



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

DECEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER

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CONTENTS:

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 1-2

COMMITTEE REPORTS 2

DUCKLING DOODLERS 4

HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE 5

UPCOMING EVENTS 6

MEMBERSHIP INFO 5

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The Year In Review

By Jen Barborak

When I was asked to do a “Year In Review” article, I thought, “There really isn’t much to write about. Some of our events had to be cancelled because of rain or high water levels.” Then, I started a list of events for 2004, and I was amazed! SRW coordinated or participated in over 17 events this year!

We kicked off our year celebrating Earth Week with our Second Annual Banquet. An unbelievable number of businesses and individuals donated over 100 prizes for one of the neatest Chinese auctions I have ever seen! There was something for everyone ... birdhouses, trees, books, fishing gear, restaurant gift certificates, and even kids items! The banquet Committee, headed by fundraising coordinator Babs Quincy, worked long and hard, and deserves another big Thank You!!!



The very next Saturday, numerous volunteers participated in a river clean up day through downtown Sharon, at our canoe launch, along Clark Street, at the outflow of the dam in Sharpsville, and behind the McDowell Manor housing units across from Penn State. Mercer County Commissioner Brian Bader helped us that day along with Sharon City Councilman, Darin Flower. The ladies at McDowell Manor made an excellent lunch for us and let us use their activity room for the post clean up event. We are glad to have made new friends at McDowell Manor and look forward to working with them again.

In May, Del Williams and I supervised approximately 20 high school volunteers from the America Sings program for a clean up and tree planting at our canoe launch in Sharon. The volunteers also swept the Budd Street Bridge and picked up litter in the Riverside Park. The kids were very hard workers and we had a great time with them.



Shortly after that clean up day, we held our canoe launch opening ceremony. Many of the people who helped make our canoe launch possible joined SRW members and the public ribbon cutting ceremony and a picnic. Even though it rained, we had a great turnout and friends of SRW launched canoes and kayaks from the new launch.



In June, SRW held a tire recycling day in the Sharon City Center parking lot. Not many people brought tires for recycling, so, groups of volunteers went onto Mercer County back roads and collected as many tires as they could find out of ditches and alleys. We still managed to fill a semi truck! Don Blakesley from Mercer County Recycling Program, handed out some nice “Thank You” items to volunteers.

In June, SRW teamed up with the Shenango Conservancy for a canoe trip that began at Kiddsmill Covered Bridge and ended at the Big Bend Access Area. Over 20 canoes and kayaks enjoyed a relaxing float and participants had a picnic lunch together. We saw an immature bald eagle, hawks, kingfishers, great blue herons, beautiful flowers, and heard turkey and bald eagles. The weather cooperated and we all had a wonderful day on the beautiful Shenango.



Fundraising volunteers set up our funnel cake booth at the City of Sharon’s Car Show for the first
(continued on page 2)

time. Volunteers enjoyed the talent that was present on the stage that day. Thanks to Mr. Bob Crosby at the Vocal Group Hall of Fame for letting SRW plug into his electric for free. What a great fundraiser!

The Fundraising Committee also set up a booth at Buhl Day to make our Famous Funnel Cakes even more famous!! Babs Quincy and Tom Amundsen organized over 20 volunteers to make this one of our largest fundraisers of the year! If you haven't made funnel cakes with us yet, you have to give it a shot in 2005. I guarantee a great time.

Another fundraiser the committee volunteers organized and worked was the Harvest Festival at the Mercer County Conservation District in Mercer. We had a great fall day to sell chili, cornbread, cookies and Gwen's excellent Pumpkin Fudge...we're going to try to get our hands on the recipe! Thanks to everyone who donated food for us to sell at the event! Thanks also to the Conservation District for not charging for this event. Another good fundraiser!

In August, SRW members and families spent a day at Eastwood Field to watch the Mahoning Valley Scrappers. It was fun to get together for something other than a clean up. With that in mind, this looks as though it will be an annual event.

SRW started to work on a DCNR grant for a handicap accessible fishing deck to be placed behind McDowell Manor in Sharon. To apply for the grant from DCNR, the project has to be made public when it is finished. The residents decided they would rather not have the deck public and SRW had to withdraw their application. We hope to be able to help the residents at McDowell Manor by continuing to hold clean up days along their stretch of the river!

SRW received a grant from the League of Women voters for a storm drain stenciling project that was to take place in September. Due to a delay in the receipt of the funding, SRW decide to hold the storm drain stenciling event in April 2005. If anyone would like to help with the planning of this event, please contact our office. The entire project consists of a placemat design contest, a survey to evaluate event effectiveness, a door hanger design and distribution, stenciling of storm drains in the City of Sharon, and refreshments for volunteers.



