

# Spring Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### April 13, 2019, 9 AM to Noon

WV Annual “Make It Shine” Campaign  
Potomac Road east of Berkeley Springs

### May 4, 2019, 10 AM to Noon

Tree Planting – 1148 Creek Road

### May 31 – June 2, 2019

Women Owning Woodlands Weekend Workshop

## 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.  
171 War Memorial Drive • Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

President

Chuck Marsh  
304-258-2605

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304-258-5277

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304-258-1335

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304-258-6122

Member-at-Large

Jeff Iliff  
304-258-8037

## Help “Make West Virginia Shine”

Once again the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association will participate in the annual **Make WV Shine** campaign on **April 13, 2019, from 9 AM to Noon**. This year’s litter clean-up site is on Potomac Road east of Berkeley Springs. To arrive at the site, follow Rte. 9 east from Berkeley Springs for 5 miles and turn left on Potomac Road just past the Mt. Zion Methodist Church. Follow Potomac Road approximately ½ mile and park on the left. The clean-up will be held rain or shine. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather, wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots, and bring along a large bucket to facilitate trash pickup. The Association will provide gloves, trash bags, and a limited number of litter pickup sticks. Please let Chuck Marsh (phone 304-258-2605 or email to [marshbc@aol.com](mailto:marshbc@aol.com)) know if you can help out. He can answer any questions you may have as well. We appreciate your help.

## Volunteers Needed for Tree Planting

In partnership with the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District and the West Virginia Department of Forestry, the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association will be planting a 146-tree riparian buffer along a tributary of Sleepy Creek at **1148 Creek Road on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 10:00 AM to Noon**. To get to the planting site, follow Route 522 south from Berkeley Springs approximately 7.5 miles and make a left turn on Luther Michael Road. Follow Luther Michael Road approximately 1 mile and turn right on Creek Road. Follow Creek Road for 1 mile and you will arrive at the planting site. Please let Herb Peddicord know you are coming or if you need additional information (email [herb.f.peddicord@wv.gov](mailto:herb.f.peddicord@wv.gov) or phone 304-229-2665). Also, be sure to dress appropriately for the weather, and bring along drinking water, gardening or work gloves, a spade or shovel, and sunscreen and bug repellent if needed. With your help, we can make a difference in stormwater management and wildlife habitat within the watershed!

## Financial Assistance for Septic Pumping Available Once Again

Our past financial assistance to homeowners in the watershed has been a huge success. We’re happy to announce that once again there is still an opportunity for a few more applicants to receive financial reimbursement of 50% (up to \$150) of the cost of having their septic system pumped. The main qualifier is your property must be within the Sleepy Creek Watershed. Available funding is limited so don’t delay in applying. Contact Kristen Bisom at the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District to determine

your eligibility and application procedure. You can reach Kristen at 681-247-3011 or email [kbisom@wvca.us](mailto:kbisom@wvca.us).

## **Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) Weekend Workshop** May 31 – June 2, 2019

The West Virginia Division of Forestry and the West Virginia University Extension Service are jointly sponsoring a **Women Owning Woodlands Weekend Workshop** at Watoga State Park & Calvin Price State Forest in Pocahontas County – **May 31 to June 2, 2019**. The workshop is an excellent opportunity for women to learn more about the common trees in their woodlands, making their woodland more attractive to wildlife, understanding forest ecology and the complexities of managing forests, estimating the value of woodland for wildlife or timber, and enjoying wildlife in their native habitats. The registration fee of \$150 includes cabin space for two nights, three meals, and all instructional materials and facilities. Online registration is available at <http://www.wvforestry.com/WOW.pdf>. Additional information can be obtained from Barb Breshock at [breshock@hotmail.com](mailto:breshock@hotmail.com) or (304-934-6777) or locally from Holly May at [hmay@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:hmay@allianceforthebay.org) or (814-867-1104). The workshop is a great opportunity to learn how you can enhance your woodlands to protect the woodlands, wildlife, and water resources of the Sleepy Creek Watershed.

## **Streambank Stabilization Project**

After successful completion and coordination of our Chesapeake Bay Stewardship funded assessment and design project, done by Ecological Restoration, Stevensville, MD, we have been seeking multiple funding sources for the estimated \$370,000 cost. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in part and in whole. However, we continue to work with local, state and federal agencies to explore funding options. The project is located at the corner of Winchester Grade and Spriggs Roads. It is estimated that the 612 linear foot project is introducing 125 tons of sediment and associated nutrients annually into the Sleepy Creek, Potomac River, and Chesapeake Bay Watersheds. In 2018, with the increased rainfall, this number was even greater. We will continue seeking funding sources throughout this year and next.

## **Stream Monitoring Help Needed**

Once again we begin our annual WV Save Our Streams (SOS) monitoring in May 2019, weather and streamflow permitting. The recurring storms severely limited our activity in 2018; however, we again plan to perform up to eight water quality surveys throughout

the coming spring and summer timeframe. If you are interested in learning and helping out with this fun two-hour event, please contact Norman Dean at 304-258-1335 or [deannorm@frontier.com](mailto:deannorm@frontier.com). New volunteers are not expected to participate in every monitoring, and Norm will work with you to accommodate schedules and provide training. Don't hesitate to call. It is a great start to help out with improving water quality and ecology in the watershed.

## Renew Your Membership Today!

Although Association membership renewal is generally expected by the 1st of January each year, **it's never too late**. If you haven't renewed your membership recently, you can use the NEW secure PayPal form available on our website – [www.sleepycreekwatershed.org](http://www.sleepycreekwatershed.org). *Why not encourage a friend to join!*

Simply click "[Join Us](#)" at the top of the homepage and follow our easy new form. 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 as well. Memberships are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for a family, \$25 for an organization. A sponsorship or donation can be made in any amount. We thank you for your continued support.

## Shop Amazon Smile – Support Sleepy Creek Watershed

Another great way you can financially support the work of the Sleepy Creek Watershed 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:

Log on to Amazon Smile (URL <https://smile.amazon.com>), instead of Amazon.com

1. Enter **Sleepy Creek Watershed Asso** in the "Or pick your own charitable organization" box in the lower right-hand corner
2. Check the "**Yes**" square on the next drop-down page
3. Click on the "**shop now**" button
4. Shop and check-out as normal and continue to use Amazon Smile as your access to Amazon shopping
5. Your transaction and year-to-date contributions to Sleepy Creek will be revealed only to you when you conclude your current transaction

6. The Amazon Foundation will calculate, and electronically forward anonymously to us, the cash value of your transaction contribution to the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association
7. 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**

It has been increasingly difficult to obtain the financial and volunteer resources needed to fully support the mission and work of the Association. However, we continue to work as diligently and wisely as we can with the resources available. I sincerely appreciate your past support and welcome your suggestions and volunteerism to do better as we move forward. The Board of Directors generally meets the second Tuesday of the month at the local WVU Extension Office at 10 AM. All are welcome to attend. Please consider attending and don't hesitate to contact me or one of the other Directors listed at the top of this newsletter if we can provide additional information or help you in any way.

—*Chuck Marsh, President.*