

Cooks Current

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

Volume 12, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Cooks Creek Watershed

Winter 2015

2015 Events

Regular Board Meetings:

Springtown Fire House- 7:30PM

Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 23, May 28, June 25,
July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19,
Dec. 17

All are welcome! We appreciate your
involvement!

Special Events

Apr. 11, Spring Clean-Up

Apr. 23, Annual Meeting

June 13, Mini Monster Mayhem

July 11, Native Plant/Invasive Workshop

Sept. 26, Springfield Community Day?

Oct. 3, Fall Dinner

Oct. 10, Durham Community Day

Nov 14, Fall Clean-Up



See back for details!

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

**Cooks Current is a publica-
tion of the Cooks Creek
Watershed Association.**

Board Members:

President: W. Scott Douglas

Vice President: Hans Reimann

Treasurer: Tim Shannon

**Communications Director/
Recording Secretary/Editor:**
Lois Oleksa

**Marketing and Public Rela-
tions:** Rose Strong

Additional Members:
Stephen Smith, MD
Jim Orben

Layout & Graphic Design:
Ellie Scheitrum

COOKS CREEK WATERSHED RESOLUTION ON PENNEAST PIPELINE PROPOSAL (See Insert)

From Across the Board...

As I sit in the after-
glow of the holiday
season this year, I am
thinking about energy.
Usually I think about
how low my personal
energy is this time of
year, but right now
I'm thinking about
Energy – the kind that
fuels our global life-
style. I suppose this
is because of the most
current crisis facing
our watershed – the
PennEast pipeline.

This 36 inch diameter
pipeline, that is cur-
rently proposed to be
routed through the
northeast corner of
our watershed, will
carry billions of cubic
feet of natural gas on
its way from the ex-
traction fields in north
central PA to pro-
cessing centers in
south Jersey. While
PennEast and the
powers that be would
like us to believe this



Cooks Creek in January
Photo by Lois Oleksa

is for our benefit, the
reality is that most of
the gas will be
shipped to Asia to
feed their ever in-
creasing demand for
fuel. A not insignifi-
cant part of that de-
mand is created by
our desire for cheap
goods here, but it's
also the desire of *sev-
eral billion* people to
share the American
consumer dream
there. As you will

see in the articles in
this newsletter, as
well as the Board's
resolution against the
pipeline being sited in
our watershed, many
of us are against
harming our environ-
ment for this purpose.

One catch phrase that
surrounds the energy
debate in this country
is "freedom from for-
eign oil". I have to

(continued on page three)

Creature Feature: Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)

Number 32 in a series on the fauna of the Watershed
By: W. Scott Douglas

In the summer months, when I come out of my office in Ewing, NJ to come home in the evening, I am often treated with the site of a dozen or so chimney swifts circling high overhead. These acrobatic “flying cigars” are easily distinguished from swallows by their silhouettes. Like swallows, swifts fly with long glides and short quick bursts of flapping, but they have disproportionately long wings (11-12 inches) with a short blunt body and tail (5-6 inches). In silhouette it’s hard to tell, but the bird is sooty olive above and grayish brown below, with a pale throat. On closer inspection, which is rare, you might see the exposed pin feathers on the tail that allow the swift to lock in to the sheer faces that it uses for nest locations. Swifts cannot perch like most birds, they cling instead, an adaptation which allows them to exploit crevices, caves and hollows that befuddle predators. They, like the eastern peewee and barn swallow were threatened by man’s removal of old growth forests and the hollow trees that were once common, but readily accepted man-made structures as replacements. The peewee likes our bridges, and the barn swallow likes farm buildings, but swifts actually prefer industrial structures, especially large, high chimneys, air vents, and wells. They will roost in residential chimneys as well; the brick and mortar ones, not the metal ones, and only if they have unrestricted openings at the top. They especially like structures near moving water, where they mix readily with swallows and purple martins, but usually higher in altitude.



