



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24

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SEVENTH ANNUAL BANQUET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009

Please join us for our Seventh Annual Banquet celebrating our 9th Anniversary. The banquet will be held Saturday, October 24th at the Shenango Valley Civic Center. Included in the festivities will be a Chinese Auction, a Silent Auction, presentations to our Business Friend of the River and our Friend of the River recipients as well as door prizes and the drawing for the 50/50 Raffle.

Tickets are \$25 per adult and \$15 per child under 12 years of age.

You will find enclosed in this issue of the newsletter the form to which you may list your need for admission tickets, 50/50 tickets as well as a selection if you would like to contribute monetarily to the Chinese Auction or to the general fund.

Please R.S.V.P. by October 14th so that we may have an accurate count for the meal.

DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN!!!!

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CLEAN UPS CONTINUE ALONG THE SHENANGO RIVER

Earth Day Clean Up(s) 2009

Our Earth Day clean ups on April 25 once again stretched us into two different towns.

A good group of SRW members and volunteers in Sharon conducted a cleanup that was largely a litter pick up operation in and around the riverbanks of the downtown including the Bi-centennial Park and the Sharon canoe launch area. The area received a much needed spring shine up.

We re-visited an illegal dump site in Jamestown that was also part of our 2008 Earth Day efforts. This dump was old, large, and sprawling in an area adjacent to the Shenango River and the proposed bike trail of the Mercer County Trails Association. Again the garbage was tons, the metals for recycling were tons, and the tires were hundreds. With great support from our members, volunteers, and a huge response by the Jamestown community this is an effort for which we can all be proud. We succeeded at significantly diminishing the impact of decades of dumping abuse. It took two years, but this area has truly been transformed for the better.

May Tire Clean Up

On May 23 we conducted a tire collection from downtown Sharon. We collected over 1200 tires for recycling. It was good tire collecting weather: dry and mild. Our group of volunteers gave us a valuable part of their Memorial day weekend and helped us get the trailer full to take a bunch of tires out of circulation.

Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited Clean Up Sharon Canoe Launch Clean Up

June 21 we directed our efforts eastward to the Neshannock Creek in Volant, PA to assist the Neshannock chapter of Trout Unlimited in their clean up that coincided with the 50th anniversary of TU. The town of Volant and trout angling community can be proud of the great condition of the stretch of water. In the morning, we cleaned up the little trash we observed along the stream and had lunch provided to us by TU. It's always satisfying to remove litter from where it shouldn't be. It's also nice to not see it there from the beginning.

August 22 Canoe Clean Up

Due to time constraints and vacation schedules we couldn't get especially creative with our August clean-up. We visited familiar territory by canoeing between Sharpsville and Sharon. We had a small fleet of canoes, low water, and good weather one more time. We have a great sense of pride in this stretch of water. It is a beautiful stretch and the impact of our efforts over the years is readily apparent. If you have not traveled this stretch of water, you should put it on your list of things to do. And better yet join us the next time SRW makes the trip.

Our clean ups this summer accomplished much over a good part of the Shenango River. This was made possible by good weather for all four events and great participation from many wonderful and inspired volunteers. Many thanks to all who helped out, the watershed is a better place because of you.

You Can't Get There From Here

Well, in regard to our Sharon Canoe Launch that's not quite true, but its been tougher. This started in June of last year (2008). After a day of hard work to shine up the launch area, the very next week the barricades went up to block access for the re-decking of the Budd Street bridge. This effectively shut down the launch area for a large part of the summer. Access was renewed in the fall of 2008. Now in 2009, the Route 62 bridges west of Budd Street are torn down until next year as they are being replaced. You can get there, but there is one less path. After the bridges to the west are returned, the bridge east of Budd Street (adjacent to the launch) will be replaced. This work will carry into 2011. Whether the construction affects the launch operation remains to be seen. So for now, you can get there, but construction has been, and will be part of the landscape for a long time.

One other note, if you've paid a visit and noticed that one of the shelters is missing a picnic table, there is a reason. Last fall someone felt that they needed it more than we did. We have every intention of seeing to its replacement, but we're waiting for the nearby construction activities to settle down.

2009 In Review

April Earth Day Clean Up



April Clean Up Cont.



Buhl Day Funnel Cakes



**Congratulations to SRW
Founder Jennifer Barborak,
2009 Buhl Day Honoree**





Tire Recycling Day



The Thoughts That Mean ALOT....

Recently, SRW received a donation that we thought was very touching. With permission, we are printing the letter that came along.

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed please find a small donation to your organization. You may be interested to know that his money is from our "family foundation." Ours isn't a big, wealthy foundation, but rather the small efforts of one family.

The way it works is that we keep a jar in the kitchen, and fill it with spare change now and then. All of us participate, including the kids. Then, when we get a little money, we sit down and have a

meeting to decide what organization should get our next donation. We carefully discuss our priorities, and check larger organizations for financial responsibility through charity ratings. We vote, with all family members having a say, and the winner gets the cash. Since we began in 2003, we've donated over \$500 to many different organizations.

You might have guessed by now that your group won the vote this time around. Congratulations!

Best regards,
 The Hecking Family
 Patrick, Rebecca, Steven, Matthew and Julia

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 _____

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

Size selection:

__ Small __Medium __ Large __ Extra Large



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Annual Banquet: October 24th

Grants Update

Shenango River Watchers and the City of Sharon Beautification Commission put the finishing touches on the park area around the Steelworkers statue along the Shenango River in downtown Sharon. The project is finished and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) performed their site visit in September. The Sharon City Elementary Schools performed fundraisers and donated funds to match the DCNR grant and the Sharon Rotary provided volunteers and funding to match the grant. The finished project really adds a “punch” to the downtown Sharon area, especially in the spring when the thousands of tulips are bloomed around the statue and the trees along the river are flowering. Thank you to everyone who donated time and money: Case Avenue Elementary Students, 2008; West Hill Elementary Students, 2008; Sharon Democratic Committee; Greater Sharon Associates; Sharon Rotary; The Shenango Conservancy; Shenango River Watchers, Inc.; The City of Sharon Street Department; City of Sharon Beautification Commission; Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Wallace & Pancher, Inc.

Shenango River Watchers and the City of Sharon beautification Commission are waiting on the final comments from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the Master Site Plan for Riverside Park in Downtown Sharon. It seems that this project has taken forever! The final rough draft was submitted

to DCNR for final comment in September. As soon as we receive approval from DCNR the plan will be finalized and we can begin writing grants to complete the projects in the plan. A final report will be included in our spring newsletter including a full list of donors. Please be patient, we realize that this planning project has taken a very long time, but once finished, it will provide us with a great plan to follow that has been approved by the City of Sharon with input provided by the public.

Changes To The SRW Board

This summer has seen many changes to the Shenango River Watchers Board of Directors.

The current board would like to wish Dr. Shane Smith, our previous President, the best of luck in his future endeavors as he pursues his career as a professor of Geology. We thank him for his input and contributions to the organization.

And we would like to welcome our newest board members: Mark Russell, John Eaton and Anna Mary Hoovler. We look forward to working with each one as we continue our goal of cleaning, preserving, and protecting the Shenango Watershed.