



Annual Meeting 2004

The Sandusky River Watershed Coalition will be hosting its annual meeting on October 28 at Herbster Chapel (Pfleiderer Center) on the Heidelberg Campus. For directions, see our website or contact us at 419-334-5016.

The guest speaker for the day will be Dana Oleskiewicz from OSU Extension in Wooster. Dana will be giving a presentation on organizational development and growth.

The Steering Committee made the decision at the September meeting that 2005 would be a good time to review our past accomplishments, reevaluate our goals as an organization, and refocus our efforts throughout the watershed.

The Coalition is at an important point right now. Our ODNR Coordinator Grant is shrinking each year and will soon disappear from our budget all together. This puts even more emphasis on the need to do fundraising, membership drives, and other activities.

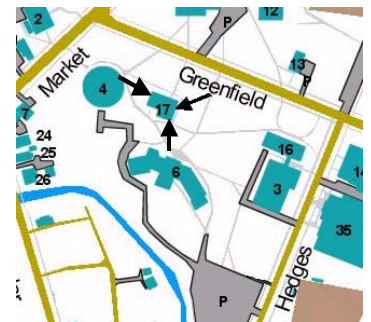
In addition, now is a great time to get involved in any of our subcommittees. They are: Agriculture, Development, Education, Membership & Fundraising, Stream Flow & Habitat, Water Supply, and Wastewater.

Education and Membership & Fundraising are most in need of new volunteers. As a member of the committee you will play a key role in deciding what

types of activities the group will undertake and how you will take part in our mission.

If you had been involved with a committee before, or have been awaiting the perfect opportunity to get involved, now is that time.

2005 will be an exciting year for the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition, and we want you to be a part of the action!!!



Herbster Chapel—Pfleiderer Center for Religion & Humanities—is visible from Greenfield Street in Tiffin. See the website calendar or call for directions.

Home Sewage Treatment System Replacement Program Gets Started

The EPA Section 319 program for targeted replacement of home sewage treatment systems is finally getting underway. The grant agreement was signed by WSOS and OEPA in mid August, allowing the program to officially get

started.

The first advisory board meeting was held in early August and another is scheduled for the first week of October.

Development of program materials and implementa-

tion of education and outreach will take up much of our time this fall and winter. This includes the planning of workshops and homeowner meetings. We hope to replace up to 18 systems this fall, if the weather cooperates.

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Special points of interest:

- Annual Meeting Scheduled
- 2005 Memberships Due November 1
- Canoe Float in Seneca County
- Recap of 2004 Events & Membership
- Recreation Map released

2004 Year in Review

Well, 2004 has come and gone. I know, I know, its only October. Well, the SRWC Calendar ends on October 31, shortly after the Annual Meeting. On November 1 our new Steering Committee members get started and membership renewals are due. Fundraising returns to zero and a new goal is placed in front of us. However, before we close the books on 2004 at the Annual Meeting, lets take a look back at the major events for the year.

November 03—New year began with a new process for memberships. St. John's dam was removed south of Tiffin by ODNR, and Americorp students were here with Seneca Co SWCD to walk the channel of Wolf Creek.

January 04—Dr. Larry Brown was our guest speaker for the Winter Meeting, a great turnout of members kept the discussion going for almost two hours! Sub-watershed planning also got started.

Feb—Subwatershed planning meetings



Steering Committee members meeting at Wyandot Dolomite Quarry in Carey. Superintendent Dave Wolfe is the Wyandot Co Rep.

were held in Honey Creek and Broken Sword Creek subwatersheds.

Mar—Second round of meetings were held in HC and BS.

Apr—TMDL comment period ended with the submission of a large number of comments from members. Dr. Andy Ward was the guest speaker at our Spring meeting and presented some great information on the research he is doing.

May –The Watershed Festival was held for the second straight year at Lowe-Volk park. Despite constant rain over 120

people managed to come out to the event.

June—We were awarded a LEPF grant to print the recreation maps, the Core 4 program got started in earnest, and high water levels forced us to cancel the Wyandot Co. Canoe Float. The Scenic River Canoe Float was held at the end of the month and was a great success.

July—Summer meeting was held at Killdeer Plains, the Coordinator's Canoe Float brought in over \$300 to help our fundraising for the year inch closer to \$12,000, and we had a display at the Crawford and Seneca Co. Fairs.

Aug—Clean Sweep continued into its 7th year and the HSTS Advisory board met for the first time.

See Year In Review (pg 5)

Steering Committee Elections

Elections for the Steering Committee occur at the annual meeting each year. The Committee meets the first Monday of each month, 1:30-3:30.

