



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 22

Water Trail Public Meeting

The SRW and Lions Club project for opening up the upper Shenango, and bringing it into the PA Water Trail system, requires two public meetings. The purpose and form of the initial meeting is to show the interested public the data collected by Wallace and Pancher, along with their preliminary recommendations for "improvements."

The input, pro and con, gathered from the public will then be incorporated into their final report, which will be presented to the public in a second meeting. This material is then incorporated into a written document called a Feasibility Study. This document becomes the base document for apply again to DCNR for funds to actually accomplish the clean-up, whatever construction may be required, and the material needed to function as a "Water Trail."

So, to those ends, we will have our first public meeting at Thiel College on Tuesday, November 18, 2008.

The exact building and room has not yet been established, but will be shortly. You'll be notified in some fashion as to the particulars when they are firmed up.

Anyone having any general or pointed interest in this exciting project should plan to stop by any time between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. The format of the meeting is an open process of circulating between several graphic displays of data and photography, talking to the professionals from Wallace and Pancher, and a few board members from SRWs. It is not a "sit down and be talked to" session.

Anyone you can think out side of our organization who may be interested or have some input is most welcome. We urge you to attend, and please bring a friend.

**Tuesday,
November 18th
at Thiel College**

BOARD

OF DIRECTORS:

President
Dr. Shane Smith

Vice President
Don Clowes

Treasurer
Tom Amundsen

Secretary
Del Williams

Jennifer Barborak
Rick Barborak
Hugh Clark
Joyce Cuff
James Epstein
Gwendolyn Maxfield
Joel Ristvey
Michael Wiseman

B.O.A.R.D. Announce 2nd Annual Charity Repeal Day Celebration

The "BOARD" of the Shenango Valley is happy to announce their 2008 Charity Repeal Day Celebration will all proceeds benefitting the Shenango River Watchers.

The BOARD (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 marking the repeal of the 18th amendment to our constitution; ending the 13 year ban on the manufacture, sale and transport of alcoholic beverages.

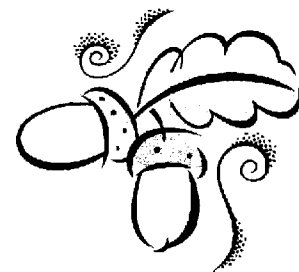
Enjoy samples of a wide array of craft brews, live music from two bands, a light dinner, and a silent auction of beer paraphernalia. Attendants will also be able to participate in a Chinese Auction. And be ready for some "SURPRISES" at this year's event.

This year's event will be held on the anniversary date of DECEMBER 5TH at The Corinthian, Downtown Sharon. Beer tasting will be from 6pm to 9pm with the Cash bar opening later in the evening.

Volunteers are needed for ticket sales at the Chinese Auction. If you would like to volunteer, call the SRW office. For ticket info, please email Tom Amundsen at tamundsen@verizon.net.

Thank You To SHS Students

A special thank you to the students and teachers at Case Avenue and Musser Elementary Schools! They raised \$_____ for SRW through an Earth Day T-shirt sale at each school. The money was used as a match for the Riverfront Park Revitalization DCNR grant. A sign will be erected at the statue that will list all the donors to the project, including our awesome elementary students!!! Thank you!



Shenango River Watchers, Inc.

