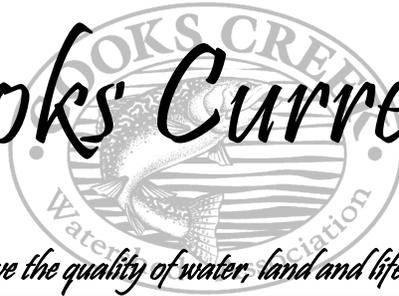


# Cooks Current



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

Volume 3, Issue 4

Newsletter of the Cooks Creek Watershed Association

Fall 2006

## 2007 CCWA Events

Regular Board Meetings:  
Springtown Fire House  
7:30 PM

All are welcome!

Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 22,  
Apr 21, May 24, Jun 28,  
Jul 26, Aug 23, Sept 27,  
Oct 25, Nov 15, Dec 20

Spring Clean-up: April 14  
Annual Meeting: April 21  
Mini Monster Mayhem: Jun 16  
Fall Fellowship Dinner: Oct 13  
Fall Clean-up: Nov 3



See Insert for Details !!

**We're on the web!**  
[www.cooks creek pa.org](http://www.cooks creek pa.org)

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

### Board Members:

President:

W. Scott Douglas

Vice President:

Hans Reimann

Treasurer:

Margaret McDonald

Membership Chair:

Sherry Brodhead

Recording Secretary:

Lois Oleksa

Jim Orben

Stephen Smith, MD

Pat Raynock

Ellie Scheitrum

Layout & Graphic Design:

Karyn Oleksa, Lois Oleksa

## The Water Crisis in Springfield Township: A Year Later

By: Ken Simmons

In the fall of 2002 the Springfield Township Supervisors took control of the then Springfield (Bucks County) Authority and hired Bucks County Water and Sewer to manage the system. There was a proposal made by BCWS to purchase the system and this would have allowed this source of water to have been taken wherever it wished to expand the system. Open space as we know it would have been in jeopardy.

At this point the citizens of Springtown became active and this group should be given credit for saving the system. The water source in Springtown belongs to them.

The Supervisors appointed an *ad hoc* committee to study the needs of the system with the charge to report their findings to them in June 2006. After many sessions the *ad hoc* committee voted unanimously to recommend to the supervisors to "Keep the System." At that June meeting the Supervisors agreed to accept the recommendation made to improve and manage the system. The five-year plan was defined and accepted.

The former authority was re-established and has been amended to "The Springtown Water Authority" and filed with the Secretary of State.

At a recent meeting the new Authority held its reorganization meeting and a seven (7) member board was elected. The new members bring their expert skills to the management of the system. The mission's statement is very simple: "We will manage the system and will keep the user rates as low as possible and make the system improvements for the future."

The woods are full of very qualified people who are willing to lend their skills to making this a successful project. Seven skilled people will manage the system and seven others will serve as

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Cooks Creek Watershed Association—

### Who Are We and What Do We Do?

About one year ago we circulated our newsletter to over 3,000 members of the Cooks Creek watershed community. We were amazed at the interest the newsletter created among the recipients. We decided to repeat the mass mailing again this year. For those of you who do not know about the Cooks Creek Watershed Association we've listed some of the activities in which we are involved.

Cooks Creek Watershed Association (CCWA) was organized in 1974. Our mission: "To protect, preserve and improve the quality of water, land and life in the Cooks Creek Watershed." Educa-

tion of and communication with the community are strategies we use to carry out our mission.

Cooks Creek Watershed is a 30-square-mile limestone valley watershed in northern Bucks County. The main stem of Cooks Creek flows in an easterly direction into the Delaware River. The watershed area consists of a number of small, mostly unnamed tributaries in Springfield and Durham Townships. Some of the headwater tributaries are located in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County. Areas of the watershed are also found in Upper Saucon and Williams Townships in Northampton

County and Haycock and Richland Townships in Bucks County.

In 1975, Cooks Creek was classified as a "warm water fishery" suitable for trout stocking. CCWA recognized that the water quality was much higher than warm water fishery since Cooks Creek supported reproducing populations of brown and brook trout, had abundant macro invertebrates and had many other small fishes. In 1976, CCWA initiated the first stream reclassification effort and saw the creek's classifica-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## From Across the Board...



11/28/2006

The Round Oleksa style woodpile.

Photo by: Karyn Oleksa

I put my kayak away for the last time a few weekends ago, finally accepting the fact that the water was just too cold, even with a wetsuit. Besides, I've been working on my woodpile, fixing windows, removing air conditioners and raking leaves in preparation for winter. Although some might find these preparations annoying, I always find them centering – reminding me that despite our hectic bustling we are still at the mercy of Mother Earth's moods and changes. The circle of life rolls on.

