



# Penns Valley Conservation Association

www.pennsvalley.net

SPRING 2013

## Young Volunteers Pitch-in To Plant Buffers

--By Lysle Sherwin, PSU Ecosystem Science and Management--

Six Cub Scouts and their parents from Pack 20 Centre Hall and 17 students from Penn State and Lock Haven University worked a total of 113 hours on four days in April with four Watershed Committee members to plant over 800 native riparian trees and wildlife food and cover shrubs at locations on Penns Creek and Muddy Creek.

Art Gover, pack leader and Watershed Committee member, organized the environmental service learning outing using dormant live willow and dogwood cuttings instead of nursery seedlings at the Kline Road project site. The live cuttings were collected on-site from old, declining willows by old and declining Watershed Committee members George Kelly and Lysle Sherwin. For their efforts, the boys were treated to a visit to the nearby Muddy Paws boardwalk where they “encouraged” a large flock of Canada geese to take flight.

The American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) student chapters at Penn State combined forces on two separate days to assist in replanting a 7.5 acre CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) riparian buffer along Muddy Creek at the Marquardt Farm. This 1,500-foot segment is one of the “hot spots” elevating summer water temperatures in lower Muddy Creek. AWRA president Sarah Tzilkowski, TWS president Cindy Nau and TWS professional development chairman Teddy Fisher coordinated and recruited participation by the student chapters. Cindy was recently named Outstanding Senior in ESM and made time to volunteer with PVCA before

*Continued on p. 7*



*PVCA has been offering environmental education to Penns Valley students for over a decade!*

## Introducing PVCA's New Environmental Educator!

Jenny Campbell came to the Penns Valley Conservation Association (PVCA) in March, 2013 after moving to Pennsylvania in November, 2012 when her husband accepted a position in the athletic department at Penn State University. She grew up on a farm in rural Minnesota, where science became a natural passion of hers at an early age. She earned a scholarship to play volleyball at Wright State University in Dayton, OH where she pursued a bachelor's and a master's degree in middle childhood education with a concentration in science and mathematics. After the completion of her master's degree, in November, 2008, she successfully taught four years of science in grades 4-8 in both Ohio and Louisiana. In this capacity, she was a nominee for “Outstanding Classroom Teacher of the Year” and attended the national middle school convention (2009). As an educator, Campbell incorporated a number of service-learning projects, organized numerous science-based field trips, overnight trips to Camp Joy (Ohio), and participated in a variety of science education workshops and study groups. She additionally led field trips to local water-related facilities including the Waste-Water Treatment plant. In

*Continued on p. 4*



PO Box 165  
Aaronsburg, PA 16820  
www.pennsvalley.net  
info@pennsvalley.net

### **Board of Directors**

**President:** Jim Zubler,  
Gregg Twp.

**Vice President:** Frank Maguire,  
Millheim Borough

**Treasurer:** Barb Lange,  
Penn Twp.

**Secretary:** Lisa Marshall,  
Penn Twp.

Greta Haney, Penn Twp.

Judy Heald, Potter Twp.

George Kelly, Penn Twp.

Willa Paterson, Gregg Twp.

Jim Pierce, Haines Twp.

Bill Wolfe, Haines Twp.

### **Executive Director**

Andrea Ferich

### **Committees**

#### *Membership:*

Ann Glaser, Chair

#### *Watershed:*

George Kelly, Chair

#### *Community Outreach:*

Barb Lange, Chair

#### *Education:*

Jim Pierce, Chair

#### *Slow Money:*

Lisa Marshall, Chair

### **Newsletter Editor**

Nell Hanssen

### **Webmaster**

Charlie Boyer

### **Bookkeeper/Database**

Karen Yanak

## **President's Column**

--by Jim Zubler--

In the previous edition of this newsletter, I briefed you on the inter-workings of the Penns Valley Conservation Association and the steps we have taken to strengthen our organization with the addition of our Executive Director, Andrea Ferich; five new Board members complementing the five seasoned Directors; and our recent hiring of new Environmental Educator, Jennifer (Jenny) Campbell. In addition to these folks, we continue to benefit from the efforts of a great volunteer support network of Newsletter Editor, Nell Hanssen, Database Manager, Karen Yanak, and Webmaster, Charlie Boyer.

