

Welcome to the Beech Creek Watershed Association's Newsletter!

Our members have worked hard to make a difference throughout the watershed and we are excited to share our progress.

Your membership dollars are essential to ensuring that we can continue this publication. For more information about renewing your membership visit us at www.beechcreekwatershed.org or contact us at info@beechcreekwatershed.org or at the address listed on the back of this newsletter.



www.beechcreekwatershed.org

Inside this issue:

Brick Town Trail	1
BCWA Celebrates 10 years	1
Brick Town Challenge	2
Welcome Scott Koser	2
BCWA History	3
Tree Planting	4
Member Spotlight	4
AMD & The Economy	4
And Justice For All	5
BAMR System Work	5

The Brick Town Trail backbone of the Beech Creek Greenway

THE VISION: The Brick Town Trail is the signature project of the Beech Creek Greenway Plan, an effort to leverage the recreational, historical, cultural, and environmental assets of the Beech Creek area in such a way that distinguishes this greenway plan from every other greenway plan in America. The resources the plan proposes to leverage are Bald Eagle State Park and it's 1,700 acre Sayers Lake, 2 million acre Sproul State Forest, historic Curtin Village and reconstructed Eagle Ironworks, and the unique and fascinating stories in every brickyard town between them, all linked together by a network of trails and bike paths that not only serve the health and fitness needs of the local community, but entice and invite the weary urban dweller or the

bored suburbanite to this wondrous place of refuge and renewal on the southern edge of the region known as the Pennsylvania Wilds.

PUBLIC INPUT

Led by a Steering Committee that included approximately 60 community organizations and leaders from Clinton and Centre Counties, the project has earned the support of Congressional and State legislators, county commissioners, municipal officials, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Department of Community and

Economic Development (DCED), county conservation groups, historical societies, local businesses, landowners, and environmental groups.

The Brick Town Trail was originally conceived as a 24 mile trail with two principal corridors, the Bald Eagle Creek corridor generally following the former



PRR line between Curtin Village and Beech Creek, and the Beech Creek corridor following the former NYC line between Beech Creek and Orviston. Based on public input and the recommendations of the Steering Committee, Phase One work will be limited to trail segments within the 14 mile Bald Eagle Creek corridor, originating at the historic Curtin Village near I-80 in Centre County and ending at the historic New York Central Train Station in Beech Creek Borough, Clinton County.

BCWA Celebrates 10 years in 2009

The Beech Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) was organized April of 1999 by a group of concerned citizens. The newly formed organization committed itself to protect the quality and the beauty of the Beech Creek and to enhance life throughout the Watershed.

Of particular concern to the BCWA at the time of its inception was acid mine drainage (AMD), sewage treatment, illegal dumping, unregulated ATV usage, and development - particularly along stream corridors. These concerns have remained unchanged over the last ten years and the BCWA has devoted countless hours and projects to them.

The BCWA's accomplishments include the completion of multiple watershed assessments, the restoration of 3.5 miles of stream, several education workshops, and more recently the sponsorship of the Bricktown Trail and recognition by the PA DEP Environmental Justice Board that economically and socially repressed communities like those in the watershed experience environmentally unjust practices. Today, the BCWA is faced with a new concern - natural gas development. Potential impacts from natural gas well development include sedimentation of wild trout

streams, forest fragmentation, loss of riparian buffers, loss of drinking water supplies, and chemical contamination. However, based on the successes realized throughout the last ten years the BCWA is confident that its future is bright - and that it will be able to continue to protect the watershed from this new threat.



PROJECT BENEFITS

In addition to offering recreational, educational, health and fitness benefits, the Brick Town Trail is expected to help revitalize the economies of the towns along and near it's route. According to the Outdoor Industry foundation, active outdoor recreation supports 6.5 million jobs, and one in 20 Americans depends on the active outdoor recreation economy to make a living. A sampling of some of the jobs generated by the outdoor recreation economy include bicycling (1,135,000),

Cont'd on page 3

Get Ready for the Brick Town Challenge! Sarah Edge, BCWA Member

July 11th. Save that date! That's the date of BCWA's first ever canoe/kayak race at Bald Eagle State Park. The Bricktown Challenge will include two divisions; a Canoe/Kayak Division for the more serious amateur racers and a Recreational Division for families and people who just want to enjoy a day on the lake with the possibility of prizes. In addition we plan to add a poker run aspect just to spice things up a little more. The race is planned to benefit the creation of the Bricktown Trail. We have a grant available to build part of the trail but it requires community match. We're hoping this canoe race will provide at least part of that match.

