

2nd Report- Quittapahilla Watershed Association 1997- 2001
A Brief History

The Quittapahilla Watershed is in Lebanon County, and the creek's major tributaries include Killinger Run, Bachman Run, Beck Creek and Snitz Creek. The Quittapahilla Creek flows into the Swatara Creek, which flows into the Susquehanna River and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

A special meeting was called on June 8, 1997 to organize the Quittapahilla Watershed Association (QWA) by individuals who are committed to the quality and preservation of the Quittapahilla Creek. The group included citizens who, in 1991, had established the Quittie Creek Nature Park in Annville as well as individuals in organizations from the Quittapahilla Stream Improvement Committee that was formed to do stream improvements along the Quittapahilla. The Quittapahilla Stream Improvement Committee included the following organizations: the Annville and Palmyra Rotary Clubs, Hershey Hook and Horns, Steelstown Rod and Gun Club, Palmyra Sportsmen's Club, Indiantown Gap Rod and Gun Club, and the Local 13 Trapper's Association. The decision was made at this meeting to form the QWA and then in 1998 the group became affiliated with the Swatara Creek Watershed Association, a 501C (3) organization.

An early continuing partner has been the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited. They have been involved in every project since the inception of the watershed association. And within the past two years numerous local organizations have also become involved in projects along the watershed.

Some of QWA's cooperative ventures have included:

(1) Stream Bank Fencing

In 1998, a Watershed Restoration Grant (WRAP) was used by the QWA to install fencing, create cattle crossings and plant riparian buffers on farms along the watershed. Through the Grant, the Quittapahilla Watershed Association

installed 25,451 feet of stream bank fencing and establishing a riparian buffer by planting trees and shrubs along the stream banks of the 11 farms that were fenced.

Through a second WRAP Grant in 1999 the Quittapahilla Watershed Association installed 10,115 feet of stream bank fencing and establishing a riparian buffer by planting trees and shrubs along the stream banks of the 7 farms that were fenced.

In the year 2000, a Growing Greener grant allowed for the fencing of 9916 feet of stream bank along 6 farms on the Hammer Creek.

In 2001, a second Growing Greener Grant was used to fence 9825 feet of stream bank along 3 farms on the Little Swatara Creek.

From 1998 - 2001 the total stream bank fencing was 55,307 feet (10.7 miles)

(2) Riparian Buffer Plantings

In Spring 1998, 12 volunteers planted over 1,000 trees and shrubs along the Quittapahilla (4/18/98), and in Spring 1999 56 volunteers planted another 6,000 trees and shrubs along the Quittapahilla and its tributaries (5/1/99, n = 35; 5/11/99, n= 11; and 6/19/99, n= 10).

In Spring 2000, 99 volunteers (4/21/00, n= 5; 4/25/00 n= 18; 4/28/00, n= 35; 4/29/00, n= 41) planted riparian buffers and in Fall 2000, 46 volunteers (10/7/00) planted a riparian buffer along farms that had been fenced.

In Spring 2001 additional riparian buffers were planted on the farms on 4/21/01 and 4/28/01.

Then on 11/10/01 at the Cleona Borough Park and the Cleona Pumping Station a riparian buffer was planted by 34 volunteers.

In all 41,787 feet of riparian buffers (7.9 miles) were planted along stream banks .

(3) Stream Bank Stabilization:

Work with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) on an Adopt-a-Stream Grant in 1998. By joining forces with local citizens, sportsmen, businesses, service organizations, PFBC and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, the QWA installed deflectors and mud sills to stabilize approximately 900 feet of the stream bank in Quittie Creek Nature Park in 1998 and an additional 1100 feet in 1999; and 1000 feet in 2000. Partnering with the PFBC in 2001, we completed stabilizing 140 feet of stream bank at a property on Mill Street in Cleona and 190 feet at the Cleona Pumping Station. We also stabilized 852 feet of stream bank at the Cleona Borough Park. In all from 1998 through 2001 the Watershed Association stabilized 4182 feet of stream bank. For the work, Pennsylvania Lime- Carmeuse donated over 1500 tons of stone.

(4) Stream Cleanups

Organization of stream cleanups on April 25, 1998; June 1 1999; April 8, 2000; and April 7, 2001 with the Boy Scouts, a 4-H group, local school ecology clubs, the local chapter of the Audubon Society and a local church group. We removed 1000 pounds each of the first three years and one ton this year.

(5) Water Quality Testing

The watershed has been working with high school and college students who on an ongoing basis are testing the water quality in the watershed. Dr. Paul Wolf supervises LVC students who have tested the water since 1998 for nitrogen, orthophosphate, turbidity, ph, and temperature.

The major goals of QWA are to improve water quality; to promote watershed stewardship by working with land owners to improve the management of streams on their properties, and to make the public aware of the environmental impact of non-point source pollution through the media as well as programs in the schools.