Speaking of rolling on, we had a very successful Fall Dinner, with standing room only at the **Springtown Rod and Gun Club**. Although one of our speakers (Ernst Seeds) cancelled, we had a great replacement piece by **Tom Pugel** of the **American Chestnut Society**. For those who don't know, there is a grove of backcrossed Chestnuts on the Fuller Preserve on Slifer Valley Rd. New trees are planted every spring, check the website for the next planting and you can come out and help. This presentation was followed closely by **Sue Tantsits** of the **Edge of the Woods** who taught us much about the importance and beauty of native flora. The food was fabulous as usual, and the company was great. I saw many new faces and hopefully you all found the event worthwhile. If you have any ideas for next fall, please, send me an email ([info@cookscreekpa.org](mailto:info@cookscreekpa.org)). Our other scheduled event, the fall cleanup, was attended by **Lois Oleksa**, **Jim Orben**, **David Oleksa**, and **Jim Gill**. I noticed that the **Springfield EAC** and the **Springfield**

**Lutheran Church** also cleaned up their sections. Many thanks to all who help out with this important service work. Our fourth annual watershed wide spring cleanup will be April 14, with the usual cast of thousands.

On the education front, I have been working with the **Palisades Middle School** faculty on developing a watershed-based alternative curriculum. The year long academy is being formulated to help out those kids who, for one reason or another, don't respond well to the traditional classroom approach. This whole learning approach has been very successful elsewhere, like at Radnor Middle School in Chester County. Both **Lois Oleksa** and I are serving as consultants, and we hope to have the children be a major part of our Adopt-a-Reach monitoring program. I, for one, cannot wait to have children splashing through our backyard, learning and absorbing the beauty and wonder of the Creek. At Palisades High School, **Patti Peterson-Raynock** and I have been discussing greater involvement with her **Stream Team** on the Cocks Creek for her students. We have started discussions with one of her students that may take on the creation of an Index of Benthic Biotic Integrity for the Watershed, and she plans to have her freshmen students work on a topographical model of the watershed.

Our work continues on the planning front. The CCWA will be assisting in finalizing the Environmental Protection standards for the Springfield Zoning Ordinance, which highlights buffers and headwater streams prominently. The **Springtown Water Authority** received notice from **Senator Rob Wonderling** that a grant for

\$325,000 is reserved for the needed repairs (see **Ken Simmons'** article in this issue). This intrepid group of volunteers has worked an amazing transformation of the sleepy little Authority, saving our community and our Watershed in the process. The **Upper Bucks Regional EAC** met again in September, this time to discuss septic and sewage issues. Representatives of the **Bucks County Health Department** and the **PADEP** made presentations. One of the biggest discussion items was the regional need for local ordinances that require maintenance of these systems. While some may find this unsettling, the reality is that most folks who move into this area from the cities don't even know what a septic system is, much less how to maintain it. Look for the first management ordinances to come out of Springfield Township probably by next year. The next meeting on the Regional EAC will be in February, with storm-water management the likely topic.

As I sign off this time, I am amazed at the fact that our beloved Association continues to rise in importance and influence. But many of the same people are doing the lion's share of the work and we don't want them to burn out. Now is the time to jump up and help out! We have a whole lot of small things that just about anyone can do. If you can attend a meeting or two, write an article for the newsletter, help out with organizing an event, want to work with kids, or monitor the stream, we have a job for you! Please, drop me a line. Last, but not least, please be sure to renew your membership and pick up some of the great incentives.

Yours in conservation,

W. Scott Douglas

President

## Is that trout wild? Or native? Or both?

By: Joe Mihok, Trout Unlimited

Brook trout and brown trout are the two species of trout that you are most likely to find in the Cooks Creek watershed. The other species you may come across is the rainbow trout. Both the brook trout and the brown trout have naturally reproducing populations within the watershed. According to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, brown trout naturally reproduce in Silver Creek and in the main stem of Cooks Creek, while the only naturally reproducing brook trout populations are in some of the smaller, colder tributaries. There is often confusion in the language used to describe a naturally reproducing trout population; in the Cooks Creek watershed, while both these populations can accurately be described as wild, i.e. born in the stream and not a stocked fish that was raised in a hatchery, only the brook trout is native, i.e. indigenous to the Cooks Creek watershed. Any rainbow trout found in Cooks Creek are stocked fish. Throughout Pennsylvania, there are hundreds of streams with naturally reproducing brown and brook trout populations, while there are only a handful of streams that have documented wild (but not native) rainbow trout populations.

In conversations with some fly fishermen with extensive experience on Cooks Creek, the great majority of the fish they catch (and release) on the main stem of Cooks are either wild brown trout or are definitely stocked fish, either browns, rainbows or brook trout. It is usually quite easy to tell a stocked fish from a wild fish. The coloration of wild fish is more vibrant and they are more streamlined in shape and their fins will be perfectly formed. Stocked fish are usually duller in color and will almost always have damage and wear on their fins from living in the crowded, concrete raceways of a hatchery. One angler felt that perhaps 95% of the fish he encountered were wild brown trout; only one wild brook trout was reported from the main stem of Cooks. Whether brown trout or brook trout, it was agreed that the wild fish found in Cooks Creek are better adapted for survival and are more beautiful by far than any hatchery raised trout can ever be.

Brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, are actually considered to be char taxonomically. Lake trout, bull trout and arctic char are some other species of char, though none of these are native to Pennsylvania. The Latin species name of brook trout, *fontinalis*, means “living in springs” an appropriate name as they require very pure and cold water to survive. Though brook trout can survive in water temperatures of up to 74 degrees F for short periods of time, they prefer water below 65 degrees F. The brook

trout’s historic range was most of the eastern half of Canada, the east coast of the United States from Maine to the southern-most peaks of the Appalachian Mountains in northern Georgia and westward to parts of Michigan and Wisconsin. Brook trout still inhabit most of their historic range but their distribution within that range is greatly reduced. Habitat loss is the main reason for the decline in brook trout populations. In the eastern United States, the extensive logging that took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century had a significant impact on brook trout. With the loss of trees, water temperatures rose and perhaps more significantly, the amount of sediment entering streams increased dramatically, choking out aquatic insect life and burying the clean gravel needed by brook trout to spawn. Even today, sediment is the number one pollutant to Pennsylvania’s trout streams.

In 1883, in the middle of the period of some of the most intense logging in much of the brook trout’s range in the eastern United States, the brown trout, *Salmo trutta*, native to parts of Europe and Asia was introduced to the US. Able to tolerate warmer water temperatures than the brook trout, brown trout could survive in many of the streams now too degraded for brook trout. And survive it did! In the United States, the brown trout has naturalized throughout most of the range of the brook trout. However, from Maine north into Canada, brown trout have not replaced brook trout as they did further south. Currently, the brown trout is listed as one of the world’s most widely distributed non-native invasive species by various organizations. Although another way of looking at it could be that the brown trout

now fills the ecological niche of the brook trout in waters that historically supported brook trout but are now too degraded to do so. There is perhaps merit to both points of view depending on the situation. In some areas of the western United States the brook trout joins the brown trout high on the list of invasive non-native species. Remember, the native range of the brook trout reached west only as far as Wisconsin. They have been introduced to the far western states (along with brown trout), much to the detriment of the native trout species of the west such as the cutthroat trout.

Today there is a renewed interest in preserving and re-establishing native brook trout populations in their historic range. The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a collaborative effort of government agencies, private businesses and non-profit organizations, is a “geographically focused, locally driven and scientifically based effort to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat throughout the range of the brook trout” (for more information on this program go to [www.easternbrooktrout.org](http://www.easternbrooktrout.org) ).



Cooks Creek Wild Brown Trout

Photo Provided By: Joe Mihok

## Who Are We and What Do We Do?

*(Continued from page 1)*

tion raised to "cold water fishery." In the late 1980s, after much work on the part of the members of CCWA, the classification was again raised, this time to "exceptional value waters", the highest designation given to a stream by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Water quality monitoring of Cooks Creek through stream testing at various locations and times has been an important function of CCWA. The Fish Commission has surveyed the stream with shock treatments and the Delaware River Keepers Network has tested the waters for dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, nitrates and phosphates. CCWA has joined the River Keeper and is now testing for these five parameters at four sites in the watershed. CCWA was asked to assist the U.S. Geologic Survey in measuring the groundwater levels and flows in the Cooks Creek Watershed. The monitoring of the creek has been recently increased to include the activation of two stream gauging stations, one in Durham and one in Springfield, as well as a monthly groundwater level monitoring program. Information from these programs is being used to develop a calibrated hydrologic model for the watershed to guard against overuse of water resources at the expense of the Cooks Creek.

Stream improvement is an important project of CCWA. We have worked with, and/or supported, the Soil Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Trout Unlimited to reduce soil erosion and flooding through streambank stabilization efforts in Durham, Springfield and Lower Saucon Townships.

CCWA members have consistently supported the use of PA Act 319 agricultural easements

that help conserve valuable agricultural lands. In 2000, the CCWA was instrumental in convincing Springfield Township residents to support an open space referendum that included a quarter percent (¼%) wage tax increase to buy easements protecting our valuable open spaces. Ongoing work in conjunction with other local conservation groups focus land preservation efforts in important headwater areas and other natural areas.

The CCWA is currently involved in regional planning efforts that will ensure the long-term protection of the creek. Members are active in local government in Durham, Springfield and Lower Saucon townships. CCWA members spearheaded the effort to found Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs) in all three townships and hold positions as members of Planning Commissions and on the Board of Supervisors. In 2002, the Cooks Creek Watershed Protection Plan was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR). This award-winning plan was the culmination of over three years of study and more than 1000 hours of volunteer effort, mostly on the part of CCWA members. In addition to the plan, the project involved the creation of a Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping system. This mapping system can be accessed through our website [www.cooks creekpa.org](http://www.cooks creekpa.org).

Environmental camps and workshops for children have been conducted jointly by CCWA and other nearby environmental education groups almost every year since 1975. It is important to educate our children about the interconnections of the ecosystem to help prepare them to make decisions in an environmentally friendly manner. Topics such as life in ponds and wetlands, forest ecology, Native Americans, and night-time owlings have been explored. Currently, the annual Mini-Monster

Mayhem program is a half-day workshop which introduces elementary age children to stream ecology and the importance of protecting water quality and conserving water resources.

Our future includes expanding our public involvement and educational outreach programs. The innovative "adopt a reach" program is a stream monitoring system in which members of the community are asked to participate in monitoring various aspects of the stream. In 2004, CCWA sponsored a watershed-wide highway litter cleanup program that is now an annual event involving the entire community. Our annual Covered Dish Dinner is both a social and educational event that brings together members of the community for an evening of fun, food and information about the watershed. Other programs are possible, limited only by the interest of our membership.

