

## Newsletter Spring 2017

Octoraro  
Watershed  
Association



Celebrating 50 years  
of preserving and  
protecting  
the natural and  
historic resources of  
the Octoraro.



Pat Fasano & Levi Fisher  
on a Farm Visit

### Upcoming Events

**Octoraro  
Reservoir  
Clean-up:  
Saturday April 8,  
2017 @ 9 a.m.**

**Rising Sun  
Veterans Park  
Invasives Removal  
Saturday April 22,  
2017 @ 9 a.m.**

**Annual Dinner  
Meeting:  
Thursday April 27,  
2017 @ 5:30 p.m.  
Memorial United  
Methodist Church,  
Quarryville.**

**50th Anniversary  
Cook-out at  
Fishing  
Headquarters :  
Saturday July 22,  
2017**

### President's Message

Hello once again from the banks of the Octoraro! The old saying is that March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. Well, the lion and the lamb have been coming and going like crazy this winter. Warm one day, frigid the next, - snow, sun – the weather can't seem to make up its mind.

But I do know that spring is here, and with it we will see the awakening of our watershed – birds and butterflies returning, spring peepers calling out, and trees beginning to bud. We are very blessed to live where we do, and we all are blessed that you have chosen to help preserve and protect our watershed as an OWA member. Please check this newsletter for information on the watershed cleanup activity on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We would love to see you there.

We are celebrating 50 years of working with you and our neighbors in keeping the watershed clean for ourselves and future generations. I invite you to come celebrate with us at our Annual Meeting this month. We will have displays, speakers and a wonderful meal for you. We will also be holding Elections for the Board of Directors, including our newest Board member, Zach Stepan.

We are also saying goodbye to longtime Board member Arba Henry. In his 40+ years with OWA, Arba has served in numerous capacities, including long-time Treasurer and as our contact with Solanco HS FFA. His knowledge of and love for our community has been consistent and exemplary. Our deepest gratitude and appreciation go to him for his service to OWA and the residents of our watershed. Happy Retirement!

As usual, please reach out to OWA if you have any questions. Look forward to seeing you this spring.

Yours in Conservation,

Anders Alfelt  
President, OWA

### Annual Dinner Meeting

#### "Finding Solutions for the Chesapeake"

Our speaker will be Al Todd, Executive Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Founded in 1971, the Alliance is one of the oldest and most experienced organizations that builds partnerships and inspires local action to protect and restore the Bay and its watershed.

Al will share his view of the progress being made in the effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay, why it is so difficult and why it is critical to succeed. He will explain how the Alliance and its partners, like the Octoraro Watershed Association, are working together on this complex and vital project.





## Lancaster County Water Quality Volunteer Coalition Seeks Volunteers to Monitor Streams in the Octoraro Watershed



The Lancaster County Water Quality Volunteer Coalition (WQVC), a partnership between the Lancaster County Conservation District and the Lancaster County Conservancy, would like to expand coverage into the Octoraro Watershed and we'd like to help them. Would you like to spend a few hours one Saturday a month testing your local stream, to help us build a more complete picture of surface water quality across the watershed? If so, the WQVC is the place to go to find out more. I attended one of their orientation sessions in February and not only observed the monitoring process but also enjoyed a covered dish lunch and some great conversation.



*Craig Ferich measuring Dissolved Oxygen in Climbers Run*



*Craig Ferich & Heather Smith measuring Stream Flow while Kevin Brown records the results and Danielle Conley looks on.*



*The WQVC volunteers outside the Riverlands Research and Education Center*



*After lunch, a short talk by Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist, Lancaster County Conservation District*

The WQVC meets at 9 a.m. the second Saturday of every month at the Susquehanna Riverlands Research and Education Center (SRREC) at Climbers Run Nature Preserve in Pequea, PA to monitor stream health through chemical (nitrates, pH, oxygen, etc.), physical (stream velocity, habitat assessment, etc.) and biological (macroinvertebrate--- like stoneflies and mayflies sampling) monitoring methods. Volunteers meet at the SRREC and carpool to the designated stream, groups of two or more volunteers then monitor each stream. Volunteers return to the SRREC to finish testing the stream samples in a lab setup. Baseline data is collected by the Conservation District to monitor stream health.

Volunteers include students, teachers, professors, local business employees, members of conservation organizations including PA Master Naturalists and Donegal Trout Unlimited and others interested in understanding and protecting watershed conditions. If you would like to join the WQVC please contact Linda Ferich at [lferich@lancasterconservancy.org](mailto:lferich@lancasterconservancy.org). All ages are welcome to learn about water quality and monitor the watershed health that affects each of us in the county and downstream in the Bay!

