

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



Since March's issue, the WAY BOD has met three times. The overarching theme at those meetings has been **growth**. The organization is growing at an exponential rate and at times it feels like we are holding on for dear life through this growing season of WAY. It's a time to celebrate accomplishments but we also need to be calculated in our moves so that the capacity of the BOD is not put at risk. We are taking on new grant programs, more funding, and a greater appreciation to our mission. Now that we are about half way through the year, we have begun to reflect on the first half while planning for the second half (hey-oh, Watershed Week!) and looking into planning for the new year - yes, already... Restoration never rests!



WAY

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Hello Readers!

Spring proved to be quite busy for CAP implementation and happenings within WAY. We assisted with Envirothon and Shank's Mare's annual stream study sessions - education and outreach for the children! We partied hardy for the River during Give Local York to raise funds for WAY - we met our 2023 goal! Above all else, work has been happening!

Since our March issue, several CAP funded projects have been completed, which translates to more restoration progress across the County! One of the larger projects is highlighted in the pages that follow so, read on.

Now that June is here the focus is shifting to the latter half of the year - can you believe it already?! This means that event planning for WAY's 21st Annual Watershed Week is officially underway. There are some exciting things being planned for this year's Watershed Week... including a sweet t-shirt design. An array of events, both new and classical, are also being planned for us all to enjoy! Mark your calendar for September 16 - 22 and keep your eyes peeled on WAY's social media accounts and website for event information in the coming weeks.

Also, on the horizon for the second half of the year is annual CAP reporting. This year is a milestone update year, so the reporting requirements are a bit heavier than last year. Nevertheless, it's a wonderful opportunity to take stock of our current restoration standings. I'm looking forward to highlighting all the hard work we are doing.

Finally, we are approaching funding planning for 2024 CAP projects. Each October, I submit a list of "shovel ready" projects to DEP for funding consideration. York County Planning Commission then receives a lump sum from DEP to divvy up among the approved projects, but there is never enough funds to implement all of them. Projects that will result in high nitrogen reduction credits are priority projects. If you know of an unfunded or underfunded construction ready water quality improvement project that will be eligible for CAP credit, please contact me to discuss.

So much going on and so many opportunities to get involved. There is no rest in sight, and we love it that way! I hope you enjoy this issue of the Re-CAP. Thanks for reading, for your continued support, and for being on this wild water ride with us!

In Stewardship,



Rachel Stahlman, CAP Coordinator / WAY President
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Local Highlights: ALLARM Monitoring

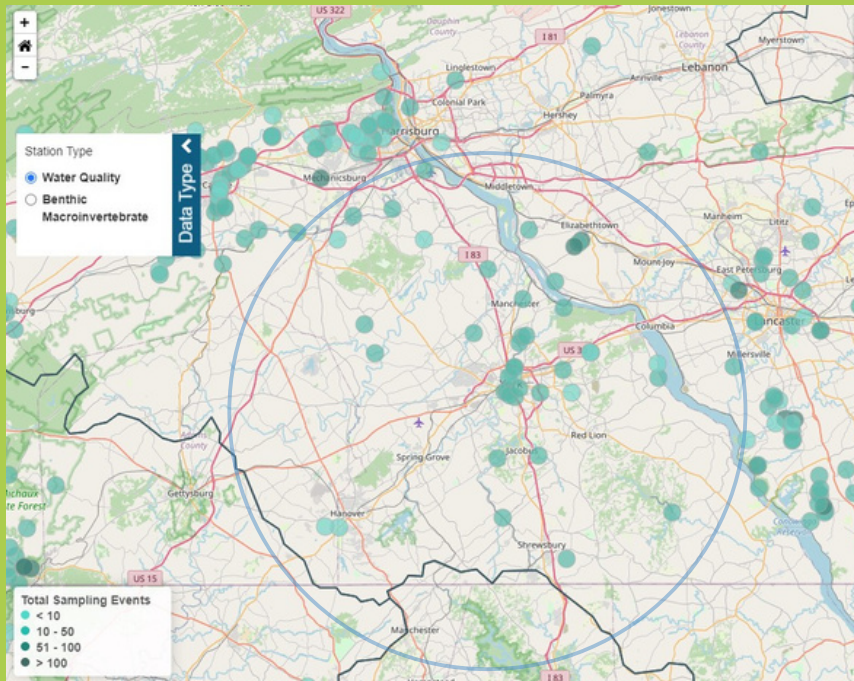


Article written and photographs provided by Cindy Pizziketti

ALLARM - The Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring-sounds like what you would shout in an emergency, and it sort of is. This program, run through Dickinson College, is empowering citizen scientists to monitor water quality throughout the county. Every month these trained volunteers take a sample from their stream site and through this monthly assessment they become aware and can raise the “ALLARM” if they see water quality deteriorating.

