

Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association Newsletter

September 2003

September Program Conodoguinet Creek Stream Flow And Land Use Change

**Thursday September 25, 7:00 pm
Carlisle Recreation Center, 415 Franklin Street, Carlisle**

Bruce Lindsey will report on a research project to analyze the peak flows in Conodoguinet Creek over a long period, and to determine whether or not observed changes could be attributed to changes in land use.

Lindsey received a B.S in Agricultural Engineering from Penn State in 1984. He began working with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1992, where he is currently employed as a hydrologist. He has conducted studies of groundwater residence time and nitrogen transport, surface-water interaction and nutrients and bacteria in groundwater. His work on his masters degree in geoenvironmental studies at Shippensburg University is the basis for his talk.

See related article below on stream flows and stream hydrographs.

Shad in the Conodoguinet Creek? We Don't Know By Gil Freedman

Adult migration upstream: This spring about 135,000 shad were lifted over Conowingo Dam, the most downstream dam on the Susquehanna. As of May 31, only 2,400 passed York Haven, or less than 2%. Many fish were presumably traveling through the intervening pools. Monitoring has been completed at Conowingo for this year. In 2002 117,000 shad passed Conowingo Dam, and in 2001, nearly 200,000.

Details are available at the home page of Fish & Boat Commission, <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/>. Look for Susquehanna River diagram and "Shad 2003" hot links in the middle of the page.

We're not aware of any sightings above York Haven, such as the Conodoguinet, or the river at Harrisburg. Fish could've been hidden by the high flows. With the removal of Good Hope dam in 2001 and Black dam near Newville this year, shad have almost 40 miles of unimpeded passage up the creek.

Babies: Shad fry have been stocked each June at the North Middleton park. These fish (and any wild fry) remain in the creek over the summer before heading downstream for salt water. By then they've grown to 4 inches or larger. Their schools have been sighted in the creek by our Kurt Henry, and the fish commission's Scot Carney. The schools might be 10 feet in diameter, with the small fish flashing silver as they chop the surface, feeding.

Success Story
Clean-up at Good Hope Dam site
By Kurt Henry

The Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association (CCWA) recently led a highly successful creek cleanup effort in conjunction with creek restoration activities following the removal of the Good Hope Mill Dam in the fall of 2001. Since the dam's removal, the creek bed and banks have been able to stabilize. The cleanup activity had to be postponed from last year due to high water since last fall.

On Saturday, July 19, about 25 people, the majority of whom were CCWA members, waded the creek to perform the cleanup. The group was able to cover over 1/2 mile of the creek in the former impoundment area immediately upstream from the former location of the Good Hope Mill dam. Waste Management donated two dumpsters for the effort. We collected over 1,000 pounds of tires, and lots of other junk. No kitchen sinks - but there were bed springs, a small refrigerator, cinder blocks, bottles, cans, rugs, chairs, and, to top it all off, several steps from a fire escape. Gil Freedman allowed us to use his flat bottom boat as a trash barge to get materials to the creek bank. Then, Dale Bentz, from Gleim Environmental Group, used a large wheel loader to pick up and move the junk along the bank to the dumpster location. Afterward, we had some snacks, partially paid for by Giant Foods.

Thanks go to all of the participants and the vendors who helped us with this project. We also thank the Good Hope Farms development for allowing us to use its park as our base of operations.

Conodoguinet Creek Featured on Watershed Weekly

Nice article, photos and videos of the Good Hope clean-up day. Thanks to board member Kelly Meinhart. Check it out at www.Watersheds.tv.



Phosphates In Home Detergents

By Gil Freedman

Recently I sampled the labels of popular liquid laundry and dish detergents in a Giant and Wal-Mart for phosphate content. Excess phosphate in the Creek, River and Chesapeake Bay causes over-fertilization of the water and undesirable algal blooms. Phosphates come not only from improperly treated municipal sewage, but also animal wastes.

Laundry Detergents: I looked at Purex, Gain, Pure Power and Tide. I was pleased that all indicated they contained no phosphate. Wal-Mart's Purex was only 40% of the unit price of the most expensive, Tide.

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Dish Detergents: Palmolive was lowest phosphate at 1.6%, well behind were Finast at 4%, and Electrosol and Cascade at 4.5%. The most expensive was Electrosol at Giant. The cheapest was Electrosol at Wal-Mart. Finast, a Giant product, was 22% more expensive than Wal-Mart's Electrosol.

CCWA HAS JOINED THE PENNSYLVANIA CAMPAIGN FOR CLEAN WATER

The purpose of the campaign is to unite organizations in a pro-active agenda to protect and restore Pennsylvania's water resources. Non-profit conservation, environmental, sportsmen's, civic, and faith organizations may become a member of the Campaign by signing its statement of principles.

The campaign and its members believe that sound water policies should keep clean water clean and restore damaged water quality and waterways; give people easy access to usable information and provide meaningful ways to participate in decision-making about water quality and quantity policies; ensure that water resource management plans and policies secure a sustainable supply of water for future uses, and protect water quality, habitat for aquatic life, and safe, clean drinking water; and firmly, fairly, and consistently enforce the law.

