



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 17

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Local Students Express Their Thoughts of the Shenango River

Recently, several of West Middlesex teacher Cynthia Clarke's 5th grade science students wrote essays regarding our Shenango River. Below is a sampling of the essays.

THE SHENANGO RIVER

By: Sierra Hall

Some people might like the Ohio, or Mississippi Rivers. But my favorite is the mighty Shenango River. Ever since I was a child, I have always loved our one and only Shenango river. I am fortunate enough to live fairly close to the Shenango, and one question I have always wanted to know was, where does it begin? I now know, the source is way up in the north of Hartstown, PA. That was surprising to me because my aunt lives right next to it! When I found out that the mighty Shenango went through 5 counties, I was shocked. Our Shenango River goes through Ashtabula, Crawford, Mercer, ends in Lawrence, and on its way, it stops through Trumbull in Ohio! Our mighty Shenango has a watershed of 498,000 acres. A watershed is all the land that drains water into a river. I love water, so much that my nickname is Fish! I am happy that I can live near a place where the mighty, and wonderful Shenango River flows.

SHENANGO RIVER

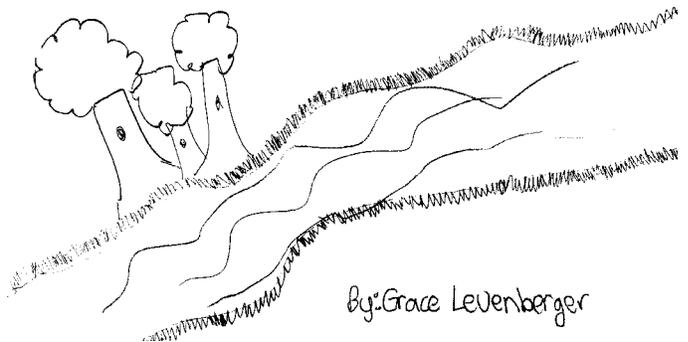
By: Grace Levenberger

Our river originates from Hartstown, Pennsylvania. This river is not exactly the Mississippi River, but the watershed covers 498,000 acres that drain into the Shenango River. It also goes through 5 counties. West Middlesex was settled because of this river and the essential resources it provided. For Indians it provided food, transportation and water. Today it even has its own club, The Shenango River Watchers. It flows into the Allegheny River which starts a chain all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. So without the Shenango River, we wouldn't know of our little town, West Middlesex.

THE SHENANGO RIVER

By: Shelby Pontera

The Shenango River is a very, very interesting river. It's watershed is 498,000 acres! It's water originates in Hartstown, Pennsylvania and it even goes through 5 whole counties! The Shenango River's water also goes into other places too. Like it goes from the Shenango River to the great Allegheny River, to the Ohio River, to the Mississippi River, and finally into the gulf of Mexico! In the Shenango River, there was something known as the P&O canal, the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal. It crossed the river in 1845 and had operation in 1840. It stopped in 1871, and there is no visible remains. Not only does the Shenango River have amazing and fascinating things to learn about, but it has awesome history behind it. So if you want to learn more about our Shenango River, you could join the Shenango River Watchers and even help it out!



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*(Continued from page 2)***SHENANGO RIVER***By: Angela Colella*

All rivers are very cool things! We have our own river flowing right through our own town, West Middlesex. It is our very own Shenango River. The Shenango River originates in Hartstown Pennsylvania. The water in the river flows through five counties! Four of the counties are in Pennsylvania and one was in Ohio! A while back, in the early 1900's people used to go boating on the Shenango River. I would love to try to do that today! The watershed of the Shenango River is 498,000 acres of land. WOW! That's a lot of land! The Shenango River flows into the Allegheny River then into the Ohio River. From there, it flows into the Mississippi River and finally into the Gulf of Mexico. For a small river, the Shenango River seems big to me!

THE SHENANGO RIVER*By: Margaret Drda*

The Shenango River is a mighty river that originates in Hartstown, PA. It flows into the Ohio River, and then in the Mississippi River, and eventually ends up in the Gulf of Mexico. Usually every Sunday afternoon, if the weather was nice, you could see families boating in the Shenango River.

In 1826, the Shenango River was utilized as part of the Erie canal. Beginning in the 1830's, the P&O Canal crossed the Shenango River. It was located 7 miles south of New Castle. If you go to find any visible remains of the canal in Pennsylvania, you won't be able to. There are none.

