



Penns Valley Conservation Association

www.pennsvalley.net

WINTER 2013

2012 Annual Membership Meeting Report

--by Catherine F. Smith--

Board of Directors Report

PVCA is strong and getting stronger, according to board of directors president Jim Zubler. In his opening remarks at the annual membership meeting held November 15, Zubler reviewed mission-related achievements in 2012:

- by the Community Outreach Committee, environmental education –
 - in schools
 - at Crickfest
 - at Muddy Paws Marsh, Chicorylane Farm, and Seven Willows
- by the Watershed Committee, stream stabilization and wildlife habitat improvement projects in Penns and George's Valleys
- by several committees, directors, and members, partnership with the Penns Valley Learning Garden volunteers (associated with the Farmer's Market)
- by the Slow Money Economic Development Initiative, the 2012 directory of Valley businesses *Find It Here!*

Zubler also reviewed achievements related to

Continued on p. 3

★ **PVCA's Winter Meeting!** ★

Wednesday, March 27th – 7PM
American Legion in Centre Hall

PA Common Trees
Identification, Uses, Health &
Management

Presentation by Timothy Cole
DCNR Forester

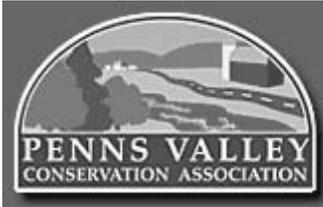
Join us after for discussion and refreshments!



Introducing our New Executive Director!

Hello, my name is Andrea Ferich and I am the newly hired Executive Director of PVCA. I grew up in Southern Lancaster County near the rolling riparian river hills of the Susquehanna. My family has lived in South Central PA for centuries, a long line of farmers traced to a deed with William Penn and a Quaker ancestor in Chester County, and long before that along the waterways before Penn called these his woods. Most recently I came from Camden, NJ where I previously ran a non-profit called the Center For Environmental Transformation. There I worked collaboratively to establish an heirloom seedling greenhouse, native plant nursery for stormwater management plans, and fabricated other sustainable products with a crew of budding young entrepreneurs such as rain barrels, sustainable farming curriculums, a farmers market, and a 24 bed retreat center that had formally been an abandoned convent. I have greatly enjoyed my transition here, and fill with deep joy and gratitude looking forward to the work that I am and will be doing with you all in the ridges and valleys. I have fallen in love with these valleys of the Uppers Penns Creek Watershed, the communities, the water, stars,

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PO Box 165
Aaronsburg, PA 16820
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Board of Directors

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Gregg Twp.

Vice President: Frank Maguire,
Millheim Borough

Treasurer: Barb Lange,
Penn Twp.

Secretary: Lisa Marshall,
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Greta Haney, Penn Twp.

Judy Heald, Potter Twp.

George Kelly, Penn Twp.

Willa Paterson, Gregg Twp.

Jim Pierce, Haines Twp.

Bill Wolfe, Haines Twp.

Executive Director

Andrea Ferich

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Watershed:

George Kelly, Chair

Community Outreach:

Barb Lange, Chair

Education:

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Slow Money:

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President's Column

--by Jim Zubler--

It is a New Year and I am excited about the possibilities for the Penns Valley Conservation Association to lead in making the Valley a better place.

The final piece of the "Leadership Team" is in the works as we expect to hire a part time Environmental Educator by the beginning of March. The 2012 elections added five new Board Members (you can read their respective biographies in this Newsletter). Your officers remain the same, augmented with the addition of Frank Maguire as Vice-President and Willa Paterson shadowing Barbara Lange in learning the Treasurer position. Continuing with our volunteer roles, Nell Hanssen remains our Newsletter editor, Karen Yanak continues as our Book Keeper/Database Manager, and Charlie Boyer maintains our web site. Not to be left out are the many volunteers who chair and serve on our Committees and special projects.

