



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

MARCH 2005 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 15

Shenango River Lake - 40 Years Old

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In 2005, the Shenango River Lake, a.k.a. "the dam" to us locals, marks 40 years since it's completion. Finished in 1965, the project's primary objective is flood protection/control for the Shenango River valley as well as for the Beaver and upper Ohio Rivers. Before the dam was built, the past few season's high levels of precipitation would likely have flooded downtown Sharon. During dry conditions, the dam also provides crucial water supplies for domestic and industrial use, recreation, and aquatic life.

The Army Corp of Engineers, a part of the Civil Branch of the Department of Defense, owns and manages the land included in the Shenango River Lake project. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources assist the Corp of Engineers with the management of several thousands of acres. These two organizations each help with wildlife management including a waterfowl propagation area.

Some specifics on our dam and reservoir:

- The entire Shenango River Lake project covers 15,071 acres
- The summer pool (the lake area of the dam) covers approx. 3,560 acres of the total amount
- The Shenango Branch measures 11.3 miles in length
- The Pymatuning Branch measures 5.2 miles in length
- It has 44 miles of shoreline
- Elevation above sea level (in feet):
 - streambed at dam: 866
 - summer pool: 896
 - winter pool: 886*

*(The reading on Jan. 15, 2005 was 908.3, over 20 ft. above it's normal winter pool)

The dam itself contains 60,000 cubic yards of concrete, measures 67.7 ft. above the streambed,

720 ft. in length, and is 66 ft. wide at its base. It contains 7 sluices (gates for water release), each measuring 5 ft. wide x 7 ft. high. Each sluice has a "trash rack" which catches large debris prior to passing through the gate. The day that I visited, all seven gates were opened to 3 ft. (see photo).

The Shenango River Lake is part of the Pittsburgh Watershed which includes several rivers, 16 dams and 23 locks. As you can well imagine, with the Pittsburgh Watershed encompassing so many waterways and dams, it takes a highly coordinated effort to determine the amount of water each dam is to release. At the Shenango Dam, readings of water levels and precipitation are taken daily, and readings from upstream at Kidds Mill and downstream at the Sharon Water Plant are also taken. This data is sent to the Hydrology Department in Pittsburgh where it is compiled with data entered by other locations. The department determines how much water is to be released by all the dams in the Pittsburgh Watershed. If you would like to know lake elevations and daily readings, you may call 724-962-4384. This information is updated daily, usually by 9:00 am, and is available to the public.

As we look forward to spring and summer, many will be heading to the reservoir for fishing, boating, swimming & camping. For your information:

Boat Launch Passes: (available Mid-March)

\$30/season \$3/day

Pavilion Reservations: (14 locations in all)

\$40/day

Camping Reservations: (Campgrounds open

Mid-May) Make your reservations on

www.reserveusa.com

Clark, Mahaney & Shenango Day-Use areas will be opening the first Friday in April

For further information regarding the Shenango River Lake, you can call the Park Office at 724-962-7746.

Thanks much to Army Corp of Engineers' Park Ranger Rick Egger for taking the time to share all the information with SRW and for his patience with this novice interviewer. He can be reached at richard.j.egger@usace.army.mil.

~G Maxfield

Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

P.O. Box 986
Sharon, PA 16146
724-342-5453
shenangoriver@hotmail.com
www.shenangoriverwatchers.org

Join US For Our Third Annual Banquet

The Banquet committee, headed by Carol Budanka, has been hard at work. Meeting monthly since October, the committee has planned an entertaining evening for all. Plan to attend the 3rd Annual Banquet being held Saturday, April 9th. The evening's events begin at 5:30 p.m. with time to make your choices of the many Chinese Auctions and Silent Auction items.

At 7:00 p.m., the buffet dinner will be served and shortly after, the evening's program will begin. The program will include the "state of the River" address, the awarding of the "Friend of the River", "Business Friend of the River" and the annual scholarship. The evening will climax with the drawing for the Chinese Auctions items and the 50/50 raffle.