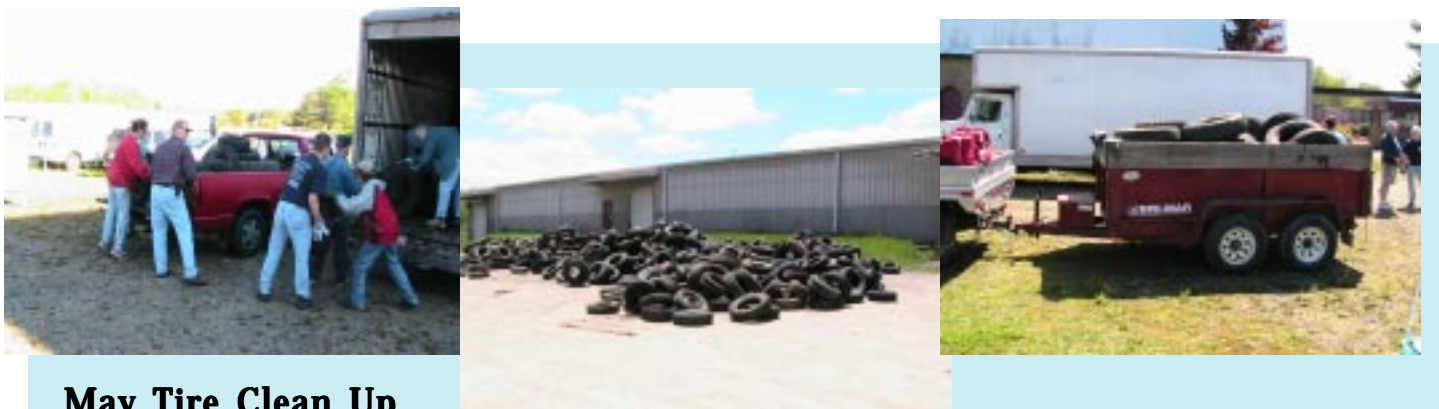
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Sharon, PA 16146
724-342-5453
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www.shenangoriverwatchers.org

2008 In Review



Earth Day Clean Up 2008

Our Earth Day clean up was conducted on April 19 this year and marked a significant change to our “normal” operation. Usually we concentrate our efforts at one site or locale. This year we branched out with three different groups of volunteers and cleaned up in three towns along the Shenango river: Jamestown, Greenville, and Sharon. Upstream we again partnered with the Mercer County Trails Association to work on a massive illegal dump site along an abandoned railroad bed in Jamestown. Tons of garbage and hundreds of tires were removed. We were able to also salvage and recycle tons of steel. Although not completed, great progress was made in this first pass at this problem area. The site of last years Earth Day clean up in Greenville was revisited for some clean up maintenance. It was encouraging that only a minor effort was needed to spruce up this previously disgraceful illegal dump. A great effort was turned to clean the Sharon canoe launch and surrounding areas. Many thanks to all who participated in making our most stretched out clean up effort a great success. These combined efforts impacted more area and municipalities than we’ve ever tackled before.



May Tire Clean Up

May 19 marked our most successful tire collection ever. From our location at the Reynolds Drive In Theater we collected over 2000 tire for recycling. A great group of volunteers and good weather made for an enjoyable and rewarding effort.

Ohio River Sweep Clean Up

June 21 we directed our resources to the canoe launch in Sharon and the surrounding areas as our part the annual multi-state Ohio River Watershed clean up. This effort combined a clean-up of the area on foot from the riverbanks, along Bicentennial Park, and also in the river via our canoe fleet.

Additional to “clean up”, this day also included a work detail for some much needed maintenance on the picnic tables, shelters, and surround area.

August 9 Canoe Clean Up

We were blessed with good weather and river flow one more time for our Sharpsville to Sharon canoe cleanup. We had a good sized fleet of canoes (and a kayak) to spruce up this great section of the lower Shenango.

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 and great participation from many wonderful and inspired volunteers. Many thanks to all who helped out.



Buhl Day

OVER 700 FUNNEL CAKES MADE



Jamestown Fair Parade

Munnel Run Farm Day



Pymatuning Note

A significant change occurred for boating on the Pymatuning reservoir. Effective June 13, 2008 the horsepower limit for boats was increased from 9.9 HP to 20 HP.

New Office Assistant Needed

Shenango River Watchers is currently searching for a new office assistant. This position has many opportunities and responsibilities filling a 30 hour work week. For a complete job description and specific skill requirements, contact the SRW office for details. The position will be filled by late 2008 to early 2009. Only serious inquiries please.