This fall, SRW held two clean up days. The first was our scheduled Adopt-A-Highway clean up. Several volunteers cleaned up our adopted stretch of highway along Clark Street. Other volunteers, including City of Sharon workers and Mayor Ryan helped us clean up the area along the freeway coming from Ohio into the downtown area. Volunteers filled a dumpster! The second clean up day was our Make-A-Difference Day event. Keystone Adolescent Center volunteers joined SRW and the Mercer County Area Jaycees for a clean up and tree planting at the canoe launch, in Riverside park, and along the river through downtown Sharon. Thank you to all our volunteers!

The SRW Board has been hard at work on the following: Board members traveled to the Harrisburg area to attend a League of Women voters seminar covering topics such as storm drain management, strategic planning, and possible projects for groups such as SRW. Board members also met Deb Nardone of Trout Unlimited for a strategic planning session. Board members got to step back and take a look at the organization and develop a short term and long term plan. Deb will be returning in January to help us with more planning.

Some events that SRW volunteers did not coordinate but participated in include: Volunteers spent two days planting trees with the Hermitage Middle School students along Pine Run. This assisted with their stream restoration project. SRW volunteers also assisted the Shenango Conservancy with some minor landscaping around the new Kiddsmill Canoe launch. SRW water testing committee chair Karen Kosheba has been helping our organization keep abreast of the Hubbard Landfill situation, (see article in this issue of the newsletter). SRW volunteers attended meetings and have been in contact with the EPA during the clean up and dredging of the Shenango River behind the old Westinghouse Building.

SRW board members are looking forward to the planning of our events for next year. Dates for clean ups are usually set in January. If you would like to participate in the planning of any events for next year, please contact our office at 724-342-5453. Leave a message as to what you are interested in doing and Becki will forward your information on to the appropriate SRW chairperson. Thank you all for a successful year and we look forward to seeing all of you next year!

Development Committee

The primary focus for the Development Committee at this time is our **3rd Annual Banquet!** Carol Budanka has stepped up to the plate to chair this event with plans actively underway for yet another exciting and eventful banquet. The committee will meet on a regular basis from now until **April 9th** which is the date of the Banquet. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help out, please call Carol at 724-347-0504 or the SRW office at 724-342-5453. We always enjoy the planning process and would certainly welcome additional people on this committee.

So... please mark your calendars for **Saturday evening, April 9th**. We will once again hold this event at the **Hermitage VFW** with a delicious meal, cash bar, silent and Chinese auctions, awards,

door prizes, and the "State of the River" by Jennifer Barborak, our President. This event is a way for us to celebrate our accomplishments, to recognize your support, and to continue our vision for a clean, protected and preserved Shenango River and Watershed.

We are beginning our canvassing of local businesses, individual, and/or other organizations for auction items. If anyone has items to donate, please contact us at either of the above numbers. Tickets will go on sale after the first of the New Year. We'll keep you posted.

Babs Quincy - Chair, Development Committee



Hubbard Township Landfill Still Pending

By Karen Kosheba

This year, the Shenango River Watchers have been keeping an eye on developments regarding a proposed construction and demolition debris landfill to be put into Hubbard township. Trans Rail America owns a 243 acre site off Drummond Road and has plans to use 20.5 acres as a landfill over the next 20 years. The rest of the land is to be set aside as a buffer zone.

This property includes wetlands and Little Yankee Run flows through it. Because the water from this site enters the Shenango River, we feel that we have a stake in the fight to stop this landfill.

The residents of Hubbard Township have mobilized, and are to be commended for the fast action they took on this matter. They organized a non-profit group, Hubbard Environmental & Land Preservation (HELP), to educate the public and hire experts to fight the landfill. At the present time, the law firm Ulmer and Berne, who specialize in this type of litigation, is representing HELP.

To date, Trans Rail has logged some land, and recently applied for a permit to log more trees from a site that borders a natural wetland. In May, they submitted an application with Trumbull county board of Health, a first step in the permitting process. A decision was scheduled in August, but the application was incomplete, so it was returned to Trans Rail. The company expected to complete the application and resubmit it, but so far they have not moved on this. There were several environmental studies missing from the application, and these are costly studies, so it is possible that they are raising money now, and will apply later.

HELP is continuing to stay vigilant. A construction and demolition debris landfill has the capability of polluting groundwater and run-off water with lead from old paint and toxic metals, such as arsenic and copper from treated wood. With the lax laws governing landfills in Ohio, these and other toxins could end up flowing into the Shenango River, just a few miles from the site. This is why we believe that we must support their efforts. This is everyone's problem.