The following seats are up for election this year, terms are two years long:

Hardin/Marion, Sandusky, Seneca, Crawford, Erie, At-Large #1, and At-Large #2. Committee Chairs up for election, chosen at the committee meetings, are Education, Water Supply, and Stream Flow.

Are you unable to attend Steering Committee meetings because of your work schedule? Please contact Chris Riddle if you have an interest in getting involved on a more regular basis, but could only do so through night meetings. If there is an interest, we may set up an ad-hoc workgroup of citizens or we could consider evening SC meetings. This

is just another of the many ways we are working to help citizens participate in the watershed process.

Steering Committee meetings are held the first Monday of each month from 1:30-3:30pm. The SC sets the time and location of the meetings.

Feeling out of the loop? Check out our website. Steering Committee minutes are a great way to catch up on what's going on throughout the year, just visit the *committees* page.

Watershed Planning Update

Subwatershed planning is underway for the Honey Creek and Broken Sword Creek Watersheds. Meetings were held earlier this year to get public input on a variety of issues that will be addressed in the plans. Drafting of some initial text began in August, and we may have to hold another public meeting to get additional input before the drafts can be completed. It will likely be early winter before another meeting is held due to the busy



Planning meeting for Honey Creek.

schedule farmers are facing this time of year.

The planning process will produce a grocery list of practices that if implemented, would produce water quality impairments. The plans are completely voluntary and serve as a wish list for everything that we hope to eventually accomplish. Keep an eye on the website for updates on the process and future meeting announcements.

Recreation Map Unveiled



On September 11 the SRWC held a canoe float and picnic at Wolf Creek Park in Fremont. The event included birds of prey brought by Back to the Wild Rehabilitation Center, a canoe float, lunch, a talk by Melinda Huntley of Lake Erie Coastal Ohio, and the unveiling of the Recreational Resources Map. This event was in cooperation with Ohio's Coastweeks 2004 (www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo).

Over 35 people attended the event which ran from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Melinda Huntley gave a fascinating talk on tourism trends and the opportunities that lie in our watershed for both travelers and business alike.

Baumann Auto Group in Fremont sponsored the visit by Back To The Wild, who brought out an eagle, among other ani-

mals. This was a great opportunity for people to get up close to one of these amazing birds. Thanks to BTW for taking part in our program.



Over 25 people participated in the canoe floats.

The Recreational Resources Map was produced through funds provided by the Lake Erie Protection Fund (which is funded through the purchase of the Lake Erie license plates), ODNR Scenic Rivers Program (which is funded through the

Scenic Rivers license plates), and North Central Electric Coop. The map is now available for download in pdf. format on our website. Copies printed on water resistant paper are available through the SRWC, Scenic Rivers, your county visitors bureau, and other local entities. A full list of places to get your copy of the map will be kept on the website as well.

Thank you to those who made this event and the map possible.

The event was a part of Ohio's Coastweeks, sponsored by the Lake Erie Commission.



Seneca County Canoe Float

For the past few years the SRWC has held at least one canoe float for its members and local leaders each year. We have decided to attempt two floats per year beginning with the summer of 2004, due to the number of rainouts that we experience.

The Wyandot Co float was cancelled earlier this summer due to high water levels. A Seneca Co. float is scheduled for October 8.

We will begin the day at Heck's Bridge, near Howard Collier State Nature Preserve. The canoes are provided by ODNR Scenic Rivers Program and there are a limited number available. We will end at St. John's Bridge, where transportation back to Heck's will be provided.

Following the float, a bring-your-own brown bag lunch will be held at Walnut Grove. If you do not want to canoe or do not get registered in time to get a boat, you may still attend the lunch.

This float is a great chance to meet with other locals who are interested in protecting the river for all its many uses. Local leaders are invited to the event as well, and many usually attend. Don't miss this chance to speak with decision makers in your community at this informal event.

Registration for the float is required by October 6 at noon. Please call Bob Vargo at 419-981-6319 or email him at bobvargo@bright.net to register. Again, space is limited, so please register early.



Members participate in a canoe float on the Sandusky River. The SRWC holds 2 floats each summer, rotating between Crawford, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties.

Education Committee Needs Volunteers

The Education Committee is in desperate need of volunteers. Anyone who has ideas or just a desire to get involved, please contact Chris Riddle. Meetings are scheduled by the committee members, so we can meet when it works best for you.

Possible areas of involvement are: educational displays, school programs, curriculum development, adult education, educa-

tional material development, public outreach, event planning, storm drain stenciling, canoe floats, community outreach, newspaper article submissions, and just about anything else that you can dream up.

This may be our most important committee, and it is full of great opportunities. If you are at all interested, please give it a try. Meeting with others who have the

same goals is always a great time, and you can make a difference in your community.



