



SOMERSET COUNTY CONSERVANCY A Charitable Trust

www.somersetcountyconservancy.org

Newsletter

Fall, 2010

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The Conservancy has Manpower

We are pleased to announce that the Somerset County Conservancy & Somerset Conservation District have partnered to acquire a 2010/2011 AmeriCorps member. His time will be split between both groups. We are very excited to have an America Corps member to help with our everyday operations. His name is Josh Penatzer, check out his Bio on page 6.



Josh at the Ohio River Watershed Celebration

Kimberly Run Study

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) funded study of Kimberly Run is underway. Mark Killar, watershed manager from WPC is heading the study. The Kimberly Run study is looking at stream chemistry, along with fish and macroinvertebrate populations. There are portions of the stream having fish populations and portions appear to be void of fish. The portion flowing through the Kimberly Run Natural Area appears to be poorly populated with fish. Potential problems in the watershed include salt from the Pennsylvania Turnpike, mine drainage from abandoned coal mines and possibly the Mostoller landfill. Helping the WPC with this project are several Conservancy Board members, our new AmericaCorp member and our partners and staff at the Somerset Conservation District. Data collection and evaluation is expected to take a year.

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SCC Annual Picnic

On September 19, 2010 the Somerset Co. Conservancy held it's annual membership picnic at Kimberly Run Natural Area. After a delicious covered dish meal thirty members took leisurely walk around the Piersol Trail.

The Presidents Corner

A New Community Project

The Somerset County Conservancy is proposing to construct a bark mulch walking and birding trail along the western side of Somerset Lake with viewing platforms and photography blinds at strategic locations along the trail. The trail will be constructed on the uplands along the western shore to avoid disturbance of the wetlands and marsh areas. The one and one-half mile trail will pass through diverse habitats including alders, hardwoods, planted spruce and pines as well as open areas creating access to migrating and breeding warblers, sparrows, thrushes and orioles as well as views of the water.



At the existing boat launch parking areas picnic tables and benches may be added as well as seating on the viewing platforms.

Somerset Lake and its surrounding lands have been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society. Thousands of waterfowl of over thirty species, many shore birds and passerines migrate through or rest in this area. Many bird-watchers flock to the area during these times to observe the migrating birds, but access can be difficult. A lot of work and negotiations need to be done and an agreement must be reached with the PAF&B Commission, but we think the results will be worth the effort.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report on the passing of long time SCC Member and supporter **John R. Porter, 70**, Laurel View Village, Davidsville, formerly of Markleton. He died June 5, 2010, at In-Touch Hospice House of Journey's Rest, Somerset. John was also an avid woodworker and enjoyed being in the outdoors.

Donations in Memoriam

01

Lauretta Payne

Cub Scouts Pack #135
 Scott & Jill Bastian
 Carol & Burton Cantrell
 Allegheny Veterinary Emer.
 Trauma
 Daniel & Elizabeth
 Dunmore

