

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Autumn 2019

Published by the Board of Supervisors

4030 Whitehorse Road, Devault, PA 19432 - (610) 240-0326

Township Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Visit our Website at: www.charlestown.pa.us



Riparian Buffer Restoration Project at Brightside Farm Park

by Pete Goodman & Carol Armstrong, Environmental Advisory Committee

You might ask, what is a riparian buffer? Riparian refers to land that occurs along a watercourse. The buffer is the edges of vegetation that grow along the watercourse. Our land use has changed what Pennsylvania riparian buffers look like. The new normal is much less wooded and very narrow. In some places there is no buffer.



Riparian buffers perform many functions. For High Quality streams such as Pigeon Run it is recommended that the buffer be at least 150 feet wide on each side of the stream. That distance scientific research confirms is the best benefit for the stream. Some of the benefits a wide buffer provides are the removal of excess nutrients and sediment from surface runoff. Also, riparian vegetation shades streams to optimize light and temperature conditions for aquatic plants, animals and fish. Riparian areas provide important habitat for many endangered and threatened species and other wildlife and plants. – article cont. on p. 5



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BOARD MEETINGS

Supervisors

1ST Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

2ND Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

Semi-monthly 3RD Tuesday
@ 4:00 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Committee

2ND Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.
at the Great Valley High
School

Parks & Recreation

3RD Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

Meetings except the EAC are held at
the Great Valley Middle School, 255
N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern.

Fast Facts about the Census



Online Option

While you will still receive the census questionnaire via

U.S. Mail, you will have the option of responding either by mail or online.

Everyone Counts

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

It's in the Constitution

The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.

It's about Redistricting

After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.

It's About Fair Representation

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

Your Data are Confidential.

Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

How Can I Respond?

In March, 2020, about 80% of addresses will receive an invitation letter with instructions on how to respond online or by telephone using a unique ID. The remaining 20% of addresses (selected because they are less likely to have or use the internet) will receive both an invitation letter and a paper questionnaire with a postage-paid return envelope. After three mailed requests to complete the census online or by phone, unresponsive households will receive a paper questionnaire and return instructions on the fourth mailing.

Visiting the Walking Trail at Brightside Farm Park

Good Dogs Want you to Follow the Rules!



1. Remember that I must be on a leash at all times.
2. Be considerate of walkers, especially young children, when you've let out my retractable leash! We both know I'm a good dog, but they don't know me!
3. Let's stay on the paved walking trail! A hay crop is grown in the fields and shouldn't be disturbed, even in the winter months.
4. Please pick up after me! Fido bags and waste receptacles are there for your convenience.

We're glad to see how popular all our parks and trails are, and we thank you for your cooperation.

Spotted Lanternflies What to Do in the Fall & Winter



Destroy Egg Masses

Check for egg masses on trees, cement blocks, rocks, and any other hard surfaces.

Above: egg masses on a tree trunk

If you find egg masses, scrape them off using a plastic card or putty knife and then place the masses into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer.

This is the most effective way to kill the eggs.

Watch out for Deer!

November and December are when deer are most active, so be particularly careful on the roads. To report a dead deer for removal, call:

Township Roads: PA Game Commission (610) 926-1966

State Roads: PennDOT (484) 340-3201



Plastics in Our Bodies!

A public presentation by the Charlestown Environmental Advisory Committee

WHAT? WHERE? HOW? Biological Effects? Who is Consuming? Where in our Bodies? What are the solutions?

January 28, 2020

7:00 pm

Room 154 at the Great
Valley Middle School

Let's talk about
what we can do.



Charlestown Day in Pictures ~ September 14th

courtesy of Allen Underkofler and George Csete

The weather cooperated for a fun day to bid farewell to summer.



The Science Tellers returned for their 3rd year (GLC)



Bubbletopia (APU)



Thanks to the East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Association and Kimberton Fire Company for your service to our township! (GLC)



Lots of wonderful dogs enjoyed the day too (APU)



Bouncy Houses by BouncyRoo (APU)

The Parks & Recreation Board has held this event each year since 2013, making this the 7th consecutive year.

Our sincere thanks to all our volunteers, vendors and non-profits who once again made our annual Charlestown Day a great event for the community including Tim Hubbard, Kevin Kuhn, Paul Jorgensen, Bill Longua, Frank Beyer, Carly Mount, Heather Rabold, Emerson Rabold, Hannah Rabold, Janet Lawrence-Nelson, Suzanne Banks, Glen Hill, University of Valley Forge, Theurkauf Design & Planning, Thomas Comitta Associates.

