

PENNS VALLEY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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Our Vision

The Penns Valley Conservation Association seeks to foster an engaged community that preserves our rural way of life while protecting our natural environment. PVCA's Mission is to serve as a steward for the natural and cultural communities in the Upper Penns Creek watershed, seeking to preserve and honor the agricultural roots of Penns Valley by protecting and conserving its waters, farmlands, forests and rural heritage. We envision 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.

Spring Membership Meeting

ZOOM into the Spring Meeting
Thursday March 25th, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Watch for a Zoom link in an upcoming e-blast or on Facebook or dial into the meeting by calling 1-646-558-8656.

Meet the PVCA Community, new Board Members, Volunteers and Supporters. Learn Some Tree Wisdom from the experts and get your questions answered about tree planting.

TOPIC: Silviculture Revisited

Measuring Trees in Bushel Baskets — Not Board Feet
with American Chestnut Foundation Orchard Manager Steve Hoy and Andrea Ferich of the Keystone Tree Crops Cooperative





We Need YOU!

Now more than ever, we need you to get involved with PVCA as an active volunteer.

Help Reimagine CrickFest

We're brainstorming how to re- envision this iconic PVCA event and we want your ideas.

Volunteer for a Single Event

All of our events are as fun to make happen as they are to attend. Volunteer a few hours of your time to help out before, during, or after an event.

Join a Committee

Help make sure PVCA remains a strong and vibrant organization as you help shape the future of our events, activities, and plans. Build friendships while using your skills to make a real difference to the quality of life in our community.

Be On The Radio

No radio experience is needed to join the fun at WSOV.

AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED!

For a family friendly jar auction at FrogFest, with ticketed chances & the popular silent auction at Crickfest.

Contact Kat to donate at aldenkat@gmail.com

Spring Festivals

Muddy Paws Marsh: Where Science & Fun Meet!

Stay tuned for details of a family-friendly, socially distanced event in June.

We're working on a fantastic, and safe event so you can come out and enjoy these beautiful wetlands.

Watch for an e-blast with more information.



Riversongs: A PopUp Summer Music Festival

**Saturday July 17th from 3pm - 7pm
Outdoors and socially distant @ Elk Creekside
at the Millheim Fire Hall Fairgrounds**

**Great Music ~ Local Food ~ Beer & Spirits
Raffle Drawing ~ 50/50 Raffle ~ Door Prizes**

*Watch for details in the e-blast and on Facebook.
Proceeds benefit the PVCA Education programs in PV schools.*



Clean Up Days

Annual Stream Bank Clean Up

NEW: Register in advance for social distancing Saturday, April 24th, throughout the day, starts at Coburn Park, Coburn

This year, due to Covid-19, we'll be cleaning up the stream banks in our social bubbles, with masks worn at the park. You'll register online and choose a time to go to

Coburn Park to pick up your gloves, vests, bags, and get your clean up location.

Return anytime that day to drop off the trash you've collected and return your gear. Due to safety concerns, there will be no separation of recyclables at the park this year, but you are invited to do that on your own.



Watch for the link to the registration form in an e-blast and on Facebook!

Spring Highway Clean Up

Saturday, May 8th at 9:00am

Mask up and meet at Burkholder's parking lot for social bubble clean up. Gloves, bags, and vests are provided. *PVCA has been keeping our section of 45 trash free for over 25 years!*

CrickFest Reimagined

What could this family friendly gathering in Coburn Park evolve into? What if we added a Tunnel Trot 5K and Pedal Penns Valley Bike Race? Added a Scavenger Hunt? Moved the Silent Auction online? Help us reinvent this beloved festival by sharing your time and imagination.

Contact Kat Alden to get involved at aldenkat@gmail.com



Centre Gives May 11th & 12th and the PopUp Taproom Takeover

CentreGives is an annual, two-day, county-wide fundraising event sponsored by the Centre Foundation.

Put on your mask and join us **May 11th from 5pm-8pm** for an outdoor, socially distant **PopUp Taproom Takeover** sponsored by Elk Creek Café + Aleworks.

Help Us Win A Matching Prize!

Any donation you make to PVCA during CentreGives is much appreciated, but **when you give from 5pm - 6pm on Tuesday, May 11th**, you help us have a good shot at winning one of the many matching prizes the Centre Foundation offers.

