

Cooks Current

"To protect, preserve and improve the quality of water, land and life in the Cooks Creek Watershed"

Volume 2, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Cooks Creek Watershed Association

Spring 2005

2005 CCWA Events

- **Regular Board Meetings:**
Springtown Fire House
7:30 PM
May 26, June 23,
July 28, Aug 25,
Sept 22, Oct 27,
Nov 17, Dec 22
All are welcome! We appreciate your involvement!

- **June 18: Mini Monster Mayhem**
- **Oct 8: Fall Fellowship dinner**
- **Nov 5: Fall clean-up**



See Page 4 for Details !!

Cooks Current is a publication of the Cooks Creek Watershed Association.

Board Members:

President: W. Scott Douglas

Treasurer: Margaret McDonald

Membership Chair: Sherry Brodhead

Recording Secretary: Jim Orben

Lois Oleksa

Hans Reimann

Stephen Smith, MD

From Across the Board

Spring has sprung across the CC Watershed, and Mother Nature has sure been keeping us busy. Fortunately, Cooks Creek avoided most of the severe flooding from the April 2nd storm, but many members have been working hard helping with the cleanup in surrounding communities. The reason we avoided damage this time, even though we had more rain, was because the rain came over a much longer time period than it did with Hurricane Ivan. The longer duration gave time for the water to drain away.

Our Watershed-Wide cleanup was a success again this year, even though the storm forced us to postpone a week. We had forty people show up to help us clean up over 30 miles of roadway, generating over 20 cubic yards of garbage. That's a lot more road and a lot less garbage than last year, so we ARE making a difference! Thanks to everyone who helped and to our generous sponsors.

Hard work continues in Spring-

field Township on new ordinances to support the revised Comprehensive Plan. CCWA members are active in making sure that water quality and quantity are included in the new regulations. Of particular note is the new stream buffer ordinance which protects the banks of all mapped streams from ground disturbance and clear cutting for a distance of 125 feet from the centerline. If

We're on the web!
www.cooks creekpa.org

you are interested in the ordinance development process, come to the Springfield Township building every third Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Also in the works are the Springtown Sourcewater Protection Plan and a new Comprehensive Plan in Durham Township. CCWA members are involved in both of these efforts as well, but support is always welcome if

you have comments, suggestions, or are willing to help in any way. Remember, that only through our input, will our precious Watershed be adequately protected from irreparable harm. Our input must be informed however, so CCWA is spearheading an adopt-a-reach program that will give residents the tools to monitor the impacts of land use decisions on water quality and quantity in their immediate vicinity. To learn more about what you can do, drop me a line at info@cooks creekpa.org. Make sure to let me know where in the watershed you live.

W. Scott Douglas
President

Watershed Green-up Day

By: Sherry Brodhead

The Cooks Creek Watershed Association held a watershed-wide roadside cleanup on Saturday, April 9. About 40 people representing 10 different community organizations converged on the Springtown Fire Company on Saturday morning to assist in a spring

cleaning of 30 miles of major and minor roadways in the communities of Springfield, Durham, and Lower Saucon. Working from 9 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon, the group scoured the winter-trashed roads, removing over 20 cubic yards of trash, debris,

broken road signs and tires. We filled two 10 cubic yard PennDOT trucks (one on Saturday and one more to pick up what was delivered after the first truck left).

Despite the need to reschedule

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Can We Expect More 100-Year Storms?

By: W. Scott Douglas

Given that we have had two 100-year storms in the past six months, many folks have asked whether or not this changes the calculations of what defines the 100-year storm. If we have two of these “frog stranglers” in a year, doesn’t that mean that a 100-year storm is now a 50-year storm, or worse? No, it doesn’t. The 100-year storm is not so much an expected frequency as it is a probability. A 100-year storm is an event that has a one percent chance of occurring. While it is unusual to have two in any given year, it’s not impossible. Think of it like flipping a coin. The probability of getting a “heads” on a toss never changes, regardless of the outcome of the previous toss. And although it may seem odd, having multiple unusual storms in a short time period does not really alter the probability of the 100-year storm that much.

What is more important is the cumulative record of rainfall. A change in the AVERAGE amount of rainfall in a region makes

much more of a difference in the probability of any given event, and it can significantly alter the volume of the 100-year event (or changes the probability of getting the rain predicted in the 100-year event, get it?). The longer and more complete the record used to calculate the volumes, the more accurate the predictions will be. It is that cumulative record of rainfall in the region that recently caused the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to increase the rainfall predicted for the 100-year event. The Doylestown and Quakertown areas both have been raised by 4.7 and 6.5%, respectively over previous estimates.