CHANGES WITHIN THE SRW BOARD

Passing the Torch

Over the past year it became evident to me that it was time for SRW to have a new leader. Although I have enjoyed my seven year tenure as the president of SRW, I realized that I had taken the organization as far as I could and someone new needed to take it a step further. My career and home life are becoming more demanding, and I couldn't put forth the time and effort that I would like to, and that SRW deserves from a president! I have thoroughly enjoyed my terms as president of SRW, and I thank everyone for the support given to me, especially in those early years when it was sometimes very difficult to keep going! It's because of each of you that SRW has become the tremendous organization it is today! We have gone from simply a clean up organization to being THE organization that gets the job done in the Shenango River watershed. Canoe trips, clean up days, tire recycling days, grant writing and administration, research, FUNNEL CAKES J, etc., etc., etc. Who could have ever imagined that first meeting could have grown into such a powerful organization? Certainly not I!!!! Although I stepped down as the president of the organization in July, I still remain on the board and have decided to focus my efforts on the grant writing and administration. I feel that my talents will be well used as chair of the newly formed Grants Committee and look forward to working with my co-chair, Hugh Clark, to find funding for the projects recommended by the board. I wish to thank Dr. Shane Smith for stepping into the shoes of president until the end of the year. His environmental background as a Geology Professor at Youngstown State University certainly qualifies him for the position and I am proud of the work SRW is doing under his watch! Dr. Smith was with us the first year of SRW. He assisted Rick

and me with the writing of the Growing Greener grant that initiated the start up of the organization. Although shortly thereafter, he spent several years in the state of Washington working on his doctorate degree, he returned to our area a few years ago to teach at YSU and promptly asked to serve as a board of director. His knowledge, vast experience, and love of the organization will certainly help to take SRW to a whole new level. Congratulations Dr. Smith on your election as the second president of SRW!

Many Thanks and You'll Be Missed

The Shenango River Watchers have had additional changes within the Board of Directors. After organizing another hugely successful banquet, Carol Budanka resigned her position for the Board due to family obligations. Carol continues to volunteer at cleanups, Buhl Day, Munnell Run, etc. but her contributions at the board meetings will be sorely missed.

Also resigning from her position as Office Assistant was Becki Clemetson. As her children have grown to school age, she will be pursuing her Pennsylvania State Teaching Certification. Becki held the office together; to list her contributions would be so extensive it would fill this newsletter. And as the Newsletter Committee Chair, I will greatly miss Becki's constant help in gathering the articles and being one of my proofreaders. Thanks Becki for all the help and support.... and , more importantly, your friendship.

Bicentennial Park Update

As a requirement of the DCNR grants, the Master Site Plan steering committee was made up of members from the City of Sharon, Shenango River Watchers, and the City of Sharon Beautification Commission. The steering committee researched and interviewed three firms and ultimately chose HHS DR in Sharon. HHS DR held a series of public meetings and incorporated ideas from the meetings into the final plan which was presented to Sharon City Council in September. Once adopted, SRW and the City of Sharon Beautification Commission can begin to seek out grants to carry out different phases of the plan. Thanks to those who served on the steering committee and to the City of Sharon Beautification Commission for administering the grant for SRW.

Riverfront Park Revitalization Update

Wallace & Pancher, Inc. completed the construction and plantings around the "canopener statue" in downtown Sharon. The old park benches were removed, the brick was replaced, old bushes and trees were removed and replaced with new flowering trees and shrubs that are native, and a hosta garden was planted. Daylilies were planted around the statue and a fall planting day will take place with the Sharon Rotary to plant bulbs. As a final requirement of the DCNR grant, the Sharon Rotary will assist SRW with the installation of a bench purchased with money donated by the Rotary. SRW would like to thank the City of Sharon Beautification Commission for administering this grant for SRW.

Membership

New Members

Frank G. Curl, Sr.
Richard English
Susan English
Larry Gould
The Hecking Family
Linda Herskovitz
Jeffrey Hornyak
Ernie Huffinne
Gary Lapham
Ed Marley
Bill Meier
Carole Meier
Sara Miller
Deirdre Moore
Edwin Morrison
Patricia Morrison
Derek Nelson
Thomas Ochs
Joanne Price
Mark Russell
Cathy Sarvas
Jim Sarvas
Donald L. Shumaker, Jr.
Dennis Songer
Patricia A. Stevens
Dennis Vasil
Faith Waida

New Business Members

Greenville Water Authority
Hermitage Rotary
Primo Limousine
Sharon Rotary
Shenango Conservancy
YSU-Shenango River Research Cluster

