



SCWA Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION

JUNE 2011

**Sewickley
Creek
Watershed
Association**

*Working Together
For A Better
Environment*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Volunteers	2
Support 2011 Great American Cleanup of PA	
SCWA Membership Renewal	2
Work Completed on Fairgrounds Project	3
Eagle Scouts Honored	3

Contact Us:

PO Box 323
Youngwood, PA 15697
Phone (724) 925-3621
scwa@sewickleycreek.com

Office Address:

Midtown Plaza, Office 201
450 South Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

**Thomas W. Keller,
Executive Director**

Fundraiser Banquet A Big Success!



The capacity crowd at the 2011 SCWA Fundraiser Banquet enjoyed an evening with friends and colleagues at Giannilli's II Restaurant in Greensburg.

The Association expresses its sincere appreciation to all who attended, and otherwise supported, our 2011 fundraiser banquet on April 30th at Giannilli's II Restaurant in Greensburg. Over 130 guests registered for the event, including business table sponsors Heplers Hardware, Hartman-Graziano Funeral Home, T.P. Electric and West Newton Sportsmen's Association.

For those new to the organization, SCWA Board President, Dr. Ellen Uschak, provided a brief "Who We Are and What We Do" presentation about our organization's history and the types of projects and activities in which we are involved. She explained that although we have been fortunate to receive large federal and state grants for abandoned mine discharge projects, it's the fundraisers, strip ticket sales, donations, and membership dues from our loyal supporters that cover daily operating costs.

We were pleased to have Gary Sheppard, Westmoreland County Extension Director and Penn State Cooperative Extension educator, serve as our guest speaker on the Marcellus Shale boom in our region. Marcellus gas well drilling is a topic in the news on a daily basis and holds the potential to supplement the Commonwealth's growing energy needs and boost local economies

- if developed properly. Gary shared facts, potentials and concerns with Marcellus gas drilling in Pennsylvania.

As Gary noted during his presentation, "Natural gas development has been with us in Westmoreland County over the past 100 years and the development of unconventional shale gas will likely be with us for the next 100 years. We need to plan accordingly."

The Association presented special awards to two Eagle Scout candidates who completed their projects at two of our AMD remediation facilities. (See related article in this newsletter). Guests also had the opportunity to win a dozen raffle prizes valued at nearly \$1,400, including green fees at local golf courses, store gift cards, wine baskets and coupons for area businesses. We thank all of our raffle prize donors and other event sponsors: *Heplers Hardware, Hartman-Graziano Funeral Home, T.P. Electric, West Newton Sportsmen's Association, Cherry Creek Golf Club, Robertshaw Acres Golf Club, Valley Green Golf Club, Hannastown Golf Club, Norvelt Golf Club, Agway, Sand Hill Berries, J. Hoffer Funeral Home, Lowe's, Rachel Hoza, CPA, Johnson's Hardware, Hawaii Tanning, Sib's Candy, Wilson's Candy, Hair Impressions, Stanwood Credit Union, Julie's Salon, Iezzi's Salon, Bompiani Chiropractic Clinic, Gander Mountain, Carmike Cinemas, and The Touchdown Club.*



If you weren't able to attend the event this year, we hope you can join us in 2012! Watch for the date and location of next year's event in upcoming newsletters.

Gary Sheppard was on hand to give a presentation on Marcellus Shale gas drilling in our region.

Volunteers Support 2011 Great American Cleanup of PA

Community groups took advantage of the excellent weather on Saturday, April 30 to clean up a local stream and roadway litter in the Sewickley Creek Watershed. Ninety-seven volunteers from Comcast, Westmoreland Cleanways, Wendover Middle School, Boy Scout Troop 465 and SCWA participated in the 7th annual statewide event.

Forty-eight employee volunteers from Comcast in Greensburg picked up roughly 100 bags of trash, 120 tires, a couch, and a TV from a heavily littered Tremont Avenue near their office.

"We're so honored to partner with SCWA and Westmoreland Cleanways to work together to improve Greensburg

during Comcast Cares Day," said Jim Samaha, Senior Vice President for Comcast's Keystone Region. "I am grateful to the local volunteers who donated their time to help make a difference."

One of the groups that has participated in the cleanup for the past several years is Boy Scout Troop 465. Each year, the scouts traverse the steep and heavily vegetated banks of Jacks Run in Youngwood to remove unsightly litter, discarded tires and other illegally dumped items.

"As Boy Scouts, we feel an obligation to take an active role in our community and what better way than to take part in a community clean-up!", noted Scout Leader, Jack Kling.

The other volunteers collected 122 bags of trash from along heavily littered Route 136, Armbrust Road and the banks of Jacks Run through Buncher Industrial Park. Unusual items this year included a pool table, baby crib, appliances and furniture.

The group is very appreciative of event sponsors—Jioio's Restaurant, Target and Greensburg, New Stanton and Youngwood Sheetz convenience stores. The Association encourages you to support their businesses and thank them for supporting our event.

Stay tuned for information on our next cleanup event, set for April 2012!