These increases have a direct relationship to how engineers design stormwater management structures in new developments. Undersizing these structures is what leads to erosion and flooding of roadways, loss of acreage in agricultural areas and the flow of stormwater over those

areas that we don’t want it (like through the back door). Therefore, CCWA is strongly urging local municipalities to adopt resolutions to use these new values in their Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). Want to learn more about stormwater, drinking water, wastewater and how to manage water properly? Come to our Water Conference in October (keep an eye on our webpage for announcements at www.cooks creekpa.org)!

Headwater Mapping Effort

By: W. Scott Douglas

Members have been spending a lot of time in Springfield Township helping with the Springtown Sourcewater Protection Plan. In a recent meeting of the Steering Committee, the Township’s consultant, Spotts Stevens and McCoy, revealed the Protection Zones for the Well (Springtown Firehouse) and the Springs (top of the hill above Springtown). They informed the group that because the well is so close to the Silver Creek, the entire watershed of the Silver Creek above the Firehouse needed to be included in the Protection Plan. They highly recommended that the Springfield EAC map the headwaters in the watershed for inclusion in the final Sourcewater Protection Plan.

Under guidance from CCWA President Scott Douglas, Palisades HS student Dan Kluskiewicz has been heading up this data collection effort. Dan is using this project in partial fulfillment of his Boy Scout rank of Eagle. Dan has coordinated his friends in Troop 27 (Durham-Nockamixon) to follow the tributaries of Silver Creek to their sources at springs, wetlands and seeps. About half of this

watershed is in Springfield, the other half is in Lower Saucon Township. Using state-of-the-art Global Positioning System technology, they will walk and record the location of each stream. The CCWA purchased these units late last year. The data is then downloaded into the Watershed’s Geographical Information System (GIS) in order to create an updated stream map. Dan said that the new map of the Silver Creek headwaters will be done in time for the May 12 Steering Committee meeting.

Of course, what’s good for Silver Creek is good for the rest of the Cooks Creek as well, so CCWA is looking for a few good folks to assist us as we map the rest of the watershed over the course of the year. If you have any headwaters on your property, or can get access to properties that do, please drop us a line at info@cooks creekpa.org.



Delaware River at Rt. 611 and Rt. 212 during the April 2 Flood
Photo by W. Scott Douglas

Bucks County Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Collection

will take place on June 18 at the Bucks County Vo-Tech on Ridge Road from 9am to 3pm. You can bring up to 3 old computers and up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous chemicals (oil based paint, varnish and lacquers, cleaners, pesticides, fertilizers, batteries). If you miss this one, there will be a second on Sept. 17 at the Quakertown Community Pool on Mill Street.

Adopt-a-Reach

By: W. Scott Douglas

Many of you may remember the days when Lois Oleksa, Lynn Berseth and Anke Ellis used to monitor the water quality at a couple of locations throughout the Watershed on a biweekly and later monthly basis. This was a great project and really helped us to understand just how good our water quality is. Later, when the Durham EAC monitored water quality throughout the watershed in support of the Watershed Conservation Plan, we learned that not every tributary is in as good a shape as most. This has led the CCWA to begin putting together a watershed wide monitoring network. I know, we've been threatening to do this for a while, but thanks to Senator Wonderling, the League of Women Voters and the State of Pennsylvania, that time is NOW!

If you've been to our website (and if

Watershed Green-up Day

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which resulted in a reduced turn out, this year's event was even more successful than last year in terms of miles of roadway cleaned up. Door prizes provided by the CCWA and local sponsors were a much enjoyed bonus, especially for the many children who helped out. Next year we will focus even more on the areas that have never been cleaned before, such as Richlandtown Pike.

Many, many thanks to all you that came out to help with the clean-up!

Groups:

Cooks Creek Watershed Association
 Willey Aqua Farm and Fish Hatchery
 Troop 27, BSA
 Durham Township EAC
 Springfield Township EAC
 Durham Historical Society
 Springfield Historical Commission
 Springtown Christ Lutheran Church
 Heritage Conservancy
 Cooks Creek Conservancy

We are also most grateful for the generosity of our sponsors this year and for their contributions towards some fantastic door prizes. The door prizes were a great success and we hope this will add to the incentive for you all to come out in droves when we do this again next year!