The race will begin at 10am rain or shine (but of course we're hoping for shine!). The Canoe/Kayak Division race will be approximately 8 miles long and will include classes for long boats and short boats, canoes and kayaks, men, women and juniors. The Recreational Division will feature a shorter race of about 4 miles and will include classes for men, women, adults with children, mixed cou-

ples, juniors and seniors. Seniors will need a combined age of 100 to qualify. Also we will include a poker run aspect during the recreational races. Racers will need to pick up floating tokens to be redeemed for a poker hand. Best hand will win a spectacular prize. So you see you won't need to be a great racer to win!

Mark your Calendar for BCWA's First Annual Bricktown Challenge

July 11th!!

The cost of each class entry will be \$25 per person for pre-registration and \$35 per person for those registering on race day. For those who want to participate in the poker run, there will be an additional fee of \$10 per boat. Racers will receive a t-shirt to mark their participation and there will be a unique trophy for the winners of each class, the poker hand winner and some other of the racers in a manner that we are

still working out. In addition there will be food available at the park to purchase at a reasonable price. We are hoping to have the local fire companies provide the meal as well as handling the safety requirements for the day. Also we are planning to invite local outfitters to show their wares as well as other exhibitors to bring their displays. All in all a great day at the lake at Bald Eagle State Park!

If you would like to participate in the race we will have registration materials on our website after March 20th at www.beechcreekwatershed.org. We would like to get the registrations as early as possible so that we can order the proper sizes of t-shirts. Those registering on the day of the race may not get a t-shirt they had hoped for. Also there will be canoes and kayaks available to rent from Tussey Mountain Outfitters in Bellefonte or Rock River Trail in Lock Haven. You will need to contact them directly to set that up.

Don't want to race? Volunteer to help out with the event! We will need many helping hands to

make the day go smoothly so please contact Sarah Edge at (814) 625-9231 or sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org or Jamie Walker at (570) 660-0382 or jrwalker@pa.net. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for a day of sun and fun!

Welcome Scott Koser

The Clinton County Conservation District has filled its watershed specialist and education coordinator position. The vacancy was filled by Scott Koser, a Penn State graduate and former PA Fish and Boat Commission Fisheries Biologist Aide. Scott is very excited to have filled the position and is eager to meet and assist the BCWA. Scott will be attending the next BCWA meeting and hopes there is a good turnout so he can get to know the members. Welcome Aboard!



Beech Creek Watershed Association's Timeline

February 10, 1999
Lloyd Wilson TU initiates Beech Creek Watershed Association

May 3, 1999
The newly formed group was named the Beech Creek Association and officers were elected.

Jan 1, 2000
Rec'd \$27,400 grant for Beech Creek sampling

May 30, 2001
Rec'd \$90,000 grant for Tributary K and Contrary Run Assessment and Design

Jan 14, 2003
Rec'd grant for stream signage

Jan 22, 2003
Rec'd 2nd grant for stream signage

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

July 12, 1999
oppose and decision not to re-negotiate with Waste Management regarding the removal of the Half Way Treatment

Apr 18, 2000
Rec'd \$300,000 grant for Jonathan Run Assessment and Restoration Plan

Aug 7, 2002
Rec'd grant for Beech Creek Watershed AMD Assessment and Restoration Plan

Jan 20, 2003
Rec'd \$2,400 grant for education and outreach

Jan 2004
Initiated Greenway Project

The Brick Town Trail backbone of the Beech Creek Greenway contd'

camping (2,334,000), fishing (587,000), hunting (323,000), paddling (308,000), snow sports (567,000), trails (716,000), and wildlife viewing (467,000). Cultural heritage travelers spent an average of \$623 per trip (not including transportation) compared to \$457 spending for all US travelers. Heritage tourists also tend to stay longer when they visit. The industry recorded nearly 217 million person trips in 2002, up from 192 million in 1996. Tourism is the 3rd largest industry in the US, contributing \$650 billion to the economy, and employing more than 8 million workers with a payroll of \$171.4 billion in 2005. The industry created tax revenues of

104.9 billion for federal, state and local governments.

COST AND FUNDING

Construction and engineering fees for the four trail segments in Phase I are estimated to cost \$3,350,240, or about \$239,000 per mile of trail. Master Site Plan fees for the four segments are estimated at an additional \$186,000. Funding support for all components of the Master Site Plan is expected from a DCNR grant, matched dollar for dollar by monetary donations from individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations. With this financial support, the Brick Town Trail can become a reality.



Beech Creek Watershed Association Formation and History Ken Flanigan, BCWA Secretary

The announcement of the Growing Greener Program in 1998 resulted in the formation of many new watershed associations including the Beech Creek Watershed Association. The Lloyd Wilson Chapter wanted to be involved in stream restoration projects on a regional basis but had no source of project funding. Considering the lack of financial resources and manpower, we started looking into the possibility of starting a watershed association. Our original plan

was to set up a watershed association for Fishing Creek but Gary Byron and Dave Williams, a long time advocate for Beech Creek, persuaded us to go with Beech Creek because of the greater challenge and need.

