

THE RE-CAP

Watershed Alliance of York's (WAY) quarterly newsletter about the implementation of the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) for clean waters



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WAY BOARD

The summer has been calm and collected for the WAY BOD with July being our only meeting. That certainly doesn't mean work isn't continuing, it simply means that we are in a good space with all moving parts progressing efficiently. WAY is managing many grants with more coming on the horizon. WAY has transformed from what we were three years ago into a multi-million dollar project management organization. With that, the next grant that WAY will be working closely on is a capacity building grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The request for proposals is currently being written and soon WAY will be seeking the assistance of a consultant to work with us to assess organizational processes and policies and develop updated standards of practice to ensure organizational efficiency, fiscal responsibility, and effective regulatory compliance. WAY is excited for this next step in our organization's growth.



WAY

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Hello Readers!

The summer has come and gone, and it was just as busy as ever. The focus this summer has been spreading the word of WAY's Watershed Forestry Program for Riparian Forest Buffer's which is reimbursing landowners \$6,000/acre for riparian buffer plantings. The Watershed Specialist/WAY Secretary, Emily Neideigh, and her team - Kendra Boyle and Chris Tanczos - have put in incredible amounts of effort working with landowners implementing this funding opportunity. We have seen so much success that we are able to extend the program from it's original September 30th deadline to November 30th. With continued hard work, we will likely be able to keep this program moving into 2024. The flyer is included in this issue of the Re-CAP. If you're a landowner consider taking advantage of this opportunity and please, if you know anyone (or place) that owns land in York County, help us get the word out to them.

WAY's 21st Annual Watershed Week event was also a focus this summer. From the planning of 18 individual events, to finding sponsorships to make the event possible, to the entire week of events - there was not one dull moment. Goals that were set forth last year to attain during this year's event were met. We introduced new events to the mix and continued with many others that we host or partner with each year. Check out the event highlights in this issue for all things Watershed Week.

In CAP news, the draft annual report has been submitted and I'm awaiting comments from DEP before submitting the final report for the year. DEP has once again given counties the opportunity to update/change best management practice target numbers for the year in an effort to "close the gap" in county reduction numbers. York County continues to not make any numerical changes to our CAP as we feel the only way to truly achieve 100% of the goal is through recommended State programmatic changes. York has long since realized that the CAP goals are unattainable and has never shied away from that truth. New this year, in place of State programmatic recommendation reporting, will be an in-person meeting for CAP Coordinators and County Leads. At this in-person meeting, questions and discussion around the goals of continuing State-County partnerships through 2025 and beyond will be the focus. In York County, we have been focused on 2025 and beyond before the implementation of the CAP in 2020. York's progress and thinking beyond 2025 includes our 6 state-of-the-art water quality monitors in a partnership with USGS and using these monitors and the data they produce for us to better manage our watersheds. We are also thinking even further down the road on how to continue improving our waters with freshwater mussel restoration throughout the County. Read on to learn about our first ever freshwater mussel survey that was recently completed. We are epically excited for this project and the watershed restoration opportunities that it's presenting.

The work to continue making York's waters cleaner and healthier for all continues in new and exciting ways coupled with tried-and-true methods. WAY and York County are ready for 2025 and beyond.

In Stewardship,



Rachel Stahlman, CAP Coordinator / WAY President
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Local Highlights:

Crispus Attucks Codorus Corridor Summer Enrichment Program

Over the summer, a group of fourteen students from several local York schools ranging in ages from 9th - 12th grade, participated in the Crispus Attucks Codorus Corridor Summer Enrichment Program (CCSEP). The CCSEP was designed around the Codorus Creek Improvement Project and strived to utilize the project scope of work as a living laboratory for students in the program. Much of the project curriculum incorporated project-based and hands-on learning opportunities. The strategic approach to enhancing learning opportunities for these students was the output of the redevelopment committee of the General Authority, Buchart Horn, City of York, Senior Community Service Employment Program, York County Economic Alliance, and members of the York City School District. The CCSEP was a six week, 20 hours per week program. The curriculum utilized personal interaction with presenters and staff, Monday through Thursday. On Friday, the students went on field trips to help refortify the subject matter learned Monday through Thursday. The overall primary goal of the program was to expose York City students to an array of careers, using the vehicle of an actual redevelopment project - the Codorus Creek Greenway project. With that, the York County Planning Commission (YCPC) and WAY both had the opportunity to be part of the program's curriculum. Municipal Planners Jesse King and Kurt Leitholf from YCPC presented to the students planning concepts and an overview of tasks and work that the YCPC does for the community. Rachel Stahlman from WAY presented the Enviroscape model and watershed 101 concepts to the students.

