



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

O C T O B E R 2 0 0 3 N E W S L E T T E R I S S U E 1 0

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Del Williams

Treasurer
Tom Amundsen

Secretary
Joyce Cuff

Rick Barborak
Amy Boyer
Mike McLaughlin
Robert Price
Babs Quincy

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Completion of Canoe Launch Near

By Jennifer Barborak

Have you seen the newly constructed canoe launch at the corner of Budd Street and the Shenango Valley Freeway? If you haven't, take a few moments to swing by and admire the handy work of multiple volunteers and businesses. Our new sign is finished and the City of Sharon has approved the location. If we could just get a dry day, we could get the holes dug and the posts set. The grand opening will be held in the spring, just in time for summer canoeing and fishing.

The canoe launch opens up a whole section of the river previously not easily accessible to the public. The fishing, from the launch down to the dam behind Duferco Steel, is excellent (although there are limitations on the fish you can eat from this section of the river). The water is slow enough through this stretch that you can actually turn around and canoe back up the river to the launch.

Several area businesses came together to help us complete the launch. Since our last newsletter, CCL Containers gave Shenango River Watchers a grant to purchase materials for educational kiosks. They will be built by Thiel College students this semester. They also purchased materials, soil, and limestone for the area. Several CCL Container workers and their families spent a day with us installing the split rail fences, setting the posts for the kiosks, and planting many plants. We finished just in time to get to Quaker Steak and Lube for lunch and watch the rain come down in buckets! (No need to water the newly planted trees and shrubs!)

Matt Kraynak of MK Landscape Supply delivered several loads of topsoil at a discount and volunteers from SRW spent two clean up days leveling soil and planting more plants. Thiel College students and Dr. Joyce Cuff will be spending this semester making and installing the educational kiosks.

The greatest part of the building of the launch was our first official use, which came a few weeks ago when we held our annual picnic there. Watch for the grand opening and dedication ceremony this spring. We hope to see you all there to celebrate our hard work.

A Note From The President ...

Jennifer Barborak

This has been a year of changes for SRW board members. New jobs with new schedules for several of us made for a challenging summer, making it necessary to change dates for events with just a few weeks notice. The birth of my daughter, Emma, at the end of June made an already hectic summer even more chaotic. Through all of these changes, the SRW Board of Directors and our Office Assistant Becki Clemetson, pulled together and we only had to cancel one event (a clean up day due to inclement weather!). Without Becki's hard work and dedication (and her excellent goodies for meetings and fund-raisers), SRW could never have been as efficient as we are with memberships, t-shirt orders, newsletters, clean

up days, booths, etc., etc., etc.!!!! But mostly, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the excellent group of people that makeup SRW Board of Directors. They not only pulled together for the organization, but also to help Rick and I in our newest role of parents! Their hard work and dedication are to be commended. How fortunate we are to have this fine group working together to clean up, preserve and protect the Shenango River!

A special thanks to all our hard working volunteers, our supportive members, and all those who purchased items from us at our many events.

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

Mercer County Conservation District's Munnell Run Farm

By Jim Mondock, Mercer County Conservation District

Since 1989, the Mercer County Conservation District has committed to enhancing the county farm, Munnell Run Farm, to be a hands-on education experience, outdoor laboratory, demonstration farm and research facility. The mission is to provide a facility and programs that educate students and adults in watershed management, nonpoint source pollution control, stream ecology, wetlands, forestry and agriculture.

Agriculture and the environment are, by nature, interdependent. Agriculture can be environmentally friendly and demonstrations how that can be done is part of Munnell Run Farm's mission. The project is located on 163 acres of the county-owned farmland formerly operated in support of the County Home and Hospital. The acreage includes 42 acres of cropland, 54 acres of pasture, 11 acres of managed woodlot, 35 acres of tree plantation and 7 acres of hayland.

Munnell Run, the farm's named sake, meanders through the farm's pasture and scrub forest for a distance of about a half-mile. Water quality has been monitored in the stream since 1988, prior to the installation of agriculture "Best Management Practices" (BMP). The goal of the monitoring program was to measure the impact, if any, of the BMPs on water quality. Twenty-seven chemical and physical parameters are tested through the lab at Grove City College on a quarterly basis. Macroinvertebrate sampling was begun in the mid-1990's. Electro-fishing has also been done through Grove City College periodically over the same period.

Beginning in the early 1990's, BMPs were installed on cropland and pastureland that helped to control erosion and stormwater runoff and to limit livestock access to the stream. Contour strip cropping, crop rotation, a grassed waterway and a diversion terrace control erosion and stormwater runoff from cropland. Managed pasture and stream fencing limit livestock access to Munnell Run. The rotational grazing system, installed on 25 acres of pasture in 1992, included fencing of 1,000 feet of Munnell Run to create a 5 acre riparian buffer. An additional 1,200 feet of stream were fenced in 2000.

This riparian protection has proven to be an important component of water quality improvement. It is especially important on the small tributaries known as headwater streams (also called first order streams) such as Munnell Run, and the second order streams formed by two headwater streams. Dr. Bernard Sweeney of the Stroud Research Facility near Philadelphia, and others have proven beyond a doubt that forested riparian buffers improve water quality.

How does that work? According to Dr. Sweeney, Pennsylvania streams and forests evolved together from the ice age. Trees along stream banks provide shade to moderate water temperature. The roots helped to stabilize stream banks. Their fallen leaves provided food for aquatic organisms and their fallen branches and trunks provided habitat. Forested flood plains and uplands minimize the sedimentation of streams. The leaves, fallen trunks and branches that build up on the flood plain absorb rainfall and release it slowly to the stream system. It also provides habitat for fungi, bacteria and a host of other organisms that break down this detritus into humus and nutrients that feed the trees of the forests and the food chain of the streams.

In studies done by Stroud it was found that forested streams were wider and shallower with an abundance of rocks and woody debris that provided habitat for macroinvertebrates and other aquatic organisms. Stream temperatures fluctuated less than in non-forested streams, contributing to a more favorable habitat for a wider variety of stream life. Other studies have shown that forested buffers can remove nutrients and other pollutants from surface and shallow groundwater before it reaches the stream. This has been shown at Munnell Run Farm where monitoring showed a 60% reduction in fecal coliform bacteria and a 40% reduction in total phosphorous within fourteen months of creating a riparian buffer by fencing the stream.

Beginning in 1993, the riparian buffer was planted to wetland species of shrubs such as silky dogwood, honeysuckle, alder and red osier dogwood. Later plantings included viburnum, red oak, ash and river birch. The stream in this section is now shaded by alders. Electrofishing samples have found cold water species of fish (e.g. sculpin) in the stream where it was previously dominated by warm water species (e.g. suckers, dace). Macroinvertebrate sampling using the "Save Our Streams" protocol has shown a greater diversity of taxa, indicating excellent water quality.

Funding for the research, development and operation of Munnell Run Farm has been provided largely through various state and federal grants, but also through MCCD initiatives and the County Commissioners over that 16-year period. Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act, state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Special Projects, Growing Greener and the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps have provided funding for BMP construction and building renovation. Additional funds were raised by MCCD through the sale of seedlings, Christmas wreaths, USGS maps and from donations. Volunteers have helped by planting trees and erecting nesting boxes. Two Eagle Scout projects facilitated the establishment of more than a half-mile of trails in the woodlot and the riparian zone. The trout nursery is operated by the Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The Munnell Run Farm Foundation, Inc. was established in 2002 as a nonprofit 501c(3) corporation for the purpose of extending the funding sources to private foundations, industrial and commercial sources and individuals and groups that share the ideals of MRF. MRFF, Inc. holds a 99-year lease and a conservation easement on the Munnell Run Farm property that will ensure that it remains in agriculture and educational use for generations to come. The construction of Best Management Practices (BMP) and the improvements in safety and aesthetics have allowed MCCD to bring students and adults to the farm to learn about the connection of agriculture and ecology in a farm setting.

Munnell Run Farm is a work in progress as improvements are made each year. It is intended that it will be the premiere facility in the region for demonstrating the interrelationship between agriculture and ecology, for documenting the economics of alternative agricultural practices, providing hands-on educational programs that meet the Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology in Pennsylvania schools, and to provide a window into the past with a rural life museum.

Everybody Say . . .



“SHENANGO!!”

CLEAN -UP DAYS,
CANOE TRIPS
AND
TIRE RECYCLING



Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee

Look for changes to this committee. Karen Kosheba of Sharon has agreed to take over as Chair. She will be contacting committee members for ideas of how to run things more smoothly and provide assistance to those that need it. I am pleased that Karen has stepped forward to help and wish her the best of luck as the new Chair!

~Jennifer

Education Committee

The Education Committee is working with the Thiel College Tri-Beta Honorary Society to develop educational material to be installed in information kiosks at the canoe launch in Sharon. The students will be building the frames, installing them, and generating the material to go into them. It is expected that we will complete our task sometime this fall.

~ Joyce

Clean-Up Committee

Thank you to all the participants in our clean up days this summer. Our volunteers assisted in the clean up of approx. 10,000 pounds of illegal dumping and litter this year and also assisted in the maintenance and construction of our canoe launch in Sharon. Due to high water and inclement weather, we had to cancel both of our canoe clean up days this year. We do plan to hold canoe clean up days next year and look forward to working with our dedicated volunteers to keep cleaning up the watershed. A tire-recycling day held in July yielded over 1,000 tires (approx. 22,000 pounds!)> Thanks to all our hard working volunteers and those of you who utilize our can drop, SRW won the prestigious Waste Watchers Award (for our recycling efforts) for the second year in a row! Good job everyone!

~Jennifer

PA DEP Northwest Regional Roundtable

By Karen Kosheba

The annual organizational meeting of the PA Department of Environmental Protection Northwest Regional Roundtable was held June 19, 2003, at Five Forks Restaurant in Tionesta. There was an election of officers and discussion of new directions for the next year.

Judy Acker of French Creek Outdoor Learning Center will continue as co-chair along with Karen Kosheba of Shenango River Watchers. Sarah Stevenson was named vice chair.

A major problem identified by the members is public exposure and participation. With this in mind, committees were assigned for membership, networking with other Roundtables in the state, dialog with DEP, and media communications. The focus for this coming year will be recruiting new members and gaining a more active voice with DEP.

The Mission Statement was also re-examined and the Roundtable will make an effort to get back to it. The mission is "to focus the attention of an informed and diverse group of citizens to DEP's activities and programs, recommend program improvements, and express citizen and community concerns, with the goal of improving the environmental quality of the region".

The effort to broaden exposure to the general public and get more people involved will be a prime concern. It was agreed by all members in attendance that we need a diverse group of new members who will work to strengthen our voice.

The Roundtable will be seeking interested citizens from the following categories: Business and Industry, Government and Local Officials, Technical, and Public Interest Groups. We are also interested in opening a dialog with citizens who have concerns about DEP related issues.

On September 25, 2003, the Regional Roundtable met at the Meadville DEP building. Kelly Burch, the director of the NW DEP office, introduced himself and highlighted his experiences as Regional Director. He expressed concern at the 15% cut in his

budget, which will mean fewer personnel to keep up with all the work and fewer advancements for those doing the work. Many of the most difficult issues he has faced this last year have occurred in Butler County. Well water contamination in Petrolia has been a major concern. Water there is not safe for drinking and may be unsafe for all uses due to chemical contaminants, but, at present, there is opposition to the proposed DEP resolution for a solution. Other difficulties he has addressed were the Sechan landfill proposal for an area that abuts McConnell's Mill State Park and the AKA Steel problems that had occurred in connection with the Connoquenessing Creek, also in Butler.

Mr. Burch appears very supportive of the Regional Roundtable. We were delighted and encouraged by his strong support of our efforts on the harms vs. benefits review methodology for landfills. We believe Director Burch will assist us to make the roundtable effective and vital.

The Roundtables have been in existence since the early 1980's. There were originally six district meetings, however, there are only three currently active Regional Roundtables. At this time, the Northwest Regional Roundtable includes twelve counties represented largely by environmental public interest individuals. A new member to serve in the technical category, Jane Schautz, was enthusiastically approved for membership at the September meeting. She will represent Clarion County.

Members presented issues of concern from their districts/county: David Gordon-Jefferson, Keith Klinger-Venango, Karen Kosheba & Jane Cleary - Mercer, Sarah Stevenson-Butler and Judy Acker-Crawford.

We were pleased to hear that the PA DCNR River of the Year designation was awarded to French Creek in our region.

Anyone who would like more information on the Roundtable should call Judy Acker (814-337-7305) or Karen Kosheba (724-342-2646).

Development Committee

Since the last newsletter publication, The Development committee has been: making money, signing on new members and having lots of fun!

We attended the First Annual (three-day) New Wilmington Arts and Heritage Festival, August 8-10, with an information booth, during which we signed on eleven new members. We look forward to getting to know these folks from “that end of the watershed” and we hope they will become actively involved with us.

Buhl Day, September 1st, was again a huge success. Despite heavy rains on and off all day, we kept those “famous” funnel cakes going and made almost \$1000 for our organization. Many members pitched in that day and I want to thank them all. Regardless of the hard work to prepare and dismantle our booth, it is always great fun. Once again, Joyce was the “Funnel Cake Queen”. When she showed up, right away she began with making 2 at a time, putting the rest of us to shame for being such slackers!!!

Then on Sunday, September 21st, we again set up at the Community Harvest Festival at the Mercer County Conservation District’s Munnell Run Farm. It was a gorgeous day and we made over \$200 selling chili and cornbread: vegetarian (by Tom) and meat (by Jen and her mom Ann Kotyk). Delicious cakes were donated by Carol Budanka’s mother, and our secretary, Becki Clemetson donated the best apple pie you have ever had as well as chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies. Everything sold out. A special thanks to Mike Kotyk (Jen’s Dad) for making our new TENT happen and for tirelessly and energetically keeping us all on our toes all day long!!! Next year, tranquilizers for that man!!

And NOW we begin our focus on our second annual Spring BANQUET, which will be Saturday evening, April 24th, at the Hermitage VFW. So start thinking about whether you would like to help with this super duper fun event. New members: give me a call if you’d like to be involved. We will have Chinese and silent auctions, dinner, awards, door prizes and more.

So thank you again to all who have helped and I look forward to continuing our work as we preserve and care for our river, ‘cuz that’s what we’re all about!!

Babs Quincy
 Chair, Development Committee
 724-946-8659 or Email: quincybi@westminster.edu

Newsletter Committee

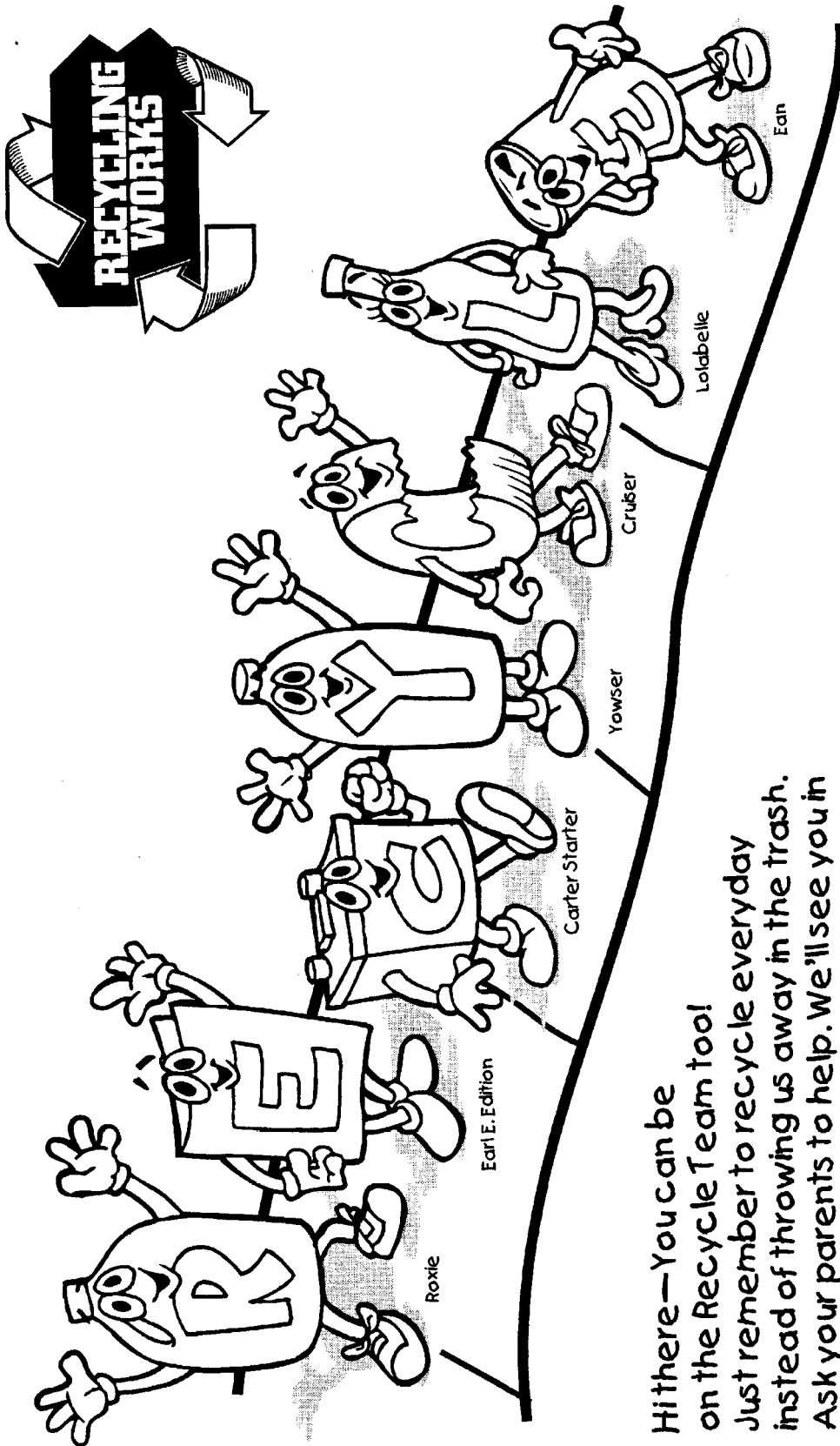
The newsletter committee is always looking for original stories, pictures, and drawings reflecting the many ways to enjoy the Shenango River and its tributaries. So if you have something you’d like to share, please mail it to P.O. Box 986; Sharon, PA 16146 or send it by email to shenangoriver@hotmail.com.

Shenango River Watchers Financial Statement Jan. 1 - September 30, 2003

Account Description	2003 Budget	Y-T-D % of Budget	2003 Y-T-D Amount
Total Income Receipts			
Growing Greener Grant	\$22,713	37.0%	\$8,409.85
PEDF Grant			17,081.90
Banquet Income	3,500	152.4%	5,334.75
Donations	2,000	100.0%	2,000.28
Membership Receipts	1,000	110.5%	1,105.00
Merchandise Sales	200	-28.0%	(56.00)
Recycling Receipts	300	108.6%	325.84
50/50 Raffle	0	#DIV/0!	434.00
Interest Income	0	#DIV/0!	8.5
	<u>\$29,713</u>	116.6%	<u>\$34,644.12</u>
Total SRW Expenses			
Advertising/Promotional	\$1,000	55.5%	\$555.00
Salaries (Grant Funded)	4,940	104.6%	\$5,167.13
Clean-up Day Expense	2,500	40.1%	1,003.73
Canoe Launch (Grant Funded)			4,499.11
Insurance	1,800	57.2%	1,030.00
Legal/Professional Services	500	0.0%	0.00
Newsletter Expense	2,600	20.4%	529.53
Education/Brochures	6,000	0.8%	50.00
Office Supplies	400	247.1%	988.2
Office Equipment	4,500	32.9%	1,480.99
Office Furniture	200	32.5%	64.93
Banquet Expenses	1,200	187.3%	2,247.75
Postage	1,200	87.1%	1,045.19
Copies	200	0.0%	0.00
Test Kits	100	0.0%	0.00
Food Expense	800	30.7%	245.71
Administration: Phone/Internet	700	74.8%	523.43
Canoes/Trailer (Grant Funded)			2,731.22
Miscellaneous Expenses	533	23.5%	125.00
Total Expenses:	<u>\$29,173</u>	76.4%	<u>\$22,286.92</u>
Overall Total:			<u><u>\$12,357.20</u></u>

The Duckling Doodlers Page

Color the picture. When you are done, send this page back to us and we'll mail you a surprise!
Don't forget to write your name and address. Parents: Please return submissions to
Shenango River Watchers, P.O. Box 986, Sharon, PA 16146.



Hi there — You can be
on the Recycle Team too!
Just remember to recycle everyday
instead of throwing us away in the trash.
Ask your parents to help. We'll see you in
the recycling bin, hooray!!

Name: _____ Address _____

Age: _____

Annual Membership Picnic

By Jennifer Barborak

Our third annual membership picnic was held at the public canoe launch and park at the corner of Budd Street and the Shenango Valley Freeway. The weather cooperated for once this summer and everyone had a great time. Hamburgers, hot dogs and cheddarwurst were served up on the grill compliments of SRW. Board members and their families provided all the fixins for an awesome picnic. Finally we all had a chance to relax, enjoy the fruits of our hard labor, and chat while roasting marshmallows over the bonfire.