Newly hired Executive Director, Andrea Ferich, is taking the lead as our consultant to implement the Impact Map/Strategic Plan and its ambitious course of action (Read her introduction and welcome in this Newsletter). We are also establishing an office/Community Room located at the Old Gregg School Community Center to host meetings and direct the work at hand.

We have upped our game in a big way and need to add new members to the Team. We encourage you to introduce friends and neighbors to the PVCA Family in order to increase our impact on this wonderful place we call home. In fact the only way we are going to be able to maintain these efforts are to increase our pool of members representing a broad base of support. Use the handy membership form in this Newsletter to recruit.

As you will note from the full slate of events on our calendar, we invite and encourage you to be an active participant in this effort. Thank you for being a valuable Team member and great steward of the Valley.

--Jim

PVCA's Mission and Vision

PVCA serves as a steward for the natural and cultural communities in the Upper Penns Creek Watershed. We seek to preserve and honor the agricultural roots of Penns Valley by protecting and conserving its waters, farmlands, forests, and rural heritage.

PVCA envisions an engaged community, where growth is balanced with support for healthy natural systems that foster the local economy. Our Valley has dark night skies, clear streams, healthy forests, prosperous farms, and local jobs.

Annual Meeting, Continued from p. 1

strategic planning. He focused on the goal of strengthening the organization. In 2012 the board of directors hired PVCA's first executive director, revised its bylaws, and altered its committee structure.

Actions Taken at the Meeting

Members present at the meeting unanimously approved the bylaw changes. Members also elected by majority vote five new directors for three-year terms: Greta Haney, Willa Paterson, Judy Heald, Frank McGuire, and Jim Pierce. Continuing directors are George Kelly, Lisa Marshall, Bill Wolfe, Jim Zubler and Barbara Lange. Zubler thanked outgoing directors Tim Bowser and Ann Glaser for their service. Ann Glaser, new chair of the Membership Committee, invited volunteers to help increase PVCA's membership.

Executive Director's Report

Andrea Ferich was introduced to the members. She said she will work to:

- secure office space and create a community room in the Old Gregg School
- develop income to sustain ecosystem restoration projects and public educational outreach in schools and elsewhere
- introduce watershed signage
- guide website development to include new functions such as interactive green mapping and a gallery of regional photography.

Presentation: Origins of PVCA

Nancy Parks presented a history of PVCA. She described its origins in 1991 as a grassroots and team effort to oppose a limestone mine operation near Aaronsburg and preserve Penns Valley communities. From recall, participant lists, period photos, and newspaper records, Parks told the story of neighbors organizing to educate residents about the mine's potential for destroying farmland and wildlife habitat, damaging homes, and creating health and safety hazards. She described teamwork with the Nittany Grotto caving organization, the Pennsylvania chapter of the Sierra Club, and local as well as national trout fishing enthusiasts to achieve a ruling by the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing board that the Aaronsburg site was "unsuitable for mining."



Annual Meeting presenter Nancy Parks.

The ruling applied coal mining regulation to a non-coal site for the first (and only) time. (For details on this success and its subsequent reversal by the PA-Department of Environmental Protection [DEP], see an article by Parks in the PVCA Fall 2012 newsletter).

Originally managed by a five-person steering committee with Parks as spokesperson, the Penns Valley Conservation Association was formally organized and named in May 1992. It was later reconstituted as a 501c3 public nonprofit organization with a board of directors and a mission of advocacy, education, and fundraising for upper Penns Creek watershed protection. Achievements in this era of PVCA's history were significant revisions in the Aaronsburg mine's first operating permit that protected water sources and water quality; designation of portions of Pine and Elk Creek as Pennsylvania Exceptional Value waterways deserving special protection, as well as multiple watershed protection projects and education or outreach programs funded by PA-DEP grants, federal grants, and member donations.

