



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

CHARTIERS CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (ChCWA)

Traditionally, our annual report highlights our activities and accomplishments for past year, and this year is no different; however, the year has been very different. Like everyone, we are rethinking what, how and why we do what we do, and planning for a better, more effective future. It is an exciting time and we welcome your help in planning for 2021 and the years to come. There are many challenges. New initiatives and new members, partners and supporters passionate about the environment will be needed.

Josh Dunkle, President

ChCWA is an all-volunteer organization, which was formally organized in 1999 as an association representing the upper Chartiers Creek Watershed in Washington County, Pennsylvania. ChCWA is a member of the Washington County Watershed Alliance (WCWA), a nonprofit, umbrella organization designed to coordinate and enhance the efforts of individual watershed associations.

Our mission is to enhance, protect, and develop the ecosystem of the watershed by undertaking activities to:

1. Study the natural resources of the watershed;
2. Develop a program to improve and maintain the water resources of the watershed;
3. Promote local interest in natural resource conservation;
4. Involve local support to correct conditions that cause problems for the watershed; and
5. Identify federal, state, and local programs (financial, technical, and scientific) that would benefit the watershed.

Studying Natural Resources: ChCWA citizen scientists continued to monitor the water quality of our streams. Usually, spring and fall chemical testing and macro-invertebrate studies are conducted at four sites.



← volunteers estimate stream flow

→ rear – chemical testing
Foreground – macro identification



This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, spring monitoring had to be cancelled. The fall monitoring was completed by reducing the number of volunteers at any time to the minimum and following Center for Disease Control protocols. Next year, if the pandemic is under control, we hope to be able to give more volunteers the opportunity to monitor with us.

Data now online! Our 20 years of stream monitoring data was uploaded to the Three Rivers Quest website where it is available for public viewing. 3riversquest.wvu.edu/data/3rq-maps

Promoting Interest in Natural Resource Conservation:

Screening and Discussion of “Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch”



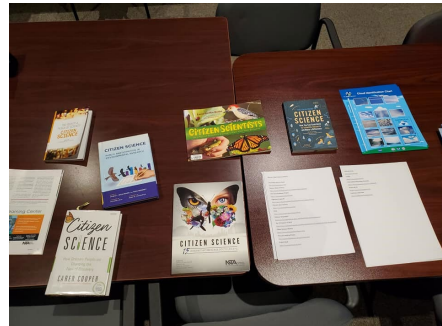
This film and discussion led by Dee and Walt Kochirka of the Izaak Walton League of Allegheny County brought home the impact of our use of throw-away plastics not only on the environment but also in our food and in our very bodies. We were challenged to consider what we can do about it.



Citizen Science 101



Gary Popiolkowski gave an excellent presentation of resources for getting involved in citizen science in relation to the environment.



Beyond Fish and Birds: Macroinvertebrates in the Lake – Volunteers displayed macroinvertebrate samples and explained their important role in the ecosystem as food for fish. There was also a presentation on opportunities to participate in citizen science.



Action to correct conditions that cause problems for the watershed

Catfish Creek Clean-up – Many thanks to Dr. Jason Kilgore, the enthusiastic staff at Washington & Jefferson College, and all of the students and volunteers for making this such a great day!

This event was part of Pickup Pennsylvania Fall in Support of International Coastal Cleanup. We most certainly acted locally to impact globally.



2020 Officers and Board Members

Josh Dunkle, President
Virginia McAnulty, Vice President/Treasurer
Carrilee L. Hemington, Secretary
Joan Guenther
Summer Voelker

Communications

Website: Washington County Watershed Alliance
Email communications: Virginia McAnulty
Facebook and Instagram editor: Summer Voelker
Newsletter & Website editors: volunteers needed

Chartiers Creek Watershed Association Accomplishments in 2020

- February 12 – Hosted a viewing of the film “Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch” and discussion led by members of the Izaak Walton League of Allegheny County
- March 11 – Presentation on Citizen Science 101
- September 16 – Presentation at Peters Lake Park
- October/November – Completed macroinvertebrate monitoring at 4 sites
- November 7 – Catfish Creek clean-up around Cameron Stadium in Washington

Contact us 50 Old Hickory Ridge Road, Suite 1 Washington, PA 15301 Phone: (724) 705-7098 Email: chartierscreekwa@pawccd.org	Find us on-line! https://www.wcwalliance.org/chartiers-creek-watershed-associati https://www.facebook.com/upperchartierscreek Instagram: upperchartierswatershed
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Become a member of Chartiers Creek Watershed Association to support our mission!

Go to <https://www.wcwalliance.org/chartiers-creek-watershed-associati> and click on Become a Member.