



TOBYHANNA CREEK  **TUNKHANNOCK CREEK**
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
 P O BOX 796
 POCONO LAKE PA 18347-0796

Phone: (570) 643-2001

Web Site: www.tctcwa.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Association Members,

Winter is leaving us and is taking with it its stark covering of snow, ice, and cold. Even though the environment seems more dormant at this time of the year, it will soon awaken as Springtime is quickly ushered in. Springtime will bring about the budding of flowers, leaves, and an increase in temperature to help plant and animal life thrive once again. Soon thereafter Summertime takes over and provides the strong sunlight used by plants, trees and the like for food, vitamins and growth. When summertime fades into Autumn the leaves fall off of the trees protecting the ground with a natural barrier to hold moisture in, as Mother Earth prepares for Winter once again. And another cycle of the four seasons have taken place. Something as natural as the four seasons is something we often take for granted. We are very lucky to have the opportunity to witness this marvel of nature, and fortunate to be able to enjoy it.

Each and every day this fantastic process is impeded and thwarted by the ongoing development that our area has experienced in recent years. As more and more people take residence in our beautiful watershed it becomes stressed by the building of houses, new roadways and development as a whole. It is extremely important to let your voice be heard and become an advocate for the watershed, and all of its life sustaining glory. It will be disastrous if the overall quality of our watershed becomes compromised and our water quality becomes impaired. The watershed supports life, and as such, we should support it, wholeheartedly and completely.

In this regard we have been hard at work. Over the past year we have focused on water quality analysis, educational initiatives, and have made recommendations towards a cleaner, healthier watershed. We have kept an eye on water quality, as well as wastewater treatment. I am very proud of our recent accomplishments, and feel excited about new initiatives we have introduced. I would like to thank all of you whom have supported the Watershed Association, and urge you to spread the word to everyone you know. Our continued success and energy depend upon you. Step up and become a part of the solution. I thank all of our dedicated volunteers, friends, and our great Board of Directors. We look forward to protecting and preserving our watershed for generations to come, and look forward to you sharing in this goal as well.

Sincerely,

Larry Gould, President

Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2008/2009

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Larry Gould President

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Allen Rodriguez

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Michelle deCastrogrene

MEMBERSHIP

By
Bill Nathan

OKAY. I'm preaching to the choir. I fully realize that most of the people reading this newsletter are already members of TC/TCWA, and we thank you for your support. But now, we're asking for a bit more.

Speak to your friends and neighbors. Talk to them about the dangers of excessive commercialization and development. Encourage them to write to their state senators and representatives when an issue involving landfill or wastewater management threatens our streams. When an opportunity arises for our County or one of our townships to protect a piece of property from commercial development, let's seize the opportunity and encourage our officials to take the appropriate action. **AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN THE TC/TCWA.** Our Pocono environment is worth the effort.

TC/TCWA at Work with Your Schools

Earlier this winter, TC/TCWA Board member, Bill Nathan, spoke to six classes of 7th graders at the Clear Run Intermediate School.

Invited by teacher Cathy Golomb, Bill talked about what happens to rain water when it hits the ground, what can we do to keep rainwater runoff from depositing pollutants into nearby streams, and how do various trees and shrubs protect our water from various forms of pollution. Bill and the students discussed the environmental impact of paving a driveway or a parking lot. Thanks to Ms. Golomb, the students already knew about the rain/evaporation cycle, and they knew about some of the factors that influence the movement of water over and through the ground. Now they know a bit more about the effects of depositing trash on the ground or throwing food particles down the kitchen sink drain.

Thanks for inviting us, Ms. Golomb.

(Give us a call if you'd like one of our members to speak to your school or community group.)

COMING SOON TO OUR AREA!

TC/TCWA has received grants to create two special ways to share information with the community about our watershed and environment.

EAT & LEARN

First, with the help of a WREN grant obtained in May 2008, we have been gathering information, editing and finalizing a special placemat program. The placemats will be distributed to and used by restaurants in our area. Starting this spring, you will be able to not only enjoy a meal but learn about our watershed as well. Two for the price of one!!!

READ & LEARN

A grant was obtained by a private foundation to update and reprint six brochures originally funded through a Growing Greener Grant from the Department of Environmental Protection. Five brochures have been completed and the sixth is currently being finalized.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

The TC/TCWA needs your help as a volunteer. There is no experience necessary. Please contact us to become an important part of our organization by volunteering a little of your time. Volunteering is a fun, rewarding experience. Your help is always needed and appreciated. There are many part time volunteering opportunities available. We would also like your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Contact us or drop by and visit us at one of our monthly Board meetings which take place on the fourth Thursday of every month 7:00 PM at the Nature Conservancy building in Long Pond.

Please get involved in your watershed. Just ask us how !

