



# SCWA Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION

WINTER 2011

## Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

*Working Together For A Better Environment*

### Upcoming Events



**April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Westmoreland Earth Day at Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**

SCWA/Westmoreland Cleanways Cleanup

### Contact Us:

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**Thomas W. Keller,  
Executive Director**

## Sewickley Creek Watershed Year-In-Review

Contributed by SCWA President,  
Dr. Ellen Ushak



Good day to you all! S.C. Watershed here. It's been quite awhile since I've last talked to you. Don't know 'bout you but as the years add up, time goes by faster than a thoroughbred at the derby. Hope this finds you all well and sassy.

The year 2010 has recently come to a close and I was thinking and remembering (yep, I can still do it) 'bout what happened this past year.

We all complain 'bout the weather - not sure if it's part of our constitution or not but this year was not one of my favorites - starting off with a great pile of snow and cold, followed by not much rain as I remember - least not one that my garden and flowers seem to approve of.

What I most remember is what those folks at the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) have been up to. They have completed the construction part at the Brinkerton site, including the installation of a blower system.



They told me that they don't have electricity to the blower as yet though - seems that part will cost them some pretty pennies

- though I've never seen ugly ones - Ha ha!

The completed remediation projects at Wilson Run and Lowber continue working to get the orange iron oxide pollution out of the water. Some of the dried orange powder has already been removed by Mr. Hedin's Iron Oxide Recovery, Inc.

SCWA continues to work with the Western Pa Conservancy to complete an assessment of the entire watershed by collecting information on flows, water and environmental quality. They tell me this plan will identify the various pollution sources affecting our streams and creeks in the watershed and allow them to better plan for its elimination.



The SCWA received a Growing Greener Grant to address storm water run off, stream bank stabilization as well as riparian buffers at

Westmoreland County Community College. This work is scheduled to begin in May.



Earth day, 2010, and the Great American Cleanup was another one of SCWA's activities. The volunteers collected two dump trucks of trash, 152 bags of garbage, and 162 abandoned tires - all from around the Youngwood area - Shame how some folks don't respect Mother Nature and her beautiful bounty.

Vandalism also continues to be a pain in the neck of the SCWA. Water elevation boxes are being shot up, trees being cut down, and 4-wheel

vehicles driving through and over their project sites. Heck! I've seen bushels of spent shotgun shells near the coke ovens at Brinkerton. No Respect, No Respect.



each month at 7:00 PM. As always all are welcome!

In August, 27 scouts, friends, and SCWA Board Members donated a combined 135 hours to complete Nathan Keller's Eagle Scout project at the Wilson Run Minewater Treatment Facility in Mt. Pleasant Township. The Eagle Scout project consisted of clearing a whoppin' 95-foot trail to the weir located at the end of the treatment facility. I also heard the group repaired the weir and cleared out a larger area for the folks at the watershed to investigate more mine drainage - it's a dirty job, but someone's gotta do it!



I'd better let you go now, I've been bending your ears for a while now. Please remember to renew your membership, volunteer, or join the SCWA. These are a bunch of good folks trying to do good for our environment, be one of them.

- All My Best, S.C. Watershed



It was an emotional day for me when SCWA planted a memorial tree in honor of Bob Hepler, one of its founding members and a good friend of mine, at the Youngwood train station pavilion. Family and friends gathering together to remember old times with ice cream and pie. A bench is also part of the memorial.

The board of SCWA has undergone some change this year. Medical concerns have caused the resignations of Wayne Brinker and Marion Watson. Personal commitments

have caused the resignation of Nancy Harris. They will be missed. Coming to the board late this year is John Curnow, an area businessman. I'm sure he's a fine addition - seems like a nice fellow. The organization is always looking for some good members.

The main office of the Sewickley Creek Watershed has moved giving it more room. It is now located in the Midtown Plaza, 450 South Main Street, Office 201 in Greensburg. This office has an attached meeting room - so their board meetings are held there also on the third Thursday of

**Yes! I would like to become a member of SCWA!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level:  
 \$10 Individual  
 \$25 Family  
 \$25 - \$100 Organization  
 \$100 - \$1,000 Business

Make checks payable to SCWA and mail along with completed form to: SCWA, PO Box 323, Youngwood, PA 15697

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