Presentation: Objections to Aaronsburg Mine Expansion Plan

Now, 20 years later, PVCA's interest in the Aaronsburg mine is renewed. Con-Stone Incorporated has applied to PA-DEP for permit revision to expand its operation. Expansion would involve mining beneath two Haines Township public roads (Broad and Bartges) and their setbacks. Haines Township Cares, a

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watchdog group that in 2009 adjudicated restrictions on the mine's current operating permit, objects to the expansion. According to member Marcia Case, the group has submitted comments to PA-DEP's Mining Division permit application review objecting to:

- the intention to put effluent treatment facilities in a FEMA-designated floodplain near Exceptional Value streams
- insufficient compliance with current operating permit requirements
- insufficient bonding
- failure to perform site assessments for impacts on rare or endangered species, historic structures, and utilities.

Additionally, Haines Township Cares objects to a 2011 agreement between township supervisors and Con-Stone Incorporated to allow the expansion. (PA-DEP's permit approval requires the landowner, the township, to consent and give right of entry for mining.) The group's attorneys have informed PA-DEP and Haines supervisors that the agreement is flawed. It does not adhere to requirements of Pennsylvania's Second Class Municipalities Code for vacating public roads and for selling minerals held in trust for public use. These failures invalidate the agreement and breach the public's trust, the attorneys argue.

Haines Township Cares says that the agreement also ignores the public's will. Residents have publicly objected since 2004 to the 'road giveaway.' They anticipate undesirable impacts of mine expansion to include more blasting, industrial noise, air pollution, truck traffic, real estate devaluation, and increased potential for stream and soil degradation.

PVCA has contributed to the group's legal research costs and has pledged additional support, board president Zubler told the meeting. Members seemed to agree that PVCA's support is warranted. Discussion referred to local government's function of implementing federal and state environmental protection law through floodplain and other ordinances. When local government fails in its responsibility, PVCA's mission is compromised.

and sky, every unnamed ephemeral stream, the forests, and the thriving local economy. I studied Ecological Economics at Eastern University and worked for a watershed organization in Central America deep in the tropical rainforests of Belize, and various CSA farm projects around the region over the years.

I find great pleasure in collaborative problem solving, and here in this position continue contemplating the intersection of what the Upper Penns Creek Watershed ecosystems, communities, and economy need most with the thought of what brings us the most joy. For me that is often found at the intersection of art and science, often in the transformation of problems into resources, always in collaboration with people of all ages. Indeed we cannot attempt this great work alone. My dreams are filled with this place, as it is abundantly gorgeous. I look forward to working closely with our Environmental Education Coordinator that we will be hiring later this winter and our continued work in the PVASD. I find much life working with youth and community-based restoration projects, happiest with my hands in the earth with an array of partners and co-conspirators in PVCA initiatives. I am a film-maker and published author, I love to bicycle, and have never turned down a swimmable body of water.

I am certainly still learning the everyday nuances of the area, and connecting with more of you and various organizations in the region, and your lovely diversity of interests, talents, and desires. Most recently I went out with residents of Coburn and Woodward to participate in the world's longest lasting citizen science survey, the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. Our team split up to cover a 7.5 mile radius surrounding Millheim to identify and count as many birds and species possible on a day near Christmas. We identified 48 different species for a total 1872 birds.

It is a lovely privilege to reimmerge myself with the pristine stillness of the wild, and I am finding a deep peace naming ephemeral unnamed springs of the karst topography, and the

Special request to participate in an online survey: "Pennsylvanians and Their Water"

Water is worth it! From the water we drink, to the crops we grow, to the rivers and lakes we raft, swim and fish in, Pennsylvania's water is vital to the environment and economy and worth protecting. The PA Water Resource Research Center is partnering with Penn State Extension, Sea Grant Pennsylvania, and the PA chapter American Water Resources Association to conduct a survey entitled "Pennsylvanians and Their Water". The objective is to collect opinions from a large number of residents across the state on the current status of our water and how best to protect and manage the resource. This informal survey is intended as a public engagement project and does not necessarily represent a statistical research sampling of opinions.

