



WATERSHED NEWS

Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

Volume 4, Issue 2

June 5, 2006

Summer Meeting Set—Come Canoe Wyandot County

On June 24th ODNR will be celebrating Sandusky Scenic River Day. The event begins with a canoe float at 10am, followed by a brown-bag lunch at noon and a Stream Quality Monitoring demonstration.

Immediately following the Scenic River Day, the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition will be hosting its Summer Membership Meeting.

Members are invited to arrive early to take part in the lunch and SQM demonstration. The meeting, which will be held around 1:30pm will be followed by a canoe float for members. Participants must call to register for the canoe float, either as a part of Scenic River Day, or as a part of the SRWC's membership meeting. There will be a limit of 15 paddlers during each event. The events will be held at Indian Mill, just north of Upper Sandusky. There is some great fishing in the area as well, and participants are invited to bring their gear and fish the Sandusky River in Wyandot County as well. To register for either the Scenic River Canoe

Float at 10am or the SRWC Canoe Float at 2:30pm, contact Bob Vargo, ODNR Scenic River Manager, at 419-981-6319. Life vests are provided for adults, youth must bring their own vest. The canoe float is about 4 miles from Indian Mill to Parker Covered Bridge, and will take just under an hour and a half to complete.

Schedule of Events Scenic Rivers Day

- 10AM Canoe Float
- 12PM Brown Bag Lunch
- 12:30PM SQM Demo

SRWC Meeting

- 1:30PM Membership Meeting
 - 2:30PM Canoe Float
- (You may bring your own canoe or kayak for the float—we will provide you with transportation back to Indian Mill at the end of the float. Please register even if you plan to bring your own boat, we will call you if we

cancel due to weather.)

Indian Mill Access—CH 47 at the Sandusky River.

Parker Covered Bridge—CH 40 at the Sandusky River.



Special points of interest:

- Full agenda for the Sandusky River Symposium is included inside.
- The Honey Creek Watershed Action Plan is the first fully endorsed watershed plan in Ohio's Lake Erie Watershed!
- You can now use your credit card to donate online. Payments can be split into weekly or monthly installments as well.

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Watershed Planning Update—Honey Creek Gets Full Endorsement

The Honey Creek Watershed Action Plan has received full endorsement from the State of Ohio. The plan is the first in Ohio's Lake Erie Watershed to receive full endorsement status for all components of the plan.

The development of the watershed coordinator grant was based on implementation of the Honey Creek WAP. News should arrive in late June regarding the application.

In addition to the Honey Creek WAP, work continues on the SR-Tiffin WAP. A public survey will be online

through June 10, as a means of getting public input. A public meeting will be held in July to start the public comment period, which will wrap up in mid-august.

Work will also be getting underway on the Brokensword WAP again in the days ahead. The plan was put on the back burner while the Honey Creek WAP was finished up. With the Honey Creek plan completed, it is time to again turn our attention to the Brokensword.

Sandusky River Symposium—Full Agenda Announced

8:00 Registration/Continental Breakfast, Campus Center Great Hall

8:50 *Welcome*, President Dottavio, Heidelberg College

9:00 *Symposium Overview* – David Baker, Heidelberg NCWQR

Session 1. Some Background on the Sandusky River Watershed

9:10 *Land Use and Cover Changes within the Sandusky River Watershed - Implications for Erosion and Runoff Control Strategies*, John Crumrine, Heidelberg NCWQR

9:35 *Municipal Point Source Pollution Controls in the Sandusky Watershed: History and Directions*, Elizabeth Wick, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water

10:00 Break/Poster Viewing

Session 2. Current Water Resource Issues in the Sandusky River Watershed

10:15 *Pollutant Loading to Lake Erie: History and Status*, Peter Richards, Heidelberg NCWQR

10:40 *Recent Water Quality Trends in Lake Erie*, David Rockwell, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office

