

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE...

As I walked on the frozen river recently, I realized a couple things - 1) The river is really a beautiful place to be, even in the winter, and 2) I'm really tired of all the snow and cold!

With the onset of Spring the activity level in the SRVF typically picks up as we continue to preserve and protect the Scioto River. As you can see in other parts of this newsletter, we have our annual Adopt-a-Highway roadside clean-up coming soon. If you've never joined us for this event, you should give it a try. It's a good way to contribute to the community, meet some new people, and get in a nice walk along the river. We are also planning an outing to plant some trees in the Bokes Creek watershed to help in our efforts to reduce the pollutants that enter the river in that area.

As most of you know the SRVF relinquished our role as Ohio EPA's Watershed Coordinator for the Scioto River. The new watershed coordinator is Paul Gledhill who works for the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District under the direction of SWCD's Julie Jackson. We are working closely with them both in terms of participation and financial sponsorship to help that project be successful. Paul and Julie are very committed to making this project work and they are off to a great start. We look forward helping them build a successful watershed management plan.

Another article you'll see in this newsletter is about the Bokes Creek project which the SRVF is sponsoring. The goal of this effort is to improve the water quality of Bokes Creek (which feeds into the Scioto) by modifying the path of the river and the terrain in and around the river, so that the river can remove impurities through its own natural process. This project has drawn attention from water quality specialists from around the Midwest. We look forward to seeing it succeed.

As you can see from the information above, our group is still alive and well. However, we could use more of you (our members and friends) to come out and join us. We would love to see you at some of our events, whether it be to help out with the work or just be there to join in the camaraderie. We are also modifying our quarterly meetings to help draw a few more people in. The new format will consist of an educational presentation by a river-related speaker, updates from the Watershed Coordinator and from the Bokes Creek project, and then we'll have our business meeting. Another new change is that these meetings will be done in 90 minutes or less so everyone can plan when they will get home. And our final change is to add FOOD to the meeting, as we'll serve refreshments after our speaker is done, before we proceed on with the rest of the meeting. Don't worry if you've never come to an event or meeting before, we'd love to have you join us. Hopefully we'll see you soon. Take care and enjoy springtime along the river.

Joe

Thanks Peter - Welcome Scott

The Federation would like to thank Peter Polites for his outstanding service and contributions over the past several years as SRVF Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee. We wish Peter and his wife Virginia Mayle all the best in the future.

The Federation would also like to welcome Scott Lux as the new Treasurer for the SRVF. Scott was born and raised in central Ohio and has been a resident of the Ostrander area for almost 5 years. In Scott's own words, "I have a lovely wife, Margaret, and a 3 year old son, Peter. We are actively involved with our church, Xenos Christian Fellowship. I am a computer geek (database and web programmer), and an avid fisherman. I am also nearly done building a small boat to use on the river this year."

LITTLE SCIOTO RIVER GETS BIG CLEAN UP

(Editors Note: This update was prepared with information from the Columbus Dispatch, the U.S. EPA website and interviews with Mark Durno of U.S. EPA.)

The U.S. EPA will invest as much as \$10 million in cleaning up a 3.5 mile segment of the Little Scioto considered the most polluted part of the river in Marion Co. U.S. EPA will also dredge a half-mile-long ditch from which toxic creosote for years poured into the river. The project commenced in June, 2002.



The Baker Wood site is located at the northwest corner of Holland Road and Kenton Street (State Route 309) in Marion, Ohio. It is about one-half mile northwest of downtown Marion. While most of the immediate area is used for commercial and agricultural purposes, there are homes east and north of the site.

The Baker Wood Preserving Company used the property to treat wood products from the 1890s to the 1960s. Historical information indicates that the process used was for treating railroad ties and other wood products in pressure vessels. The preservatives used were most likely creosote, petroleum and other solvents. It is believed that chemical waste was discharged directly from the site to the combined sewers that drain to North Rockswale Ditch and the Little Scioto River, west of the site.