Sponsors:

you haven't, it's www.cookscreekpa.org) you will notice that the watershed is divided up into 16 subwatersheds. Once we receive our water monitoring kits, we will be training YOU to become a Reach Steward! What does it take to be a Reach Steward? Well, not much other than a little bit of time and access to the Creek. Stewards will take water quality data on a regular basis using the kit, monitor the streambank conditions, and record the water level. This will give you an excuse to go to the Creek and hopefully, get to know your neighbors so that you can keep track of the conditions in your reach, pick up trash, and report on any suspicious activity that might impact water quality. At the end of each year, we'll put together a "State of the Watershed" reportcard and send it out to those agencies that

PennDOT, Springown Fire Company, Indigo Gardens, Vera's Country Café, Saucon ValleyMeats, Springtown Inn, Saylor's Meats, Wal-Mart, Bechdolt's Orchards, Bill and Sherry Brodhead
Roads cleaned up:
 Rt 212 from 611 to California Rd.
 Rt 412 from 212 to Bursonville Rd. and from 212 to Bechdolt's Orchards
 Gallows Hill Rd., Durham Rd., Lehnenburg Rd., Slifer Valley Rd., Haupts Bridge Rd., Pullen Station Rd., Hickory Lane, State Rd., California Rd., Richlandtown Pike (part)



Photo by W. Scott Douglas

can use it to help us in our mission.

Interested? Know someone who is? Just curious? Drop us a line at info@cookscreekpa.org. The adoptees can be individuals or groups, and we highly encourage children's groups to get involved.

Local Government Meetings

Springfield Township:

610-346-6700

www.springfieldbucks.org

2320 Township Road

Supervisors: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

Planning Commission:

1st Wed. @ 7 PM

Supervisors/Planning Commission Work

Session: 3rd Thurs. @ 7 PM

Environmental Advisory Council.: 2nd

Thurs. @ 7:30 PM

Durham Township:

610-346-8911

215 Old Furnace Road

Supervisors: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

Planning Commission: 1st Tues @ 7:30 PM

EAC: 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

Lower Saucon:

610-865-3291

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike

Council: 1st and 3rd Wed. @ 7 PM PM

Planning Commission: 2nd Mon @ 7 PM

EAC: 1st Tues @ 7 PM

Williams Township:

610-258-6060

www.williamstwp.org

655 Cider Press Road

Supervisors: 2nd Tues @ 7 PM

Planning Commission: 3rd Wed @ 7 PM

Land Preservation Board: 3rd Mon @ 7 PM

Richland Township:

215-536-4066

1328 California Road

Supervisors: 2nd and 4th Mon @ 7 PM

Planning Commission: 3rd Tues @ 7 PM

Preservation Board: 2nd Tues @ 7 PM

Rivers Conservation: 3rd Tues @ 3PM

Please Join Us...

All of us who reside in the area enjoy the beauty of Cooks Creek.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to live here are dependent upon this watershed not only for the beauty of the creek but our wells, the wetlands, the wildflowers and all of the beautiful landscapes in our townships.

It's up to all of us to protect this treasure. The Cooks Creek Watershed Association asks that you become a member and help in the task of protecting this special resource.

Cooks Creek Watershed Association - Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Interests:

Newsletter: ___ Website: ___ Roadside Cleanup: ___ Event Planning ___

Christmas Tree Sale: ___ Providing Speakers: ___ Fund Raising: ___

Stream Studies: ___ Weekend Seminars: ___ Maintaining Open Space: ___

Individual Membership Fee: @ \$ 15.00 per year _____

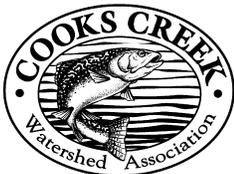
Family Membership Fee: @ \$ 25.00 per year _____

Donation: _____

Total _____

Please detach and mail to Cooks Creek Watershed Association , (CCWA)
P.O. Box 45 Springtown, PA 18081. *THANK YOU !*

*Checks can be made payable to Cooks Creek Watershed Association.
CCWA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.*



Cooks Creek Watershed Association
P.O. Box 45
Springtown, PA 18081
www.cooks creek pa.org

Place Stamp
Here

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5