11:05 *Status of Aquatic Communities in the Sandusky Watershed*, Brian Alsdorf and Chuck McKnight, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water

11:40 *Drinking Water Issues in the Sandusky Watershed*, Stuart Smith, Sandusky Watershed Coalition and Smith-Comeskey Ground Water Science

12:10 Lunch, Hoernemann Refectory

1:20 *Agricultural Drainage Issues in the Sandusky Watershed*, Beth Diesch, Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District

1:45 *Household Sewage Treatment Systems: Issues and Programs*, Kate Siefert, Crawford County Health Department

Session 3. Water Resource Targets and Goals for the Sandusky Watershed

2:10 *Sandusky TMDL: Biological Goals and Use Designations for Sandusky Watershed Streams*, Dan Dudley, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water

2:35 *Sandusky TMDL: Goals for Phosphorus Load Reductions*, Eric Pineiro, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water

3:00 Break/Poster Viewing

3:15 *Sandusky Watershed: Goals for Watershed Restoration as seen by Environmental Organizations*, Dan Binder, Ohio Environmental Council

3:45 *Source Water Protection Goals for Public Water Supplies*, Amy Jo Klei, Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Water

4:10 – 4:40 Panel Discussion on Issues - Session 1-3 Speakers Respond to Questions.

6:30 Island Barbecue – Pioneer Mill on the Sandusky River

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

7:30 Registration/Continental Breakfast, Campus Center Great Hall

Session 4. What's in the BMP Toolbox?

8:30 *Tillage BMPs, Types, Risks and Benefits*, Bill Rohrs, Conservation Action Project.

8:55 *Buffer Strip Programs and the Lake Erie CREP*, Steve Davis, NRCS

9:20 *BMPs Related to Tile Drainage*, Larry Brown, Ohio State University

9:45 *Two-Stage Channels and Over-wide Channels*, Jessica D'Ambrosio and Jon Witter, Ohio State University

10:10 Break/Poster viewing

10:25 *Manure Management and Livestock Programs*, Mark Fritz, Manure Management Specialist, Crawford, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot SWCDs

10:50 *Precision Farming as it Relates to Nutrient Management*, Jerry Cunningham, Agronomist, Country Spring Farmers Co-op

11:15 *Dam Removal*, Bob Gable, ODNR, Scenic Rivers Program

11:40 *Wetland Construction*, Ann Keefe, Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District

12:10 Lunch, Hoernemann Refectory

Session 5. Resources for Planning and Implementation

1:20 *Current and Proposed USDA Funding Programs for Land Owners in the Sandusky Watershed*, Todd Brace, USDA, Farm Service Agency

1:45 *OEPA's 319 Program, Status and Directions*, Russ Gibson, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water

2:10 *Role of Soil and Water Conservation Districts*, David Hanselmann, Chief, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, ODNR

2:35 *Watershed Planning and Current Implementation Programs in the Sandusky River Watershed*, Chris Riddle, Watershed Coordinator, Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

3:00 Break

Session 6. Research Needs and Opportunities

3:15 *Evaluating BMP Demonstration Projects at the Field and Stream Segment Level*, Norm Fausey, USDA/Agricultural Research Service

3:40 *Research at the River/Bay/Lake Interface*, Jeff Reutter, Ohio State University, Ohio Sea Grant College Program

4:05 *Evaluating Program Effectiveness at the Watershed Level*, Peter Richards, Heidelberg NCWQR

4:30 Wrap-up Comments

Registration Fees – Costs cover meals, refreshments, printing costs, and miscellaneous expenses.)