John R. Porter

Jeff Payne, DVM
 Jim & Meg Moses

FLIGHT 93 TREATMENT POND SAMPLING RESULTS

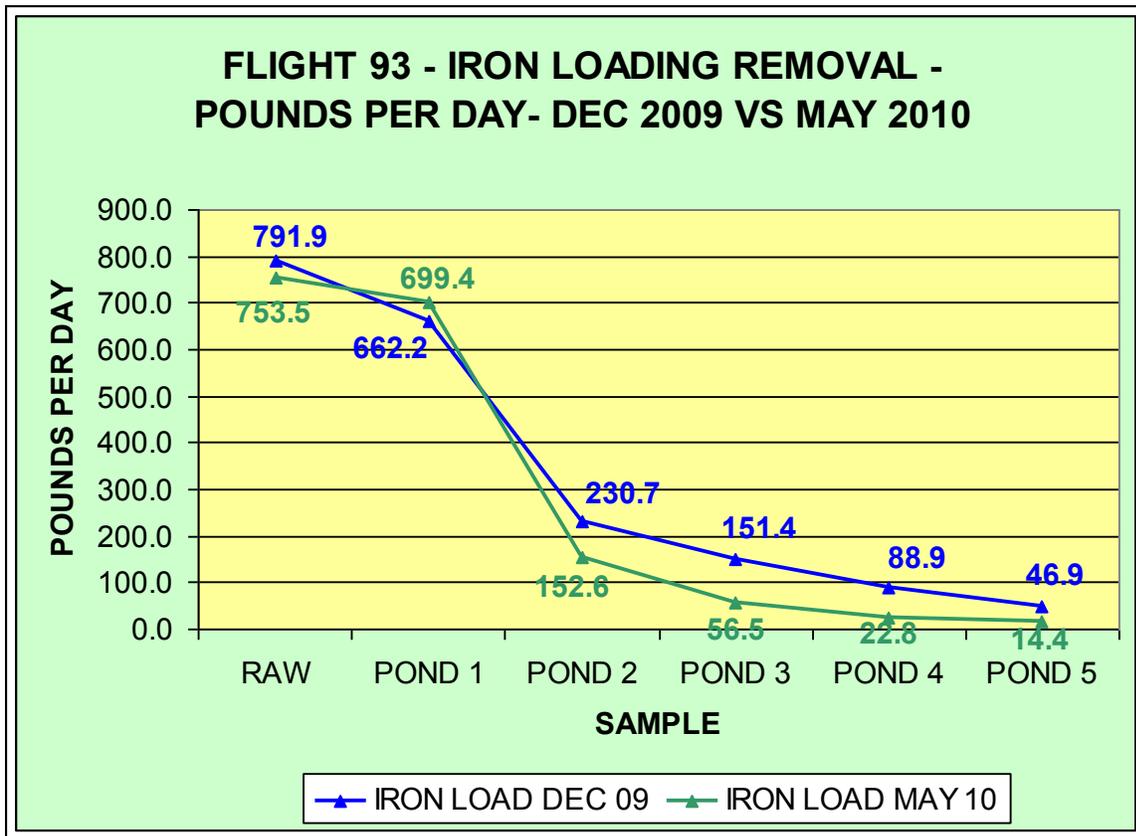
By Dan Seibert

A year long sampling study of the Flight 93 treatment ponds has been completed. The study was made possible by cooperation of three government agencies. The DEP, Bureau of Mining and Reclamation, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and the US Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining. These agencies provided manpower and laboratory analysis of the water.

The Somerset County Conservancy and the Somerset Conservation District were local sponsors of the study. The sponsors requested the study due to observed deposits of iron in Kimberly Run, immediately down stream of the treatment system. The observed deposits occurred during the winter months and improved during the summer. A wide range of chemical parameters were sampled, along with temperature. The source of the water being treated is being pumped from flooded underground mines previously operated by PBS Coals Inc. The water is being pumped from the mines so the water does not break out to the ground surface at the location of the Flight 93 Memorial.

The passive treatment system treating the pumped water consists of a series of deep water ponds. The volume of water being treated averages 1000 gallons per minute (GPM).

The main pollutant being treated by the system is iron.



RESULTS

The water coming out of the well has an iron load averaging 700 to 900 pounds per day or 146 tons per year. Alkalinity levels are 220 to 250 milligrams per liter MG/L and pH of 6.5. By the time the water reaches the end of the system and enters Lamberts Run, iron levels have been reduced to between 15 and 46 pounds per day. During the summer months the iron levels are near the 15 pound per day level and near the 46 pounds per day during the colder winter months.

The graph shows the remaining iron load at the end of each pond as the water flows through the system. The green line shows iron levels in May 2010 and the blue line shows iron levels in December 2009. In general the treatment system is doing a tremendous job of removing iron from the mine water. The 46 pounds per day remaining at the final treatment pond during the winter is a problem for aquatic life in Lamberts Run.



Final treatment pond of the Flight 93 treatment system showing high iron levels

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Adding additional alkalinity at the beginning of the treatment would speed up the precipitation of the iron. Slowing down the travel time of the water through the treatment systems could help precipitate more iron. The DEP Bureau of Mining has installed additional baffles across some of the ponds to slow the travel time down, but initial sampling does not indicate a reduction in the iron load. Future sampling, especially during the up-coming winter months will tell us if the additional baffles are causing more iron to precipitate.

Another option available is to add hydrated lime at the beginning of the system. Fortunately, the lime doser used by PBS Coals Inc. while they were actively mining at this location is still in place. The lime doser is still owned by PBS. The Somerset County Conservancy plans to facilitate talks to transfer the ownership of the lime doser to the DEP, Bureau of Mining and Reclamation who is responsible for treatment of the water at the Flight 93 treatment system. A meeting was held on September 29, 2010 to begin discussion on this ownership transfer.



