



Somerset County Conservancy

A Charitable Trust

www.somersetcountyconservancy.org

Newsletter

Fall 2012

The walking trails are open at KRNA



There is lots of work yet to be done at KRNA but the trails are open and marked. Mitchell Black Berlin Scout Troop 135 has completed cutting and marking the new walking trails that connect with the existing trails at Kimberly Run. The new trail is marked with blue markers on the trees and makes a loop around the Pavilion and back to the starting point at Elizabeth's Rock which has been relocated to corner on the Red-dog driveway. Mitchell will be building additional benches and signage to further identify the trails. We will be installing a Kiosk with Trail Guides at the parking area to guide trail users in the spring but for now please see the draft map on page 7. The trails are open during daylight hours 365 days a year. During hunting season please wear florescent orange or bright colored clothing because some of the property is open to hunting.

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Building a service road to the KRNA Pavilion

Dave Mankamy, Conservancy board member building a road.



Student Assessment of Kimberly Run

By Pam Diesel

On September 5, 2012, Somerset Area Senior High School AP (Advanced Placement) biology class evaluated the stream health of Kimberly Run. Students found caddis fly larvae, dobsonfly larvae, crayfish, frogs, minnows and riffle beetles which indicated non-polluted waters. Water chemistry also supported the student conclusion that Kimberly Run is a healthy stream. Dissolved oxygen, pH, iron levels, chlorine levels, and nitrate levels were all within the healthy range. Alkalinity readings were slightly high.



Jake and Moriah catch minnows & dobsonfly larvae in their nets



Jake, Hanna, Ryan & Moriah collect samples

Kimberly Run Natural Area was an appropriate area for local high school students to make a field trip. The school bus was able to enter the property and park above the garage. Access to the stream below the cabin and access to the cabin for clean-up was excellent.

Our Environmental Education Committee has a Wish List of items we need to acquire in order to promote future educational opportunities for local students from all county school districts.

dissecting microscopes or hand lenses
test kits of test strips for pH, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, iron, etc.
nets to catch fish and macroinvertebrate
white plans or plastic containers to examine organisms
meter sticks and measuring tapes
keys to tree, fish, macroinvertebrate
offer to help sponsor a fields trip
make a donation for equipment
mist net, small droppers and forceps

If you can help please contact Pam Diesel at:

mail@somersetcountyconservancy.org

Donations in Memoriam

or

Corinne Finckenor

Jeff Payne

Jim & Meg Moses

HEINEMYER PROJECT COMPLETED

By Dan Seibert

The Heinemyer passive water treatment project has been completed and is successfully treating the Heinemyer discharge. At the time of the writing of this article the Heinemyer was flowing at 75 gallons per minute with an iron load of 35 MG/L of iron. The system reduces the iron to less than 5 MG/L.

There are two main components to the treatment system. Clean surface water is diverted around the discharge and treatment pond in order to keep it clean and not mix with the Heinemyer water. The surface water is channeled around the treatment pond in a limestone rock waterway. The limestone in the waterway improves the quality of the surface water by raising the pH from around 5.5 to 6.5. The second component is the treatment pond which detains the water in the pond about three days. The detention is achieved by the size of the pond and baffles in the pond that direct the flow for the longest possible travel time through the system. Phil Gardner, the construction inspector for the project noticed that minnows have already returned to a pool in Lamberts Run, not far below the system.

The Heinemyer produces one third of the iron load entering Lamberts Run. The system essentially eliminates the iron load. Another third of the iron load formerly came from the PBS discharge located above the Heinemyer. This discharge is successfully being treated most of the time, with further improvements to the system to be constructed soon.



The final third of the iron pollution entering Lamberts Run occurs in Lambertsville from artesian well flows and surface seeps. Data gathering and planning for the treatment of this treatment system is ongoing. Solutions to this pollution load will be difficult because the water is acid, which the Heinemyer was not, it occurs from several sources, existing wetlands complicate placement of the system, and it will be very expensive to construct. A passive system will, more than likely, not be successful in treating these discharges. Gathering the discharges to a treatment point will involve extensive piping. Once the water is collected it will need to be treated by some kind of mechanical treatment system that will need frequent maintenance and addition of alkaline material to neutralize the acid and cause the iron to come out of solution. The land needed to construct the treatment system also needs to be acquired.



Conserve Land

by Lester Brunell

Our Conservancy has been a member of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA) for many years. More recently we have become members of the Laurel Highlands Conservation Coalition.

Land trusts have been protecting Pennsylvania's special places since the mid-20th century. Pennsylvania's land trusts have protected 637,636 acres of land in Pennsylvania; they have re-conveyed 338,430 acres to government entities such as Pennsylvania State Parks, Pennsylvania State Forests and the Pennsylvania game commission.

The range of land trusts activities are reflected and ranked in the PLTS's 2011 census:

TOTAL ACRES OWNED: No. 1. Western PA Conservancy – 12,900 acres, SCC No. 18. 575 acres.

TOTAL ACRES RE-CONVEDED TO GOVERNMENT: No. 1. Western PA Conservancy 174,000 acres.

TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED BY CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: No.1. Brandywine Conservancy – 34,726 acres.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: No. 1. Brandywine Conservancy – 505 easements.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EASEMENTS ACQUIERD IN 2011: No.1. Lancaster Farmland Trust – 22 easements.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FEE ACQUISITIONS IN 2011: No.1. Western PA conservancy - 5

The accomplishments of 70 land trusts have been noted in the PLTA's 2011 census. This gives us a measurement of where we stand in relation to the other land trusts.

Local student helps the Conservancy with his Senior Project



A variety of Conservancy tasks were completed thanks to the efforts of Logan Lichvar working to meet the requirements of his senior project. Logan, 16, is a junior at North Star High School in Boswell and chose to complete his senior project requirement by assisting the Conservancy in meeting several unfulfilled needs that benefit the Conservancy and the land and resources under its management.



Among the accomplishments have been tree planting, sign erections, trail clearing and installation of duck nesting boxes all on Conservancy owned land. His required 40 hours of service has been overseen and supervised by Conservancy President Jim Moses. Logan's efforts enabled a number of Conservancy infrastructure needs to be addressed in a more timely manner than otherwise would have been possible.

Logan is the son of Becky and Len Lichvar. Becky is a teacher in the North Star School District and Len is an original and current board member of the Conservancy and is also the District Manager of the Somerset Conservation District.



National Park Service Pathways to Green Careers Program

provided a crew of 16 teenagers from Johnstown supervised by Emily Pudliner from the NPS Johnstown Flood Memorial. The crew first worked on Mallards Rest Treatment Site to clean up brush and weeds growing along the interruptive trail

and parking lot. They then worked two days at Kimberly Run trimming and clearing trees along the half mile red-dog lane that were closing in obstructing access. They did a terrific job at both locations that was a great benefit to the Conservancy.

Thanks to Emily and her crew!



**An Invitation to our Annual membership Banquet
Of the
The Somerset County Conservancy
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012 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) 814-445-4850

(Brooke) 814-479-2872

The program for the evening titled

**Tracking Golden Eagles in Eastern
North America**

Presented by Trish Miller, PhD and Mike Lanzone

Draft Copy of KRNA Trail Map



Somerset County Conservancy
Box 241
Somerset, PA 15501

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

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

Enclosed is: \$ 15 Individual Member

\$ 25 Family Member

\$ 75 Sustaining Member

\$100 Patron, Club, Organization Member

\$750 Lifetime Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

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The above address