Ohio EPA asked U.S. EPA to get involved in Spring 1998 to do potential "time-critical" cleanup activities for creosote-contaminated waste at or near the ground's surface. To date the half mile Rockswale Ditch has been cleaned and restored and about a mile of the Little Scioto has been cleaned and river bottom restored. Roughly 25 thousand tons of contaminated soil has been extracted and placed in a holding area pending final disposition decisions.

According to U.S. EPA project manager Mark Durno, the project is proceeding on schedule to be completed in the projected 2-3 year timeframe. The work at the project site can be observed first hand and you can go to the EPA website for project updates as well as viewing several photo's. The website: www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/bakerwood/index.html. The project was suspended after Thanksgiving due to winter weather restrictions and will start back up again in May. Mark Durno will be the guest speaker at the SRVF Quarterly meeting on May 4 and provide a first hand update for the project.

PROGRESS CONTINUES ON POWDERLICK RUN



Steve Phillips of Oxbow Inc. reports that the Powderlick Run restoration project is on schedule and "slugging along." The weather has slowed the project but spring is just around the corner. The mass-excavation of the floodplain is progressing in spite of the ground being frozen 12-24 inches deep. So far, about 10,000 yards of soil have been moved to create a new floodplain. During March it is expected that the floodplain and new channel excavation will be completed. Also in March the USEPA, OHEPA and interested parties will take a field tour of the sight to view the progress first hand. In April, the project should have the habitat features such as riffles constructed, seed and mulching underway and ready for the volunteer tree-planting event. The tree planting event will be part of the area Earth Day activities and held on April 26.

River Echoes > > > > > > > > > >

(Editor's Note: Paul Gelghill, the recently hired Upper Scioto Watershed Coordinator was asked to introduce himself to the SRVF members and friends.)

A View From The River

In the middle of January, I became the Watershed Coordinator for the Upper Scioto River Watershed. Last December I graduated from Muskingum College with a BS in Environmental Science. While in school I participated in three environmental internships. The most recent internship, and most applicable to my current position, was in Cambridge, OH. There, I was the Wills Creek Watershed Water Quality Intern for a non-profit group that received a grant to study non-point source pollution of that watershed.

With the new structure of the Upper Scioto River Watershed Coordinator I am housed at the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District in the City of Delaware. All parties involved in this grant agree that this working environment will allow the best interaction with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). A specified geographic watershed area has been set to allow for my position to focus on water quality impairments related to rural areas and not become bogged down by urban issues. This 'territory' touches parts of nine counties and is the watershed of the Scioto River and its tributaries upstream from the O'Shanghnessy Reservoir excluding the Mill Creek and Bokes Creek watersheds. These two large tributaries to the Scioto have been excluded because another watershed coordinator is assigned to them.

My first task as the new watershed coordinator has been to organize the means of developing a watershed management plan. A watershed management plan is a document required to be produced by coordinators within two years of their hiring. It contains an inventory of everything known about the watershed, such as: pollutant concentrations and loadings, miles of stream banks altered, current and historical land use, description of pollutant discharging permits, etc. I am in the process of forming a committee of people knowledgeable in locating this information to assist in the inventory's formation. Another key part of a watershed management plan is the action plan. This section addresses the impairments described in the inventory by providing workable implementation strategies.

The first steps to developing this watershed management plan were taken by the formation of two groups. The first is a small group of representatives, governmental and private, interested in improving the health of the Scioto River. This group advises how the structure of this watershed project and its initial actions should be put into place. The other group formed includes staff members from Soil and Water Conservation Districts of seven different counties. At our first meeting each representative gave insight on their water quality concerns and what they expected out of the coordinator position. It was very positive to hear about the cost-share programs farmers are currently using to improve water quality and the interest in additional incentives to protect streams that will come about with a management plan. It was stressed by the participants of this meeting that I work closely with local community members in forming action plan strategies. After the formation and approval of the watershed management plan, the watershed coordinator grant will have two years left to implement the actions described. If all is done correctly, the actions implemented in those two years will provide the momentum to self-perpetuate a continuous interest and enactment of conservation practices. I am looking forward to working with the Scioto River Valley Federation in their efforts to preserve and protect the river for future generations throughout this upcoming planning process. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to email me at: paul-gledhill@oh.nacdnet.org.

