



# Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

SUMMER 2006 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18

## SRW ANNUAL EVENTS

Join us for fun, food, and, of course,... cleanups!!!

### JULY

#### ANNUAL CANOE TRIP

Join us for some of the fun.... the Annual Canoe Trip will disembark from the Riverside Park in Greenville at 9:00AM on July 29th. We will be canoeing the Shenango River to the New Hamburg bridge. The trip will last approximately 4 hours. SRW will provide a snack, please bring your own beverage.

### AUGUST

#### CANOE CLEAN UP AND THE ANNUAL MEMBERS PICNIC

SRW will be cleaning up the Shenango from canoes on August 12th (Details to be announced). Top your day off by joining everyone at the Annual Members Picnic at 1:00 PM that same day in Buhl Park at Pavilion #1 (next to the bandstand). Lots of delicious food will be served - well deserved after the earlier clean up.

### SEPTEMBER

#### BUHL DAY

On Monday, September 4th, Buhl Park's annual Labor Day celebration will once again feature the now famous, SRW Funnel Cake Booth. Many hands are needed to keep up with the masses (and we truly means masses) of hungry people. Please contact either Babs Quincy or Gwen Maxfield if you are available for K-P Duty, either may be contacted through the SRW office.

#### WATER FOWL EXPO AND MUNNELL RUN FARM DAY

On the weekend of September 16th and 17th, The Annual Waterfowl Expo will be held at Pymatuning. SRW will be represented and looks forward to seeing everyone for a enjoyable time. Contacts for this event are Del Williams, Don Clowes and Joyce Cuff. Also, Sunday, September 17th, is Munnell Run Farm Day. SRW will once again have their chili and cornbread booth which also features many other scrumptious delectables. If you would like to contribute baked goods or most valuable, your time, contact Jennifer Barborak.

**Keeping the Shenango River clean and keeping SRW funded takes much time and effort. Please be a contributor to these great events by physically lending helping hand. Interested people can contact the SRW office or email the organization to sign up for this year's events, or to leave messages for those board members who are organizing each event.**

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President

Jennifer Barborak

Vice President

Del Williams

Treasurer

Tom Amundsen

Secretary

Don Clowes

Rick Barborak

Carol Budanka

Joyce Cuff

Gwendolyn Maxfield

Babs Quincy

Joel Ristvey

Dr. Shane Smith

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# The Reason Why We Do What We Do...

## Clean Water Laws Violated Report: Factories, other sources cited

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Water-treatment plants, factories and other facilities continue to discharge illegal amounts of pollutants into state waterways, with nearly 60 percent exceeding the limits of their Clean Water Act permits between July 2003 and December 2004, according to a new report.

The report, released Thursday (March 23) by the environmental advocacy group PennEnvironment, found that 221 of the 383 major facilities in Pennsylvania went over their limits at least once in that period. On average, the report found the facilities that violated those limits did so by nearly 155 percent.

David Masur, the group's executive director, said the blame for the violations is shared among water-treatment plants, mining facilities, power plants, factories and other facilities. He added that the types of pollutants varied greatly and that there is no surefire solution to the problem.

"I think the reality is there is no silver bullet," Masur said. More funding is needed to help improve and modernize public infrastructure, fines need to be increased and more political pressure needs to be applied, he said.

Under the 1972 Clean water Act, states must develop lists of bodies of water that do not meet minimum federal water quality standards and establish a "total maximum daily load" of pollution that will be allowed in those impaired waterways. The EPA must approve a state's lists or create a list for the state.

A goal of the law was to make all American waterways safe for fishing, swimming and other uses by 1983. The report said more than 40 percent of U.S. waterways are unsafe for swimming and fishing, and more than 10,000 miles of waterways in Pennsylvania are impaired.

Kurt Kanus, a state Department of Environmental Protection spokesman, said one of the biggest problems facing Pennsylvania is aging infrastructure, especially treatment plants that must process both rainwater overflow and sewage. With those plants, he said, violations can occur during heavy rains because the volume

proves too much to handle.

"That really is a tremendous problem in Pennsylvania," Knaus said. "We are an old state in an old part of the country and our infrastructure has aged."

