



Somerset County Conservancy A Charitable Trust

www.somersetcountyconservancy.org

Newsletter

Spring / Summer
2016

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Honors the Somerset County Conservancy

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology held its three day annual meeting recently in Somerset County. The statewide organization keeps records that track common and uncommon birds throughout the state and the more than 500 member organization also promotes and works on bird conservation programs and projects. During its field trips in Somerset County, members identified more than 170 bird species in the county. The society also presented its Conservation Award to the Somerset County Conservancy to recognize the non-profit land trust's contributions toward the efforts to rehabilitate Somerset Lake and the creation of the Somerset Lake Nature Park as well as for its preservation of the Kimberly Run Natural Area and capabilities to facilitate the ownership of AMD treatment sites in the Stonycreek and Casselman River watersheds. Conservancy Treasurer, Jeff Payne, noted that "It is nice to have the Conservancy recognized for its long term natural resource stewardship and preservation efforts in Somerset County."



Somerset County Conservancy members Bob Hook, Jeff Payne and Lester Brunell accept the Conservation Award from the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology.

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Membership Renewal

If you haven't renewed your SCC membership for 2016 please do it today. The application form is on the last page of the Newsletter.

Lake Fest 2016

The Somerset Lake Action Committee & the Somerset County Parks and Recreation Board sponsored a “Day at the Lake” fest on June 4th. Although the weather was threatening approximately 450 people attended to enjoy a day of Boating, Fishing, Birding, Kids active’s Music and good food. The theme of the day was the celebration of the new Somerset Lake Nature Park and the 150th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (see article reprinted from the Somerset Daily American). During the live music performance around noon a mature Bald Eagle appeared near the boat dock and put on an exhibition for the crowd. Many people had the opportunity to paddle canoes, kayaks and paddle boards, learn to fish (for free) at the PAF&B jetty, go on birding walks along the trails at the Park and to enjoy the variety of kids activities while eating at the four food vender booths during the day.

State, County and local officials as well as representatives of local environmental groups and the PA Fish and Boat Commission spoke at the event about the importance of Somerset Lake and Somerset Lake Nature Park for the local community and visitors from afar. Timelines for rehabilitating the dam and working on the Nature Park were discussed and everyone enjoyed the day.



Commission celebrates 150 years during Lake Fest

(reprinted from the Somerset Daily American)

To commemorate and solidify the 150th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) a new book will be released in early July entitled, "To Protect, Conserve and Enhance : The History of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission." The 400-page book full of vintage photos and artwork and written by Kenneth C. Wolensky Ed. D., will trace the Commission from its origin to the present day.

According to PFBC Executive Director John Arway, "This history book not only chronicles the PFBC's past and its accomplishments, it also serve as a history of the emergence of Pennsylvania fishing and boating as we know it today. You will want this book for your personal collection." Information on how to purchase the book will appear soon on the Commission web site at www.fishandboat.com.

Locally the year- long celebration came to Somerset County at the recent Lake Fest event with Executive Director John Arway and Policy Director Tim Schaeffer attending. A long list of special guests spoke regarding the important role of the Commission and its connection to the natural resources and recreation in Somerset County.

Somerset County Commissioner James T. Yoder presented Arway with a Proclamation from the county designating June 4, 2016 as Fish and Boat Commission Day in Somerset County. State Senator Pat Stefano said, "I wish the Commission a happy birthday and thank them for all they do to generate and sustain tourism in the entire state."

State Representatives Carl Metzgar and Bryan Barbin presented the Commission with a Citation form the state House of Representatives for the agency's contributions to the citizens of the state.

Somerset Lake Action Committee Chairman Jeff Payne noted that, "The PFBC is the key agency that works to make our water resources viable for recreation and all other important uses."

Somerset Conservation District board member Dave Mankamyer referenced that, "The District and the PFBC go back a long way and have had a positive and productive relationship for decades."

Other speakers included Executive Director of the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce Ron Aldom, President of the Somerset County Conservancy Jim Moses, Somerset County Farm Bureau Environmental Coordinator Tom Croner, Chairperson of the Somerset County Parks and Recreation Board Meg Moses, President of the Somerset County Sportsmen's League Rich Berkley, Vice Chairman of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project Joe Gorden, member of the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited Rick Buchanan and Somerset Township Supervisor Dan Halverson.

As Arway pointed out "It is certainly significant for Somerset County to recognize the Commission since the county and Somerset Lake serve as home to the Southwest Regional Office of the PFBC that houses law enforcement, fishery biologists and education staff that cover the entire southwestern part of the state."

Working for the Conservancy

Logan Lichvar, a graduate of North Star High School in Boswell, has returned as the intern for the Conservancy for the summer of 2016. He is currently attending California University of Pennsylvania and majoring in Environmental Science with a concentration in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology where he is scheduled to complete the four year degree in three years. He has also been on the Dean's List every semester.