Since that introduction, we have continued work to develop our internal structure and can report that we now have a complete standing committee roster filled with hard working member volunteers including the newly reconstituted Education Committee chaired by new Board member Jim Pierce. Jim and crew are developing a series of supports to aid Jenny in furthering our ambitious environmental education goals in the Penns Valley Area School District.

With the busy spring schedule, a recap of PVCA led activities is in order. The Renewable Energy Fair drew qualified leads for contractors who chose to attend; the stream clean-up saw many new faces working alongside long standing members sorting trash and recyclable items; and the Riversongs Celebration capped a great weekend of fun and frivolity culminating in the raffle of items supporting the work of PVCA. Behind the scenes, the Watershed Committee toiled to plant 4,000 live tree stakes in a variety of wetland and upland areas throughout the Valley.

We oftentimes hear of the demise of volunteers in civic endeavors throughout the country. That was certainly not the case in Penns Valley, as members as well as "future" members, braved snow, sleet and harsh windy weather to work on cleaning sections of streambank, roadway, or dug in plantings for next generation forests.

As was demonstrated by the actions of these able volunteers, we take stewardship seriously and now have the mechanics in place to begin interacting with the larger watershed community to preserve this special place we call home.

Thank you for being a great steward of the Valley!

--Jim

### **PVCA's Mission and Vision**

*PVCA serves as a steward for the natural and cultural communities in the Upper Penns Creek Watershed. We seek to preserve and honor the agricultural roots of Penns Valley by protecting and conserving its waters, farmlands, forests, and rural heritage.*

*PVCA envisions an engaged community, where growth is balanced with support for healthy natural systems that foster the local economy. Our Valley has dark night skies, clear streams, healthy forests, prosperous farms, and local jobs.*

## PVCA Board Continues Strategic Planning Efforts

--By Jim Zubler, President--

Taking full advantage of the capacity building opportunities afforded by a consortium of private foundations and educational resources, the Penns Valley Conservation Association Board of Directors have honed their focus and are implementing an ambitious plan of action. Led by facilitator Scott Leff of Robert Morris University and bolstered by its five new Directors, the Board first revisited the Impact Statement and through a focused exchange crafted a new credo that streamlines the language while maintaining the essence of the original doctrine. The refined Desired Impact is as follows:



*Board members at the strategic planning meeting*

*In service of PVCA's mission and vision, we seek to foster a sense of community and a healthy economy within the Upper Penns Creek Watershed by maintaining water quality, sound environmental education and planning, and the Valley's rural heritage.*

Next, the Board reviewed the Strategic Goals and again offered improvements to the five listed statements as follows:

### Original Goal

Educated and inspired community that actively supports PVCA's mission and vision.

Local, county and state elected and appointed officials supporting PVCA's mission and vision.

Maintain drinkable\*, fishable, and swimmable\* quality water in surface and ground water sources. \*legal terms

Encourage supports for local businesses and small farms that result in job creation with environmentally sound practices.

Foster stronger organizational development of PVCA.

### Revised Goal

Environmentally educated, inspired and engaged watershed community.

All watershed municipalities consistently practice sound environmental stewardship.

Achieve and maintain drinkable\*, fishable and swimmable\* quality water in all surface and ground water sources. \*legal terms

Encourage entrepreneurial spirit, locally owned businesses, and farms that create environmentally sound jobs.

Continue to strengthen PVCA's organizational infrastructure and community image.

Armed with this focus, the Board is now engaged with the development of tactics that support these strategic goals. With two planning sessions under its belt already, the Board will revisit the topic in late summer.

These sessions were made possible through a competitive selection review whereas PVCA applied and was approved for this organizational technical assistance after a lengthy interview and evaluation process. The consortium of the Bayer Center, Robert Morris University, the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy are providing this capacity-building development in addition to assistance quantifying our cumulative impact in the watershed over the past twenty years. We will keep you abreast of these developments as they are implemented.

