

APRIL - JUNE 2021

NEWS LETTER



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEGHAN LOCKMAN

Hello CRC Friends,

This has been a pretty amazing start to spring! After a long year of relative isolation, we have been so delighted to see sponsors, corporate and community volunteers, and members all getting out and getting involved in CRC programs!

Streams Cleanup was one of our best ever: so much enthusiasm for cleaning our streams and making a difference. 850 people = 12 tons of trash and debris removed from our creeks and streams! What a great success and a special thank you goes out to our amazing site coordinators, Board Member Chris Townend, Volunteer Coordinator Lynn Meza and their Streams Cleanup committee for all their organizing of so many details, people and materials! And, of course, a huge thank you to our sponsors!

Our planting calendar was jam-packed this spring, and we couldn't be happier about it. Thanks to grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, CRC was able to organize five two-day plantings with corporate and community volunteers. Each time, we were grateful for their enthusiasm and very hard work; they hauled and dug, caged and watered, sometimes in inclement weather but always with smiles. Many thanks to CRC Tree Planting Coordinator David Hilbert for all his behind-the-scenes tree scouting and purchasing, preparation and on-site management and cleanup. His truck had 200,000+ miles on it when he bought it - it may be 300,000 before long.

I am also happy to announce that our popular nature walks are about to multiply! CRC Board Member Beth Murray and her Education & Outreach Committee have done a wonderful job identifying a good mix of destinations and expert guiders.

Every walk “sells” out (they don’t cost anything), so we decided to add to the bounty. Read on for more details and please try to join us soon!

All in all, there is great hope and enthusiasm in the air at CRC. With vaccination events popping up all over, we are looking forward with excitement to seeing everyone at even more events in the coming months, culminating in the CRC Awards Dinner September 30. This looks to be a real gala, celebrating our 50th (+1) year planting trees, cleaning streams and spreading the word about our local watersheds. It is definitely a call for a celebration!

So stay safe, stay healthy and plan to join us as we dive back into events and outreach, all part of our mission to improve the health of our watersheds.

Meghan Lockman

STREAMS CLEANUP A HUGE SUCCESS!



This year's CRC Streams Cleanup was a humdinger! On a cool morning, March 20, nearly 850 volunteers fanned out to 32 sites located across 92 square miles of watersheds to clean trash out of local creeks. The 23rd Annual CRC Streams Cleanup ultimately pulled more than 12 tons of trash and debris from our streams and creeks and adjacent woodlands, helping to support healthier watersheds and remove unwanted debris from critical locations in Delaware and Chester counties.

The Streams Cleanup is a critical part of CRC's mission," said CRC Executive Director Meghan Lockman. "Water quality is obviously affected by what it flows over and around, and trash and debris can have a real impact. We are so grateful to all our volunteers on Streams Cleanup Day for helping to keep our watersheds healthy."

Among this year's volunteers were U.S. Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon, State Senators John Kane and Tim Kearney, State Representatives Leanne Krueger, Chris Quinn, Jack Stollsteimer and Leanne Krueger-Braneky, CRC Board Members and staff, local community leaders and mayors, and girl scout and boy scout troops.



"This was our best year yet cleaning up streams," said CRC President Ted Leisenring. "The day is fun no matter what you find - either you feel like you cleaned a ton of trash and made a difference, or you find your site cleaner than before and can celebrate that."

Among the many items found across the 32 sites were bicycles, a playground set, car parts, a fake Christmas tree, a railroad signal, dressers, mattresses, a stereo, a motor and shopping carts and tires.



CRC SENDS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS:



Thank You Streams Cleanup Sponsors



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CRC HOLDS 5 PLANTINGS THIS SPRING – AND GETS TV COVERAGE!

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PLANTINGS AND EVENTS:

CRC held more than five planting events this spring! From planting 100 trees at Sun Village in Chester to removing invasive plants in Malvern, CRC, corporate and community volunteers got down in the dirt to improve our watersheds. The Sun Village planting even caught the eye of Channel 6 news - [Check out the story!](#)

MARCH 5-6 & 12-13: SUN VILLAGE PARK, CHESTER

Sun Village Park is the neighborhood park around which Sun Village, an early 20th century company-sponsored planned community for the workers of Sun Oil (now Sunoco), was built, reminding us of the strong industrial legacy of Chester City. Containing one of the very few freshwater tidal wetlands in the state of Pennsylvania, this site has the potential to be the model for restoring an endangered ecological community centering around the Atlantic White Cedar (*Chamaecyperis thyoides*). The White Cedar's habitat of tidal wetlands has a sparse representation in Pennsylvania to begin with, and as most of those wetlands have been developed, it's been extirpated from the state (although it persists in NJ, DE and MD).