Day 1 (June 27) -----\$30.00

Day 1 Evening Barbeque---\$25.00

Day 2 (June 28)-----\$30.00

Combined registration

for entire symposium-----\$80.00

After 06/05/06 -----Add \$10

Registration Materials at www.sanduskyriver.org



Fundraising Reaches Landmark—and Goes Online

The fundraising efforts for 2006 have surpassed the \$8,000 mark. So far this year, we have received cash donations from 75 members, an average of \$106.87 per member. Donation totals since 2001 are as follows:

2001—\$4,085
2002—\$4,696
2003—\$978
2004—\$9,670
2005—\$8,105
2006—\$8,015

The fundraising focus will now turn to planning the annual meeting, and beginning the fundraising drive for 2007. It is our hope that a few more donations will make their way in before we close out 2006, putting us over the 2005 mark.

We expect to hear from ODNR in June regarding our watershed coordinator grant application, which will have a big impact on our

finances over the next few years.

A better picture of our budget should be available by the Annual Meeting, and discussion of developing a Sandusky River endowment may be able to pick up more steam at that time.

We are also looking to add a few new perks and benefits for our members in 2007, so keep your eyes open for updates.

You can also now renew your membership, or just make a donation online, using clickandpledge. The online donation system is secure and convenient—allowing you to charge your donations to your credit card for the first time.

New donation forms this year will also allow for credit card use—which we can enter online for you.

Donations can be split into monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly installments of \$10 each.

Visit the “Become A Member” link on our website.

SR-Tiffin Web Survey & Public Comment

During the month of May, 400 postcards were sent to local residents asking for their input on the watershed action plan under development for the Sandusky River—Tiffin Tributaries. Of the 400 requests sent out, only 25 were returned for bad addresses...a pretty decent accuracy. However, as of the end of May, only 21 people had taken the web survey, or 5% of those asked to participate.

The survey was a second attempt at gaining input for the watershed action plan in Tiffin—following a public meeting held on April 20 at Sentinel Vocational Center.

A third, and final attempt to gain public input has been made, through an article submitted to the Advertise-Tribune in Tiffin. If you live in the watershed, which drains areas east of Tiffin, including Spicer, Sugar, Willow, Rock, and Morrison Creeks (there is a map online), please log on and take the survey. It will only take you about 15 minutes, and will help us gather important data on public opinion.

The survey is completely anonymous, and can be accessed using the link on our homepage, www.sanduskyriver.org.

The survey will be up until mid-June.

Ag. Self Assessment Program—Summer '06 and Winter '07 Dates Set

After an extremely successful winter, the Ag. Self-Assessment Program has scheduled additional dates for sessions. The winter sessions saw 46 local producers complete the training, about 1/4 of the total we expect over the 4 year program. Starting this summer, we are also opening the program up to farmers outside of Seneca County.

The dates for Summer 2006 are:

Aug 15-17, 9am-12pm

Aug 22-24, 1-4pm

The dates for Winter 2007 are:

Jan 9-11, 1-4pm

Jan 23-25, 9am-12pm

Jan 23-25, 1-4pm

Jan 30-Feb 1, 6-9pm

Feb 6-8, 1-4pm

Feb 13-15, 9am-12pm

Feb 27-Mar 1, 9am-12pm

Feb 27-Mar 1, 6-9pm

To register, contact Tia Rice, Seneca SWCD at: 419-447-7073.

Full details about the sessions are online, just click on the Agriculture link from our homepage.



Our Members—2006

MINK

City of Bucyrus
City of Fremont
City of Tiffin

SMALL MOUTH BASS

Crown Battery Manufacturing Co Inc.

WALLEYE

Pheasants Forever, Seneca Co.
City of Upper Sandusky
Dave & Bonnie Wolfe
Arrowhead Farm
City of Fostoria
Smith-Comesky Ground Water
Science LLC
Brad & Susan Tanner
Holman Aqua Drilling
Norwalk Concrete Industries, Inc
Sandusky County Park District
Sonoco Products Company, PPD
Village of Republic
Water Quality Lab
Winous Point Marsh Conservancy
Dave & Peg Baker
Ken & Deb Baker
John & Susan Crumrine
Steve Mohr
Frederick Widman
Don & Carolyn Miller
Richard & Lisa Dunn
Julie Ward
James & Marcia Bailey
James & Janey Pry
DAMSELFLY
Chris Reed
D.P. & Lynda Weininger
Sandusky County Farm Bureau
Seneca Caverns
Seneca Soil & Water Conservation
District
Scott & Joanne Riddle

