



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 25

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EVENTS 2010 Don't Miss All The Fun!!!

FUNDRAISING PICNIC

SRW will be having a **Fundraising Picnic on Saturday, June 26th at the Mercer County Shrine Club Picnic Grounds on Lamor Road** in Hermitage. Lots of activities are planned including a Chinese Auction, Basketball Shoot Out with food being provided by The Buzzard Box and a band for entertainment. Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$15 for children 12 and under. Please contact the SRW office for YOUR ticket.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

The 40th Anniversary of Earth Day is April 22. **Our Earth Day clean up will take place on April 17th at two sites this year, Jamestown and Sharon PA.**

In Sharon we will be working to remove litter along the riverbanks near the Budd Street Canoe launch, Bicentennial Park, and other sites along the Shenango River as we are able. We

will meet at the blue tent in the plaza parking lot downtown Sharon and get to work at 9:00 AM. We will wrap it up around noon with pizza being provided by Marchelloni's.

Our effort in Jamestown is a continuation of a dump removal we began in 2008. This site has been radically transformed in the last two years; however, like many big projects there is more that can be done. The clean up work will take place along the abandoned railroad bed where the Mercer County Trails Association plans to build a bicycle trail. The location is just off of Route 322 in Jamestown behind the Jamestown Paint Company. Again, the work will get under way at 9:00 AM and we hope to finish around noon or so.

Since we're split between towns, we can use all the help we can get. If you can help us out on April 17th please drop us an e-mail or call the office so we can plan accordingly.

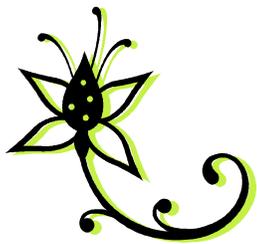
----- Additional Events Are Listed On Page Two -----



WIN THIS KAYAK

SRW is raffling off an **Otter XT kayak in Cloud color scheme (blue) packaged with a Carlisle Day Tripper Paddle and a MTI APF life jacket**. Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be sold at all our 2010 events. Drawing to be in September 2010 at the conclusion of Munnell Run's Harvest Festival. Contact the SRW office or any board member for your tickets!!!

(Kayak package purchased at Wiegels on the Water, Franklin, PA)



Check Out The UPDATED SRW Website

The shenangoriverwatchers.org web site has been updated and redesigned. Important notices and announcements for upcoming River Watchers events are now on the front page of the site as well as on a separate page that includes a more complete list of events hosted by other environmental groups.

Summaries and photos of past events will be posted as they occur so you can see what we are doing in case you are unable to participate. But please don't miss out on any of our upcoming events just because you will be able to read about them on the web site. It is always more fun and rewarding to be outside helping to improve the condition of the river rather than just reading about it later!

We will also be posting links to newspaper articles about the River Watchers events and activities when they are published. Press releases will be posted as they are made available to local news organizations.

Old issues of the newsletter going back to October 2003 are now available for download so you can see where we've been and how much progress we've made over the last few years.

A collection of links to local government and conservation groups has also been assembled in one location, making it easy to find information about rules and regulations for fishing, boating, and other activities in the Shenango River watershed.

You can also find information about our board of directors on the site. We have an active and energetic group with diverse backgrounds and hope to see you at our upcoming events.

In addition to all of the links and information about events, we will soon be accepting donations and membership payments on the site (via PayPal).

Please check out the new site and feel free to contact webmaster@shenangoriverwatchers.org if you have any updates or suggestions.



ADDITIONAL CLEAN UP EVENTS...

TIRE RECYCLING DAY

Our tire recycling collection will be on the Saturday May 29, 2010 at a location yet to be determined. We will conduct the collection by filling a tractor trailer with tires (no rims) for recycling. The day will start at 9:00 AM and we will collect until the trailer is full, but no later than 2 o'clock. We will advertise the event in *The Herald* the preceding week for residents to bring their old tires for proper disposal. The details of the location will appear on our website

OHIO RIVER SWEEP (CANOE CLEAN UP)

We will participate in The Ohio River Sweep, a multi state effort to clean up the Ohio River Watershed, on June 19, 2010. This is a good time of year to get into the canoes (if water levels cooperate). We live by "We all live downstream". and all the work we do in the Shenango River Watershed has a benefit to the Ohio River. This day is just a natural fit. We have not yet selected our canoe route, but check the web site in June; we'll have a better idea then.