I have been a member of the stream team since its beginning in York County 4 years ago. Every month I wade into Kreutz Creek and take the temperature, use a secchi disk to measure clarity, measure stream depth, and grab a water sample for further land tests (conductivity, nitrates, and pH.) These tests enable us to objectively understand what is going on in the streams we monitor. Some changes in the stream such as color are obvious, but nitrates are colorless, yet important to the health of the creek and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

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This map, pulled from the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative website shows the ALLARM monitoring locations across York County (in the light blue circle).



Cindy Pizziketti collects a water sample from Kreutz Creek in York County.

Local Highlights: ALLARM Monitoring



Array of water testing supplies provided by ALLARM.



Nitrate results from a sample collected from Kreutz Creek.



Nitrate results from a sample collected from Kreutz Creek near the landfill on 10/20/2020, the nitrate readings collected this day were very poor.

The ALLARM team at Dickenson supports the stream team by developing the procedures used, providing the initial training, and follow up support including quality control. Each year our samples are tested at Dickinson to make sure our results fall within certain parameters. In addition, the team at ALLARM is always there to answer volunteer questions and provide opportunities for continuing education on the monitoring process. Yearly, the program provides a site packet with the year's data, summarized statistics, and watershed information. I really appreciate both the technical support that ALLARM provides team members and the support from a community of like minded people who are also monitoring.

Visiting the creek each month has allowed me to better understand how water quality is affected seasonally. For example, in winter weather, we often notice an increase in conductivity because of the impact of salted roadways. In February, we often get a higher than expected nitrate reading, perhaps because manure has been added to fields while the ground is still frozen. Most importantly the ALLARM program has empowered me with data and insights into my stream's water quality so that I can raise the "ALLARM" if I notice a change in water quality.

Projects Around the County: UNT to Libes Creek Stream Restoration



Recently completed in May with 91.2% of its funding from the CAP, was the Unnamed Tributary (UNT) to Libes Creek Restoration. This project was several years in the making, starting back in late 2019. It included 1,861 linear feet of stream restoration with legacy sediment removal, 0.6 acres of wetland restoration, and 3.2 acres of riparian reforestation. It will improve a drainage area of 244 acres in Hopewell Township by reducing 244,655 pounds of sediment, 814 pounds of nitrogen, and 200 pounds of phosphorus annually. The entirety of the project was completed by Ecotone. A huge, massive thank you to DEP for the funding, Ecotone for the design and construction work, York County Conservation District for the contracting work, and most importantly landowners for implementing a watershed restoration project on their property!



Event Highlight:

Shank's Mare Susquehanna River Field Days

Shank's Mare began offering Susquehanna River Field Days in the mid-1990's and has since introduced well over 20,000 students to the river. What better way to educate future stewards than to give them a hands-on day of learning and adventure. The goal of these field days is to give an overview of the habitat, ecology, and history of the Susquehanna River. There are three learning stations that students get to experience:

- **River Discovery:** Students embark on a guided paddle tour of Lake Clarke on the Susquehanna River. After a paddling orientation and short discussion on Susquehanna River facts and its unique relationship to the Chesapeake Bay, students launch kayaks and paddle the waterway searching for wildlife, including Bald Eagles, Osprey, Great Blue Heron and more. This adventure provides an opportunity for students to get an up-close view of this waterway and note the importance of the Susquehanna to our environment and the Chesapeake Bay. For most, this is their first experience in a kayak and on the River!

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Students studying Fishing Creek. Some are in groups using kick nets (yellow tools pictured) to disturb the creek bed and catch macroinvertebrates while other are looking under rocks.



Largest Stonefly found during May's stream studies of Fishing Creek.



Two different Dragonfly Larva's found during stream studies. These were the only two found all month long.

Event Highlight:

Shank's Mare Susquehanna River Field Days



Hellgrammites, (long and leggy), Water Penny (flat and copper color), Mayfly's (three tails).



- **Streamside Discovery:** Students explore Fishing Creek and become acquainted with the macroinvertebrates that live in and around the area through hands-on interaction. By discovering the aquatic life and the mammals and amphibians that visit the stream, students can determine the health of the waterway and the important relationship the streams have to the rivers into which they flow.
- **Rivertales:** Students gather for a short presentation on the history of the Susquehanna River and its importance in the daily lives of those who inhabited its banks. From the Native Americans to the early European settlers and their border disputes, to the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal, the river has played a significant role in the settling of our area.

CAP Coordinator, Rachel Stahlman, assisted throughout the month of May with the “Streamside Discovery” learning station. Each group of students thoroughly enjoyed stomping around in Fishing Creek searching for signs of life. We found so much throughout the month including crayfish (both native and invasive), leeches, aquatic worms, dragonfly larva, hellgrammites, water pennies, stone fly, cadis fly, mayfly, crane fly larva, and much more! Group after group designated the stream as healthy after they had fun turning over rocks and using kick nets to find the macro-critters. It’s wonderful what Shank’s Mare does for the youth of our community!