We invite you to join Cooks Creek Watershed Association by completing and returning the enclosed membership form. Please take advantage of one of the premium membership levels and support not only CCWA but one of the generous businesses in our community who have agreed to assist us with our membership drive.

For further information regarding our current activities, please visit [www.cooks creekpa.org](http://www.cooks creekpa.org).

## Trash Trash!

**By: Jim Orben**

Yes, that's what I mean. Trash trash! One Saturday morning not long ago when many of my friends were enjoying a little extra time in bed, four of us were hiking along Route 212 from Springtown to Durham picking up trash. That's why I say "Trash trash", because I've seen enough. From cell phones to condoms, I've seen trash. I'm not the only one to have seen trash. My daughter spent the summer of 2006 on Buldir Island, Alaska and she saw trash too. Buldir is about as close to Asia as Alaska gets, and even way out there there was trash on the beach that looked a lot like the roadside trash in the Cooks Creek Watershed. There is discarded stuff everywhere, from one end of this country to the other. So please, if you must make trash, see that it ends up

where trash belongs, in the trash. When trash is set free in the environment it becomes more than an eyesore, it becomes deadly. On the beaches and in the waters of Alaska it looks a lot like food to the albatrosses and seals that forage there, and it often kills them and their young. Here in Cooks Creek Country, trash becomes food for wildlife too, as well as standing water where mosquitoes lay their eggs. I'm sure that you are disgusted by road trash just as much as I am, and that you do your best to not create any. But, that is only the outward manifestation of a much larger problem. Trash is after all trash. More than that, trash is a resource that could be redirected to a higher purpose. Here I could say that most trash can be recycled and that the basic material of that former good stuff can become

good stuff again. I could say that, and for the most part it would be true, because recycling is an important part of responsible living here in twenty-first century America. Most of the things we buy are only temporarily of value to us, so we should buy with care and choose things we truly need and will fully use. In this way we will not waste money, resources, energy and time. Having grown up in the "Post War" boom of TV dinners and disposable packaging I struggle daily trying to live up to this ideal of resource conservation and I don't always want to devote the personal energy to this struggle. But I must, because each choice is of some importance in this modern milieu. Each choice to buy involves energy use that releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Trash Trash !**

(Continued from page 4)  
 from production, transportation and disposal. So next time you wad up that plastic shopping bag and toss it in the trash, think about trashing trash; think about carbon dioxide and think again about shopping.

**Water Crisis in Springfield Township**

(Continued from page 1)  
 our consultants. In addition to the above group there is also a citizens committee who will be the eyes and ears in the village.

Two additional helpers should be mentioned. At an information - sharing meeting for the residents of Springtown on 9/28/06 Senator Wonderling and Representative Clymer presented the Authority with a \$320,000 clean water grant to assist with necessary financing.

This project proves that if the residents of the area want something to happen it "Will Happen." Thank you residents of Springtown for saving the water system.

**Highlighting this Quarter's INVASIVE PLANTS:  
 English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)**

**By: Hans O. Reimann Jr., The View from Laughing**

My report highlights examples of alien, exotic vines that are still sold as ground covers for ornamental landscape settings. English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) are two introduced plants that are used to create maintenance-free planting beds prized for their evergreen foliage and ability to look good year round. Unfortunately, these two plant species are also hard to contain in their original planting beds as they can run amok in forests, crowding out native perennials. Most of us can recall seeing ivy covered trees and walls (another example of how the plants get away from their original locale.)

English ivy is a threat to all levels of forested and open areas. Periwinkle threatens more shaded areas, but stays on the ground. The dense, intertwining growth habit inhibits native perennials, tree and shrub seedlings from forming naturally interacting plant communities, thereby inhibiting insect and animal life all the way up the food chain from amphibians to reptiles, to birds, and mammals. While periwinkle spreads only vegetatively (underground and above ground runners) English ivy can reproduce by vegetative and by seed methods.

When removing these plants, be sure to check for broken stems lodged underground or in soil debris, because these plant parts can start growing again. There are two more biological reasons for avoiding and eliminating English ivy from your landscapes. The first involves a plant pathogen, bacterial leaf scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*), that can lie dormant on English ivy until it has a chance to infect a wide variety of native plants and trees. The other factor involves chemicals called glycosides that cause some birds to vomit and disseminate seeds.

There are several native plant alternatives to English ivy including Virginia creeper and crossvine. Wild ginger, lady fern, foam flower, partridgeberry, creeping phlox, evergreen



English ivy and Periwinkle.

Photo by: David Oleksa

wood fern and New York fern are all good substitutes for periwinkle.

seasonally from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.

These and other native plants are available from Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery and

11/27/2006

## A Seldom used Native Tree with Year-Round Interest

By: Alan Miller

Alan Miller's vocation is an antique furniture consultant and furniture historian, specializing in 18th century furniture. Among his many avocations is a love of plants. He has a small private arboretum in Springfield township with a partial focus on maples and stewartias.