Lime doser, a potential solution for the iron load entering Lamberts Run

Josh Penatzer
2010/2011 AmeriCorps member
Somerset Conservation District & Somerset County Conservancy

I was born and raised in Johnstown, PA. I went to high school at Richland and graduated in 2005. Upon graduation I started my college career at Cal U majoring in Technology Education, then transferred to Penn Highlands Community College for a year and a half just taking general elective courses until I decided what I wanted to do with my life. From there I was in training to be an electrical utility lineman with Penelec, but got injured while training to climb poles. Then I started classes at UPJ originally as an Elementary Education major, but my first semester there, I took an Environmental Geology class and quickly changed my major to Environmental Studies/Geology. That was the best decision I could have made. My college career was a bumpy road but as I look back now, it was well worth it. I graduated from UPJ in August 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Geology. I gained my first experience in the environmental field a few years ago working at a waste water treatment plant, dredging sludge from holding ponds. I also performed a long term shadow position at the Conemaugh Generating Station, a coal burning power plant in New Florence, PA. I worked as an intern for Natural Biodiversity during this past summer in which I performed site assessments on land registered in the CREP program, looking for and identifying invasive plant species. I also wrote invasive species management guides for land owners and aided in developing an environmental education curriculum by writing lesson plans focusing on invasive species. In my spare time I enjoy fishing/boating, sports, skiing and four wheeling with jeeps and quads.



Josh working in the field

I started working with the conservation district on August 26, 2010. I have been involved with a number of projects. These include electrofishing surveys, macroinvertebrate sampling and identification, water chemistry, lake surveys and data logger installation and data retrieval. Thus far my experience working with the district has been great. I have been able to be a part of a variety of interesting and important projects in which I have learned a lot and had fun doing them. I look forward to working with the conservancy and conservation district for the remainder of this year. I hope to use this year as an AmeriCorps member to gain valuable experience and make good contacts within the environmental field.

An Invitation to our Annual membership Banquet

Of the

The Somerset County Conservancy

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010

Cocktails at 6:30 pm Dinner at 7:00 pm

Somerset Trust Company's Meeting Room

**The old building at the corner of N. Center Ave. & Union St.
Enter through the Union St. side door entrance (post office side)
131 North Center Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501**

Come and enjoy dinner under the Dome

Catered by Chuck Wagon Restaurant

\$20.00 per person at the door

Reservations required

E-mail mail@somersetcountyconservancy.org

Or Jim @ 445-4850

United Nations Millennium Development Goals

By Lester Brunell

Ten years ago as we entered the new millennium a meeting took place at the United Nations in New York City. Officials from 189 countries made a promise to try to achieve eight goals to make our world a better place by 2015. These are called the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). On September 20 -22, 2010 government representatives met again to talk about the progress we've made. They also discussed what more could be done in the next five years. The goals they set were: 1: End Hunger; 2: Education for everyone; 3: Gender Equality; 4: Child Health; 5: Mothers' Health; 6: Fight Disease; 7: Protect our Environment; 8: Global Partnership.

Goal Number 7 is our Conservancy's reason for existing. The target of No. 7 is to insure environmental sustainability by controlling the use of natural resources. The second target was to cut in half the number of people who don't have access to clean water. There are about six billion people on Earth; about one billion have access to clean water. Water is a global problem; water resources are much overused and pollution is a never ending problem. Even in the United States access to clean water is not always a certainty. Recently we learned of the questionable quality of water being used by people living in the Somerset County community of Blough. That situation is now being alleviated. The Conservancy has been involved in improving water quality from the beginning. We are now involved in seeking a solution to the pollutions problems effecting both Kimberly Run and Lamberts Run.

Somerset County Conservancy

Box 241

Somerset, PA 15501

Pass this newsletter on to a friend and ask them to join.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

Enclosed is: \$ 15 Individual Member

\$ 25 Family Member

\$ 75 Sustaining Member

\$ 100 Patron, Club, Organization Member

\$ 750 Lifetime Member

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servancy

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Somerset, PA 15501

E-Mail: _____

SCC EDITOR—

Jim Moses

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Jim Moses