



Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

Protecting and Preserving Sleepy Creek in Morgan County, West Virginia

May 2003

Next Meeting: May 15

Protecting Your Groundwater

The next general membership meeting will be May 15 at 7 p.m. at Coolfont Resort. Guest speaker Rick Shaver will discuss "Protecting Your Groundwater."

Rick is a geologist with the WV Dept. of Environmental Protection's Division of Water Resources. His background is in groundwater contamination cleanup, supply and protection.

Also on the agenda will be an update on the April and May cleanups and SCWA's bylaws, incorporation, and nonprofit status.

The meeting will be in the Lake Terrace Room at Coolfont's Tree-top House. Enter the building, walk towards the restaurant, turn left down the stairs, turn right at the bottom, and it's the second door on the right.

Stream Monitoring Workshop Sat., May 17—Part 2

Join us in this hands on, in the stream actual monitoring session. Bring tough rubber gloves and rubber boots so you can get in the water, rub the rocks and see what critters are living in this section of Sleepy Creek.

Date: Saturday, May 17

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: The Gatehouse at Sleepy Creek, 1506 Harmison Lane.

The workshop is sponsored by SCWA and led by certified instructor Sherre Evasic, president of the Blue Heron Environmental Network, Inc. of Hedgesville.

In part 1 of the workshop, held March 22, we learned that the water quality of a creek or river can be assessed by the amount and type of the aquatic bugs living in it.

Volunteer stream monitors use a Stream Quality Survey form to record stream conditions, land uses and insect diversity. They catch aquatic bugs in nets. Then, by identifying and counting the different types of bugs caught, the stream's health can be determined.

The survey form is sent to the state and becomes part of the statewide database that records the water quality of the state's streams. A copy of the form is also sent back to the volunteers who can track water quality trends for their local stream.

West Virginia depends on volunteer monitors to help protect the state's 9,300 rivers and streams.

For more information and directions, call 304-258-9282.

Get Those Tires!

May 10 Stream Cleanup

Tires and trash are the targets for the May stream cleanup on May 10 on Potomac Road near Burnt Mill Road. Meet the group there at 9:30 a.m.

Mosquitoes and the threat of the West Nile Virus make preventive action imperative. Discarded tires are a prime breeding spot for mosquitoes so we'll be looking for them.

The Department of Highways

will pick up the collected trash.

Volunteers are welcome. Tough gloves and boots or old shoes advisable. Call Gale Foulds for more information: 258-6155

Directions: From signal light at Sheetz on US 522, take Route 9 east 5.5 miles. Turn left onto Potomac Road and go .5 miles to clean-up site.



Sleepy Creek Watershed Assn.
P.O. Box 991
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

The Sleepy Creek Watershed Association is an organization of citizens working to protect and preserve Sleepy Creek and to educate the community on the value of this precious natural resource in Berkeley Springs, WV.

New Website for Mid-Atlantic River Conditions

The National Weather Service Middle Atlantic Forecast Center has launched a new service on their website to help keep people informed about flood probabilities and river conditions in the region. The website is:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/marfc>

This "Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services" website combines existing condition and forecast information for sites along the rivers of the middle Atlantic region, which includes the entire Potomac basin. The information will prove useful to a wide range of river users, as well as those who live in zones prone to floods.

The site was launched February 19 and is still in a "shakedown" mode as designers refine it, so limited information may be available for some collection points.

—Potomac Basin Reporter, January/February 2003

What's TMDL?

TMDL is term often thrown around at stream monitoring workshops. It stands for Total Maximum Daily Load. Streams can handle only so many pollutants and remain healthy enough to fish and swim in them. Once the pollutants add up from all sources and a stream becomes unhealthy, it has to go through the TMDL process to be cleaned up. Pollutants add up. Your watershed starts at your door!



Get Them Now!

- T-shirts w/turtle logo in light or royal blue, yellow, red, gray, green - \$12.00.
- Bumper stickers (blue w/ white lettering, turtle logo) "Protect Sleepy Creek" - \$1.00.
- License plates, "Protect Sleepy Creek," black w/ green frog (above) - \$15.
- Books on conservation

**On sale
at the workshop!**

Do you have e-mail?

Please let us know. Get the news faster and save SCWA postage & copying costs.

Email your address to: suncross@aol.com.



•Reduce,
•Reuse,
•Recycle
&
•Rebuy.

DUES ARE DUE!

Membership year is January to December. We delayed sending out renewal notices in hopes that our incorporated, non-profit status would be completed. The paperwork is done, but it's still in process. Meanwhile, we need money to operate! *Please renew today!*

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

___ Individual....\$10
___ Family.....\$15.
___ Group/Org.....\$25
___ Supporter.....\$100

Send payment to: Sleepy Creek Watershed Assn
P.O. Box 991
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411