Big SRVF "Thank You" To Jay Dorsey...

During the Fall of 2002 as the oversight responsibility for the Upper Scioto Watershed Coordinator was being transferred and the position vacant, Jay Dorsey stepped in on an interim basis and kept the momentum going. The Federation thanks Jay for his excellent work and wishes him well in his new position as Watershed Coordinator for the 500 square mile East Fork Watershed of the Little Miami River in southwest Ohio. Jay mentions that he is facing the familiar fun challenges of developing a watershed plan for "his new favorite watershed."

DAMS REMOVAL HELPS THE OLENTANGY RIVER RUN

The Columbus Dispatch, Sat. Oct. 19, 2002 — Michael Hawthorne, Dispatch Environment Reporter

In an effort to improve the quality of the Olentangy River, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources demolished a low-head dam last week that blocked the river's natural course in southern Delaware County.

Removing the dam is expected to increase the diversity of fish and aquatic life in that stretch of the state scenic river. Allowing the river to flow freely also will eliminate dangerous undercurrents that can endanger canoeists, fishing enthusiasts and swimmers.

The former Dennison dam, along Rt. 315 just north of Hyatts Road, may be the first of several to go. Plans are to remove another dam on the Olentangy near 5th Avenue in Columbus. If state officials are able to get permission from enough landowners, all five of the remaining dams on the river in Delaware County will be destroyed.

"There are a number of ecological benefits to getting rid of these dams," said Tim Peterkoski, the state's scenic-rivers coordinator for central Ohio. "Most have outlived whatever usefulness they once had." The Dennison dam, for instance, was built around the turn of the last century to generate electricity for a nearby cottage that was abandoned years ago. Soon after workers took a jackhammer to the dam and cleared away the debris, a small waterfall appeared in the middle of the channel -- a natural feature that had been hidden for nearly a century. Removing the dam cost \$17,000. The money came from fees paid by motorists who purchase scenic-river license plates.

By creating stagnant pools of water and allowing sediment to build up, the 11 remaining low-head dams on the Olentangy are among the top threats to water quality in the river, according to a 1999 study by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The study found the river generally was in good condition, but other threats include sewage dumped into the river and runoff from farm fields, housing subdivisions and shopping centers.

Even small dams such as the ones on the Olentangy turn rivers into lakes, making them inhospitable to some fish. Such conditions exist for 2 miles above the 5th Avenue dam, almost to the location of another dam near Dodridge Street.

Prompted by the threat of a Sierra Club lawsuit, the city of Columbus agreed in May to spend \$250,000 to study the removal of the 5th Avenue dam as part of a legal settlement with the EPA over illegal sanitary-sewer overflows. But unlike the removal of the Dennison dam, which was in a sparsely populated rural area where the river is cleaner, getting rid of any dam in the urban area will pose more challenges.

Indeed, a citizen movement to remove low-head dams -- dubbed "drowning machines" by bereaved parents -- stalled a decade ago because many are laced with sewer lines. "Removing them would be an engineering nightmare," said Greg Davies, spokesman for the Department of Public Utilities. The 5th Avenue dam is free of sewer lines. But contaminated sediment would have to be safely removed and the river banks stabilized so the natural flow of water doesn't erode levees that protect Ohio State University and Battelle from flooding.

"Removing the dam has to be part of an overall restoration effort," said Erin Miller, coordinator of Friends of the Lower Olentangy River Watershed, a stream-protection group.

