



Celebrating 49 years of preserving and protecting the natural and historic resources of the Octoraro.



Pat Fasano & Levi Fisher on a Farm Visit

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Stream Clean-ups
April 2016

Mark your calendars for a clean-up of the Octoraro East Branch at Scroggy Road on April 16. We are partnering with the Chester Water Authority.

Additional clean-ups are planned in PA & MD.

See page 2 for details

President's Message

Anders Alfelt, President

Hello and Happy Spring to all! Here in Sadsbury Township where I live, the spring peepers are in full force and the daffodils are beginning to come out. All of us who live in the 208-square miles of the Octoraro watershed are very fortunate to have so many beautiful natural, historic and cultural resources surrounding us. We here at OWA are dedicated to preserving and protecting these resources. Projects are happening all along the Octorara and its tributaries, from Eden Township down to Rising Sun. OWA has been instrumental in coordinating the efforts of homeowners, farmers, public officials, businesses, water companies and environmental contractors in working to improve our underground and surface water quality.

In this issue, you will read about events and ongoing work that is making a difference in the region. Outreach to Plain Sect farmers has helped to build bridges between their community and agencies charged with monitoring and reducing water pollution. Cooperation and coordination with town officials is helping to improve conditions in a Maryland park. Stream cleaning days are coming where we can all gather for work and fun along the Octoraro.

We also take pride in the work and accomplishments of our supporters and friends who are doing great work in the watershed. Our annual meeting will include a talk about the installation of eel ladders at the Chester Water Authority dam.

We at OWA thank all our members for your support. We would love to see you in person – at the cleanup events, the annual meeting, or at our Board of Directors meetings. As President, I would love to hear from you.

Yours in Conservation,
Anders Alfelt
President, OWA

The Seasonal Eel Ladders at the Dam - the theme for our Annual Dinner

Please join us on Thursday April 28th at the Memorial United Methodist Church, Quarryville.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

See back page for more info.



Photo courtesy of Mke Martinek

The Seasonal Eel ladders at the Low Head Dam



Project Clean Stream - MD
Great American Clean-up of PA

Volunteers Needed
Octoraro Clean-ups



Sat April 2nd – Octoraro @ Richardsmere – Trash

Sat April 9th – Rising Sun Triangle Park – Invasives & Trash

Sat April 16th – Octoraro Reservoir @ Scroggy Road – Trash

You can sign up at
cleanstream.allianceforthebay.org or www.gacofpa.org

Questions?

See website or contact Rupert Rossetti at rupertrossetti@aol.com



Thurs April 28th - Annual Dinner Meeting
Memorial United Methodist Church, Quarryville

Proposed for Election/ Re-election to the Board for a 2 year term

Anders Alfelt – Director (President)

Linda Swank – Director (Vice-President)

Chester Water Authority*—Director

Axel Linde – Director

Ed Thayer – Director

* Primary Representative: Frank Humbert with Ed Farber as alternate

Sat May 7th - Octoraro Creek Invitational Inter-club Paddle

Questions? Check the website for updates or contact Terry Wright at terry.wright@live.com



Colerain Township Plain Sect Collaborative Effort

Jeff Hill, Ag Program Manager
Lancaster County Conservation District

In 2014, the Colerain Township Supervisors, with support from the plain sect community, expressed interest in having the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) visit with the Supervisors and the leaders of their plain sect community. The idea was to develop a systematic approach for voluntary agriculture compliance. This targeted approach would assist residents with planning, implementation and overall agriculture regulations. Due to the workload generated by the original EPA Source Water Protection Grant (2015), the District was unable to assist, but kept the lines of communication open with the township.

Now, in 2016 and with time available, a systematic approach has been developed. On March 1, at the request of the plain sect community and after some in-depth outreach work conducted by Pat Fasano of the Octoraro Watershed Association (OWA) & his liaisons, the Conservation District presented at a meeting in Colerain Township attended by more than 65 Amish farmers. Topics included the basics of Conservation Planning and Manure Management Plans, The PA Reboot and agriculture compliance. The information was very well received. Attendees were also made aware of the District's new plan, which will include site visits to all farms in the township starting in the summer of 2016.

The District, while completing the visits, will be looking for BMP implementation, verification of Conservation Plans/ Manure Management Plans, and areas on farms that need further assistance. Farmers who do not have the necessary plans will be expected to have them developed and submitted to the District for review by December 31, 2016.

Once the data is compiled from all the plans (2017) OWA, LCCD, and the township will work together to develop sources of funding for those who wish to have cost share assistance for BMP implementation. The overall goal is to have 100% plan development, and BMP implementation that follows a planned schedule.

When this project is complete it could serve as a roadmap for other townships, helping to improve local water quality with a more hands-on approach.

Without the direct assistance of OWA, their relationships within the community and the assistance of the township, this undertaking would not have been possible.

A perspective from Walter Todd, Colerain Township Board of Supervisors

Walter Todd, Chairman of the Colerain Township Board of Supervisors and a former OWA Board Member, attended the meeting on behalf of the township. Walt attended our OWA Board Meeting that same evening and had a very positive report. Here are a few quotes:

"We had a tremendous meeting today. Sixty five Amish came, sat, listened and I think they understood. "

"They felt a part of it because it was their meeting, not ours. "

"There are groundbreaking things happening in the Amish Community. We're heading in a positive direction."

"As a township, we are at the lowest level of government and this is where everything has to happen. We wanted to work with everyone in the community, and by partnering with the Conservation District and the Watershed Association, we were able to do so. Pat did an immaculate job of pulling all those people together."

"We've offered meeting space at the township for small group meetings as follow-up"

"We see this as something that can be replicated in the other townships"

"Spread the word in Maryland that Colerain is serious about the Bay Clean-up"



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Vice-President: Linda Swank
Treasurer: Matt Kehoe
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Axel Linde
Ed Thayer

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The Seasonal Eel Ladders at the Dam - the theme for our Annual Dinner

At the request of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Chester Water Authority has installed an effective, low cost, eel ladder at the Low Head Dam above the covered bridge. The ladder is in place from May 15th to September 15th, providing a route upstream for the migrating eels, who can make it up the slipway at the main dam and into the upper part of the watershed.

To learn more about eel ladders in general, and the Octoraro eel ladders in particular, join us at our Annual Dinner on Thursday April 28th at Memorial United Methodist Church, Quarryville. Frank Humbert, Chester Water Authority, and Mike Martinek, Fisheries Biologist at Normandeau Environmental Consultants, will be our guest speakers. Frank designed, installs, maintains and monitors CWA's Octoraro Eel Ladder. Mike consults with Exelon on the ladders at the Conowingo Dam and monitors eels on the Octoraro mainstem. His Octoraro ladder is shown on the front page.