The chimney swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, breeds throughout the eastern US and southeast Canada. While they typically hunt and migrate in small groups of less than 20, hundreds and even thousands of individuals can occupy communal roosts. Nesting is restricted to a single monogamous couple, however, making abundant suitable nesting locations very important to population health. Nests are a small



semicircle of short sticks with a bowl at the bottom that are attached with saliva to secluded and protected vertical surfaces. Since the birds cannot land on branches or on the ground, every stick is collected while on the wing. Swifts are voracious insectivores; a single pair with young in the nest can consume 5,000-6,000 insects every day. The breeding season is short - it only takes about 30 days for a couple to bring its young to fledge. After fledging, the adults leave the nest site for communal roosts.

Chimney swifts, and the related Vaux’s swift, were once abundant throughout the eastern US. Their adaptability made them able to withstand the widespread habitat loss that came with European settlement; in fact they thrived to the point that many people considered them a nuisance. With the decline of manufacturing in recent decades, many community planners have pushed to dismantle the chimneys and industrial structures that swifts used for roosting and nesting. Many people, including myself, close off their chimneys to deter nesting rodents and raccoons and to keep water out. While a nest of swifts would be welcome to most, they are incredibly loud housemates. The calls of the 3-5 young echo off the enclosed space every time a haggard parent returns with food. While most readers of this newsletter would be thrilled to have swifts in residence, it is good to remind less sensitive acquaintances that it is illegal to disturb any nesting songbird. There are plans on the internet for artificial chimneys, but these large structures are projects for the diehard swift fan or a nature preserve (perhaps Mariton would consider one?). I have not documented swifts in the Watershed, but I am sure they are here, in limited numbers. If you do happen to know of a nest or roost, do let me know.

(From "Across the Board" continued from page one)

wonder how much freedom we are gaining if we send this newly found fuel to another country so that our manufacturing can be done there? What will happen when their local demand exceeds their manufacturing capability? Will we still get our goods? A number of years ago I heard a presentation on "peak oil" and the speaker proposed that we are likely to see the end of oil as a reliable fuel source in our lifetimes. I suppose that our leaders do not believe in the end of oil and other related fuels since they are willing to sacrifice our resources (including our taxes) and our quality of life to facilitate the extraction, refinement and transportation of even more marginal sources of fossil fuel. An additional concern is that extraction and use of these marginal sources often comes with an even higher environmental cost than the easy sources.

Many of us believe that the answer to this dilemma is to move onto alternative energy sources like wind and solar. Certainly, these technologies will help. But the sad reality of these technologies as they exist today is that they come with a high fuel price tag themselves. Wind turbines are made of aluminum and steel, and solar panels are made from glass. And it takes a lot of fossil fuel to make both. Some scientists believe that there is simply not enough fossil fuel left to convert over to wind and solar. So what do we do? Conserve, for one. Reduce your need for ANY fuel and you will help to lengthen the time we have to come up with a viable and implementable solution. But the harsh reality is that even if we conserve here, there are more people and more demand from each person every day on this Earth. What we need is a fundamental shift in the way we think about energy collection, storage and transmission - as significant and mind-blowing a shift as when we traded horses for cars. And we need young scientists funded and engaged to find these solutions. Right here at home. Because whoever solves the energy problem will literally save the world.

We need to let our leaders know that we will do our part if they do theirs. Say no to the false solutions of pipelines and marginal oil. Say yes to *publicly funded* energy research and American ingenuity.

Yours in conservation,

W. Scott Douglas

President

Green Tip #29: Writing to Your Representatives

Winter is a good time to write or call your PA and US government representatives. Let them know your views on issues that affect our Cooks Creek Watershed. Also, contact your local supervisors. Following are your PA and US government representatives. Check the last pages of this newsletter for your local officials.

Bucks County:

Durham and Riegelsville Borough

Marguerite Quinn, 1032 North Easton Rd, Doylestown, PA 18902-1055
Phone: 215-489-2126, FAX: 215-489-2129

Marguerite Quinn, 159 East Wing, PO Box 202143, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2143
Phone: (717) 772-1413, FAX: (717) 783-3793, TTY: (855) 282-0614

Senator Bob Mensch, 404 Main Street, Suite A, Pennsburg, PA 18073
Phone: (215) 541-2388, FAX: (215) 541-2387, Toll Free: 1-855-247-9020

Senator Bob Mensch, Senate Box 203024, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3024
Phone: (717) 787-3110, FAX: (717) 787-8004, TTY: (800) 364-1581

