



SCWA Newsletter

SPRING EDITION

MAY 2017

**Sewickley
Creek
Watershed
Association**

*Working Together
For A Better
Environment*

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**NOTICE: SCWA Monthly Strip
Tickets must be claimed within
30 days of the jackpot drawing.**

We're On The Web!
www.sewickleycreek.com

Success at Andrews Run

The Andrews Run site is a reclaimed surface mine that was mined by Bulldog Excavating. After cessation of mining, polluted discharges developed from the toe of spoil that polluted an unnamed tributary to Andrews Run, a tributary to Sewickley Creek in Westmoreland County.

The project goals were to capture and treat the abandoned mine discharge. The results were the successful installation of a passive treatment system. The project was installed as per design and captures and treats the mine discharge. The system removes primary pollutants including iron and manganese.

The project was funded through a PA DEP Grant for \$182,782 and was spearheaded by the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association working with Hedin Environmental and the Westmoreland Conservation District.

The value of partners is crucial. Cooperation amongst the landowners, consultant, DEP, Westmoreland Conservation District and SCWA was essential to complete this beneficial project!



Brinkerton AMD Treatment System Improvements



SCWA's Brinkerton AMD System is getting an update to improve its efficiency and better support operation and maintenance activities at the site. Constructed in 2005, the system was designed as a hybrid treatment, using passive design features like wetlands and settling ponds, but also incorporating active aeration through use of an electric powered blower system to speed up the oxidation of iron and settling within the ponds.

Working under state and federal grants obtained by SCWA and Western PA Conservancy, the system update includes improvements to the aeration system, treatment of additional acidic mine water, improvements to components to reduce maintenance, and removal of accumulated iron oxide from the treatment ponds. As part of the project, adjacent property was purchased through a grant from the federal Office of Surface Mining, where a dewatering pond and a storage area for iron oxide will be constructed.

Eagle Scout Project enhances Lowber Site

In summer, 2016, Eagle Scout candidate Chris Venzin approached SCWA about a potential project. After discussions, the board agreed that Chris could do enhancement projects at the Lowber AMD site. Chris designed and constructed a swan feeder box to keep the corn clean and dry for Cindy and Cygnus, the two resident swans. He also constructed a bench, a railing for the concrete steps and a railing for the footbridge at the system's discharge location.

On Saturday, October 1, 2016, Chris and over a dozen volunteers installed the railings and the swan feeder box and stained the information kiosk. SCWA wishes to thank Chris and his scout troop for all their good, hard work!



Volunteers from Firestone Building Products, Westmoreland Conservation District, Yough High School and SCWA work together to install the new Lowber Canoe/Kayak Access sign.

Time to Renew Your SCWA Membership!

It's that time of year again! Sewickley Creek Watershed Association membership renewal forms were mailed in March. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now. Your membership supports our efforts in AMD treatment, stream clean-ups, environmental education projects and many more programs, projects and activities. If you misplaced your renewal form, you may print one from our website: www.sewickleycreek.com. Thank you for your continued support!

Volunteers Welcome!

Many companies want their employees to participate in worthwhile organizations outside their business and offer funding to such organizations when their employees volunteer. Does your company offer funding opportunities? Would you consider volunteering for different projects and activities for SCWA? It would be a win-win opportunity!

We would have the pleasure of working with you and your company would help sustain our projects and activities. Let us know if you would like to become involved!