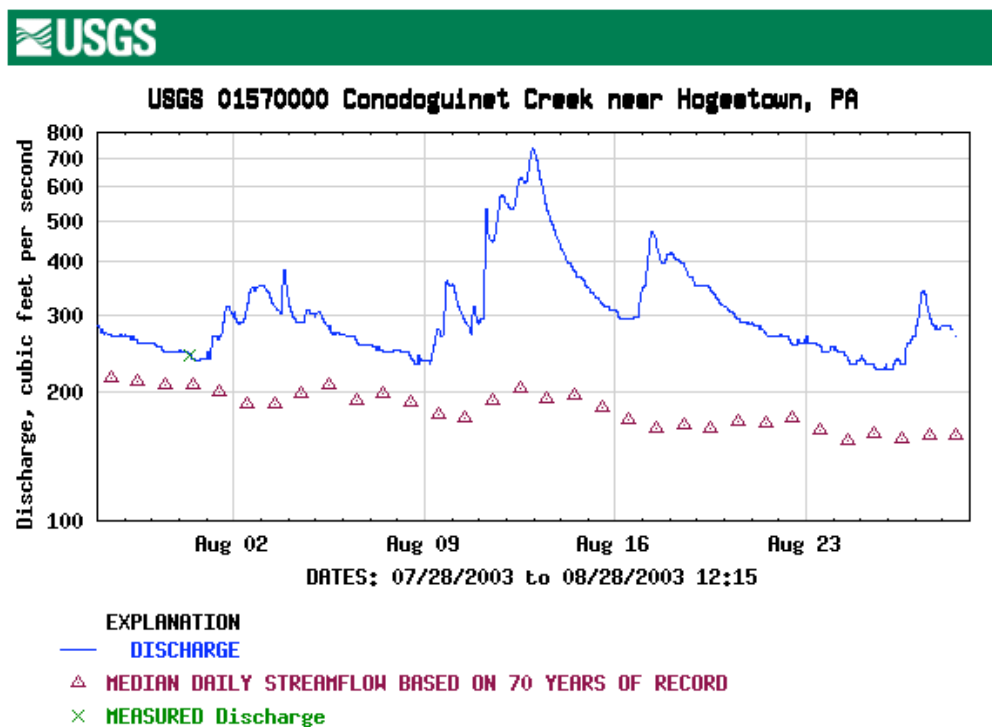
PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

Waterways and Wildlife - A Guide To Assessing And Improving Riparian Buffer Habitat 2003. Also includes curricula guides for various public school levels.
Cost \$10. Available from: **Penns Valley Conservation Association, PO Box 165, Aaronsburg, PA 16820**

What a difference a year makes!

By Jane Earle

Notice on the Conodoguinet Creek hydrographs that water levels and flows have been consistently above the average flow level for much of this summer. Last year the level was below average for much of the summer. The Conodoguinet Creek, however, has not experience the record high water levels that the Susquehanna River and other large creeks draining to the West Branch and the North Branch Susquehanna River experienced this summer. The Susquehanna River reached the 6 foot stage level several times, normal levels for the summertime are less than 4 feet and often just under 3 feet.



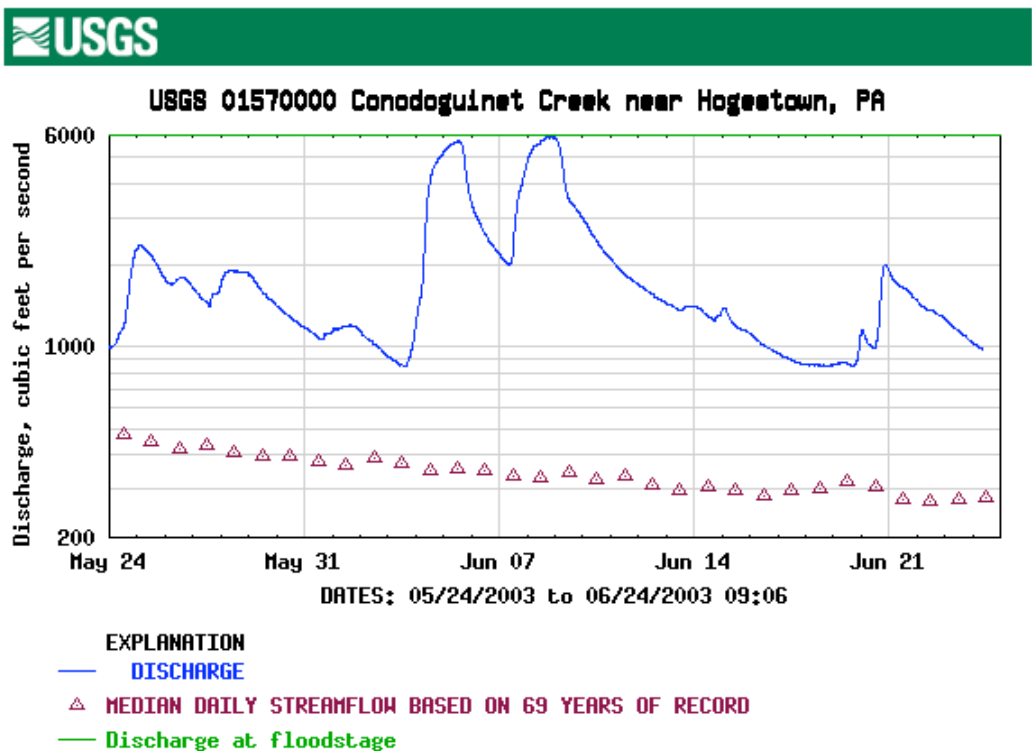
Provisional Data Subject to Revision

Ah Progress!???