<http://www.senatormensch.com/contact-me/>

Springfield

Craig T. Staats, 10 South Third Street, Quakertown, PA 18951
Phone: (215) 536-1434, FAX: (215) 536-1437

Craig T. Staats, 412 Irvis Office Building, PO Box 202145, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2145
Phone: (717) 783-3154, FAX: (717) 260-6521

Senator Bob Mensch (see previous)

Richland

Craig T. Staats (see previous)

Senator Bob Mensch (see previous)

Northampton County:

Lower Saucon

Justin J. Simmons, 21 N. Main Street, Unit 9, Coopersburg, PA 18036
Phone: (610) 282-3901, FAX: (610) 282-3955

Justin J. Simmons, 5 East Wing, PO Box 202131, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2131
Phone: (717) 783-1673, FAX: (717) 705-7012, TTY: (855) 282-0614

Senator Lisa Boscola, 1 East Broad Street, Suite 120, Bethlehem, PA 18018
Phone: (610) 868-8667, FAX: (610) 861-2184

Senator Lisa Boscola, Senate Box 203018, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3018
Phone: (717) 787-4236, FAX: (717) 783-1257

Upper Saucon

Robert Freeman, 215 Northampton Street, Easton, PA 18042
Phone: (610) 253-5543, FAX: (610) 250-2645

Robert Freeman, 207 Irvis Office Building, PO Box 202136, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2136
Phone: (717) 783-3815, FAX: (717) 783-2152

Senator Lisa Boscola, (see previous)

Williams

Robert Freeman (see previous)

Senator Lisa Boscola (see previous)

US Senators and Representatives for

Bucks County:

US Senator Bob Casey Jr. (D),

For security reasons, mail delivery to United States Capitol offices is very slow. The best way to contact me or my Washington, DC staff is via <http://www.casey.senate.gov/contact> or either by fax at (202) 228-0604 or phone at (202) 224-6324.

US Senator Pat Toomey (R),

1150 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Suite 101, Allentown, PA 18103,

Phone: 610-434-1444, Phone: 1-855-552-1831, FAX: 610-434-1844

US Senator Pat Toomey (R), 248 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.20510

Phone: 202-224-4254 FAX: 202-228-0284

<http://toomey.senate.gov/>

Representative Michael Fitzpatrick,

1717 Langhorne Newtown Rd.
Suite 400, Langhorne, PA 19047

Phone: (215) 579-8102, Fax: (215) 579-8109

Representative Michael Fitzpatrick, 2400 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-4276, Fax: (202) 225-9511

Northampton County:

US Senator Bob Casey (see previous)

US Senator Pat Toomy (see previous)

Representative Charles Dent (R),

3900 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 207, Allentown, PA 18103,
Phone: 610-770-3490, FAX: 610-770-3498,

Toll-Free: 866-861-2624

Representative Charles Dent (R), 2211 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515,

Phone: 202-225-6411, FAX: 202-226-0778,

<http://www.dent.house.gov/>

Additional Information and Resources Concerning the Pipeline

PennEast has officially “pre-filed” with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The pre-filing, which is voluntary on the part of PennEast, also moves the project into a round of public input opportunities including open houses and scoping meetings. The project’s application number with FERC is PF 15-1-000. To file a comment with FERC visit their site at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>

This is the best way to have your opinion and ideas heard by the people who will make the final decision. Anyone can comment, including local governments and conservation organizations as well as individual citizens. The more comments the better. To learn more about the pipeline visit these sites: <http://penneastpipeline.com>, <http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org>, <http://stoppenneast.org>, and find “stoppenneast” on Facebook.

