



HELPING THE PEOPLE  
HEALING THE WORLD.

## EARTH VOLUNTEER FUND FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

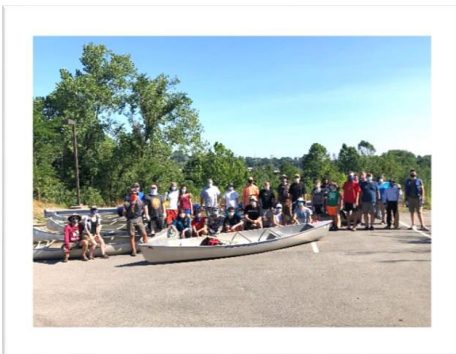
The Earth Volunteer Fund has finished its first season of operation and grantmaking, and I'm happy to report that things are going really well! In our first three months of operation we received 6 grant applications and funded all of them. We've also proactively made two additional grants, for a total of 8 grants. Average grant size is about \$500. Recipients have been a variety of nonprofit organizations, Eagle Scout projects, and informal neighborhood groups.

Our first project has already been completed. On a hot Sunday in July, 33 volunteers led by Eagle Scout Tommy Martin spent the day cleaning up Chartiers Creek, a small tributary of the Ohio River just outside Pittsburgh.

Chartiers Creek was once one of the most polluted streams in the state due to acid mine drainage, runoff from farms and factories, and sewage overflow. In 2020, the South Fayette

Conservation Group started a project to treat the polluted water before it enters Millers Run, which feeds into Chartiers Creek. When complete, the project will result in Miller's Run running clear from Cecil to Bridgeville for the first time in generations, while eliminating the single biggest source of pollution along Chartiers Creek.

The creek has accumulated tons of trash over the years. Using an assortment of 18 watercraft, Tommy's crew floated down the creek for five miles picking up trash. By the end of the day they had collected over two tons of garbage, including 20 tires, a dozen bikes, two hot water tanks, a lawn mower, and a leaf blower. The trash was hauled away by trucks provided by the towns of Heidelberg and Carnegie. For his efforts, Tommy received a certificate of appreciation from Lower Chartiers Watershed Association.



*We'd love to hear about your project, maybe we can help. We focus on projects in Southwestern Pennsylvania, primarily in Allegheny County. We assist groups working to restore land and water areas to their natural state. Our favorite projects are stream restoration (removing trash, tires and man-made blockages) and land restoration (removing trash from natural areas). We prefer projects that will benefit as many people as possible, so we can't help with a project that's inaccessible to visitors. We are happy to fund informal groups of volunteers, you don't necessarily need to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. And we typically make decisions and fund projects within a day or two. Interested? Visit <http://earthvolunteerfund.org> to learn more!*

- Jeff Pepper, Executive Director