The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership has some big plans as it prepares to kick off its third year of working together for cleaner rivers and streams in Pennsylvania.

“The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partners are now over 110 strong and are driving the success of our expanded tree planting goals,” said Partnership Manager Brenda Sieglitz.

The partnership, coordinated by CBF, was launched in 2018. It is committed to supporting partner organizations and others working to plant 10 million trees in Pennsylvania before the end of 2025.

“We are excited to be celebrating our second anniversary and to kick off our third year of planting in 2020,” Sieglitz added. “The third year of the partnership will shine with initiatives such as contracting ahead for 500,000 trees, establishing maintenance innovation, and building strategic partnerships in many key counties.”

Planting groups throughout the Keystone State will be targeting the week of April 19-25 for some special opportunities.

A tree-planting to celebrate partners, scouting, and students will take place at Camp Small Valley in Halifax on Sunday, April 19, at 1 p.m. The activity is being organized by CBF Student Leadership Council Member and Girl Scout Lauren Braught.

Wednesday, April 22, is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, and Arbor Day, April 24, will be another ideal day for planting trees.

To learn more about the partnership visit the website TenMillionTrees.org.

To volunteer to help CBF with future partnership-related activities, email Carla Johns at CJohns@cbf.org.

CBF Made it Rain at the Farm Show

Even Governor Tom Wolf stopped by to see CBF’s rainfall simulator at the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance exhibit at the Farm Show in January. The simulator demonstrates different amounts and concentrations of polluted runoff, when rain falls onto various types of soils. The middle jar that collected water sprayed over conventionally tilled soil contained the most sediment in its runoff.

Aniya Robinson, 8, of Lancaster, plants one of the 200 trees added at the Drager Farm in Marietta, Lancaster County, last fall.

CBF Watershed Coordinator Brian Gish explains the rainfall simulator to a group of interested students at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.
Get Creative With Your Giving

More and more CBF members are including CBF in their charitable or estate plan. Why? Because the greatest story of environmental recovery ever cannot be told in one generation, and the Bay's restoration is a story that must go on.

To make your very best gift, consider all your assets—cash, stock, real estate, retirement accounts, life insurance policies, etc. Then give us a call or speak with your personal advisors about creative gift options like gifts in your will, living trusts, beneficiary designations, or even gifts that pay you income. Charitable trusts or gift annuities are good examples.

Even those who can't make a large cash gift now can have a significant impact on CBF's mission and the future health of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams.

To request a booklet or learn more about planned gifts, visit cbf.org/plannedgiving or contact Lane Whigham at 717-204-4040 or lWhigham@cbf.org.

CBF Suing EPA for Not Holding Pennsylvania Accountable for Lack of Clean-Water Progress

CBF continues to be concerned about Pennsylvania's lack of progress in reducing the amount of polluted runoff entering local waters and ultimately the Bay.

This concern was heightened when the Commonwealth released its Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan that has an annual funding shortfall of more than $300 million, and comes up 25 percent short of its nitrogen-reduction goal.

The Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint sets pollution limits for each state, requires state plans to achieve the goals, and requires two-year incremental steps, or milestones, so progress can be measured.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) committed to evaluating the plans, as well as progress made toward the two-year milestones. EPA also laid out consequences that it could impose on Bay states for inadequate plans and falling short of milestone commitments.

EPA failed to take any action to hold Pennsylvania accountable for an inadequate plan, along with the Commonwealth's continued inability to meet clean-water milestones, puts success of Bay efforts over the last 10 years in jeopardy.

As a last resort, CBF is preparing a Notice of Intent to sue EPA for failing to enforce the Clean Water Act.

"With Bay restoration and clean water for future generations at risk, we have no alternative due to EPA's failure to act," CBF's Vice President for Litigation Jon Mueller said. "We must hold EPA accountable now if we are going to save the Bay."

This follows an earlier announcement that the state of Maryland is considering filing lawsuits against EPA and Pennsylvania.

On a positive note, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's $36 billion budget proposal for fiscal year 2020-21, unveiled February 4, provides increased investments in the state's Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Stewardship Fund.

It remains unclear how the Commonwealth will close the shortfall in investments needed to meet its clean water obligations.

Summer rains wash sediment and other pollutants into the Susquehanna River.

Senate Bill 915 Sets Standards for Application of Fertilizer

Senate Bill 915, introduced by State Senator Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), will reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer that runs into and pollutes Pennsylvania rivers and streams.

The measure sets standards for the application of fertilizer to turf areas such as lawns, golf courses, and athletic fields.

The Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approved and sent SB915 to the full Senate for consideration.

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Keystone 10 Million Trees

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