



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 23

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ANNUAL EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

The Shenango River Watchers Annual Earth Day Clean-Up will be held Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 1:00 p.m. There will be two clean-up locations this year - one in Sharon and one in Jamestown.

- **SHARON:** Registration location will be in the parking lot of the Sharon City Centre. Look for the tent.
- **JAMESTOWN:** Registration location will be near Randall Funeral Home on the corner of Scipio St. and Hwy 358. Look for the mobile message board and signs for parking.

Preregistration is appreciated but not necessary. Registration is necessary on the day of the clean-up. Lunch will be provided at both locations at approx. noon.

SRW provides work gloves, safety vests, and garbage bags.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH

SRW 2009 BANQUET - NEW DATE

Due to the current economic situation, the Shenango River Watchers Board of Directors made the decision to move the 2009 banquet to October 24th. All members will be receiving an invitation in September. Tickets for the annual 50/50 Raffle will be available at our various events this year with the exception of Buhl Day.

We will be accepting donations for the banquet throughout the summer and fall if you or your company would like to contribute. Also, anyone who is interested in helping in any capacity with the preparations for the banquet, we ask that you leave your name and phone number on the office answering machine.

We hope to see everyone there this fall.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

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

Upper Shenango River Water Trail

As you may recall, we commissioned a Feasibility Study to confirm the viability of making the Upper Shenango a PA Water Trail. This study is to identify physical and political obstacles to the project, determine a methodology to accomplish the physical work of removing and/or managing the downed trees blocking the river, and to estimate the cost of the overall undertaking.

The Feasibility Study is largely completed. It required Wallace and Pancher's scientists to float the entire reach, recording each blockage with GPS units to be later transferred to a map and database. They supported each point with photos and notes. This information was supplied to several "tree" companies to obtain a creditable methodology and cost to accomplish the mission.

Several months ago, the Shenango River Watchers, the Lions Clubs from Greenville and Jamestown, and Wallace and Pancher held a public meeting at Thiel College to present our preliminary findings to the interested public. A letter about the meeting and the nature of the project was sent to every land owner along the reach. Notices were published in local papers. Business and private organizations were called and asked to attend. Public agencies, from water boards thru the Corps of Engineers, were notified. The attendance was excellent, with over 150 people visiting our display over a 4 hour period. The reception to the clean-up and Water Trail concept received strong support from the public and the various agencies.

From here, the hill gets steeper (or the current stronger?). We must now get commitments from private organizations, individuals, and grants or donations from other entities, to match DCNR money (a 50/50 grant-to-contributions ratio). Some of this on our side of the equation can be "in kind," such as the loan of a backhoe and operator, labor to haul trash, some teams of horses to snake timber out of the river and through the woods; and so forth. But, necessarily, a commercial company or skilled crew hired and paid by SRW must do the dangerous tree work attendant to the many large and difficult blockages lying in the river.

In partnership with the Lions, and with the help of additional volunteers (teachers from Greenville and Conneaut Lake high schools, a science professor from Thiel College, a minister from the college, and others), we must now proceed to the next step of raising money (really, commitments to fund money next year). The target figure is still in flux, as we attempt to balance our confidence in how much money can be raised and how much "in kind" labor can be provided against a full or phased scope of work. The range is likely to be somewhere between \$75,000 to \$100,000 for a first phase scope, and from \$180,000 to \$220,000 for the full scope of work (again, recall that at least 50% will be provided by "government.").

We will attempt to raise a large majority of the money through grants, both state and private. Funds will be solicited from several private entities who have expressed a willingness to contribute. The balance of the match will be made by "in kind" contributions of labor and equipment.

GREAT NEWS!

Shenango River Watchers recently learned that they are the recipients of two Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener grants. The first will fund the construction a drive from the main road in Riverside Park to the newly built canoe launch. This grant will pay for the materials, construction costs, and signage. The second grant will fund the stabilization of the bank along the Rails-to-Trails project in Greenville where SRW conducted a massive clean-up of an illegal dumpsite two years ago. After the removal of the greater than 40 foot tall dump, the underlying bank has become unstable and sections have the potential to slide downhill, across the trail, and into the Shenango River. This project will involve the placement of a matting material to stabilize the hillside, spraying soil into the mat, and planting native species vegetation to hold the bank in place. We look forward to beginning work on both of these projects.

Downtown Sharon Riverfront Park Progress

The revitalization project around the statue known as the "Can Opener Statue" in Sharon is now nearly complete. Finishing touches to be completed this spring will include the placement of a plaque on the boulder listing the donors for the project, and "sprucing up" of the planting beds. The City of Sharon Beautification Commission assumed responsibility of the administration of this grant for Shenango River Watchers. Thank you to the Beautification Commission members for their dedication to this project. Thank you to the following who donated cash towards this project: Sharon Rotary, Sharon Democratic Committee, Musser Elementary students, Case Avenue Elementary Students, Shenango Conservancy, and the Greater Sharon Associates. Thank you also to the many volunteers from Shenango River Watchers, the Sharon Rotary, and the Beautification Commission who have spent countless hours to see this project through.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Lawrence County Conservation District! They recently learned that they received a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grant for stream restoration work on Deer Creek, a tributary to the Shenango River in Lawrence County. The grant will fund the restoration of Deer Creek using Natural Stream Channel Design, a method of stream restoration that used natural materials such as boulders and logs to redirect the flow of the water away from the erosion and towards the center of the channel. The project is currently in the planning phase. Shenango River Watchers has provided support to this project by assisting the Lawrence County Conservation District with the receipt of a John Dawes grant that provided the funding for the planning and design of the stream restoration project.