Editors note: **Additional Resources** (provided by Lizzy Balogh and Tina Venini of the “Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline”) are:

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/Documents/HB%201565%20talking%20points.pdf>

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=172>

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/river-action/ongoing-issue-detail.aspx?Id=77>

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/Documents/PennEast%20DRBC%20Petition.pdf>

http://www.delawaretpnj.org/PennEast_Pipeline/Proposed_PennEast_Pipeline.html

<http://www.ferc.gov/for-citizens/get-involved.asp>

<http://stoppenneastpipeli.wix.com/stoppenneastpipeline#!northampton-county-pa/cqrm>

Children's Backyard: Homemade Toothpaste *By: Lois Oleksa*

Directions:

- Mix together equal parts of organic coconut oil and baking soda. Coconut oil is a solid at a temperature of 76 degrees. My house is cold, so I need to soften and liquefy the oil by placing it in a bowl in a hot water bath; no need to heat the water, just use hot tap water.
- Add peppermint essential oil or any other flavor that you find pleasing. Cinnamon, clove, lemon or orange would also be good.
- Add stevia, if desired, to taste.
- Mix and stir well using a fork.
- Put the mixture into a small glass jar or bowl.
- To use, dip your toothbrush in and scrape a small amount onto the bristles; if the mixture is hard, use a small spoon to get the toothpaste onto the toothbrush.



Ingredients for toothpaste



Mixing the toothpaste ingredients

Why would you want to make your own toothpaste? Read the article entitled "Beauty Up the Creek" – it's about the micro-beads found in some toothpaste.

See "Beauty Up the Creek"...

Beauty Up the Creek

By: Rose Strong

Have you purchased toothpaste lately? Could there be something in there besides the paste and mint? How about facial or body scrub? Think there's more in there than a cleansing agent or anti-acne?

In the past year, several states have brought it to their legislative agendas to ban items called polyethylene or polypropylene micro-beads used as an ingredient in cosmetics.

The beads, used for exfoliating the skin, ridding plaque from teeth and even used in skin lotions, hair products and liquid soaps are becoming a menace to our ecosystem. They don't dissolve, and wash down the drain and into our groundwater or head through our pipes to the public sewage system.

Sewage treatment systems are ill-equipped to handle these small, plastic beads. The filtration systems aren't tight enough to hold them back and they end up in our waterways, including the Great Lakes, rivers and even the ocean.

Eventually, these micro-plastics are ingested by aquatic life and wind their way into our own food chain. That lovely plate of ceviche with tuna or grilled Chilean sea bass could contain micro-plastics and while you were careful to not eat an endangered fish, you didn't have a clue that you'd be getting something more with your dinner.

5Gyres.org, an environmental group dedicated to the education and research regarding plastic pollution in our oceans, micro-beads and micro-plastics, lists these points:

Products like facial scrubs, soaps and toothpaste contain thousands of polyethylene and polypropylene micro-beads, ranging from 50-500 microns, or up to ½ mm in diameter.

Some products can have between 1-5% micro-beads.

One product, Neutrogena's "Deep Clean", contained an estimated 360,000 micro-beads in a single tube.

Plastic micro-beads do not embrace the "Cradle to Cradle" philosophy. They are not recoverable, designed to wash down the drain and into the environment, where they are harmful rather than benign.

Many sewage treatment facilities do not capture synthetic, floating particles the size of micro-beads, and during rainy days some treatment facilities let sewage overflow go right into our waterways.

How can you help keep your local waterways clean? Read the labels and purchase products by those companies no longer putting plastic in their products.

The website, BeatTheMicroBead.com, has a list that includes, but is not limited to the products produced by L'Oreal, Target Corporation, Unilever, Proctor & Gamble, The Body Shop, Colgate-Palmolive, Ikea, and LUSH.

The task at hand isn't unbeatable. If we become aware, take a stand now, and discontinue using these products that are detrimental to our environment, we can make a difference.



Photo by Rose Strong

There Is No Negotiating with a Bog Turtle By: Jim Orben

A bog turtle does not negotiate; neither does a brook trout or a great horned owl. These native creatures live among us at our pleasure. The bog turtle hides in the swamp, never seen, unless the observer is willing to get wet and dirty and on top of that be quite lucky. The brook trout is more visible but still demands some effort and the perfect cold-water habitat if it is to be seen. The great horned owl roosts in the forest surveying the foodscape and making itself known to all who listen.