Quarterly Meeting—continued from page one)

tion of nitrates in the state. Once the project is completed and the stream and its banks are "restored" to a more natural state, runoff and pollutants will more effectively be absorbed and not enter the water. Project plans and information are kept with the SRVF Secretary's records. Steve provides a current update to the Powderlick Run project and this can be found on page 3. Jan Fleischman, Membership Coordinator, reported on the status of the membership and the campaign to increase the rolls. As a result of a letter campaign, 50 people responded, and the current membership is 70.

The last topic discussed was identifying activities the Federation should consider for the coming months. Several good ideas were proposed and Dave Staats volunteered to at least begin to get the projects organized. See a more detailed summary of the planned activities on page 7. Dave and SRVF need some good sized help in these efforts.

AROUND THE

CONGRATULATIONS:

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District Recognized

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be honored as a Clean Water Partner for the 21st Century by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. on April 1, 2003. Julie Jackson, a Streams and Watershed Specialist will represent the organization. The Clean Water Partners Program was developed to recognize extraordinary efforts, beyond the requirements of the Clean Water Act, that local governments are making now and are willing to undertake in the future. This program is part of a larger celebration of the Year of Clean Water 2002, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

The Delaware SWCD was acknowledged under the Extraordinary Achievement in Watershed Protection category. This award was given to local governments that have and continue to undertake extraordinary actions within their own organization and locality such as:

- Play a leading role to bring parties together to form a watershed coalition, in order to prepare and implement an action plan to achieve specific watershed goals;
- Undertake or develop partnerships with various entities to undertake voluntary scientific study of watershed pollution, its causes and remedies, to support water quality planning in a watershed, including preparation of TMDLs;
- Organize and manage a comprehensive public outreach campaign to enhance understanding and acceptance of needed public and private actions to meet water quality goals;
- Establish programs to restore wetlands or ecosystems and/or create riparian buffer zones.

The Delaware SWCD has developed a Streams and Watersheds program focusing on improving water quality in the four major watersheds in Delaware County. Through this program, the District is able to work with private landowners and citizen organizations to maintain and improve water quality in local waterways, increase citizen involvement in watershed stewardship activities, and promote watershed education through presentations and events.

The District also coordinates a local watershed coalition, the Upper Big Walnut Creek Water Quality Partnership. The Partnership is an all-volunteer consortium of farmers, landowners, business, industry and government agencies, working together to help protect water quality in the Upper Big Walnut Creek Watershed. The City of Columbus, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency are the lead governmental entities involved in this project. The Upper Big Walnut Creek Watershed encompasses 190 miles² that drain to Hoover Reservoir, which supplies approximately 600,000 people with drinking water in the Columbus, Ohio metropolitan area.

The Clean Water Partners Program will also be recognizing local governments under the following areas: Increasing Public Access to and Understanding of Water Resources to Promote Watershed Health; Water Quality and Environmental Science to Benefit the Local Watershed; Management Programs to Improve Watershed Health; Design or Engineering to Achieve Watershed Goals. The Delaware SWCD is among the 78 local governments who are Clean Water Partners

ACTIVITIES ACTIVITIES ACTIVITIES

Don't be fooled by all of this snow, cold and ice covering the Scioto — Spring is just around the corner. In fact in less than a month it will be here! It is time to start thinking about getting out and doing some very worthwhile activities. Dave Staats is currently the only volunteer coordinating the activities for the Federation. He not only needs some help but the activities that the Federation is organizing will need some volunteers. Here is a great opportunity for you, your family, a group or a troop to get involved and make an impact. Dave's access information is Phone: 740-363-0077; Email: dstaats@bright.net.

April 5, 2003 **Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup**— Meet at Warrensburg Church at 8 a.m. If we get enough volunteers, we will pick up litter on both sides of the Scioto and clean several fishing access areas. For more information, call Dave Staats.

