



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

www.ybwa.org

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NEWSLETTER

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YELLOW BREECHES CREEK WATER TRAIL GUIDE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Cumberland County, the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission are pleased to announce the Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Map and Guide are now available online at www.ccpa.net/planning (go to “Greenway & Open Space Preservation Initiatives” and click on “Water Trails of Cumberland County”).



The Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail guide provides boating and recreation information for approximately 13 miles of the Yellow Breeches Creek. The guide is divided into three trips due to the existence of several hazardous dams and the lack of approved access and/or portage. The guide also includes boating and fishing regulations, safety tips for paddling, and emergency and tourism information. A printed version of the trail guide is expected to be published in 2008, which could enable inclusion of updated information, such as dam removals and additional access points that are currently under negotiation.

Water trails are boat routes suitable for canoes, kayaks and small motorized watercraft. Like conventional trails, water trails are recreational corridors between specific locations. Water trails are comprised of access points, boat launches, and day use sites. The goals of the Yellow Breeches Water Trail project are to highlight existing recre-

ation facilities and to encourage stewardship and recreation of the Yellow Breeches Creek.

The Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail project is a cooperative effort including public, private and non-profit organizations. In 2006, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission designated the Yellow Breeches Creek an official Pennsylvania water trail. Cumberland County lead the project and committed \$10,000 in funding for the initiative. The Yellow Breeches Watershed Association provided volunteer support and technical assistance. Other project partners include the local municipalities and York County Planning Commission.

For more information of this initiative, contact the Cumberland County Planning Office at (717) 240-5362 or send an e-mail to planning@ccpa.net. Visit the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission web site at www.fishandboat.com for statewide information on Pennsylvania Water Trails.



YBWA Reaches Out to Community

Partnering with United Water at Trout Day



This was the sixth year that United Water partnered with the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association to host Trout Day, which was held under fair weather on March 31st, the opening day of trout season. The event was held on Company property along the Yellow Breeches Creek in front of the Rabold Water Treatment Plant in Fairview Township.

YBWA board members helped serve free refreshments and provided information regarding Yellow Breeches watershed issues.

Donations to the Association were encouraged and will be used to assist with funding the group's environmental projects.

Give-away items were given to participants who caught the largest trout. Trout Day is coordinated by Operations Superintendent Dennis Rudisill and Rabold Plant Lead Operator Bob Eberly.



YBWA President John Eby receives check from Dennis Rudisill, Operations Superintendent for United Water PA for nearly \$300 in Trout Day donations.

Roadside Cleanup

PA Cleanways sponsored a roadside litter cleanup on April 21st along South Spring Garden Street in South Middleton Township, just outside of Carlisle and adjacent to Letort Spring Run. YBWA President John Eby and Board member Bill Apgar, who also represented the Capital Area Senior Environmental Corps (CAPSEC), participated in this outreach effort with our neighbors in the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed.

Environmental Education

Vice President Rich Pugh manned an informational table during Environmental Earth Education Day at Mechanicsburg School District's Environmental Center on May 5th. Over 30 federal, state, county and local agencies provided displays, activities and programs to the general public as a follow-up to an environmental activities day conducted on Friday May 4th with the district's seventh graders. The event was sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Recreation Department.

4th of July Picnic

The YBWA tabletop display also made an early summer appearance at Lower Allen Community Park for the 31st Annual Community 4th of July Picnic. This was an opportunity to inform hundreds of area residents about the Yellow Breeches Water Trail and the newly constructed boat launch ramp at the park. Lower Allen Township also presented its new Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail Map and conducted a survey of potential users. It was interesting to note that many proposed Ped/Bike trail segments connect with Yellow Breeches Water Trail access points.

Simpson Park Dedicated

Simpson Park was officially dedicated by the Upper Allen Township Board of Commissioners along with the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, September 19th. A brief program, refreshments and an opportunity to explore all Simpson Park was enjoyed by attendees.