Come enjoy a relaxing, fun-filled evening with friends and fellow supporters of Shenango River Watchers. Call the SRW office (724-342-5453) or Carol Budanka (724-347-0504) if you would like to make a Chinese Auction contribution or for admission and 50/50 raffle tickets.



Trout Unlimited Banquet

The Trout Unlimited Banquet will be held on March 19th at the Hickory VFW. The banquet begins at 5:00 pm. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults, \$45 per couple, or \$10 for children. If you would like to attend, please call Nick Loprire at 330-638-2982. We would really like to have an entire table of Shenango River Watchers supporters at the TU Banquet.

Lend Your Hand In Clean Ups For

MK Goddard State Park:

PA CleanWays, Inc. is holding a park pride clean up day on April 2, 2005 at 9:00 am, with a rain date of April 9th at 9:00 am. Those interested in volunteering can contact Jolene Laidlaw at 1-877-772-3673, ext. 25 or jlaidlaw@pacleanways.org

Shenango River Lake:

In coordination with the annual Keep PA Beautiful and PennDOT, there will be a litter cleanup day at the Shenango Dam in April 2005. Volunteers who are interested may contact Dennis McCune at 724-646-1124. PennDot will furnish garbage bags and gloves. This is a large clean up day and volunteers are greatly appreciated by the Army Corp of Engineers.

Earth Day Events

If you know of any Earth Day/Week activities, please let us know. We are going to setup an area at our April 9th Banquet to display a listing of all the local activities being held during Earth Week. Please submit your information by mail (SRW; PO Box 986; Sharon, PA 16146), email (shenangoriver@hotmail.com), or phone (724-342-5453).

Attention: All High School Sophomores and Juniors

While you may think that your senior year will never get here, I promise you it will be here soon enough. If you are thinking of majoring in a field related to the environment, please start thinking of applying for our annual scholarship your senior year. In order to apply for the scholarship you must be a high school senior, plan to major in an environmental field of study, be or have been involved in activities to improve our environment, and write an essay explaining why our watershed is important to you in 500 words or less. We will soon be announcing this year's winner, but it is not too soon to start thinking of applying for next year's award! Applications will be mailed to the local biology teachers in the fall.

Recycle...

...Your Trash & Treasure

SRW will be having a **Fundraising Garage Sale** to be held in late summer. Please begin gathering any items you would like to donate to the sale. Details to follow in the next issue of the newsletter.

...Your Aluminum Cans

SRW continues to have the **Can Drop** container located just outside the SRW Office in the Sharon City Parking Garage. You can access the can drop 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

...Your Ink Cartridges

SRW is now taking your used ink cartridges. You can drop them off in the Can Drop (located by the SRW office in the parking garage) with your aluminum cans, **BUT** please put the cans and ink cartridges in **SEPARATE BAGS**. Thank you.

SRW Board Welcomes Two New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the two newest members of the board, Carol Budanka and Erin Kepple. Carol is a lifelong resident of Mercer County and the current Banquet Committee Chair. Erin is a newcomer to the area with a genuine desire to improve our watershed and the experience to do just that. Both women are sure to contribute to the growth and success of the organization. You can see the biographies of Carol and Erin, as well as the other board members, soon at our ever expanding website at www.shenangoriverwatchers.org.

Storm Drain Stenciling Project

On April 5th and 7th from 8:00 am. - 12 Noon, Sharon High School students will be going to sections of Sharon to stencil the covers of storm drains with an important message: "Dump no waste, drains to river". The project is part of an ongoing program through Shenango River Watchers that will educate residents about storm drains. The League of Women Voters awarded SRW a \$5,000.00 grant to assist with the cost of this project that includes a placemat contest, a survey, and the hanging of thousands of doorhangers in neighborhoods where the stenciling occurs. The doorhangers will explain why chemicals should not be dumped into storm drains and what to do with household chemicals that need disposed. The majority of storm drains in the City of Sharon drain directly in the Shenango River or into tributaries of the river. Therefore, any chemicals that are dumped into the drains end up in our river as pollution. SRW hopes that the simple message across the top of the drains will deter people from dumping into them. Similar projects have worked in other parts of the country, especially in the Chesapeake Bay area. Project partners include: AARP, the local League of Women Voters, Sharon High School, the Boy Scouts, Thiel College, Slippery Rock University, the City of Sharon, and the Mercer County Conservation District.

