



2021 Annual Report

SALT WATCH WATER MONITORING

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Salt Watch Water Monitoring
- PA Master Naturalist Coordinating Partner
- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership



In the summer of 2021 the WCWA received grant funding to start a water quality monitoring program on Chartiers Creek. This monitoring was focused on collecting baseline data for the Izaak Walton League's Salt Watch Monitoring program. Samples were collected monthly at six sites along Chartiers Creek.

Then samples have been taken at the same

sites along Chartiers Creek after snow melts in the winter. This will provide data to determine how much salt is entering the creek from winter salt application.

The WCWA has also signed up to be an official partner with the Izaak Walton League on this program and will be uploading the data onto

the League's data site. The data from our collections can be found at <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch/results>



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PA MASTER NATURALIST COORDINATING PARTNER

In the fall of 2021 the WCWA signed on to be the Coordinating Partner for the Washington County chapter of Pennsylvania Master Naturalist. This means that the WCWA will be responsible for organizing,

advertising, and running the program in Washington County for the next two years. The upcoming class, Spring 2022, has already been filled up and programming is being finalized. Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers from WCWA and UCCWA who have stepped up to

ensure this program runs smoothly in Washington County! If you would like more information please see the website: pamasternaturalist.org



DAY OF GIVING

For the 8th consecutive year, the WCWA participated in the Washington County Community Foundation's (WCCF) Day of Giving. On September 16, 2021, all donations made through the WCCF website or by check were totaled and matched by funds from the

\$100,000 matching pool. This year we raised more than **\$3,500** during the Day of Giving! The donations will be used for administrative purposes to support the WCWA in completing its mission. The Day of Giving this year will be in September 2022. We hope

to have even more donors so please mark your calendars. You can make your dollars go further by also paying your dues on the Day of Giving. Just let us know how to credit you. We thank everyone for their continued support of our work!

KEYSTONE 10 MILLION TREES PARTNERSHIP

In 2021 the WCWA became a partner organization with the Keystone 10 Million Trees Program. This program provides trees to landowners in Pennsylvania with the aim to plant 10 million additional trees in the Commonwealth by 2025.

In the fall of 2021 the WCWA partnered with 3 landowners for the initial planting. Almost 100 trees were planted on 3 properties along the stream, increasing the quantity of riparian buffer in Washington County.



In the spring of 2022 our second order was placed with trees for 9 landowners. These trees will be delivered in late April for planting around the county.

Over 800 trees will be planted this spring in Washington County. Trees provided are bareroot seedlings of many different species. The trees through this program are provided for free to interested landowners with the hope that landowners will do their best to help these trees thrive.

The WCWA plans to continue this partnership and will be advertising for trees in

the late spring/early summer for fall planting. Please check our website and sign up for our newsletter so you can be alerted when fall tree ordering becomes available.



WCWA BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP TRAINING AT ROCKY BEND NATURE PRESERVE

On August 27th, WCWA Board member, Vicky Michaels hosted a training event at the Independence Conservancy's Rocky Bend Nature Preserve. At this site the Independence Conservancy has been working to eliminate the invasive species, *Fallopia japonica*, also known as Japanese Knotweed.

This plant has hollow stems and can grow up to 9 feet tall in large clusters. The plant spreads through seeds and also rhizomes (root shoots). This makes it hard to eradicate before it spreads.

Vicky and her board have been working to develop ways to tackle the spreading knotweed in their nature preserve. She and her fellow board member, Bruce Senior, showed us how they are tackling the knotweed with an individual spray model and also using a sprayer from a specialized side by side.

The WCWA board was also shown the future site of streambank restoration along Raccoon Creek. Lots of great happenings at the Rocky Bend Nature Preserve!



POLLINATOR GARDEN AT JOE WALKER

In the spring of 2021 the WCWA donated many bags of native pollinator plants for the students in Ms. Melissa Cole's classroom at Joe Walker Elementary School. Species of native plants were grown at West Liberty University and donated to the WCWA. After discussion, the seeds were given to Joe Walker Elementary School for reestablishment of their pollinator garden.

Students cleared the old material from the garden and then spread the seeds (which were bagged and labeled by species) into sections of the garden. The students enjoyed getting out of the classroom and getting their hands dirty!





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Mission:

The Watershed Alliance, through a watershed based approach, will: provide a collaborative framework to support the efforts of all member watershed associations; encourage responsible utilization of air, land and water resources; and promote the protection, preservation and enhancement of the county’s natural resources, biodiversity and ecological health for the benefit of current and future generations.

WCWA is a non-profit 501 c 3 charitable organization intended to provide a suitable mechanism to address water issues on a county-wide basis. Watershed organizations that are members of the Alliance include: the **Raccoon Creek (Independence Conservancy), Buffalo Creek, Cross Creek, Chartiers Creek, Ten Mile Creek, and Upper Wheeling Creek Watershed Associations.**

2021 Board Members:

Sam Carroll—President
Vicki Bryan—Vice President
Carrilee Hemington—Secretary
Jennifer Dann—Treasurer

Vicky Michaels
Ken Maglietta
Katherine Gardner
Jason Fillhart
Donna Riggle
Jon Carter

RAIN BARREL RAFFLE

At the 2021 Washington County Agricultural Fair in August the WCWA raffled off two rain barrels to people who stopped by the booth. These rain barrels, made of used 55-gallon drums will help to reduce the amount of stormwater coming off of the resident’s property.

Rain barrels collect water from the roof of the building and can be used to water flowers and non-edible gardens. The WCWA is also partnering

with the Washington County Conservation District to hold a rain barrel workshop in April 2022. If you are interested, check the WCCD website at www.pawccd.org for registration information.

More information on rain barrels can be found at www.wcwalliance.org/resources

Click on the section for Landowners

