

Spring Newsletter - April 12th 2018

Upcoming Events

April 14, 2018, 9 AM to Noon

WV Annual “Make It Shine” Campaign

April 28, 2018, 10 AM to Noon

Tree Planting – Old Mill Manor Subdivision

May 11 – 12, 2018

Master Gardeners’ Plant Fair

August 24 – 26, 2018

Morgan County Expo

Board of Directors

Chuck Marsh 304-258-2605

Jim Michael 304-258-5277

Bob Meadows 304-258-2075

Stan Oaks 304-258-5101

Norman Dean 304-258-1335

Susan Jones 304-258-6122

Jeff Iliff 304-258-8037

Help Out with SCWA’s Annual “Make It Shine” Campaign

As part of the annual statewide WV “Make-It-Shine” campaign on April 14, 2018, we are asking volunteers to help clean up a section of Spriggs, adjacent to Sleepy Creek. We'll start at 9am and work until noon. Volunteers of all ages are invited to meet at the corner of Winchester Grade and Spriggs Road. The easiest access is to take Winchester Grade off of Rte. 522 South, at the Sheetz station.

The cleanup will be held rain or shine. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather, wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots, if available, and bring along a large bucket for trash pickup. We will provide gloves, trash bags, and a limited number of litter pickup sticks. Please let Chuck Marsh (304-258-2605; marshbc@aol.com) know if you can help out. He can answer any questions you may have, as well.

The WV volunteer campaign is part of the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup. The nationwide campaign is expected to involve almost three million volunteers during the month of April.

Thanks for helping and we look forward to working with you.

Tree Planting In Old Mill Manor Subdivision

SCWA has teamed with the Cacapon Institute on a 50-tree planting on April 28, 2018, in the Old Mill Manor Subdivision starting at 10am. This project is partially funded by a Chesapeake Bay Program Best Management Practices grant. Planting holes will be pre-augured. Proper planting training will be provided, as will supporting tree stakes and deer guards. Volunteers are encouraged to help out and asked to bring a shovel or small spade to help backfill the holes to stabilize the potted trees.

The Old Mill Manor Subdivision is located on Johnsons Mill Road at the low-water bridge across Sleepy Creek. Proceed up Old Mill Manor Drive to the planting demonstration to be held behind the community mailboxes. The subdivision can also be accessed by turning left and following Autumn Acres Road off of Winchester Grade Road. Please let Chuck Marsh (304-258-2605; marshbc@aol.com) know if you can help out with this event.

Other fully funded federal EPA and Chesapeake Bay financial resources are also available to Sleepy Creek Watershed landowners for riparian buffer and acreage tree planting. If you are interested in learning more about tree planting opportunities for your land, contact Danielle Watson, Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, at 304-541-3645 or dwatson@wvca.us. She and others would be happy to meet with you to identify and discuss your thoughts.

Pipeline Construction Monitoring

With the Mountaineer Gas pipeline construction proceeding rapidly through eastern Morgan County, we are looking for a cadre of volunteers to monitor the construction and report potential violations of construction standards. The [West Virginia Rivers Coalition](#)

and Trout Unlimited have joined to create an educational presentation about construction standards and will administer a reporting and resolution process with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Simplified reporting forms have also been created and will be distributed for use by participating volunteers. SCWA will host a seminar of the WV Rivers Coalition and Trout Unlimited presentation on Saturday, May 5, 2018, beginning at 10am at the Morgan County Board of Education, 247 Harrison Avenue, Berkeley Springs. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this important effort, please let Susan Taylor-Dropp know at (304) 258-6611 or sutaylor7@earthlink.net. Susan is also available to answer any questions you may have as well. All are welcome to attend the presentation even if they are not interested in becoming a volunteer.

Master Gardeners' Plant Fair

We'll once again be at the annual Morgan County Plant Fair, May 11-12 at Berkeley Springs State Park. We encourage you to stop by our booth to obtain the latest information about our programs and offerings. We also promise to have available for sale our newly designed SCWA tee shirt and other items.

Septic Systems

LAST CHANCE! Our ongoing financial assistance for homeowners in the watershed has been a huge success. However, there is still an opportunity for a few more applicants to receive financial reimbursement of 50% for septic system pumping and up to \$7,300 for septic system repair, if needed. Funding availability expires in two months. You must apply before doing the work. Contact Danielle Watson at the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District Office to determine your eligibility and start the application process. You can reach Danielle at 304-541-3645 or dwatson@wvca.us. Don't delay; time is running out!

Streambank Stabilization Project

We are happy to report that our contractor, Ecological Restoration, of Stevensville, MD, successfully completed our Chesapeake Bay Stewardship-funded assessment and design project located at the corner of Winchester Grade and Spriggs roads. Included in their work were obtaining project approvals from local, state, and federal government agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers. Our next step will be to work with the contractor, landowner, and local and state government agencies to align matching funding sources to secure a federally-funded Chesapeake Bay Stewardship implementation grant. This process may take up to a year's time.

Stream Monitoring Help Needed

Once again we begin our annual WV Save Our Streams (SOS) monitoring in May, weather and stream flow permitting. We plan to perform up to eight water quality surveys again this year, throughout the spring and summer timeframe. If you are interested in learning and helping out with this fun 2-hour event, please contact Norman Dean at 304-258-1335 or deannorm@frontier.com. New volunteers are not expected to participate in every monitoring, and Norm will work with you to accommodate schedules and provide additional training, if desired. Don't hesitate to call. It is a great start to help out with water quality in the watershed.

Parting Thoughts

Although recent Congressional approval of 2018 appropriations has stabilized funding sources for the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and Chesapeake Bay programs, future appropriations remain uncertain. Therefore, we must work diligently and wisely with the funding sources we have to continue protecting the Sleepy Creek Watershed natural resources, and educating and assisting its residents. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support, and are always open to suggestions as to how we can do better. Please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the other directors listed at the top of this newsletter.

— *Chuck Marsh, President.*

Membership Renewal

Although Association membership renewal is generally expected by the January 1 each year, it's never too late. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2018, you can use the form below to mail a check or pay by debit or credit card using the secure Pay-Pal application available on our website: www.sleepycreekwatershed.org. Simply click on the "Join Us" tab at the top of the homepage and follow the easy drop-down instructions. Yearly memberships are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for a family, \$25 for an organization, and \$100 for a sponsorship. Or donations can be made in any amount. We thank you once again.