Annual Spring Workshop

Saturday May 16th 2009 9:00 AM-Noon

Kidder Township Municipal Building State Route 1003 off of Route 903 in Lake Harmony. Hosted by the Kidder Township Environmental Advisory Council . Free Admission. Learn about many environmental and watershed issues at this exciting workshop. Door prizes will be awarded. Call the Kidder Township EAC at (570) 722-0107 for more information and to sign up.

WATERWAZE RECAP AND PLANNING

By
Tom Eisler

ON MAY 16, 2008 the second annual WaterWaze Festival was held at the Northampton Community College in Monroe County. The Festival was coordinated by the Monroe County Watershed Alliance (MCWA).

Some 375 sixth grade students from Swiftwater Elementary Center, Pocono Elementary Center and Barrett Elementary Center attended the festival. The students were given the opportunity to learn about watersheds and wetlands. Information was provided by several professionals from various agencies in the area. In total, forty-five volunteers worked at the event.

Having served as a volunteer at the event for the second year, I found the information being conveyed very interesting and hopefully an inspiration to get our youth in touch with their environment.

This May, the Monroe MCWA will offer the third annual WaterWaze festival to 6th grade students of the Clear Run Intermediate School. PPL Corporation is once again providing funding for this educational event, and Coolbaugh Township is allowing use of their park. As an MCWA member, the TC/TCWA is assisting with the planning and implementation of WaterWaze, which includes topics such as watersheds, wetlands, stream studies, and groundwater.



Photo caption: *On behalf of PPL Corporation, Paul Canevari presents a donation in support of the MCWA's 2009 WaterWaze Festival to Trish Attardo, MCWA coordinator.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PAST PRESIDENT

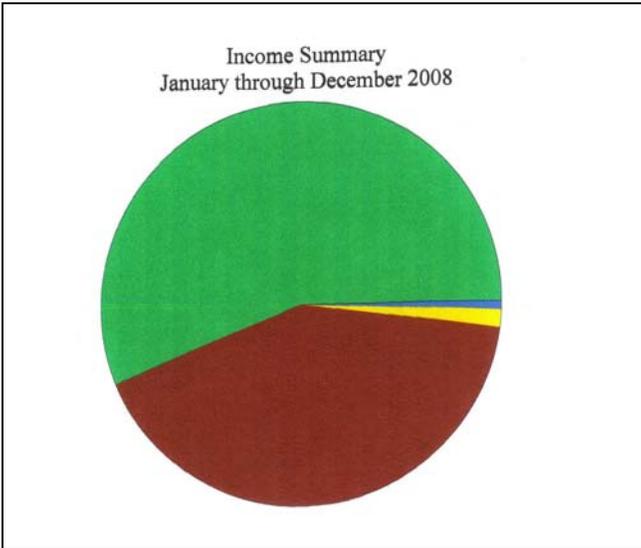
MICHAEL LORD

Michael has been accepted into the prestigious two year anesthesiology program. We will miss working with Michael but wish him much success in his new endeavor.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM TC/TCWA

Raising brook trout in a 55-gallon aquarium is no easy task. But, Cathy Golomb and her 7th grade life science classes at the Clear Run Intermediate School are trying their best to keep the trout alive. Delivered in November, the trout eggs hatched, absorbed their yolk sacs, and became “swim up fry” within a month. Since the hatching, 7th grade students have been taking turns overseeing the daily care of the trout and testing of the water, learning about trout needs, their preferred habitat, and their importance to us as indicators of water quality along the way. Ultimately, if this “experiment” survives until spring, the students will release the fingerling trout (that stage when they are longer than an inch) into the Tobyhanna Creek.

In order to offer this program to the school, the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited partnered with the school, TC/TCWA, and the Monroe County Conservation District to apply for the PA Council of Trout Unlimited and the PA Fish and Boat Commission “Trout in the Classroom Start-Up Grant.” The TC/TCWA provided a match of \$250 and an educational program to each of the six classes as part of our partnership. We hope that the program continues in future years so that we may continue to support the education of our youth about watersheds.