*Environmental Educator, continued from p. 1*

the 2011-2012 school year, her students ranked in the top of the state of Louisiana for overall Adequate Yearly Progress in science. She has a firm understanding of the needs of the students as well as teachers and believes in not only hands-on science but also inquiry-based science education. She is excited for the opportunity to aid PVCA in the Environmental Education Program at Penns Valley Area School District.

Currently, Jenny is working on organizing “Environmental Day” activities and events for grades K-7 at a variety of locations. Working closely with the teachers and administrators to support environmental education in the schools is an effective way to promote awareness of watershed science throughout the valley. She is also coordinating many volunteers and experts from the community to support these events. Please be on the watch for upcoming events as we look into the summer and fall months ahead.

### ***A Testimonial from a Penns Valley Teacher***

PVCA’s environmental education program got a number of positive comments from Sixth Grade teacher Kathy Kapinus regarding her class’s trip to RB Winter State Park. Here are two excerpts from her letter:

*The kids were engaged at all times, participated freely, and learned so much! It was a very worthwhile day, and we are VERY grateful to the Penns Valley Conservation Association for funding the transportation.*

*One of the facilitators made the statement that they look forward to Penns Valley coming to the Park. She said the kids are polite, willing to ask and answer questions, and a joy to work with. Furthermore, she also commended us on our involvement and engagement with the students and the activities. We learn a lot from these presentations too!*

Thank you Kathy for sharing this with us!

## **Education Committee Revival!**

--By Jim Pierce, Education Committee Chair--

The Education Committee is active and energized, which is good because everything PVCA does is educational. Although not in tongues, we are speaking: brainstorming, discussing and prioritizing. And although no snakes (yet), we are handling projects: at the Schools, the Learning Garden, Muddy Paws Marsh, Shimp Farmstead and more. Our top priority is obvious and was easily agreed upon: to support our newly hired Environmental Educator, Jenny Campbell, who has hit the hallways running and managed to build a strong program in a short time, including scheduling Environmental Days.

The dozen or so revived Committee members have also created quite a list of potential projects including...

- Re-establishing one or more School Gardens
- Reviving the Environmental Center behind the PV Elementary School
- Working with PVHS students as they plan their Senior projects
- Teacher Trainings
- Partnering with Boy and Girl Scouts, 4H, Libraries, Churches, Farm Fest, PASA etc.
- Coordinating events in the Learning Garden

We will, of course, shoulder the educational load at PVCA sponsored events such as Crickfest.

As Chair, scribe, fuse lighter and cat wrangler, my vision is to identify the projects where there is the most energy, resources and value. Which means that we can go many different directions and take on any number of different projects. Which means that there is plenty of opportunity for you to get involved at whatever level you like. My goal is to build a pool of enough folks that none are overwhelmed and any can jump in and out of projects and commitments as their lives allow. A Sustainable model for Sustainability Education.

The Committee is currently meeting every month alternating between the Elk Creek Café in the evening and PVHS after School, in order to accommodate the schedules of as many teachers as possible.



## Music and Community at Riversongs

Thank you to all that attended and were involved in making Riversongs a fun-filled, successful event. The large crowd enjoyed an afternoon full of live music from local musicians, and the community spirit and support for the work that PVCA does was uplifting.

Thanks to Gary Gyekis for organizing the events; both at the Elk Creek Café and at Saint Lukes Cultural Center. The debut performance of the 3 Kitties with 3G was terrific. Let's hope we see more from these gifted kids, Gus and Huck Tritsch and Nettie Vernon, in the future.

Thanks to Tim Bowser for hosting Riversongs and providing sound for the bands, Colleen Swetland and Asta Broskley for volunteering at the door, and to all the musicians who donated their time and talents for the festival. We are very fortunate to have this great community.

## Riversongs Raffle A Hearty Thanks!

Thank you everyone, for making our recent raffle a success!

Thanks to our generous donors for their wonderful support of PVCA!