Riparian Buffer - Continued from page 1

In Brightside Farm Park there is a trickle of a stream, fed by groundwater springs, that is a headwater tributary to Pigeon Run which itself is a tributary to the Pickering Creek. Through the efforts of Carol Armstrong, principally, the Charlestown EAC is moving forward with a project to restore riparian buffers to the Brightside tributary. Carol has been working closely with Vic Laubach, Executive Director of the Green Valleys Watershed Association. Vic has been providing some heavy lifting as far as planning, grant writing, and other technical assistance. As of this writing funds have been secured from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, the Chester County Conservation District, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In September, we met on site with representatives of Audubon who are looking at the project as part of their commitment for a demonstration project in the Schuylkill Highlands. Also attending was Vic Laubach, Green Valleys Watershed Association, and Nancy Long, French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. Jeanne Barrett Ortiz, Senior Program Manager, Landscape Conservation, for Audubon seemed very enthused with the project and a hopeful connection to the Deerfield community. She felt that we should be able to obtain some plant material through the Fairmount Park Conservancy (with her help) that were fruit bearing and would be at no cost.

Since there are different planting areas that are not suitable for all types of plants the project is being divided into phases. Once the final plan has been presented and approved by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors the phases will proceed as follows. The first phase will be the slope behind the community gardens. Each phase in its time will be cleared of the invasive material and made ready for planting. What is anticipated to go in the area below the community gardens are the fruit bearing trees and multifunction trees. In another area near the spring house we are looking to plant winterberry hollies and red twig dogwood which will enhance the beauty of the setting. All plant material will be native, will be protected from deer by using cages, and will use organic methods. We are anticipating that there will be volunteer planting opportunities. So, limber up those muscles and drag out that shovel, we could be starting Phase 1 as soon as November 2019.

Beauty and Beast *By Richard Findlay, Environmental Advisory Committee*

This summer has seen a dramatic growth in the Spotted Lanternfly here in the Township. When it opens its wings the spots give way to the most brilliant red a true spectacle of beauty. Yet as many things in nature what heralds beauty harbors destruction. It is a nuisance pest that threatens the \$18 billion agricultural base of our State. Not native to Pennsylvania, it has not necessarily come here on its own wing power, often carried on man driven equipment and transport. Chester County is now classified as a quarantine area and we should all be vigilant not to give this pest a free ride into neighboring districts by allowing its egg masses to “hitch-a-ride” on our cars as we go about our daily lives.



Image credit: Nick Sloff, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

With the colder autumn weather starting to be felt the fully grown Lanternfly is dying but not before having laid its eggs en mass. Often these will be unseen on the underside of our cars and in the wheel wells. This is particularly true if you have seen the nymphs or adults on infested trees close by where you park. Please have a thorough under carriage wash or a hose down.

Research is finding natural predators and fungi to combat the spread of this pest in future seasons. So it is important that we contain the spread of the population to where it is today. As an added incentive if you are a wine lover the Lanternfly, with its insatiable appetite, poses a real threat to the vineyards here on the east coast if not contained and eradicated.

For more information on how you can control the Lanternfly on your property please visit:

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-homeowners> or call 1-888-4BAD-FLY.

Charlestown Art Show October 13th

Hosted by the Charlestown Methodist Church and Charlestown Historical Society



A beautiful Autumn day provided the venue for displays of works by local artists at the Methodist Church on Church Road and inside the Charlestown Mill.

The machinery at the mill was switched on from time to time whenever the musicians were on break.



Winter's Not Far Behind – Suggestions for Preparing for the Next Season

This fall, check your property near the road and particularly in the road right of way. Improve the sight lines for your neighbors and fellow commuters by trimming back any vegetation that grew too close to the road over the past season. Perhaps you could offer to help neighbors who aren't able to do this work themselves.

Inspect your mailbox to avoid damage from snow plows this winter. Mailboxes and posts should be no nearer than 6 inches from the face of the curb. Straighten leaning mailbox posts, and replace older, worn, and weakened posts that can snap or be pushed over when plows press snow up against them. Often its not the snow plow itself that causes the problem, but pressure from the displaced snow.

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