

News Release Conewago Creek Initiative

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Local Watershed Partnership Sponsors Free Pancake Breakfast

Conewago Creek watershed residents are invited to clean water breakfast at Lawn Fire Company.

LAWN – An exciting new local partnership, the Conewago Creek Initiative, will sponsor a free pancake breakfast at Lawn Fire Company, Route 241 in Lawn, on Saturday, August 14 from 8:00 to 11:00 am. All residents of the Conewago Creek watershed are invited to attend.

“Everyone has a role to play in cleaning up our local streams,” said Matt Royer, president of the Conewago Creek watershed group and local coordinator of the Initiative for Penn State Cooperative Extension. “We hope all residents of the watershed will join us for a great breakfast that benefits a local volunteer fire company, while learning more about clean water and how to get involved in the Conewago Creek Initiative.”

The Conewago Creek Initiative is a locally-led, collaborative partnership effort in the Conewago Creek watershed in Dauphin, Lebanon, and Lancaster Counties. The Initiative seeks to improve water quality in the Conewago Creek watershed by working with local residents and landowners in the community to increase awareness of and interest in adopting land management practices that will improve water quality of local streams, ensure healthy farms and communities, and protect and maintain quality of life.

Initiative partners include the Conewago’s local watershed group (Tri-County Conewago Creek Association), the Dauphin, Lebanon, and Lancaster County Conservation Districts, Penn State Cooperative Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and many others.

The pancake breakfast is one way the partners will seek to engage all Conewago Creek residents—farmers, homeowners, business owners, and municipalities that live and work in the watershed. Participation by watershed residents is key to success of the Initiative.

The Conewago Creek watershed is a 52 square mile area in parts of Dauphin, Lancaster, and Lebanon Counties. Its headwaters are in the Mount Gretna area of Lebanon County. Downstream of Lawn, the creek forms the county line between Dauphin and Lancaster Counties. It flows into the Susquehanna River just north of the village of Falmouth.

The majority of the Conewago has been listed by the state as impaired, which means it is too polluted to sustain the kind of aquatic life and uses it could sustain if it were healthy. Excessive nutrients and sediment from runoff are the primary sources of pollution. This pollution impacts local water quality, the Susquehanna River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Conewago Creek Initiative seeks to involve the entire watershed community in being a part of the solution to these water quality challenges. Initiative partners can provide tools and resources to help implement community-based solutions. To learn more, attend the August 14th breakfast or contact Matt Royer at (717) 948-6459 or mroyer@psu.edu.