For more information on HELP, the status of the Hubbard landfill, or general information on landfills, check the website www.hubbardohio.net/landfill. A quote from Margaret Mead found on this website is pertinent to all of us: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."



Waste collected during a SRW clean up day 2004.



HELP WANTED!

In the Spring of 2005, SRW will be holding a Storm Drain Stenciling Project. While the idea sounds simple, it is anything but. In order to make this a success by SRW standards and to meet the criteria of the League of Women Voters Grant that is funding the project, we need help from many people on a variety of fronts. Please see the areas listed below and hopefully one sounds like it is right up your alley. If so, please contact the office at 724-342-5453 so that we can include you in the extensive planning that this project will require.

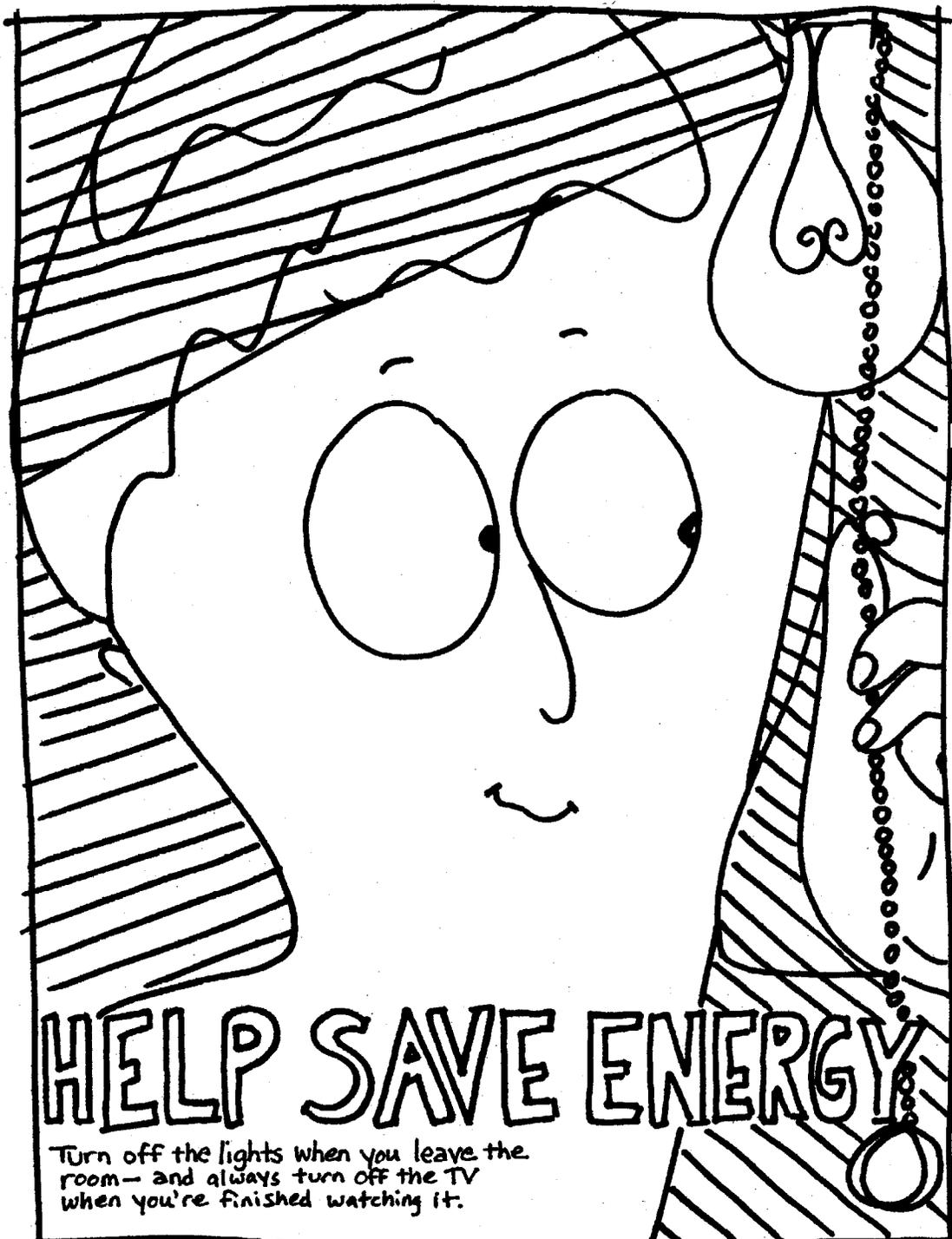
WAYS TO VOLUNTEER:

