

Fall Newsletter

We hope you are enjoying the cooler weather as we transition to the fall season. We're happy to report the association had a "near normal" schedule of activities this year as all of us transitioned out of the past two years of COVID-19 restrictions. Here's a recap of our major 2022 accomplishments:

- Provided 160 trees and 23 volunteers to assist in planting two riparian buffer locations along the main stem of Sleepy Creek.
- Provided 237 trees and 52 volunteers to assist Cacapon State Park staff in plantings in the lodge, recreational, and cabin areas of the park.
- Provided financial assistance to 11 homeowners to have their septic systems pumped and to one homeowner whose application is pending to have their septic system repaired to prevent potential bacterial pollution within the watershed. Outreached to 15 additional homeowners at a Septic System Seminar on September 7th. Money is still available to assist additional interested homeowners.
- Twelve volunteers participated in picking up refuse in Spruce Pine Hollow Park, as part of the WV Department of Environmental Protection's annual "Make It Shine" campaign.
- Conducted 49 controlled water samplings to support scientific testing for bacterial degradation throughout the main forks of Sleepy Creek within the watershed.
- Pursuing a federally-funded WV Natural Resources Conservation Service study of the watershed to develop a more comprehensive watershed plan. The plan would be used to evaluate alternatives such as: flood control measures, land treatment practices/programs, repair or enhancement of existing watershed structures, etc.

We wholeheartedly thank all the volunteers who participated in these efforts, to include members of local Girl and Boy Scout organizations. We couldn't have done it without you!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

With the exception of the following annual membership meeting and renewal, we have no other events for the remainder of this year. After the Board conducts planning over

the winter months, we'll get back to you in the spring of 2023, with a calendar of proposed events for the coming year.

Annual Membership Meeting

Due to COVID restrictions, the Association Board of Directors deferred annual membership meetings in 2020 and 2021. However, in accordance with association bylaws, a 2022 Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for November 2nd, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM, at the **Morgan County Schools Administration Building, 247 Harrison Street, Berkeley Springs, WV.** We encourage your attendance. Two essential elements of this meeting are the review of the Association's financial position and the election of Board of Directors members. Volunteer board members are sought; if you are interested in learning more, please contact Chuck Marsh at 304-258-2605.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Dr. Nathan Hitt, USGS, Leetown, WV, will be our guest speaker on the "Karst Terrain Thermal Resiliency in Sleepy Creek – A 2021 Study." Refreshments will be served.

Annual Membership Dues

The Association bylaws also provide for annual membership dues of \$25, or voluntarily more, payable January 1 of each year. We certainly appreciate your response to our membership campaign in March thru June of 2022 and gratefully ask you to consider contributing an annual membership or friend donation, in 2023, to sustain our ongoing work. You may mail a check to SCWA, P.O. Box 991, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411, or use our online membership contribution application at www.sleepycreekwatershed.org/join-us/membership/.

Parting Thoughts

The summary of our 2022 activity at the beginning of this newsletter is a strong indication that we are back on track to fulfill the mission of the Association, work with its residents to improve the watershed's environment, and live up to our motto of "Our Watershed, Our Resource, Our Responsibility." I ask for your continued support. Please reach out to us at info@sleepycreekwatershed.org to identify your interest in

volunteering to assist in our activities, such as tree planting and water monitoring, as well as opportunities for us to assist you in improving the natural environment of the watershed.

Have a joyous holiday season.

Chuck Marsh, President

Sleepy Creek Watershed Association Board of Directors

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