



Yellow Breeches Watershed Association
c/o Lower Allen Township Authority
120 Limekiln Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070-2428
www.ybwa.org

September 2005

NEWSLETTER

Volume No. 5

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Upcoming Board of Directors Meetings – October 19th, 2005 at Lower Allen Township Park Barn 6 PM and December 7, 2005 at Mt. Holly Library 6 PM

Special Meeting Announcement: Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday October 19, 2005 at 7 PM at the Lower Allen Township Community Park Barn near Lisburn.

Annual Membership Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held in the Barn at the Lower Allen Community Park in Lisburn on October 19, 2005 at 7 PM. A presentation on water trails will be given by a representative of the PEC and the proposed Yellow Breeches water trail project will be introduced. An update also will be provided on the recently completed watershed assessment and Rivers Conservation Plan.

Special Thanks and Recognition:

- United Water Company for hosting Trout Day and for the donations collected.
- Lower Allen Township for web site, grant and general administrative support.
- Our corporate members – HRG, Inc., Gannett Fleming, Inc. and ARM, Inc.
- Cumberland County Planning Commission for partnering with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and YBWA for a proposed water trail on the Yellow Breeches.
- Cumberland County Conservation District for receiving and administering a PA Chesapeake Bay Educational Mini-Grant on behalf of YBWA.
- Townships of Monroe, Fairview, Penn and Lower Allen for passing resolutions in support of the Rivers Conservation Plan.
- Capital Region Chapter of the Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps for on-going volunteer efforts with the monitoring of water quality conditions in the watershed.
- The efforts of all volunteers (especially the board of Directors) who support the YBWA.

Election of New Board Members : An election ballot is enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete and return prior to or at the annual meeting on October 19th.

Upcoming Directors Meetings: The next board of Directors meeting will be held on October 19th at 6 PM prior to the annual meeting. A meeting is scheduled for December 7th at 6 PM at the Mt. Holly Library. In addition to regular Association business, goals and priorities for 2006 will be discussed.

Rivers Conservation Plan – Watershed Assessment: Draft reports and maps were distributed for municipal and public review and comment in April. On May 10th, a meeting with municipal officials and a public meeting were held to present the draft plans. As a result of review comments being received from various individuals and organizations, the reports and maps were revised. In August, the final reports and plans were made available to the public and distributed to municipalities along with a draft resolution of support. We are pleased that to date, the Townships of Monroe, Fairview, Penn and Lower Allen have each passed a resolution in support of the plans. Thank you! In the near future, a petition will be submitted to PA DCNR to have the Yellow Breeches Creek listed on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry.

Hoffman Dam Removal: American Rivers, PF&BC, and the dam Owner have been coordinating for the removal of the Hoffman Dam in Lisburn. Design plans have been approved and permits have been issued. The dam is scheduled to be removed this fall.

Cumberland County Conservation District: YBWA in cooperation with the CCCD prepared and submitted an application for a PA Chesapeake Bay Educational Mini-Grant. In August, the CCCD was notified that the application was successful. The grant funds will be used by CCCD, on behalf of YBWA, to purchase an exhibit and prepare graphics for an educational display for various public meetings and outreach activities to promote water quality issues and connections with the Chesapeake Bay.

Cedar Run Project: The Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay recently prepared a draft Coldwater Conservation Plan for public review and comment. Public meetings will be held to review the draft plan on September 29 at 11:30 AM and 7 PM at the Camp Hill Borough building.

Trout Run Project: The Trout Run Partnership consisting of the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Upper Allen Township, Messiah College, Trout Unlimited, Appalachian Audubon Society and the West Shore Evangelical Free Church, continue to work together to develop an environmental education program and environmental education trail within the Trout Run Watershed. Upper Allen Township has budgeted \$25,000 to support the effort. Currently, the Partnership is developing a GIS based property map that will be used for educational purposes and for locating potential trail routes. Plans are in the works for a “Second Evening with the Friends of Trout Run” to network with various stakeholders on current activities and plans. During this fall the Partnership anticipates developing educational displays and developing preliminary concept plans for a future trail system. For additional information you may contact Dennis Auker (dennisauker@deltaone.com).

Yellow Breeches Water Trail Proposed: YBWA is pleased to announce the start of planning activities for the identification and designation of a proposed water trail on Yellow Breeches Creek in Cumberland and York Counties, PA. The Cumberland County Planning Commission is sponsoring the project and will lead the planning activities in partnership with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and YBWA. The proposed water trail project is an implementation activity of the Cumberland County Open Space Preservation Plan and the project is consistent with the

recently completed Yellow Breeches Creek Rivers Conservation Plan. This proposed project will be introduced at the annual meeting on October 19th.

Are you aware of CAPSEC? Maintaining an on-going awareness of the chemical, physical and biological health of Yellow Breeches Creek is one of the major goals of the YBWA. Since January, 1998, one of the major sources of such information has been the Capitol Region Chapter (CAPSEC) of the Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps (PASEC). This group, comprised primarily of retired senior volunteers, has been evaluating more than 20 sites on the Creek and its major tributaries for basic chemical and physical parameters. In addition, each site has also been evaluated twice each year (spring and fall) for aquatic organisms, in order to assess the long term health of each stream segment. Data is provided to a data base maintained by PASEC's national counterpart known as the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI). This data base can be accessed by any agency or person, including the YBWA.

To date, the results have suggested that the Yellow Breeches Creek has fair to good water quality, but conditions do vary from one stream area to another. One major tributary known as Mountain Creek, for example, has experienced low pH problems. More summary information on CAPSEC's monitoring results can be found in the YBWA's recently released Rivers Conservation Plan and Watershed Assessment.

CAPSEC is always looking for additional volunteers who have an interest in the environment and are willing to devote a total of two days a month to the effort. Training is provided, primarily on the job. Please contact the Capitol Region RSVP Office (541-9521) or Bill Apgar, the current chair of CAPSEC's Operations Team at 795-8913.

Volunteers Needed: Please consider becoming actively involved with the YBWA. Through the volunteer efforts of many individuals who serve, the organization has accomplished many great things over the past few years. However, we need your help to continue the good work that is being done for the benefit of the environment and citizens within the Yellow Breeches watershed. Remember - We all live downstream!

Corporate Members: Do you own a business or know someone that owns a business that might be interested in supporting the YBWA? If so, please tell them about the great things that YBWA is doing for the watershed and ask for their support.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Please remember to renew your membership for 2006. Also, please share this information with others who might be interested in becoming a member.

Name: _____ Renewal ___ New ___ YBWA 2006

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

___ \$15 Individual ___ \$25 Family ___ \$5 Student ___ \$100 Corporation, Donation \$ ___

Return to: YBWA, c/o Lower Allen Authority, 120 Limekiln Rd, New Cumberland, PA 17070