Membership Renewals

Larry Adovasio
Kathy Ammann
Ken Ammann
Joseph Baldwin
Vere Bellian
Ernie Bernice
Ray Bianco
Melissa Bianco
Nancy Bires
Beth Brown
Jane Buckley
Cheryl Christy
Katherine A. David
Kathy Davies
Mary "Babs" Davis
Morgan V. Diefenderfer
Michael Eddy
Linda Enterline
Donald Feigert
Darin Flower
Francis Fornelli
Frances Foust
Therese Gallagher
Kathie Goodblood
Art Hall
Christy Hunter Hall
Sue Ann Herald
Anna Mary Hoovler
Dennis Hoovler
Linda Howard
Gerald Hurayt
Maurice Keaveny
Ginger Kirila
Robert G. Kochems
Caroline Krochka
Robert F. Lark
Stella Lazor
Bob Liptak
Beth Long

Mark Longietti
Edward McCullough
Lori McKnight
Sean McKnight
Danny McMullen
Diana Miller
Richard Miller
Floy Moreira
Angie Morocco
William Morocco, Sr.
Jodie Moroco
Judith Moroco
Attorney Carl Moses
Donna Oliver
Rosiale Palmer
Cheryl Panek
Richard Parks
T. Sue Paul
Margie Petroski
Ron Petroski
David Pettitt
Duane Piccirilli
Matt Stefanak
Pinchot-Swogger Family
Steven M. Preston
Bobby Rosian
Patty Rossi
Joe Rotell
Kathleen Rueberger
Ben Sauers
Rosann Sauers
Francis Shafer
Arlene Sherwood
Janet Smith
Angelo Stamooolis
Donna Stamooolis
Matt Stefanak
Lisa Stern
Renee Stigliano
Perry Templeton

Elwood M. Walker
Kathy Walker
Lee & Carol Weber
William Welsh
William West
Jennifer Wentling
Parke Wentling
Richard Will
Emily Williams
John Williams
Toni Williams
Pat Woodings
Sam Woodings
Bill Writt
Sarah Writt

Business Membership Renewals

Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.
Business Solutions
Community Action Partnership of Mercer County
Dick's TV
Duferco Farrell Corp.
Flynn's Tire and Automotive Centers
Keystone Research, Inc.
Lawrence County Conservation District
Lewis & Ristvey, Attorneys-at-Law
Sharon Boy Scout Troup #3
Staul's Water Technology
Wallace & Pancher, Inc.
Winslow Engineering

Continuous Supporters

Copyland
Duferco Farrell Corp.
Ann & Mike Kotyk
MK Landscape Supply
Niko & Lou's Coney Island
Surf 724

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 _____

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

Fill out this form

donation to Shenango River Watchers, Inc., P.O. Box 986, Sharon, PA 16146



**Shenango River
Watchers, Inc.**
P.O. Box 986
Sharon, PA 16146

724-342-5453
shenangoriver@hotmail.com
www.shenangoriverwatchers.org

Sharon Beautification Committee Needs Your Help

The Sharon Beautification Committee will be holding a planting and clean up day on Saturday, November 8th at 9:00 a.m. at the Can Opener Statue in Doughton Sharon. The plantings are part of a requirement of the DCNR Grant. Volunteers are also needed to help install the bench along the river. For further information or to sign up, contact the SRW office.

T-Shirt Design Contest

Once again, SRW is conducting a T-shirt design contest. So all you artists, get out the pen and ink and
CREATE!!!

Designs must be submitted on an 8 1/2 x 11 inch piece of paper, done in clear black and white (if using a pencil, make sure that it is strong and weak strokes) and mailed flat (do not fold) to the SRW Office. Deadline for submission is February 28, 2009.

2009 BANQUET IS MARCH 28th - Be There or Be Square!!!!

2009 Banquet Helpers

Any persons or groups interested in assisting with the SRW 2009 Banquet are asked to contact the SRW office to be put on a contact list. Help is needed in the two weeks prior to the banquet in picking up donated items and delivering them to the SRW office as well as last minute preparations.

2009 Scholarship

Once again Shenango River Watchers, Inc. will be offering a \$1000 scholarship to a qualified student. This scholarship is open to ALL area high school seniors who have community involvement in environment science as well as future studies in a related field. Contact the SRW office for an application and complete requirements.