

Real People Volunteer: Dave Lamperski

The volunteer stream monitoring program of the Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance is providing invaluable knowledge about the health and sources of problems within the Connoquenessing watershed. Rallying the troops to collect this information is Dave Lamperski.

"Water monitoring is not a glamorous job, but it is irreplaceable in helping to expand our understanding of all the forces at work within the watershed," Dave explained. "I cannot offer enough praise to the people who have faithfully taken monthly samples in all kinds of weather to help gather data for this scientific report."

Dave is the president and one of the founders of the Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance. In the program's second year, the group received a *FOR THE COMMON GOOD* grant for \$86,740 to assess a 430 square mile portion of the Connoquenessing watershed. With guidance from consultants at Killam Associates, volunteers are collecting and testing water sampled from 18 sites along Connoquenessing Creek and its tributaries.



Portions of the study conducted so far reveal a generally healthy watershed, and problem areas are being documented for consideration as future restoration projects. Dave's success demonstrates that committed volunteers can make all the difference in identifying and

eliminating sources of pollution in Pennsylvania's watersheds. [Learn More](#)

Real People Make House-Calls:

Wilma runs a "mobile monitoring" program in Washington County. Simply put, Wilma drives through her community with scientific equipment in the back of her minivan, conducting tests on the health of various waterways.

When first on the move, Wilma took samples from just three sites. Now, through a recently received grant and other help from DEP, she keeps tabs on as many as 20 sites. Her mobile monitoring is making a difference, not only by identifying areas that need help, but also documenting the positive impact of all the cleanup efforts in Washington County.

Being on the road can be grueling, but Wilma knows that the health of our rivers and streams is important — both for wildlife and for our own drinking water. With this in mind, Wilma is determined in her desire to create a healthier environment. [Learn More](#)



Real People Give Back: Bill Shaffer

Kids that grow up in the city don't often have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors, but for some young people in York, Bill Shaffer is about to change that. Described as a "super guy" by his colleagues, Bill Shaffer, coordinator of "Kids Hooked on Fishing," is giving city and suburban kids an opportunity to get outside and experience nature.



An avid angler himself, Bill decided that kids in York were missing out on a great way to appreciate the environment and have fun at the same time. After researching and securing funds to purchase fishing equipment for York area middle schools, Bill has volunteered his time to visit schools to teach students the finer points of fishing, angling and enjoying all that Pennsylvania's Woods have to offer.

By instilling the next generation with a sense of awe and respect for the world around them, Bill is molding lifelong stewards of the environment. [Learn More](#)

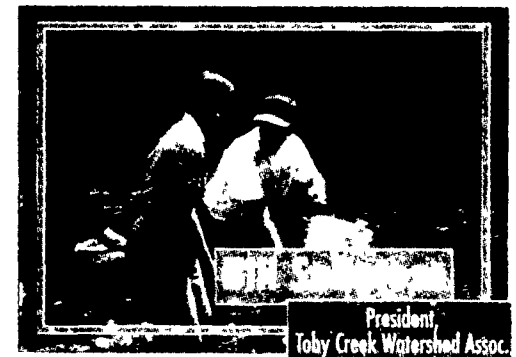
Real People Tackle Acid Mine Drainage:

For residents of Elk County, fishing in the Little Toby Creek watershed seemed like an unattainable dream. Yet, after a 30-year campaign to restore the watershed, Bill Sabatose, president of the Toby Creek Watershed Association, is making that dream a reality.

Little Toby Creek is once again showing signs of life after decades of acid mine drainage polluting its waters. The turning point came with a \$12 million grant awarded to Headwaters Charitable Trust, which in turn sponsored a grant to the Toby Creek Watershed Association. The restoration project will finally eliminate the acid mine drainage into Little Toby Creek.

"This used to be a dead watershed," Bill recalled. "Little by little, as DEP funded acid mine drainage projects, the Little Toby began to recover."

Bill and the Toby Creek Watershed Association have been instrumental in the recovery of Little Toby Creek and their relentless perseverance demonstrates that no watershed is without hope of restoration. [Learn More](#)



Do You Know a Watershed Hero?

GreenWorks and *Watershed Weekly* are on the lookout for environmental volunteers worthy of the honorable title "Watershed Hero." The *GreenWorks* website features selected volunteers and highlights their efforts, giving them some well-deserved credit. [Do More](#)

Works

Pennsylvania's Premiere Watershed Resources



Want to learn more about something you hold near and dear? Every week, the Watershed Weekly website profiles people and groups working on issues that directly affect the water we all share. From fishing and swimming to mining and storm runoff, you'll visit rivers, streams and even your own faucet.

[Learn More:](#)

TIPS FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION

POWR

Ready to get involved in environmental protection by joining or forming a watershed group? The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) can help you get started.