



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

MARCH 2004 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 11

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Jennifer Barborak

Vice President
Del Williams

Treasurer
Tom Amundsen

Secretary
Joyce Cuff

Rick Barborak
Amy Boyer
Mike McLaughlin
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2nd ANNUAL RIVER WATCHERS BANQUET - SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2004 HICKORY V.F.W.

SAVE THIS DATE!!! The Development committee is again planning an exciting evening for this year's Banquet. We hope you, and any of your interested friends, will join us!

From 6:00 p.m. until 7 p.m., you may participate in the Chinese auction, silent auction, purchase 50/50 raffles, socialize around our cash bar, watch our updated video, or just hang out and enjoy each other's company. The items, this year, are going to definitely be appealing, and we are striving for everything to be environmentally friendly. There will be trees, plants, outdoor equipment, art work, hand made items by local artists, gift baskets, birdhouses, books and more ... something for everyone!!



From 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., we will have our dinner and program. Last year the V.F.W. provided a menu that all agreed was outstanding and I'm sure it will be again! Our program, hosted by Tom Amundsen, will include the "surprise" "Friend-Of-The-River" award, the Business Award, Student Essay Contest winner, President Jennifer Barborak's "State-Of-The-River Address", door prizes, and more.



The 50/50 Raffle tickets will be offered at \$1.00 each. Admission tickets are available now and will be offered at the same price as last year: \$20.00 per adult; \$10.00 for children under 10. Please contact the Shenango River Watchers office at 724-342-5453 if you would like us to send you raffle tickets.

For further information, to volunteer your time, or to make a donation to the auction, please contact Babs Quincy at 724-946-8659.



Hope To See You There!!!!



Do you need something to distract you from all the snow and ice we've had lately? Well, let's think about spring and summer for a minute. Shenango River Watchers needs several volunteers this year to help maintain the flowers that we plant every year. The following areas will have flowers that need to be watered or otherwise maintained throughout the spring and summer:

- Flower boxes located on the State Street and Connelly Boulevard bridges need watered weekly - this takes approx. an hour.

- Flowers located in the park across from Sharon Subway need watered weekly - these take about 1/2 an hour.

- Located at the Sharon City Building, the flowers here need to be watered and weeded weekly, taking about 1/2 hour.

- Mowing the grass at the canoe launch every other week takes about an hour.

- Weeding and picking up litter around the SRW office weekly takes about 45 minutes.

If you can help with any of these above mentioned chores, please contact the office at 724-342-5453.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

The SRW Board owes special thanks to the following:

- Elwood Walker for donating a canoe to SRW to be used during our canoe trips and canoe clean-ups
- Jeff Staul for faithfully emptying the garbage cans at the High Street Access area.
- Don Blakesley and the Mercer County Solid Waste Authority for allowing us to hold our February meeting in their conference room as our facilities were unusable due to broken pipes.
- Eat'n Park for donating all the wonderfully fun things to SRW to send to children who return the Duckling Doodlers page. (SRW is always looking for new and fun things to send to our Duckling Doodler participants. If you or someone you know is interested in making such a donation, please call the SRW office.)

Thank you all for your generosity!

A Note From The President ...

Jennifer Barborak

Rick and I recently came across a man dumping paint and water mixed with paint directly down a storm drain in downtown Sharon. When we stopped the man and told him that it was illegal to dump down the storm drain, he said he had never heard of that. Hence a feeling for the need to explain two things, 1) how to dispose of paint, and 2) do not dump down storm drains.

The correct way to dispose of paint is to take the lid off the can, let it harden, and throw it away in your regular garbage pick-up. Paint should never be dumped down drains at home or storm drains in the street. Did you know that a storm drain flows directly into a tributary of our river, or worse yet, the river itself? Dumping hazardous chemicals down the drains pollutes our watershed. In the fall, we will be asking volunteers to help us stencil the storm drains in an effort to educate citizens that they do not flow into the wastewater treatment plant for treatment, but that they flow directly to our river. Please spend your morning volunteering with us to educate our community and protect our watershed.

