



Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

Protecting and Preserving Sleepy Creek in Morgan County, WV September 2010

Points of Note

- September 24-26, Berkeley Springs Birding Festival
- September 26-27, Appalachia Rising protest to stop mountain-top removal, Environmental Protection Agency office in Washington, D.C.
- October 16, 9am, Tree Planting Project, Cacapon South.
- West Virginia Fish Consumption Advisory, see article this page.

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

P.O. Box 991, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER 16 TREE PLANTING PROJECT

The Sleepy Creek Watershed Association along with the West Virginia Conservation Agency, the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, and the Chesapeake Bay Forester are partnering to sponsor a community tree planting on October 16, 2010, from 9 to 5, rain or shine. The Cacapon South subdivision will be the site of the project. Five hundred twenty native species of trees in one to two gallon pots will be provided, and planting will be supervised by Herb Peddicord, Chesapeake Bay Forester and SCWA volunteers. Holes will be augured in advance, and participants should bring shovels and buckets for watering. Gloves will be provided.

The goal of the Sleepy Creek Project Team is to plant five acres of trees in urban areas of the Sleepy Creek Watershed. The Cacapon South subdivision qualified as an "urban area" and was chosen as the first project site because storm water from

the subdivision drains into Indian Run which flows into the main stem of Sleepy Creek in southern Morgan County. This subdivision has also suffered the loss of its ash trees from the attack of the Emerald Ash Borer, and new tree plantings will help restore the riparian buffer and avoid erosion.

To reach the project site, from Route 9 East and US 522 (Sheetz), take 522 south approximately 10 miles. Pass the entrance to Cacapon State Park, go one-half mile and turn left onto Oakland Road. Turn left at Cielo Road and park at first house on the left.

All volunteers are welcome, and lunch will be provided for all participants. Registration is required. Please contact SCWA President Gale Foulds at 304 258-6155 (ggfoulds2@frontier.com) or Barbie Elliott/Jennifer Garlesky at the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District office at 304 263-4376 after October 1 to register.

Sleepy Creek Watershed Association Board Members

President: Gale Foulds.

VP: Jim Michael

Treasurer: Bob Meadows.

Secretary: Charles Biggs

Board Members: Norm Dean, Don Searden

WEST VIRGINIA FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources has updated the WV Sport Fish Consumption Advisory for 2010. Fish consumption advisories are updated each year to help West Virginia fishermen and their families make educated choices about eating the fish they catch. Some statewide recommendations that apply to all water bodies include:

- Black Bass larger than 12", Walleye, Saugeye, White Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass should all be limited to ONE MEAL A MONTH due to mercury and PCB levels.
- Black Bass less than 12", Brown Trout, Channel Catfish greater than 17", Flathead Catfish, Sauger,

Rock Bass and all Suckers should all be limited to TWO MEALS A MONTH due to mercury and PCB levels.

For a full listing of water body- or species-specific 2010 advisories please visit <http://www.wvdhhr.org/fish>.

APPALACHIA RISING

SCWA has been contacted by a pan-Appalachia group organizing to gather at the Environmental Protection Agency office in Washington, D.C. on September 26-27 to protest Mountain Top removal and strip mining in Appalachia. Advocates from West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky are hoping to mobilize at least two thousand Appalachians to articulate a positive vision of Appalachia. Anyone wishing to participate or wanting more information can contact Laura Steepleton at lnsteeple@gmail.com.



A watershed is all the land area that drains to a given body of water.

We all live in a watershed!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Newsletter Editor,

On November 2 of this year, Sleepy Creek Watershed Association members and Morgan County voters will have an opportunity to support what is arguably the most far reaching and forward thinking environmental land use legislation ever proposed for Morgan County. The new Zoning Ordinance (ZO), although modest in scope, contains several provisions that help protect the SC watershed now and provides a framework for additional protections, should they be deemed necessary, in the future.

Why do we need zoning? To protect any area in a county WV State Code requires a zoning ordinance for the entire county, even if specific regulations will only apply to that one area. For example, the new Zoning Ordinance defines an area between Warm Springs Ridge and Cacapon Mountain as an important water recharge area. All evidence points to this recharge area as the source of the famous warm springs in Berkeley Springs State Park, the source of the water for the 3500 citizens served by the Town of Bath Waterworks. Specific land use guidance would be applied to that area in order to protect the Cacapon Mountain Aquifer that underlies it. Its simple: if there is no zoning, no enforceable protection can exist for this very important aquifer.

Protection of the Cacapon Mountain Aquifer, described above, has the fringe benefit of shielding the pure, cold tributaries of Sleepy Creek (Rock Gap, Breakneck and Indian Runs) that originate from the area east of Cacapon Mountain.

In areas of the county where high-density housing is allowed, the proposed ZO modestly lowers permissible density and increases open space requirements. In developments not served by public water and sewer, the current county subdivision regulations allow up to eight

dwelling units per acre with only 8000 square feet (5.4%) of open space. The new ZO decreases the allowable density to 4 homes per acre with 40% of the development left in open space. More open space equals more groundwater recharge area, and the possibility of better riparian buffers and more natural habitat.

Additional benefits to the Sleepy Creek watershed include prohibiting unsightly new billboards from the watershed and confining large-scale industrial operations to a very small part of the county where they can be closely monitored.

I am grateful that our County Commissioners had the political courage and vision to begin to tackle the land use problems that we see rapidly approaching. But the next step to protect our precious streams and rivers must be up to the citizens of Morgan county. Please vote "YES" to the Zoning Ordinance on November 2 and do your part to encourage others to do the same.

--Bert Lustig

BERKELEY SPRINGS BIRDING FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPTEMBER 24-26

The Third Annual Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival will be held in and around Berkeley Springs the weekend of September 24-26.

Most of the festi-val's events will be free and everyone is invited to attend.

The festival is timed to coincide with the annual fall bird migration, which should be in full swing at that time. It is the only fall birding festival being held in West Virginia. Copies of the festival program and other materials will be available throughout the festival weekend at the Nature Niche at 50 North Washington Street in Berkeley Springs, telephone 304 258-0992.



P.O. Box 991
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
sleepycreekwatershedassociation.org

Courtesy: Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

Do You Have E-mail?

Let us know your e-mail address so we can save trees and postage by e-mailing the newsletter to you. E-mail your address to us at:

info@sleepycreekwatershedassociation.org