



# SCWA Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION

JULY 2015

## Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

*Working Together  
For A Better  
Environment*

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### Newsletter Contributors

Rob Cronauer  
Tom Keller  
Larry Myers

#### Contact Us:

PO Box 323  
Youngwood, PA 15697  
Office Phone (724) 610-0829  
scwa@sewickleycreek.com

**Thomas W. Keller**  
*Executive Director*

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

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

## SCWA and Partners Celebrate Earth Day!



Westmoreland County Commissioner, Ted Kopas, stands beside a kiosk designed and constructed by students from Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center that explains the projects recently completed at Lynch Field in Greensburg.

**S**ewickley Creek Watershed Association partnered with the City of Greensburg and other groups to conclude a three-year, streambank remediation project and celebrate Earth Day at Lynch Field on April 25th. With grants from Firestone Building Products, the group finalized the project by installing an education kiosk and interpretive trail signs along Jacks Run, adjacent to the athletic complex. The kiosk and signs explain the best engineering practices employed to prevent bank erosion and re-direct the flow of the stream. They include stream deflectors, geo-web panels, rip-rap, and a jack dam. Trees, shrubs and grass have also been planted over the past three years to help stabilize the bank. The tens of thousands of visitors who visit the park annually can learn how similar techniques might be used in their communities and backyards.

The kiosk was designed and constructed by students from Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center. At the kiosk dedication ceremony, Gary Kistler, Carpentry Instructor, expressed how proud he was of his students. "The project was a practical learning experience that our students will be able to

show their family and friends for decades to come. The students enjoyed putting their engineering and carpentry skills to work on a real community project!"

Westmoreland County Commissioner, Ted Kopas, thanked all of the partners, especially Scout Troop 465 from Hempfield Township that has helped SCWA on Earth Day events since 1995. "It is through partnerships like this project that we can make the biggest difference in our communities. Each group brings a piece of the puzzle to the table. It is great to see the City, Firestone, the Career and Technology Center, and all of the volunteers pulling together to repair the streambanks, and to use Lynch Field as a demonstration site." The scouts installed five interpretive trail signs, planted 80 tree seedlings and spread mulch prior to the ceremony.

In other related Earth Day events, volunteers cleaned up 42 tires, a sofa, electronics and 40 bags of litter along Shinsky Road in Unity Township. Also, 15 employees at Menasha Packaging Company near Yukon celebrated Earth Day by completing their own beautification project at the entrance to their plant. As part of the project, they removed trash, including tires and lawn chairs, from the banks of Sewickley Creek adjacent to the plant.



CWCTC students pose in front of the newly constructed kiosk.

# Vandalism at Lowber Treatment Facility

SCWA is offering a \$50 reward for information leading to the arrest of individuals vandalizing and/or illegal dumping of debris at its property at the local mine discharge treatment facility north of the community of Lowber along Lowber Road.

Unfortunately, we have been dealing with a series of vandalism and illegal dumping on our property. Rails on fences have been broken and thrown into the lagoons. Rocks have been thrown at the kiosk. Debris has been dumped and litter has been discarded on our property along Lowber Road. These acts damage our property resulting in costly repairs and cleanups. It also creates an eyesore for your community, and invites similar undesirable activities.

We are asking for your help to stop the vandalism and illegal dumping. If you witness any acts of vandalism or illegal dumping, or are aware of who has caused the damage to date, we ask that you contact us or the state police. The Association will pay a reward of \$50 for each conviction. PA Game and PA Fish & Boat Commission have also been notified of these acts and are patrolling the area.

## Community Leaders Honored by Watershed Organization

SCWA recognized several community leaders at its fundraiser banquet held on March 7 at Giannilli's II Restaurant in Greensburg. Awards this year were presented to Firestone Building Products, University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg Campus, Mark Jackson from the Westmoreland Conservation District, Central Westmoreland CTC, and Scout Troop 465. Over 170 guests attended the event.

Each year the Association recognizes local individuals, businesses and organizations for their leadership in conserving our natural resources and improving the quality of life in our communities. Sewickley Creek partners with businesses, municipalities, schools and other organizations to help reduce pollutants entering our streams and to restore riparian buffers.

Westmoreland County Commissioner, Ted Kopas, presented award winners with proclamations on behalf of the County for their accomplishments. Hempfield Township Supervisor, Doug Weimer, presented a proclamation to the Association for their achievements and partnership efforts. Staff and students from UPG served as guest speakers and reported the results of their recent water quality studies.

SCWA expresses its sincere appreciation to all who attended and supported the event, including sponsors: Firestone Building Products, University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg, Hepler's Hardware, The PT Group/Kraisinger Family Dentistry; Team Denny & Jodi at Berkshire Hathaway; Rachel Hoza, CPA; Menasha Packaging Company, LLC; Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co.; Westmoreland Conservation District; West Newton Sportsmen's Association; Brett Dias; and Adam Eidemiller, Inc.



Award recipients L-R: Plant Manager Michael McCrea, Firestone; Mark Jackson, WCD; Dr. Dean Nelson and Dr. Sharon P. Smith, UPG; Tom Keller, SCWA; members of Scout Troop 465; County Commissioner Ted Kopas and Dr. Ellen Uschak, SCWA.

**Please see SCWA's web site [www.sewickleycreek.com](http://www.sewickleycreek.com) for a complete listing of sponsors, prize donors and photographs from the event.**



*Thanks to Sewickley Township Supervisors, SCWA is happy to announce that there is now a pull-off area at the end of the Lowber Treatment System, just before the treated water is discharged into Sewickley Creek. This is a great addition to the site, especially during educational programs or monitoring events. Students can now be dropped off at the inlet, where the iron polluted mine water enters the treatment system from what was once the slope entrance to the Marchand deep mine, and walk along the series of ponds followed by the constructed wetland and be picked up where the clean water is discharged back into the creek.*