

by Deb Brackbill

If there is one group that deserves some recognition, it's the Juniata Watershed Alliance. As a member of the National Wildlife Federation and Audubon Society, I've learned that every living creature needs clean water to survive and humans are no exception. The Juniata Watershed Alliance is a volunteer organization committed to conserving, enhancing, and promoting the Watershed throughout Juniata County. Their vision is for healthy and beautiful streams that enhance and reflect the spirit of our rural community and its carefully cared for landscape. From the Juniata River to Lost Creek, this organization is continually working to clean up and improve the quality of our water. Living in Licking Creek Valley, I know just how important it is to take care of the beautiful, clear water that runs in our streams.

Officers in the JWA include president Julie Hurst, VP/secretary Nancy Crago, treasurer Joe Lauver, and directors Roy Brubaker, Wilson Weidner, and Jennifer Winey. The group is always looking for like minded individuals to join the organization and membership forms can be found on their website. Recently, the group, along with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Juniata County Conservation District, held a Riparian Rangers Program at Zook's Dam in Licking Creek Valley to encourage volunteers to help care for buffers that have been planted in the area. This is just one project that keeps the organization



Juniata Watershed Alliance volunteers and partners plant a buffer near Buttonwood Campground. (Photo by Deb Brackbill)

busy!

Nancy Crago, spokesperson for the organization said, "Riparian Rangers are busy this summer. We will be replanting about 25 trees at JCS where I am the Riparian Ranger for the site, with help from the organization. We've gotten a good response from volunteers for our Canal House clean-ups so we will look to do that at least once a year. That's a Keep PA-Juniata County Beautiful project that we do with the JCCD."

She added, "We partner with Keystone 10 Million Trees for our trees. Of course, we work closely with JCCD. The staff is extremely supportive of our activities. Riparian Rangers is a partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. As Watershed and Environmental stewards, we joined a roundtable to provide feedback on the Countywide Action Plan. I provided feedback as a representative of JWA. Juniata is one of 4 coun-

ties working together—Mifflin, Perry, and Dauphin are the other three. The Lion's Den is doing a Conservation Camp for kids the week of July 12th. We will be presenting a program on Pollinators. JCCD has partnered with Snyder County CD for an enviro-camp in August. I plan to be there to assist Mindy Musser from JCCD."

Always looking forward, the JWA hopes to work with Penn State on a program called FISH—First Investigation of Stream Health. This is a citizen scientist program. This program is definitely on the wishlist of the JWA for future projects. Nancy is hoping to develop a speakers' bureau so the organization can get out to spread the word at local service clubs. Growth has been Nancy's goal for this year. She has found that people who volunteer for one project may not be interested in others. She adds, "It was almost a totally different group picking up trash to those who joined us for Riparian Rangers. I think that everyone has a niche and they don't need to be involved in every activity. We need to get our name out in the community and we need to focus on local water quality. That is what's important to Juniata County."

The Juniata Watershed Alliance was recently recognized by the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers and featured in its monthly "Spotlight on Success"—a story about a member watershed organization or partnership that is working hard to improve

the quality of a local stream, raise awareness and understanding of a key watershed issue, or provide an opportunity for engagement and recreation along a waterway.

Here is what they had to say about the JWA:

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Across the Commonwealth, but especially in the Susquehanna Basin/Chesapeake Bay Watershed of PA, riparian buffers are promoted as critical solutions for reducing the impacts of sediment and nutrient pollution in our rivers and streams. But as one community watershed organization learned, planting the trees is only half the battle. In order for a riparian, or streamside, buffer planting project to work as designed to protect a local stream proper site preparations and long term maintenance are required. Volunteers of the Juniata Watershed Alliance, along with several key partners, were undeterred when an initial tree planting effort yielded less than the desired outcome. It took a little more effort to finally get THIS Success Story!

Congratulations to all the volunteers of the Juniata Watershed Alliance. Your dedication and determination to keep streams clean and flowing in Juniata County is a tribute to you all!

The Juniata Watershed Alliance will be at this year's Juniata Co. Fair. Folks can learn more about the organization and get a ticket for a chance to win a rain barrel. Tickets are free!

cancer, including breast, ovarian and colon cancers. The National Cancer Institute recently awarded Geisinger a 5-year, \$3.6 million contract to study the role of genetic variation in cancer through the MyCode initiative.

Geisinger has an exciting research environment with more than 50 full-time research faculty and more than 30 clinician scientists. Areas of expertise include precision health, genomics, informatics, data science, implementation science, outcomes research, health services research, bioethics and clinical trials.

Invites Everyone to the Youth Fair



The Central Juniata Livestock Club held a picnic for their final meeting of the year at Brad and Sandy Hershey's residence on July 6th 2021. After everyone had their fill of great food, Anna Shaffer