He said the state is spending money on modernizing the facilities, including \$51 million devoted to the problem by Gov. Ed Rendell this week, but that federal funding has dropped.

Roy Seneca, a spokesman for the EPA's regional office in Philadelphia, declined comment on the report.

### Report is critical of 4 local facilities

According to the PennEnvironment report, these four facilities in Mercer County exceeded their Clean Water Act permits at least nine of the 18 reporting periods between July 1, 2003, and December 31, 2004:

- Wheatland tube Co., 12 times. The plant exceeded its permit for discharging pH and zinc into the Shenango River.
- Duferco Farrell corp., 12 times. The plant exceeded its limits for iron and pH entering the Shenango River.
- City of Sharon, 11 times. The city exceeded its permit for Biological Oxygen Demand (the oxygen microorganisms use to decompose organic matter), coliform (fecal) material and solids entering the Shenango River.
- Hermitage Municipal Authority's Bobby Run pump station, nine times. The station exceeded its permit for BOD, chlorine, pH, coliform and solids entering the Shenango River.

**This article ran in the March 24, 2006 edition the The Herald.**

*Reprinted with permission of James A. Raykie, Jr., Editor of The Herald, Sharon, PA.*

## ...The Update

Letter to Jennifer Barborak, dated April 7, 2006

Dear Ms. Barborak:

On behalf of Duferco, I would like to thank the SRW and Rick for contacting us and allowing us the opportunity to provide the SRW with a response to the recent newspaper article published in The Herald that listed Duferco as a local industry that has allegedly violated the Clean Water Act.

Yes, Duferco self reported total iron and pH data indicating noncompliance with the facility National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit limits. However, Duferco was proactively implementing corrective action and subsequently entered into a Consent Order and Agreement (COA) with the PADEP in October of 2004 to correct and eliminate the alleged violations. Duferco proceeded to spend several thousand dollars to install additional equipment and controls and as per terms of the COA

successfully demonstrated six consecutive months of compliance resulting in termination of the COA by the PADEP effective February 2006.

I would also like to point out a couple of facts regarding the alleged violations. First, the pH violations occurred at an internal sub-outfall with the majority of the violations being momentary in duration and in compliance with the federal standards for pH monitoring but in exceedance with PADEP standards. Also, the pH violations occurred in a discharge flow that averaged 35gpm and ultimately mixed with 10,000gpm of flow prior to discharge to the Shenango River. Now, this is not meant to suggest that dilution is the solution to pollution but rather to keep in perspective that the pH violations had no impact on the flow that ultimately discharged to the Shenango River.

As for the total iron violations, Duferco corrected the problem

*(continued page 3)*

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through the installation of additional controls at an internal sub-outfall that reduced the total iron loading to within allowable permit limits. However, it should be noted that there are other sources of total iron that impact Duferco's outfall discharge to the river that Duferco has no control over. These include the iron contained in the river intake water that Duferco utilizes for non-contact cooling water and discharges back to the river, storm water from Caparo Steel Company property and storm water from the City of Farrell that enters the Duferco sewer system via what is referred to as Haywood Run.

In closing, on behalf of Duferco, I would once again like to thank the SRW for the opportunity to provide additional information on this matter. Duferco takes pride in conducting its operations in a manner as to be fully cognizant to the environment and to ensure the trust of the surrounding community.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Richard A. Herman  
Director, Environmental Control

Regarding the other facilities in violation of the Clean Water Act permits mentioned in the article:

- The City of Hermitage corrected the problem resulting in the violations and is now in compliance with the permit.
- The City of Sharon will be in compliance with the permit upon completion of a new sewer treatment plant.
- Wheatland Tube Co. had no response and their compliance or non-compliance with the permit is unknown.



## *In Memoriam ...*

Shenango River Watchers recently lost two great members and friends.

**Jim LaLumia**, known for his deep love of the outdoors and a true advocate for clean waterways in PA passed away. He assisted SRW with the writing and submission of a grant to the PA Environmental Defense Fund, which we received and used to help build the Budd Street Public Park and Canoe Launch. He always had great ideas for our group and was always looking out for our best interest. He was also a founding member with Rick and Jen of the Coolspring Project with Trout Unlimited, an organization that also received a lot of his volunteer time. We send our sympathy to his wife and children. His laugh and his sound advice will be greatly missed.