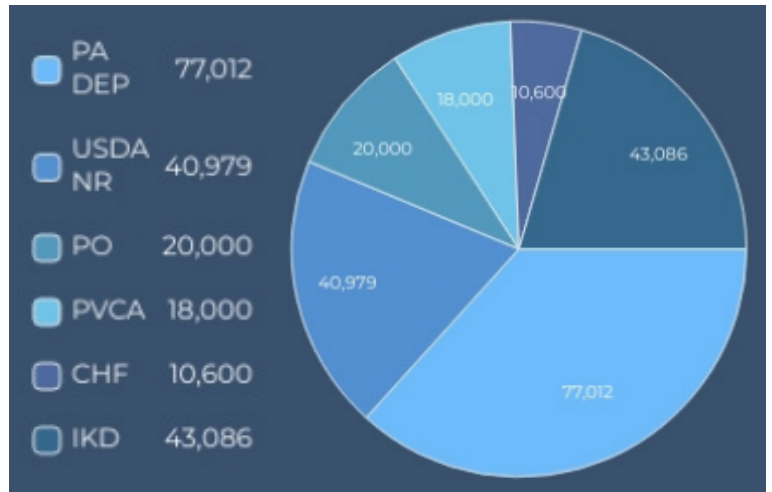
Plan to join us at Elk Creek Café & Aleworks' PopUp for our Tap Room Takeover, where great community, good beer, and donation phone calls add up to a wonderful night of fundraising.

Watershed Project Funding Financial Report

Partners and Funding Sources 2020

- Pa Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grant (PADEP)
- US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDANR)
- Property owner personal funds (PO)
- Penns Valley Conservation Association (PVCA) with Annenberg Foundation monies
- Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHF)
- In-kind stream restoration support in the form of technical assistance on stream assessment, restoration design, state, federal and local permits, equipment, materials and labor (in-kind qualified match on grants) was provided mainly by US Fish and Service in concert with Habitat Forever and the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania.

ADDITIONAL Support: Seven Willows LLC and Keller Small Stream Solutions



In-Kind Support Value: \$43,356, (IKD) bringing the investment in stream restoration to \$208,647.

Watershed Project Report 2020

by **Lysle Sherwin, Seven Willows LLC, Affiliate Biologist**
US Fish and Wildlife Service "Partners for Fish and Wildlife" program

Stream Restoration

- Stream restoration projects were implemented at Muddy Creek, Sinking Creek, Potter Run, and Elk Creek over a three-month summer construction season to improve water quality, fish habitat, and aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Nearly a mile of aquatic habitat restored by installing a wide range of in-stream structures and bank stabilization practices.
- Logging era millpond dam removal of a "legacy sediment" trap and two swimming hole impoundments reestablished an improved channel profile reducing flood hazard risk for residents

Wildlife Habitat Improvements

- 3,000 seedlings planted at the Pine Creek "Cemetery Road" wetland shrub habitat.
- 4,000 container plants planted at 3 projects in the six-mile Elk Creek Headwaters Management Area. (2 miles of the Elk Creek corridor is designated as impaired water quality from agricultural runoff under the Clean Water Act.)
- 14 acres planted at Elk Creek using 27 species of native tree and shrubs to provide multifunctional riparian buffers.
- Pine Creek Management Area, singing male woodcock counts at a 1.5 mile survey have increased from 5 to 11 in 3 years. Songbird listening stations documented the presence of over 20 "Species of Conservation Need" identified species.
- Wood Turtle Habitat Restoration work included construction of six root wad turtle hibernacula.

Agroforestry Opportunities

Forestry consultant, Andrea Ferich, spearheaded a handful of projects in collaboration with PVCA:

- implementing riparian buffers
- overseeing temperature monitoring of 30 locations
- distribution of and/or planting over 3,000 trees and shrubs to landowners

As a business member of PVCA, Andrea is passionate to find the intersections of PVCA's Watershed strategic goals through her consulting business, Ironwood Forestry. She works extensively with local landowners and has found great opportunities to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit in the Valley while making strides in improving water quality.

