



**Sewickley  
Creek  
Watershed  
Association**

*Working Together  
For A Better  
Environment*

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# SCWA Newsletter

FALL EDITION

NOVEMBER 2020

## West Newton Boat Launch Rehabilitation

**T**his past winter, Sewickley Creek Watershed Association assisted the Borough of West Newton with rehabilitating their boat launch. The launch is located along the Suterville Road, near the Giant Eagle plaza. While this site along the Youghiogheny River is slightly outside the Sewickley Creek Watershed, the value of partnerships goes beyond watershed boundaries!

This project went quickly and seamlessly. When projects go that well, it is always a result of great partners. The project was designed and permitted by the Westmoreland Conservation District, installed by C.H.&D. Enterprises with help from the West Newton Sportsman Club and West Newton Borough. The Borough also assisted with funding the project, along with our longtime partner, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.



*Employees from West Newton Borough and C.H.&D. Enterprises help prepare the base of the launch site.*

### Thank you partners!



## Year-End Support Needed!

**A**s all are well aware, COVID-19 has wreaked havoc with small businesses and non-profits across our great Commonwealth. Sewickley Creek Watershed Association's (SCWA's) fundraising events were cancelled this year, and overall, membership contributions are down for 2020. Your year-end donations will help the SCWA start strong in 2021! SCWA is a registered 501(c)(3) organization; your gift is 100% tax deductible.

Looking ahead, the SCWA Annual Cruise for Conservation and the Lowber Family Field Day that were unfortunately cancelled this year will be scheduled for 2021. Please plan to attend these exciting events and contact Tom Keller if you are interested in volunteering to help.



# Improvements Continue at Lowber AMD System



*The unmistakable orange color of abandoned mine drainage sludge will be processed by Hoover Color into new pigment for a variety of products.*

The Sewickley Creek Watershed Association continues to make improvements to its Lowber Treatment System. Recently, SCWA worked with Hedin Environmental to remove the existing iron sludge (dry) pile. This pile was from the past sludge basin clean-out performed at the system in 2012. In all, 43 truckloads (nearly 1,000 tons!) of dried iron-oxide sludge were removed from the site. Some of the dried material was distributed to Hoover Color Company to be re-used as pigment for their products. Our next newsletter will describe in more detail the management and maintenance plans for this treatment facility.

Twenty years ago, no one would believe that people would be walking around the mine discharge at Lowber. Today, many people are enjoying walking the new “Lowber Loop” trail that circles the Abandoned Minewater Discharge settling ponds. The Lowber Loop is almost one-mile long, providing opportunities for exercise, wildlife viewing and photography, and environmental education. People from near and far enjoy the site all year long.

The Lowber Loop Trail was funded by grants from the PA Environmental Council– Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscaping and ARIPPA, as well as supported by donations from Menasha Packaging Company and Firestone Building Products.



*In photo (L-R): Rob Cronauer, Jim Pillsbury, Ted Curnow, Brian Merdian and Tom Keller cut the ribbon for the opening of the Lowber Loop Trail.*

## ~In Memoriam~



**Gerald T. Trainer**

*Dec. 15, 1948 - July 28, 2020*

The SCWA Board of Directors is saddened to announce the passing of Director, Jerry Trainer. Jerry became involved with SCWA in early 2018 and was instrumental in organizing the organization’s First Annual Car Cruise for Conservation that same year. By November 2018, Jerry was appointed to the Board, dutifully volunteering at SCWA events and always trying to think of

ways to better the watershed. Jerry was involved in a number of organizations, including his church, Christ United Methodist Church of Youngwood. Director Trainer’s energy and passion for the cause will be deeply missed by his fellow board members and all who knew him.

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Thursday, July 30 dawned cheerful and pleasant...a good day to relax, enjoy the outdoors...or, a good day to help long-time SCWA friends at Westmoreland CleanWays move to their new facility! CleanWays outgrew their former facility on Route 30 near Beatty Crossroads and obtained a new place near Pleasant Unity. SCWA members Rob Cronauer, Ted Curnow, Darl Dodson, Tim Savisky and Sarah and Jim Pillsbury helped move boxes, shelves, cabinets, chairs, and all kinds of treasures! CleanWays has been a great help to SCWA over the years, supporting many clean-up efforts, and this was a great opportunity to show our thanks.