- Coordinate the food efforts of the League of Women Voters, secure a location to have a post stenciling snack, and coordinate the set up and clean up of food items on that day.
- Coordinate the placemat contest. Students will draw a picture of "runoff" or "storm drain pollution" or something along that line. A panel will be assembled including a SRW board member, a LWV member, Mayor Ryan, a Western PA Conservancy member, Conservation District member, and possibly a Sharon School teacher, among others, to determine the best two drawings. This person would also be in charge of the coordination of the distribution of the placemats to selected restaurants. This person could also work on getting more restaurants in Sharon involved.
- Putting together the material for the doorhangers. Possibly to use some of the drawings for the reverse side and compile a short list of things the average homeowner could do to decrease pollution through our storm drains. This person would also assist with the coordination of hanging the doorhangers.
- Assist Jen and the City of Sharon to determine the best neighborhoods to target and the coordination of the efforts on the day.
- Help with the distribution of surveys to schools and the entry of results into a database. Someone is also needed to help determine what questions would be most effective to ask. Preferably someone with a survey background for these responsibilities.
- Someone will also be needed on the event day to video tape and take photos of the events around town.

**PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF
THIS PROJECT AND VOLUNTEER!!!**

The Duckling Doodlers Page

Color the picture. When you are done, send this page back to us and we'll mail you a surprise!
Don't forget to write your name and address. Parents: Please return submissions to
Shenango River Watchers, P.O. Box 986, Sharon, PA 16146.



Name: _____

Address _____

Age: _____



Holiday Gift Guide ... For Those Special People On Your List

Shenango River's Fall Foliage

Are you looking for that special gift for the fisherman, boater or nature lover on your gift list? Give them a matted and framed picture of the Shenango River in all its glory of fall foliage. This photo, taken by local photographer Ted Fauceglia, can be purchased for \$220.00. A portion of the cost benefits Shenango River Watchers. Please call Natural Reflections at 724-962-4995 to order.

"You cannot truly be an advocate of fishing and boating if you are not also an advocate of better management of the watersheds."

~Pennsylvania Angler & Boater, Nov.-Dec. 2004

2004 SRW T-SHIRTS

The newly designed t-shirts are now available in sizes Small, Medium, Large, Extra-Large, and Extra-Extra Large. Imprinted on the back is the new design selected by the Board from entries in the t-shirt design contest (shown above).

Place your order using the form below. Each t-shirt is \$10 and will be shipped to you as soon as possible.

Qty.	Size	
_____	_____	x \$10 each = _____
_____	_____	x \$10 each = _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Shenango River Watchers Inc. and send to P.O. Box 986, Sharon, PA 16146

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Form

Yes, I would like to support Shenango River Watchers!

I have enclosed my donation of:

- _____ \$10 Individual Membership
- _____ \$25 Individual Membership (T-shirt and membership)
- _____ \$25.00 Business Membership
- _____ Other

Name

Address

Phone

Email

I want to help with:

- Clean Up Days
- Watershed Research Committee
- Financial Planning
- Fundraising
- Newsletter
- Mapping
- Water Testing
- Food Preparation for Clean Up Days

_____ Yes, send me a t-shirt. I've enclosed a \$25.00 donation and have picked my size below!

Size selection:

__ Medium __ Large __ Extra Large

Memberships

New Members

Don Hunter

Membership Renewals

Richard Slater

Toni & Frank Badolato

Edward Buczo

Jeff & Marcia Staul

Patricia Piccirilli

Kim Gilliland

Wendy Warner

Business Membership

Renewals

Butler Wick & Co., Inc.

Staul's Water Technology

Flynn's Tires

Continuous Supporters

Ann & Mike Kotyk

MK Landscaping Supply

Surf724

City of Sharon

Copyland

Duferco-Farrell Corp.

Lenbil's

Upcoming Events

April 9, 2005: The 3rd Annual SRW Banquet

April 2005: Storm Drain Stenciling

Details will follow for meeting locations and times for the events listed. You may also contact the Shenango River Watchers office at 724-342-5453 for further information or to sign up.

Our website: shenangoriverwatchers.org also has updated event information. Check it out!



H appy H olidays
T o A l l !!!
F rom the B oard of D irectors

PLEASE NOTE: The date of your membership expiration is now listed on the mailing label. Please continue to support Shenango River Watchers - your contribution and interest are greatly appreciated.



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Watchers, Inc.**
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