We have more Clean Up and Recycling events in mind. Until the next newsletter, please check our web site: shenangoriverwatchers.org.

SHARON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE SPRING CLEAN UP

The Sharon Beautification Committee has scheduled a Sharon clean up day for May 8th from 8:00 a.m. until 12 Noon. Meeting location is under the blue tent at the Sharon City Center parking lot. Please dress appropriately, bring work gloves and yard/garden tools. They will be cleaning up designated areas of Sharon which will include litter clean up and also cleaning up leaves and tree trimming, weed pulling throughout downtown area and along the river. Lunch will be provide to all volunteers by Market City Bistro. Registration by May 6th by email to jenbarborak@aol.com so that the proper amount of food can be prepared.



Earth Day Clean Up – A nuts and bolts perspective

Earth Day is an important day to promote environmental awareness for most individuals and organizations with a mission to protect our environment. The Shenango River Watchers are no different. Protecting the environment is central to our mission “To restore and protect the environmental, scenic, and recreational attributes of the Shenango River Watershed “. The fact that Earth Day celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and is still recognizable and relevant is good news for us all. But that’s not the gist of this piece.

For me, I’ve been cleaning up for a bunch of Earth Days. I have no speech or inspirational message to share in this text. This is the “nuts and bolts” perspective I mentioned. Earth Day is fixed on April 22 each year. For practical purposes at SRW we like to work a clean up event on the Saturday as close to April 22 as possible. In the Shenango River Watershed this is unique time of year that has no equal on the calendar for a land-based clean up, and that gets me inspired.

Here’s why. Cleaning up the watershed is highly rewarding, but anybody who’s worked with us knows that it can be a lot of hard work. The generally mild temperatures we get in our

area in April are welcome for a day of hard work. In most cases April has the trees largely naked and the ground cover can be sort of thin and brown. It’s not the scenery we may prefer to look at, but for a clean up, it’s fantastic. Getting around without everything all grown up is much easier, and the visibility to see the trash that may need rounded up is unmatched to any other time of year. Add a couple of weeks and everything becomes hidden. One particular item we don’t see much of in April (and I don’t miss) is poison ivy. This lets us tread places we might have to skip in the summer. Also, most of the bugs, and especially the ones that bite (mosquitoes, bees, deer flies, etc.) are not in high gear yet. April is just plain perfect to do this work.

One thing that doesn’t work so well around Earth Day is a canoe clean-up event. The water is usually a little high and a little colder than I like to slop around in, but there is plenty of summer to get into that.

Symbolically, Earth Day is important to us. From the world of Clean Up and Recycling in the Shenango River Watershed, it’s the perfect time of year!

Don Clowes, President / Clean Up and Recycling Co-Chair



Dominion Watershed Mini Grants

The Dominion Watershed Mini Grants Program, established by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, has honored us with a grant in the amount of \$750.00. We were one of 68 organizations competing for Dominion grants. This modest but most welcome grant will be used to update and reprint our basic SRW brochure.

A representative of our board attended a workshop, conducted by WPC, in Blairsville on April 8, 2010. This workshop helps nonprofit organizations like ours in various ways. The grant awardees were introduced and presented with their award at this gathering.



Report From The Scholarship Committee

The Shenango River Watchers Board of Directors have been reviewing the information included in the Scholarship letter that goes out to Seniors in the Public and Parochial Schools within the Shenango River Watershed of PA and OH.

They have also up dated the Guidelines and Applications forms for the Scholarship program and copies of each will be sent to all the school counselors. A printable Application forms will be attached to our web site in the near future. The scholarship amount is \$1000.00 and one award will be available.



Meet the New Board Members of SRW...

In our last issue, we mentioned three new additions to the SRW board and we are pleased to add one more.

Following are the bios on the newest members.



Mark Russell

Mark Russell is a teacher with the Greenville Area School District and a graduate of Thiel College and Clarion University, where he continues to do seasonal work as an ecology researcher. Additionally with SRW, he currently is a member of a steering committee for an ongoing river cleanup project. Mark also is a member of the Youngstown State Biology Department thesis review committee, Ducks Unlimited, Arbour Day Foundation, and The American Chestnut Foundation



John W. Eaton

John is an independent software consultant. He was raised in Alaska where he developed a strong appreciation for the outdoors. He moved to Sharon PA in 2004. A board member since August 2009, he manages the River Watchers web site.