If you are interested in helping with the project by providing snacks for volunteers, supervising students, or distributing door hangers, please contact the SRW office at 24-342-5453.



Help is needed for the spring and summer in maintaining the flowers and lawn areas listed below. SRW maintains these areas and needs several volunteers to be part of the coordinated effort in keeping them neat and beautiful.

- Flower boxes located on the State Street and Connelly Boulevard bridges need watered, "deadheaded", and weeded weekly - this takes approx. an hour.
- Flowers located in the park across from Sharon Subway need watered & weeded weekly - these take about 1/2 an hour.
- Flowers located at the Sharon City Building, the flowers here need to be watered and weeded weekly, taking about 1/2 hour.
- Mowing the grass at the canoe launch every other week takes about an hour.
- Weeding and picking up litter around the SRW office weekly takes about 45 minutes.

If you can help with any of these above mentioned chores, please contact the office at 724-342-5453.

Macroinvertebrate Testing Committee Needs a Chairperson

The Macroinvertebrate Testing Committee needs a new chairperson as Karen Kosheba has stepped down from the position. Karen did a wonderful job training two new teams and getting the supplies together to train several more teams. We will miss her enthusiasm as the chair. Anyone who is interested in chairing this committee should contact the office at 724-342-5453 to discuss the specific responsibilities of the position.

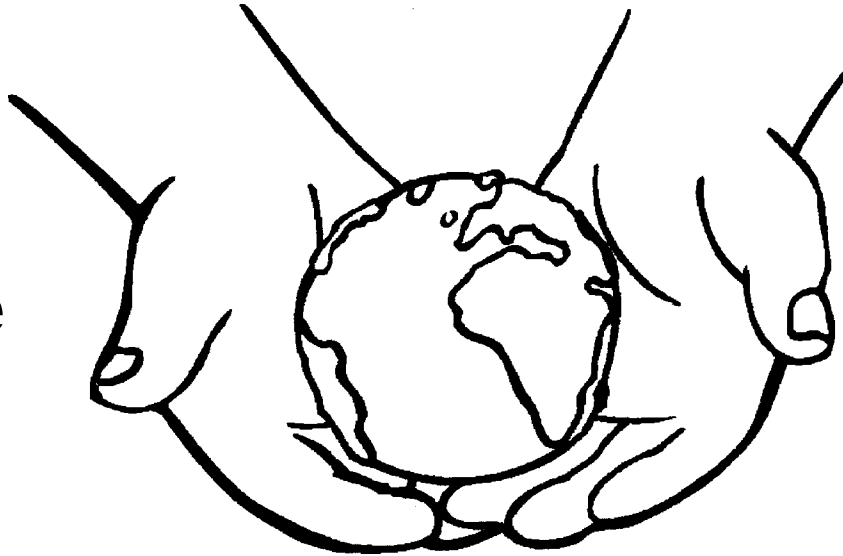
Shenango River Watchers Financial Statement 2004