On February 24, 1999, the Lloyd Wilson Chapter #224 of Trout Unlimited acted as the 'conveners' of the Beech Creek Watershed Association by hosting a meeting at the Citizen's Hose Company to explore the possibility of forming a Water-

shed Group for Beech Creek. Several articles were written for the newspaper. Following a favorable response of interest and DEP support from Gary Byron and Mike Smith and agency support from Mary Ann Bower and Tonya Lelo of the Clinton County Conservation District, a second public meeting termed the "Beech Creek Watershed Forum" was held at the Bald Eagle-Nittany High School Library at 7:00 PM on March 25, 1999. The purpose of this meeting was to provide

information about the Beech Creek Watershed and explore the possibility of forming a watershed group for Beech Creek. Dave Williams and many others presented the issues and viewpoints regarding Beech Creek. Northcentral Watershed Coordinator Gary Byron and Tanya Lelo of the Clinton County Conservation District conducted the meeting which had a very favorable turnout and outcome.

Timeline of Major Milestones

Dec 2005 Partnered with LHU to conduct watershed research

Aug 2006 DEP completes Avery/Big Run passive treatment system

April 2008 Bricktown Trail feasibility Study completed & Steering Committee formed

2005

2006

2007

2008

June 7, 2006 AMD Assessment and Restoration Plan Completed

April, 2007 Awarded \$50,000 grant & \$546,000 grant to restore SM 5 area of Contrary Run

So far in 2009...

BCWA receives \$47,500 grant to restore Contrary RunSM7

BCWA holds first annual Bricktown challenge

Annual Events

Tree Planting

Watershed Cleanup Day

Tree Planting Butch Davey, Beech Creek Watershed Association Member

Mark your calendar for the next tree planting:

April 25th, 2009

To register for this event, contact Butch Davey at 570-748-1901 or K1retired@yahoo.com

Nearly 60 percent of the Beech Creek Watershed is located within the Sproul State Forest. There is a strong correlation between water quality in Beech Creek and its tributaries and management of the Sproul State Forest. Watershed management is a cornerstone of ecosystem management as it is envisioned in the Sproul State Forest Resource Plan.

Several natural caused and human caused events have erected barriers to successful natural regeneration and re growth on the forest. In the 1960's successive years of insect defoliation by the oak leaf roller complex weakened thousands of acres of mixed oak forests. The weakened oak trees were killed by native boring insects and root diseases. Dead and dying trees were harvested. Any forest regeneration was repeatedly browsed by deer and failed to grow. In the past thirty years gypsy moth outbreaks have produced similar results. Into this mix several large human caused wildfires killed other

trees and encouraged dramatic increases of sweet fern, blueberries, and mountain laurel. These plants inhibit the regeneration of forest trees. Throw in a tornado in 1985 and several hundred natural gas wells in the Council run Gas Field and management of the forest ecosystem is under additional stress.

Starting in the spring of 1991 volunteers from Penn Re Leaf, an offshoot of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, started planting hardwood seedlings on the Big Run Watershed within the Two Rock Run Fire area. Big Run is a major stream within the Beech Creek Watershed. These seedlings were hand planted and protected from deer browsing by plastic tree shelters. Unfortunately many of the hardwood seedlings emerging from the shelters were continually browsed by deer even though the tubes were 5 feet long.

Electric fences were not effective in excluding deer from forest regeneration. Woven Wire fences 8 feet tall seem to do the trick providing protection for seedlings. All during this time other volunteers and Sproul staff were planting every spring. For 5 years members of the Beech Creek Watershed Association have partnered with Penn Re Leaf in the volunteer tree planting effort. On April 26, 2008 the combined group planted over 3000 two year old white pine seedling inside a woven wire fence near the head of the West Branch of Big Run. White pine is a native conifer that is a component of the natural forest. This tree provides many values to the ecosystem. At the end of the day several of the Penn Re Leaf volunteers were asked why they traveled from throughout Pennsylvania to plant trees every spring. Two brothers, who usually bring their families, like the area and are interested in maintaining and improving water quality of cold water fisheries. They eagerly produced photos of trout they caught then released. An attorney revealed it was a good way to relax after a busy tax preparation season. The

outdoor manual labor provides a much needed change of pace. These volunteers cherish what we sometimes take for granted.

The date for 2009 planting is Saturday April 25, 2009. Norm Lacasse the Penn Re Leaf leader has secured housing for the volunteers and he will be planting for the nineteenth consecutive year. Please join us. It seems every year this particular Saturday is always a busy day with many outdoor volunteer activities to remind us summer is on the way.