Simpson Park is located south of the Village of Bowmansdale on North York Road and was designed to attract visitors of all ages and interests. Amenities at this 19-acre park include sand volleyball, a children's climbing rock, handicapped accessible walking trails, wildlife viewing station, restrooms and picnic pavilions. The park also includes a canoe launch and is part of the Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail.

Funding for the planning, design and construction of Simpson Park was made possible by Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, Senator Patricia Vance, Representative Jerry Nailor, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resource and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

Boat Launch...Launches!



*Sign reads: Lower Allen Township Community Boat Launch
Funding Assistance From PA Fish and Boat Commission*

Lower Allen Community Park now has a non-motorized boat launch area on the Yellow Breeches Creek! No more struggling to take your canoe or kayak over the steep bank. The boat launch is just not for those with boats, everyone can enjoy this easy access to the Yellow Breeches for inner tubing, wading or taking the dog for a swim. The boat launch is located near the campsites and lower practice soccer fields. Parking is available. Funding assistance for this project came from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.



Local "tubers" cooling off!



Family and dog enjoy the easy access to the Yellow Breeches.

Eagle Scout Project Enhances Yellow Breeches Park

Yellow Breeches Park is a beautiful natural area, situated at the end of Sheepford Road where it crosses the Yellow Breeches Creek at the Lower Allen Township border with Fairview Township. This 14-acre park which abuts Yellow Breeches Creek is mostly wooded with a narrow open field and serves as home to Lower Allen Township's Community Garden Plots. In addition to the garden plots, the park has been used primarily for informal access to the Yellow Breeches Creek by fishermen, canoeists, and kayakers. Until recently, this beautiful natural-setting park had no formal recreation facilities.

This past spring, Casey Johnson, an Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scout Troop 54, Grace Lutheran Church in Highland Park completed a project at Yellow Breeches Park that saw the installation of the first recreational amenities within the park. The project included the clearing of brush for a short 0.2-mile hiking trail along the banks of the Yellow Breeches Creek, the creation of two picnic areas, and increased accessibility to the creek for fishermen and boaters. The several hundred feet of trail is handicapped accessible and leads to the first creekside picnic area which has a handicapped accessible picnic table near a gently sloped area with good access to the creek. The trail continues as it meanders along the creek to a second picnic table at the end of the trail in a narrow open field. Several benches made from fallen trees found within the park are provided along the trail.

Casey first came to the Recreation and Parks Board with a number of ideas for potential recreational amenities for Yellow Breeches Park in the summer of 2006. After several meetings with the Recreation and Parks Board, Township staff, the Board of Commissioners, and Boy Scout leaders, Casey focused on the development of a creekside hiking trail and the creation of

several picnic areas. Several months of careful planning took place over the fall and winter months as Casey lined up the manpower, supplies, and approvals necessary to carry out this ambitious project. In March and April 2007, Casey, with the help of fellow scouts, scout leaders, friends, and businesses, held several work days to clear brush, develop the trail, and install picnic tables.



Standing (l – r): Commissioner Dan Christ, President John Titzel, Eagle Scout Candidate Casey Johnson, and Vice-President Lloyd Bucher

In June 2007, Yellow Breeches Park was the site for a National Trail Day event, which celebrated the completion of Casey's Eagle Scout Project. Friends, family, scouts, Township staff, Recreation and Parks Board members, and several Township Commissioners were on-hand to celebrate the opening of the trail with a short ribbon-cutting ceremony.

We hope that this is the start of continued improvements to this beautiful park. If you wish to enjoy the wonders of this small gem of a park and witness first-hand the improvements from Casey's project, pack a picnic lunch, put on your walking shoes and make your way to Yellow Breeches Park at the far end of Sheepford Road.

Editor's Note: Yellow Breeches Park is now part of the Yellow Breeches Water Trail (see related article on trail guide and map).