- Freeze-Thaw Cycles (bicycle)
- Tussey Mountain Outfitters (kayak)
- Penns Valley Outfitters (Tube Float for 4)
- Lost Creek Shoe Shop (binoculars)
- Appalachian Outdoor House (rain jacket)

Thanks to **Steve Lenten of Creative Design & Printing** for the donation of our tickets, and to **Penns Valley Veterinary** for allowing us to showcase prizes in their downtown window.

We appreciate all in the community who peddled tickets, and all who purchased them, of course! And thanks to **Elk Creek Café** for hosting Riversongs. Congratulations to the winners!

Monies raised are dedicated to Watershed Restoration efforts and to the funding and support of our Environmental Educator who organizes and runs the environmental programs within the Penns Valley Public Schools.



*Yes! I would like to help PVCA preserve and protect our beautiful region!  
Enclosed are my annual, tax-deductible 2013 membership dues.*

- \$25 - 49 Single/Family     
  \$50 - 99 Supporter     
  \$100 - 149 Benefactor     
  \$150 - 249 Patron  
 \$250 - 499 Steward     
  \$500+ Conservationist

*We like to thank our members and donors in our newsletter.*

I/We prefer to remain anonymous

Name(s) to list in newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Farm \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide your name and gift recipient's name to the left)

*Please make checks payable to "PVCA"*  
 Penns Valley Conservation Association  
 PO Box 165 ~ Aaronsburg, PA 16820  
 www.pennsvalley.net ~ info@pennsvalley.net

**Thank You for Your Support!**

*PVCA is a 501(c3) tax exempt organization.*

**Get more involved!  
Join our active members!**  
 (check your areas of special interest.)

Stream Improvement     Publicity  
 Crickfest     Education

## Executive Director's Meanderings

--By Andrea Ferich--

It has been a beautiful spring and the flowers of the valley are certainly opening themselves with the increase in daylight hours. The juncos are packing their bags and we're patiently receiving the arrival of the first warblers and bobolinks. I have been here for six months already and feel more inspired everyday by the wide diversity of ecosystem types and characters that I keep coming across, and by where PVCA has been, and where it is going.

Perhaps even before this newsletter arrives at your doorstep, PVCA will have launched an entirely new website at the same address: [www.pennsvalley.net](http://www.pennsvalley.net). There are a few features on this website that we want you to know about. First of all, there will be an up to date blog describing current ecological and organizational happenings, and everybody is encouraged to share their special sightings, encounters, and reflections. Secondly there will be a members section where we will feature different PVCA members; your stories, your narrative, your face, and looking deeper into Why You Value PVCA. We have also officially launched the PVCA Photo Contest. The winners will be displayed on the website as well as in the Green Drake Art Gallery and in our newsletter. We are looking to recognize exceptional photos of the natural and cultural beauty of the region, as well as photos of local businesses, and anything else that is beautiful to you. One of the final pieces that we are developing for the website is the Historical Projects Section. PVCA has been highly successful at implementing nearly twenty years of community-based restoration projects around the region. This section will be a concise timeline of these events, as well as their cumulative impact on the watershed. There will be so much more on the website, but you will have to check it out for yourself.

It has come to my attention that many people in the Valley have never visited Muddy Paws Marsh, along route 45 in Spring Mills. It is a 25-acre wetland along Penns Creek, adjacent to the

## Penns Valley Conservation Association Photo Contest!

We are looking for photos of the natural and cultural beauty of the region, as well as photos of local businesses. One winner will be selected from each group for each category.

### Groups

*Kids (under 12), Youth (12-18), Professional, and Amateur*

### Categories

*Forest Animal, Waterway, Farm, and Local Business/People*

Winners will be featured on our website, newsletter, and at the Green Drake Gallery.

***E-mail submissions to [info@pennsvalley.net](mailto:info@pennsvalley.net)  
Deadline June 30<sup>th</sup>***

Please be sure to include:

- ◆ contact info
- ◆ which group/categories you are entering

New and old photos are encouraged. Must be taken in the Penns Valley Area.

