



West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition

Spring 2010



5th West Branch Restoration Symposium

The 5th West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium will be held on May 6th and 7th at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport. Research on AMD, its effects, treatment, and the state of the West Branch Susquehanna will be presented. In addition to the presentations that will be given that day, a student poster competition will be held, and many exhibits will be on display.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Alan Comp will be the keynote speaker for the symposium. Dr. Comp has been working for many years to battle the effects of coal mining, and is the founder of the Office of Surface Mining/ Americorps VISTA teams. In 2002, he

started the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team, and in 2007 he formed the Western Hardrock Watershed Team using the same model. Dr. Comp has received the 2009 Service to America Medal: Environment, and River

Network's 2009 National River Hero Award. We are extremely excited to have Dr. Alan Comp be our keynote speaker this year.

In addition to a great day of presentations, and posters we will also be holding a

training session the second day of the symposium. The program is designed to teach how to collect samples according to state and federal protocol. The events will include the writing of a quality assurance/ quality control plan, water sampling, habitat assessment, benthic macro-invertebrate sampling, and flow measurement. We hope that many watershed groups will take advantage of this training.

For more information or any questions contact Trout Unlimited at (570) 748-4901, or email info@wbsrc.org. Also check out the WBSRC website for up to date information. Go to www.wbsrc.org



Photo: Amy Wolfe

Township Supervisors Team Up with CCCD to Construct Diversion Wells on Long Run— *Written by Kelly William, Clearfield Conservation District*

When cleaning up the effects of AMD in a stream can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, something as simple as a partnership is a priceless resource. And when that partnership comes to you from out of the blue, you value it that much more. Very simply put, that describes the relationship between the Clearfield County Conservation District and the Supervisors for Boggs

and Bradford Townships.

In 2005 the Conservation District received Growing Greener funding for a Diversion Well Project on Long Run, a tributary that enters Clearfield Creek downstream of the Dimeling Bridge on SR 153. At the time, the plan was to build a series of four diversion wells adjacent to Long Run and the Boggs Township Supervisors agreed to provide operation

and maintenance for the diversion wells, which would entail checking on the systems and filling the wells with limestone on a monthly basis. Due to discharges in the headwaters and near the mouth, the pH in Long Run is just slightly too low for trout to tolerate and since the stream is not high in metals, the addition of alkalinity through the use of limestone

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Mark Your Calendars!

June 15-16— Watershed Assessment Workshop for Teachers.

Contact Jenifer Demchak for more information (jdemchak@mansfield.edu)

Visit www.wbsrc.org for more events!

Want to see your events here?

Email info@wbsrc.org

Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team

The Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team is an OSM/VISTA initiative focusing on the repair of environmental degradation that has been caused by historic coal mining. There are many goals of the program that center around assisting the local watershed groups to build capacity and improve the environmental conditions present in the focus area. This can include education initiatives, increasing volunteer support, or assistance with public outreach.

The ACCWT first began in 2001 as an effort to assist the over 3 million Appalachian residents which live within one mile of an AMD impacted area. The combination of the Office of Surface Mining and VISTA an Ameri-corp program has lead to a great program which helps many local groups. Currently there are 42 OSM/ VISTAS working though out the Appalachian area.

Currently in our area Rebecca Holler is acting as the OSM/VISTA. If you feel your group could benefit from her services please contact Rebecca at rholler@tu.org or call (570) 748-4901. To find out more about the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed team visit <http://www.accwt.org/index.html>.

Not a member of the WBSRC?
It's easy to join—see our website for more information:
www.wbsrc.org

Bear Run Watershed Update— *Written by Tom Clark, SRBC*

In 2008, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and the Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD) received the first Watershed Renaissance Grant ever awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Watershed Renaissance Grant will fund the six remaining AMD/AML restoration projects that should lead to a completely restored Bear Run Watershed (Phase I and III completed in 2008).

The first project funded by the Watershed Renaissance Grant, Phase II, is the most encompassing and most expensive Bear Run restoration phase. Phase II combines the removal of ~15,000 tons of high quality coal refuse, the treatment of a large flow/alkaline/high iron concentrated discharge, ~20 acres of AML reclamation, and ~1,000 ft of stream channel restoration. SRBC and the ICCD formed a partnership with a local coal mining company, Ridge Energy, who will be completing the coal

refuse removal as well as all of the reclamation components. Equipment was mobilized the week of February 22nd with ground breaking beginning later that same week. The project should be completed sometime in May. This project will eliminate approximately 1/3 of the iron loading presently impacting the Bear Run watershed, as well as causing slight reductions in acidity and aluminum loading.

With mine pool monitoring and the removal of a refuse pile delaying progress on Phase IV, Phase V

will be the next project completed. The Phase V project is the treatment of a moderate flow (~111 GPM), moderately acidic (~144 mg/l), and high aluminum concentrated (~15 mg/l) discharge draining the Banks #2 deep mine. Due to the high aluminum concentration, a Swedish-Bucket Lime Silo will be installed as the alkaline producer. The Phase V discharge is the largest source of aluminum loading in the entire Bear Run Watershed. This project should be completed by Fall 2010.



Photo: Tom Clark

Township Supervisors Team Up Cont...

in the diversion wells is enough to clean up the AMD in the stream.

Flash-forward to today and the project has gone through its share of delays and changes including being reduced to two diversion wells rather than four. The project is now in the home stretch and must be completed by June of this year. Fortunately, one thing that didn't change was the willingness of the township

supervisors to help.

When the final plans for this project were brought to the attention of the Supervisors for both Boggs and Bradford Townships, they offered to construct the diversion wells, seeing the project as a huge benefit for the stream, Clearfield Creek, and the township residents as well. This helped to kick-start the project and with the townships on board, the Long Run

Diversion Well construction will be completed in May 2010, well before the project deadline.

Once the diversion wells go online the pH in nearly 4 miles of stream will be improved which will add fuel to the effort to get the discharges near the mouth cleaned up and keep them clean so that one day, Long Run can once again support a healthy population of aquatic life.