Both YCPC and WAY highlighted the different avenues and careers that can come to fruition in the planning and environmental resources educational fields. After Rachel presented to the students on behalf of WAY, the program approached her to help with organizing a field trip in correlation with watershed concepts. Rachel, along with WAY BOD members Jodi Sulpizio and Lettice Brown, helped the staff of CCSEP organize a field trip to the Poorhouse Run stream restoration project at Veterans Memorial Park in the City of York. Jeff Shue with C.S. Davidson, the company that helped to engineer the stream restoration at Poorhouse Run, met Rachel, Jodi, Lettice, Mark (all WAY BOD's) and the students at Poorhouse Run to describe in detail what it took to engineer the stream restoration project. The students got to engage with all of us and ask questions not only about the project but about careers related to this type of work. It was very meaningful having four WAY BOD involved in the field trip. At the end of the six-week program, we were invited to Logos Academy where the students graduated from the program by presenting all that they learned and asked/answered critical questions that reflected on the impact the Codorus Corridor project will have on the community. It was impressive to hear all that the students learned and even more impressive that they gave up their summer to continue to learn and better themselves. We are looking forward to next year's program and being involved again in this awesome program.

Local Highlights:

Crispus Attucks Codorus Corridor Summer Enrichment Program



CCSEP students presenting at four separate stations what they have learned about the Codorus Corridor project as it aligns with the curriculum they learned throughout the program.

Students worked in small groups throughout the program and were all given a different focus as it related to careers, community, and the Codorus Corridor. Each group presented to a panel, and audience, took questions from both and were asked to answer introspective questions about humanity and community benefits.



Projects Around the County: Freshwater Mussel Survey

September 5, 6, and 7 may have been the most exciting workdays ever experienced by two York County Planning Commission (YCPC) employees, Rachel Stahlman and John Seitz. After about a year of engaging and planning, York has completed our first freshwater mussel survey with the expert assistance from the Western PA Conservancy. Malacologist (mussel expert) Eric Chapman and his team of three scientists spent three whole days searching York County's waters for mussels.

Why are we so interested in freshwater mussels? Freshwater mussels filter out nutrients as water flows. Some species, like the Eastern Elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*) can filter 10 gallons of water in a single day. In the Susquehanna River Basin, we have 12 native species of freshwater mussels.

To get ready for mussel surveying in York County, the YCPC first had to decide where we wanted to survey. We decided to focus on our three biggest watersheds, Conewago West, Codorus, and Muddy. From there, we needed to select a couple dozen potential sites within those watersheds. We focused then on County bridge access points and created a list of 36 potential surveying sites. Next, Rachel and John spent three days assessing the potential 36 sites looking at factors like parking, access, and stream conditions. Of those 36 potential sites, 24 were viable for surveying. We sent our reconnaissance information to Eric and his team and patiently waited for their arrival a couple weeks after.



Each mussel found is sex identified and measured. Measuring indicates age.



After each survey site the most excitement is when you gather around to see what the other surveyors found!



Center - Elktoe, *Alasmidonta marginata*. It was found weathered and dead but is still useful and was kept for the museum.