**PVCA members** photo entry is free. Enter as many as you'd like.

**Non-member photos** \$5/entry (Great time to join PVCA!)

Cooke Tavern Bed and Breakfast at 4158 Penns Valley Road. First of all I want to tell you that you are very welcome there, and it is certainly a "must explore." Like many wetlands, it was drained circa 1940 so that the land could be used for agriculture. When Greg and Mary Kay Williams purchased the property in 1991, they wanted to restore not only the 1808 Colonial Tavern, and outbuildings; they recognized the importance of the wetlands and began the restoration process. The wetlands are named after their dog Max, who loved to get 'muddy' in the Marsh. In 2004, through a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited and PVCA, the wetlands were

*Executive Director, Continued from p. 6*

restored. Everybody is always welcome to visit Muddy Paws Marsh, which is a tremendous ecological gift to our community, purifying our water and providing significant habitat for frogs, birds, and a wide variety of mammals. We hope to develop additional signage at this property to increase its visibility and encourage visitors.

Over the last few weeks I have begun to connect with a wide variety of local food system initiatives in the Valley. Some of the groups include mothers that want healthier food options in the school cafeteria, the school district, the Learning Garden, Pennsylvania Certified Organic, The Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Groundwork Farms, and the Central PA Institute of Technology (CPI), all with an interest in bringing local foods into our schools and institutions. I understand my role in this process as a listener and storyteller, hearing and retelling the stories of the pieces of the foodshed puzzle as they come together. Read all about the Farm to School movement if you are not familiar with it: <http://www.farmentoschool.org/>. I guess I'll be seeing you around the Valley!

---

*Young Volunteers, continued from p. 1*

departing early the next morning for a 6-month internship at Yellowstone National Park.

US Fish and Wildlife Service interns Amie Fritchman and Sara Schlesinger from Lock Haven University spent a day planting with the "pros" from Habitat Partners at the aspen reestablishment site on Harter Road. The contributions of tree seedlings by Chesapeake Bay Foundation CREP manager Frank Rohrer, planting equipment on loan from Brent Harding, PSU Forestlands office, and cold storage of seedlings at the PSU Experimental Farm by Scott Smiles are gratefully acknowledged. And, all of the volunteers are willing to help again on future projects involving water resources and wildlife habitat improvement.

## **Dandelions in Your Garden**

--By Penns Valley Learning Garden Volunteers

If you think you're about to read how to kill dandelions, think again! We will, however, tell you how to get rid of a bunch of them: eat 'em!

We need to reeducate our brains, which have been trained to see a lawn full of dandelions as "bad" and in need of harmful herbicides and see instead a field of nutrient-rich, *free* food and medicine.

The leaves, tastiest when they've just emerged in the spring or after the first frosts in the fall, are packed with vitamins. The yellow flowers are edible raw in salads, battered and fried as fritters, pickled (buds), or made into syrup or wine. Those long roots tap trace minerals deep in the soil and can be eaten in soups, stir-fried, or sautéed. They improve with a couple of freezes, so harvest in late fall or early spring.

According to herbalist Jennifer Tucker, who shares her vast knowledge at the Learning Garden's Herb Garden, the dandelion is a medicinal as well as a culinary wonder. The other gardeners tease her when she begs us not to weed until she can get there, but dandelions that grow in the moist, rich soil found in gardens develop the biggest leaves and largest roots. And every bit is good for you.

She of course recommends eating the plant for overall good health, but then the water from cooking the leaves can be used as a gentle and safer-than-pharmaceuticals diuretic. Dry your early-spring and fall harvest of leaves to add to soups or make tea or sprinkle over veggies dishes. The root is used fresh or dried as a tonic to protect the liver and lower blood sugar.

This is just one plant that grows in our beautiful Valley. If you want to learn more about wild plants, and herbal remedies, we invite you to join us at the Learning Garden.

Contact us at **LearningGardenPV@gmail.com** or stop by our table at the Millheim Farmers' Market any Saturday from 10 to 1.

## *The Learning Garden Is Growing!*

It's not just the plants that are sprouting new growth this spring at the Penns Valley Community Learning Garden. We've restructured the way the Garden is being run to allow more opportunity for you to get involved.