A lot of wildlife depends on the Shenango river. Deer, ducks, fish, bears, and a lot of other animals use the Shenango for their water, and food. The Shenango River also supplies "Where the Ducks Walk on Fish" or Pymatuning Lake. It also supplies the Shenango Lake.

I really like the Shenango River and I am glad it's in my community

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS!!!!**

Have some artistic talent or just have an idea for our next t-shirts??? SRW is asking for submissions for a new t-shirt design to be used starting in 2006. The contest is open to all age groups but there are a few rules that you will need to follow:

- 1) The design must be submitted on white paper using black ink or pencil
- 2) The paper size must be 8 1/2 in. x 11 in.
- 3) The design must be simple. Complex designs do not scan as well. All applicants will receive a t-shirt with the winning design. When submitting a design, please include your name, address, phone number, and t-shirt size. All entries must be sent to Shenango River Watchers; P.O. Box 986; Sharon, PA 16146 by Dec. 31, 2005.

Donate Your Fish to Research

Dr. Dan Volz at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Environmental and Occupational health is asking people to contribute fish caught in the Mahoning, Slippery Rock, Beaver and/or Ohio Watersheds to a study looking at heavy metals and estrogenic activity in these fish. The species of interest are channel catfish and white and white/striped hybrid bass. They are particularly interested in obtaining fish from the Mahoning River. If you catch these fish just take them home without any preparation and call the number below. Dr. Volz will make arrangements to come and get them. It would be great if a number of residents from these watersheds would band together to obtain fish for this important study. Fish caught from the Shenango River are also needed in this study.

For further information or to have fish picked up, contact Dan Volz at 724-316-5408 or at dvolz@eoh.pitt.edu.

Macroinvertebrate Testing Instruction Course is postponed until Spring 2006. People interested will be notified when a date is set.

SRW Annual Scholarship Applications Now Available

Shenango River Watchers, Inc., Diamond Cleaners, and other contributors will award one \$500.00 scholarship to a high school senior entering a four-year college who has shown an interest in the preservation of the environment by volunteering his or her time in recycling efforts, neighborhood cleanups, or any other environmental cause. The scholarship will be awarded as a \$500.00 check presented to the winner at our annual banquet, April 15, 2006 (The winner will receive two complimentary tickets to the banquet). Interested students must attend a school within the Shenango River Watershed area, complete an application, and write an essay of 500 words or less on how their individual efforts have helped the environment in their community. Applicants must prove that he or she is dedicated to improving and preserving the environment. Anyone interested in applying for the scholarship should get a copy of the application from his or her guidance counselor or biology teacher. An application can also be downloaded from our website at www.shenangoriverwatchers.org. Students should send their completed application with all required attachments to the following address by February 28, 2006: Shenango River Watchers; Environmental Scholarship Panel; PO Box 986; Sharon, PA 16146. Also, any individuals or businesses interested in donating to the scholarship fund should contact the office at 724-342-5453. Thank you for your interest!

Clean-Ups...



Canoe Clean-Up of Summer 2005 was a HUGE success!!!



Fundraising...



The weather was perfect, we showed off our canoe trailer bedecked with new banners and fed the throngs our famous funnels cakes at Buhl Day; and the people attending Munnell Run's annual event cleaned up the chili and fudge we provided.



and Just Plain Fun!!!!



And as always we made sure we had fun: How about that view from the front row behind 3rd base at the Scrapper's game? The annual canoe trip and our annual picnic allowed everyone to kick back and enjoy our

