

Spring 2021

Welcome to Spring 2021! It seems to have been an extra-long winter, given the cooler temperatures and the COVID-19 group-gathering restrictions. We hope you all are well and ready to become engaged in our activities. We have a couple of near-term ones you may be interested in.

Upcoming Events

Volunteer to Help Make WV Shine

One of our past efforts!

The State of West Virginia has lifted some group restrictions and has re-initiated its annual Make-It-Shine campaign focused on litter pickup along the state roads and waterways. Therefore, we have scheduled a litter pickup for **Friday morning, May 7th, from 10 a.m. to noon.**

We'll meet at the corner of Spohrs Road and Eckerd Lane at 10 a.m. If you are not familiar with the area, the easiest way to get there is to take Rte. 9 East from Berkeley Springs and turn right on Spohrs Road shortly after the Mt. Zion Methodist Church on the left.

No special equipment is needed, but gloves and a 5-gallon bucket would be handy if you have them. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather, as we will hold the event rain or shine. All family members and friends are welcome. Please call Chuck Marsh at 304-258-2605 if you have any questions.

Hope to see you there!

Take Advantage of Available Financial Assistance for Septic Pumping and Repair

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to the health of Sleepy Creek. Take action before summer and pass the information on to a neighbor.

We have received additional federal funding and once again teamed with the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) to provide financial assistance to homeowners within the watershed to have their septic systems pumped. The WV Department of Health & Human Resources recommends you have your septic system tank pumped every three to five years, depending on family size and use. Periodic pumping of septic systems helps keep your system working properly. Equally important, it also prevents the overflow and leaking of contaminants which pollute both local ground well-water and surface waters flowing into Sleepy Creek and downstream into the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

If you suspect your septic system is not working properly, additional financial assistance may be available to help with the cost of repairing or replacing the system.

All applications are reviewed by the EPCD before a system is pumped or repaired. For the septic pumping program, homeowners are asked to have their septic system pumped within 60 days of approval. Homeowners in the watershed can apply for assistance by picking up an application for either program at the Morgan County Health Department and submitting the application to the EPCD office in Martinsburg. Details and applications for pumping assistance are also available for downloading at this URL on the SCWA website:

www.sleepycreekwatershed.org/septicrepair.

More detailed information about these financial assistance opportunities is available from Kristen Bisom, EPCD, (681) 247-3011, or email at kbisom@wvca.us.

The Remainder of the Year

A typical riparian buffer planting

These buffers are a great source for not only cleaning the air in the watershed but are major contributors to filtering rainfall and other water sources entering the streams of Sleepy Creek. If you have a site, have a friend or neighbor who has a potential site, or are interested in learning more about this free program to landowners, please contact Kristen Bisom, Eastern Panhandle Conservation District at (681) 247-3011, or email at kbisom@wvca.us.

We Appreciate Receiving Your Annual Dues

Another valuable way you can help us fulfill the mission of the Sleepy Creek Watershed is renew your annual membership for 2021—if you haven't already done so. Additional tax-deductible donations are also appreciated and will be put to good use. The process is easy. You can complete the following form and mail it in with your check or renew your membership and donate on our website at:

www.sleepycreekwatershed.org/join-us/membership/.

With your generous support, we can continue to be caretakers of this beautiful Sleepy Creek Watershed.

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 am. All are welcome to attend.
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