Yellow Lampmussel, *Lampsilis cariosa*



Eastern Floater, *Pyganodon cataracta*



Top: Eastern Elliptio, *Elliptio complanata*
Bottom: Yellow Lampmussel, *Lampsilis cariosa*

Projects Around the County: Freshwater Mussel Survey

The first week of September rolled around with 90-degree sunny days. Rachel, John, and Kendra (Watershed Restoration Specialist at York County Conservation District), rolled up to the first surveying location and met up with Eric and his team of three... Trent, Jon, and Alicia. We started day one in the Conewago West, just upstream from our water quality monitor. In each stream, before surveying begins, an array of data is collected from water quality readings, temperature, conductivity, and more. Once the data is collected, Eric measured the stream width. The width of the stream multiplied by 2 and divided by the number of surveyors determines the amount of time everyone will search for mussels during the survey at a single location. Ten minutes is the minimum search time. After data has been collected and the search time determined, each surveyor enters the stream and gets into a position where they will begin searching upstream from their starting point. A whistle is blown, and the search begins. Eric, Trent, Jon, and Alicia all wore wet suits and used snorkeling gear to get up close to the stream bed in their search. Rachel, Kendra, and John used clear bottom buckets to search. It wasn't long until we heard the first 'woo' - you must 'woo' whenever you find a live mussel. As first timers, Rachel, Kendra, and John waded over to the sight of the just found mussel to see how they appear to look when buried in the stream bed. Once we all had a visual indication of what we were looking for, we began to also have some luck in the survey.



Young Eastern Elliptio, *Elliptio complanata*, that the scientists debated over for quite some time thinking it could have been a different species altogether.

Very exciting survey review. All the scientists were stumped over how many Eastern Elliptio's were found in the Codorus Creek at Loucks Mill Rd.



Checking all the bags from the Codorus Creek survey and laying out all the mussels found.



Many of the Eastern Elliptio's, *Elliptio complanata* found at the Loucks Rd. Codorus Creek survey.



Excitement after the Codorus Creek survey.

Scuba surveying in the Codorus Creek.

Projects Around the County: Freshwater Mussel Survey

The first day of surveying included six different sites and we located five out of the twelve native mussel species on that first day. The five species we found are, Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*), Eastern Elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*), Yellow Lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*), Eastern Floater (*Pyganodon cataracta*), and Creeper (*Strophitus undulatus*).

Day two of surveying took place in Codorus Creek and Muddy Creek. To the surprise of all the scientists and surveyors, many Eastern Elliptio were found in Codorus Creek by the Rail Trail pull-off on Loucks Mill Road. We surveyed three sites on the Codorus then moved onto Muddy Creek and surveyed another four sites. We felt as though mussels would not be in Muddy Creek, and although the conditions seem perfect, we were right, and no mussels were found in Muddy Creek.

On day three, we decided to change our original plan of surveying Kreutz Creek to instead look in the Little Conewago and the South Branch Codorus. We decided to do this based on the mussels that we found in the Conewago West and Codorus. We did not find any live mussels, but we did find weathered and dead mussels which is a good indication, nevertheless.

What's next? Eric and his team are analyzing the data we collected during the survey. Next year, we will likely survey further while also introducing mussel hotels to a couple of sites, likely in the Conewago West, Codorus, and Muddy watersheds. A mussel hotel houses 20 baby-young mussels.

At each site where hotels will be put up, four hotels will be set up totaling 80 baby-young mussels. The hotels stay in service for 75 days. At the end of their hotel stay, the mussels are taken back to the laboratory and studied in an array of ways including, but not limited to, assessing survival and growth rates. If all goes well with hotel deployments, year three of this work would include the placement of many mussels in the successfully studied watersheds for mussel restoration on a large scale.

York County is extremely excited for this project and the opportunities and partnerships that we are facing with mussel restoration. Stay tuned for more mussel mania!



Eastern Elliptio, and Yellow Lampmussel, nestled together looking quite beautiful!

Event Highlight: 21st Annual Watershed Week

WAY's 21st Annual Watershed Week was held September 16 – 22. This year, we had 18 events over the week with some new offerings and several reoccurring from years' past. Below are some highlights from a couple of events over the week.



Sunday, September 17th, Rambo Run Stream Study at Wallace Cross Mill and a Tour of Historic Wallace Cross Mill. WAY Vice President, Duane Hyson, along with the assistance of WAY Volunteer, Cindy Pizziketti, led a stream study of Wallace Cross Mill in pouring down rain. Many creatures lurking beneath the waters surface were found, including the dragon fly larva pictured above! Both Duane and Cindy are “Friends of Wallace Cross Mill” and on Sunday’s the Mill is open to the public for tours. After the Rambo Run stream study, we all warmed up and dried off inside the historic Wallace Cross Mill. Duane and Cindy described all the ins and outs of the mill, it’s history, and how it once operated.