Bringing Back Cedar Run

Grant Awarded to Identify Restoration Sites

The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) have been granted funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a Rivers Conservation Plan for the Cedar Run Watershed, a 13.8 square-mile, coldwater fishery and tributary of the Yellow Breeches Creek.

A Cedar Run Cold Water Conservation Plan, completed in 2005, was the first effort to piece together previous studies and background of the watershed. It found that a detailed assessment of the watershed is needed with a clear-cut management plan. The plan is a good document to launch a more detailed study to pinpoint areas of where implementation of restoration measures will make a truly measurable difference in water quality to both Cedar Run and the Yellow Breeches Watersheds.

This project attempts to do this as a kind of mini-Rivers Conservation Plan. The scope of activities involves performing targeted stream corridor and upland assessments to identify locations and develop concepts for potential projects that will contribute to the restoration and improvement of current stream and upland conditions. Additional funding for supplemental fieldwork, stakeholder meetings, and crafting of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is currently being pursued.

These tasks will be led by CWP and ACB, but will also involve cooperation and coordination with partners such as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), local municipalities, and others currently involved in watershed assessment and planning.

CWP proposes to conduct the Unified Stream Assessment (USA), the Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance (USSR), and a stormwater retrofit inventory within the watershed using protocols developed by CWP (see restoration manual series downloadable at www.cwp.org).

The USA is a comprehensive stream walk method that evaluates existing conditions and problems within the stream corridor and identifies opportunities for stream restoration, riparian reforestation, land conservation opportunities and discharge prevention projects.

The USSR is a survey of pollution prevention opportunities in the upland, urban portion of the watershed, with a focus on identifying source control opportunities in both residential and hotspot areas. Information from these assessments will help guide a stormwater retrofit inventory, which is a process to evaluate existing stormwater treatment practices and identify potential offsite storage, onsite nonresidential, and onsite residential stormwater retrofits with the primary objectives being to increase water quality treatment and recharge.

The main purpose of this work is to identify specific locations in the watershed where stream restoration, riparian reforestation, stormwater retrofits, and targeted education and outreach can be conducted to reduce nutrient loading.

For more information, contact Donna Morelli at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (717) 236-8825.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is a critical time to help plan upcoming YBWA activities. This is especially true for our members who don't serve on the Board of Directors, because those of us who help run the organization need your input and feedback for committee assignments, outreach programs and other YBWA activities. If you have a particular interest or ability related to our watershed stewardship mission, please share it! We also need ideas for programming at the annual membership meeting, which will be scheduled for October 17th ...help your Board of Directors decide who, what, where and when.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Vince McCollum of the Cumberland County Conservation District for his dedication and efforts on behalf of YBWA since its inception. Vince's position as CCCD's Watershed Specialist and his active participation as a director and officer of YBWA were valuable assets to YBWA during its formation and the long, tedious task of developing our Watershed Assessment and River Conservation Plan. In addition to maintaining the YBWA web site and serving on the Water Trail Committee, Vince also secured a grant that funded our tabletop display, which provides a professional-looking tool for our outreach and educational activities. Vince recently accepted a different job with Cumberland County Conservation District in the Erosion & Sedimentation Pollution Control Program and is no longer the Watershed Specialist. Our loss is a gain for Vince's family, since he will have more evenings and weekends free to help his wife parent their young daughter.

*John Eby,
YBWA President*

Mark Your Calendars

*Yellow Breeches Watershed Association members, families,
friends and guests are invited to attend the...*

Annual YBWA Membership Meeting

October 17, 2007

Lower Allen Community Park Barn

6:00 pm: Picnic supper

7:00 pm: Meeting and updates on watershed projects plus election of Board of Directors

RSVP to John Eby;

email john_eby@lower-allen.pa.us;

work phone 717-975-7575 x 1102



December 12, 2007

Board of Directors Meeting

Amelia Given Library, Mt. Holly Springs

6:00 pm