ODNR DOW Bald Eagle Banding Event—Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area

Schedule of Events

- **4th**—Monthly Steering Committee Meeting—Seneca Co Ag Center—1:30—3:30 pm
- **5th**—HSTS Adv. Board Meeting—9:00—11:00, Seneca Co Ag Ctr
- **8th**—Seneca Co. Canoe Float—419-981-6319 to register—from Hecks Bridge to St John’s Bridge.
- **28th**—Annual Meeting



October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 September	27	28 Dev. Comm Meeting	29	30	1 October	2
3	4 Steering Committee	5 HSTS Advisory Board	6	7	8 Seneca Co. Canoe Float	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Dev. Comm Meeting	27	28 Annual Meeting	29	30
31 Happy Halloween	1 November 2005 Memberships Due	SC Mtg on Nov 1				

2004 Membership Drive Results

This year we set out to reach a goal of \$17,000 for our membership drive and fund-raising. We are currently at about \$12,000 for the year. Thank you to everyone who made a contribution this year. Our members are:

Mink: American Electric Power, City of Bucyrus, City of Fremont, City of Tiffin, City of Upper Sandusky

Small Mouth Bass: STONECO, Inc.

Walleye: Cedar Point, Clouse Construction Corp., Heidelberg Water Quality Lab, National Machinery Foundation, Pheasants Forever Seneca Co, Sandusky Co. Park District, Smith-Comesky Ground Water Science LLC, Sonoco Products Co. PPD Tiffin, Winous Point March Conservancy, Jean Knoblauch, Mary Frances Kuebler, Don & Carolyn Miller, Steve Mohr, James & Janet Pry, Jim Sherck, DP Smith, Julie Ward, Fred Widman, Dave & Bonnie Wolfe.

Damselfly: Black Swamp Conservancy, Clyde Savings Bank, Crawford Co. Park District, Green Creek Wildlife Society, Ohio Environmental Council, Sandusky Co. Farm Bureau, Seneca Caverns, Seneca County Farm Bureau, Tiffin-Seneca Izaak Walton League, Upper Sandusky Chamber of Commerce, Wyandot Co. Convention & Visitors Bureau, Wyandot Co. SWCD, Dave & Peg Baker, Ken Baker, Tom & Bonnie Bowlus,

Gary DeShetler, Gordon Downard, Richard & Lisa Dunn, Jerry Eitle, Kurt Erichsen, Paul Flathman, George Fruth, Richard Hawkins, Ken Kiser, Bob & Sandra Laipply, Corky Logsdon, Dan McElhatten, Terry & Katie McKibben, Scott Miller, Chris Reed, Scott & Joanne Riddle, Tim & Joan Sacksteder, Barbara & Stuart Shiff, Don Stricker, Brad & Susan Tanner, Rep. Jeff Wagner, Rick & Toni Wagner, David & Lynda Weininger, Margaret Widman, Roger & Sandra Wise, Brian & Kristin Woodall, Roland Zimmerman.

Sycamore: Wyandot Co. Farm Bureau, Berniece Bear, Robert & Rosella Bear, Brad Borer, Monica & Marcus Chibucos, Linda Combs, John Crumrine, Paul & Lois Fey, Friends of Minnow Creek, Arline & Luther Hirt, Ruthann House, Ben Kenny, Kerrie Carte, James & Dorothy Leslie, Tim & Amy Loftus, Nancy McKeen, Jackie & DJ Mears, Joe Perry, Eric Pineiro, Kevin Reinhart, Eric Schmidt, Josie Setzler, Greg Swartzmiller, Nadine Thompson, Brad Van Voorhis, Bruce Wheeler, Matt Work.

2005 Membership Drive Challenge

Making an impact on water quality will take the help of a great number of people – our membership drive is one of the best ways we can get more people involved. Our members are more likely that the average citizen to be informed of

what is happening in the community and to work to take stewardship of the river into their own hands. Here is a challenge for all of our current members that will help us continue to grow as an organization.

For 2005 I am challenging each of you to recruit at least one new member who will match your donation level. This will give someone else a stake in the fate of the Sandusky, and will show them how committed you are to making a difference in your community.

Invite a neighbor to the annual meeting, or any of our other events. Get them involved in what we do. Help us reach people who are interested in improving our river and our communities. Getting your neighbors involved will directly benefit the watershed you call home. While our current membership drive works all year to reach people one at a time, if each of you reach out to one new member this year, we will begin to grow faster than ever. Our current 100 members could by the end of the year rise to 200. And next year, we could realistically reach over 400 members!!! You can see how quickly this type of growth can make a difference. This is what a grassroots organization is all about. People helping others in their own communities get out and make a difference. This is your chance to help.

