

Fall 2019 Newsletter

Volunteers Plant 100 Trees Along Sleepy Creek

Pictured above are a few of the 14 hearty volunteers who helped the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association and Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) partnership plant a 100-tree riparian buffer on two cold, frosty mornings, Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2, 2019. We thank them all! The property is located along Virginia Line Road, owned by Randy Clark, and the planting was adjacent to the Middle Fork of Sleepy Creek. The plants were a variety of WV native trees and shrubs. Over their lifetimes they will contribute to cleaner water and air, stormwater control, and improved wildlife habitat within the watershed. If you or someone you know who lives on Sleepy Creek or one of its tributaries would be interested in having a similar no-cost planting on their property, don't hesitate to contact Chuck Marsh at info@sleepycreekwatershed.org or Kristen Bisom, EPCD, at kbisom@wvca.us or (681) 247-3011. We would be happy to work with you over the winter to plan a spring 2020 planting.

Financial Assistance for Septic Pumping and Repair Available

Working with the EPCD and West Virginia Conservation Agency, we are happy to announce that we can continue to offer homeowners in the watershed financial reimbursement for home septic pumping and repair through 2020/2021. Up to 50% of the cost (up to \$150) to have a septic system pumped is available now. The main qualifier is your property must be within the Sleepy Creek Watershed and your septic must need pumping. **Funding is limited, so don't delay in applying.** Additional funding of up to \$7,000 per failing septic is also pending in 2020. To be notified when this opportunity becomes available, contact Kristen Bisom (below). Applications for repair funding will be accepted on a first come, first served basis once the program is open. Applications for both pumping and repairs must be first submitted and approved before work is started. Contact Kristen at 681-247-3011 or email kbisom@wvca.us to determine your eligibility and learn about the application procedure.

Streambank Stabilization Project Underway

You may have noticed the above excavator at the corner of Winchester Grade, Spriggs, and Autumn Acres Roads. We are overjoyed to announce that working in collaboration with the EPCD, WV Conservation Agency, WV Department of Environmental Protection, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and others, we have secured over \$400,000 in federal and state funding to accomplish the project designed in 2017. Work is progressing slowly, but we are hopeful to have the construction completed by year-end. If you want to learn more about the project, we invite you to attend our upcoming SCWA annual membership meeting November 13. See below for details.

In Other News...

An Opportunity to Learn About the Environmental Value of Trees and Other Green Infrastructure

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) will present its quarterly program "Fighting Climate Change through Green Infrastructure Initiatives" on Saturday, November 16, 2019. The presentation will held in the basement of the First United Methodist Church, 49 S. Green Street, Berkeley Springs, WV from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Kate Lehman, President of the local Warm Springs Watershed Association, will present "Fast, Loose and Dirty: Water Comes to Town (Fighting Climate Change through Green Infrastructure Initiatives)." PVAS members will also be available from 10 – 11 am to discuss opportunities in their Master Naturalist Program. We encourage you to consider attending both sessions.

Annual Membership Meeting

We will hold our 2019 Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, November 13 at 7 pm at the WVU Extension Office, 80 War Memorial Trail, Suite C, Berkeley Springs, WV. Please enter at the rear of the building; refreshments will be served. In addition to a presentation on streambank project, we will briefly recap our other 2019 accomplishments and vote on the Board of Directors nominations. If you are interested in becoming a director, please prepare a brief summary of your experience and contact Chuck Marsh at 304-258-2605 no later than Monday, November 11.

Year-End Celebration

Our 2nd Annual Joint Year-End Celebration is another opportunity to join your fellow SCWA members and those of the Warm Springs Watershed Association and Friends of the Cacapon to celebrate our accomplishments for the year, fellowship with one another, and make plans to work together for the betterment of the three watersheds and their residents. The event will be held on December 13 at Angus and Ale, Berkeley Springs. The event will start at 6 pm, the buffet dinner will be served at 6:30; the cost is \$20 per person. If you are interested in attending, you can RSVP online [HERE](#). Or you can make reservations, with payment, to Susan Jones, (304) 258-6122 or wvbagend@frontier.com Looking forward to joining you there! Check payment can be mailed to SCWA, PO Box 991, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

Membership Renewal

It's that time of the year. Association membership renewal is generally expected by January 1 of each year. If you haven't renewed your membership recently, you can click the "Join - Renew - Donate" link at the bottom of this email to use the secure PayPal application, which also is available on our website: www.sleepycreekwatershed.org. Simply click on the "Join" tab at the top of the homepage and follow the easy drop-down instructions. Or if you prefer, you can send a check to SCWA, P.O. Box 991, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411. To ensure you receive proper credit, please include your phone number, mailing address, and email address. Memberships are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for a family, \$25 for an organization or a sponsorship/donation can be made in any amount. We thank you for your continued support.

Support Sleepy Creek Watershed Association by Shopping On Amazon Smile

Another great way you can financially support the work of our Association is by shopping on "Amazon Smile." The Amazon Foundation established Amazon Smile, through which the foundation will donate ½ of 1% of the value of a shopper's eligible purchases to the charitable organization of the shopper's choice. And there is no additional cost to the shopper. The process is simple:

1. Visit Amazon Smile (<https://smileAmazon.com>), instead of Amazon.com
2. Enter Sleepy Creek Watershed Asso in the "Or pick your own charitable organization" box in the lower right hand corner

3. Check the "Yes" square on the next drop-down page
4. Click on the "shop now" button
5. Shop and check-out as normal and continue to use Amazon Smile as your access to Amazon shopping
6. Your transaction and year-to-date contributions to Sleepy Creek will be revealed only to you when you conclude your current transaction
7. The Amazon Foundation will calculate, and electronically forward anonymously to us, on a quarterly basis and at no cost to you, ½ of 1% of your transaction amount as a contribution to the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association
8. Your choice of charitable organization selection can be changed at any time on your Amazon Smile account

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact our Treasurer, Susan Taylor-Dropp at 304-258-6611.

Parting Thoughts

We are pleased to have had another successful year in 2019, but it wasn't without its challenges! However, we continue to work as diligently and wisely as we can with the resources available. We sincerely appreciate your past support and welcome your suggestions and volunteerism to do better as we move forward. We always need additional help, and welcome any contribution you can make. We generally have meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 10 am in the local WVU Extension Office. All are welcome to attend. Please consider attending and don't hesitate to contact me or one of the other Directors listed at the footer of this newsletter if we can provide additional information or help you in any way. We look forward to another successful year in 2020.

—*Chuck Marsh, President*

Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors generally meets the second Tuesday of the month
WVU Extension Office at 10 am. All are welcome to attend.
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