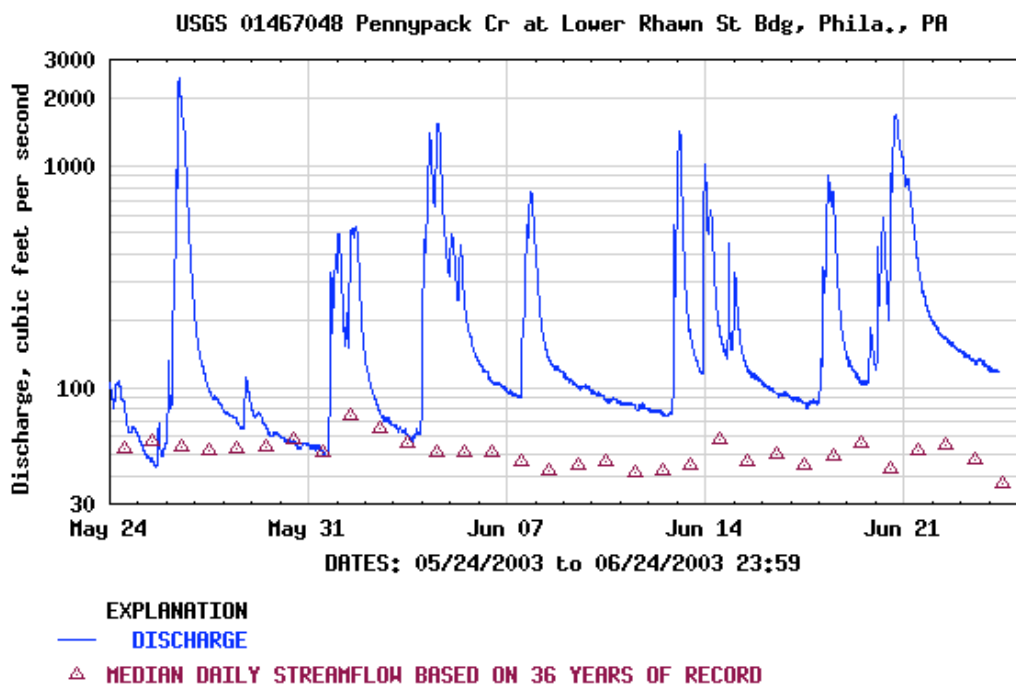
By Jane Earle

Here a paving, there a paving. It all adds up to more stormwater runoff and less groundwater replenishment. New developments seem to be popping up everywhere. Where will the next subdivision, superstore, warehouse, or truck terminal be located? What happens to the land? What happens to the local creek? The hydrographs below are for the Conodoguinet Creek and the Pennypack Creek for the period May 24, 2003 to June 21, 2003. The Pennypack Creek is in northeastern Philadelphia, which is essentially urbanized and paved, except for backyards,

streamside parks and small local parks. You can see from the graph, the flashy nature of Pennypack Creek, which makes conditions very difficult for colonization and survival of aquatic life.



Provisional Data Subject to Revision



Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association Officers and Board Members

President: Gill Freedman, 697-2513 or gil49@comcast.net
Vice president: Donald Seiple, Treasurer: Michael Foley,
Past President: Wilbur Wolf, Secretary: Susan Parry
Board Members: Kurt Henry, Evan Jenkins, Ray Stiteler, Diane Hollinger,
 Jerry Hollowell, John Perry, Holly Smith, David Simko, Chris
 Woltemade.
Membership: Kelly Meinhart and Andrew Donaldson
Web Page: Chris Woltemade
Newsletter Editor: Jane Earle

Membership dues for 2004 are due by end of December 2003. If you owe dues for 2004, please send your dues form and check to Kelly Meinhart. Last year, some members paid ahead for 2004. If you are not sure if you owe dues for 2004, please contact Kelly Meinhart at kmeinhart@greenworks.tv or 761-7298.

Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association Membership Application And Dues Payment For 2004

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Dues Categories

Student	One year	\$10	_____		Conservation Organization \$25 _____
	Two years	\$20	_____		Corporate \$100 _____
Individual	One Year	\$15	_____		Donation to Betty Sullivan Memorial Fund
	Two Years	\$30	_____		
Family	One year	\$25	_____		Total Enclosed _____
	Two years	\$50	_____		
Lifetime	\$150		_____		

Make checks payable to CCWA

Send to: Kelly Meinhart
211 S. 18th Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011

JANE EARLE
20 RED FOX LANE
MECHANICSBURG PA 17050