Logan and Somerset Conservation District intern, Luke Layton, through the cooperative agreement with the District, also work together on both Conservancy and District projects as assigned.

Logan is also working on a college credit project over the summer that involves updating information and data on the Conservancy's Kimberly Run Natural Area.

Logan is the son of Becky and Len Lichvar.



4-H Club, Country Clovers Community Service Project benefits KRNA

Members of the Somerset County 4-H Club, Country Clovers, held their meeting at Kimberly Run Natural Area on May 16th. This is the 2nd year that that club completed a service project at this site. Many members, parents and club leaders participated in stacking wood and clearing trails. Their meeting was held around the campfire and the group finished the evening off with a Mountain Pie Contest.



The cabin and trails at Kimberly Run serve as a fantastic site to recreate, hold meetings, and enjoy the old growth pines and great outdoors of Somerset County. Thank you to the Somerset Conservancy for the opportunity to introduce such a gem to our area youth!

EARTH DAY APRIL 22

by Lester Brunell

To YOU, our loyal supporters. The board of directors wish to thank you for giving our Conservancy the wherewithal to be a part of the Earth Day Movement.

Each year, Earth Day April 22 marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Although mainstream America largely remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* in 1962. Her book sold more than 5000,000 copies in 24 countries. The book began to raise public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and public health.

Rachel Carson, 1907-1946, was born in Springdale, Pennsylvania, in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. She was a biologist for several federal government agencies. The Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg is the location of offices of the Department Conservation and Natural Resources.

The idea for a national day to focus on the environment came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, U.S. Senator (D) from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Senator Nelson recognized that he could infuse the emerging consciousness about air and water pollution, to force environmental protection on the national political agenda.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting wide support across the country. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the U.S. Environment Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

The International Mother Earth Day was designated in 2009 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. It recognizes that "the earth and its ecosystems are our home"; "it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the earth". The term Mother Earth is used because it "reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit".

Earth Day has achieved its current status as the largest secular observance in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year, and a day of action that has changed human behavior and provoked policy changes.

See: How to Celebrate Earth Day at [http://www.wikihow.com/Celebrate-Earth Day](http://www.wikihow.com/Celebrate-Earth-Day).

Take a bow loyal supporter of our Conservancy

Outdoor Night at PNC Park Honors PA Fish and Boat Commission

Watershed Groups Display Information on Their Organizations

By Len Lichvar

The Pittsburgh Pirates hosted Outdoor Night at PNC Park in Pittsburgh on Wednesday May 25 where they recognized the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) during a pregame ceremony. Also a number of local conservation organizations were invited to participate and were also recognized during the on the field festivities.



They included L to R, Len Lichvar, District 4 PFBC Commissioner and District Manager of the Somerset Conservation District, Mia and Anne Daymut, of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Bob Hook, of the Somerset Lake Action Committee, Jim Moses, of the Somerset County Conservancy, Keith Largent, of the Somerset Conservation District, Frank Sojak and Kelsea Palmer of the Stonycreek –Conemaugh River Improvement Project and Jenna Shaffer, AmeriCorps member for the Mountain Watershed Association.

The Mountain Laurel and Forbes Trail Chapters of Trout Unlimited, Shade Creek Watershed Association and the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, in addition to the other organizations represented, all had information displays-plays along Federal Street adjacent to PNC Park prior to game time. *Photo by Steve Kralik, PFBC*

EDUCATION AT THE SOMERSET COUNTY CONSERVANCY

By Pam Diesel

“This is the best field trip I ever had.” “This is better than the zoo.” These quotes are from two third graders from Berlin elementary school at their field trip to Oak Trail or Oven Run on May 3, 2016. Mrs. Beth Anderson and the third graders from Berlin Elementary school completed their unit on wetlands and the treatment of mine drainage with a tour. During the tour there was collection of organisms in the lower retention ponds. Found at the site were dragonfly nymphs, damselfly nymphs, stonefly nymphs, tadpoles, frogs, crayfish and whirligig beetles. Assisting from the Somerset County Conservancy were Bob Hook, Lester Brunell, Jeff Payne, and Pam Diesel.



On May 24, 25, and 26, 2016 Mrs. Jennifer Brougher’s biology classes from Somerset Area Senior High School completed an analysis of Kimberly Run. Students collected vertebrates, invertebrates and macro invertebrate organisms. Water quality tests of dissolved oxygen, pH, alkalinity, nitrates and phosphates were completed on Kimberly Run. After collecting stream samples students used the Kimberly Run classroom to analyze water quality and identify organisms. They used microscopes, hand lens, and test kits provided by the Somerset County Conservancy. Logan Lichvar, SCC intern, Jim Moses and Pam Diesel, SCC board members assisted the Somerset biology students.



Somerset County Conservancy

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HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

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

Enclosed is: \$ 20 Individual Member

\$ 30 Family Member

\$ 75 Sustaining Member

\$100 Patron, Club, Organization Member

\$750 Lifetime Member

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