***“Clean water means we can fish, swim and drink without ongoing worry to our health and safety!”***  
***Lydia Martin, Director of Education, Lancaster County Conservancy***

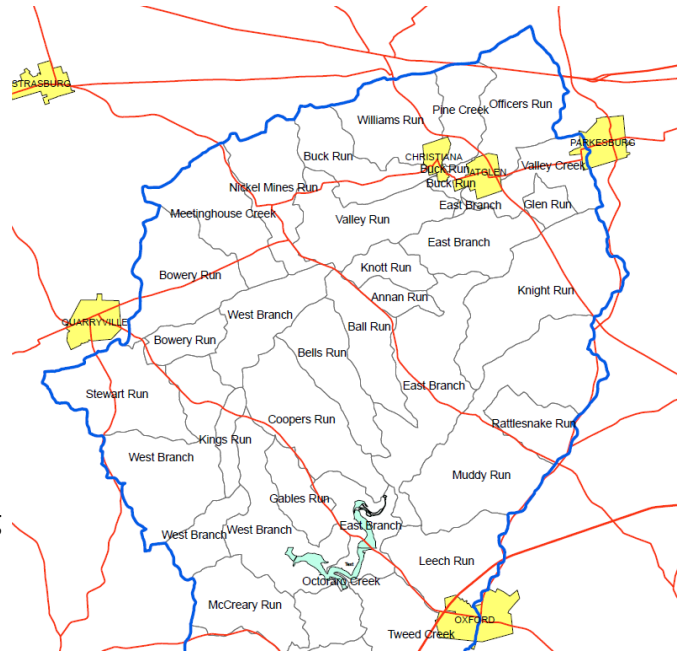


## Octoraro Watershed Monitoring Program—a component of the new grant from NFWF

The invitation from WQVC is very timely, since there is renewed interest in a long-term, volunteer-supported monitoring program as part of a new grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in which we are partnering with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. We are seeking volunteers to “adopt” their local watershed and monitor the health of their local streams. Results would augment the current monitoring programs and help us to focus our restoration efforts.

Volunteers will receive training, guidance and support from the WQVC, and will become a part of the Octoraro Source Water Collaborative Monitoring Team, as well as enjoying the camaraderie of the monthly WQVC sampling get-togethers.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OWA PROGRAM, CONTACT RUPERT ROSSETTI.  
FOR DETAILS ABOUT WQVC, CONTACT LINDA FERICH AT  
[LFERICH@LANCASTERCONSERVANCY.ORG](mailto:LFERICH@LANCASTERCONSERVANCY.ORG)**



Source Water Collaborative Target Area: Subwatersheds in the Upper Portion of the Octoraro Watershed—though subwatersheds below the reservoir also welcomed.

### A Fond Adieu to Long-time Board Member Arba Henry

A huge THANK YOU to Arba Henry for all his years of service to the OWA.

Arba became a member of the OWA in 1974, shortly after he took up a teaching position at Solanco School District. Arba taught Agriculture at Solanco for 35.5 years, retired in 2005 and continues to instruct in the Agricultural Education Program at the University of Delaware.

Throughout that time he has been active in the OWA, and has served on the Board of Directors for 25+ years, including 2 decades as Treasurer. His insights and perspectives will be sorely missed.



### Welcome to Zack Stepan New Board Member replacing Ed Thayer

Zack Stepan currently serves as the Watershed Coordinator at Chester County Conservation District. He holds a B.A. in Ecology and Spanish from the University of Denver and a M.S. in Aquatic Science from the University of Michigan. Zack worked on water related projects as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Federated States of Micronesia, a researcher in Nepal, and a fisheries technician in Colorado before happily gaining employment in SE Pennsylvania. He lives with his wife in Lancaster.

Zach joined the board in January to complete Ed Thayer’s term, and will be up for election to a full term at our upcoming Annual Meeting.



Octoraro  
Watershed  
Association



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### Officers

**President: Anders Alfelt**  
**Vice-President: Linda Swank**  
**Treasurer: Matt Kehoe**  
**Secretary: Rupert Rossetti**

### Board Members

**Pat Fasano**  
**Arba Henry**  
**Frank Humbert - CWA**  
**Axel Linde**  
**Zack Stepan**

**Newsletter Editor: Rupert Rossetti**  
[rupertrossetti@aol.com](mailto:rupertrossetti@aol.com)

## Please Join Us at our Upcoming Clean-ups

### Sat April 8th @ 9 am—Noon.

Octoraro Reservoir @ Scroggy Road.  
Trash Pick-up along the reservoir organized by  
Linda Swank.

We'll meet at the parking lot at the end of  
Worths Bridge Road.

Boots and long trousers recommended.  
We'll provide gloves.

You can sign up at [www.gacofpa.org](http://www.gacofpa.org)



### Sat April 22nd @ 9 am—Noon.

Rising Sun Veterans Park  
Invasives removal along the stream organized by  
Commissioner Dave Warnick.  
Boots and long trousers recommended.  
Bring your favorite loppers and spades if you have  
them.

We'll provide gloves.

You can sign up at <https://pg-cloud.com/ACB/>