If the colony of trees that CRC planted persists and begins to form a self-replicating stand, it would be Pennsylvania's only Atlantic White Cedar stand in its original habitat. Intrepid groups from DePuy Synthes, CHOP, and the local neighborhood worked hard to prepare the site on March 5, 6, and 12, and community volunteers completed the planting on March 13.



MARCH 26-27, CALEB PUSEY HOUSE, UPLAND, PA



This patch of riparian forest in Upland provides a valuable buffer for the Caleb Pusey Historical Site, featuring some of the oldest buildings in the state of Pennsylvania, which have been increasingly endangered by Chester Creek's flood events, as its watershed loses its upstream retention capacity from increasing residential development. CRC planted 72 native trees and shrubs, including Pin Oaks, American Elms, Hack Hackberry, American Lindens, Swamp White Oaks,

Arrowwood Viburnum, American Elderberry, Carolina Allspice, and Spicebush. As with all CRC plantings, we removed invasives as we found them. A group from Harrah's started the project on March 26, with a group of community volunteers finishing up on March 27.

CONTINUE >>

APRIL 9-10, SPRINGFIELD TRAIL, SPRINGFIELD, PA

CRC's work along the Springfield Trail sites will complement the many years of work by volunteers who have been maintaining the natural value of this sliver of green space that winds its way through the densely urbanized and otherwise long-developed environment of Springfield Township. Indicative of a healthy local ecology that we are happy to fortify, the Springfield Trail features rare populations of cool-climate Eastern Hemlock, thriving despite the challenges of disease and disturbance, in our warmest corner of Pennsylvania. CRC planted more than 115 native trees and shrubs, including Indigo Bush, Possumhaw, Dwarf Chinkapin, Staghorn Sumac, and Hop Hornbeam. Volunteers from Covanta joined us on April 9, and volunteers from CHOP and the larger community joined us on April 10.



APRIL 16-17, FIRST AVENUE PARK, MALVERN

The First Avenue Park site is about as far upstream as one can get in the CRC Watersheds, and offers us a valuable opportunity to model healthy stormwater control via riparian buffering almost at its source, and not just at its already-heavily impacted downstream sites. CRC planted more than 80 native trees and shrubs, including Witchhazel, Umbrella Magnolia, Pinxterbloom Azalea, Sassafras, and Black Cohosh with the help April 16 of volunteers from Malvern Prep School and the next day with a group of community volunteers.



MAY 7-8, THORNBURY, CHESTER COUNTY

A proper reforestation of the riparian buffers at this Thornbury Township site, incorporating the confluence of both Westtown Creek with the East Branch of Chester Creek, as well as the confluence of the latter with Goose Creek, offers a unique opportunity to mitigate the bank erosion stemming from from the site's long-running use as an open, deforested athletic playing surface. Harrah's volunteers came out on May 7, and community volunteers completed the bulk of the planting on May 8. David Hilbert and a few neighbors spent time over the next couple of weeks finishing the final pieces of the planting.



CRC EXPANDS NATURE WALK OFFERINGS

When CRC posts a nature walk on social media, it isn't long before the walk is full (particularly during Covid, when we limited participants more than usual). Hoping to feed that enthusiasm further, CRC's Education and Outreach Committee has decided to expand our offerings to include six walks this year with perhaps more in the future.

MARCH 13 - MEDITATION TRAIL IN ROSE VALLEY



Kicking off the spring, more than 30 participants showed up to view the just-opened Long Point Meditation trail in Rose Valley on March 13. Led by Naturalist Roger Latham, CRC Board Member Walt Cressler, and Jim Audley, who designed the walk and managed its installations, walkers raved about the beautiful scenery and wonderful narration and storytelling. Some were even lucky enough to catch sight of a soaring Bald Eagle. This path is a real testament to community work on local path projects.

MAY 8 - GARRETT WILLIAMSON



May 8 is the peak of bird migration sweeping across our area. We were joined by expert birders Win Shafer and Mike McGraw of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for an exciting bird watching hike on the beautiful 240-acre Garrett Williamson property in Newtown Square. The walk took place Saturday, May 8 at 8 a.m. Early morning is the best time to spot these migrating birds, including colorful warblers, vireos and thrushes.

Hikers participated in the Global Big Day, a fun event organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, where more than 100,000 bird checklists worldwide are submitted online to Ebird. Before we even left the parking lot, we had located a large flock of bobolinks, a beautiful black, yellow and white bird which nests in large fields, and for that reason is very uncommon in southeast Pennsylvania. The hike was co-sponsored by CRC and Newtown Township EAC.





UPCOMING WALKS ON CRC'S CALENDAR INCLUDE:

DATE	LOCATION
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AUGUST 21 - NEWLIN GRIST MILL

This family-focused walk will take place at Newlin Grist Mill, where participants will learn about mill technology, hydrology, and archeology. It promises some hands-on fun for kids and a visit to the popular frog pond, as well as a look at the new waterwheel that volunteers are creating using 18th century hand tools.