Congratulations!

SRW is pleased to announce another addition to the "family"...

SRW's Office Secretary Becki Clemetson and her husband Dave welcomed

Ethan Daniel Clemetson

on November 20, 2003 at 11.42 p.m.

Ethan weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz.
and was 19 inches long

Ethan joins proud big brother, Jared in rounding out the Clemetson family.

Recycling Reminder! SRW would like to thank everyone who used our can drop near our office. We raised \$385 by recycling these cans in 2003 and exceeded our goal by \$85. In 2004, we have raised the goal to \$500. So, think of SRW whenever your aluminum can collection threatens to overrun your place. You can access our drop in Sharon City Parking Garage 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Recyclable materials other than aluminum cans can be recycled in the blue bins located in the parking lot of Greenville's Wal-Mart, in the parking lot of the Shenango Valley Mall, and next to the viaduct in West Middlesex.

Everybody Say . . .



The King

Scott Miller's
Batch-o-Stripers



Husky Musky

“SHENANGO!!”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
MIKE MCLAUGHLIN

Fun-On-The -River



SRW Clean-Up



Committee Reports

Water Testing Committee

One of the many functions of the Shenango River Watchers is to monitor the waters feeding into the river for water quality. At this time, there are a few devoted teams getting in the water to help with this monitoring. I want to start by thanking those testers for all their efforts.

Water testers check for macroinvertebrates, which is basically a big word for insects and other life that make their homes in the water. Life in the water is one method to determine the health of that stream. Macroinvertebrates are classified by their ability to tolerate pollution and other disrupting factors. This testing is an important measure of water health, and it is an effective and inexpensive way to do that. This testing is also easy to perform. No prior knowledge is required and all necessary supplies and training are furnished by the Shenango River Watchers. Testing is done four times a year at three month intervals.

There are so many sites that we would like to monitor, and so few testers. We are hoping that there are people who would help us. Are you willing to "get your feet wet?" We are in need of more testers and would love to see this training session full. The session will be held in April for all new volunteers and for current volunteers who would like a refresher course. The poor weather that plagued the area throughout 2003 prevented many volunteers from conducting their testing.

Let us know if you are interested by contacting Karen Kosheba, the Water Testing committee chair, at 724-342-2646 or by calling the SRW office at 724-342-5453.

Just a reminder to our current volunteers, there is still time to get your results in for the December - February testing cycle.

~Karen Koshiba, Chair

Mapping Committee

The Mapping Committee is currently working on several maps for the Shenango Watershed. We have completed a basic map showing major roads, towns, and streams that will be located in the SRW office for reference purposes. We have also completed a map that illustrates the microwatersheds, macroinvertebrate testing sites, and superfund sites. Some Slippery Rock University students will be helping to compile new maps showing the areas SRW has already cleaned up, the new canoe launch, points where macroinvertebrate testing is being conducted, the test results, and the portion of the river that has been canoed by SRW members. We are also in the process of completing a map of land cover/land use to show how different land types are distributed throughout the area. We would also like to make a map of historical points of interest in the watershed, so please e-mail me any interesting stories or historical data that you may know, pictures would be great also. Educational maps are on our list of things to do. The education Committee will use them in teaching children about the watershed they live in. Once the new website is up and running, we will put several of the maps on it for members so see what we have been up to. Please let us know if you can help with the collection of data or research the history of the watershed, or even if you have some new ideas. Email Amy at amypanada24@hotmail.com.

~Amy Boyer, Chair

Newsletter Committee

As you gather for the upcoming events of SRW, please remember your cameras. Photos accompanying the articles gives a great view of what the SRW is all about. Remember ... "A picture is worth a thousand words." And all articles and artwork/doodles are greatly appreciated.

~Gwen Maxfield, Chair

PA DEP Northwest Regional Roundtable

By Karen Kosheba

A regular meeting of the PA Department of Environmental Protection Northwest Regional Roundtable was held November 20, 2003 at the Franklin Courthouse Annex. This was an experiment to get more community involvement by holding meetings in various locations in the 12 county area. This meeting was attended by 11 visitors, which indicates that there is great interest in the communities. A brief explanation of the roundtable and its mission was presented by Judy Acker, co-chair. She explained that we are a diverse citizen's advisory group representing northwestern PA. Three counties are unrepresented and four counties are underrepresented at this time. New members from McKean, Elk, Warren, Lawrence, Venango, Jefferson, and Forest Counties are especially needed.

The Roundtable is set up as a recommending body to the DEP. The mission is to focus attention on DEP activities and programs, recommend improvements and express citizen and community concerns.

Committee reports were given. The Publicity Committee was thanked for their success in getting the word out to the public.

The February meeting was set for the 19th at 3:00 pm at the Meadville DEP office. Members reported on issues in their counties. The visitors were also given time to report on issues of concern to them. Paul Kucsma, Section Chief for Compliance and Monitoring for the DEP presented a program on the oil and gas industry. He explained the bonding and permit process and regulations with respect to location of wells, with unknown numbers from before records were required. He also explained about inspections required at all steps from drilling to plugging and restoration of the site. A record of known abandoned wells is kept and these wells are being plugged as money is available. Mr. Kucsma welcomed reports of any abandoned wells that have not been dealt with yet. After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

This is a summary of Shenango River Watchers financial position during 2003. Operating results yielded income of \$17,055 for calendar year 2003. This resulted from income received from the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Grant, Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation Grant, fundraising activities, donations and membership dues.

Revenue: Our total revenue was \$42,622. Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation Grant funds of \$17,082 and Growing Greener Grant installments of \$15,925 were our largest source of revenue and totaled \$33,007, followed by \$5,706 from fundraising and \$3,780 from donations and membership. Money received from recycling cans and metal totaled \$385.

Expenses: Total expenses were \$25,567. The Growing Greener Grant covered costs associated with operating the Shenango River Watchers office, summer clean-up activities, quarterly newsletters, and promotional brochures. Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation Grant funds were used to purchase canoes and a canoe trailer along with expenses associated with the Budd Street Canoe Launch. Leftover funds will be used for future projects. As in 2002, expenses for 2003 were lower than budget. Office salaries of \$6,264 and clean-up day expenses of \$6,202 were our largest expense categories, both covered by grants.

~Thomas Amundsen
Shenango River Watchers Treasurer

Education Committee

The Education Committee has, over the past few years, developed a variety of educational presentations/workshops that are appropriate for a variety of age groups and interests. Hands-on experiments and workshops for elementary school children. Power Point presentations for older children and adult groups are available. We would welcome assistance with any of the following tasks:

1. Designing new educational materials.
2. Identifying groups/classes that might be interested in having a presentation or workshop conducted for their group.
3. Serving as presenters/facilitators for workshops or presentations.

If you have an interest in helping with any of the above, please contact SRW Office at 724-342-5453.

Clean-Up Committee

The Clean-Up committee has scheduled clean-ups for the following days with the location to be determined closer to actual clean-up: April 24th (Adopt-a-highway), July 10th (Tire recycling), August 14th (Canoe clean-up), October 9th (Adopt-a-highway), and October 23rd (Tire recycling).

Development Committee (see article on front cover)

Shenango River Watchers Revenue & Expense Statement 2003

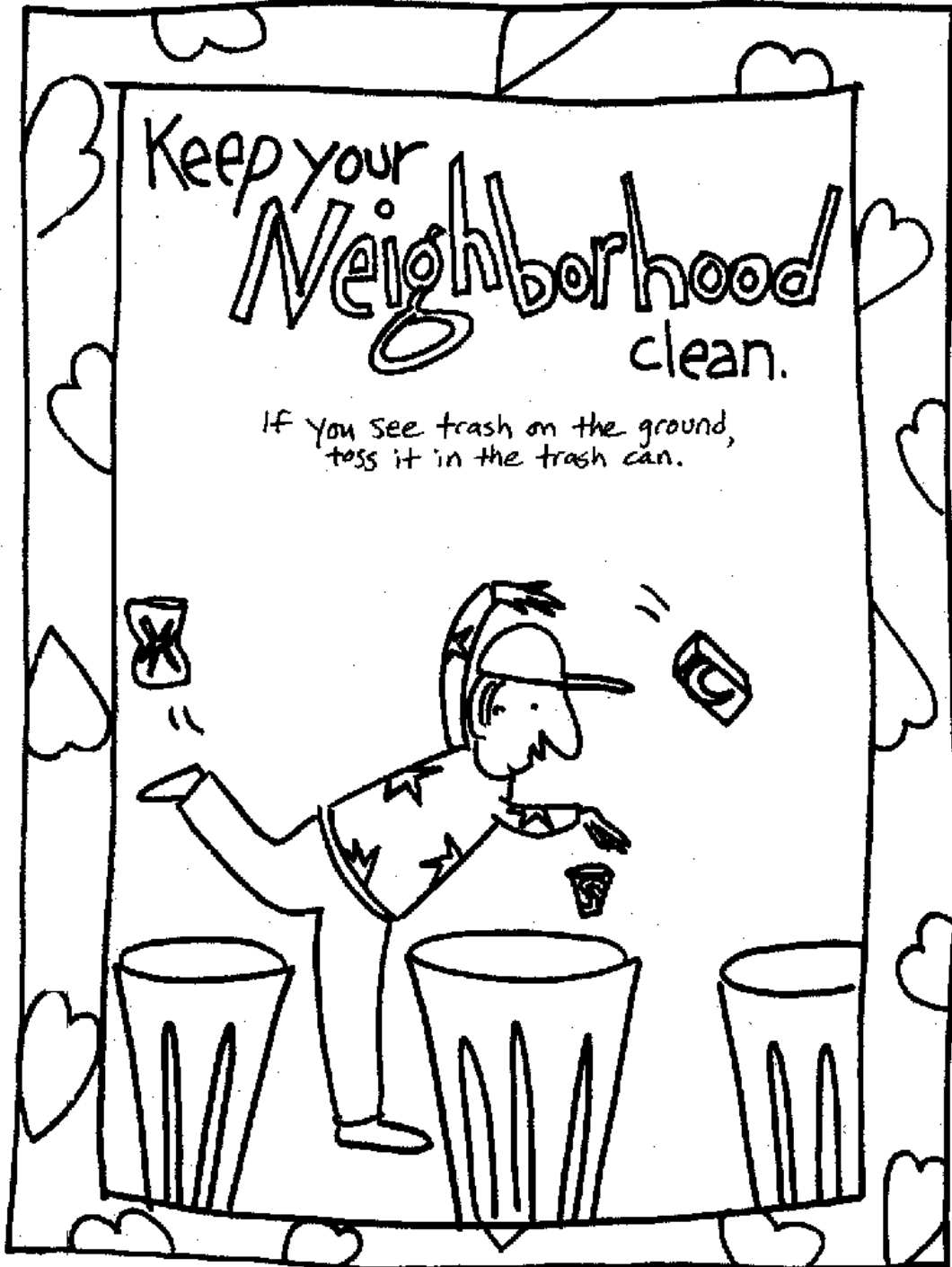
Account Description	2003 Budget	Y-T-D % of Budget	2003 Y-T-D Amount
Total Income Receipts			
Grants	\$22,713	145.3%	\$33,007
Fund Raiser Receipts	3,500	163.0%	5,706
Donations	2,000	120.8%	2,415
Membership Receipts	1,000	136.5%	1,365
Merchandise Sales	200	-133.0%	(266)
Recycling Receipts	300	128.3%	385
Interest Income	0	#DIV/0!	10
	<u>\$29,713</u>	143.4%	<u>\$42,622</u>
Total SRW Expenses			
Advertising/Promotional	\$1,000	55.5%	\$555
Salaries	4,940	126.8%	6,264
Clean-up Day Expense	2,500	248.1%	6,202
Insurance	1,800	57.2%	1,030
Legal/Professional Services	500	4.4%	22
Newsletter Expense	2,600	27.8%	723
Education/Brochures	6,000	1.5%	90
Office Supplies	400	255.5%	1,022
Office Equipment	4,500	45.2%	2,032
Office Furniture	200	32.5%	65
Fund Raising Expense	1,200	187.3%	2,248
Postage	1,200	104.4%	1,253
Copies	200	0.0%	0.00
Test Kits	100	0.0%	0.00
Food Expense	800	36.8%	294
Canoes	0	#DIV/0!	2,877
Administration: Phone/Internet	700	97.9%	685
Miscellaneous Expenses	533	38.5%	205
Total Expenses:	<u>\$29,173</u>	87.6%	<u>\$25,567</u>
Overall Total:			<u>\$17,055</u>