The 5-minute survey can be completed on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PaWater> Please feel free to pass along the link to the survey to other Pennsylvania residents, but they must be at least 18 years of age to complete the survey. A summary of results will be published on the Pennsylvania Water Resources Research Center website at <http://www.pawatercenter.psu.edu/>.

This is your chance to be heard on water issues important to you! Thanks for participating!

Executive Director, continued from p. 4

mysteries of macro-invertabrates. I have only lived here since the deciduous trees have been bare and already I have been hooked in the cross-stitch of a thriving local economy with clean water as its backbone.

If you would like to share your story, photos and vision of this place, please e-mail me andrea@pennsvalley.net. I would love to meet more of my neighbors.

Andrea most recently received the EPA Environmental Quality Award, the Camden 2012 Woman of Purpose Award, and the Camden Smart Environmental Hero Award. She now lives at Over the Moon Farm in Rebersburg.



*Yes! I would like to help PVCA preserve and protect our beautiful region!
Enclosed are my annual, tax-deductible 2013 membership dues.*

- \$25 - 49 Single/Family \$50 - 99 Supporter \$100 - 149 Benefactor \$150 - 249 Patron
 \$250 - 499 Steward \$500+ Conservationist

We like to thank our members and donors in our newsletter.

I/We prefer to remain anonymous

Name(s) to list in newsletter: _____

Name _____

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Thank You for Your Support!

PVCA is a 501(c3) tax exempt organization.

Gift Membership \$ _____

(Please provide your name *and* gift recipient's name to the left)

Get more involved!

Join our active members!

(check your areas of special interest.)

- Stream Improvement Publicity
 Crickfest Education

Welcome, PVCA's New Board Members!

Willa Paterson has volunteered with PVCA since its initiation to educate and combat the dangers of the Aaronsburg Quarry when she was 12 years old. She served on the Community Outreach Committee (COC) and the Education Committee for a year while living in the area from 2008 – 2009 and has always enjoyed assisting with Crickfest whenever she is available. Willa has recently moved back to the Penns Valley area to further her education after living and working in Pittsburgh for the past three years. Willa moved to Pittsburgh to work for Clean Water Action, an environmental non-profit, to educate citizens about the Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. She was then brought on in March of 2011 as the Youth Leadership and Convergence Coordinator for the Three Rivers Community Foundation to help plan and coordinate *Building Change: A Convergence for Social Justice*. She oversaw all facets of the conference including the Youth Leading Change component of the three-day open attendance conference that took place in October 2011. Willa also started a Youth Ambassador Program (YAP) which launched in the summer of 2011 and oversaw the start of a “Teens as Grantmakers” program. Prior to moving to Pittsburgh, Willa has traveled and lived in Hawaii and Ireland working on organic farms. While living in Penns Valley in 2008 she worked for Pennsylvania Certified Organic and the Elk Creek Café. Willa received her Bachelor's degree in Finance and International Business from Penn State Erie in May of 2007 and hopes to attend Penn State in the fall of 2013 to pursue a master's degree in hydrology.

Jim Pierce Life is what happens while dreaming. Raised in Gener-ica Chicago, dreams of becoming a Shrimp Farmer led to a BS degree in Microbiology and a Farmer's Daughter, then to a five-year honeymoon/internship on Prawn Farms in Hawaii. In 1988 dreams led us to Wisconsin where we homesteaded a Trout Farm, began an accidental career with the Organic Valley Dairy Cooperative and raised two daughters. The last four years transitioned to



Welcoming Jim, Judy, Frank, Greta and Willa to PVCA's Board of Directors!

International Organic Program Manager for an Organic Certification Agency, Trout Farmers *retired* and, since August 2011, happy residents of Penns Valley. Music, dancing, kids, dogs, gardening, silent sports and assimilating into this beautiful community fill the aquaculture vacuum.

Greta Haney is a Penns Valley native and was in attendance at the first PVCA meeting. She left the Valley for a few years to earn a degree in writing (with a minor in history) at Binghamton University, but is happily resettled in Millheim. She co-owns and co-runs a small-scale flower shop with her mother and spends lots of time on the family farm in Coburn, an acre of which was recently planted in trees thanks to CREP funding. She loves the direction that the Valley is going, and likes to brag about it to out-of-towners.

