

# Bucktail Watershed Association

Volume 2010, Issue 1

June 2010

## *Bucktail Watershed Association*

### Contact information:

4 East Sixth Street  
Emporium, PA 15834

www.bucktailwatershed.com  
bucktailwatershed@yahoo.com

### **Important Dates:**

July 6, 2009

Summer Membership Meeting  
6:00 pm

Monthly meeting  
1st Tuesday of each month  
7:00 pm

### **Inside this issue:**

<i>Invasive Coordinator</i>	1
<i>Membership Meeting</i>	1
<i>Tree Planting</i>	2
<i>Monitoring Network</i>	2
<i>Japanese Knotweed</i>	3
<i>Grant Awards</i>	3

## **BWA Welcomes Invasive Plant Project Coordinator**

In June, the Bucktail Watershed Association hired Tanya Meyer as a private contractor to serve as our Invasive Plant Project Coordinator. The Invasive Plant Project Coordinator is a part time position that is being financed through funding that has been built into the grants received by the BWA for eradicating Japanese knotweed and restoring affected habitat in the Driftwood Branch.

In this role, Tanya will manage the Bucktail Watershed Association's invasive plant eradication/habitat restoration grant projects. She will map populations of invasive plants, act as a liaison with landowners, coordinate control measures with the Bucktail Watershed Association's contractors, and coordinate habitat

restoration measures following eradication. In this role Tanya will also be involved in grant writing, to further continue the BWA's restoration work.

Tanya recently moved to Emporium from Yolo County, California. In California she worked for the Yolo County Resource Conservation District as the Vegetation Management Specialist focusing on controlling invasive weed species and restoring habitat. Through this position she also led the Yolo County Weed Management Area.

Tanya brings a lot to the Invasive Plant Project Coordinator role. Funding is currently available for her to work 500 hours this summer and fall managing the BWA's grant projects. It is hoped that in the future this position can be expanded as future grant awards allow.

## **July 6<sup>th</sup> Summer Membership Meeting and Picnic**

The BWA will be changing things up for our summer membership meeting this July. This year the summer membership meeting will be a family oriented event and will be held on Tuesday, July 6 at Lake Clear Creek outside of Emporium. The meeting will start as a picnic at 6:00 P.M. with watershed association business being conducted after the meal.

At the meeting we will be presenting our plans to establish a volunteer monitoring network for the Driftwood Branch of the Sinnemahoning Creek. Additionally, we will be summarizing our group's activities for the past six months and projecting our plans for the next six months. We will also be holding election of officers for those posi-

tions whose terms are expiring.

We encourage all of our members to turn out for this fun event. Those who decide to come are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Drinks, cups, plates, and silverware will be provided.

The Lake Clear Creek facility offers fishing, a pavilion, and a deer farm at its grounds. To arrive at Lake Clear Creek, travel north on Rt 46 from Emporium. After the Shippen Township building, turn left onto Rich Valley Road for approximately one mile. Before Erskin's Grove, turn left onto Clear Creek Road. Lake Clear Creek is approximately one mile from the intersection with Rich Valley Road on the left.

## BWA Plants Over 400 Native Trees and Shrubs

On Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>, ten members of the Bucktail Watershed Association met to restore the riparian forest buffer habitat along portions of North Creek and West Creek. Volunteers planted over 400 native trees and shrubs to restore streamside habitat along three sites where the Cameron County Conservation District had constructed instream log habitat structure.

Forested buffers are essential components of healthy coldwater streams in Pennsylvania. Besides shading our streams from harmfully high summertime temperatures, streamside forests stabilize stream banks with their roots and help filter polluted runoff. Leaves from riparian forests are also the food source for many species of mayfly and stonefly nymphs.

As a local nonprofit group working to improve the streams in the Driftwood Branch and First Fork of the Sinnemahoning Creek Watersheds, the BWA is hoping to involve more of our members and other community volunteers in our efforts. By involving more of the citizens in our wa-



Members plant trees along North Creek

tershed community, we will be able to effectively address pressing issues such as Marcellus gas well drilling and habitat loss to invasive plants. Join our effort to protect and improve our aquatic resources. With your help we can make a difference.

## Volunteer Water Monitoring Network

The Bucktail Watershed Association recently received a grant award of \$4,443 from the Sinnemahoning Stakeholders committee for the formation of a volunteer water quality monitoring network. Impetus for the project came from an increase in Marcellus shale drilling within the watershed as well as from the questions raised following the Norfolk Southern railroad spill four years ago.