**Sondra Shafer** was a true friend of Shenango River Watchers who passed away this summer. She was a donor who loved to bake, and thoroughly enjoyed our banquet every year. Mrs. Shafer's greatest gift to SRW is her daughter Carol Budanka, one of our enthusiastic board members. Our condolences go out to Carol and her family. Memorial contributions for Mrs. Shafer can be made to Shenango River Watchers.

## *Congratulations...*

Shenango River Watchers, Inc. would like to congratulate :

**Board member Shane Smith** on receiving his Doctorate of Philosophy in Geology from Washington State University on May 6, 2006.

**Board members Tom Amundsen and Babs Quincy on their marriage.** Tom and Babs tied the knot on June 23, 2006. Our best wishes for a wonderful life together.

## *Updates ...*

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant is finished and ready for submission. SRW president, Jennifer Barborak proudly announces, "We successfully raised the \$10,000 match we needed to make this plan a reality." The project is a partnership between the City of Sharon and Shenango River Watchers, Inc. Matching funds were donated by the following private businesses:

Aqua Pennsylvania, J. Bradley McGonigle Funeral Home, Dr. Leonard Pleban, WalMart, Quaker Steak and Lube, Attorney Carl Moses, Sharon Tube Company, Black, Bashor, & Porsch, Cowan Furnace Company, English and Associates, Riverview & Connelly Manors, Evans, Garvey, Lackey, and Ochs, Kurtanich Engineering, HHS DR Architects and Engineers, and Whalen Law Offices sponsored the final donation.

The grant will be submitted for the September round and we should hear by December if we receive the grant. This grant will fund the development of a master site plan for Bicentennial Park and the strip of land across the river from it between our canoe launch and Quaker Steak and Lube. We are excited to be working on the revitalization of this important section of the river. "Having a master site plan opens the doors to a wide array of different sources of funding for individual projects such as, restoration of the river, development of a Riverwalk, improvements to the stage and playground, handicapped accessible river viewing and fishing piers, handicapped accessible picnic tables and seating for concerts, and native species plantings," explained Jennifer. "Without a plan in place, it is extremely difficult to sell the projects to possible funders." If approved, the grant would be awarded early next year and the plan should be finished by the end of 2007. Then, SRW will prioritize the projects and begin seeking funding in 2008. "It seems a long way off, but at least it's happening...that's better than we had before which was a run down park that is not even usable," said Jennifer. We will keep you informed!

## Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Visits The Shenango Valley

On Tuesday, April 25th, Shenango River Watchers president, Jennifer Barborak, had the honor of introducing Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. at Thiel College. Jennifer explained, "It was so exciting to be able to meet Mr. Kennedy again and to tell him what we, as an organization, have accomplished since I last met him in 2002. He was impressed with what we have done, and asked us to again consider becoming a Keeper Organization. Mr. Kennedy was such an inspiration to Rick and I when we heard him initially in 2000. He's the whole reason we started Shenango River Watchers. To have the opportunity to present him was a dream come true for me."



Jennifer's introduction read:

*Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is a law professor at Pace University and senior attorney for the National Resources Defense Council. He is the country's most prominent environmental attorney, and an authority on the laws that have protected America's air, water, public lands, and wildlife for the past thirty years. He is the author of several books, including the Riverkeepers and Crimes Against Nature.*

*I initially heard Mr. Kennedy speak six years ago after reading the Riverkeepers. I was so inspired by him, that I felt I had to do something to clean up our local river. I approached him during his book signing and asked him what I could do to clean up the Shenango River. He wrote down his phone number and said "call me when you're ready to get started and we'll see what we can do." Three months later, I finally mustered up the courage to dial the number, and he answered the phone himself and talked to me about how to begin a watershed group. He arranged for me to spend some time with WaterKeeper Alliance members at the annual meeting in Pensacola, Florida.*

