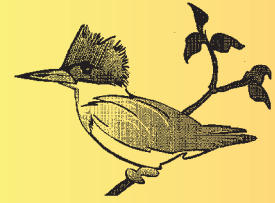


On The Creek



Chronicles of the Davis Creek Watershed Association

Spring 2023

DAVIS CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

OUR MISSION:
To improve environmental
quality in the Davis Creek
watershed.

OUR LEADERS

William Tate - President
Allen Marker - Vice President
Diana Green - Treasurer
Josh Pray - Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Stottlemeyer
John Wirts
William E. Thayer II
Hilda Halstead
Laura Pray
Richard Lehman

The Davis Creek Watershed
Association is recognized by the
Internal Revenue Service as a
501(c) (3) non-profit, charitable
organization.

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JOIN US FOR SPRING CLEANUP ON MARCH 25TH

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Get out your boots, grab your raincoat (just in case) and join us for the annual spring Davis Creek Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, March 25th at 9.00 a.m.

We will gather at the W. Q. Watters Company building (1081 Kanawha State Forest Drive) across from the Middle Fork/Berry Hills bridge at 9:00 for coffee and doughnuts to start the day. With support from the **WVDEP/West Virginia Make It Shine program** we will provide gloves and trash bags to all participants. A delicious **free lunch** will be provided for everyone.

This is a great opportunity to meet neighbors and help improve our community. Students can receive community service hours for their work. For additional information or directions, contact us at daviscreekwatershedassn@gmail.com.

FORKS OF COAL STATE NATURAL AREA EVENTS



Davis Creek Forget-Me-Not

SATURDAY, APRIL 1: LEARN ABOUT NATIVE SPRING AMPHIBIANS, a presentation set for 1:00 at the Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center, 301 Forks of Coal Way, Alum Creek, WV

FLOATING NATURE WALK: The WV Division of Natural Resources and the Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation will co-sponsor a Floating Nature Walk on Little Coal River on **Saturday, May 20.**

For more information, see the Foundation's Facebook page or visit our website at: www.forksofcoalfoundation.org.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR KANAWHA STATE FOREST COMING EVENTS.

COMMENTARY-

WORKING ON WATER QUALITY

Volunteer helpers welcome

A major part of the Davis Creek Watershed Association's original mission was to improve the water quality in our backyard stream. That is, to clean up the trash and to clean up the water itself. To accomplish that we have partnered with local businesses, local and state government to address the issue of solid waste. We have come a long way, but we have more to do.

The chemical qualities of the stream such as pH, bacteria and conductivity, are not visible to the naked eye. These have to be monitored using technology and hands-on collection of the benthic (bottom living) organisms in the creek.

Our water monitoring team uses in-stream data loggers that collect information 24/7 and we have recently purchased a water quality meter to measure water chemistry. In addition, we do in-person collection of benthic macroinvertebrates and have the samples analyzed at a certified lab. As we have previously reported, these are a very important indicator of stream health.

To volunteer, please contact us at: daviscreekwatershedassn@gmail.com.

REMEMBER – *We all live downstream!*

ANNUAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 28

The Davis Creek Watershed Association held its annual meeting of officers and directors by the fireplace at Larobi's Pizza & Southridge Golf on February 28th. At the meeting, plans were made for the annual spring watershed cleanup, A slate of officers and directors was nominated and elected to serve a one-year term: President - Bill Tate; Vice President - Allen Marker; Secretary - Josh Pray; Treasurer - Diana Green; Directors - John Wirts, Hilda Halstead, Dennis Stottlemeyer, Rick Lehman, Bill Thayer and Laura Pray.

The annual spring watershed cleanup was set for March 25th at 9.00. (See page 1.)

LOCAL NEWS

COMING EVENTS AT KANAWHA STATE FOREST

SATURDAY, APRIL 22: OSBRA EYE MEMORIAL WILDFLOWER WALKS. Sign-up at 8:30; walks begin at 9:00. Meet at the Nature Center (old pool building).