SEPTEMBER 25 - CALEB PUSEY HOUSE

This hike will include a walk around the park near the Caleb Pusey House in Chester, followed by a tour of the house by members of the Chester Historical Association.

NOVEMBER 6 - ROSE TREE PARK

Dog lovers are welcome to bring their best friends to explore the park and hear stories about the early days of the park when it was a hunt club and dogs had an important job to do.

WELCOME CRC'S NEWEST STAFF MEMBER, RACHEL KEANE



CRC's latest employee, Rachel Keane, seems to have been born to work at an environmental, mission-driven organization like CRC. An avid trail runner and hiker, she can be found every day exploring the outdoors with her lab/terrier mix dog, Sadie. At CRC she is responsible for social media and digital marketing, so please follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and check out her content! She is also at work on a marketing plan for CRC.

Rachel grew up in Reading, PA, where her father took the family on many impromptu hiking adventures. At Slippery Rock University, she found that the college offered freshman housing on an outdoor adventure floor. There, she got to meet like-minded students who loved everything from rock climbing to kayaking. "It took me to the next level and I loved it," she says. "I love everything outdoors - including kites, frisbees, and soccer."

For the last four years Rachel has been consulting in social media, digital marketing, graphic design and as a customer support specialist for web sites. She also enjoys nature photography, and in fact won a place in CRC's photography calendar for 2020 with a photo she took at Willistown Township's Okehocking Preserve. And Rachel has had a sweet side hustle since she was 10 -- selling flowers for Easter and Mother's Day. She buys in bulk from contacts in New Jersey, Maine and Virginia and sets up flower stalls. Her father taught her the business as a child, and she took over for him in 2011. "Like CRC's Streams Cleanup, selling flowers is a rain or shine event," she says. "It makes people happy."



"I love nature, and the sustainability of preserving the world is really important to me," Rachel says. "Using my skills in business and digital marketing to perpetuate CRC's mission and goals gives me a purpose."

WELCOME, RACHEL!

MEET CRC'S VOLUNTEERS

Each issue, we ask CRC's Volunteer Coordinator, Lynn Meza, to interview one of CRC's volunteers - without whom we could not achieve our goals. CRC volunteers dig holes, plant trees, coordinate streams cleanup sites, hang posters and more, and we are so grateful for their help. This time, we are featuring Wendy Buckland.

LYNN: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN VOLUNTEERING?

Wendy: About three years. My first volunteer event was a clean up in 2019, assigned to the West Chester Borough.

LYNN: WHAT FIRST GOT YOU INTERESTED IN CRC?

Wendy: Most definitely, it was a combination of being in service for the community and environment. There was also an incredible social media presence that stuck with me.

LYNN: WHAT DO YOU DO AT CRC? WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART?

Wendy: Most recently, I served as Site Coordinator for the Annual CRC Stream Cleanup 2021 at site 170 - Lewis Fisher Park in Aston. I loved it! We were a small and mighty group! More than half of us were students. It was amazing to see families come out to celebrate the environment and make a memory. My favorite part was seeing the children's transformation going from not sure of what was up...to returning as intrepid eco warriors!!! ☺ They were relentless in their commitment. So outstanding! ☺

LYNN: WHY IS CRC'S WORK IMPORTANT?

Wendy: Oh my goodness! It's so important because the environment doesn't deserve to be a scapegoat.

LYNN: TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOU.

Wendy: I reside in West Chester. I've lived in many beautiful places across the US but something about Chester County... always draws me back and I love calling it home. Big Union fan too. ☺

**THANK YOU,
WENDY, FOR ALL
YOUR WONDERFUL
SUPPORT OF CRC!**

SAVE THE DATE: CRC'S ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER SEPTEMBER 30

CRC comprises an optimistic bunch, and we expect to welcome a full house to our CRC Annual Awards Dinner **September 30 at the Barn at Tyler Arboretum**. Our last awards were celebrated via zoom, which was fun, but we can't wait to see everyone in person!

We plan to celebrate our 50th (+1) anniversary in style with our awards presentations, special speaker, live music and silent and live auctions. Put it on your calendars, please!

CRC MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN GOES DIGITAL

With your help we can continue to pursue our ambitious goals for this year: to plant over 1,000 trees, remove tons of trash from our creeks, and enlist over 1,500 volunteers to achieve these goals. So please, help us continue to protect and restore our watersheds. New this year - we want to thank you by offering a members-only hike this fall as well as CRC swag! Memberships start at \$50 and up.

If you have not already, please consider joining: every dollar counts as we work to keep our watersheds healthy! To join, please **[follow this link](#)**.