Monday, September 18th, Fly Fishing Essentials Special Edition with Jimmy and Jay. Our friends at Hopewell Fish & Game Association welcomed us back this year with warm hospitality. This event is typically on the second Monday of each month but the folks at Hopewell are kind enough to offer a special edition for Watershed Week. Jimmy Cole is an awesome teacher. All the kids crowd around him asking many questions, all at once, and Jimmy is extremely kind and patient explaining and answering questions. On the big screen, Jimmy showed us up close, and with amazing explanation, how to tie an egg fly. The winner of the complete fly fishing essentials kit this year, Jimmy Shoots, was extremely excited! Jimmy is a four year student at Hopewell’s Youth Program and can’t wait to take his new fly rod out fishing.

Event Highlight: 21st Annual Watershed Week



New to Watershed Week this year was the free event, “Watershed Discovery at Keystone Kidspace”, on Wednesday, September 20th. About 80 students joined us for a morning of hands-on learning. The Mess Hall and Wonder Bar - two STEAM focused areas of Keystone Kidspace were open for the students and WAY incorporated an extra four learning stations, all watershed focused, for the students to visit. The added stations were Gytaku fish printing, macroinvertebrate rubbing and stream study, Enviroscape, and fishing for invasives with the human hamster wheel for snow cone making.

Thursday, September 21st was Tap Talks: “Freshwater Mussels” featuring Jeff Cole, Hydrologist with USGS. We invited Jeff to come discuss freshwater mussels with us since York is very interested in restoring our waterways with freshwater mussels. Jeff brought along a lot of examples of mussels outside of the Susquehanna Basin. He was animated in describing the powerful presence of freshwater mussels. Thanks to Collusion Tap Works for the hospitality!



Friday, September 22nd we closed out a successful 21st Annual Watershed Week with the annual Youth & Family Fishing & Conservation Evening. WAY partners with the Master Watershed Stewards, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, and the Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers & Outdoors Partners. This year was our most attended year yet with 148 kids with lines cast into Kiwanis Lake in the City of York. The lake was stocked with Bluegill, Catfish, and Bass for the event. Prizes were given to kids who caught the biggest, smallest, and first fish.



Watershed Warriors

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Brookfield Renewable

River Rangers

PA American Water
HRG
The Riverkeeper
ARRC

Stream Savivors

LandStudies
Ecotone

Estuary Enthusiasts

Traditions Bank
York County Solid
Waste Authority

Where in the Watersheds?!

Last year we highlighted facts for each of our 11 main watersheds. We've decided to switch it up and add some interactive fun!

On this page are photos / clues about a specific place located in one of our 11 main watersheds. Play along by trying to guess the exact location and in what watershed.

Feeling extra playful? E-mail your answer along with mailing address to rstahlman@ycpc.org to get a WAY prize delivered to you if your answer is correct.

We also take submissions! Send in some sneaky photos from a favorite spot in one of our watersheds along with clues to the location and you may get featured!

Find the answer to 'Where in the Watersheds?!' in our next newsletter.



Clues

- About 82% of the land use in this watershed is Agricultural
- A National Historic District is located in this watershed and was established as such in 1994
- Trout fisherman from all over the country flock to this watershed annually
- This watershed has a Trout Unlimited chapter





The WAY:

Watershed Forestry Program

for Riparian Forest Buffer's

For landowners in York County!

Funding available until November 30, 2023.

\$6,000/acre available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Contract must be signed between the implementation partner and WAY.

Projects must be completed before funds will be disbursed.

**To learn more/apply
Call: 717-771-9870 x 1763
E-mail: rstahlman@ycpc.org**

\$6,000
per acre

**Deadline
extended!**

Funding available from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through the Watershed Alliance of York (WAY).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT APPLYING TURF FERTILIZER.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

In order to reduce nutrient loss, applicators of fertilizer must follow these site restrictions.