*Working through Mr. Kennedy and the WaterKeeper Alliance, we were given the tools and guidance we needed to start Shenango River Watchers. Even though we were not a Keeper organization, his staff periodically worked with us over the first year to help us become a fully functional organization. Through the involvement of hundreds of volunteers coordinated by Shenango River Watchers, the health of the Shenango River is improving and people are beginning to take notice.*

*I believe my story is a typical one.*

*Mr. Kennedy has changed the world by empowering people like me to change my own corner of the world.*

*Tonight, I know that you will feel his passion, as I did six years ago, and you will be moved to make a difference in your own way.*

Note: Congratulations Jennifer on the honor bestowed upon you to present Mr. Kennedy. An honor well deserved.

## Many Thanks to the Contributors of our Annual Banquet

Bill & Inge Amundsen	Krissann's Salon
Tom Amundsen & Babs Quincy	Kurtanich Engineering – Joe Kurtanich
Apple Castle	John Lester
Art Frame – Margaret Test	LP Bruno's Jewelers
At the Beach	Magnotto's Shop 'N' Save
Toni & Frank Badolato	Mahoning Valley Scrappers
Rick, Jen, & Emma Barborak	Terri Mahanovich
Basilone's	Mama & Me – Alane Jewel
Ann M. Becker	Marchelloni's
The Bicycle Store	Gwendolyn Maxfield
Borland's Golf Course	McGonigle's Funeral Home
Jane Buckley	Ron Meade
Carol & Mark Budanka	Mehler Insurance Agency
Birchwood Golf Course	Butch Merrick
Business Institute of Pennsylvania	MK Landscape Supply
Calvert Lumber	Moore Tranquility – Dee Ann Moore
Carmike's Theater	Judith Morocco
Central Christian Church CWF	Carl Moses
Citizens Bank	Emma & Stewart Moyer
Clingan's Tanglewood Golf Course	National City
Don Clowes	Neshannock Creek Fly Shop – Bob Shuey
William Clowes	Nick's Inn 62
John & Audrey Columbo	Niko & Lou's Coney Island
Community Action Partnership of Mercer County	Nittany Pub & Grille
Cookie Candles	Annette & Hugh O'Brien
Copyland	O'Neill Coffee Co.
Cottage Gardens Landscape	Otter Creek Store – Nancy Griffin
Joyce Cuff	Chris Outrakis
Dairy Queen Brazier- West Middlesex	Connie Parsons & Tom Orolin
Danny's Country Inn	T. Sue Paul
Danny's Too	Sam Perry
Katherine David	Andi Peters
Dick's TV	Phillips Steel Co.
DJ's Greenhouse	Pittsburgh Pirates
Marcia Driscoll	Pittsburgh Steelers
Eat'n Park	Quaker Steak & Lube
F.H. Buhl Farm Golf Course & Driving Range	Dale Rogers
Deb & Doug Fitzgerald	Sandpiper Soap Co.
Flynn's Tires	Helmut Schumacher
First National Bank	Sereday's True Value
Frances Foust	Francis & Sondra Shafer
Framing Loft	Ray & Bonnie Shafer
Renee Gerasimek	Shooter's Supply
Gibbs Flower Shoppe	Sidley Sand & Gravel
Kathie Goodblood	Sky Bank
Graham Stamping	Marjorie Stadtmiller
David Grande	Sunset Lanes
Green's Flower Shop	Surf 724
Harry M. Warner Festival of Short Film and Video	Tam O'Shanter
The Herald	Taylor's BBQ
Hermitage Agway	Mary Faye Templeton
Hickory Grille	Thiel College
Hickory VFW	Thornton Hall Bowling Lanes
Hickory VFW Golf Course	Tony's Pizza
Dennis & Anna Mary Hoovler	Touch of Class Styling Salon
Independent Draft Gear	UPMC Community Health Found.
Jess's	Rich Vetica Insurance Agency
JJ's Lighthouse	Dr. Lon Voisey
Joan's Hair & Nails	The Wave Restaurant
Joe's Greenhouse	Wheatland Steel Processing Co.
Joy Cone Co.	Wheatland Tube
Kingfisher Studio – Patrick Logue	Wheeler's Paint
Ann & Mike Koytk	Toni Williams
Kraynak's	Jay Yasgur
	Youngstown SteelHounds
	Lori & Bob Zikovich