Ninety-seven volunteers devoted their Saturday morning to SCWA's 7th annual Great American Cleanup of PA held throughout the Greensburg and Youngwood communities.



The Sewickley Creek Watershed Association continues to grow by leaps and bounds! Your membership in SCWA directly supports our projects and programs. Please consider becoming a part of SCWA or renewing your membership by calling our office at (724) 925-3621, visiting our Website, www.sewickleycreek.com, or completing and detaching this renewal form and mailing it to: SCWA, PO Box 323, Youngwood, PA 15697. Thank you for your support!

Renew Your SCWA Membership!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Level:

_____ \$10—Individual _____ \$25—\$100 Organization
 _____ \$25—Family _____ \$100—\$1,000 Business

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to SCWA and mail to: SCWA, PO Box 323, Youngwood, PA 15697

detaching this renewal form and mailing it to:

Membership Activities *(check all that interest you)*

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Presentations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Stocking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Work |



Work Completed on Westmoreland Fairgrounds Project

Beginning in 2008, the Westmoreland Conservation District began taking steps towards improving water quality and quantity flowing into the headwaters of Sewickley Creek near the Westmoreland County Fairgrounds. This quickly turned into a three-phase project, which resulted in the installation of several best management practices on the Fairgrounds and surrounding areas.

Work began after the Westmoreland Conservation District acquired a \$150,000 County Environmental Initiative Growing Greener Grant in 2008, funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection and approved by the Westmoreland County Commissioners. Phase I began in 2009, and included the installation of a retention basin by Adam Eidemiller Inc., to control sediment-laden runoff from the fair's heavily used arena area. Because the arena is continually disturbed due to various events which take place at the fair year round, the runoff has been depositing sediment into a nearby tributary of Sewickley Creek.

Laurel Mountain Excavating performed the work in Phase II, which included the construction of a second retention basin designed to capture uncontrolled runoff flowing from parking areas at the fairgrounds as well as the road. Inlets and pipes, as well as a flow splitter, were installed thanks to help from Mount Pleasant Township. This innovative control mod-



Three retention basins were created to control runoff and sediment from the Fairgrounds arena, parking and road areas.

erates the amount of water which enters the basin and prevents excess water from flooding the structure and compromising its integrity.

The third and final phase of this project was recently completed in Spring 2011. Ramsey Excavating constructed a mirror image of the retention basin used in Phase II, along with the installation of conveyor belt diversions and a "French Mattress" to direct water away from the road, thanks again to assistance from Mount Pleasant Township.

Projects such as these are a great benefit to Sewickley Creek! Many thanks to the PA DEP, Mount Pleasant Township, and Westmoreland Fairgrounds for their support and hard work!

Association Honors Eagle Scouts



(L-R) Michael Pacacha and Nathan Keller

Two Eagle Scout candidates from Troup 457 New Stanton were recently recognized at the SCWA fundraiser banquet on April 30.

Nathan Keller, son of SCWA Executive Director,

Tom Keller, completed his project at the Wilson Run AMD remediation site. Nathan recruited 29 volunteers to repair the weir and area around it, in addition to constructing concrete steps and clearing brush and briars around the system.

Michael Pacacha completed his Eagle project at the Brinkerton AMD facility. Michael and his team of 19 volunteers braved the freezing weather to repair vandalism to our Agri-Drain water level control structure, as well as cleared brush and trees from around the aerators and pond banks.

We are grateful for Nathan and Michael's work on our remediation facilities and congratulate them on their awards.

Scouts Adopt Shinsky Road

Boy Scout Troop 327, located in Youngstown, PA, will be adopting Shinsky Road as one of their regular projects, in cooperation with PA Cleanways.

Previous community service projects by the scouts include an adopt-a-highway project on Route 982 for the past 18 years, in addition to rebuilding the war memorial in Baggaley from the ground up and constructing a memorial at the Saint Vincent Shaft.

Scouts who participated in the first Shinsky Road clean-up were: Alec Barlock, Tommy Bobik, Jacob Bricker, Ricky Cerra, Travis Grossman, T.J. Henry, Ryan Murphy, Michael Slesak, and Ethan Stas. Scoutmasters include James Foster and Dave Mayger.



Sewickley Creek Watershed Association
PO Box 323
Youngwood, PA 15697

SCWA Newsletter - Summer 2011

SCWA Board of Directors

Dr. Ellen Uschak - President
James W. Pillsbury - Secretary
Larry D. Myers - Treasurer
Ray Bennett
John Curnow
Darl Dodson
Mike Hamilton
Mark Killar
Doug Orbin

Executive Director,
Thomas W. Keller



*Working Together For A Better
Environment*

**Join Us At Our Next Monthly
Meeting!**

Every Third Thursday at 7:00 pm
Midtown Plaza, Office 201
450 South Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

Open To All!



Board Member Larry Myers helps
with pre-season stocking of Little
Sewickley Creek.

SCWA Newsletter Contributors:
Susan L. Huba, Editor

Larry Myers, Sewickley Creek Watershed Association
Rob Cronauer, Westmoreland Conservation District
Tom Keller, Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

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

If you would rather receive this
newsletter via email, contact
our office!