As the PennEast pipeline bulldozes its way through the different governmental agencies created to regulate it, these natives who live here with us, are nearly voiceless and seemingly forgotten. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), who, claims to have the ultimate power, posts a few lines on its website (ferc.gov) that seem to apply to PennEast and its pipeline project.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

Regulates the transmission and sale of natural gas for resale in interstate commerce

Approves the siting and abandonment of interstate natural gas pipelines and storage facilities

Oversees environmental matters related to natural gas and hydroelectricity projects and other matters

Enforces FERC regulatory requirements through imposition of civil penalties and other means

This excerpt shows that all PennEast has to do is follow the rules and FERC will approve the siting of its interstate natural gas pipeline. If recent pipeline siting and construction practice can be a window on the future, the line about overseeing environmental matters is often interpreted as overlooking environmental matters. So, where do the turtle, the trout, and the owl turn?

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has decided to take a much more active role in the issues involved in siting, building and operating the PennEast Pipeline than it has assumed in any other pipeline project before this. The website of the DRBC explains their mandate to manage the Delaware River system without regard to political boundaries with this sentence:

Commission programs include water quality protection, water supply allocation, regulatory review (permitting), water conservation initiatives, watershed planning, drought management, flood loss reduction, and recreation.

This list of programs does give some hope to our native inhabitants, but if the past reflects the future as clearly as it usually does, DRBC review will only increase the cost of the PennEast Pipeline, not stop it completely.

In her book "Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age" Mary Christina Wood explains our system of environmental laws and the agencies they create in an enlightening but chilling narrative.

With few exceptions, statutes authorize agencies to issue permits to damage Nature. Such permit provisions form a common denominator to environmental and natural resource statutes, and a vast portion of the agencies' work today flows from them. Agencies regularly decide whether to permit harm to air, water, soils, forests, grasslands, wetlands, riparian areas, species, and other natural resources. The agencies enjoy tremendous discretion in making these decisions; in fact, agency discretion forms the crux of all modern environmental law. Such discretion rests on a presumption that agencies remain expert bodies that unflinchingly exercise their judgment objectively, for the good of the public, and in accordance with protective statutory goals. The presumption now collides with reality.

(continued on page nine)

(continued from page eight)

Agency discretion drives the demise of Nature. For decades, environmental professionals working within this legal system have assumed it to be functional, and many other nations have modeled their environmental approach after the U.S. legal system. But the ancient membrane of law that supposedly functions as a system of community restraint now stretches tattered and pocked with holes. Our destruction of Nature threatens to create what scientists call a “fundamentally different planet.”

When the protection we and our environment need and deserve cannot be found in the governmental agencies given that charge, where do we turn? Here in the Delaware River Watershed and more locally in the Cooks Creek Watershed, the protection we demand will have to be found within ourselves and within the nongovernmental agencies we support and create. Our protection will lie with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, with the Sierra Club, with Berks Gas Truth, with the Stop PennEast Pipeline group and with the Cooks Creek Watershed Association. Every local government along the proposed PennEast Pipeline route must object to the project loudly. Each landowner whose property may be affected has to say no to allowing this degradation to their land. Our community must rise together and say no! You can't negotiate with the bog turtle or the brook trout or the great horned owl. You either let them live their lives or you don't.

One step you can take is to tell FERC what you think about the PennEast Pipeline by going to the FERC website at, <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. The PennEast project's docket number is PF 15-1-000. Every bit of local action helps. See list of political contacts in newsletter for other action.

What is it in the field? Snow? No! Snow Geese!



More about snow geese

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/snow_goose/lifehistory

Back to the Past: Colonial Charcoal Making in the Cooks Creek Watershed

A column highlighting items of interest concerning the historical features of the Watershed By: David Oleksa

Pennsylvania is literally translated from the Latin as “Penn’s Forest”, an apt name for a region that was almost completely covered by a thick forest of oak, pine, chestnut, maple and cherry trees at the time of the early European migration to the New World. It’s considered common knowledge that one of the first things that the early settlers did was to start clearing the trees to make room for their fields because this was, after all, an agrarian economy. But it is a misconception that this farm preparation was the main reason for the decimation of the primeval forests here in our area.

In the late 1600’s, William Penn granted certain power to a group of men calling themselves The Free Society of Traders. They were granted land in what are now Doylestown, Warwick, New Britain, Hilltown and Durham. The Society was a trading and manufacturing corporation. They knew of the iron ore deposits in the hills surrounding Durham and in 1727, the Society sold its Durham holdings to a newly formed Furnace Company. The chief holder of stock in this company was James Logan (William Penn’s secretary). Other investors included such well-known names as Jeremiah Langhorne, Anthony Morris, Charles Reed, Robert Ellis, George Fitzwater, Clement Plumstead, William Allen, Andrew Bradford, John Hopkins, Thomas Lindsey, Joseph Turner, Griffeth Owen, and Samuel Powell. The first furnace was located in the center of what is now the Village of Durham. The present mill was actually built on the ruins of the original furnace.