Photo from [www.google.com/images](http://www.google.com/images)

*Oxydendrum arboreum*, a small flowering tree of the eastern United States, is commonly called sourwood, sorrel tree, or lily of the valley tree. It is a member of the heath and heather family—Ericaceae—along with azaleas and rhododendrons, pieris, leucothoe, enkianthus, mountain laurel (kalmia), the native American fruiting shrubs cranberry and blueberry (vaccinium), and many others. Like several of its relatives, its flowers are small urn shaped blossoms borne on panicles, strongly resembling the lily family spring perennial Lily of the Valley. In our area the bloom occurs in late June or early July when few other flowering trees are blooming. Michael Dirr, in his Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, says the blooms “smother the foliage, remind of a lacy veil.” As the blossoms dry and fall, the fruit—which looks much like the flowers—remains on the panicles during the fall color period and through the winter.

*Oxydendrum* is a monotypic genus—botanical language for the only one—so there is no European or Asian example. Several European gardens prize our tree, but it is not well known here.

Its native habitat is well-drained somewhat acidic ridges from coastal North Carolina and western Florida and the Gulf coast to Louisiana then north to Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. It is hardy at least to zone 5 so cold temperatures here are no problem. Its typical habit, or conformation, is upright oval to upright-rounded pyramidal. Both its branches and flower racemes are pendulous, giving an elegant, almost manicured appearance. The alternate oval leaves are dark green, shiny and somewhat leathery and are very resistant to pest or disease discoloration. Their fall color is spectacular, ranging from fire engine red to a mixture of orange, red, and purple. With its persistent fruits in fall resembling blossoms, *Oxydendrum* looks like it is blooming and in fall color simultaneously in the mid to later autumn depending on the level of sunlight at the tree's site. It is one of the most beautiful of our fall trees—unmistakable once one knows what to look for. The smooth and grey bark of its youth becomes increasingly furrowed with age until it forms almost rectangular plates like the bark of the persimmon. This takes a long time and *Oxydendrum* is not a rapidly growing

tree. It is, however, very rewarding even when small and deserves consideration in sunny or partially shaded well-drained sites both formal and naturalized. It is an ideal specimen, looks wonderful in front of evergreens, and makes a lovely grouping or copse. With a little work, *Oxydendrum* is available locally and transplants readily when young because of its fibrous root system. A person can fall in love with this tree; it is rewarding in every season.



Sourwood Honey— Sourwood honey is collected in the mountain areas of the Carolinas where it has a large local following. This honey has a medium amber color, does not crystallize, and has a definite sour and tart quality. The beehive supers are added at the beginning of blossom time and removed at the end of bloom. Sourwood honey is often mixed with tulip tree honey whose flow occurs before that of sourwood. The shiny green leaves of sourwood, if chewed, have a very sour taste— similar to sour green apples.

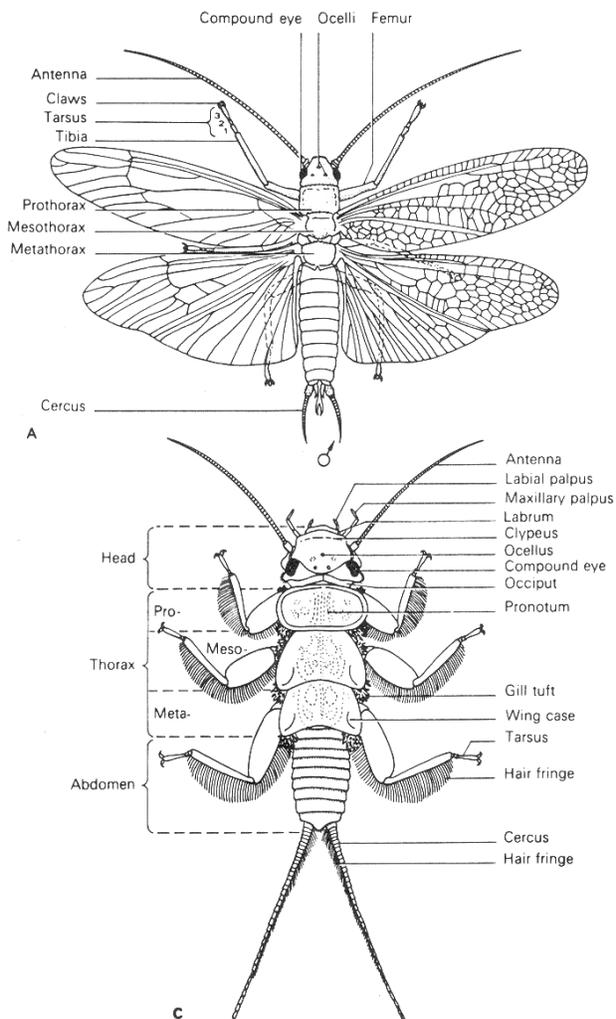


# Creature Feature: Stone Flies

By: W. Scott Douglas

Stoneflies are some of the larger and perhaps more easily recognized inhabitants of the Cooks Creek. These colorful and active insects are surprisingly varied in their appearance and their function in the benthic ecosystem. The larger, more colorful stonefly naiads are often predatory, but there are many other smaller species that feed on leaf litter and algae. Like all insects, stoneflies undergo metamorphosis, a change in form from young to adult. The young stonefly, regardless of species is called a *naiad*. The naiad lives in the stream bottom for 12-24 months, or even for several years in some species before emerging. Emerging stonefly naiads climb out on rocks or woody stems and the dried up split skins or *exuviae*, can often be found still clinging to rocks. The adult stonefly is a dull, short - lived creature (from less than 1/4" to 2") that is rarely seen unless you know where to look, like around street or spot