Steve Smith
Kerry Adkins
Roger Minier
Margaret Widman
Crawford Park District
Eyestone Flower Farm
Friends of Minnow Creek
Green Creek Wildlife Society
Sandusky Soil & Water Conserva-
tion District
Seneca County Farm Bureau
Tiffin-Seneca Chapter of the Izaak
Walton League
Village of New Washington
Tom & Connie Fishbaugh
George Fruth
Nancy McKeen
Tim & Joan Sacksteder
Roland & Carole Zimmerman
Toni Wagner
Shane and Kate Siefert
Robert & Rosella Bear
Bob & Sandra Laipply
R.J. & Mary Robinson
Kurt Erichsen
Black Swamp Conservancy
Clouse Construction Corp.
Sandusky Co. Chamber of Com-
merce
Sandusky County Commissioners
Carl & Mary Anne Koebel
Paul & Lois Fey
Wyandot County Farm Bureau
Joyce Morehart
Josie Setzler
James Welty
Roger & Sandra Wise
James & Dorothy Leslie
Terry & Katie McKibben
Dan McElhatten

Cooperating Affiliates:

Crawford County SWMD/Recycling
Crawford County Health Department
Crawford Park District
Erie County Health Department
Erie Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
Ohio Environmental Protection
Agency
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
ODNR Division of Natural Areas &
Preserves
ODNR Division of Wildlife
Ohio State University Extension
Pheasants Forever
Sandusky County Farm Bureau
Sandusky County Health Department
Sandusky County Park District
Seneca County General Health Dis-
trict
Seneca County Park District
USDA Natural Resources Conserva-
tion Service
Wyandot County Commissioners
Wyandot County Health Department
Wyandot Soil & Water Conservation
Dist.
Wyandot County Visitors & Conven-
tion Bureau

Our cooperating affiliates are local and state entities that make a substantial in-kind contribution of their staff time.

Not on this list? Go
online to renew your
membership today!



From The Coordinator's Desk

Have you ever asked a kid "what are you doing?" I'm sure you have, we all have. Their answer? Usually it has something to do with what they are doing at that exact moment.... watching T.V., reading a book, playing a game. Children generally don't have the ability to think much beyond the tip of their nose.

Now ask an adult, "what do you do?" and they will probably tell you about their job—where they are now. Depending on their aspirations in life, they may provide some insight into where they are headed, but for the most part, you get more about where they are, than where they are going. Even adults seem to have a hard time seeing much past an arms reach.

This is perhaps most apparent at New Year's. Remember that resolution you made this year. The one that lasted through mid-January. It seemed like a great goal at the time, but it was rooted in a short term desire for change. It had nothing to do with your lifestyle, or where you are headed. Your goal was most likely based simply on a short-term desire for change. (For those lucky few still holding on to your resolutions, it is likely you set your goals based on a better foundation, for that I congratulate you).

Another great example of short term thinking comes from the average per-

son's idea of how to get rich. In my estimation, there are three ways to get rich...win it, marry it, or inherit it.

Wait you say, there is a fourth.

A fourth, ah, but it is the boring one...it is the slow one...it is long term.

In a world of instant gratification—a world where even emails are seen as slow, and the text message is the new way to communicate in writing- the words "long term" almost seem unspeakable.

Yet, even today, the vast majority of people who become rich do so the old fashioned way, they earn it. They work hard, live within their means, invest well, and don't make the big mistakes. When retirement comes, they do the math, and find themselves with more wealth than they ever thought they could gather.

