



SPRING 2025

runs n' ripples

on big fishing creek

a publication of the
SUGAR VALLEY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Tree Identification, Wildlife Habitat, and Invasive Species Meeting

By Coreena Meyer, member of the Sugar Valley Watershed Association

The Sugar Valley Watershed Association held an educational event on Saturday, September 14th on the property of Aaron and Nicole Yohn, which is located behind the Sportsman's Club in Loganton, Pennsylvania.

The key speaker was Dan Heggenstaller, a member of the Watershed Association who is a forester with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Dan led the group of close to 20 attendees through the woods and fielded many questions along the way. His presentation included invasive species identification and methods on how to control them, tree and habitat food source identification, different ways to improve the wildlife habitat, etc. He discussed timber harvests and how they affect plants and animals as well as how wildlife forage and look for cover. He took time to explain that white oak acorns germinate in the fall and red oak acorns don't germinate until spring. He also explained that if there are a great deal of small saplings of other species around the bottom of oak trees, they hinder acorns from becoming established due to lack of sunlight. There were many questions from the participants and the walk through the woods lasted almost 2 hours.

There were also activities for the children who attended. These activities included a scavenger hunt, campfire safety, and coloring books to take home. There were 8 children in attendance.

The Sugar Valley Watershed members who attended were James Harbach, Dan Heggenstaller (Presenter), Coreena Meyer, and Emily Heggenstaller. The rest of the participants were members of the community and some individuals from outside the community who were interested in attending.

There was a picnic that followed where the discussions continued and many questions were asked of Dan.



Dan Heggenstaller discusses habitat management and invasive species. September 14, 2024.

All photo credits for this article: Emily Heggenstaller



Children conducted an extensive scavenger hunt, learned about campfire safety, and worked on wildlife coloring books.

UPDATE: BIG FISHING CREEK COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

*By John Brown, member of the Sugar Valley Watershed Association
& President of the Big Fishing Creek Cottage Association*

Big Fishing Creek Cottage Association Meeting with the Sugar Valley Watershed Association

For the second consecutive year, BFCCA and the Sugar Valley Water Association (SVWA) members met. Thirteen participants provided updates and discussed common issues. A blownout mountain artesian well on Summer Road, staffing at the Clinton County Conservation District, the Sieg Conference Center, upstream special fishing regulations, stream habitat improvements and coordination with agencies including National Trout Unlimited were discussed. The entrée, three ice cream selections and homemade pies were alone a reason to attend.



Members of the BFCCA and Sugar Valley Watershed Association at Big Pine Lodge in the Narrows. September 9, 2024.

All photo credits for this article: John Brown

Two associations, similar missions...

Sugar Valley Watershed Association

The mission of the SVWA is "to educate our community and to help people understand how they might affect the quality of Fishing Creek." The SVWA is a small, nonprofit with active volunteers who promote awareness and appreciation of environmental issues through education so that the community can make sound choices for a sustainable and ecologically healthy future.

Big Fishing Creek Cottage Association

Established in 1946, the mission of the Big Fishing Creek Cottage Association (BFCCA) is "to preserve the natural integrity of the forest and streams within the Big Fishing Creek Narrows." The BFCCA is a stock owner nonprofit represented by the fifteen property owners within the narrow four-mile pass known as the "Narrows."

UPDATE: BIG FISHING CREEK COTTAGE ASSOCIATION CONT.

Sieg Conference Center Update and Big Fishing Creek Cottage Association Review Committee

In March 2020, due to the global covid epidemic, the Sieg Conference Center (SCC) closed. It remains closed and the owner, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wishes to divest this investment. In April 2024, at the BFCCA annual meeting, the membership by adoption agreed to form a membership committee “to continue and engage in discussion” to find an acceptable successor to the SCC.

Since April, a nine (9) member committee was formed. The Committee has met twice by Zoom and was scheduled to meet again on October 28th. Background calls have been held between Attorney Joe Green, President Brown, state attorneys, and facility management staff from Lock Haven - Commonwealth University.

A walkthrough of the SCC was held in September. Several parties have shown interest. As the owner of the building at the SCC, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the primary owner. They remain the primary negotiating entity for agreement and sale.



Main Lobby Sieg Conf. Center September 2024.



Sieg Conference Center Centre Driveway. September 2024.

Big Fishing Creek Cottage Association Habitat Management Update

In October 2023, members of the BFCCA, PA Fish and Boat Commission (PABFC) and the Clinton County Conservation District (CCCD) met to consider stream habitat improvements in the Big Fishing Creek Narrows.

Five improvement sites were selected and site designs were prepared by PABFC. In Spring 2024, the CCCD, deferred consideration for funding due to the lack of a local match. Request for funding will be reconsidered in Spring 2025.

SGL 295: A Natural Buffer for the Protection of the Narrows

State Game Lands No. 295, consists of 12,336 acres. It is adjacent to and surrounds the BFCCA boundaries. It is the largest one-time acquisition for Pennsylvania state game land and serves as a buffer/infringement against future development.



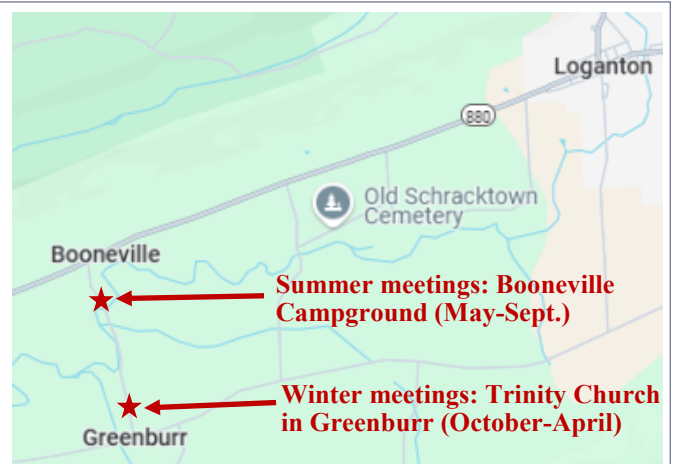
Trustee Peter Brown hiking Bear Run Trail/ SGL 295 October 2024.



Want to become more involved?

We are looking for new members and those interested in being on the Board of Directors!

Feel free to attend any of our monthly meetings to find out more. We meet the first Monday of every month at Trinity Church in Greenburr (October-April).



**THE SUGAR VALLEY
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

2132 East Valley Road,
Loganton, PA 17747



Visit us at our website:

www.svwatershed.org



facebook.com/
SugarValleyWatershedAssociation

Board Meetings

We meet the first Monday of every month at Trinity Church in Greenburr (October-April) and at the Booneville Campground (May-September). Please check our Facebook page for meeting times and upcoming events.

7:00 pm

In order to keep our members and our community safe we are also holding meetings via conference call.

Just dial in:
978-990-5351

Then enter the access code:
2564176

**THE SUGAR VALLEY WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND
DIRECTORS**

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Members who haven't paid dues yet this year can pay now!

**Become a Member of the Sugar Valley Watershed Association
"flowing cleaner, growing greener"**

... protecting the quality & beauty of Big Fishing Creek to enhance life in Sugar Valley by promoting awareness & appreciation of environmental issues through education so the community can make sound choices for a sustainable & ecologically healthy future.

Help Support Our Organization by Joining at One of the Following Levels:

Individual	\$10.00	Stewardship	\$50.00
Family/Farm	\$25.00	Conservationist	\$100.00

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Membership Level _____

Send this form and your check to:

Sugar Valley Watershed Association

Membership Director

2132 East Valley Road, Loganton, PA 17747