lights that stay on all night. Although some stoneflies are from lakes and ponds, most stoneflies are found in clean, cool running water. Some stoneflies specialize in intermittent streams; those streams that only run for part of the year. In some headwater streams, highly specialized stoneflies are the most diverse members of the benthic community. All stoneflies are particularly sensitive to changes in water quality and their presence indicates high water quality. If you want to find some stonefly naiads, pick up large flat rocks in swift running water and look for them on the underside. Stoneflies are easily recognized by having a flattened aspect to their bodies, and two *cerci* or "tails" at the end of the abdomen. For larger naiads, disturb the gravel under the rocks so that the insects are swept by the current into a waiting net.



# Student Corner: Palisades Stream Team

By: Pat Raynock

Here is some news from the Palisades Stream Team – Palisades High School students who are currently working with me on various watershed related projects.

The main stream focus this year is in these areas:

The Gallows Run student group is working on a riparian buffer site to be used as a community education project. The kids met with the Gallows Run Board at their annual meeting just before Thanksgiving to present their project and get ideas from the group for an appropriate site.

Senior Alyson Brokaw is acting as the new webmaster for the Gallows Run group and is working on web design and maintenance.

Sophomore Patrick Brown worked all summer doing micro-invertebrate analysis of stream samples in Cooks Creek near his home as preparation for work with Scott Douglas. The actual project he is undertaking will probably take about a year. Patrick will be doing macro-invertebrate analysis in selected sites along the main tributaries to Cooks Creek. We are looking to a Delaware Valley Science Fair entry in 2008.

“Hi, this is Patrick Brown,

I've been using the type set and entomology texts to get used to distinguishing and understanding the aquatic insect larvae that are going to be in the samples. I'm trying to memorize the scientific names. I'll get them eventually, probably pretty quickly, once I start to work on a sample. I think I'm ready to start working on a sample. I'll be learning how to take samples -- I live right on a branch of southern Silver Creek so I have pretty good access to the watershed.”

The entire team was recognized by the Heritage Conservancy last spring for their involvement with the local watersheds, and they received the 2006 Heritage Partnership Youth award. The Boy Scout contingent worked with Scott Douglas on headwater mapping – and the girls worked with Bill Brokaw on GIS systems and GPS pin-pointing of data within Gallows Run. The entire group has completed a Stream Stewardship Manual that includes information about both Cooks and Gallows Run. The team also entered the Volvo Adventure Environmental Awards program and their project was hosted on the Volvo webpage.

# Children's Backyard: Hitchhikers– the seeds that travel great distances

By: Lois Oleksa

Have you gone for a walk in the fields with your dog and come home having your socks, clothes, and your dog's fur covered and matted with seeds that have hitchhiked a ride on you? There are many plants that have seeds capable of

hitchhiking. The seeds produced have hooks, burs, or barb bearing prongs that hold onto clothing and fur, thus spreading them. For every device weeds have used for their own dispersal, man has provided the technology

to spread them further than they were designed to go. In the cargo ships and planes crossing our oceans, these plant hitchhikers have appeared in new lands and countries.



Make a dart game using burdock burs: Cover a piece of cardboard with cloth, draw the circles, and aim your burs at the bulls's eye!



Try making a basket of burdock burs: first form the base and add a chain of burs for the handle. Or, form the burs to make a miniature animal!



Stick tight (*Desmodium*)- Latin from the Greek word, desmos, meaning chain. These must be removed one by one as the chain breaks apart.



Tickseed sunflower (*Bidens*) This seed is called an achene; it is a small, dry, hard, non-splitting fruit with one seed. If you take them apart, the seed looks like a little pitchfork.



Photo by Jim Orben

Burdock: Thistle like burs with hooks. Burdocks have the ability to stick to bare fingers. Note the curved prickles that hook into the fiber of clothing like a Velcro® fastener. The original inventor of Velcro® came up with the marvelous invention after his encounter with a plant hitchhiker.



They're stuck to my fingers!

Other photographs by David & Karyn Oleksa



Other Hitchhikers:

- Cleavers: very scratchy with recurved prickles on the stems.
- Many different Geums
- Sweet Cicely
- Cocklebur

## A Piece of Our History

We met on the nineteenth day of July,

Though some of us fifteen were wondering why.

Summer's usually left freer.

It's the time to vacate.

But vacations this year,

Like heaven, must wait.

Across from the dump,

The shortage we'd dreaded,

Is proclaimed on the pump,

"All out of unleaded."

After the minutes of April were read,

Peter Fuller asked questions, and here's what he said,

"Prompt billing of members works best, you will find,

For what's not out of purse, is quite soon out of mind."

Fuller's land can be ours, with its sedges and ducks,

If we'll share with conservancies of Lehigh and Bucks.

Sam Workman spoke next, standing in for Ms Dilworth.

And of assets and debits, he told us our fillworth.

Our income's a mystery,

But we think we can fudge it.

Be it said in our history,

We approved of the budget.

