



# WSWA Newsletter

## 2011-12 WSWA Activities & Highlights

- ❖ In the last quarter of 2011, WSWA awarded a contract to GeoConcepts Engineering to develop a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The money to finance this work was awarded to WSWA by EPA in a FY11 Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability grant. The Plan was completed and delivered to WSWA President Kate Lehman on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ❖ 501(c)(3) Status – Since the beginning of the year, WSWA has been actively following the process to secure tax exempt status for our organization. Norman Dean is guiding us through all the paperwork and we are now 2-3 months away from our goal.
- ❖ First Annual Meeting – The WSWA Annual Meeting was held April 26<sup>th</sup> with 16 members in attendance. At this meeting the members voted to approve By-laws and elected a 10-member Board of Directors. Bob Denton, Senior Geologist for GeoConcepts, and primary investigator for the WSWA Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, gave a presentation on some of the unique features of the Run and watershed.
- ❖ Kate Lehman has given the “Why Good Streams Go Bad” presentation to over 20 organizations and groups in the county to highlight the issues with the Run. The presentation has been well received.
- ❖ Make It Shine on April 9<sup>th</sup> – Tim Seims lead the effort to clean the run for the annual Make-it-Shine event. Nine volunteers helped clean the Run from Eddy’s Tires to Winchester Grade Rd.
- ❖ Supplemental clean-up efforts were done by WSWA members so that the area from Widmyer Elementary School past Nature Niche was cleaned as part of Make-it-Shine.

## Stream Monitoring Status

The stream monitoring team has been busy collecting macros and evaluating conditions at multiple sites along the Run. Team members include Norman Dean, Kate Lehman, Tim Seims, Jim Price, Kris O’Brien, Andy Swaim, Carol Reece, and Susan Jones. Our results to date have been:

June 3 at Airport Lane: Based upon a lack of diversity, plus high numbers of “tolerant” macros (leaches, planeria, etc.), water quality was determined to be marginal.

June 22 at Fairview Lane: Water quality was somewhat better than at the Airport Lane site. While there were more “good” macros, there were also lots of macros commonly found in areas with excess sedimentation.

June 28 at Jimstown Road: Water quality was not good with insufficient numbers of good macros and large numbers of “bad” macros.

Future plans include monitoring at the Country Inn and Winchester Grade Rd. Please join the WSWA Stream Monitoring Team by calling Kate (304-279-0717).

## Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Three hard copies of the Comprehensive Plan have been given to WSWA. Any member can “check out” a copy from the Extension Office for a two-week review period. We are seeking a “permanent home” for an electronic copy of the document. We will let you know when that “home” has been found. In the interim, please let Kate know if you want to receive an e-copy of the plan.

Kate is creating the *Readers’ Digest* version of the plan. Jack Soronen is working on the *Cliff Notes* version of the plan, as well as an abstract designed to “lure” potential readers to various sites where the pdf is available. Both versions will be available at the July meeting of the WSWA.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS EVERY 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00PM AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE. ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE.**

### Calendar of Events

Aug 4-5	WSWA booth at County Fair
Aug 14	Stream Monitoring at Winchester Grade Rd, 9:00am
Aug 29	Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00am Extension Office (special date/time this month only)
Aug 29	Stormwater 101 Workshop, 7:00pm Robert C. Byrd Health Science Center, Martinsburg
Sept 7-8	14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Watershed Celebration Day (contact Kate for registration details)
Sept 26	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00pm Extension Office

### WSWA and 2012

With our Comprehensive Plan completed and our new organizational structure in place, the WSWA has accomplished much in the last 6 months; however, there is still much to do. We have newly approved bylaws, a new board of directors and officers, and the anticipation of 501 (c)3 status by the fall. All we need now is the support and help of all current and new members to help educate the community at large about effective ways for cleaning up Warm Springs Run for the betterment of not only our town but the county as a whole.

We will form new committees that include: membership, grants, fund raising, County Fair. As you can see, there are lots of opportunities for members to volunteer to help the association as we begin this new phase of our organization.

The County Fair is around the corner and we are looking for volunteers to help with our booth to promote the WSWA, as well as to show kids our stream monitoring techniques... not to mention the macros.

Although the Warm Springs Run has been designated by the WVDEP as impaired, a TMDL will not be established until 2021. In the interim, the WSWA hopes to secure grants to provide baseline information on total nitrogen, phosphorus and total suspended solids in the Run. Based on this information, we can chart our progress in terms of activities designed to restore, protect and preserve the Run.

This newsletter is our initial attempt to keep members informed of the numerous activities the association is participating in, as well as letting members know when volunteers are needed to help support these activities. The newsletter will continue to grow, develop and evolve. Currently, we will be issuing the newsletter on a quarterly basis, but that frequency could change over time. We have also discussed creating a WSWA website. If anyone out there has website design expertise, please contact Susan Jones (304-258-6122).

The Board of Directors, Officers and general membership are excited about the future activities of the WSWA. We hope the membership will continue to support these activities. One thing we need is to increase our membership. We have a total of 29 members who have paid 2012 dues. There are many members who paid in previous years, but who have not paid membership dues in the 2012 fiscal year. We encourage all of those members to contact Treasurer, Andy Swaim (304-258-0418), to bring your membership up to date.

**Thanks for your continued interest and support of the Warm Springs Watershed Association!**

### WSWA Officers and Board Members

President: Kate Lehman 304-279-0717.....goldfairy39@gmail.com  
 Vice President: Betty Harmison.....304-258-1088  
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