2005 Membership Renewal Form

2005 Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____

(or)

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Donation: \$ _____

Sycamore: \$10-24

Walleye: \$100-499

Mink \$1,000-2,499

Bald Eagle \$5,000+

Damselfly: \$25-99

Sm. Mouth Bass: \$500-999

Gt Blue Heron: \$2500-4999

Volunteer/Partner Org.

SANDUSKY RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

219 S. Front St.
PO Box 590
Fremont, OH 43420

Phone: 419-334-5016
Fax: 419-334-5125
Email: cmriddle@wsos.org

Please consider increasing your donation for 2005. We are out to shatter the 2004 total, which was a record setting year as well.

Free Offer

Window Clings May Be Offered

This year we are considering offering static window clings to our members. They would likely be clear with one color of text that would read "Proud Member of: Sandusky River Watershed Coalition." Please see the less than stellar example below. These would be a great way to show your support for the SRWC in your car, home, or business. If you would like a window cling, please check the box below. If we get enough interest we will get them ordered as soon as possible.

Yes I would like a window cling.

No I would not like a cling.

Proud Member Of:

Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

Year In Review (cont.)

September—Participated in the Seneca Co 6th Grade Field Day, hosted the Recreations Resources Map Unveiling and Canoe Floats, Published the Recreational Resources Map, Display at Wyandot County Fair (the 4th of the summer), hosted Clean Sweep Events, and hosted a group of water suppliers from the twin cities.

October—Participate in the Wyandot Co. 8th Grade Field Day, host the Seneca Co Canoe Float, host Dan Mecklenberg of Ohio EPA and a group of watershed coordinators from around the state as we tour the area to study stream morphology, take part in the second

round of sampling for the HSTS program, and, we will host the October Annual Meeting for 2004.

This of course is just the surface of what we accomplished around the watershed. By the end of the year we will have reached over 1600 watershed residents—in addition, we have had over 24 newspaper articles, 3 radio interviews, and a slew of website hits.



Development Committee Chair Bob Vargo of ODNR Scenic Rivers, and Anne Coburn-Griffis of ODNR Scenic Rivers, discussing water quality with 6th grade students at the Seneca Co SWCD's 6th Grade Field Day.



SANDUSKY RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

219 S. Front St.
PO Box 590
Fremont, OH 43420

Phone: 419-334-5016
Fax: 419-334-5125
Email: cmiddle@wsos.org

Working together for healthier streams.

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

We're on the Web!
www.sanduskyriver.org

ODNR Scenic Rivers Program

Ohio began a pioneer movement in river preservation with the passage of the Ohio Scenic River Act in 1968. This important legislation created the nation's first Scenic Rivers Program, predating the National Wild and Scenic River Act by several months.

The Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves is responsible for administering the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program, whose mission is to preserve and protect the natural qualities of Ohio's finer streams in order to maintain water quality and the habitat for stream organisms, and that present and future generations may experience their natural beauty and values. For over 35 years, Ohio has maintained a national leadership role in river



The Sandusky River—an Ohio State Scenic River...

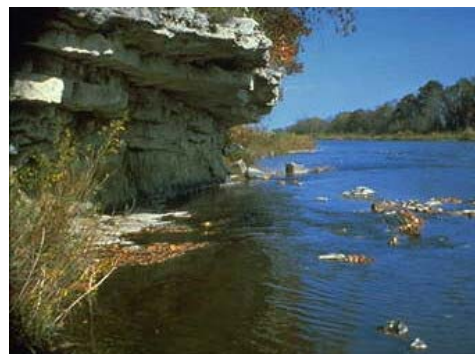
protection and has one of the most comprehensive and advanced programs in the country. This effort has been successful because many concerned Ohioans have joined together to help preserve our natural stream heritage. Scenic river protection requires a team effort based on a partnership between representatives of local government,

business, private landowners, volunteers and scenic rivers staff. As community resources, the quality of scenic rivers reflects the stewardship of those who live within

their watersheds. Adequate protection for scenic rivers depend on local involvement, cooperation and assistance. Take time to spend time on your Sandusky State Scenic River.

Ohio's Scenic Rivers

Little Miami River, Sandusky River, Olentangy River, Little Beaver Creek, Grand River, Upper Cuyahoga River, Maumee River, Stillwater River System, Chagrin River, Big & Little Darby Creek, and Kokosing River.



*Photo credits: ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap/sr/sandusky.htm>*

Sandusky Designation—January 5, 1970. Harrison Smith Park in Upper Sandusky to Roger Young Memorial Park in Fremont, 65 river miles.

On the web at: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap/sr/>