

Nature News

Brought to you by the Charlestown Township EAC

July 2020

OUR MISSION

The Charlestown Environmental Advisory Committee's (EAC) mission is to advise the Board of Supervisors on environmental issues, the protection and preservation of natural resources, the use of open land and creating inventories of natural areas with unique features. All of the aforementioned advice to be focused within the township and in the best interest and general welfare of its residents.

This newsletter will be distributed quarterly. If you no longer want to receive these notifications, or you have comments or suggestions, send an email to EAC@charlestown.pa.us.

Happenings

Impact of Coronavirus

COVID-19 has certainly dampened our attempts to get the community together to enjoy our beautiful township. However, being in nature is one thing we can all do, bringing calm and beauty to our everyday isolation. We hope you are all able to enjoy our parks and just being outside. We will keep you updated with EAC happenings as we move forward into the unknown.

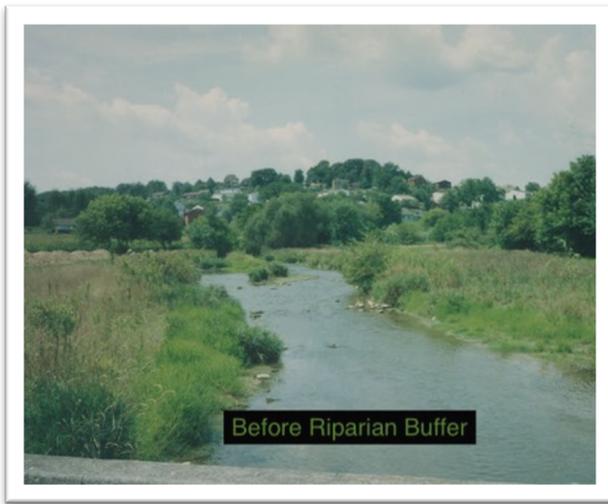
EAC June and July Activities

Recently some members of the Charlestown EAC visited Brightside Farm to check on the status of the riparian buffer plantings from 2019. A riparian buffer is a vegetated area near a stream, usually forested, which helps shade and partially protect the stream from the impact of adjacent land uses. It plays a key role in increasing water quality in associated streams, rivers, and lakes. With the decline of many aquatic ecosystems due to agriculture and development, riparian buffers have become a very common conservation practice aimed at increasing water quality and reducing pollution.

(<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3900574>).

The trees and shrubs cool the temperature of the stream making it more habitable for fish and insects. They also reduce the volume, velocity and power of stormwater and reduce erosion.

You don't have to understand riparian buffers to enjoy their peaceful and relaxing refuge!



***Before and after images (12 year later) of Lititz Run in Lancaster County, PA
Courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.***

The difference is remarkable!

If you are interested in generally getting involved with keeping our township clean and beautiful, consider volunteering when we resume activities and/or coming to our monthly meetings. The schedule is on [Charlestown Township's Website](#) .

Specifically, we are looking for volunteers to help us plant additional trees at Brightside Farm in the fall. Please consider helping by emailing us at: EAC@charlestown.pa.us

Biodiversity and vigorous plant growth are highlights at Brightside Farm, courtesy of mother nature. We hope you are able to take advantage of the walking trail and other beauties at the park during the summer and fall. Below are some beautiful pictures from the EAC visit. See if you can identify #1 and #2 pictures below (courtesy of Carol Armstrong, EAC).
Hint: The answers are at the end of the newsletter.

Young native trees growing in protective tubes – the start of our riparian buffer.





Picture #1



Picture #2



Grey Hairstreak Butterfly Siting at Brightside Farm Park, courtesy of Carol Armstrong, EAC.

Inspirational Quote

"Trees do not preach learning and precepts. They preach, undeterred by particulars, the ancient law of life."

— *Herman Hesse*

Suggestion of the month

When planning your own gardens and yard, consider using native plants and trees (native to this area) and ones that attract pollinators such as bees. The EAC can provide you with a list upon request.

EAC@Charlestown.pa.us

Answers to plant identifications: #1 – Fleabane and Common Milkweed , #2 – Swamp Milkweed – *Asclepias Incamata*