Judy Heald has lived in the Penns Valley area since 1981. Two children, Evan and Beth, graduated from Penns Valley High School in the 80's. She and her husband Bill have a farm where they have planted more than 1700 native trees, about 14 acres of riparian buffer and 43 acres of warm season grasses. They use a passive sunroom, a geothermal system and a pellet stove in their 225+ year old home. They have had a lifelong interest in conservation, renewable energy, and bio-diversity, and recycled long before that was a word in the

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dictionary. Judy has a Master's Degree in Human Nutrition which she has utilized professionally in Virginia and Pennsylvania. She serves on the Board of Governors for the Centre County Historical Society. She is Past President of the Centre County Genealogical Society, for which she currently teaches genealogy classes. You may see Bill & Judy riding their recumbent bicycles in the Valley.

Frank Maguire spent his formative years bouncing around places in America no one should be forced to grow up in, but is more than happy to have been able to call Millheim and Penns Valley home since 2010. He has a bachelor's degree in History from American University in Washington DC, very nicely sitting in a drawer somewhere. His current role as Regional Director of the International Mountain Bicycling Association has him working with the non-profit's affiliates on a daily basis, creating better recreational opportunities and stronger communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic. He sees himself as an advocate for open space, keeping the wild places wild while providing a reason for people to be outside and experiencing life.

**PVCA'S WEBSITE IS
GETTING A MAKEOVER!!**

↓ check it out! ↓

www.pennsvalley.net

We are working hard to make the website a useful and informative tool for members and visitors to our watershed. Check in this winter for new topics, updated calendar listings, and announcements!

If you have any photos of the watershed that you'd like to contribute, email them to: Info@pennsvalley.net

Get Involved with PVCA!

★ **Volunteer for this spring's Environmental Days in the Penns Valley School District!**

★ **Join a Committee!**

The Community Outreach, Education, Watershed, Membership, and Slow Money Committees are always looking for new volunteers.

★ **Calling all Birders!**

We are planning to organize an annual birding event for our region ~ let us know if you'd like to be involved.

**Contact us if you're interested!
info@pennsvalley.net**

Renewable Energy NOW Fair

**April 6th ~ 9am – 6pm
at the American Legion
in Centre Hall**

Sponsored and coordinated by PVCA and the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, the Fair will be open to the public and will demonstrate renewable energy and energy efficiency methods for homes and businesses. Vendors and demonstrations of wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal will be included, as well as emergency and off-grid remote applications. The fair will feature a lecture and demonstration of renewable energy used to safeguard military personnel around the world. Envinity of State College is the Gold Sponsor for this event.

The first 400 fair goers will receive the Renewable Energy Handbook, which contains coupons from Fair vendors and explains cost effective investment in renewable energy.

To participate in the Fair and for Fair information, contact Mary Carol Frier, Chairperson, at mcfrier@yahoo.com.

Summer 2012 Stream Temperature Monitoring

--By Lysle Sherwin--

PSU Ecosystem Science and Management

Preliminary summer 2012 data from the cooperative Penns Creek watershed stream temperature monitoring project are again confirming the importance of cold groundwater inputs and riparian buffers to the health of Penns Creek and tributaries large and small. Begun in 2009 by PVCA and the Center for Watershed Stewardship, the monitoring network at 11 locations was expanded last summer adding three temperature loggers at the Coburn Park confluence of Penns and Elk Creek and three in the Muddy Creek watershed of Georges Valley. The stream temperature findings are being used to identify “hot spots” to prioritize buffer project sites being funded and implemented by PVCA and many partners through the “Young Forest” initiative and to monitor effectiveness of those projects in mitigating elevated summer water temperatures impacting stream ecosystems.