As the baby boomers inch towards their golden years and eventually pass on, more wealth will change hands than at any other time in the history of mankind. Much of this wealth is from the long term efforts of an impressive generation.

How does this relate you ask? Well, a river is long term. It takes Lake Erie 4 years to turn over every last drop of water...and as the Great Lakes go, that is a blazing speed.

As a member of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition, you are thinking long term, you are thinking about the benefits a clean river will provide to the community long

after you are gone.

Sure, we are doing a lot today, but what we can do tomorrow will be even greater.

At the end of June we expect to hear about our latest watershed coordinator grant. If funded, we will have a solid funding base for the next 3 years.

This makes now a great time to think long term. Over the next year we will be looking into ways to secure our future, including the possible establishment of an endowment. We will finally be planning not for the next year, but for the next 3-5 years. We will be looking ahead, looking for ways to secure the financial future of the Coalition. Much like a child who is finally coming of age, learning to think long term.

We hope you will stick with us, as protecting our local environment is a long term investment.

And while you may not be here to see the full fruits of that investment, remember that kid, who today can't imagine worrying about tomorrow, much less the rest of their lives. What you do today will have everything to do with how they live tomorrow.

Thank you for your support, thank you for thinking long term.

Sandusky River Clean Sweep

The 2006 Clean Sweep will be the 9th year for the event. This year will also be our most difficult to date. With the loss of so many Recycling and Litter Prevention Staff, we are short handed to say the least.

First, the good news.

In Sandusky Co., a June 5 clean-up has been scheduled by ODNR. This event ties in well with the conclusion of the spring fishing season. A fall cleanup will likely be held this year as well. Last year a handful of volunteers cleaned the areas downtown before fall set in.

In Seneca Co., an August 12 date has been tentatively set for the Clean Sweep. By far our largest event, last year 200 people turned out to help lend a hand to the Sandusky River.

The staff from Seneca Co. Recycling have joined Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca County Joint Solid Waste Management District. They will again take the lead in Seneca Co.

Crawford Co. was not as lucky, and a reduction in staff there means we will no longer have support with the clean up in the county. Citizen volunteers will be

necessary if we are to hold an event in Crawford Co. this year.

Wyandot Co. has not had a Clean Sweep event for the past few years. Again, citizen volunteers will be needed to help with planning and holding a clean up in Wyandot Co. this year.

If you would like to help with the Clean Sweep in your county, contact us before the end of June. A month or so is necessary for planning and PR. The Coalition will provide free t-shirts to all participants if an event is held in your county.

**Sandusky River Watershed Coalition
2006 Membership form**

PO Box 590
Fremont, OH 43420
Phone: 419-334-5016
Fax: 419-334-5125
E-mail: cmiddle@wsos.org

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



Working Together For Healthier Streams.

Scenic Rivers Releases Two New License Plates

The Ohio Scenic Rivers Program has issued two new scenic river license plates, the great blue heron and the endangered brook trout. Both license plates are available through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) and local deputy registrars. Sales of the new plates, costing an additional \$25 above the annual license fee, benefit the Ohio Scenic Rivers Protection Fund, which receives \$15 of the added fee. Since the creation of Ohio's scenic river license plates in 1995, about 99,000 have been sold, generating nearly \$1.5 million for the fund. The 12 state scenic rivers, which encompass 21 stream segments, are located in 27 counties in the state, or 31% of Ohio. The protection fund has benefited the Sandusky State Scenic River. The research for the St. Johns Dam removal project was partially paid for with the fund. Other projects include the Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) project, canoe floats, providing grant match dollars to purchase 2 tracts of land for the Steyer Nature Preserve (Seneca County Park District), and helping to fund the SRWC's Recreational Resources Map. As you can see, your support of the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program returns your dollars to your state scenic river.



Bob Vargo, Scenic River Manager for the Sandusky and Maumee Rivers, poses with replicas of the two new plates. Photo Credit: The Fostoria Focus