★ Do you have *knowledge you want to share* on anything from cooking using fresh produce in season to seed-saving or preserving the harvest? Interested in working with other community groups to get the word out about healthful, local foods? Our new outreach committee would love to hear from you.

★ Do you like working with *children* or want to bring your kids into the Garden? This year, we'll be planting a children's garden and planning programs to plant the seeds, if you will, of gardening in young minds.

★ Are you a *people person* who is over-committed but wouldn't mind a single Saturday morning staffing the Market table or a weekday evening to get your fingers in the dirt? Let us know and we'll get you scheduled!

★ Do you prefer working *behind the scenes*? We need bloggers, FaceBook users, and other information disseminators. Photographers, too, would be welcome, to help document the growth of both food and community that takes place every day.

And what do you get out of it? You can expect to *learn*. The Learning Garden is staffed by the most amazing gardeners, including our Herb Guru and Eater-of-Weeds, Jennifer Tucker, who are ready to share their years of experience to help you get the most out of your own efforts. You will meet new people and be part of a dynamic community in Penns Valley. And you will get the benefit of knowing you helped make our little corner of the world a better place, less likely to profit Wal-Mart or Monsanto, but good for our friends and neighbors in central Pennsylvania.

Contact us at [LearningGardenPV@gmail.com](mailto:LearningGardenPV@gmail.com) or stop by our table at the Millheim Farmers' Market any Saturday from 10 to 1.



*Forester Tim Cole shared information about Pennsylvania's native trees at PVCA's 2013 Winter Meeting.*

## **All About Trees, at PVCA's Winter Meeting**

--By Susan and Greta Haney--

PVCA's Winter Meeting was held on March 27, at the Old Fort American Legion. Tim Cole (District Forester with PA's Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Huntingdon) was our guest and speaker. The talk was titled "Common Trees of Pennsylvania". Mr. Cole reviewed a few helpful ID-tricks. For example, did you know that our native Pitch Pine is the only 3-needled PA pine? Or that the space between whorls of branches on a Red Pine indicates a single year's growth? Or that maples can be recognized not just by leaf shape and tree form, but also by the season during which the seeds mature (Red in the Spring and Sugar in the Autumn)? Another clever mnemonic device that's useful in tree identification is "MADhorse," which reminds us that trees with opposite branches are the Maples, Ashes, Dogwoods and Horse Chestnuts.

After the talk Mr. Cole hosted a question and answer session. Discussion focused on invasive species in our region, and also pests and diseases that pose a threat to our native PA trees. Landowners were encouraged to contact the District Office with inquiries, or to schedule a visit from a forester.



## 2013 Stream Cleanup Focuses on Mountain Dump Sites

--by Asta Broskley--

On an early spring morning (Earth Day weekend), over 50 people met at the Coburn Park eager to clean up the trash along streams, creeks and mountains of Penns Valley, part of PVCA's annual "Streambank Cleanup Day", in conjunction with the Great American Cleanup. Several small groups ventured off to area locations of their choosing. Two groups took to two mountains that were in dire need of attention, the road to Ingleby and Siglerville-Millheim Pike. I was part of the latter group. Five of us braved the treacherous terrain on the side of the mountain. We pawed through decades-old broken and intact glass bottles, beer cans, household appliances (such as an old vacuum!) and other miscellaneous garbage that was tossed over the side of a mountain road used as a dumping ground many years ago, and possibly more recently. A Penn Township employee helped us heave old tires and other large items up the bank, using a rope and tractor. We used old grain bags and feed sacks because they are more durable than the usual plastic garbage bags. We filled 25 of these bags!

Around noon, we all met back at the Park for a potluck lunch. We dined on homemade sloppy Joes and chili and drank coffee to warm our insides and our freezing hands. We ate our meals in the 40 degree weather and even watched a brief sleet squall. Two truckloads of metal were recycled and the money generated was donated to PVCA. Several people sorted through all the bags of trash and glass and plastics were taken to a nearby recycling facility, a first for this year. The entire group filled one large dumpster.

On behalf of PVCA, I'd like to extend a **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who participated this year and we hope to see many more of you join us next year. We have a lot more trash to pick up and we can't do it without YOU!

