

2013 In Review

Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

December 2013

Accomplishments in 2013

Thank you! Our members, volunteers and supporters have gone above and beyond in 2013 to make sure Shenango River Watchers remains the sole organization focused entirely on the environmental, scenic and recreational attributes of our Shenango River. Thanks to you, we have finally turned the Shenango River from one that was scoffed at to one that is valued by everyone in the region.

The water trail, thanks largely to board member Hugh Clark and his Water Trail Sub-Committee of SRW, has been recognized by the state and won the 2013 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of this group, SRW will soon be placing a boat launch at a site in New Hamburg, halfway between the Shenango Conservancy's launch at Kiddsmill Covered Bridge and the Army Corps of Engineers Big Bend Access Area. We also now have maps of the SRW Water Trail at our office for free. Stop in and pick one up.



Earth Day Clean Up 2013, Sharon.

Recently, SRW contracted an engineering firm studied several locations along the river in an attempt to determine the best location to place a kayak park on the river. This park would consist of a series of rapids strategically placed to make an exciting kayaking experience on the river. The rapids also create exceptional habitat for the river's inhabitants. Major contributors to this study included the Wallace Family Foundation the Lions Club in Jamestown and Mrs. Donna Winner.

We are very close to raising the amount of money necessary to place the handicapped fishing pier in Bicentennial Park in Sharon. This pier has been planned for nearly eight years, with fundraising efforts falling short of the nearly \$30,000 goal. Thanks to continued support and a golf outing fundraiser this fall, we are at \$23,000, just \$7,000 to go! If you would like to contribute to this project, you can do so by going to our website or sending a donation to our PO Box. The names of our contributors or their designated loved ones

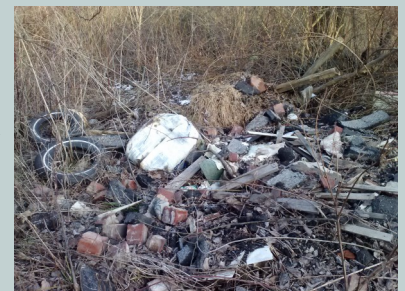
will be permanently placed on the pier.

Our Earth Day clean up, held in conjunction with our partner, the City of Sharon Beautification Commission netted hundreds of tires and two twenty-yard dumpsters of trash. There is still so much more to do! Next year, we are planning an Earth Day clean up at a site along the river near Wasser Bridge Road in Greenville, where illegal dumping has taken place for decades.

The family clean up was cancelled this spring due to snow! We will be holding our family clean up in March of 2014. The family who cleans up the most garbage from the area around Shenango Lake receives a prize and all participants are treated to a beautiful lunch at the Tara. Thanks to our sponsor for this event, Mrs. Donna Winner.

The third Environmental Day was held in Buhl Park this October. Nearly 300 students from the 5th grades at Sharon and Farrell schools participated in this school day of environmental topics. This year, an Environmental Education grant from the PA DEP paid for the event.

Lastly, for the first time in 2013, we reached out to our members for an annual appeal around Earth Day. This appeal raised over \$4,500! Many people contributed to our "Donate-a-Day Campaign that was part of the appeal. It was determined that it costs SRW approximately \$128 a day to operate and individuals donated \$128 to have an operating day in SRW named after a loved one. This campaign was extremely successful and we look forward to doing it again in 2014. Thank you all for your continued support this year! Have a safe and happy holiday season. See you on the river in 2014!!

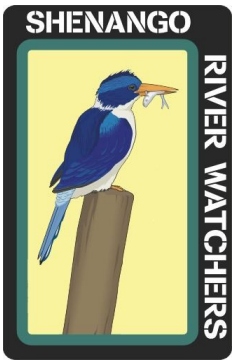


Here's what we are tackling in 2014!

Special points of interest:

- Water Trail recognized in 2013!
- Fishing pier fundraising close to goal!
- Earth Day clean up a success!
- First annual appeal raised over \$4,500!





Donate now to keep the momentum going!

Donations may be tax-deductible and can be sent to:

Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

PO Box 986
Sharon, PA 16416
Tel: 724.342.5453
E-mail: info@shenangoriverwatchers.org

CLEAN, PRESERVE, PROTECT!

Make your donation on the WEB at:
www.shenangoriverwatchers.org

The Year In Review!



Paddlefest!



Environmental Education Day,



Stacking wood for WaterFire Sharon!



Release of Farrell's Trout from Trout in the Classroom project.



Case Avenue Elementary Earth Day Clean Up



Tire Recycling



Rally on the River!

When planning your year-end giving, please consider donating to one of our projects:

- Handicapped Accessible Fishing Pier, Sharon
- Environmental Education Day
- Kayak Park
- Boat Launch at New Hamburg
- Water Trail Maintenance
- Clean Up Days
- Canoe/Kayak Sojourn - 2014
- Trout in the Classroom

Congratulations to our 2013 intern, **Amanda Stillwagon** who graduated from Slippery Rock University this month with her Masters in Resource Management. Amanda will become our first true SRW employee in 2014. We look forward to her joining our team with her extensive knowledge and experience!