Membership

New Members

John Besic
Mimi Filer
Ron Hartman
Rhonda Paglia
Jeff & Brenda Wallace
Bob Wood

Membership Renewals

Nick & Melissa Baron
Brian Bader
Edward Buczo
Carl DiFeo
Vivian Evans
Don Feigert
Deb & Doug Fitzgerald
Dean Gathers
Frank & Erin Hricik
Don Hunter
John Keaveny
Karen Koshiba
Gary Lapham
Robert Lark
Eugenia McConnell
William McConnell

Larry & Janet McCright
Daniel McCullen
John McGinty
Kenneth Mild
Mona Morton
Thomas Ochs
Rosiale Palmer
Walter Phillips
David Roshala
Kathleen Rueberger
Marjorie Stadtmiller
James Tokar
Wendy Warner

Business Membership Renewals

Ann Becker, Atty.
Boy Scouts Troop 3
D.J.'s Greenhouse
Kurtanich Engineers & Assoc.
Primo Limo - Vnce Marini
Ralph Mehler Insurance Agency
Continuous Supporters
Duferco Farrell Corp.
MK Landscape Supply
Niko & Lou's Coney Island
Surf 724

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 23rd

Tire Recycling - Reynolds

September, Labor Day

Funnel Cake Booth at Buhl Day activities

September

Munnel Run Fall Festival - Chili and Funnel Cake booth

October 24th

Annual SRW Banquet

Dates and times have not been confirmed for the following:

Canoe Clean-Up • Clean-up in conjunction with Ohio River Sweep
Annual Canoe Trip

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN

Shenango River Watchers will have the 2009 edition of the t-shirt designed by Sam Perry available at the end of April. Volunteers at the Annual Earth Day Clean-Up will receive theirs at that time. Those not volunteering who would like the new design, please send \$10 to P.O. Box 986, Sharon, PA 16146 along with the size(Adult: S M L XL or XXL).

SRW Team Representation at the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life: June 27 - 28

The Shenango River Watchers is contemplating forming a team for the 2009 Relay For Life held at Buhl Park in hermitage, PA. The event is from Noon Saturday, June 27th thru 8:00 a.m Sunday, June 28th.

A team consists of 8-15 members formed to raise funds and awareness of cancer related issues. Each team member is asked to try to raise \$100 prior to the event. Teams take turns walking the track and may choose to stay the entire time of the event. Cancer survivors and caregivers are honorary guests and participate in the Survivor and Caregiver recognition activities. When the sun goes down, hundreds of Luminarias light the way under the stars to remember those lost to cancer, those fighting cancer and

those who have fought cancer and won. This ceremony of light symbolizes the hope and perseverance with which we all continue the fight.

If you are interested in participating as a member of the Shenango River Watchers team, please contact the SRW office at 724-342-5453, and leave your name and phone number. Board member Gwendolyn Maxfield (volunteering in 2009 as a leader of the Activities and Entertainment Committee for Relay For Life) will return your call and provide additional details. Cancer has touched all our lives in some way, join us as we volunteer our time and efforts for those close to us.

Membership Form

Yes, I would like to support Shenango River Watchers!

I have enclosed my donation of:

- _____ \$10 Individual Membership
- _____ \$20 Individual Membership (\$10) w/T-shirt (\$10)
(Please choose size)
- _____ \$25.00 Business/Organization Membership
- _____ \$35.00 Business/Organization Membership(\$25)
w/T-shirt (\$10) (Please choose size)
- _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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 (\$10 for each shirt) and have picked my size below!

Size selection:

__ Small __Medium __ Large __ Extra Large



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**Earth Day
Clean-Up:
April 25th**

**Annual Banquet:
October 24th**



Get Ready To Fish In The Shenango Watershed

A good way to get started is with some learning. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will be holding their annual Open House at the **Linesville Fish Hatchery, Saturday April 4th from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM.**

More information is available at the following link. http://www.fishandboat.com/promo/linesdayhatch/aaindex_lines.htm

Fishing licenses are now on sale for both Ohio and Pennsylvania. You'll need both to fish anywhere in the watershed, but a free sample is available for both states:

Ohio Free Fishing days 2009: May 2nd and May 3rd

PA Free Fishing days 2009: May 23rd and June 7th

\$1000 Sue Wiseman Scholarship

Do you know someone who is passionate about the environment? Have they worked to develop a project that has improved their community? If you, your friends, or your family know of a self-motivated individual who has worked to find a viable solution to an environmental problem, tell them about the Sue Wiseman Scholarship!

PA Cleanways is now accepting applications for the Sue Wiseman Scholarship. The scholarship is open to PA youth, ages 16-21, who have initiated and carried out personal project(s) that address littering or illegal dumping prevention, recycling, proper disposal, beautifications, or education. An education project must address one of the other topics listed.

Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2009. The scholarship recipient will be notified in September. Application forms are available electronically at www.pacleanways.org or by calling 724-836-4121, ext. 104.

The scholarship is named for Sue Wiseman, whose own commitment and dedication to a cleaner environment led to the founding of PA Cleanways in 1990.