July 7 in the late afternoon recorded the highest peak water temperature at almost all monitoring sites during the period from end of June to early October when hourly temperatures were recorded. At Coburn, Penns Creek temperature was 78.5 degrees F, which exceeded the accepted stress threshold for brown trout of 76 degrees F, although the temperature dropped below the stress threshold by midnight it was certainly not in the optimum temperature range for trout. Only 100 yards away at the mouth of Elk Creek at the same time, the high temperature recorded July 7 for the entire summer was 66.5 F – a full twelve degrees colder than Penns Creek. Overnight Elk Creek temperature dropped to 59.8 F just about perfect for trout. Cold groundwater-rich inputs from Elk Creek and its tributary Pine Creek are obviously critical to maintenance of the nationally renowned Class A Wild Trout fishery in Penns Creek gorge below Coburn.

A newly installed logger at Laurel Run, a well-forested mountain tributary of Muddy Creek recorded a peak temperature for the summer of

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Chicory Lane Farm's Cattail Marsh, featured on the Wetland Tour, summer 2012.

A Decade of Conservation in Penns Valley: Wetlands and Waterways Education and Appreciation in Summer 2012

--By John B. Smith--

A series of well-attended environmental education events occurred in summer 2012 with PVCA as cosponsor or supporting partner. The events showcased conservation projects along Penns Creek and tributaries conducted since 2002. Organizers were Ann Donovan, Watershed Specialist for the Centre County Conservation District, and Dave Jackson, Forest Resources Educator, Penn State Extension. Landowners John and Catherine Smith, Greg and Mary Kay Williams, and Lysle Sherwin assisted. Photographs at <http://chicorylane.com> show scenes from each event.

Plein Air (Outdoor) Painting and Sketching Day
Twenty artists participated in this event on June 9 at ChicoryLane Farm near Spring Mills. Landowners John and Catherine Smith welcomed the group and spoke about appreciating the beauty of wetlands. Penns Valley native Karl Leitzel, resident artist at Green Drake Gallery and Art Center in Millheim, resident artist for the Grange Fair, and co-organizer of this event, demonstrated his

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Educational Events, Continued from p. 8

techniques of outdoor painting before people set off on their own to sketch and paint. Finished pieces were exhibited in a special show July 5-29 at the Green Drake Gallery. According to the exhibit description, "Painting 'en plein air' means painting quickly out in the field before the light or other conditions change. In this show, you will see how different artists meet that challenge." Selected pieces remain on view and can be purchased at the Gallery.

Landowner Workshop: Conservation Programs and Wildlife Improvement Program

Fifty landowners and conservation professionals participated in this outreach program of Penn State's College of Agriculture held at ChicoryLane Farm on August 18. Hosts John and Catherine Smith described the property's transition from agriculture to conservation and wildlife habitat preservation beginning in 2002. Specialists from partner organizations led excursions throughout the property to discuss design and building of vernal pools; maintenance of cool and warm season grasslands and a pollinator field; planting and maintaining hardwood forest; management of invasive vegetation, and streamside and successional planting to encourage wildlife. During lunch, Bill Hilshey of ClearWater Conservancy led discussion of conservation easements.

Wetlands and Waterways Tour

Fifty-five people participated in this tour on September 27 that began at Muddy Paws Marsh. Owners Greg and Mary Kay Williams welcomed visitors and provided a history of the property. USFWS biologist Mark Roberts spoke about the wetland restoration project undertaken in 2004. Penn State-Altoona biologist Jim Julian spoke about ongoing research in amphibian life at Muddy Paws. Penns Valley High School teacher Jacqui Wagner brought a class of advanced biology students to collect insects during the tour. PVCA board member George Kelly told the story of the Kline Road Stream Restoration to rebuild an eroding stream bank. Work involved a riparian buffer designed as a senior project by former Penns Valley student Stefan Kelly, a 600-foot mudsill, and two log vanes built by US Fish



Chicory Lane's Conservation Programs and Wildlife Improvement Workshop.

and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel with Amish youth assisting. Volunteers helping with the project included PVCA members, Penns Valley High School groups, a Quehanna Boot camp crew, and landowners. The tour proceeded to Seven Willows where landowner Lysle Sherwin and USFWS biologist Adam Smith spoke about fish habitat improvement and stream stabilization projects there. Last stop on the tour was ChicoryLane Farm, where owners John and Catherine Smith spoke about ecological changes in the property beginning in 2002 with the installation of vernal pools, wetlands, and riparian buffers in former crop fields. USFWS biologist Adam Smith talked about invasive plant management.

