

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

216 Beldin Hollow Road, Ashville, PA 16613

www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org

(814) 944-2383

June 15, 2009

Dear CCWA Members:

Over the past 18 months, the Clearfield Creek Watershed Association has completed two major projects-the Klondike Project and the Ferris Wheel Revegetation Project- to remedy acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mines on Little Laurel Run near Ashville, PA. We are proud to invite you to visit these two sites on July 10 to see them first hand and to learn about them.

Both projects are on Little Laurel Run, a tributary of Clearfield Creek, heading near the village of Buckhorn. Little Laurel Run is almost entirely forested, and much of it is a State Game Land. However, the stream is currently lifeless because of drainage from abandoned underground and strip mines thus degrading Clearfield Creek below its mouth.

At the Klondike Project, the Klondike underground mine, abandoned in the 1950's, is releasing a moderately large flow of acidic and iron-bearing water. Nearby, a small flow of highly acid and iron-rich water emerges from strip mining of 1960's vintage. With funding of approximately \$600,000 from the US Environmental Protection Agency and many other sources, plus many dozens of hours of volunteer time by our members, we have constructed two "passive" treatment ponds on these two discharges. The acidity and iron of these two discharges has been effectively removed from Little Laurel Run. An ongoing project, the West Ferris Wheel project will remove most of the remaining acid and iron from the upper half of Little Laurel Run.

The Ferris Wheel Project, an area of about 30 acres that was strip mined nearly 50 years ago, is still lacking in vegetation because of the acid rocky soil. The site is leaking acid water to Little Laurel Run. With a \$77,000 grant and the aid of Robindale Energy Co and Blair County Solid Waste Authority, we have added alkaline material and organic matter to the soil, re-established grass and planted several thousand trees on 12 acres of the site.

On July 10 from 11am to 1 pm we will hold a tour of these sites. Additional information and guides will be available at the sites. To join the tour, please come to the entrance of the Klondike Project which is on PA 36, 2.5 miles North of Ashville and 0.8 miles South of the village of Buckhorn or 6.5 miles from Gallitzin Route 22 exit (Gallitzin-Coupon), turn right .6 miles. We will furnish transportation from the highway to the treatment systems. Please dress for walking a few hundred feet on non-paved roads and trails.

We hope to see you at our projects. In order to help us plan for the visit, please return the attached RSVP to us by July 6th. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Earl Smithmyer at 944-2383 or e-mail gerald72@verizon.net

Sincerely,

Earl Smithmyer, President-CCWA

To: Clearfield Creek Watershed Association, 216 Beldin Hollow Road, Ashville, PA 16613

_____ We do plan to attend the tour.

_____ Sorry, we are unable to attend.

_____ Number of persons attending.

Name/Organization _____