Andrea facilitated the beginning of the final year of a three year PVCA grant-funded project through the Chesapeake Bay Trust to demonstrate and assess the opportunities for multifunctional riparian forest buffers in the Upper Penns Creek Watershed, as a model for the Chesapeake Bay. She guided the planting of thousands of trees at two demonstration sites in Woodward toward economic opportunities, and facilitated the Planting for Healing event on edible/medicinal species in buffers and hedgerows.

Now on the steering committee for the Keystone Tree Crops Cooperative, Andrea is focused on the supply and demand of native medicinal products, perennial cut flowers, native fruit and nut trees in Pennsylvania and is excited about the opportunities for PVCA. She was also recently appointed as Vice President to the PA Native Plant Society and hopes to continue to collaborate with PVCA, working with local municipalities, in the support of native plant ordinances as well as statewide efforts in banning noxious weeds.

Through PVCA, Andrea is available to walk with you to visit the waterway on your property, to discuss ecological and socioeconomic opportunities, and take a closer look at available funding. *E-mail Andrea at andreaferich@gmail.com.*

Environmental Education Report

The challenges to schools in 2020 encouraged the Education Committee to think beyond the traditional forms of environmental education, which would typically include Field Experiences to local environmental centers, State Parks, farms, outside gardens, streams and waterways. With classes conducted both live and online, PVCA Environmental Educator, Jim Flanagan, created hands-on activities that students can do at both school and home.

This has been the year of the Scavenger Hunt! These proved successful in getting 700 students (k-6) outside to explore, the heart of environmental education. Hunts have been created for breaks and look like they will become a seasonal component moving forward.

Since March, 2020, we also provided:

- In person programming at the Penns Valley Environmental Center and educational hikes at Centre Hall
- Praying Mantis Zoom class for Ms. Homan's **4th grade class**
- **6th graders** (100 students) worked on weather, climate, adaptations and the impacts of climate change. Students created a riparian buffer to stop the flow of water, debris and chemicals using sticks and balls to represent the flow of runoff. This activity illustrated the importance of watershed health.
- **1st graders** had two mini environmental days with scavenger hunts and nature based activities, plus a Squirrel Olympics in which students built their own winter squirrel nests and played a nut gathering game.

Education Committee volunteers Lexie and Peter Buck received a DEP Grant for "Climate Change in Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences." This grant will allow PVCA to fund Climate Change Science, offering new programs and activities with climate change as a primary focus. The grant is also providing an intern from the PSU Sustainability Institute.

The need for creating online content will continue to be a big focus. Dan Trew, of ClearWater Conservancy, and educator, Kim Forsythe, are working on a series of videos like the one of Millbrook Marsh, published on PVCA's YouTube Channel. Dan and Jim have done a live-stream field study on Slab Cabin Run with SCASD Educator John Donoughe.

Are You A Member For 2021?

We love our members!

Your membership dollars not only fund our programs and staff, but they also help us get the matching grants that make our work possible.

Please consider joining PVCA for 2021 or making an additional gift.

Go to www.pennsvalley.net for details.

And thank you!

Executive Director Search

As we go to press, we're in the process of finding a dynamic ED to lead us into a bright future. Stay tuned!

Thank you 2020 Business Members/Supporters

- Anders Olson Construction and Renovations Inc.
- Brush Mountain Lodge
- Bryant & Carson, PC
- Bucher and Montgomery
- Elk Creek Cafe + Aleworks
- James Crum, Architect
- Dennison Press and Design
- First National Bank of PA
- Freeze Thaw Cycles
- Kuppels Auto Center
- Martinec Farms
- Mifflinburg Bank and Trust
- Millheim Small Engine Repair
- Nittany Health Centre
- PC Medics & Co
- Penns Creek Guides
- Pennsylvania Certified Organic
- Stovers Repair
- Tamarack Farm
- Tussey Mountain Outfitters
- Winghaven Nursery
- Woodward Camp

Board Of Directors

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Tom Doman, Potter Township
Ethan Davis, Haines Township
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Mark Engle, Millheim Borough

Environmental Education

Coordinator: Jim Flanagan

Webmaster & Database:

Joshua Brock

Newsletter Editors: Kat Alden and Annie Mascelli

Bookkeeper: Rebecca Bragg

Shout Out!

Thank you to a generous Business Member for sponsoring a new intern. *Stay tuned for position details.*



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