



# SCWA Newsletter

SPRING EDITION

APRIL 2016

## 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.**

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

## Investments in Conservation

**T**he Sewickley Creek Watershed Association continues to make investments in conservation at the Lowber Mine Drainage Treatment System. In our previous newsletter, we reported that Sewickley Township partnered with us to install a pull-off area and steps at the lower end of the treatment system.

Once again, Sewickley Township has greatly helped out the Association by mowing the embankments of the treatment systems. Our small volunteer organization does not have the resources and man power to do all of the maintenance of the system. This is what makes the Township's efforts so crucial. Without the mowing, the public access to the site is restricted, routine maintenance becomes more difficult, and eventually trees will become established and threaten the integrity of the pond embankments with their roots. We extend our sincere "thank-you" to the Sewickley Township Supervisors for again assisting us with maintaining this valuable resource.



Yet another asset to the community arrived when the Association installed a canoe/kayak launch along Sewickley Creek, just upstream of Lowber. This launching area also acts as a convenient stream access for the local fishermen. The Western PA Conservancy provided grant funding for the project and it was constructed by Adam Eidemiller, Inc. of Greensburg. We invite the public to take advantage of the newly upgraded access. A sign will be erected this summer to name and define this area. With the help of our valuable partners, SCWA will continue to make investments in conservation to the Lowber Treatment System and for the residents of Sewickley Township.



# Earth Day Celebration Planned

SCWA is asking for volunteers for our largest Earth Day Celebration ever! In 2016, SCWA plans to do trash and litter clean-ups at our Lowber Treatment facilities, as well as Avenues A and B in Youngwood, the Youngwood-Armbrust Road between WCCC and Armbrust. Sections of the Sewickley Creek between Apple Mills Bridge and Lowber will be scheduled in July.

To accomplish these clean-ups, we need volunteers! This is the year to become involved with SCWA aside from just being a dues-paying member. Become an *active* member today!

To volunteer or for more information, contact SCWA at (724) 610-0829 or [scwa@sewickleycreek.com](mailto:scwa@sewickleycreek.com).



## S.C. Watershed Here!



**G**ood day to one and all! It's been quite a while since I've talked to you, so if'n you're willin':

We've finished another year, 2015, and are moving swiftly through 2016. Seems that the older one gets the faster the days go by! But fast days or not, the folks at SCWA haven't let the grass grow under their feet. They have been busy as ever.

Work continues at their three major AMD sites. Channels are being modified, cement troughs are replacing existing pipes, additional discharges have been located, electricity is being brought in - all part of remediation and restoration. But the SCWA folks have also added some new things this past while.

- There is a new pull-off area and steps at the end of the Lowber site - just before the treated water is discharged into Sewickley Creek. This makes it easier to get to the trail, make observations on the treatment and check on the wildlife. In case you're interested, Cyndy and Cygnus are doing just fine!
- A kayak-canoe access was constructed at the Sewickley Creek across from the Lowber site. Hope a lot of you adventurers take advantage to get your watercraft in and out of the water.
- Stream bank stabilization and remediation was completed at Lynch Field. This was accomplished thanks to a grant from Firestone Building Products, help from Greensburg employees, scout troop 465, and SCWA members. Interpretive trail signs and an educational kiosk built by Central Westmoreland Career and Technical Center were placed along the trail. Some mighty nice informative info on those signs - you should take a look see when you're about.
- Work has been initiated at the Andrews Run - Bulldog Excavating site. This project is scheduled to be completed this year.
- Designs are underway for a project at WCCC to help prevent the flooding of the faculty parking lot.
- Cooperative efforts have begun with the University of Pittsburgh and California University for students to study the biodiversity of the watershed, its waters and the effect of the mine water on this diversity.
- And that's not all! Those busy SCWA folks have partnered with the West Newton Sportsmen's Association in stocking the Sewickley.
- The SCWA has performed many cleanups and there are more being scheduled for this year.



SCWA tries to obtain grants from government and private foundations - but this organization was originally and is still a volunteer organization, which depends upon the local community for information and help. So if you can, please lend a hand or two with the organizations projects or simple tasks. Support them as much as you can, either with memberships, donations or needed help - because we are all working together for a better environment.

~ S.C. Watershed ~  
signing off