Lets spread the word about proper disposal of the waste we all generate—re-use if you can, recycle as much as possible, and don't use our mountains and creeks as a dumping ground!



*Jim and Tim pose with a deer skull and a pickup load of garbage collected at a dump site on the Ingleby Road.*

### **Renewable Energy NOW Fair Rewards Renewable Energy!**

--By Mary Carol Frier—

PVCA co-hosted the Renewable energy NOW Fair with the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund on April 6 at the American Legion in Centre Hall. About 80 people attended.

Robert Edwards, Energy Program Specialist with the US Army's PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs was the Fair's keynote speaker. He described the "The Army's Energy Security Vision and its Mission". He talked about the Army's program as "an effective and innovative Army energy posture, which enhances and ensures mission success and quality of life for our Soldiers, Civilians and their Families." The Army's program succeeds through "Leadership, Partnership and Ownership...it serves as a model for the nation." If you didn't get to the Fair, you missed a great presentation!

Brian Henderson, Manager of Residential Services with Envinity, presented the second talk on "Making Energy-Wise Investments in Your Home." Brian Henderson is a Certified Building Analyst and Certified Home Energy Rater. He has conducted over 500 home energy audits in Central Pennsylvania. Brian's talk can be reprised if you contact him at Envinity.

If you care about the environment and want to stop the degradations wrecked upon it by fossil fuels, the Fair was the place to be! Resolve to attend the next one!

## ***Around the Watershed ~ Young Forests and Riparian Buffers***

--By George Kelly, Watershed Committee Chair

PVCA allocated \$5,000 in 2012 and \$11,500 in 2013 as start-up funds to begin an ambitious project to establish riparian buffer plantings and develop adjacent young forest habitat along Muddy Creek in Georges Valley (see [www.youngforest.org](http://www.youngforest.org) Mid-Atlantic, Georges Valley). We are maximizing the cost-effectiveness of limited human and financial resources by integrating efforts to lower summer water temperatures impacting cold water fisheries with the critical need to manage wetland corridors for young forest wildlife.

The PVCA funding was used in 2012 to begin non-native plant removal and plant native species, primarily aspen and alder, on the Tucker/Lang and J. Meyers properties. The PVCA monetary contributions enabled us to leverage significant in-kind contributions from several partners during this start-up phase, including US Fish and Wildlife Habitat Partners, PA Game Commission, Penn State Center for Watershed Stewardship, Wildlife Management Institute, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

\$10,000 of the money that PVCA budgeted for this project in 2013, along with in-kind and other pledged cash, was used as matching money to obtain a \$12,500 grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds to continue habitat work along Muddy Creek. In addition to the partners listed above, Fruittown Land Stewardship Services and Woodcock Limited of Pennsylvania have joined us in supporting the project.

This new influx of financial and in-kind support has enabled us to continue Georges Valley habitat work this spring. US Fish and Wildlife Habitat Partners provided expertise, equipment, and personnel to mow invasives and do most of the planting on the Tucker/Lang and J. Meyers properties in early April. With this grant, PVCA funding, and the PA Game Commission donation of 1,000 alder seedlings, a total of approximately 4,500 seedlings will be planted, staked, and covered with tree shelters this spring. Most of



the planting will be on Tucker/Lang and J. Meyers but additional planting will take place on four other properties, two in Georges Valley (Marquardt and Doman) and two on upper Penns Creek (Martinec and Bierly).

Tree and shrub species being planted are aspen, alder, black haw viburnum, American plum, serviceberry, winterberry, silky dogwood, black willow, black locust and sycamore. Species have been selected to provide both food and cover for woodcock, songbirds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects that depend on young forest habitats. Even with tree shelters (tubes) to protect them, deer like to browse the tender shoots when they pop out of the tops of the tubes. We are using longer (five foot) tubes for aspen this year and have replaced the four foot tubes on the aspen planted last year. Based on casual observations and having noted that large clearcuts and their interiors regenerate better than the edges, we are also experimenting with planting (particularly shrubs) in dense clumps this year in the hope that deer will browse some of the outside plantings and give interior plants a better chance of survival.