The fuel used in the iron making process of the time was charcoal and the thick forest surrounding the Durham Valley offered an abundant supply of wood for the industry of charcoal making. The charcoal maker’s work moved farther and farther away from the furnace site as the workers cut down more and more trees to feed the appetite of the busy furnace and soon the forests in the area were completely leveled. The need for charcoal continued until 1840 when coal became the preferred fuel due to its higher burning temperature generated through the forcing of hot air through the blast.

The process of charcoal making is an interesting one. The master collier and two or three assistants would work eight or nine (sometimes as many as 15) pits at a time. Since the pits had to be tended constantly, the first item to be taken care was the living quarters for the men who’d be working the pits. The collier’s hut was always conical in form having a base about eight feet in diameter and a height of about ten feet. Three inch diameter poles were used for the uprights and more slender poles filled the spaces between them. Leaves covered the structure and then a final coating of topsoil covered the leaves. A small opening gave access to the hut and rough bunks and a small wood burning stove were the only furnishings.

The pit itself was built on a flat space 30 or 40 feet in diameter which had been made free of all roots, stumps and other debris. The surface area was tamped smooth so future shoveling of the charcoal would be made easier and more efficient. This hearth had to be level to ensure even uniform burning. Hearths were used over and over again because with each successive use, the accumulation of charcoal dust was used as a cover for the next burning.

The collier’s work didn’t begin until the wood choppers brought in the wood and had it stacked. The wood was cut in four foot lengths and came in two sizes called lap wood and billets. Lap wood ranged in size from one and one half to four inches in diameter while the billets ranged

(continued to page eleven)

(continued from page ten)

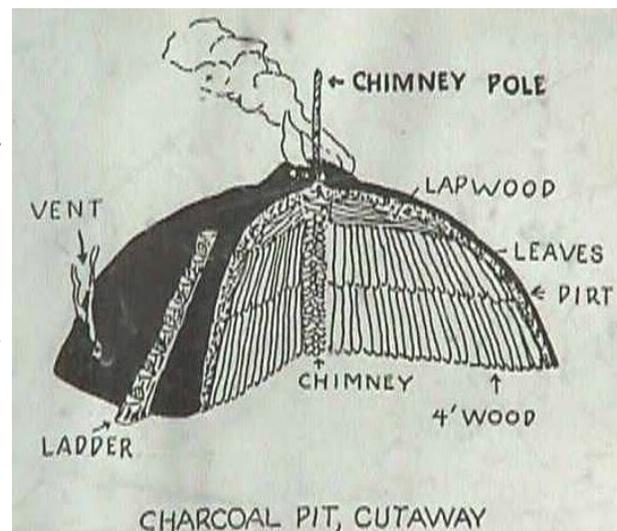
from four to seven inches. The billets were usually split out of the trunks of the trees while the lap wood came from the branches. The ends of the wood were cut on a bias so the wood would lean together and be able to form a rounded top. The wood chopper or cutter had to keep track of how much wood he brought to the pit and he was paid eight shillings six pence per cord. The colliers and their assistants actually worked the charcoal pits between May and October. The rest of the time was often spent as wood cutters, preparing for the next season's charcoaling.

In placing the wood into the pit, first the exact center of the hearth was determined and a green pole about 18 feet long and three or four inches in diameter was driven into the hearth. This pole was called a fagan and served as a guide for building the "chimney" which ran vertically up the middle of the wood pile. This chimney had an opening of about eight inches and was constructed by laying lap wood and billets in a triangular pattern around the fagan. When the chimney reached the height of five feet, the assistants would begin handing billets to the collier who carefully stacked the wood just off the vertical, planning ahead so that when all the wood was placed, a final dome shape would be achieved. The first four foot layer was called the "foot". After the foot was completed, the collier would begin constructing the second layer, or "waist". This was followed by a third four foot layer called the shoulders and finally a four foot "head". Each layer was smaller in circumference than the preceding one and thus the final dome shape was created. Lap wood was used to fill in all the empty spaces in the layers. Leaves were then gathered and used to cover the structure to a depth of several inches. A further few inches of dust from previous charcoal burnings covered the leaves. The pit was then ready for firing.