The BWA sought to provide an opportunity for its members to take a more active role in the protection of their watershed. This grant provides for the purchase of equipment to measure water quality parameters. Interested members will participate in basic training in water quality monitoring and may then borrow BWA equipment to collect data from stream sites. This information may include collecting variables such as pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and temperature. All of these variables are important to the aquatic

*Interested in monitoring the quality of your local stream for the BWA? Contact [bucktailwatershed@yahoo.com](mailto:bucktailwatershed@yahoo.com)*

life that depends on our streams. Participants will then be able to submit this data to the BWA.

In May, BWA board members met in State College with representatives from Trout Unlimited and ALLARM (Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring) to discuss implementation of the project. Watershed Association members are now working on a training manual for volunteer monitors and plan to initiate volunteer training in late summer.

We are looking for members who are interested in helping the BWA to identify conservation priorities within the watershed and monitor streams to prevent degradation. Members may choose to monitor a "home" stream or can help the BWA monitor points of interest. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please email [bucktailwatershed@yahoo.com](mailto:bucktailwatershed@yahoo.com) or attend a monthly meeting for additional details.

## Work Continues to Restore Habitat Degraded By Japanese Knotweed

Work will continue this summer to eradicate Japanese knotweed sites along the Driftwood Branch of the Sinnemahoning Creek and restore the habitat at these sites with native trees and shrubs.

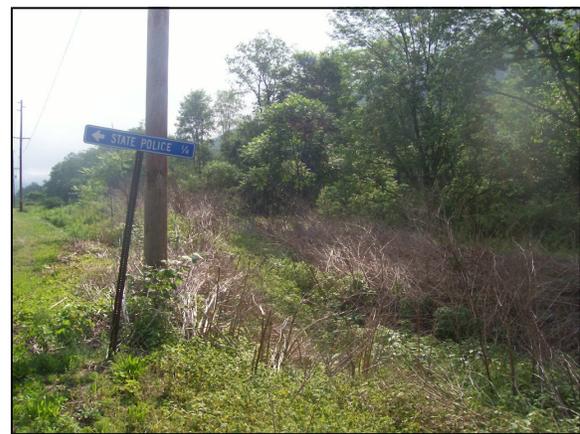
With the help of volunteers and the cooperation of landowners, we were able to treat approximately 15 acres of Japanese knotweed on 47 properties in the upper reaches of the Driftwood Branch and its tributaries at the end of last summer.

Follow up treatments will occur early this summer at these sites, and then again in August and September where work is still necessary. This

fall or next spring, these sites will be restored with native trees and shrubs or native wildflowers and grasses.

In the beginning of September the BWA's contractor will begin treating new Japanese knotweed sites. With the current grant funding that we have received, we are hoping to be able to work with landowners to treat all Japanese knotweed populations on the Driftwood Branch and the Sinnemahoning Creek and their tributaries upstream of their confluence in Emporium.

The BWA's newly hired Invasive Plant Project Coordinator, Tanya Meyers, will coordinate these restoration activities.



A Japanese knotweed site shown before and after treatment

## BWA Receives Four More Grants in 2010

The Bucktail Watershed Association has received four grants during the first half of 2010 totaling \$17,243. Two grants were received from the Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee from the Norfolk Southern spill settlement fines.

The BWA received \$11,300 to continue the Driftwood Branch Riparian Restoration Project. This project involves treating populations of Japanese knotweed and restoring the habitat at affected sites once the knotweed has been eradicated.

The second grant from the Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee is in the amount of \$4,443. These funds will be used for the purchase of water quality monitoring equipment for setting up a volunteer monitoring network in the Driftwood Branch of the

Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed. Additionally, funds from this grant will be used to purchase three watershed boundary signs welcoming visitors to the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed.

The BWA also received two watershed mini grants totaling \$1,500 from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy & Dominion Gas. A \$1,000 grant will be used to continue the restoration of habitat that has been degraded by Japanese knotweed. A second \$500 grant will be used to help with the group's operating costs, specifically covering group liability insurance and the costs associated with printing and mailing our annual summer and winter newsletters.

*The BWA received grants totaling \$17,243 in 2010 for habitat and monitoring projects*

**BUCKTAIL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
4 EAST SIXTH STREET  
EMPORIUM, PA 15834**

BUCKTAIL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION SUMMER NEWSLETTER ENCLOSED

**BUCKTAIL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

If you are interested in becoming a member or renewing your membership, please send this form along with cash or a check for the annual dues to:

Bucktail Watershed Association  
4 East Sixth Street  
Emporium, PA 15834.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

Sign up for:

- Individual Membership
- Family Membership

Annual Dues

\$5.00

\$7.00

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature