



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

2010 IN REVIEW NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 26

WELCOME

To Our New Home

Late this past summer the SRW office was relocated to one of the truly great places in the Shenango Valley, the F.H. Buhl Park. Thanks to the Board of Trustees of the Park we were offered an opportunity to lease the vacated Gate House along Forker Boulevard. The Gate house is a modest, but beautiful building and a perfect space and location to conduct the business of SRW and we are honored to have our home base at this area landmark.

Our own mission is to "restore and protect the environmental, scenic, and recreational attributes of the Shenango River Watershed". The F.H. Buhl Park is a respected example of the very things we are all about and we could not be happier having it outside our door.

Our mailing address and phone number are the same, but we now get to call one of the great places in the watershed, the F.H. Buhl Park, our home.



Del Williams, Jennifer Barborak and Emma Barborak - September 1, 2010 - after receiving the keys to our new home

** Please see the SRW Open House information listed on page 7*

BOARD

OF DIRECTORS:

President
Don Clowes

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Carol Budanka

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Secretary
Gwendolyn Maxfield

Jennifer Barborak

Rick Barborak

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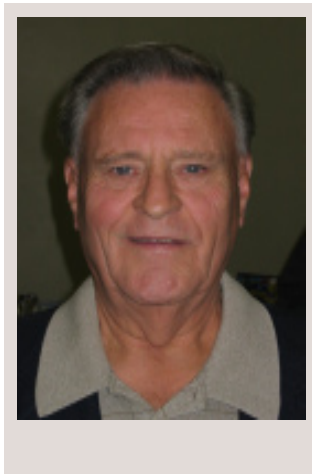
Daniel Godinich

Anna Mary Hoovler

Joel Ristvey

Mark Russell

In Memorium



Del Williams, one of Shenango River Watchers' founding members, passed away on September 5, 2010, after a brave battle with cancer. In 2000, Del came to the first public meeting and offered his assistance with the start up of the organization. He and I had a long discussion after the meeting and I knew right then that he was in a position to assist us greatly and that his heart was definitely in it. Who would have thought then that we would have been graced with the presence of such a wonderful man for all these years! In 2001, he became one of the first board members and provided much insight into the start-up of the group, doing many of the things that no one really wanted to do such as writing bylaws and articles of incorporation. Since that time, Del remained active on the board, held different offices, chaired committees, and most recently became the vice president. Though he could not help much during weekends because he was always on his way to "see the grandbabies" (of whom he always spoke lovingly), he was very often our "go-to" person for things that needed done during the week days. He always wanted to be

involved and was always very pleased to be able to help. His final duty as vice president was to sign the lease agreement that put the Shenango River Watchers into the nicest office we have ever had, in the Gate House at Buhl Park. On September 1st, just a few days before he passed away, he enthusiastically joined me to get the key to our new building. He walked in with a vacuum in one hand and a bag of tools and a coffee pot in the other and said to me, "Hey, now we're ready to get started!" Shenango River Watchers didn't just say good bye to a board member on September 5th, we said goodbye to an integral part of our family, a true friend whose generosity, humor, and love of the river will be sadly missed. Del, you will forever remain in our hearts

Jennifer Barborak, Co-founder

Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

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DUFERCO OIL SPILL

Josh Kelly, SRW Volunteer

On Wednesday, August 11, 2010, there was an incident at Duferco Farrell Corp (Duferco) resulting in the discharge of an oil/water mixture into the mill's outfall to the Shenango River. The incident was the result of a temporary pumping operation that was set up to pump the oil/water mixture from an oil collection pit associated with the facility's Tandem Mill operation to a remote sump location that workers thought discharged to waste oil collection tanks but instead discharged to the river.

Duferco estimated the spilled amount of oil/water mixture to be approximately 13,890 gallons with less than 4,000 gallons being actual oil. The problem was discovered at approximately 7:00 am Wednesday and by 8:00 am Duferco had set up a containment boom at the outfall. By 10:00 am two additional booms had been deployed by Duferco personnel, one approximately 100 yards downstream from the outfall and one at the Ohio Street Bridge. An onsite environmental contractor, Spartan Specialty Services, had also mobilized a vacuum truck to vacuum up an accumulation of oil along the east bank of the river.

By early afternoon an emergency environmental response contractor, McCutcheon Enterprises Inc., arrived on site and had the necessary equipment and manpower to take complete control of the clean up activities. McCutcheon conducted final clean up on Friday morning. Altogether containment booms and absorbent booms were set up at six (6) different sites on the Shenango River.

It is a testament to the rapid response of everyone involved that this spill was contained in the manner in which it was. Downstream users did not have to stop water withdrawal from the Shenango River at anytime during the incident. Thankfully, there were no reports of fish kills or other wildlife impacts downstream of the spill and SRW volunteers did not report seeing any oil on the Shenango River.



Two volunteers paddle the Shenango River in search of litter



CLEAN UP & RECYCLING REPORT FOR 2010

As is customary for SRW, we began our Clean Up and Recycling year near Earth Day and we stretched our efforts into two of our river towns. In Jamestown we re-visited a dump site that was part of our past two Earth Day events. This was a continuation of an effort to remedy a long standing blight of dumping in an important recreational and wetland area. The result was nothing short of impressive progress at restoring this important area.

The Shenango River corridor in downtown Sharon is usually ready for a sprucing up after winter and Earth Day 2010 was no exception. Our volunteers did a great job of picking up the river in some tough, cold weather conditions. They gathered much of the usual suspects; bottles, cans, litter, and a few tires, but the extraordinary find was a prosthetic leg (with shoe still attached.). The story of "the leg" was chronicled in the Sharon Herald and subsequently exploded into the national (and international) media. Over our years of cleaning up we have done some big things to positively impact our watershed, but in terms of media exposure, none were bigger than this leg. This story had a happy ending when the leg was returned to its rightful owner who has had lost it during one of the "Small Ships Revue" events. The owner planned to get it refurbished and send to Haiti for use by someone in need. That's recycling at its best.

We continued into the next weekend with a litter clean up of the outflow area (our Adopt-A-Shore area) of the US Army Corps of Engineers Shenango Reservoir Project. Our volunteers included members of Cub Scout Pack #45 (of Sharpsville) and their leaders along with our own SRW members. This is a popular area and this clean up, along with a number of maintenance visits through the year, kept the area looking good.

We again conducted a Tire Recycling Collection that was held in downtown Sharon on May 29. As is typical, we gathered a large quantity of tires (over 1200) for proper recycling disposal. Also on this same day, a contingent from SRW worked to clean the litter around Lake Julia in the F. H. Buhl Park. The lake level had been lowered for some needed construction that was part of the Casino renovation project. That enabled us to remove some litter both new and old and take advantage of this opportunity to improve this important recreational area.

On June 19 we set out by canoe to scour the Shenango River in Sharon and do our part to support the Ohio River Sweep and the National River Cleanup effort of American Rivers™. Our volunteers did a great job getting this section of the Shenango in good shape for summer.

We would like to again thank all who lent their support to help us make a difference up and down the river in 2010.

Rick Barborak / Don Clowes
Clean Up and Recycling Committee



DOWNTOWN SHARON BICENTENNIAL PARK ~ WHERE WE ARE TODAY

In 2006 SRW recognized a need to improve the condition and access to the public river area of downtown Sharon. We sought out to study the concept and with the aid of matching funds from our organization, local businesses, individuals, and the City of Sharon Beautification Commission, SRW applied for and received a Pennsylvania DCNR Grant to conduct a professional study and plan for the rehabilitation of the City of Sharon's Bicentennial Park and adjacent riverbank.

A Committee consisting of representatives from the City of Sharon, SRW, local clergy, and Sharon professionals and residents interviewed several firms and ultimately selected HHSDR, an architectural firm with a Sharon office, to develop the study. Under the guidance of the Committee, HHSDR studied the site and solicited public comment and input from other interested entities. This past summer, the process has culminated with the acceptance of HHSDR's Bicentennial Park Master Site Plan to the satisfaction of DCNR.

The Master Site Plan is a detailed presentation involving recommendations for a variety of the features to enhance the area. A number of concepts are offered in the plan to address issues such as (to name a few):

Fishing access
River viewing
Riverbank stabilization
Access to the park

Access for the disabled
Lighting and security
Invasive species removal
Parking

A complete version of the plan can be viewed on the SRW website at www.shenangoriverwatchers.org. With the professional plan complete the process can now be advanced to the next phase, which includes seeking funding and acting on the recommended and needed improvements.

As for the money, the funds may include local financial support along with governmental and private grants and other sources. One important item to note is that the plan is a collection of components that can be acted upon independently without the need to secure the funding and approvals needed for the entire project.

In conclusion, this plan is now in the hands of the City of Sharon, the City's Beautification Commission, local organizations, and Shenango River Watchers to consider potential action. All interested groups are invited to provide assistance in acquiring funds and moving the parts of the plan into actions that will enhance this recreational asset and important part of our Shenango River watershed.

SRW would like to again thank all who supported and worked to create this plan and look forward to taking the next step.

TROUT ISLAND TRAIL

The Mercer County Trails Association, Inc. officially announced the opening of the Trout Island Trail during a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, September 17th at 3:00pm. The long hours and hard work of a dedicated band of volunteers was finally rewarded with the opening of this first Rails-to-Trails project in Mercer County.

Honored guests included: Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, United States Congresswoman **Kathy Dahlkemper**, State Senator **Bob Robbins**, State Representative **Mark Longietti**, and representatives from the Borough of Sharpsville, City of Hermitage, City of Sharon, and South Pymatuning Township.

The Trout Island Trail runs from Mercer Avenue in Sharpsville along the south and east sides of the Shenango Reservoir approximately two and a half miles to a point just north of the Trout Island road parking lot in South Pymatuning Township.

Free and open to the public, the trail has an 8' wide asphalt surface and is a safe and pleasant setting suitable for many recreational activities including bicycling, jogging, walking, cross-country skiing and in-line skating.

BITS & PIECES

ADDITION TO THE BOARD

SRW is please to have Carol Budanka once again on the Board of Directors. Carol is also filling the Vice President vacancy.



CONGRATULATIONS

Board member Joel Ristvey popped "thee question" to girlfriend Amy Jones. Amy said "YES!" and a fall 2011 wedding is in the planning.

ANOTHER CONGRATULATIONS

SRW Treasurer Tom Amundsen and wife Babs Quincy became new, very proud grandparents for the first time this past summer.



EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

The 2010 Earth Day Clean Up produced many recyclable items including.... a prosthetic leg. Thanks to The Herald, the story which they ran regarding our clean up day led to not only The Associate Press picking up the story and it reaching worldwide but, the original owner was discovered. He has since donated it to the Haiti earthquake relief.



KAYAK RAFFLE

SRW raffled off a kayak equipped with paddle and vest. The lucky winner was Sarah Byerly, shown here with her son Tre, who purchased her ticket at the Small Ships Revue.



BUHL PARK'S "GET OUTDOORS"



CANOE CLEAN UP DAY ~ DOWNTOWN SHARON



WINE & CHEESE

SRW held a Wine & Cheese at Buhl Mansion in October. The event featured the band, Makin'Changes. Many thanks to the band, the Buhl Mansion staff and DiLorenzo's



SRW FAMILY PICNIC FUNDRAISER

The Annual Banquet became an Annual Picnic in 2010. Great food, our infamous Chinese auction as well as new fun games...Skin the Trout which will become "Pluck the Kingfisher" in 2011 and the 3-point shoot out won by Jim Mondok. We also awarded the Annual Scholarship to Matthew Chess from Hickory High School.



OUR FAMOUS FUNNEL CAKES

The SRW FAMOUS Funnel Cakes were aplenty in 2010... Steve Lengyl of Hermitage Agway allowed SRW to fry those funnel cakes at his Spring and Fall events. The funnel cakes were also at Munnell Run Harvest Day in late September as well as Buhl Day.



OPEN HOUSE ~ FEBRUARY 5TH FROM NOON TIL 3PM

Want to learn more about the activities and involvements of SRW in our community? Ever wanted to see what the inside of the Buhl Park Gate House looks like? Well here is your BIG opportunity....

Join SRW on Saturday, February 5th from Noon til 3pm for an Open House. Begin by going to the Activities Building (right across the drive from the Gate House), meet SRW board members and committee members. Learn about what each committee's activities are and the involvement SRW has throughout the watershed.

Every 15 minutes, a board member will lead a small group over to our new office in the Gate House for a tour of the facility. Due to space limitations at the office, we must conduct the touring as stated.

This is a great opportunity to see where your "talents" can have an impact on our watershed and, if you haven't already, become a member of SRW.

New Members

Christie Zwahlen
Dan & Jess Godinich
Joel & Mary Jane Beeghly
Alice Clowes
Susan Quimby
Robert Yeatts
Michael Yeatts
John Walls
Leslie Danos
Paul Curry
Kim, Allan, Nikolas, & Zachary Hunchuk
David Ochs
Steve & Gert Kocis
Stephen Sherman II
Alan Endicott
Dave Whaling
Fred Kiser
Edward Slavick
Linda Oman
Steve & Valerie Dunch
Gary, Cassie, Derek & Abby Douglas
Robert Downing
Scott Andrejchak
Ron, Angie & Noah Orndorff
Dan & LeeAnn Suso
Richard McClain

Membership Renewals

Terri Mahanovich
Randy Martin
Paula & Attorney Carl Moses
John, Toni & Emily Williams
Ray Bianco
Frances Foust
Sam & Pat Woodings
Caroline Krochka
Gary & Renee Calleja
Mathew Stephanak
Edward McCullough
Cheryl Christy
Janet Warner

Margie & Ron Petroski
Kathy Davies
Judith Moroco
Linda Enterline
Gerald Hurayt
Frank Jovenall
Stella Lazor Family
Renee Stigliano Family
Michael Eddy
Pinchot-Swogger Family
Bill & Sarah Witt
Lawrence Adovasio
Mark Longietti
Melissa Bianco
Faith Waida
John Logan Family
Julie Harris
John Besic Family
Jeff & Brenda Wallace
Dennis Vasil Family
Dr. Derek Nelson
The Hecking Family
Larry & Janet McCright
Melissa Baron
Patty Rossi
Sean McKnight & Family
Richard Parks
Morgan Diefenderfer
Nick & Melissa Baron & Family
Rick, Jen & Emma Barborak
Richard, Diana & Sarah Miller
Sandra Laurie
Angie Morocco
Jane Buckley
Frank & Erin Hricik
Duane Piccirilli
Floy Moreira
Bill Bell
Katherine David
Dale Rogers
Linda Royal
Ruth Booth
William Morocco

John Paul Family
Lori McEwen
John A Walls
Frank & Toni Badalato
Gwendolyn Maxfield
Tony & Rhonda Paglia
Gary & Patty Beatty
Frank Curl Sr.
Thomas Ochs
Kathleen Rueberger
Gary Lapham
Mary "Babs" Davis
Marjorie Stadtmiller
Mike McLaughlin
Therese & John Gallagher
Danny McMullen
Bill & Inge Amundsen
Vivian Evans
Mark & Carol Budanka
Sally & Greer Hayden
Connie Parsons
Lori Zikovich
Rosalie Palmer
Karen Kosheba
Marcia Moyer
Dorothy Bieber
Marilyn & Joseph Kosloski
Larry & Janet Verone
Nancy Bires
Donna Oliver
David Rashala
Nancy Bergey
Jack Wormley
Jim Fustos
The Stenander Family
Joseph Baldwin
Phil Steele
Dan & Sharyl Getway
Ann Becker
The Alec Moyer Family
William West
Kathy & Jim Ryan



**Shenango River
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SRW OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 5TH AT OUR NEW OFFICE & ACTIVITIES BUILDING

Be Sure To Keep
Checking Our Website
For The 2011
List Of Events
As SRW Celebrates It's
10th
ANNIVERSARY

New Business Members

Thomasello's Carpet & Upholstry
Cleaning
Shiloh Farm

Business Renewals

Lewis & Ristvey
Rolling Form Corporation
Dick's TV
Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course
William Moder III Attorney at Law
Greenville Water Authority
Robert G Kochems District Attorney
Mercer County
Keystone Research, Inc.
Sharon Regional Health System
Boy Scout Troop # 3 of Sharon
Primo Limousine
MK Landscape Supply
Wheatland Tube
UPMC Horizon
Slovak Home

In Memory

In Memory of Dr. Thomas Mistretta:
Richard & Kara Burnett, Brian & Katy
Perse & Robert & Mer Saleman

In Memory of Del Williams :
Lincoln Electric
Robert & Cindy Inman
Joe & Carol Baker
Milan & Stephanie Shumkaroff
Shirley Gagliardi
Howard T Phillips
Connie Gerba & Gilbert's Insurance
& Consulting
LaVonne & Charlie Wells
Robert & Delores Witzigman
Scott, Amy Blair & Family
UVA Children's Hospital Leadership
Colleagues
Lillias & Daniel Olson
Fred & Ida Bursey
Dennis & Anna Mary Hoovler
Tom Amundsen & Babs Quincy
Rick, Jen & Emma Barborak
Debra Fait
James & Charlotte Walker

Donations

Therese & John Gallagher
Vivian Evans
Mark & Carol Budanka
Connie Parsons
MK Landscape Supply
Karen Kosheba
Jim Fustos
Phil Steele
Frank Curl Sr.
John Paul Family
Sharon Regional Health System
Patty Rossi
Robert Kochems
John Besic
Gary & Cassie Douglas
Judith Moroco
Robert Lark
Danny McMullen
Wal Mart
Aqua Pennsylvania