CALLING ALL COOKS!!!!

Have you ever wanted to help with a clean-up day, but for whatever reason, it's just not possible? Well, we have a new way to get involved with a clean-up day that doesn't require attending the clean-up. We need all you domestic gods and goddesses to help provide some tasty treats for our volunteers. If this sounds like something you'd enjoy doing, please give us a call at 724-342-5453 and leave your name and number. You can also write to us at P.O. Box 986, Sharon, PA 16146.

Let Us Help With Your Holiday Shopping List!!

Why not get the environmentalist, canoe enthusiast, or fisherman on your list a Shenango River Watchers, Inc. t-shirt or hat? T-shirts are just \$10.00 and hats are \$12.00. If you're interested, please send your check or money order to SRW along with your order. Don't forget to include your t-shirt size(s). Please have orders in by December 10, 2003 to ensure holiday delivery.

Upcoming Events...

October 25:

Tire recycling from 9:00 until 1:00 in the WalMart parking lot, Greenville, PA

November 8:

Butler Outdoor Club 9th Annual Dinner - Activities begin at 6:00 p.m. Silent auction, photo contest, presentation of BOC Award and "The Adirondacks by Boot and Canoe" presented by Robert and Linda Steiner. Adults: \$12.00 Children under 12: \$6.00 The public is welcome. For tickets, send check or money order and a stamped self-addressed envelope to BOC, P.O. Box 243, Butler, PA 16003.

Saturday, April 24, 2004

Second Annual Spring Banquet

Don't forget to recycle! Please remember to drop off all the aluminum cans you collect from the holiday parties over the next few months. Thanks to your extra effort, Shenango River Watchers, Inc. has raised almost \$250 by recycling aluminum cans! With the autumn and winter holiday parties nearly here, we're hoping to push that total to over \$500. We'll let you know how it goes in our next newsletter. Until then, keep saving those cans! Cans can be dropped off at anytime in our can drop located in the Sharon City Parking Garage (Enter off Silver or Pitt Streets). The can drop is located just before you exit the garage onto Pitt St.. Many thanks!!!

Membership Form

Yes, I would like to support Shenango River Watchers!

I have enclosed my donation of:

- _____ \$10 Membership
- _____ \$25 Membership (T-shirt and membership)
- _____ \$25.00 Business Membership
- _____ Other

Name

Address

Phone

Email

I want to help with:

- Clean Up Days
- Education
- Financial Planning
- Fundraising
- Newsletter
- Mapping
- Water Testing
- Food Preparation for Clean Up Days

_____ Yes, send me a t-shirt. I've enclosed a \$25.00 donation and have picked my size below!

Size selection:

__ Medium __ Large __ Extra Large

Memberships

New Members

Emma Barborak
Kevin Lorenzi
Jan Keller
Clarence Harmes
Sylvia Dombeck
Jay Behm
Fritz & Gretchen Horn
Tim Robertson
John Moreira
Lee Etta Proudfoot
Edward Buczo
Carlyle Janiel
Bruce & Kim Matheny
Tammy Minich
Joey Cantrell
Gary Walker
Mary Walker
Bill Drollsbaugh

Ben Jellen
Lisa Stern
Dan Deweese

Renewals

Richard Slater
Dennis Hoovler
Anna Mary Hoovler
Maria Kerekes
Christy Nickerson
Edward McCullough
Jim Winner
Bob Antal
Mr. & Mrs. DePofi
Ray & Arleen Bianco
John & Laura Janosko
Lou Rotunno
Jeff Staul
Marcia Staul

Jim Mondock
Bill & Inge Amundsen
Kim Gilliland
Ruth E. Booth
Matthew Stefanak
Toni Badolato
Bill Morocco
Mark & Carol Budanka
Lori Zikovich

New Business Membership

League of Women Voters
of Lawrence County
Hadley Recycling, Inc.
James Thompson,
Independent Consultant
Computer Services

Business Membership

Renewals

Ralph C. Mehler
Agency, Inc.
Muscarella's
Bob's Auto Repair &
Radiator Shop
Trout Unlimited
Staul's Water Technology
Flynn Tire Group
Hickory Engineering

Continuous Supporters

Ann & Mike Kotyk
MK Landscaping Supply
Surf724



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