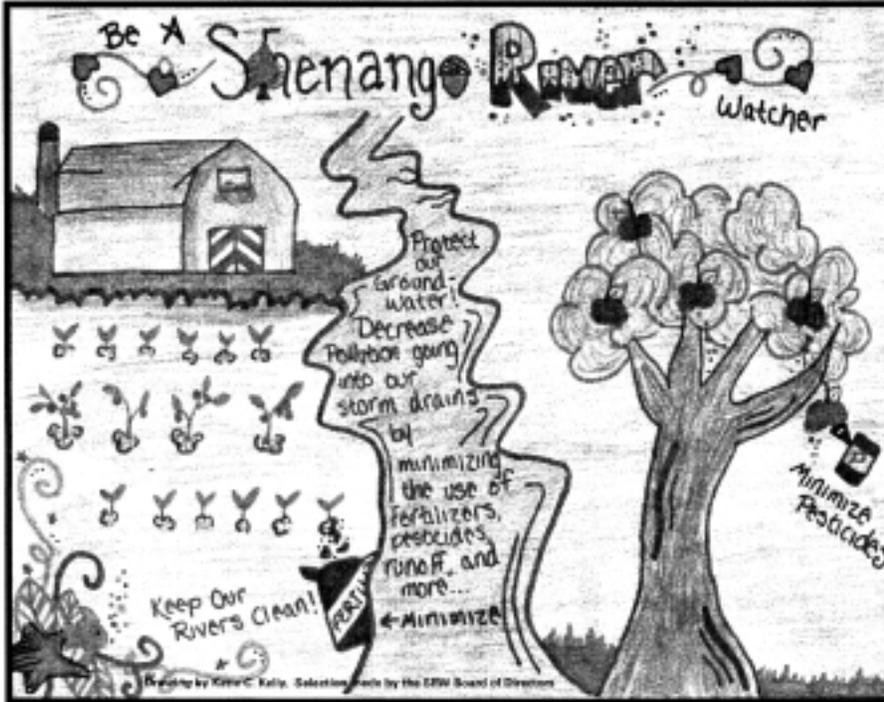


Shenango River with plenty of fun and good food.



**Look for the SRW Placemat promoting our Storm Water Awareness Project in local restaurants in the near future.
 Congratulations to Katie Kelly - our winner of the placemat contest!!!!**

Shenango River Watchers, Inc. Storm Water Awareness Project



Did you know that most storm drains empty directly into local waterways without treatment?

How YOU can help!!!

1. **Return used motor oil to places that sell it.**
2. **Dispose of paint properly.**
 - Dry out latex paint and then discard it in the trash
 - For oil-based paints, add kitty litter to paint residuals, allow to absorb, and dispose of properly in trash
3. **Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.**
 - Test soil to determine soil needs
 - Homeowners can learn to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce dependency on pesticides
4. **Plant with native species plants.**
5. **Dispose of antifreeze or other hazardous material properly.**
 - Check with your local Solid Waste Authority
6. **Store household chemicals properly.**
7. **Clean up pet waste and dispose of properly.**
8. **Wash your car on an unpaved surface to avoid generating run-off or use a commercial car wash.**
9. **Sweep, don't hose down pavement.**
10. **Use environmentally friendly products whenever possible.**
11. **Repair auto leaks promptly.**
12. **Start a compost pile instead of disposing of yard waste in your trash.**

SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I would like to support SRW! I have enclosed my donation of:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Business Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual Membership + T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Business Membership + T-Shirt
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Fill out this form and send along with your donation to Shenango River Watchers, Inc., P.O. Box 986, Sharon, PA 16146. For more info, call 724-342-5403

WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM!!!!!!

This placemat is funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 509 Clear Water Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Membership Form

Yes, I would like to support Shenango River Watchers!

I have enclosed my donation of:

- _____ \$10 Individual Membership
- _____ \$20 Individual Membership + T-shirt
(Please choose size)
- _____ \$25.00 Business Membership
- _____ \$35.00 Business Membership + T-shirt
(Please choose size)
- _____ Other

I want to help with:

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

Name

Address

Phone

Email

_____ Yes, send me a t-shirt. I've enclosed a donation (\$20 Individual; \$35 Business) and have picked my size below!

Size selection:

- Small Medium Large Extra Large

Fill out this form and send along with your donation to Shenango River Watchers, Inc., P.O. Box 986, Sharon, PA 16146

Memberships

New Members

Karen A. Anderson
Patrick A. Williams
Bill Witt
Sarah Witt
Jeffery Yoder
Phil Steele
Dan & Shari Getway
Jane Buckley
Eileen Ference
Jack Ference

Membership Renewals

Stella Lazor
William Welsh
Ray & Arleen Bianco
Lori Zikovich
Renee Gerasimek
Kim Pifer

Frank Jovenall
James Hampton
Dennis & Anna Mary Hoovler
Brian Bader
James Winner
Joan & Emerson Heald
Arlene Sherwood
Katherine A. David
Janet Verone
David Pettitt
Kathleen Bready
Doc Bready
John & Laura Janosko
Marilyn & Jessica Kosloski
Trip McBride
Therese Gallagher
Jay Yasgur

Business Renewals

Ralph Mehler Insurance Agency, Inc.
Rental Service Licensee

New Business Memberships

UPMC Horizon

Continous Supporters

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

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



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