Dan Godinich

Dan Godinich is an attorney at Evans, Garvey, Lackey & Ochs in Sharon, Pennsylvania. He is originally from Greenville and he attended Grove City College and Duquesne University School of Law. He currently resides in Elwood City with his wife Jessica and daughter Abby and is looking forward to relocating to Mercer County in the near future. Dan joined the SRW Board in March, 2010. He and his family enjoy a variety of outdoor activities.



Anna Mary Hoovler

Anna Mary Hoovler has been a member of SRW since it's inception and currently serves as co-chair of the development committee. She is a native of the Shenango Valley, a graduate of Penn State University and has thirty years experience in special project planning and administration. She returned to the area in 1997 and is an advancement associate at Thiel College. In 2003 she received a Leadership Shenango Outstanding Participant Award. Anna Mary encourages all who have an appreciation for the history, environment and heritage of Western, PA and the Shenango River watershed to become an SRW member.

... and Meet the SRW Intern, Adie Kurtanich

Adie is a second year Masters of Science in Biology student at YSU with a Cushwa/Commercial Shearing Fellowship. She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame. Her area of interest is Microbiology and she is currently conducting research using metal resistant bacteria. She is examining the internal processes and environmental implications of metal resistant bacteria, specifically several strains of *E. coli*. One day soon, such bacteria may be a viable option to clean up sites contaminated with heavy metals such as mercury and lead. Her interests in community service, environmental microbiology, bioremediation, and other environmental issues led her to become interested in interning with SRW. Her hobbies include tennis, golf, swimming, and watching Notre Dame football. Upon graduation, Adie would like to work in either the patenting field or the environmental field.

Repeal Day Beer Tasting Again Benefits SRW

On December 5th 2009, over three hundred people gathered to celebrate Repeal Day for the third time in the Shenango Valley since 1933. The event was sold out. Repeal Day, the anniversary of the repeal of the 18th amendment to our constitution, marks the glorious end of a 13 yearlong ban on the manufacture, sale, and transport of alcoholic beverages in the United States. The event was a beer taste benefit held at The Corinthian, a renovated Masonic Lodge circa 1910 with Victorian woodwork and other architecturally correct details in downtown Sharon. This was the perfect spot to slip on your best retro garb and sample some sixty craft beers and to sample food. Music for dancing and listening was provided by the sounds of Max Schang and Bathtub Gin Swing. Actors from the local arts guild the Walnut Lodge appeared as Mae West, F.D.R., as well as a small group of protestors playing music for food. A silent auction with beer paraphernalia organized by River Watchers raised additional

funds. Best of all, the event organizers, the Brotherhood of Appreciating Repeal Day (B.O.A.R.D.) selected the Shenango River Watchers to be the beneficiaries of the proceeds. The event raised \$5,000 for the River Watchers. The Brotherhood of Appreciating Repeal Day is a loosely affiliated fraternal organization founded by a small group of friends who enjoyed good beer and good times with a higher goal to make Repeal Day an annual celebration with a noble cause. The group's monthly meetings serve as a social outing as well as an operational meeting, often times less of the latter. The idea is to have fun while promoting the objectives according to the founding resolution, "to fuel the ongoing appreciation, respect, and passion for quality beer and to celebrate, as its high-water mark, the annual observance of Repeal Day in this fair Shenango Valley, western Pennsylvania, and eastern Ohio." By making the event a benefit, the group would raise funds and awareness for worthy community organizations. The B.O.A.R.D. chose the River

Watchers since good beer requires clean water!

The event received national exposure with an article in Wine Enthusiast magazine. The response to the event was overwhelmingly positive. Representatives from Vintage Estates Beer & Wine, M&M Beer, Erme's, Vecenie, and Glenwood distributors, as well as the Blue Canoe, Yuengling, Erie, North Country, Great Lakes, Rust Belt, Straub, and Voodoo Brewing Companies were personally on hand to pour and discuss the beers being sampled. All the beer products were gratefully donated.