Shenango River Watchers Balance Sheet 12/31/03

Current Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	\$23,422
Total Assets:	<u>\$23,422</u>
Current Liabilities:	\$0
Total Liabilities:	<u>\$0</u>
Equity:	\$23,422
Total Liabilities and Equity:	<u>\$23,422</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.



Name: _____

Address _____

Age: _____

Upcoming Events for 2004...

March 20th:

Trout Unlimited Banquet

This year's Trout Unlimited banquet will be held on March 20th at 5:00 p.m. in the Hermitage VFW. This year there will be a rod raffle and a gun raffle as well as some hunting and fishing adventures. Tickets are \$25.00 per Adult; \$45 per Couple; and \$10.00 per Child. Checks can be mailed to Neshannock TU. c/o Nick Lopriore, 109 Southdale Blvd., Cortland, OH 44410. Please support our local Trout Unlimited! They support us.

April 17th:

Annual Shenango River Watchers Banquet

This year's banquet will be held Saturday, April 17th at the Hickory VFW beginning at 6:00pm. Please see the feature article in this newsletter for further details and ticket information.

April 24th:

Adopt A Highway Clean Up Day

May 7th:

Watershed Awareness Month Information Day

We will be selecting an avenue in which to draw awareness to our watershed.

July 10th:

Tire Recycling Day

July 18th:

Canoe Trip

August 6th - 8th:

Booth at Arts & Heritage Days in New Wilmington, PA

August 14th:

Canoe Clean Up Day

September 6th:

Booth at Buhl Day

September 11th:

Annual Picnic

September 19th:

Booth at Harvest Festival

October 9th:

Adopt A Highway Clean Up Day

October 23rd:

Tire Recycling Day

Details will follow for meeting locations and times for the events listed. You may also contact the Shenango River Watchers office at 724-342-5453 for further information or to sign up.

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

Cindy Glass
Don Feigert
Cindy Miller
Janet Wendy Warner

Kaye & Jim Elder
Dr. Donna DeBonis
Lyle Bieber
Marcia, Alec, Emma
& Stewart Moyer

Renewals

Thomas Foltz
Samuel Woodings
Cheryl Panek
Joe Rotell
Arlo Sirochman
Doug & Deb Fitzgerald
David O. Ryan
Gary & Renee Calleja
Ken Mild
Vivian Evans
Cheryl Christy
Marjorie Stadtmiller

New Business Membership

Thiel College

Business Membership Renewals

Business Solutions

Continuous Supporters

Ann & Mike Kotyk
MK Landscaping Supply
Surf724
City of Sharon
Copyland



PLEASE NOTE: The date of your membership expiration is now listed on the mailing label. Please continue to support Shenango River Watchers - your contribution and interest is greatly appreciated.



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