



WSWA Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

Conference on Supporting WV's WIP a Success

On March 1st WSWA hosted a conference at the Board of Education in Berkeley Springs to discuss the various efforts of local community agencies and civic groups to meet the goals of the WV Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The intent of the conference was to highlight those civic and governmental agencies that have actively worked on projects to meet the objectives of the WIP and to indicate how watershed associations and other civic organizations can partner with local governments and state agencies on projects that make a real-world impact in terms of voluntary compliance with WV's WIP goals.

Guest Speaker, Rich Batiuk of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, gave the keynote speech highlighting the actions West Virginia has taken that are making a difference and how that progress is being acknowledged in our local streams and watersheds. He emphasized how EPA can further support local efforts to make a difference in local communities.

Other speakers at the conference included Lucinda Power of the EPA and Alana Hartman of the WV DEP. Ms. Power spoke on the role of Morgan County in helping WV reach its WIP goals. Ms. Hartman spoke on the importance of tracking, verifying and reporting Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to help Morgan County meet the WIP goals.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion of the projects undertaken locally that help WV meet WIP goals. Mayor Susan Webster described the Town of Bath's street sweeping project to clear debris before it enters the Run; Matt Pennington of Region 9 spoke about a project that will add 10 rain barrels around town to help catch the first inch of stormwater; Town Councilwoman Elizabeth Skinner spoke about Greenway Cemetery Board's efforts with CommuniTree to mitigate the effects of erosion in the cemetery by planting trees; and Gale Foulds, president of the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, described the tree planting project that took place at the Morgan County

WHAT IS A WIP?

Some of you may be asking: "Just what the heck is a WIP?" The WV (Phase II) WIP defines the process of how WV, in partnership with federal and local governments, will achieve the reduction of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. As part of the six watershed states and the District of Columbia, WV was required to develop a WIP that would describe the strategies to address its major pollution areas: Wastewater, Developed Lands and Industrial (urban runoff), Agriculture, Forest, and Other.

The EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program determined that WV would be required to meet pollution load reductions for sediment by 6%, nitrogen by 33%, and phosphorus by 35% from sources such as agriculture, wastewater treatment facilities, non-point storm water runoff and permitted storm water. The WIP shows how WV, in partnership with federal and local governments, will achieve and maintain the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment allocations necessary to meet Bay water quality standards.

The WV Phase II WIP can be found at:
http://www.wvca.us/bay/files/bay_documents/253_WV_WIP_Final-Phase_II_03292012.pdf

Business Park and was the result of the cooperative action between SCWA and Herb Peddicord, Chesapeake Bay Forester. Ms. Foulds also described the effort to build a permeable paving driveway at a local business in the Park to help with stormwater runoff using a 319 grant.

Annual Meeting -- April 30th

The WSWA annual meeting will be held at the Board of Education building at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 30th. This date is a change from the one reported in the last newsletter. Guest speaker Kathy Bilton of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society will join us and give a presentation on wildflowers of the Eastern Panhandle. The business portion of the meeting will include the following:

- President's overview of previous year and Treasurer's Report
- Description of standing committees and request for volunteers
- Election of new board members

Refreshments will be served so please come join us for this important meeting and learn about the status of the goals and priorities of your Warm Springs watershed. More details will be sent out in an email prior to the meeting.

Volunteers Needed for Plant Fair & County Fair

Volunteers are needed to staff the booths for the Plant Fair, sponsored by the Morgan County Master Gardeners, on May 10 and 11 and for the County Fair on July 27 and 28. Please join us for great opportunities to reach out to the citizens of Morgan County – young and old – and help educate them on ways to restore, protect, and preserve the Run. We will be taking pictures of people by the Run at the Plant Fair and we will be showing off macroinvertebrates at the County Fair. Call Kate Lehman at 304-279-0717 if you are interested in helping out.

WSWA Website is Here!

The WSWA website is up and running and can be found at:

<http://wsawv.wordpress.com/>



President's Perspective *by Kate Lehman*

Sh*t Happens...And Then What? Remember this movie scene? Forrest Gump was running across the country when a bumper sticker author asked him for a pithy quote. At that very moment, Gump stepped in a pile of dog excrement. The other guy replied: "Whoa! Man, you just ran through a big pile of dog sh*t!" Gump replied "It happens."

For as long as the dog has been a human companion, its waste has posed a menace to nose and foot. Indeed, various studies have shown that almost half of all dog owners fail to pick up and properly dispose of their pets' crap. Now DNA tests, which can distinguish between canine and other sources of keester cakes, reveal that dog poop is also a significant environmental pollutant to streams and waterways.

Dog doo left lying on the ground can be picked up by stormwater runoff and washed into storm drains or nearby waterways. In communities like ours, where stormwater is not treated by the sewage treatment plant, untreated butt nuts can cause significant water pollution.

Decaying dog logs consume oxygen and sometimes release ammonia. Low oxygen levels and excess ammonia can damage the health of fish and other aquatic life. Colon cannonballs also contain nutrients that promote weed and algae growth, which lead to another set of aquatic problems.