Cosponsors of events in this series included the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts; the Centre County Conservation District; PVCA; Wildlife Management Institute; Headwaters RC&D Council; Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry, and Woodland Owners of Centre County. Partners for conservation projects included PVCA, the Centre County Conservation District; USFWS; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Pennsylvania Game Commission; Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Service; Ducks Unlimited, ClearWater Conservancy, North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, and landowners.

PVCA Sponsors Triple Divide Screening and Panel

--By Andrea Ferich--

On Friday, December 14th, PVCA and other local partners presented a brand new environmental documentary, Triple Divide, at the IngleBean Coffee House in Millheim. It was a powerful film, and in addition to the film screening, residents came out to learn about conservation initiatives in the region from various presenters. Two representatives from Ferguson Township, Pam Steckler and Laura Dininni Cusumano who had organized their community to write and pass a referendum to ban fracking, including the transportation of fracking fluids in their township, presented an informative overview of the “Groundswell” movement in their community. This amendment passed with a majority. In Ferguson Township local laws are under Home Rule, meaning residents are able to write their own ordinances. Currently no municipalities in the Penns Valley Area have Home Rule. Ferguson Township organizers worked hard and with some guiding tactics from The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF.org) and Groundswell (www.groundswell.gs), citizens and their elected leaders worked together for this amendment, concluding that the price of clean water in their wells and springs was not worth the temporary fossil-fuel boom, particularly considering the “swisscheese-like” geology of our region more technically referred to as “karst” limestone. Following this presentation, Melissa Troutman and Joshua B. Pribanic, the Producers of the Film Triple Divide, screened one of the first screenings of their newly released film.

This film follows the Public Herald, a non-profit investigative journal, as their reporting uncovers the impacts of hydrologic fracturing on the water, the land, property values, and our bodies. It concludes that both the process and end product of fracking are not worth the cost to Potter County residents’ quality of life, considering the potential loss of functioning ecosystems, exacerbated by the significant geological location of the area. Drained by three major rivers, the Allegheny, the Genesee, and the Susquehanna, a drop of rain landing in Potter



County can end up on three separate sides of the continent, a triple divide. Highly prized trout streams, upon which the local tourism economy has depended for generations, and the state’s largest stand of primitive forest are both downstream from this water basin. The Triple Divide film explores some of the international and localized hazards of fracking, capturing the heartbreaking externalities of hydrologic fracturing, and its impacts on watersheds, particularly in karst topography. The film also brought out a sea of citizens who are committed to keeping their water and environment clean. During the ongoing discussion of fracking, the industry presents it as both an opportunity to make a lot of money quickly coupled with the mirage of bringing us closer to energy sovereignty. Lessons to be derived from this screening and conservation presentation point to working as a community with local officials to ensure clean water and foster dark night skies. The Board of PVCA elected to sponsor this film to educate citizens on core issues affecting Penns, Brush, and Sugar Valleys, and the watershed as a whole. The producers commented that the 50 people or so at our Millheim screening was a great turn-out considering similar screenings they have had. The producers also commented that in preparing for the screening they had heard good things about the work of PVCA. They plan to join us again in the spring with the final piece.

We also heard from Aaronsburg resident Marcia Case who gave a detailed response to the

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Riversongs Celebration!

Sunday, April 21 ~ 3:00 – 7:00
Elk Creek Café in Millheim

*Several hours of musical acts, food,
drinks, socializing, and the opportunity
to win some EXCELLENT raffle prizes!*

RIVERSONGS RAFFLE

Enter to win!!

