

# Paxton Creek Watershed and Education Association

Summer 2010

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M. Baker Engineers, HACC, and PCWEA Volunteers after Installing Swale Shrubs & Mulch

## Infiltration-Retrofit Workshop & BMPs Project Scheduled for 9/25

A workshop and a Best Management Practices (BMPs) project occurring together is the arrangement of the important Peoples' Stormwater Infiltration-Retrofit Workshop, scheduled for Saturday, September 25 at the Giant Store Community Center, 2300 Linglestown Road in Susquehanna Township between 8:30-11:30 am. The event is for members of Paxton Creek Watershed and Education Association (PCWEA), homeowner associations, garden clubs, municipalities, and others interested in installing rain gardens and similar BMPs. This will be a hands-on, practical workshop that deals with questions such as how do BMPs work, how do we figure the design details, when is a permit necessary, what do the BMPs cost (and how can we do them cheaply), where do we get what is needed, how make them have low maintenance, etc, ETC? The format will be a couple of brief background talks, a roundtable discussion by local people with much experience in practical implementation, and an inspection of a nearby **half completed project**, so workshop participants can see what needs doing. The attendance fee is \$5. Participant space will be limited, likely requiring early registration. Details will be provided in mailings, and on web sites. (continued P. 2)

## SRBC Releases Report on 3-Year Paxton Creek Stormwater Project

A report on the multi-year Paxton Creek Stormwater Management Project was part of the quarterly meeting of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) in Harrisburg on June 11. This effort summarized the project, initially termed the Targeted Watershed Grant – worth \$1.5+ million with 50-50 local match, using U. S. Environmental Protection Agency funds administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Andrew Gavin, SRBC Section Chief, Restoration & Protection – covered the principal project components: five demonstration sites involving mostly infiltration and retrofit-type BMPs studied for implementation effectiveness and leverage potential; subwatershed and project site monitoring – from physical and chemical parameters such as pollution loads and current flows -- to biological parameters such as aquatic macro-invertebrates (water bugs); institutional arrangements for managing stormwater issues cooperatively and effectively among municipalities; education, mainly through workshops, communication documents, and web site presentations. The report data (i.e., the monitoring information) shows these 5 sites to reduce annually about 80,000 pounds of the total sediment carried by the creek.

### Transferability & Institutionalization

Project goals include the transferability of project findings to locations and peoples elsewhere, and actions that become self-starting and institutionalized. Evidence of this already exists: work with the PA Farm Show resulted in a plan to capture and reuse stormwater for cleaning and other purposes, and to make capital funds available for such conservation efforts as part of its annual budget cycle. These and other detailed findings will be summarized and discussed in upcoming newsletters.

**Need More Watershed Information?**

See [www.PaxtonCreek.org](http://www.PaxtonCreek.org)

## Progressive Meal, BMPs Tour & Recognition Ceremony Coming on September 9 in Evening

PCWEA will have a triple observance on Thursday, September 9: a traveling meal, a traveling tour of selected stormwater BMP projects, and recognition of individual PCWEAers and partners for past deeds. PCWEA member families and invited guests will gather, beginning at 6:30 pm sharp at St. Thomas Roasters Coffeehouse in Linglestown. The activities will finish at 8:30 pm in Blocker Hall Room 129 of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC). Part of the traveling meal, sort of a progressive 3-course dinner in reverse during the first hour: begins with a special coffee, followed by dessert (the infamous Sediment Cake) during the tour, and ends (the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour) with shared pot-luck entrees and the recognition ceremony. The BMPs tentatively selected to visit and discuss are: the rain garden and rain barrel at St. Thomas Roasters; the retrofitted detention basins, gabion, conservation landscaping, & other features at the Friendship Center in Lower Paxton Township, and the bioretention areas on the PA State Police grounds or at HACC. Organizers request RSVP calls made to 717-545-1336 for event coordination.

## Infiltration-Retrofit Workshop & Project (continued from P.1)

Besides PCWEA, partners sponsoring the workshop are the following: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Dauphin County Conservation District, New Baldwin Corridor Coalition, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and others.

### PCWEA Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Category

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-Profit	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Ind. Lifetime	\$100

Fill out, clip & end this application, together with a check or other payable to PCWEA, P.O. Box 61674, Harrisburg, PA 17106



## Educational Sign (& Brochure) Available at St. Thomas Roasters Coffeehouse

Various kinds of signs depict stormwater projects in the watershed. The sign at the St. Thomas Roasters, a new style for PCWEA, is mounted on posts at a 30-degree angle from vertical for reading ease. The Roasters is a demonstration site for selected stormwater best management practices. Besides photographs of the rain garden construction and participants, the signboard (shown above) conveys the following information: watershed roles of rain gardens and rain barrels, BMP features, their mechanisms of action (how they work), garden plant attributes and positions (layout), people & organizations who helped, and sponsor logos. The project also has a brochure that provides similar information, plus descriptions of BMP operations, pollutant removal efficiencies, and a list of reference resources. The Roasters rain garden has generated discussions about stormwater management, but there could have been more if the current Rt. 39 road project in Linglestown (traffic circles construction with related traffic safety & access considerations) had not severely restricted traffic in the village, causing business losses. Some PCWEA members are trying to help by having more frequent lunches and refreshments at the Roasters, during this difficult period (some of what partners do). A suggestion for a visit, if not sooner: the eve of June 18, 8-10 pm should be a pleasure, when superb bluesman Sterling Koch entertains.

**PCWEA is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. Its mission is to help avoid or mitigate watershed problems such as erosion and stormwater runoff, to protect and enhance watershed resources, and to facilitate practical, hands-on education.**

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**PCWEA Lifetime Members:** Frank & Judy Beskid, E. Drannon Buskirk, Jr., R. D., Tom Embich, Jan Fisher, Fred Heagy, Joe Link, David Sheridan, & Arlene Taylor.