



**Sewickley
Creek
Watershed
Association**

*Working Together
For A Better
Environment*

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Thomas W. Keller
Executive Director

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

SCWA Newsletter

FALL EDITION

NOVEMBER 2019

Second Annual Hester Coke Works Clean Up

This past spring, we held the second annual Hester Coke Works clean-up. Last year, we concentrated on the front/railroad side and this year, due to the fact that there was much less vegetation on the back side due to it being more wooded and receiving less sunlight. There were some fairly large trees however. We had approximately forty volunteers this year, everybody from Boy Scouts to people that were just curious about what we were doing.

We were able to get a lot of the hard work done, and have positioned ourselves even closer to our final goal. The plan is to highlight one of the best preserved blocks of beehive coke ovens in Westmoreland County, allowing us to demonstrate an industry that was once the largest in our region. This allows us a unique opportunity to further public awareness of the passive treatment system at Brinkerton, as well as provide an educational example of the historic coal and coke industry. Out of the hundreds of beehive coke plants in the Connellsville Coke District (including both Fayette and Westmoreland Counties), this has never been attempted. Once everything is cleaned up, this will allow us to have family days at the Brinkerton Site, similar to Lowber.



Volunteers tackle overgrown brush at the Hester Coke Works Clean-up.

Cruise for Conservation Another Success!



Attendees of the second annual "Cruise for Conservation" check out the classic cars on display during the event.

The SCWA hosted our second annual Cruise for Conservation at the Donohoe Center in Hempfield Township on June 15. The cruise featured 52 antique, historic, classic and unique vehicles. A row of Corvettes lined one grassy lawn; old "hot rod" cars were in the parking lot; and a beautifully restored 1947 Mercury was parked near the door of the Conservation District's Barn headquarters. DJ Pete Highlands played oldies for the hundred-plus guests who strolled through the cars. SCWA executive director, Tom Keller, cooked tasty hot dogs and burgers. Guests bid on various "silent auction" gift baskets, put tickets in for a lottery and money tree, and enjoyed door prizes and a 50-50 raffle. Displays in the Barn featured stream conservation, quilting, and the watershed's history. Many thanks to the SCWA Board members and volunteers from the local Corvette Club and the Conservation District for all their hard work!

Third Annual Lowber Family Field Day

Students and teachers enjoyed the 14 different presentations at the Third Annual Lowber Family Field Day on September 18 at Sewickley Creek Watershed Association's Environmental Education Site. Yough School District and Mt. Pleasant Area School District students, home-schooled students and the Sewickley Township Library Reading Club walked from station to station learning about the Lowber abandoned mine water site that has become an environmental education site, a walking trail, a wildlife viewing area and a geo-caching site.

Over 100 students and teachers and volunteers enjoyed the beautiful day and site.



Dr. Savisky demonstrates how students at Pitt Greensburg have been using benthic macroinvertebrates to see the effects of AMD on the Sewickley Creek ecosystem.



Lowber Volunteer Fire Company fireman teaching fire safety at the Third Annual Lowber Family Field Day.



**A Special "Thank You" to
Menasha Packaging Company
for your continued support to
the SCWA!**

A Tribute to Lewis Stout



Lewis Stout loved the Lowber Abandoned Mine Water Treatment Site. Lewis could identify the birds and wildlife that called the site home. On his own time and desire, Lewis would pick up the trash left by uncarving individuals. Lewis conducted nature tours and participated in the Lowber Family Field Days and he loved that clean water flowing into the Sewickley Creek and the Yough River.

Lewis passed away in the spring of 2019. Thank you Lewis for your friendship and your help at the Lowber Abandoned Mine Water Treatment Site.



Planning on making one more donation to a charitable organization before December 31st?

Sewickley Creek Watershed Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and will use your donation to protect our natural resources and environment.

Please send your year-end giving to:

SCWA, PO Box 323, Youngwood, PA 15697.

Thank You!