SUNDAY, JUNE 18: WV BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. 11:00 at the Nature Center, free music and cake.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12: ROCK THE PARK, 11:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16: MARGARET DENISON FALL NATURE WALKS. Sign-up at 8:30 at the Nature Center; walks begin at 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 28: BAT NIGHT BONFIRE, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 24: BLACK FRIDAY HIKES, starting at 1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17: CHRISTMAS AT KANAWHA STATE FOREST, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1: FIRST DAY HIKES, 1:00 p.m.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS will be held on June 16 for Overbrook Elementary, July 7 for Elk River Elementary and August 4 for Central Elementary School Summer Camps.

FREE DUMP DAYS AT THE CHARLESTON LANDFILL

Don't forget that the Charleston City Landfill on South Park Road will accept one pickup load of household trash only on the second Monday of each month. Call 304/925-1192.

WILD BIRD RESCUE ENDS SADLY

Lead ammo to blame

This winter a local property owner/DCWA board member noticed a disabled turkey vulture on his property. The bird we named "Fred" was unable to fly and was slowly starving. Turkey vultures may not be pretty birds, but they serve a useful purpose in our environment by removing carrion from the landscape and they are a protected species.

Hopeful of saving its life, two of our board members and two members of the local Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club captured the ailing bird (very carefully!) and took it to Animal Care Associates. There it was fed and cared for, then transported to Three Rivers Avian Center in Summers County (TRAC). TRAC provides specialized care and rehabilitation for injured and sick birds.

It was there that Fred was diagnosed with a severe case of lead poisoning. Treatment began immediately. Raptors such as eagles, vultures and hawks that feed on dead deer and other gun-shot animals, and even fish that have ingested lead sinkers, are sickened by the toxic effects of the lead on their nervous systems. They lose their ability to fly and feed and will die without treatment.

Lead bullets can fragment into hundreds of pieces inside an animal. Gut piles and carcasses of animals that are shot and never found can poison any animal that feeds on them, including your pet dog. While lead ammunition is still legal in West Virginia, we urge all our hunting/fishing friends to use copper bullets and steel shotgun pellets when hunting to prevent the deaths of non-game wildlife.

They did their best to save Fred at TRAC, but the damage from his lead poisoning was too far advanced and he died a week after his rescue.

THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

Many thanks to our friends and neighbors for their most recent contributions.

**F. M. Davis Family Fund
Charles J. Wirts and Martha C. Hopper
Nicole Mayberry
WV Stream Partners Program**

With your support we do our best to protect and improve the environmental quality of our watershed.

DCWA HELPS STUDENT WITH PROJECT

We received a request this winter to assist a teenage student with his environmental science project. The young scholar had chosen Davis Creek water chemistry, specifically acid mine drainage and its effects on pH as the subject of study.

Thanks to years of our own water quality data collection and information provided by Dennis Stottlemeyer of the WVDEP's Environmental Advocate office, we were able to supply useful information about his subject. This helped him produce an excellent, well-documented project.

WATER CRISIS GRANT PROJECT UPDATE

We are now in the process of consulting with watershed property owners who need to repair or replace their residential septic systems. Projects will be reviewed on a first-come, need based consideration.

The Davis Creek Watershed Association received a federal grant which is restricted to use for water quality improvement, stream habitat restoration or a major clean-up. Preventing septic drainage from entering the creek qualifies as such a project.

We have formed a team of scientists, engineers and board members to determine what projects would best qualify for this funding opportunity. Our progress will be reported in the next newsletter and our social media.

SUPPORT THE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION – JOIN TODAY!

Since 1995, the Davis Creek Watershed Association has been working in various ways to make our community a better place to live. Through citizen action, educational activities, research, stream monitoring, and support for enforcement of environmental laws, we work to improve environmental quality in the 49 square miles of our watershed. The more of us there are working together, the more we can accomplish.

We sponsor educational activities and provide assistance in locating information resources for landowners, students, and the general public. Contact us with your questions and concerns.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Address _____

Amount of Gift ___ \$25 ___ \$35 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ Other

Contact us: P.O. Box 5556, Charleston, WV 25361; daviscreekwatershedassn@gmail.com

The Davis Creek Watershed Association is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

*Davis Creek Watershed Association
Post Office Box 5556
Charleston, West Virginia 25361*

INFORMATION ON OUR SPRING CLEANUP INSIDE!

Save the Date: SATURDAY, MARCH 25th

