

SCWA

FALL 2023



WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

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5th Annual Cruise for Conservation

On Saturday, August 5th SCWA hosted our 5th annual Cruise for Conservation held at the Westmoreland Conservation District. A good forecast resulted in a record turnout of 91 cars, trucks and bikes who packed the parking lot to support SCWA's mission of conserving and improving the Sewickley Creek Watershed. SCWA Board Members and volunteers were kept busy parking and registering vehicles, selling 50/50 and raffle basket tickets, and manning the grill for all of the hungry cruisers. Vendors included painter George Mains, Tricia's Jewelry Box and 2J's Rustic Wicks. DJ Pete Highlands kept the tunes rolling and hand made bird houses were given as door prizes. The birdhouses were donated and constructed by SCWA member Joe Theis. SCWA Member Mark Jackson made the Car Cruise Award Plaques. Thank you, gentlemen!



Always drawing an eclectic mix of vehicles, those in attendance were able to view everything from a retro ice cream bicycle-cart to a Semi Mack truck. Of special interest was the "Oldest Cruise Vehicle," a 1880's era Studebaker wagon. While not motorized, the wagon told the story of the Studebaker company and its transition from horse drawn wagons to automobiles. Special thanks to the Compass Inn Museum of Laughlontown for loaning us the wagon and to all the cruisers and our generous sponsors!



2023 Cruise for Conservation

Winners: 1957 Chevy Stepside



Cruise for Conservation Thank You 2023 Sponsors & Donors

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Lowber Field Day

On September 15, 2023 SCWA hosted an educational Field Day at our Lowber AMD site. We had approximately 150 high school students and teachers in attendance from five different school districts. These included Yough, Mt. Pleasant, Greater Latrobe, Kiski, and Trinity Christian School. Throughout the day, students expressed their enjoyment of what they were learning at the ten educational stations and the teachers were very appreciative of such a broad overview of ecological concepts. Many teachers have already expressed their interest in returning with a group next year! Other educators who saw the Trib Live news articles contacted SCWA wanting to participate next year. You can read these articles at [TribLive.com](https://www.triblive.com). You can find the article links and more photos on SCWA's Facebook page.



SCWA extends a special Thank you to the William E. Chatlos Foundation for their kind sponsorship that made our Lowber Abandoned Mine Drainage Site Field Day possible. Their generous donation was crucial in meeting our needs for the event. We are also grateful to Menasha Packaging who donated the water, fruit, and a portion of our brochure publishing costs in addition to sending three of their employees as station educators and logistics help.

The great success of Field Day would not have been possible without the help and insight of a host of volunteers and the involvement of the Lowber Fire Department was critical. Especially when you consider that we had nearly 200 people onsite! The teamwork involved was exemplary and it was a blessing to have the opportunity to work with everyone.



SCWA presents Lowber Fire Dept. with a monetary donation and SCWA merchandise for their Field Day assistance.



SCWA VP Ted Curnow welcomes & thanks County Commissioner Doug Chew for attending Field Day. Behind them sits a large pile of iron-oxide from the recent system dredging.



Students built 12 bird houses during the course of the day. Which will be placed at the site. A big "thank you" to member Joe Theis for donating all the needed materials and overseeing the building.

Thank You Partners!

The involvement of professors and professionals from our partners who taught at the educational stations were exceptional and educationally memorable for the students. They also gave the students insight into the professional career possibilities within the environmental field.

- * PennWest University California Campus
- * St. Vincent College * PA Cleanways
- * Westmoreland Conservation District
- * Creation Trails Wetland * Hedin Environmental
- * Menasha Packaging * Lowber Vol. Fire Dept.
- * SCWA Board Members & Family

Electro Fishing at Brinkerton

Faculty and students from Garrett College along with members of the Westmoreland Conservation District waded through the Sewickley Creek on Friday, August 11th. The group gathered along the Brinkerton AMD site to electrofish the Sewickley Creek above and below the Passive Treatment System site.



Electrofishing uses an electrical current to stun the fish for a few seconds so they can be collected in nets and buckets. This fish population sampling method is used to determine abundance, density and species composition. After a 100-meter stretch, the fish are identified, counted and returned back to the stream unharmed. Six different species of fish were collected below (downstream) the passive treatment system and ten different species above (upstream) the system. The Brinkerton passive treatment system treats the abandoned mine discharge with a series of ponds and wetlands. Oxygen mixes with the mine water and iron oxide is collected in the bottom of the ponds. The system removes approximately 80% of the iron oxide (rust that coats the rocks and turns the water orange) before the water is returned back to Sewickley Creek. The fish survey indicated that iron oxide is still limiting the number of species found downstream. Additional work is underway to make the passive treatment system more efficient at removing additional iron oxide, which will have a positive effect on the water quality of Sewickley Creek.



Educational Program for Shadyside Academy

On June 12th Shadyside Academy students toured the Lowber AMD site gaining knowledge in a broad range of areas including the functionality of the AMD system, chemistry, watershed erosion control, and wetland soils, wildlife and aquatic plants. SCWA appreciates the efforts of our educators for the day which included Mr. Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer at WCD, Dr. Sarah Pillsbury, Chemistry professor Adj. at St. Vincent College, Dr. Bob Whyte, Biology professor at PennWest University, and SCWA Executive Director, Vanessa Whipkey.



Upcoming Programs

Spring Paddle Event

Mark your calendar for our

Spring Paddle Event!

June 1st, 2024 @ 9am-12pm

**Where: Put in at New Stanton Park
and take out at Yukon Lions Park
for a total of 7 miles**

\$15 Registration Fee

**Pre-registration Required by
5/18/24 @**

www.sewickleycreek.com



SCWA is looking to partner with groups/individuals who would be interested in participating in our Road Clean-up Program within Sewickley Watershed. Interested individuals or groups please email SCWA to **schedule at** scwa@sewickleycreek.com



SCWA merchandise is available for purchase. This includes ball caps, t-shirts, and winter beanie hats. Contact us to get yours today and show your support for our conservation efforts!



Bring your group or organization for a guided educational tour of our Lowber AMD Project!
scwa@sewickleycreek.com





Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

"Promoting the conservation of natural resources, monitoring and improving water quality, and advocating wise land use practices in the Sewickley Creek Watershed".

Membership Application

Name	
Title	
Address	
City	State ZIP+4
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Volunteer Interests

(Check all activities of interest to you)

<input type="checkbox"/> Office/Newsletter Help	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream Surveys	<input type="checkbox"/> Stocking Fish
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanups	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Sampling
<input type="checkbox"/> SCWA Event Help	<input type="checkbox"/> Coke Oven Clean Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Lowber Family Day
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Car Cruise	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting

Membership Levels

(Check or circle selected level)

<input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron - \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership Amount: \$ _____
Donation amount: \$ _____
Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
Sewickley Creek Watershed Association
P.O. Box 911
Greensburg, PA 15601

SCWA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Sewickley Creek Watershed Assoc.
P.O. Box 911
Greensburg, PA 15601
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