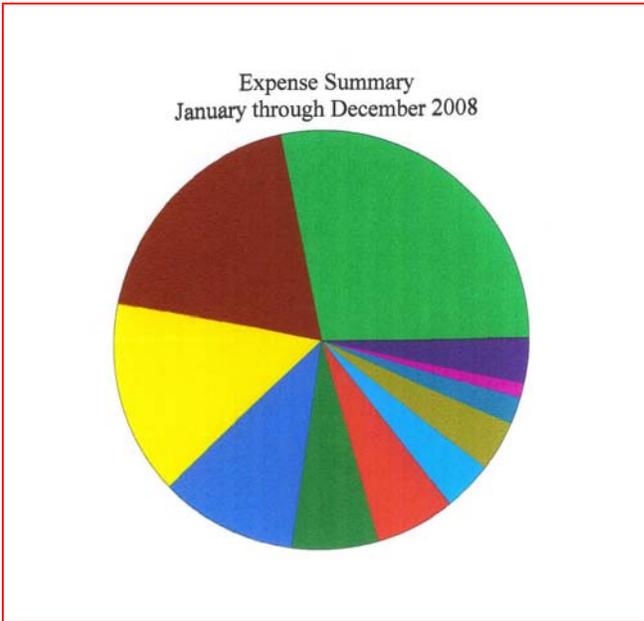


Income Summary

4000 · Member Dues	\$ 6,115.00
4100 · Grants	4,537.70
4999 · Interest Income	166.98
4150 · Miscellaneous Income	46.14
Total	\$10,865.82

Expense Summary

6670 · Program Expense	\$1,560.00
6260 · Printing and Reproduction	1,034.70
6180 · Insurance	838.00
6130 · Sec'y/Bkcp Expense	600.00
6140 · Contributions	372.82
6250 · Postage and Delivery	349.93
6810 · Web Site	215.40
6240 · Miscellaneous	213.09
6120 · Bank Service Charges	120.00
6340 · Telephone	68.06
Other	155.43
Total	\$5,527.43



**ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2008**



Twenty-two members of TC/TCWA attended the Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 28th to elect Directors to the Board and watch a slide presentation on Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels by Mary Pat Appel, Master Gardener Coordinator at the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Luzerne County; and Trish Attardo, Watershed Specialist for the Monroe County Conservation District. The program provided interesting variations on how to deal with stormwater runoff and still maintain a pleasing landscape.



Learning on the Trail

Everyone loves a field trip, but nothing beats a field trip on school property. Thanks to the TC/TCWA, Pocono Mountain West has a unique opportunity for students in the form of an outdoor classroom. A few years ago TC/TCWA constructed a boardwalk through a bog located behind the Sullivan Trail Campus. Bringing the classes out to the bog enhances their understanding of the importance of wetlands to our lives. The trail located on the Sullivan Trail Campus allows for nature to be brought into the classroom, with students getting down in the dirt. Often, it is the first time that students have ever looked closely at a leaf or have seen animal tracks. It gives them a better understanding of the environment around us. It allows them to observe, question, and discover. Everything that science should be.

This material could easily be taught using textbooks and worksheets, but not taught well. Students do not get to experience what the bog walk has to offer. It really enhances their understanding and makes learning fun for them. They get to spend the day outside and learn while they are doing it.

Leah A. Rinker
Earth Science Teacher
Sullivan Trail Campus

Open Space Public Walk



Top of the Mountain Open Space Advisory Committee is offering a free 3 hour outing exploring several of the public accessible open space properties in the Top of the Mountain Region. This outing, open to people of all ages, will be lead by members of the Regional Open Space Committee, along with Monroe County E.E. Center Environmental Education Coordinator, Roger Spotts. Interested participants will meet at the Austin T. Blakeslee natural Area on Route 115, south of Blakeslee at 9am. We will explore this beautiful natural area and then travel to another nearby open space acquisition. Don't miss out on this opportunity to see firsthand how the successful Monroe County Open Space Program is working to preserve unique and beautiful properties for use by everyone. Participants should wear sturdy footwear and dress for a short hike.

For more information please call Roger Spotts at the E.E. Center at (570) 629-3061.

Monroe County Environmental Education Center
8050 Running Valley Rd., Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Phone: (570) 629-3061 E-mail: rsmccd@ptd.net
Website: mcconservation.org

MONITORING MATTERS

Over the past year, we have been working to improve our stream monitoring program. Stream depth gages, which had been washed away in the major storms of recent years, were replaced. We have recorded GPS coordinates for, taken photos of, and remapped all monitoring sites. This winter, several years-worth of data was entered into spreadsheets, which we will be using to log our data from this point forward. This year, we will continue to strengthen the monitoring program through a meeting of our volunteer stream watchers in June. If you would like to become a volunteer stream monitor, please call us at 570-643-2001 (leave a message), and we will set you up with a site and train you to perform this simple task that takes just an hour of your time once per month.

2008 MACROINVERTEBRATE SURVEY OF THE TC/TCWA WATERSHED

This past fall was the twelfth year for our macroinvertebrate survey of the watershed. A total of twenty-one sites were surveyed, ten by the County Planning Commission and eleven for the TC/TCWA. The survey is conducted by collecting and counting the number of benthic (bottom-dwelling) macroinvertebrates (animals without a backbone which can be seen by the naked eye) in each of the represented taxonomic groups. Each group varies in its sensitivity to pollution, making these critters great indicators of water quality.