Lawn fertilizers, rinse water from driveways and motor oil, which often end up in streams and lakes, cause the same problems. However, mongrel manure (as well as purebred patties) also contains bacteria, viruses and parasites that can threaten the health of humans, other pets and wildlife.

Dog feces may not be the largest or most toxic pollutant in urban waterways, but it is one of many little sources of pollution that add up to a big problem. And it's a problem that pet owners can solve by picking up and properly disposing of their dog's dung.

Indeed, the Town of Bath has an ordinance that makes not cleaning up one's dog egesta on public property a fineable offense. Given the number of poopsicles found recently in various green spaces around town, perhaps enforcement of this ordinance could be a significant source of income for the municipality.

Seriously, wouldn't it be nice if people felt a sense of concern for the environment in ways large and small and took care of the sh*t for which they are responsible? It could happen.

Make-It-Shine Report

Though April 3rd dawned sunny and inviting, it was a cold and windy spring day that greeted the 15 volunteers who met to clean the Run from the Board of Education to Jimstown Rd. The handsome and hardy band of ‘Shiners is shown in the following photograph:

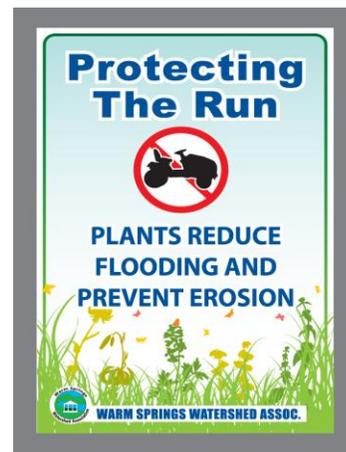


Our thanks to all for braving the elements and helping make the Run look more beautiful. The following pictures show part of the haul taken out at Jimstown Road and then behind the Water Bottling parking lot.



Widmyer Wetlands Update

Members of WSWA and the EPCD met with Rick Weber, principal of Widmyer Elementary School, and Alton Yost, Head of Buildings and Maintenance, on March 5th to discuss educational signage and maintenance for the wetlands area. This was a very productive meeting that saw interest in installing 3-4 signs in the area and on Rt. 522 and the importance of not mowing in this area. Heather Ishman of EPCD and Leigh Jenkins, teacher at BSHS, were able to work a potential partnership between teachers and students to design the signs for the wetlands and to participate in the maintenance of the wetlands. The attached sign is a model of the type of sign that could be installed on 522 and in the area around the Widmyer Wetlands.



Educational kiosks are also planned for the wetlands. Kate Lehman has suggested the following topics be described on the kiosks:

- The importance of wetland areas or wetlands as an ecological system
- Native flora and fauna in the wetlands, possibly with some mention of invasive species
- Identification of fauna and flora that might be found in this area that is considered a” nuisance” to humans but is beneficial to wildlife
- The importance of a riparian buffer to stream health

Feedback is welcome on topics that might eventually be highlighted on educational kiosks. Any and all ideas are still open for consideration at this point; however, we would like to get going on the message we want to convey on the kiosks.

Calendar of Events

April 18	North Berkeley Rail Trail Walk, 4:00 from Jimstown Rd to Sandmine Rd (Bill Clark to lead)
April 24-25	Stream Monitoring Classes, Cacapon State Park
April 30	Annual Meeting, 7:00pm Board of Education
May 10-11	WSWA Booth at Master Gardener Annual Plant Fair
May 22	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00pm Extension Office
June 26	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00pm Extension Office

2013 WSWA Stream Monitoring Classes

Glenn Nelson, head of the WV Save Our Streams program, will be in Morgan County on Wednesday, April 24th and Thursday, April 25th to conduct water monitoring classes.

On **Wednesday from 11AM-4PM** we will learn about collecting and monitoring aquatic macroinvertebrates.

On **Thursday from 10AM-3PM** we will learn about assessing and documenting habitat as well as how to do the chemical analysis of the water.

Both classes will be held at the Nature Center at Cacapon State Park. Please bring your own lunch. It is important to wear clothing that will allow you to go into the Run. If you don't have waders or high boots, you may want to bring a change of clothing in the event you do get wet.

These classes will prepare people to apply for certification at level 1, 2, or 3 in the WV Save Our Streams program. It is not necessary to take both sections of this class, although it would be helpful to do so. Glenn will do some hands on work with those people interested in being certified for level three certification.

Please let Kate Lehman (304-279-0717) know of your intent to attend part or the entire program no later than Monday, April 22.

KUDOS

Andy Swaim has been selected the *WSWA Volunteer of the Year!* Many thanks to Andy for all his hard work as Treasurer of WSWA and for his participation on the Stream Monitoring Team.

Jim Price has stepped down as a member of the Board of Directors. We are grateful to Jim for his service to WSWA.

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

WSWA Officers and Board Members

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