

WCWANews

The White Clay Watershed Association a non-profit organization since 1965

Autumn 1998

White Clay Watershed Association Mourns Loss

**1998
White Clay
Watershed
Association
Annual
Meeting**

**Penn London
Elementary
School**

**Wednesday
October 21
7:30 PM**

**Rebecca Siders
keynote
speaker
(see page 4)**

The WCWA lost a good friend and long time member over the summer when Jack Murray died after a yearlong fight with pancreatic cancer. Jack had served for many years on the Association's Board of Directors and had also served several terms as President.

Jack had a long history with the Association. Jan Kalb recalls one of the first crises faced by the Association in the 70s when a proposed dam project threatened to flood a large area in Delaware and Pennsylvania. Jack was a key member of the delegation that was sent to Harrisburg to visit Morris Goddard at the Dept. of Forest & Waters in an attempt to dissuade

Pennsylvania from supporting the project. Jan recalls Jack and others sitting on the floor of Goddard's office, surrounded by maps and an engineering study, describing the problems that the dam would cause. The project was eventually dropped, and the land that the DuPont Company had purchased for it was given to the states to form the nucleus of what is now the White Clay Creek Preserve.

Jack was involved in the efforts, just now coming to fruition, to include the White Clay Creek in the national Wild & Scenic River System.

Once the dam was defeated and the Preserve established, Jack shifted his efforts to the

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President's Letter

The smell of fall is in the air and with it the promise of falling leaves to act as a sponge for rain in the forest floors and also become a source of insect food in our streams. For the White Clay Watershed Association, September 30th also hallmarks the end of its fiscal year. The commencement of October brings a new membership drive. We need your support as donors so we can educate watershed residents about the opportunities to conserve and preserve the White Clay's cultural, historical and natural resources; expand volunteer efforts to study and restore the Sexton House and Barn; as well as continue to fund our Streamwatch program in Pennsylvania and Delaware. To accomplish this we also need your participation as volunteers.

A brief outline of the Association's Standing Committees follows:

Education - Promote educational programs and studies in the watershed for elementary, middle and high schools as well as University students. Assist with participation in Newark Community Days and Earth Day at Stroud Water Research Center. Arrange special speakers for members and Board.

Chairperson: Yda Schreuder,
610.274.0774 (H) 302.831.8271(W)

Conservation - Develop and create riparian buffer programs with Townships and Preserve. Oversee Annual Native Plant Sale and trail watch initiatives. Also, assist with

Conservancy Fund to contribute towards purchases and preservation of key parcels of land in the watershed for open space and agriculture. Co-chairpersons: Suzanne Snajdr 610.268.0649 Dale Hendricks 610.255.0464

Cultural and Historic Preservation - Study, preserve and restore the Sexton House and Barn. Other sites, buildings and archeology also under purview. Chairman: Tom Zawislak, 610.274.0482

Water Quality - Collect and maintain Streamwatch Data for 15 sites in Delaware and Pennsylvania. Educational component includes Earth Day demonstration. Co-chairpersons: Carol Catanese 610.268.3308 Tom Stark 610.274.8962

Promotion - Publicize Streamwatch, Sexton House, Annual Meeting, Native Plant Sale, Sale of Maps, etc., in Delaware and Pennsylvania. Co-ordinate periodic slide shows. Support exhibits and Newsletter. Develop photography contest for post cards and notecards of White Clay. Chairperson: Sally Rickerman 610.274.8856

Don't hesitate to call the Chairs and offer to volunteer your time and energy. We need everyone's help to maintain the qualities of the White Clay Watershed that drew each of us to this special valley and to conserve those resources we hold dear for future generations.

long-term preservation of the region. Dorothy Miller recalls a conference Jack organized on a Conservancy for the White Clay Creek watershed in the mid-80s. The conference was held at the University of Delaware at Clayton Hall. Dorothy recalls the conference was attended by hundreds of people - indicative of the widespread support for such efforts by the community.

Jack was involved in the efforts, just now coming to fruition, to include the White Clay Creek in the national Wild & Scenic River System. This effort secures national recognition for the White Clay. He also helped initiate the effort to formulate a River Plan for the White Clay Creek in Pennsylvania. This River Plan, which has now been completed and is before the municipalities for approval, encourages and coordinates protection efforts for the creek and makes municipalities and organizations eligible for grants to help accomplish the Plan's goals.