April 26, 2003 **Earth Day & Tree Planting on Powder Lick Run**— Make a difference; help restore this stream resource. Contact Joe Roden for more information. Call (740) 363 -0572.

May 3, 2003 **Community Service Day** - Community Service Day is an annual event that is organized and by Leadership Delaware (a program of the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce) with involvement from community volunteers and sponsors. Community Service Day is all about lending a helping hand in the community for worthwhile projects and needs. It's just one Saturday morning, but it continues to give throughout the year by the good work that is done in the community. Everyone can be involved — as a volunteer, donating needed items, helping with a cash contribution, or providing a worthy community project that needs our help!

Our Community Service Day volunteers can help provide services such as:

- ♦ inside or outside clean up
- ♦ gardening and yard work
- ♦ bike path clean up
- ♦ household chores
- ♦ painting
- ♦ litter control

Call Leadership Delaware at the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce for more information at (740) 369-6221.

May 4, 2003 **SRVF Quarterly Meeting** at Old Stone Church — 7:00PM. Mark Durno USEPA discusses the Little Scioto Clean Up in Marion, OH. Upper Scioto Watershed Coordinator Paul Gledhill provides an update on what has been going on in the watershed. Bring a friend!

August 3, 2003 **SRVF Quarterly Meeting** at Old Stone Church — 7:00PM. Bring a friend!

Early Sept. **Adopt-a-Waterway River Cleanup** on the Scioto River— Stay tuned, more info to follow!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND UPDATE

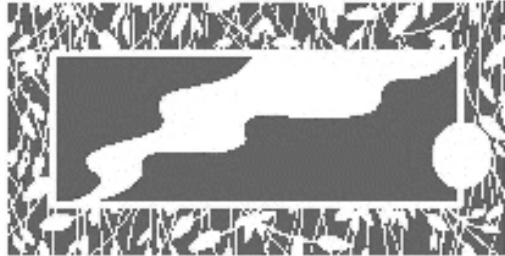
Welcome all new and thank you to all of you who renewed your membership last spring. Approximately 70 out of 90 of you on the SRVF mailing list responded to the membership campaign, proving that the tried-and-true method of enclosing a return stamped envelope is an effective way to handle renewals during these trying times. **To make it easy we will continue to have a uniform annual membership expiration of July 1**, so later in the spring we will be sending out renewal notices again. To those of you who did not receive your logo notepad at the picnic last summer, there's one waiting for you at the next meeting or contact Jan. Don't you think that your neighbor would be a great SRVF member?

Jan Fleischmann - Membership Coordinator - JanFleischm@aol.com

Individual Member \$15.00
 Household Membership \$15.00
 Contributing Membership \$40.00
 Sustaining Membership \$100.00
 Additional Contribution \$

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Yes, I (we) want to help preserve and protect the Scioto River for future generations. Here is my subscription.



The Scioto River Valley Federation
 Post Office Box 1501
 Delaware, OH 43015

River Echoes < < < <

TOO MUCH GOING ON???
NEVER!

Normally this space is reserved for a short description of the activities mentioned on the right but this time we allocated over half of page 7 for that purpose. There are several opportunities this Spring to get involved, make an impact and broaden your knowledge at the same time. You especially don't want to miss the SRVF Quarterly Meeting on May 4 as Mark Durno, USEPA discusses the Little Scioto River Clean Up in Marion, OH.



STAY TUNED IN

YOU'RE ONLY A COUPLE OF CLICKS AWAY FROM SRVF ON THE WEB...

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KEY DATES

- April 5** Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup
- April 26** Earth Day/ Tree Planting at Powderlick Run
- May 3** Community Service Day
- May 4** SRVF Quarterly Meeting
- Aug. 3** SRVF Quarterly Meeting

www.sciotoriver.org

All SRVF membership meetings are held at the Old Stone Church which is at the corner of Hodges Road and SR 37. The public is most welcome.