A shovel full of live coals was poured down the chimney on to some kindling and the chimney was then covered with leaves and dust allowing the fire to smolder slowly inside the pit for ten days to two weeks. The average pit contained between 40 and 50 cords of wood. (A cord measuring eight feet by four feet by four feet.) An even more impressive statistic is that the Durham Furnace needed the charcoal made from one acre of trees for each day that it was in operation. The industry employed many people. In addition to the collier and his assistants, there were wood cutters, and haulers, all in support of a process which cut down every living tree that it could. The result was a landscape far different than the one which existed before and also quite different from the one we enjoy now. There were no shady forests cooling the streams in the area. Water runoff became a problem.

It seems every generation has its ecologic problems. Charcoaling came to its end with the advent of anthracite coal which sent its pollutants into the air. It was replaced by petroleum products which cause many of the problems we are facing. The bright spot in this chain of events is that we now live in an area where 60% of the land is reforested, bringing a certain stability back to those of us who love nature. (Photo from:

<http://www.davidwebbfowler.com/2014/08/colonial-occupation-collier->



Recycle!

Local Recycling Information

Durham Township Recycling Center

Location: Municipal Building, 215 Old Furnace Rd, Durham

1st Saturday of every month (2nd Saturday if 1st Saturday is on a holiday weekend)

Hours: 8:00AM – 12:00 noon, 1:00PM-4:00PM, (call ahead)

Accepting newspapers, magazines, junk mail, phone books, glass, tin, plastic, aluminum and cardboard, and CFL bulbs, rechargeable batteries (during office hours) .

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

Springfield Township

Location: Township Building, 2320 Township Road

Paper Recycling Bin Available at Township Building.

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 ; See website: 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

Location: 635 Illick's Mill Rd, Bethlehem

Phone: 610-865-7082 Hours: Weekdays: 10 AM to 4 PM, Saturday 9 AM to 4 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.

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.



Schedules of Local Government Meetings

Springfield Township:
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
Open Space Committee:
 1st Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
Historic Commission:
 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

Durham Township:
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 Tues. @ 7:30 PM

Lower Saucon:
www.lowersaucontownship.org
 610-865-3291
 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Council: 1st and 3rd Wed. @ 7 PM
Planning Commission:
 3rd Thurs. @ 7 PM
EAC: 1st Tues. @ 7 PM

Williams Township:
www.williamstwp.org
 610-258-6060
 655 Cider Press Road

Supervisors: 2nd Wed. @ 7 PM
Planning Commission: 3rd Wed. @ 7 PM
Land Preservation Board:
 3rd Mon. @ 7 PM

Richland Township:
www.richlandtownship.org
 215-536-4066
 1328 California Road

Supervisors: 2nd and 4th Mon. @ 7 PM
Planning Commission: 3rd Tues. @ 7 PM
Preservation Board: 2nd Thurs. @ 7 PM

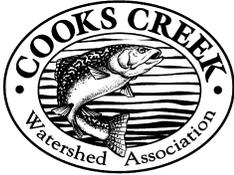


Renew Your Membership

Cooks Creek is an important resource for our community. Don't forget to renew your membership and stay up to date on issues concerning our Watershed.

Find the membership form on the back page.

If you want to get more involved, please donate to our legal defense fund to help us fight the PennEast pipeline. Come to a meeting and share your talents and interests!



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

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, then 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

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



Find us on Facebook

Please Join Us... Cooks Creek Watershed Association-Membership Form

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.

Name: _____

Other household members: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Interests: (circle)

Newsletter	Website	Roadside Cleanup	Event Planning
Membership	Fundraising	Stream Studies	Wherever I'm Needed

Individual Membership Fee: \$ 15.00 per year _____

Family Membership Fee: \$ 25.00 per year _____

Student Membership Fee: \$ 10.00 per year _____

Donation: to legal defense fund: _____

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.