Students gather at the end of a stream study while Elizabeth Jones with Shank's Mare describes the macroinvertebrates we found.

Event Highlight: Envirothon!

York County Conservation District, along with its partners, celebrated the 38th Envirothon in York County this May. Nearly 1,000 students participate in Envirothon each year where they showcase, on teams representing their school, their knowledge in Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a new environmental Current Issue each year. Envirothon events are held in 66 of 67 PA counties, all 50 states, Canada, and beyond. FUN FACT: York County is one of the few places throughout North America to offer the Envirothon beginning in the third grade! This year, WAY was a proud sponsor of the Envirothon! York County Planning Commission's (YCPC) CAP Coordinator/WAY President Rachel Stahlman, along with YCPC Senior Planner Anne Walko, assisted with the Current Issues and Scavenger Hunt testing stations. Anne is a veteran Envirothon Committee member and has been helping with the success of Envirothon for several years. Rachel is brand new to the Committee this year but had such an amazing time that she plans to continue volunteering for years to come. HUGE THANK YOU to York County Conservation District and especially to Michael McKelvey, their Education/Communication's Coordinator, who steers the ship to make Envirothon the great success it is!



The Envirothon banner to welcome students.



WAY's sponsorship sign displayed at Envirothon.



Day 1 awards ceremony.

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.

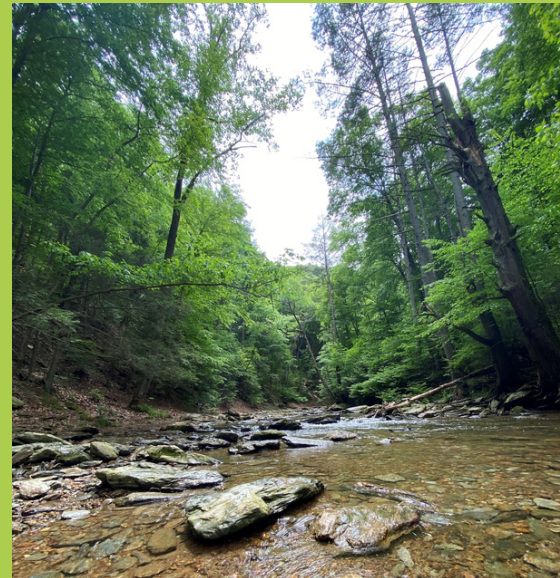
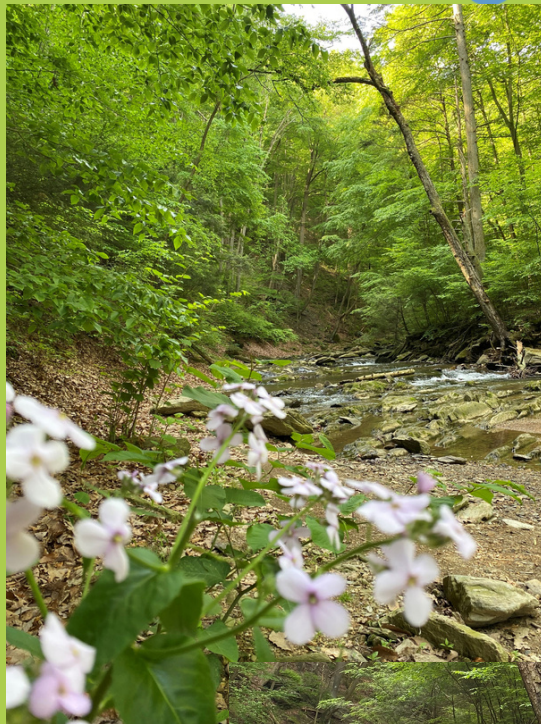
We also take submissions! Send in some sneaky photos from a favorite spot in one of our watersheds along with clues to the location and you may get featured!

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



Clues

- This creek starts at an elementary school in Red Lion
- Once upon a time, there was a trolley line that ran parallel to it
- You can enter this creek from the Susquehanna River
- This creek has a popular name - another York creek shares the name
- Each year this creek is stocked with trout





Upcoming Events

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

JUNE

6/17, 10am - 12pm, Tree Tending @ Horn Farm

6/19, 9am - 11am, Greener Codorus Initiative @ Foundry Plaza

6/24, 9am - 12pm, Riverfest @ Columbia Crossing River Trails Center

6/28, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Greener Codorus Initiative @ Foundry Plaza

JULY

7/14, 6pm - 9pm, Rockin' for the River @ Shank's Mare

7/27, 6pm - 8pm, Tap Talks: Michael Garrigan @ Collusion Tap Works

7/29, 9am - 1pm, Annual Codorus Creek Clean Up @ TBD

AUGUST

8/11, 6pm - 9pm, Rockin' for the River @ Shank's Mare Outfitters

SEPTEMBER

9/16 - 22, 21st Annual Watershed Week @ York County!

OCTOBER

10/14&15, 4th Annual Plastic Purge @ TBD



<-- 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**