Planting trees for future forests is an excellent way of improving the Beech Creek Watershed.

Member Spotlight: Ken Flanigan



Member Since: February 24, 1999

Role: Secretary/Historian

I am a member because: To help initiate and facilitate a restoration of Beech Creek through restoration/ remediation of its tributaries.

Ken has been a member of the BCWA since its inception. He's donated countless volunteer hours and remains integral to all that BCWA does.

Thanks Ken for your continued support!

AMD & The Economy

Rebecca Dunlap, Trout Unlimited

In response to the nation's current economic climate, environmental-related issues have taken a back-seat to domestic policy and unemployment. In fact, a January poll by the non-partisan Pew Research Center cites that only 41% of voters deemed protecting the environment a top priority – down 15 points from last years' 56%. While this precipitous drop is not surprising, it highlights the fact that environmental issues are not likely associated with job creation or increased local economic productivity.

Contrary to this evidence, Trout Unlimited recently published a study documenting the economic benefits associated with remediating local abandoned mine drainage pollution. The study reports that cleaning up the more than 1,200 miles of polluted waters and 42,000 acres of abandoned mine lands in the West Branch Susquehanna River watershed could potentially create approximately 6,000 green-collar jobs and an associated \$800 million in economic benefits. The study also reports that streams free of abandoned mine drainage pollution would potentially generate \$22.3 million in sport fishing revenue on an annual basis.

For more information about this study contact Rebecca Dunlap: 570-748-4901; rdunlap@tu.org or visit www.wbsrc.com.



And Justice For All... Mary Vuccola, Environmental Justice Advisory Board, BCWA member



With the probability of gas well drilling facing many of our local community's residents, the issue looms of whether they are being fairly treated by gas companies in addition to being informed completely of the entire impact on their land if they consent to drilling. Because there have been past environmental

exploitations in our region, such as logging at the turn of the century and coal mining which continues to this day, these residents need an advocate to turn to with questions and concerns. In fact, the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) was created to

make sure that these residents, particularly those living in poor communities, do, indeed, have that advocate.

EJAB was formed in the spring of 1999 as a work group by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in response to an increasing aware-

ness of environmental justice concerns involving poor inner city neighborhoods and rural regions. By 2001 a board comprised of 21 members representing all six of DEP's regions was formed. The board's mission has been to foster mutual respect between DEP and the communities. Members of EJAB believe that by building environmentally aware, healthy and knowledgeable communities, the group can work to stimulate sustainable and environmentally friendly development as well as implement policies, regulations and legislation that provide equal protection to disadvantaged communities throughout the Commonwealth.

It is imperative that Pennsylvania's residents become aware of this board in order to utilize its support when necessary, ensuring that they have a forum for protecting the health of their communities. It is EJAB's goal to encourage and enhance public participation in these poor communities to improve the conditions of their environmentally burdened neighborhoods and assure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in the process of environmental decision-making.

To learn more about EJAB, go to DEP's website and click on Environmental Justice.

2008 Status Report: PA DEP BAMR's Passive (SAPS) AMD Treatment Facility

Md. Khalequzzaman, John H. Way, and John Woodward, Lock Haven University

Throughout the summer of 2008, site monitoring and water sampling continued for a third year at PA DEP BAMR's Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project treating acid-mine drainage (AMD) at the Big Run mine site in the upper reaches of Beech Creek's Big Run sub-watershed. This project began shortly after BAMR's facility went online in the spring 2006. Geochemical analyses of these samples and the compilation of standard water-quality parameters contribute to a long-term database necessary for determining trends and assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of this passive treatment facility over time. Ultimately these data can be used in the planning and design of new cell configurations of passive AMD treatment systems in the future.

This research is one of several long-term, regional, community-based, water-quality assessment projects carried out by geology faculty and students from Lock Haven University of PA. In addition to volunteer time and in-kind services, work this summer was once again aided by funding from the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies, Lock Haven University Foundation, and the Beech Creek Watershed Association.

Thanks to the cooperation of the landowner and DEP, this SAPS treatment facility provides researchers, students, and interested members of the public with an excellent opportunity to examine and learn more about the science of passive AMD treatment in a "real-world" setting. We encourage BCWA members to take advantage

of and become more familiar with this "experiment in their own backyard!"

For more information on this treatment system or results from this continued research visit our website www.beechcreekwatershed.org.





www.beechcreekwatershed.org

Beech Creek Watershed Association

PO BOX 286
MILL HALL, PA 17751

www.beechcreekwatershed.org

E-mail: info@beechcreekwatershed.org

Your Membership Dollars Help!

Join or renew your membership
today!

