



# Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

Protecting and Preserving Sleepy Creek in Morgan County, WV

August 2008

## Points of Note

- Support a **Permanent Recycling Center** in Morgan County with your tax-deductible contribution (see below).
- Closes **January 3, 2010: Dig It! The Secrets of Soil** exhibit; Smithsonian Museum of Natural History; Washington, DC.
- **Morgan Commissioners Sign Trash Treaty** (see page 2)
- **Proposed High Power Lines** Coming through Morgan County

## SUPPORT A PERMANENT RECYCLING CENTER

The Morgan County Solid Waste Authority has rented space south of Berkeley Springs on Rt. 522 for a permanent recycling center. Plans are to open four full days a week. Not only will it be a more convenient way to recycle, but ultimate plans are to take plastics and electronic equipment.

The Center has received a state grant, but considerable additional funding is required for fencing the property and other improvements.

Please support this important project.

*Send tax deductible donations to* eCo, Box 121, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

### Membership and Renewal Form

Membership year is from January-December.  
Dues should be paid by the first of the year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual — \$10  Group/Org — \$25

Family — \$15  Sponsor — \$100

Mail to: SCWA, Bob Velte, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 991, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

## CONSERVATION PROJECT BEGINS ON SLEEPY CREEK

On August 4, the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association began work with the West Virginia Conservation Agency on a Natural Stream Restoration project in southern Morgan County. Over many years during rain events and high water, Sleepy Creek has dug separate channels as it flows along Creek Road causing bank erosion with resulting loss of large trees and sections of the stream bank.

Continued erosion has caused deterioration of the stream bank and impacts Creek Road. Residents along Creek Road may have noted the muddy appearance of Sleepy Creek while this project is taking place, but the stream should begin to clear at the end of the construction phase on August 15.

Stephen Starcher, WV Conservation Agency Watershed Technician Design Specialist, began drawing plans in early spring to rectify the stream's erosion potential. Natural Stream Restoration Technology is being employed to return the stream reach to a stable pattern, profile, and dimension that allows for proper sediment transport, decreased streambank erosion, and enhanced aquatic habitat. With almost \$30,000 from the WV Conservation Agency, state conservation officials selected Base Environmental Technologies, LLC from Nitro, WV to do the restoration work. The team has removed fallen trees and soil and gravel deposits from the middle of the creek and sloped the eroded stream bank to redirect the creek's force toward the middle of the channel.

The soil and plant matter is being moved to the stream bank where it will be planted with live willow stakes and other natural plant material.

The stream technicians are also constructing a stream crossing for access to pastures on the opposite of the creek. The crossing will have a rock base with larger rock sides to control the area of entry into the creek. When built properly, these well designed crossings provide access across the creek with minimum impact on the stream bed and habitat.

SCWA members have monitored sections of Sleepy Creek above and below the project



area for macroinvertebrates which help determine the health of the creek. They will monitor the stream again after the completion of the project to measure any affect on stream health. SCWA will organize a tree planting workshop in October to repair disturbed areas of the riparian buffer which may need additional plantings after the restoration project is completed. This entire project is a cooperative demonstration between the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, West Virginia Conservation Agency, West Virginia Watershed Network, and the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District.

Morgan County.

## PROPOSED HIGH POWER LINES COMING THROUGH MORGAN COUNTY

The American Electric Power and Allegheny Energy Highline are planning to build a high power transmission line called PATH across

It is **U**NLAWFUL to dredge, dam, or otherwise modify any portion of Sleepy Creek, for any reason, without first contacting the WV Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR).

If you see any such activity, please report it to: WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at 304-822-7266

and/or the

WVDNR at 304-822-3551



The transmission line is planned to be a 244 mile long, 765,000 kilovolt transmission highline from Southern West Virginia to serve New Jersey and New York. The towers will be 13 stories high and the swath it will cut will be about two hundred feet wide.

The final routing has not been chosen, and the companies are proposing four alternatives for Morgan County. Two would parallel existing high transmission lines in southern Morgan County and two would construct new routes from west to east. All four will traverse the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association.

Go to [www.pathtotransmission.com](http://www.pathtotransmission.com), get details and "take the survey" that is essentially a comment letter. Write "early and often." What can we say "Protect our natural and rural areas." "Avoid waterways and streams." Or simply ask the questions that are on your mind.

The map is available at [www.pathtotransmission.com](http://www.pathtotransmission.com) maps.pdf  
PATH\_File Overview\_maps\_Tile7.pdf.

### DIG It!

### THE SECRETS OF SOIL

This new 5,000-sq. ft. exhibit dedicated exclusively to soil is at the *Smithsonian Museum of Natural History* until January 3, 2010. It explains how soil supports nearly every living being on Earth and should be treated as a precious natural resource like air and water.

"We want visitors to walk away understanding just how inseparable our lives

are from the world beneath our feet. We want them to recognize that soils are at the center of the global cycles of water and carbon and have an influence on climate and what things we eat," says Patrick Megonigal, soil scientist for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and lead curator of the exhibit.

The exhibit includes soil samples from the 50 states, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia from the 1999 exhibit on the National Mall to honor the 100th anniversary of the Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Soil samples were selected by each region for their unique properties or extensive use as grassland, forest, or cropland. *The National Museum of Natural History is located on the National Mall at 10th St. and Constitution Ave. NW. Admission is free and open to the public 10am-7:30pm daily through August 31 and 10am-5:30pm thereafter. For more information, visit [www.mnh.si.edu](http://www.mnh.si.edu).*

## MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SIGN TRASH TREATY



Gale Foulds, Ron Wilson, Sara Wurtenberger, and Ginny Harris at Trash Treaty signing

Morgan County Commissioners Glen Stotler, Tommy Swaim and Brenda Hutchinson signed the Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty on August 8,

2008. They joined the governors of West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania as well as other local and state leaders in supporting the Trash Free Potomac by 2013 initiative.

This initiative is the brainchild of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, an endowed non-profit organization in Accokeek, MD, to focus on litter and trash to clean up the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. They have sponsored stream cleanups for the last 16 years, and SCWA volunteers have participated in the program.

The Commissioners pledged to support the initiative and to join other municipal governments and donate five cents for each county resident to a combined fund to help pay for an educational publicity campaign.

SCWA President Gale Foulds, Friends of the Cacapon President Ron Wilson, Eastern Panhandle Conservation District Outreach Specialist Sara Wurtenberger, and Alice Ferguson Foundation's Ginny Harris were invited to the treaty signing.

See [www.hardbargainfarm.org](http://www.hardbargainfarm.org) trash\_initiative for more information.



Bob Meadows, Board member, manning the SCWA booth at the 2008 Morgan County Fair