*Kayak ~ donated by
Tussey Mt Outfitters*

*Bike ~ donated by
Freeze Thaw Cycles*

*Rain Jacket ~ donated by
Appalachian Outdoor House*

*Binoculars ~ donated by
Lost Creek Shoe Shop*

*Tube Float for 4 ~ donated by
Penns Valley Outfitters*

**RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE
BEGINNING IN MARCH**

*@ Elk Creek Café, Inglebean Coffeehouse
and other locations TBD
Proceeds Benefit PVCA*



*Come in early for a musical
Children's Program with
Gus Tritsch & the 3 Kitties Band
1pm at St. Luke's Cultural Center
on South Penn Street
in Millheim*

Triple Divide, continued from p. 10

proposed Aaronsburg Mine expansion. Jim Zubler, President of PVCA, noted that PVCA is donating \$1,000 to cover the current costs of the Haines Township Cares organization in this campaign and pledged up to an additional \$5,000 for further actions for their continued work to stop the corporate takeover of public roads, the perceived giveaway of limestone beneath two roads at \$.25 a ton, and other associated impacts. Jim also highlighted the collaborative work of PVCA with landowners, volunteers, various watershed-based organizations, and governmental leaders in the course of PVCA's 20 year history.

If you would like to learn more about the work of Ferguson Township or to connect with PVCA please e-mail andrea@pennsvalley.net

Temperature Monitoring, Continued from p. 8

71.2 degrees F only briefly on July 7. Generally, Laurel Run maintained a temperature regime supportive of a native brook trout population with average daytime temperatures below the 70 degree stress threshold of brook trout which evolved in colder environments than brown trout. That's the good news-below Laurel Run in the valley section of Muddy Creek the stream warms quickly. At Harter Road only a mile below Laurel Run the stream temperature gained over 6 degrees peaking at 77.6 F on July 7, and a mile further at the mouth of Muddy Creek reached 81.6 degrees – the highest temperature recorded at any monitoring location last summer.

For this reason, lower Muddy Creek is the focus of several riparian habitat buffers PVCA will be working on in 2013 enabled by a \$10,000 commitment of organizational funds and a recent grant by the Foundation for PA Watersheds and proposed grants currently in review by two other funding sources. PVCA members are encouraged to contact George Kelly, Watershed Committee chair at gkelly4@verizon.net to volunteer to help planting new buffers and maintaining existing buffers or to assist in operating the temperature monitoring system set to be activated again in June 2013.



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→ MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ←

- ❖ **MARCH ~ Tickets go on sale for the Riversongs Raffle!**
Enter to win a kayak, bike, rain jacket, binoculars, or tubing trip for 4!
- ❖ **MARCH 17th ~ Trail2Creek.com Outdoor Symposium ~ Noon to 4pm**
at the Bremen Town Ballroom in Millheim.
Displays and Vendors, Workshops, Outdoor Gear Demos, Local Foods, Coffee, Beer, and more!
- ❖ **MARCH 27th ~ PVCA Winter Meeting ~ 7pm at the Centre Hall American Legion**
Featuring a talk by DCNR Forester Tim Cole: PA's Common Trees; Identification, Uses, Health, & Management.
- ❖ **APRIL 6th ~ Renewable Energy NOW Fair ~ 9am--6pm at the Centre Hall Legion**
- ❖ **APRIL 20th ~ PVCA Annual Streambank Cleanup ~ Meet at Coburn Park at 9am**
- ❖ **APRIL 21 ~ Riversongs Celebration ~ 3:00--7:00 at the Elk Creek Café**
Live local music and raffle drawing!
- ❖ **APRIL/MAY ~ Back Yard Chicken Production Workshop – check PVCA's website for details**
- ❖ **JUNE 8th ~ Frog Festival at Muddy Paws Marsh – Contact PVCA if you can volunteer!**

