



# SOMERSET COUNTY CONSERVANCY Newsletter

## 5 year Strategic Plan being developed

Fall 2008

The Conservancy is in the process of developing a new five year strategic plan. Reviewing and setting our goals for the future. We are in the thirteenth year of operation and growing. The Board of Directors would like to invite our general membership to participate in the planning by submitting suggestions and ideas for where and how you would like to see the Conservancy grow. Please submit suggestions to any Board Member or send them to P.O. Box 240, Somerset, PA 15501.

## Repairs completed on Oaks Trail

Thanks to Somerset Conservation District and a DCED grant and the assistance of State Senator Rich Kasunic, the needed repairs to the inlet structure and the replacement of limestone to the passive treatment pond were made possible. For a number of years, the inlet to the treatment system along Oven Run was constantly clogging and not allowing water to pass through the system because of leaves and debris that would clog the inlet pipe. With the help from the Senator's office, the Conservation District applied for a DCED grant and was awarded a \$19,800 grant to make the needed repairs to the system. Included in these repairs were upgrading the inlet structure to prevent leaves and debris from entering at the concrete intake along the stream and a new valve which was installed to allow for cleanout of the intake structure.



## Kings Bridge Complete

The reconstruction project of Kings Bridge over Laurel Hill Creek is complete. The next time you're traveling on Pa. Route 653 stop and have a look at the reconstructed covered bridge.

Inside this issue:

<b>President's Corner</b>	<i>page</i> 2
<b>In Memoriam</b>	<i>Page</i> 2
<b>Mallards Rest</b>	<i>Page</i> 3
<b>Picnic</b>	<i>Page</i> 3
<b>Your Invited</b>	<i>Page</i> 4
<b>News from Wells Creek</b>	<i>Page</i> 5
<b>Membership</b>	<i>page</i> 6

## The Presidents Corner

### The Problem with Kimberly Run Natural Area

Our Kimberly Run Natural Area has one big drawback. It is landlocked; there is no safe good way to enter the property. We have patiently been looking for good access for years. Our options are to acquire an easement across a neighboring property or to acquire an entire property or portion of a neighboring property. In order to attain an access, because we are a 501(c)(3) we can offer several tax deductible options or an outright purchase or combination of reduced price with tax deductible options. We are very hopeful that we can accomplish getting access by one of these means.



### In Memoriam

Of

#### Lester McNutt

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Lester McNutt. Lester was a great outdoorsman and conservationist. Lester was one of the founding board members of this conservancy. He served many years as our Treasurer and was the Coordinator of the Casselman River Conservation Plan done by the Conservancy. Lester was board member of Somerset Conservation District; chairman of the Water Resources Committee for the Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC and D); board member and chairman of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project, (SCRIP); president of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited; treasurer of the Mid-Atlantic RC and D Council; former state federation delegate for the Somerset County Sportsmen's League; co-chairman of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited's Environmental Committee; and chairman of the feasibility committee for the public acquisition of the Manufacturer's Water Co. Properties. He will be sadly missed.

### PGC trapping and banding ducks at Mallards Rest

Travis Anderson, Conservation Officer of the Pennsylvania Game Commission trapped and banded a total of 45 wood ducks at the project site this year. No mallards were caught this year. The SCC has acquired a dozen mallard nesting structures for our properties so perhaps the numbers will increase in the future. Please sign up to help install these on the spring.

### Donations in Memoriam

of

#### *Lester McNutt*

**Jim & Meg Moses**

**Jeff & Retta Payne**

**Roger & Cathy Latuch**

**Dave & Nancy Mankamyer**

**Lester Brunell**

## Annual Picnic

This years Annual Picnic was held in September at the Kimberly Run Natural Area pavilion. It was a covered dish event with many delicious dishes prepared and a main course of bison burgers supplied by Roger & Cathy Latuch. The dreary weather kept attendance down, but by afternoon the sun came out and picnickers were able to enjoy a two mile hike along the walking trail recently constructed.



## WANTED

### Work Party Volunteers

The SCC has numerous work parties throughout the year to plant trees, make trails, do cleanups at our sites and other tasks. This is a great opportunity for members to get involved, meet the board members and others, and to do a good deed for the day. We always seem to have fun in one of our beautiful projects. Anyone interested in participating in one or more work parties during the year can contact Jim Moses at [jrmoses@shol.com](mailto:jrmoses@shol.com)

*to get on an e-mail list of upcoming work events.*



Danielle & Victoria Walker get a close up look at a Red Backed Salamander. They are the daughters of Howard and Paula Walker.

### Attention Hunters SCC has a Portable Tree Stand Policy

1. Written permission is required from the Conservancy.
  2. Only portable tree stands which do not damage trees or bark may be used.
  3. Tree stands may be left for the deer season but **must be removed from the tree by January 20<sup>th</sup> the following year.**
  4. No tree stand may be installed before October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  5. SCC is not responsible for injury to the user.
  6. SCC is not responsible for loss or damage to tree stands left on our property.
  7. Any tree stand found damaging trees will be removed.
- Any tree stand not removed by the deadline will be removed.

You are invited to  
***The Annual Board of Directors  
and  
Membership Banquet***  
Of the  
**The Somerset County Conservancy**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

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

**New Location  
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  
Entertainment: The Stonycreek, Beginning to  
End**

**By Dave Escherich**

**\$20.00 per person at the door**

**Reservations required 814-445-4850 or  
jrmoses@shol.com**

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## News from Wells Creek Watershed Association

On September twentieth of this year, the Wells Creek Watershed Association had its annual cleanup/repair project and annual meeting. We cleaned up all the trash along Listie Road from Route 281 to Welsh Hill Road. We picked up about twelve bags of trash-plus a baseball, a screwdriver, a telephone card and a Lottery ticket. Not bad for a clean-up but every time I walk along a highway, I find something useful. However, that is not what this article is about.

Each year, WCWA does some kind of project in September, before our annual meeting which is held at Bob Bastian's Farm at one in the afternoon followed, by a picnic lunch. Last year, we had to re-schedule our meeting because we did not have a quorum of 10% of the membership present. This year, we had to sort of "draft" two ladies (Bob's wife and John Pile's mother) who normally would not have attended, to constitute a quorum. WCWA has ninety members but could not get nine to attend on their own. This is a problem with most small non-profits. The members pay their dues and tend to forget about it until it comes time to pay their dues again, But that is not how it works - certain things are required for incorporated non- profits to operate and a quorum is one thing that is necessary at meetings in order for the proceedings to be legitimate. This problem also exists at SCRIP. We had to cancel our August meeting because it was clear that we would not have a quorum. The fact that it would involve a half-mile walk through the woods to the meeting site might have been a factor.

You are probably wondering what this is doing in a SCRIP & SCC newsletter. The answer is that SCRIP & SCC are advocacy associations of environmentally minded people who want to improve the environment and many belong to organizations such as WCWA; and they seldom if ever attend meetings of their own organizations. Without participation of its members, an organization will not last . The same people at every meeting will not have all the ideas that a vibrant organization needs and if those attending don't constitute a quorum, the meeting is a waste of time.

Another problem that is prevalent in our field is that we have almost no young people participating in the daily operations of the organizations. The exceptions are Americorp persons and the young guys who help who help us with the fish stocking each year along with some random trash pick -ups. You never see them at a meeting. If we are to be successful in our operations, we need everyone's help with special emphasis on everyone.



Thurman Korn, WCWA President

### **Reminder**

Don't forget to replace your smoke detector batteries.

**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

EDITOR—

Jim Moses

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SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS TO

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