



GRWA  
PO Box 24  
Kintnersville, PA 18930  
grwabucks.org

### **Gallows Run Watershed Association 2016 Board of Directors**

Todd Stone, President  
Sandy Weber, Vice-President  
Estelle Bloom, Treasurer  
Karl Schwartz  
Reinhold Schwenk

The Gallows Run Watershed Association held its fourteenth annual members meeting on November 20, 2016 at the home of President Todd Stone in Kintnersville, PA.

#### **Mission**

The GRWA remains active in pursuit of its mission to protect and improve the natural resources of the Gallows Run Watershed. We advocate on behalf of sound environmental stewardship, sustainable land management, and preservation of the rural character of the watershed.

The Gallows Run's 8.87-square-mile watershed is among the most scenic and economically important areas in our region. Many of the natural, cultural, historical and recreational amenities within the Gallows Run watershed in Nockamixon, Springfield and Durham Townships are identified in a variety of studies and are the focus of resource protection efforts. Surface and groundwater resources in the watershed are hydrogeologically connected, and watershed residents obtain drinking water from on-site wells. Land preservation is one of the most important conservation tools townships and conservation organizations can use to help maintain and improve water quality.

Educational outreach remains key to our mission. This past year, we expanded our social media presence with Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts, linked to our website at GRWAbucks.org. Our website is hosted by Wild Apricot software, designed for non-profits to manage communications and membership. It remains an archive of up-to-date information on fracking, water conservation, and the scientific imperative supporting sustainable decision-making, as well as a source for specific data on the Gallows Run and GRWA activities. On April 23, the GRWA co-sponsored Sustainable Living Expo at Palisades High School; we had a booth at Nockamixon Day; and the Artists of Gallows Run were in Palisades High School discussing with students the interaction of the arts and environmental activism.

#### **Financial Status**

The Treasurer's report shows that through memberships and contributions, we were able to expand our program and maintain our financial stability. Art for Preservation raised \$2500 at their art show to benefit the GRWA.



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Artists of the Gallows Run, 8th Annual Art for Conservation 2016 was another great success and a wonderful free community event. With our partners at Heritage Conservancy and the Nockamixon Open Space Committee, we raised enough money from sponsor sales to pay for all expenses connected to the exhibit at Rising Sun Farm and Palisades High School. Sales of artwork by 17 artists went to support our mission. Since 2009, funds raised through this event have contributed to the preservation of six properties comprising more than 500 acres of forested slopes, wooded stream corridors, open fields, and agricultural lands. These preservation efforts have not only protected the wonderful scenic views and rural integrity of the watershed, but most importantly, they have helped protect the water quality of the Gallows Run.

### Projects

- Land Conservation – The GRWA remains active in support of land conservation: 932 acres have now been preserved in the watershed.
- Student Involvement – The GRWA is working with the leadership of the Palisades School District to create opportunities for leadership for Palisades students in the fields of scientific research, environmental activism and civic engagement.
- Sustainability – We continue to disseminate new information on the threat of continued use of fossil fuels to future sustainability.
- Stream Cleanups – We continue to provide opportunities for citizens of all ages to experience our watershed up close, with regular stream cleanups.
- Applied Science – Scientific research is integral to our work. The watershed benefits from continued stream and groundwater monitoring supported by GRWA and Bridgeton Nockamixon Tinicum Groundwater Management Committee (BNTGMC).
- Groundwater Protection – The GRWA has supported the BNTGMC's efforts to provide technical guidance to local townships on protecting our shared groundwater resource in our unusual fractured rock geology.
- Land Use – Active participation in legal processes that affect land use requires a determined core of activists and creates the need for educating an active citizenship. Our participation in the local land planning process in our rural watershed focuses on linking future development to resource availability.
- Legacy & Current Threats – Thanks to our own efforts and those of other groups, our Upper Bucks community has been educated about, and is still feeling the effects of, toxic dumping that occurred in the past when citizens were not vigilant enough about dangers to our shared aquifers. The dangers from current gas drilling and associated infrastructure remain just as threatening.

### Recognition

- The GRWA was awarded a grant from the National Parks Service to support its efforts to educate local officials about evidence-based resource management.



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### **Looking Forward**

The following are continuing challenges to the state of the watershed in 2017:

- Leadership in planning for tomorrow's changing climate in today's political climate
- Stormwater management
- Drought protection
- Gas drilling and infrastructure protections
- Bridge repair and maintenance
- Open space conservation
- Failing septic systems
- Maintaining trout and wildlife habitat
- Palisades School district and Hidden Valley effluent discharge
- Unsustainable development plans
- Stream cleanup and restoration
- Continuing environmental education
- Implementation of Gallows Run Restoration and Protection Plan
- Ongoing groundwater data collection and evidence-based water management

We invite current members to become more active in these efforts and non-members to join us in supporting our mission to meet these challenges.

Yours in Conservation,

Todd Stone  
*President, Gallows Run Watershed Association*