The remainder of the PVCA money allocated for this project in 2013 (\$1,500) together with in-kind and other pledged cash provided the leverage to obtain a \$10,000 grant from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership to restore eroded streambanks and plant a 35 foot or wider riparian buffer of native trees and shrubs in a key 800 foot section of lower Muddy Creek on the J.

*Continued on p. 11*



*Jim Downes*

## ***Valley Craftsmen Support Conservation***

--By George Kelly, Watershed Committee Chair

Once again, Jim Downes and Tom Doman have come through for the cause. As a result, another bamboo fly rod and wading staff are being raffled to benefit PVCA's conservation efforts.

Jim was at Riversongs when we announced the raffle and he said that he would continue to donate rods as long as we wanted them. Well Jim, we thank you and we want you to continue. We promise to make good use of the money raised with your rods to benefit sound conservation practices in the Penns Creek watershed!

Many of you know Jim. His shop is located in Coburn behind the Feathered Hook fly shop. Jim has been building bamboo fly rods for more than 15 years and his rods are works of art. They can be hung on the wall and admired like they were at the Green Drake Gallery recently, but as Jim will tell you, they are meant to be fished.

And Tom Doman, a long-time volunteer and supporter of the PVCA, not wanting someone fishing with a fine bamboo fly rod to have to jam it into the stream bottom to prevent a dunking, donated one of his custom Penns Creek Wading Staffs as a companion prize.

To purchase raffle tickets and view these fine prizes, visit the Elk Creek Café in Millheim.

### ***RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE!***

Enter to win a Hand-made  
Bamboo Fly Rod and  
Custom Wading Staff

*Purchase tickets and view prizes at  
the Elk Creek Café in Millheim.*

*Proceeds benefit PVCA's conservation  
efforts in the Watershed. PVCA is grateful  
to Jim Downes and Tom Doman for their  
generous donations*

*Around the Watershed, continued from p. 10*

Meyers property. Lysle Sherwin, Andrea Ferich, and I measured and marked this section in late April in preparation for getting the necessary permits to do instream work. The permitting process will take place this summer and actual work will likely start in spring 2014.

Work to establish a viable buffer at the R. and K. Meyers property along Kline Road also continued this spring. Planting has been taking place at this site every year since the original bank stabilization was done in 2009, and desirable vegetation is slowly increasing. In addition to the Cub Scout planting that took place this spring (see "Young Volunteers Pitch-in to Plant Buffers" article in this issue), Lysle Sherwin and I planted and flagged 60 seedlings on April 20 and flagged approximately 40 volunteer trees and survivors of previous plantings. We are working to get stakes and tree shelters on the plants to increase survival.

All in all, it's been a productive spring and there is plenty of work still to be done. The watershed committee is aware that there are many other potential projects and we will try to get to them as time and money permits. We want all of our members to know that we are trying our best to maximize the effectiveness of their contributions as we translate them into on-the-ground environmental enhancements and we want to thank all of you for your continuing support.



PO Box 165  
Aaronsburg, PA 16820  
[www.pennsvalley.net](http://www.pennsvalley.net)

Non-Profit Org  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
State College, PA  
Permit No. 293

## **→ MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ←**

### Valley Community Radio Meeting

**Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

**At PVCA's office, Old Gregg School in Spring Mills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

*Bring your interest, enthusiasm, and radio expertise! Help the Slow Money Committee to plan and prepare the FCC application for a community radio license.*

### Millheim Mayfly Festival

**June 7—8 in Downtown Millheim**

*Live music, local food, arts & crafts, and fun for kids of all ages!*

### Frog Fest 2013

**Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 – 12:30 at Muddy Paws Marsh in Spring Mills**

*Learn about frog habitat, songs, life cycle, and more!*

*RSVP: Call (814) 422-8787 or email [info@muddypawsmarsh.org](mailto:info@muddypawsmarsh.org) by June 3rd*

### Crickfest 2013!

**Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 11 – 6 at Coburn Park**

*Help us plan and organize this fabulous event! Email [info@pennsvalley.net](mailto:info@pennsvalley.net)*