- Do not apply near waters, storm drains, or drainage ditches
- Maintain a 15-foot buffer from waterways.
- Do not apply if heavy rain is expected.
- Do not apply if ground is snow-covered or frozen.
- Apply product using a properly calibrated fertilizer spreader.
- Apply only to intended application site.
- Fertilizer that lands on an impervious surface (roads, sidewalks, driveways, etc.) must be swept back onto turf.

It is important to follow all label directions and safety precautions to protect yourself and your lawn.

Follow the 4Rs of Nutrient Management:

**Right Source, Right Rate,
Right Time, Right Place.**

Proper use of fertilizer can prevent nutrient runoff, save money, and protect Pennsylvania's waterways.



2301 N. Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.787.4843
www.agriculture.pa.gov



Publication date: July 2023

TURF FERTILIZER

Grow a healthy lawn while protecting the environment.

The more you know, the better it grows.



FERTILIZER LAW

On July 11, 2022, Pennsylvania enacted a new fertilizer law that updated requirements for both manufacturers and applicators of fertilizer.

Summary of changes:

- Label modifications
- Fee updates
- Turf nutrient limitations
- Application restrictions

WHO IS A FERTILIZER APPLICATOR?

The term "applicator" refers to anyone who applies fertilizer, including lawn care professionals, farmers, and homeowners/residents.

KNOW THE RATE

Select a fertilizer that is appropriate for the lawn's needs.

- No phosphorus** can be applied unless:
 - establishing or repairing turf or
 - a soil test indicates a phosphorus deficiency.
- Nitrogen** is limited to:
 - 0.7 pounds available N per 1000 ft²
 - 0.9 pounds total N per 1000 ft²

Whenever possible, choose an enhanced efficiency fertilizer to ensure nutrients are available when the lawn needs them.



CALIBRATE

Follow the directions on the fertilizer label and use a fertilizer spreader that is properly calibrated.

LAWN CARE CONSIDERATIONS

Preventing fertilizer loss keeps your lawn healthy, saves you money, and protects our waterways.

The first step to assessing your lawn's nutrient needs is to evaluate the soil fertility. Then you can select a lawn care regimen that is customized to meet your lawn's unique needs.

A site specific plan, based on recent

soil testing and nutrient recommendations, can be used to apply the appropriate amount of fertilizer to sustain a healthy, green lawn.

Keep fertilizer where it's needed most.



Upcoming Events

Visit the 'events' tab on WAY's website for full event details.

OCTOBER

- 10/8, 9-11am, Life Under Logs at Wizard Ranch
- 10/11, 4-6pm, Greener Codorus Initiative
- 10/14, 10am, 4th Annual Plastic Purge
- 10/15, 3pm, 4th Annual Plastic Purge
- 10/16, 9-11am, Greener Codorus Initiative
- 10/25, 4-6pm, Greener Codorus Initiative

NOVEMBER

- 11/5, 9-11am, Volunteer Workday at Wizard Ranch
- 11/6, 9-11am, Greener Codorus Initiative
- 11/15, 3-5pm, Greener Codorus Initiative
- 11/18, 10am-1pm, Tree Planting with the Alliance

DECEMBER

- 12/4, 9am-4pm, The Rugged Beauty of Cuffs Run: An Advanced Hike



<-- Scan with your phone's camera to go right to our events tab to see all events and register!

Contact us if...

- You have a water quality project and you are unsure if it's being counted for credit in restoration efforts
- You want to be part of WAY or any of the Committees of WAY
- You have any questions or comments



@WAYORKPA



/WATERSHEDALLIANCEOFYORKPA

The WAY Board of Directors meet on the 4th Thursday of each month in person at 6:30pm in Room 151 of York County at Pleasant Valley

2401 Pleasant Valley Road, York

Join us virtually via TEAMS
find the link at
watershedallianceofyork.org

The Watershed Alliance of York (**WAY**) is a group of volunteer stakeholders interested in improving local waterways for the betterment of the county and to meet clean water goals. If you would like to get involved, **please contact Rachel Stahlman at rstahlman@ycpc.org**