



Stories in this issue:

- PCWEA's annual meeting-tree planting.....Page 1
- PCWEA's Stream Side Nursery.....Page 2
- Paxton Creek Rembered.....Page 3
- Have you met Andy.....Page 4

Upcoming events:

PCWEA's annual meeting-tree planting



PCWEA is now on Facebook

Paxton Creek Watershed & Education Association Newsletter

Winter 2012 (Vol. 11, Issue 1)
www.paxtoncreek.org

PCWEA has taken the Earth Day Networks challenge to pledge action on Earth Day 2012

<http://act.earthday.org/>

This is announced on our Facebook Page:

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_114114615331786

www.PaxtonCreek.Org



**JOIN
PCWEA
FOR EARTH DAY 2012**

**WE WILL BE PLANTING TREES
ALONG PAXTON CREEK**

Please Read The Article "Come One Come All!"



Come One Come All.....PCWEA's annual meeting-tree planting

By PCWEA President Rhonda Hakundy-Jones

Everyone is invited to PCWEA's annual meeting-tree planting. Join all of your friends on Saturday, April 21 at 10:00 AM at Shutt Mill Park for our annual meeting. We will have a very short business meeting and then transplant trees from our tree nursery to nearby locations along Paxton Creek. We will provide all of the equipment. We just need your help planting tree buffers along the Creek. We will have fun planting trees and will enjoy light refreshments after the planting.

To plan for the refreshments we ask that you **RSVP** at info@paxtoncreek.org or **717-889-1408**. The park is located off of Crooked Hill Road in Susquehanna Township.

“Hey, all you creek lovers out there!”

It's Bryan again, coming from PCWEA's Stream Side Nursery.

I'm very pleased to announce that the majority of storm damage from 2011 has been cleaned up. The nursery looks better than ever. Let me take this chance for a big thank you to Rob Davis and the others for their restoration efforts (since its ownership transfer in May 2011). If not for help from volunteers like Rob, the nursery would still be littered with fallen trees.



Speaking of the nursery, now is a good time to start thinking about tree areas in your own yard. You can do your part to help our local watershed by planting a tree. Trees are the foundation for clean water and a healthy environment. Remember, make sure you use the right tree in the right area. Always be alert for possible issues that might hinder a tree's optimal growth. Before digging, check for underground pipes or wiring by calling the service provider. Plant roots just an inch below ground and keep them intact. Use only four to five inches of mulch and keep it away from the trunk of the tree. Preferably water in the morning hours. The frequency of watering will depend of the weather for the first month. Most important, always plant a tree with other folks and make it a time to remember.

PCWEA is working on a number of possibilities for the nursery, and the sky's the limit. Last year, based on my love for dragonflies, I started construction on a habitat for dragonflies in front of the nursery. My planned completion is sometime in early June, but I can only hope that Mother Nature's flying jewels will chose this site to lay their eggs in years to come. Our goal is to make the tree nursery a wonderful place for all to enjoy. With the promise of people participating in tree plantings. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to e-mail me at YamahaAES820@verizon.net. Or come check the nursery out yourself, which is located behind the basketball court at Shutt Mill Park, Susquehanna Township off Crooked Hill Road.



Paxton Creek near Wildwood Lake

Paxton Creek – REMEMBERED by Rhonda Hakundy-Jones



A number of PCWEA members had the pleasure of meeting Caitlin Finnerty at the Chesapeake Forum last November. Caitlin was raised in Harrisburg, and now works as a conservationist with the Chesapeake Bay Program, Annapolis, Maryland. She grew up along a tributary of Paxton Creek in Susquehanna Township, where she played as a child. Caitlin has fond memories of the Creek and believes

this enjoyment influenced her love of nature.

As a member of the Bay Program’s Communication Team, Caitlin has written a blog about the creek of her childhood in a series called “Watershed Wednesdays”. Caitlin’s blog begins “Every summer of my childhood, I dug for crayfish, collected rocks, and even searched for treasure in Paxton Creek, a stream that ran through my neighborhood park in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania . . . Reflecting on these childhood experiences, I realize that Paxton Creek may have been where I first cultivated my affection for the natural world.” Caitlin goes on to explain some of the woes Paxton Creek is facing and discusses our Watershed and Education Association. You can read Caitlin’s Blog in its entirety, on the Bay Program’s website at

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/watershed_wednesday_paxton_creek_watershed_and_education_association_dauphi



Caitlin Finnerty

Chesapeake Bay News

Nov
23
2011

Watershed Wednesday: Paxton Creek Watershed and Education Association (Dauphin County, Pennsylvania)

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Every summer of my childhood, I dug for crayfish, collected rocks and even searched for treasure in Paxton Creek, a stream that ran through my neighborhood park in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Little did I know that this stream flowed into the Susquehanna River, a tributary of the nation’s largest estuary. Reflecting on these childhood experiences, I realize that Paxton Creek may have been where I first cultivated my affection for the natural world.

Above excerpt from Caitlin’s Blog

Have You Met Andy?

A note from Rhonda Hakundy-Jones, President

PCWEA members and friends I am happy to introduce our newsletter editor, Andy Ohrman. As you will discern from his short biography, he has a diverse background which should be quite helpful as he edits the PCWEA newsletter. This winter edition of the newsletter is Andy's third newsletter for PCWEA. Biography:

Andy lives an active split personality spread between nature, history, and technology; and has found interesting ways to form special synergies among them. He attended college at Penn State where he ma-

ajored in mathematics and minored in biochemistry. He is former President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania and the Harrisburg PC User Group, former board member and Web Master of the Appalachian Audubon and the Hummelstown Historical society. He also belongs to the Middletown Historical Society, and The World Cultures Club of Hershey. He currently works as a computer consultant and is employed by the Harrisburg Area Community College as a computer analyst. Andy is also a free-

lance writer/photographer/illustrator for several business and non-business journals. Andy is also a local speaker on birding and history topics. Andy was recently recognized by HACC for scholarly contributions in the fields of information technologies and natural history.

I am sure you will see Andy at future PCWEA events. He will probably have his camera with him. When you do, please thank him for helping PCWEA with our newsletter.



Andy Ohrman planting a native Yellow Twig Dogwood shrub near a stream on his own property in Lower Paxton Township near Locust Lane. (Yellow and Red Twig Dogwood can brighten up grey landscapes in late fall and winter with their colorful branches.) Andy has made it a point to load up his property with a wide variety of native plants, trees, and shrubs.

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 severally 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.

PCWEA Lifetime Members: Frank & Judy Beskid, E. Drannon Buskirk, Jr., R.D., Tom Embich, Jan Fisher, Fred Heagy, Kevin Kelly, Joe Link, David Sheridan, and Arlen Taylor.

Paxton Creek Watershed & Education Association (PCWEA) can be found on the Web at www.paxtoncreek.org Email at info@paxtoncreek.org

PCWEA is now on Facebook

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