Repeal Day 2010 will mark the 77th anniversary of the repeal. Plans are underway to make it the best yet with proceeds again supporting the Shenango River Watchers. It will be a Sunday, so mark your calendar for December 5th! More details to follow, so for more information check out the Repeal Day blog at www.repealday.blogspot.com or email repealday@gmail.com.

Donations

Angela Stamooolis
John Paul
Ron & Margie Petroski
Frank G Curl Sr.
John & Therese Gallagher
Vivian Evans
Robert & Marie Downing
Judith Moroco
Dan Wallace (Wallace Law Firm)
Chris DePaola

Dane Mitchell
Amy Jones
Jill Murrin
Brandi Baros
Esther McClimans
Kathy Diegan
Gary Diegan
Dean Oyen
John Paul
Heidi Sanders
Ronald & Judi Veverka
Jeff & Brenda Wallace
Bob Wood
William Stevenson
Julie Harris

Aqua Pennsylvania
Winslow Engineering
Greenville Water Authority-William Brady
Robert G Kochems-District Attorney
MK Landscape Supply
Sharon Regional Health System
Shenango River Research Cluster

In Memory

Duane & Maria Piccirilli
in Memory of Helen Marian

New Members

Virginia Lange
Thomas Mack
Chris DePaola
Jen Engelhardt
Mark A Williams
Dave & Sandee Hardman
Henry Cocain
Leah Herskovitz
Abby Herskovitz
Betty Howard
Bill & Spencer Drolsbaugh
Eleanor Manning
John Thiel
Catherine J Tulley

New Business Members

Crestview Farm CSA –
Ellen & Lewis Kellar
Wesex Corp.-Greg Koledin-President
Tam O'Shanter GC-Richard Kerins
William Moder III-Attorney at Law

Business Renewals

Gateway Jamestown
Kurtanich Engineers
Ralph C Mehler Agency, Inc
Flynn's Tire & Auto Service
Roll Forming Corp
Staul's Water Technology
Lewis & Ristvey PC

Membership Renewals

Vivian Evans
Mona Morton
Beth Brown
Babs Quincy
Tom Amundsen
David Pettitt
Keith Scott Landfried
Walter Phillips
Doug & Deb Fitzgerald
Don Hunter
Brian Bearer
Jim Tokar
Robert Wood
Carl Difeo
Ken Mild
Ron Hartman
Maurice P Keaveny
John F Keaveny
Trip McBride
Frank E McWilliams
Brad McGonigle
Robert F Lark
Lawrence J Adovasio

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You Won't Want To Miss The 2010 Events of SRW Check Inside For Details

Membership Renewals cont.

Dana & Joan Christy
Melissa Dunn
Linda M Enterline
Frances Foust
John Logan
Mathew Stefanak
Lisa Stern
Melissa Bianco
Kathie Goodblood
Jerry Stanley
Frank Jovenall
Mark Longietti
Dave Magargee
Edward McCullough
Angelo & Donna Stamoolis
William & Sarah Witt
Faith Waida
Vere Bellian
Ray Bianco
Cheryl Christy
Don Clowes Family
Kathy Davies
Michael Eddy
Darin D Flower
Arthur Hall

Sue Ann Herald
Gerald Hurayt
Caroline Krochka
Stella Lazor
Carl Moses
Ron & Margie Petroski
Pinchot-Swogger Family
Dan Resinger
Roseann Sauers
Francis W Shafer
Renee Stigliano
Elwood & Kathleen Walker
Lee & Carol Weber
William Welsh
Parke Wentling
Del & Rita Williams
Tony, John & Emily Williams
Judith Moroco
Linda Herskovitz
Katherine David
Beth Long
Sean McKnight
Floy Moreira
Derek Nelson
Duane Piccirilli

Bill & Inge Amundsen
Ruth Booth
Jane Buckley
Frank G Curl Sr
Morgan Diefenderfer
Cindy Glass
Bob Miller
Dennis Songer
Gwen Turzak
William West
The Hecking Family

Enter a Placemat Contest

Lawrence Conservation District and Pa Cleanways of Butler & Lawrence Counties, is extending an invitation to all students to participate in an Art Placemat contest on the subject of litter and recycling. Just contact the PA Cleanways to get started at www.pacleanways.org! Entries are due by April 30th.