Before the onset of his illness, Jack was also a regular worker on the Association's efforts to preserve and restore the Sexton's House. He worked countless Saturdays to help accomplish much of the original demolition and

clean-up work on the project. These efforts will eventually lead to the re-creation of an historical enclave in the White Clay Creek Preserve with buildings dating from the early 1700s to mid 1800s.

Jack spent most of his career at the University of Delaware. He started as a faculty member of the College of Agricultural Sciences in 1956, and later served as the director of Continuing Education, Assistant Provost, and finally as statewide dean of the Parallel Program, which provides links among Delaware's public colleges and universities. His contacts at the University were invaluable to the Watershed Association over the years.

He served as an Army captain in the Philippines during World War II, he witnessed the surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay from a nearby ship, and then served in Japan during the occupation. After the war, he completed his studies at Cornell, then went to the University of Illinois as a farm radio host and writer in the agricultural department. In 1954 and 1955 he served in India as a member of the State Department's Technical Cooperation Mission.

In addition to his work with

the Watershed Association, Jack was also actively involved with the Delaware Nature Society, the Academy of Lifelong Learning, the Delaware Humanities Forum and the Delaware Bicentennial Commission.

Recently, the White Clay Watershed Association discussed with the Murray Family the creation of a scholarship fund in recognition of Jack's professional interest in education and his avocation with the Watershed Association of learning as much as he could about land protection and watershed water issues to promote the Association's mission.

The White Clay Watershed Association is pleased, therefore, to announce the establishment of The Jack Murray Scholarship. Funds from the scholarship will be available for Board members and other organization members to attend conferences, which further the Association's goals of water resource protection and land conservancy techniques.

If you wish to contribute, please send your donation to WCWA/Jack Murray Scholarship, P.O. Box 10, Landenberg, PA 19350.

The Annual Meeting of the White Clay Watershed Association will be at the Penn London Elementary School on Route 796

Wednesday, October 21, 1998, at 7:30 PM.

Our speaker will be **Rebecca Siders**, Assistant Director of the Center for Historic Architecture and Design of the University of Delaware.

Her illustrated slide presentation will be on the historic structures in the White Clay Watershed with special emphasis on the Sexton's House & Barn near the London Tract Baptist Meetinghouse. This event is free and the public is invited. Hand-tinted maps of the watershed will be for sale.

We are fortunate that Ms. Siders is willing to share her expertise and findings with us. As the restoration of these buildings is one of our main projects, we hope that many will turn out to attend this fascinating lecture.

Additional Agenda Items:

- Membership Renewal
- Election of new Board of Directors
- Ratification of By-laws changes
- Light Refreshments

Directions to Penn London Elementary School: from Newark, take Route 896 North, pass New London; when you come to a Y in the road take the right fork - you are now on Route 796. The school is visible on the right. From other places in Pennsylvania, take the Jennersville exit of Route 1, go east on Route 796, the school will be on your left. If you need additional information, please call 610.274.8499 and leave a message. Someone will return your call.

Three Cheers for Stream Watch Volunteers!

Tom Stark and Carol Catanese

As the PA River Planning Grant comes to a close we were reminded, once again, of the incredible service of WCWA Stream Watch volunteers. In 1997 volunteers in PA gave over 1000 hours in volunteer time while DE volunteers gave approximately 230 hours for counting and sorting the stream samples. Collection Day amounted to an additional 160 hours of volunteer time. While we complete the paper work for the PA River Planning Grant we felt it important to stress how these volunteer hours translated to "in-kind" dollars as required by the grant. When all the calculations were completed we found over 1400 hours of volunteer hours valued at \$11,500.00. This far exceeded the in-kind requirements of the grant.

For the most part the Stream Watch volunteers go about their duties unrecognized. We'd like to introduce this group to the WCWA membership and friends so you may give recognition for their contributions.