Jere, Lois and Greg will answer the call.

We'll have programs on streams and on energy next fall.

DER's put on pressure, like a kick in the rump,

To get Mr. Kirkpatrick to landfill his dump.

To gadfly this case, we'll appoint Anke Ellis.

If there'r any shenanigans, she's sure to tell us.

She's just back from MACWA, where they're never myopic,

And where watershed management, was the day's topic.

There's a place known as Clinton, over in New Jersey,

Where you can't flood the town's roads, or they yours, visa versey.

Hurrah for the people who worked at the fair.

There were posters by Barb, and new memberships there.

But a bean guessing contest, was what really brought 'em.

(Dick put in the beans, but he used a false bottom.)

Then we spoke of the old bridge condemned by PENDOT.

Can the case be reopened? We rather think not.

But Mark Ellis, if willing, will do what he can,

And we might build a footpath to cross the old span.

On to main business improving the creek.

Rutgers book on renewal received our

critique.

To Trout Unlimited's rock party, rain has caused much delay,

But Dick Reihman sees progress in works underway.

Then this creek-freak society,

Earnest as ardent Fabians,

Talked with endless variety,

Of streambeds and gabions.

And now with apology, for this tour de force stunt,

It's irregularly submitted,

Marjorie Hunt

---

Cooks Creek Watershed

Association's

minutes from

July 19,1979.

Minutes don't have to be boring!

Marjorie Hunt was a former secretary for the CCWA.

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## Saving Energy, Reducing Carbon Dioxide, Making a Difference

By: Jim Orben

In our last newsletter I wrote about cutting CO2 emissions by reducing the amount of energy we use in our daily lives. Since then I have found this home energy checklist that suggests an order and a time line for the actions we can take to reduce our energy use. This list and much more about sustainable living can be found at: <http://www.sustainlv.org/>

As Ben Franklin once said, "A penny saved is four ounces of CO2 not released." Ben was also one for checking things off his list, so join Ben and me and check, check, check.

### Home Energy Checklist for Action --- To Do Today ---

Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120° F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

Start using energy-saving settings on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers.

Survey your incandescent lights for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescents lights (CFL's). These new lamps can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescent bulbs. The best targets are 60-100W bulbs used several hours a day.

Check the age and condition of your major appliances, especially the refrigerator. You may want to replace it with a more energy-efficient model before it dies.

Clean or replace furnace, air-conditioner, and heat-pump filters.

### --- To Do This Week ---

Visit the hardware store. Buy a water-heater blanket, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and compact fluorescents, as needed.

Rope caulk very leaky windows.

Assess your heating and cooling systems. Determine if replacements are justified, or whether you should have them serviced to make them work more efficiently to provide the same comfort (or better) for less energy.

### --- To Do This Month ---

Collect your utility bills. Separate electricity and fuel bills. Target the biggest bill for energy conservation remedies.

Crawl into your attic or crawlspace and inspect for insulation. Is there any? How much?

Insulate hot water pipes and ducts wherever they run through unheated areas.

Seal up the largest air leaks in your house—the ones that whistle on windy days, or feel drafty. The worst culprits are usually not windows and doors, but utility cut-throughs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. All the little, invisible cracks and holes may add up to as much as an open window or door, without you ever knowing it!

Install a clock thermostat to set your thermostat back automatically at night.

Schedule an energy audit for more expert advice on your home as a whole (ask about the Urban Options Home Check Up and Energy Fitness services).

### --- To Do This Year ---

Insulate. If your walls aren't insulated have an insulation contractor blow cellulose into the walls. Bring your attic insulation level up to snuff.

Replace aging, inefficient appliances. Even if the appliance has a few useful years left, replacing it with a top-efficiency model is generally a good investment.

Upgrade leaky windows. It may be time to replace them with energy-efficient models or to boost their efficiency with weather stripping and storm windows.

Reduce your air conditioning costs by planting shade trees and shrubs around your house—especially on the west side.

**Know that you are making a difference!**

## Open Space Preservation in our Watershed:

The Voters Say  
**YES!**

By: Hans O. Reimann, Jr.

Several years ago I had the privilege of serving on Springfield Twp's Open Space and Farmland Preservation Committee. On Nov. 7, 2000: Springfield voters approved a referendum authorizing a .25% wage tax to be used for open space and farmland preservation. 981 Yes votes from 67% of registered voters participating jump started Springfield's land preservation program. Since then about 1,000 acres of farmland and natural areas have been preserved through the leveraging of State & County funds with local monies. On Nov. 7, 2006 both Springfield and Lower Saucon Twp. voters overwhelmingly approved measures to save farmland and natural areas. Springfield became more flexible in its preservation abilities with the addition of borrowing power in the range of up to 5 million dollars without a tax increase. Lower Saucon, with significant acreage in our watershed, approved a .25% wage tax for open space preservation by a 60% - 40% margin. This levy should generate approximately \$600,000 per annum for our neighbors in Lower Saucon to purchase conservation easements in both the Cooks Creek and Saucon Creek watersheds.

Congratulations are in order for both townships residents for their foresight and democratic participation. I am honored to have been reappointed to the newly resurrected Springfield Twp's open space committee along with other local residents to help carry out this environmental charter for land preservation. Our Cooks Creek watershed area now has a greater chance to remain a great place to live. Thank You!

## Area Recycling Options

**Durham Township Recycling Center**  
 Location: Municipal Building, 218 Old Furnace Rd, Durham

1st Saturday of every month ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday if 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday is on a holiday week-end)

Hours: 9:00AM – 12:00 noon

Accepting newspapers, magazines, junk mail, phone books, glass, tin, plastic, aluminum and cardboard.

Please note that this facility is available to all, not just Durham Township residents!

Contact Joe Kulick at the township building for more info. 610-346-8911

# New!

### Springfield Township

**Location: Township Building, 2320 Township Road**

**Paper Recycling Bin Available at Township Building for your use!**

**A Recycling bin was recently placed here and is available to anyone. Cut down on trash and help the township earn extra money. You can drop off: Magazines, Shopping Catalogs, Phone Books, Newspapers, Office and School Papers, Mail.**

**Please do NOT include: Plastic, glass, metal, trash**

**Hours: Anytime ; Cardboard can be dropped off in the bin next to the paper retriever.**

See website: [www.springfieldbucks.org](http://www.springfieldbucks.org) or call (610) 346-6700.

**Blinderman & Son**  
 Location: 1320 Whitaker St, Hellertown.  
 610-838-9221

Hours:

7:30AM – 4:00 PM, Monday – Friday

7:30 AM – 11:30AM, Saturday

Accepting cardboard and most metals

### City of Bethlehem Theis/Cornfeld Recycling Center

Web site: [www.bethlehem-pa.gov/recycle/services/theis\\_cornfeld.htm](http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/recycle/services/theis_cornfeld.htm)

Location: 635 Illick’s Mill Rd, Bethlehem

Phone: 610-865-7082

Hours: Weekdays: 10 AM to 5 PM

Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM

Sunday: 11AM to 4 PM

Accepting glass, cans, plastics, newspapers, all books, magazines, catalogs, cardboard, mixed office paper, metals, textiles (clothing, shoes, etc) large appliances (certified freon-free). Call or go to the web site for specifics.

**Bonus!!** They provide FREE on site shredding services for businesses and private individuals. If you have 4 or more boxes, call 610-865-7082 to schedule an appointment

Hours of Shredding: Weekdays: 10 AM to 2:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM to 2 PM

### City of Bethlehem Compost Center

Location: 1480 Schoenersville Rd., Bethlehem

Non-Bethlehem residents are not allowed to drop off materials at the composting center but the mulch and compost is available for free to anyone if loading services are not needed. They actually produce much more than what they can distribute, so they encourage anyone to take as much as they would like! Loading services are provided for a fee of \$10/cubic yard in the spring and fall. Call 610-856- 7082 for hours.

## Local Government Meetings

### Springfield Township:

[www.springfieldbucks.org](http://www.springfieldbucks.org)

610-346-6700

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

Historic Commission: 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30

PM

### Durham Township:

[www.durhamtownship.org](http://www.durhamtownship.org)

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:

[www.lowersaucontownship.org](http://www.lowersaucontownship.org)

610-865-3291

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike

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

Planning Commission: 2nd Mon @ 7 PM

EAC: 1st Tues @ 7 PM

### Williams Township:

[www.williamstwp.org](http://www.williamstwp.org)

610-258-6060

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

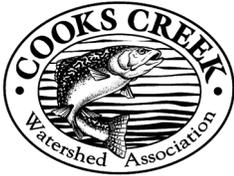
Planning Commission: 3rd Tues @ 7 PM

Preservation Board: 2nd Tues @ 7 PM

Rivers Conservation: 3rd Tues @ 3PM



Non—Profit Org  
Standard Mail  
Durham, PA 18039  
Permit No. 6



**Cooks Creek Watershed Association**

**P.O. Box 45**

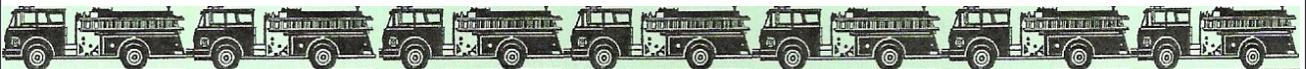
**Springtown, PA 18081**

Friend of Cooks Creek Watershed

Highway Contract #3

Quakertown, PA 18951

At both of the public meetings on the water system, the Springtown Fire Company opened up their meeting hall for all of us to participate (not to mention they host our CCWA Board meetings every month). At both meetings Fire Chief Robert Cressman presented his plan for emergency address markers at every home in Springfield, and throughout the Fire Company's service area. The signs are reflective green and have the numerical street address on them; perhaps you have seen them sprouting up around Springtown? These markers allow emergency services (Fire, Ambulance, Police) to find your home quickly in the dark of night.



Obtain a sign by calling the Fire Company at 610-346-8383 or stop by the Firehouse. Signs are \$10 each, to cover the cost of the sign.

If you hold precious the beauty that surrounds us in the Cooks Creek Watershed area and would like to be actively involved in its preservation, than consider joining our association as a member. Reach out to your community! We would love to hear from you!

Please drop us a line at [info@cooks creekpa.org](mailto:info@cooks creekpa.org)

CCWA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.