The Paunacussing Watershed Association

HCS Annual Meeting Talk- November 11, 2024

The first residents of the area were the Lenni-Lenape and give the Paunacussing its name, which loosely translates as “where powder was given to us.”[[1]](#endnote-1) Then, in the 18th century Carversville was settled around the mills that were powered by the creek.

The Paunacussing Creek and watershed are vitally important to the health and character of Carversville, Solebury Township and the surrounding area.

The number of people taking walks and rides along Fleecydale Road and Old Carversville Road is a testament to the importance of the Paunacussing in our lives. But it’s not just a pretty place, the watershed provides the clean water for each of us living here and supports the health of the Delaware River corridor.

So, although we’re kind of touting this as a new beginning, the Paunacussing Watershed Association (PWA) was founded in 1972 by Bill Tinsman, Sr. and Ned Harrington, among others in response to a large residential development proposed within the watershed.  Since then, the PWA has been active in advocating for the protection of natural resources within the watershed. After years of inactivity, in 2023, largely in response to recent extreme flooding events, the PWA has reconvened to strategize and develop ways to mitigate the causes and effects of flooding along the Paunacussing and continue the mission of conservation in the watershed.

The Paunacussing is classified by the DEP as one of only a small handful of high-quality cold-water fisheries in the county and simply-put our goal is to maintain that classification.

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* Promoting the conservation of the natural resources of the Paunacussing Watershed and maintaining this classification.
* Conservation is critical to protecting our water resources, soils and the flora & and fauna that thrive within the watershed.
* Hand-in-hand with our conservation goals, we are working to learn more about the causes and effects of intensifying flooding in the watershed and develop long-term mitigation strategies to address flooding and promote the protection of the watershed.
* We are here to help educate individuals and organizations within the Watershed and beyond about the benefits of a healthy watershed and what one can do to help achieve these goals.
* We are also encouraging property owners to employ best-practices in maintaining their properties. An excellent example of this is Sue Wiedorn’s stream bank stabilization project on the north bank of the creek just above the three-arch stone bridge. Sue is in phase two of the project, single-handedly planting 1,000 native shrubs. Check it out on your next walk.

**What are we doing??**

Between 2000 and today around 15 different reports have been completed covering various aspects of the creek and watershed.

Partners: from Township up to the National Park Service.

Projects:

1. Rain gauges and water level monitoring and data collection. We would love to coordinate these efforts with neighbors who may already be collecting this data.
2. Water quality and stream health projects – macroinvertebrate survey.
3. Watershed walk.
4. Stream bank stabilization projects and education.
5. Watershed modeling.

Other things we’re monitoring:

1. Gas pipeline
2. Canal Aqueduct
3. Buckingham Township Spray Field

**Who we are:**

In addition to myself

Sue Wiedorn, Secretary

Michele Stulpin, Treasurer

Robert Stein -

Phil Getty – retired hyrdrogeologist

Mary Michaels

Sarah Weikert - Social media

George Asheford – Lumberville Guy

David Hughes – landscape architect

Molly Schreiner – another hydrologist

Carol Montague

Plug new members.

Sign-up – take a button.

We’ll be sending out information on our first members drive soon.

Whether you walk, run, bike, drive or live along the creek, if you are interested in learning more and pitching in, please visit our new website at <https://paunacussingwatershed.org>. We are looking for new members to help us achieve these goals and protect the gem that is the Paunacussing Watershed.  If you would like to attend our monthly meetings and want to help us gain meaningful momentum, or If you have suggestions, ideas or just some photos of our beautiful watershed, send us an email at info@paunacussingwatershed.org.

1. George MacReynolds, Place Names in Bucks County, 1976, page 289. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)