For 1997 Beaty Broughton was the Stream Watch Volunteer with the most volunteer hours, followed by Marna Goddard and Warren and Vivian Davies, with 127, 124, 113 and 117 hours, respectively. In addition, we had the following volunteers working in the Stroud lab: Esther Homan, Suzanne Snajdr, Bill Lucas, Chelsea Lucas, Dave Hawk, Tom Stark, and Carol Catanese. Working as volunteers in the University of DE lab there was George and Carol Fox, Gloria Cooke, Hal White, and Andy Short. Although we have a lot of fun during lab sessions, the sorting requires months of hard work and dedication. We always welcome newcomers. Contact Tom Stark (610-274-8962) or Carol Catanese (610-268-3308) if you are interested in becoming a part of this dedicated group.

1999-2001 WCWA Board Member Nominees

This is your OFFICIAL BALLOT. Please bring it with you to the Annual Meeting or mail it to The WCWA, P.O. Box 10, Landenberg, PA 19350, no later than October 18th.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Place a CHECK MARK in the box preceding the name of the candidate. You may vote for ANY and ALL the nominees.

(Only paid-up members are eligible to vote. Please use this opportunity to renew your membership in case you have let it expire.)

The following WCWA Board members are seeking another term as WCWA Board Members:

- René Marks
- Cyril Caster
- Carol Catanese
- Andrea Withers

The following WCWA member has agreed to run for election as a new CWA Board of Director member.

- Gary Schroeder

Gary has been on the Bi-State Advisory Council for the White Clay Creek Preserve since 1984; he has served as Chairman three times during this period. He spends most of his free time volunteering for the Boy Scouts, not only as the Scoutmaster of Troop 62, but also serving on the Board of Directors of the Countywide Scouting movement. He is the CEO of a large agricultural firm in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and the father of three sons. He has been involved with our organization for many years, helping with special projects and the protection of the environment.

A long-time member of the Board of Directors, Michael R. McDowell, has decided not to seek re-election to the board. We thank Mike very much for his many years of dedicated service and leadership; and wish him the best in his new endeavors. Mike plans to remain a very active member of our organization!

WHITE CLAY NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY REMINDER.

Membership and function of the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Plan Committee (WCCWMPC) were again discussed at a September 17, 1998, meeting held at the London Britain Township Municipal Building and open to the general public.

As a result of previous public discussion, the attached flyer to the meeting announcement described this committee as follows:

Purpose: The White Clay Creek Watershed Management Plan relies on existing institutions and government authorities along with residents and landowners to provide protection for the important resource values of the White Clay Creek watershed. To bind these diverse watershed interests together in common purpose a permanent committee representing all of these interests was proposed as part of the management plan to:

- * Stimulate cooperation among all watershed interests
- * Provide a forum for discussing and resolving issues
- * Promote long term protection



of the White Clay Creek
Authority: The WCC Watershed Management Plan Committee is strictly a voluntary ad hoc committee representing all watershed interests, as such the committee has no regulatory or land use control authority.

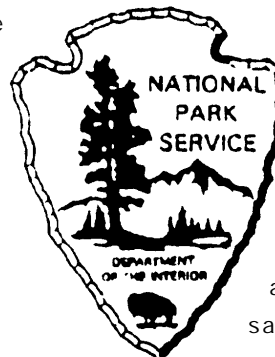
Function: The WCC Watershed Management Plan Committee will have no direct management responsibilities. It will carry forward the work of the WCC Study Task Force. The committee will function as a forum in which watershed management issues may be raised and discussed. The committee may provide comment to agencies and institutions with management authorities, but will not have the authority to require any actions by any of those entities.

Membership: The committee is open to all residents, landowners and other watershed interests. Municipal governments and other organizations are encouraged to appoint representatives, however

anyone who wishes to volunteer for the committee may do so. All meetings will be open to the public.

National Park Service Role: The Park Service will provide staff support to the committee as professional resource managers and planners. The Park Service will not lead or direct the committee. The Park Service will act as a general contact for the committee, however a list of all members will be maintained so that members may be contacted individually.

Dialogue about composition of the committee has been ongoing at these public meetings for approximately 2 years.



One of the results of these discussions is that the National Park Service has agreed to provide staff service for the committee and act as a general contact for same.

If you wish to volunteer for the WCCWMPC committee, please contact Charles Barszcz at 215.597.6482, or E-mail Charles_Barszcz@nps.gov.