

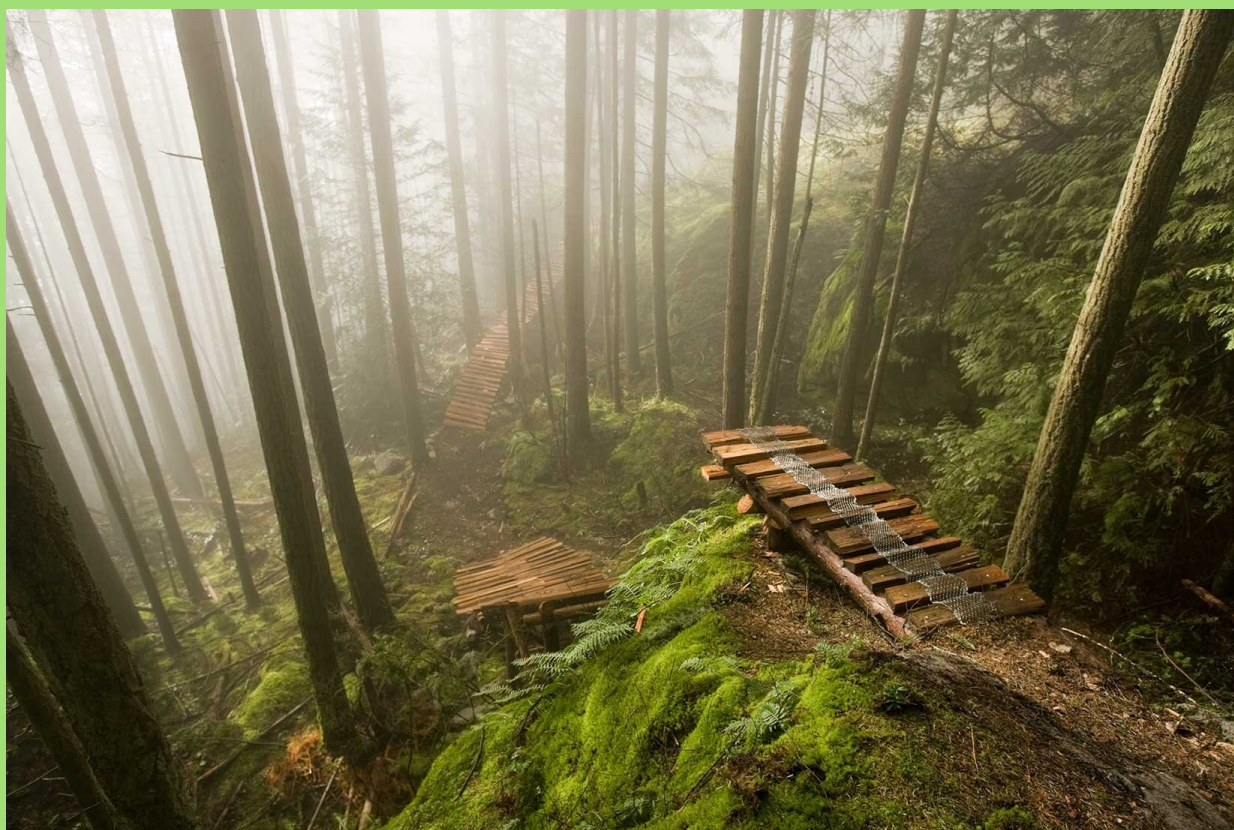
CRC Kicks Off Plans for 50th Anniversary Year of Celebrations and Programs

CRC marked the beginning of 2020 looking forward to celebrating 50 years of protecting local watersheds. Before nature intervened, the year promised to hold numerous tree plantings, streams cleanups, educational programs, guided hikes, and celebrations.

“From our humble beginnings trying to protect the forests around the Crum Woods at Swarthmore College, to our current work throughout the Chester, Ridley and Crum watersheds, CRC has always stood for one thing: cleaner water and more trees,” said Ted Leisenring, CRC Board President. “We get our hands dirty planting thousands of trees and we get our feet wet cleaning up local streams. With the addition of our educational programs and fun events, we really embody the effort to “think globally, act locally.””

Plans for the year included CRC’s Science on Tap program February 20, a lecture about the American Shad; the only event to escape erasure by Covid 19.

- CRC’s Annual Streams Cleanup was scheduled for April 4. Sponsors came through with support, as did organizations contributing gloves and bags. An all-volunteer picnic to follow was to be hosted in part by Acme
- A 50th birthday party for CRC was scheduled for May 30 at CRC’s headquarters in Willistown Township’s Okehocking Preserve. Birthday cake, a special tree planting, CRC in review, and other events were all planned
- The Education & Outreach Committee planned a guided nature walk at Okehocking in June
- CRC was to participate in the Willistown Country Fair August 18
- A CRC staff and leadership reunion party was to be hosted by former CRC Board Member Paula Jackson in September



- A special gala Awards Dinner and 50th Anniversary celebration was to be held at the Barn at Tyler Arboretum in October
- CRC planned another guided hike in November, multiple tree plantings and more!

Instead, with the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced a stay-at-home mandate in March, beginning the advent of working from home, home schooling, social distancing and mask and hand sanitizing etiquette. CRC’s programs ground to a halt.

While very disappointing, CRC flowed with what was obviously the larger priority. The office closed and staff began to work from home. All upcoming events were cancelled and brainstorming ways to stay true to our mission, perhaps even planning a remote Awards Dinner for Fall of 2020 began.

Executive Director Meghan Lockman was able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program loan through the CARES Act for CRC employees to continue work. Most CRC Streams Cleanup sponsors generously agreed to complete their previously pledged contributions, despite the cancellation of that event. And so, we soldiered on, working on projects that were suited to remote efforts: CRC’s website, annual report, social media and office organization. David Hilbert, CRC Tree Program Coordinator, was busy in a different way, as a solo maintenance artist for various CRC tree planting sites.

The CRC Board and committees kept working and meeting; staff kept typing and planning; and with David’s hands-on help, the work of CRC continued – altered but successful, in its own way.

Plans for CRC’s 50th birthday are still in the works. We refuse to give up on our celebrations, but we are forced to take a Covid-date. “We hoped to bring the community out to help us celebrate five decades of working for healthier watersheds – and we will definitely be making up for this lost time,” said Meghan Lockman, CRC Executive Director. “Our work is often literally in residents’ backyards. We would love to see more and more people getting involved and having fun with this important community effort.”