# Memberships

**New Members**

Larry Adovasio  
 Kathy Ammann  
 Ken Ammann  
 Ann M. Becker  
 Noel Carroll  
 Linda Dunsworth  
 Betty Howard  
 Linda Howard  
 Heather Jazwinski  
 Jane Jones  
 Sandra Laurie  
 Frank E. McWilliams  
 Diana Miller  
 Richard Miller  
 Mary Mistretta  
 Tom Mistretta  
 Angie Morocco  
 Beth Pernesky  
 Debbie Smith  
 Doug Smith  
 Shirley Stein  
 Parke Whentling  
 Jenna, Jordan, Jonathon,  
 Nadine, & Mark Williams

**Membership Renewals**

Bill & Inge Amundsen  
 Toni & Frank Badolato

Nancy Bergey  
 Ernie Bernice  
 Dorothy Bieber  
 Lyle Bieber  
 Nancy Bires  
 Ruth E. Booth  
 Edward Buczo  
 Cheryl Christy  
 John & Audrey Columbo  
 Kathy Davies  
 Michael Eddy  
 Vivian Evans  
 Donald Feigert  
 Doug & Deb Fitzgerald  
 Thomas Foltz  
 Francis Fornelli  
 Frances Foust  
 Jim Fustos  
 Therese Gallagher  
 Sue Ann Herald  
 Don Hunter  
 Maurice Keaveny  
 Joshua Kelley  
 Ed McCullough  
 John McGinty  
 Danny McMullen  
 Floy Moreira  
 William A. Morocco, Sr.  
 Attorney Carl Moses

Christy Nickerson  
 Donna Oliver  
 Tom Orolin  
 Rosiale C. Palmer  
 Cheryl Panek  
 Connie Parsons  
 Aaron Pernesky  
 Ron & Margie Petroski  
 Walter Phillips  
 Duane Piccirilli  
 David Roshala  
 Joe Rotell  
 Ben & Rosann Sauers  
 Francis & Sondra Shafer  
 Arlene Sherwood  
 Sam Sirochman  
 Richard Slater  
 Marjorie Stadtmiller  
 Michelle Stenander  
 Jeff & Marcia Staul  
 Matt Stefanak  
 Leon Stein  
 Lisa Stern  
 Gwen Turzak  
 Janet Wendy Warner  
 Toni, John, Zak, & Emily Williams  
 Jay Yasgur  
 Donna Zingaro

**Business Membership Renewals**

Flynn's Tires  
 Joe's Greenhouse  
 Mercer Company  
 League of Women Voters of  
 Lawrence County  
 Lewis & Ristvey,  
 Attorneys at Law  
 Sharon Custom Metal Forming  
 Trout Unlimited  
 Wallace & Pancher  
 Wheatland Tube

**New Business Memberships**

Boy Scout Troop #3 of Sharon  
 Dick's TV  
 J.C. Ehrlich Co., Inc.

**Continous Supporters**

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

## 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email

**I want to help with:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

## Award Winners ...

### Award to SRW

Shenango River Watchers was honored to receive the Bartramian Audubon Society Conservation Award for Outstanding Organization on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at their annual meeting. Rick, Jennifer and Emma Barborak traveled to Slippery Rock to attend the meeting and receive the award on behalf of the organization. We are extremely honored to have been selected to receive this award from an organization that understands the importance of water quality. SRW truly appreciates the award and also what the Audubon Society does for our environment in Butler and Mercer Counties. The award is on display in our office.



### T-Shirt Contest Winner

Shenango River Watchers most recent t-shirt design contest winner was a high school student from New Wilmington. Complete your wardrobe with a t-shirt featuring this award-winning design (dark green shirt with cream printing). They are just stunning and you will be the envy of all around!!! You may call our Order Dept. (a.k.a. the office) and leave your name, address, phone, and size needed. Cost of the t-shirts is \$10.00.

**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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