At this time, we are awaiting the results for the ten sites sampled by the County. In 2008, the County switched to a new protocol which matches the PA Department of Environmental Protection protocol. This protocol uses different sampling techniques and identifies the macroinvertebrates to the genus level, not the family level as in the past. The change in protocol has delayed our receipt of the results, which we hope to make available by June on our website.

The following list shows the biological assessment rating of the eleven sites sampled for the TC/TCWA from highest to lowest quality.

<u>Optimal:</u>
Frame Cabin Run
Two Mile Run
Beaver Creek at Upper Tunkhannock
Pollys Run
Tobyhanna upstream Pollys Run
Tobyhanna upstream Pocono Lake
Upper Tunkhannock upstream Pocono Lake
<u>Slightly Impaired:</u>
Tobyhanna upstream Dream Mile
Tobyhanna downstream Polly's Run
<u>Moderately Impaired:</u>
NONE
<u>Severly Impaired:</u>
Pocono Summit Creek West Rt.380
Hawkey Run West Rt. 380

Frame Cabin Run (our "Exceptional Value" reference stream), Two Mile Run, and Beaver Creek had the highest quality rating of 28 out of a maximum of 30. All other streams in the optimal category received a score of 26.

For the second year in a row, the Tobyhanna Creek upstream of Pollys Run (downstream of the Coolbaugh Township wastewater treatment facility) received an optimal score of 26. This is additional proof that the expanded treatment plant is properly treating incoming effluent prior to discharge into the Creek.

Two of our smaller streams, which both flow from a lake and underneath I-380 on their way to Stillwater Lake, received scores of 14 and 12 out of 30, which indicates severe impairment. Because Pocono Summit Creek and Hawkey Run are smaller streams, they are more susceptible to the low-flows encountered during sampling. Additionally, Hawkey Run has been impacted by a malfunctioning wastewater pump station within the Stillwater Lakes Civic Association community on the east side of I-380. The TC/TCWA recently sent a letter to the operators of this station expressing our concern on this matter.

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subscription.
We need your help and support.

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**MAY IS
WATERSHED AWARENESS MONTH**

TC/TCWAMS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 3, 2009 – 1:00 PM - TC/TCWA Spring Clean Up - Rt. 423
Volunteers needed. Bring gloves. Bags and vests will be provided –
Meet at the first parking lot on the left past Lake Naomi Club House.
For information and /or to volunteer contact us. Call Paula at (570) 646-
5206 or e-mail guenst@epix.net.



Thursday, August 27, 2009 – 7:00 pm: TC/TCWA Annual meeting.
Location: The Nature Conservancy on Long Pond Road in Long Pond,
PA. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



Saturday, July 11, 2009 – 11:00 am to Noon:

A VERY SPECIAL EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

“Walking the Boardwalk” – Take a tour along the wetland trail at the
Pocono Mt. West High School Campus on Rt. 940. Learn more about
the wetlands on the Pocono Plateau. The tour is free of charge. Poconos
naturalist John Serrao will be your guide. His book The Natural Pocono
Mountains will be available for purchase. For additional information, call
Paula at (570) 646-5206.



A Call for Volunteers -- Join Us!

If you are interested in participating in the successes of the TC/TC WA through the donation of your time, please complete this form. We will try to match your skills, interests, and availability with a suitable project or task.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Skills: (check all that apply)

- Computer
- Administrative
- Writing
- People skills
- Manual labor
- Accounting
- Biological, chemical, or physical sciences
- Other _____

Our current and future needs: (check any of interest)

- Semiannual litter cleanup (Spring and Fall)
- Stream monitor (monthly)
- PA Watersheds Database data entry (monthly)
- Invasive plant inventory (future project)
- Web master (ongoing)
- Income tax returns (annual)
- Newsletter article writer (ongoing or as needed)
- Grant writer (as needed)
- Volunteer coordinator (ongoing)
- Board member (monthly meetings and ongoing)
- Educator for TC/TC WA Power Point and wetland trail programs (as needed)

Availability: (check all that apply)

- Year-round (long-term)
- Over the summer (seasonally)
- On an as-needed basis (short-term)

Please mail completed form to:

TC/TC WA

PO Box 796

Pocono Lake, PA 18347

Thanks for your interest!

REQUESTED CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

Single Membership _____ \$20

Family Membership _____ \$30

Corporate Membership _____ \$150

Adopt-A-Stream Membership _____ \$300

(This membership covers the cost for all tests
at a given stream site for one year)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

City State Zip Code

IS THIS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS YES () NO ()

Would you like to receive the e-mail agenda and minutes of our board meetings? If so, please include your e-mail address if we do not have it. _____

COMMENTS

Please make checks payable to TC/TC WA and mail them to:

TC/TC WA
PO Box 796
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