek.org) Email at [info@paxtoncreek.org](mailto:info@paxtoncreek.org)**

**PCWEA is on Facebook [www.facebook.com/PCWEA](http://www.facebook.com/PCWEA)**



**PCWEA PO Box 61674, Harrisburg, PA 17106**

Paxton Creek Watershed and Education Association

## PCWEA Membership Form

# Yes

I want to help enhance and protect Paxton Creek, solve problems such as erosion and flooding, and facilitate environmental education in the watershed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues

**Please complete this form and return to become a member of the organization. PCWEA welcomes donations and Lifetime memberships.**

___ Individual	\$5
___ Student	\$0
___ Family	\$15
___ Business/Corporate	\$35
___ Public/Non-profit	\$0
___ Lifetime	\$100

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Make checks payable to PCWEA, and send the application and check to PCWEA, P.O. Box 61674, Harrisburg, PA 17106

For more information about the PCWEA see [www.hacc.edu/paxtoncreek](http://www.hacc.edu/paxtoncreek)