Account Description	2004 Budget	Y-TD % of Budget	2004 Y-TD Amount
Total Income Receipts			
Growing Greener Grant	\$6,248	22.5%	\$1,403.74
Solid Waste Grant	2,700	100.0%	2,700.00
Other Grants	800	463.4%	3,707.50
Fundraising Income	6,500	130.9%	8,509.91
Donation	2,500	62.3%	1,557.45
Membership Receipts	1,500	121.7%	1,825.00
Merchandise Sales	100	36.0%	36.00
Recycling Receipts	400	89.3%	357.25
50/50 Raffle	0		500.00
Interest Income	0		12.89
	<u>\$20,748</u>	99.3%	<u>\$20,609.74</u>
Total SRW Expenses			
Advertising/Promotional	\$500	115.0%	\$575.00
Salaries (Grant Funded)	4,940	96.3%	4,759.50
Clean-up Day Expense	1,500	12.3%	183.95
Canoe launch (Grant Funded)	600	0.0%	0.00
Tire Recycling	2,700	48.8%	1,317.30
Insurance	1200	86.1%	1,033.00
Legal/Professional Services	400	0.0%	0.00
Newsletter Expense	800	86.3%	690.20
Education/Brochures	1,000	1.0%	10.00
Office Supplies	700	74.4%	520.78
Office Equipment	400	110.0%	439.99
Office Furniture	100	0.0%	0.00
Fund Raising Expense	3,000	149.3%	4,479.62
Postage	1,300	141.7%	1,841.50
Test Kits	100	521.8%	521.83
Food Expense	300	78.8%	236.32
Administration: Phone/Internet	700	115.9%	811.40
Miscellaneous Expenses	508	49.9%	253.55
Total Expenses:	<u>\$20,748</u>	85.2%	<u>\$17,673.94</u>
Overall Total:			<u>\$2,935.80</u>

The Duckling Doodlers

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.

Take
Care
of the
Earth



Draw your
favorite plant or
animal above the
Earth.

Name: _____

Address _____

Age: _____

This worksheet from Kids Domain www.kidsdomain.com

The SRW Crossword Puzzle

SRW EVENTS FOR 2005

Please take the time this year to volunteer your time to assist Shenango River Watchers, Inc. in their clean up efforts and to join them for the fun events, too. Last year was a successful year with a new canoe launch being built and successful clean-up and recycling days. If you didn't get to the get-togethers, you missed out on a lot of fun. So schedule these events into your calendar and be part of the success of SRW!!!!

April 5th - 7th - Storm Drain Stenciling

August 13th - Member's Picnic

April 9th - Third Annual Banquet

August 20th - Canoe Clean-Up

April 23rd - Clean -Up Day

August 28th - Scrapper's game at Eastwood Field

May 21st - Tire Recycling

September 5th - Funnel Cake Booth at Buhl Day

May 28th - Flower Planting in Sharon

September 17th - 18th - Water Fowl Expo

June 11th - Canoe Trip

October 1st - Clean -Up

*June 19th - Funnel Cake Booth at Hermitage
Father's Day Car Show*

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.

July 16th - Canoe Clean-Up

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

July 30th - Funnel Cake Booth at Sharon Car Show

*August 5th-7th - Booth at New Wilmington Arts
Festival*

Join Us!!!!

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

I want to help with:

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

Name

Address

Phone

Email

____ 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

Kermit & Diana Bowman
Nancy Bergey
John & Audrey Columbo
Mike Bolt
Yvonne Ryan
Floy Moreira
Leon Stein
Pat O'Mahony
Joshua Kelley
John Pahak

Membership Renewals

Doug & Deb Fitzgerald
Sam & Pat Woodings

Mark & Carol Budanka
Danny McMullin
Bill & Inge Amundsen
David Roshala
Joe Rotell
John Moreira
William A. Morocco, Sr.
Lisa Stern
Thomas M. Foltz
Mayor Dave Ryan
Donald Feigert
Steven M. Preston
Roseali Palmer
Vivian Evans

Business Membership Renewals

League of Women Voters
of Lawrence County
Business Solutions

Continuous Supporters

Ann & Mike Kotyk
MK Landscaping Supply
Surf724
City of Sharon
Copyland
Duferco-Farrell Corp.
Lenbil's

DON'T LET THIS BE THE LAST!!! Since our Growing Greener Grant has expired, we will no longer be able to send our newsletter to non-members. So, if you'd like to continue receiving our newsletter and you're not a member, please join today!!!

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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