

The President's Message...

Hello SRVF Members and Friends,

As I take a break from the never-ending task of lawn-mowing, I realize how many things we have to be thankful for as Spring brings new life all around us.

We have the good fortune of living in the Scioto River valley, which is just beautiful this time of year as the trees and flowers bloom. There is wildlife out and about all around the area. Stop by any park and you'll see all the kids' sports teams playing baseball or soccer. There is the excitement in the schoolyards as school is finishing up for the year. The SRVF Treasurer, Scott Lux, tells me there's lots of fish in the river waiting to be caught, but I haven't made it down to give it a try this year ... yet.

And of course, since this is an SRVF newsletter, we should always remember to celebrate the fact that it was 11 years ago that Tom Price called me at 6:00 a.m. and said, "We're off the list!". This meant that the Columbus Division of Water cancelled their plans for the Bellpoint Dam. As I look back over the past 11 years and think of the friends I've made in the area and the memories I have that are tied to the Scioto River Valley, I wish I could thank every person that helped win that battle to "Save the Scioto". Since that is not possible, we'd like to say "Thank You" by throwing a party!

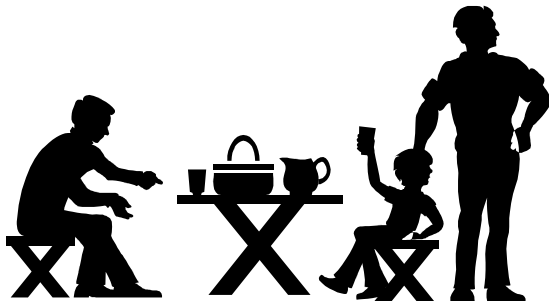
Hopefully you can come out and join us in early August for our annual **SRVF Picnic** to celebrate the cancellation of the Bellpoint Dam. (Details of which can be found below).

In closing, as I look out and see my lawnmower still ready for more action, I have a passing thought about wanting a drought so we can finally stop mowing the lawn every five days. Then I remember that if we have a drought, it will get people thinking about building the Bellpoint Dam again and reluctantly I even give thanks for mowing the lawn.

See you at the picnic. God Bless.

Joe

SRVF Annual Picnic Coming Up



The annual SRVF Picnic will take place on Sunday, August 3rd at Price Nature Preserve.

The picnic is open to members, family and all friends of the SRVF. The nature trail will be open. Bring lawn chairs and a covered dish. SRVF will provide grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and condiments starting at 5:00 p.m. There will be lemonade, water and ice provide. Serving tables and place settings will also be available.

About 6:00 p.m. we will have a bonfire and can share our favorite stories about the past years along the Scioto. Come and enjoy the afternoon and cook out by the river!

The Restoration of Powderlick Run

By Steve Phillips CPESC
Oxbow River & Stream Restoration, Inc.

An innovative and adaptive approach to stream restoration in the heart of agricultural Ohio shows how a diverse group of stakeholders can work together to resolve water quality and drainage issues.

The City of Columbus, which supplies drinking water to more than 2 million people, began looking upstream in 1990 hoping to work with agriculture to preserve the quality of their source water, rather than spend more money on treatment. What they found were a lot of folks that were interested in the same goals. One of the first large animal feeding operations in Ohio was upstream, Daylay Egg Farm which houses 1.6 million birds and has been working hard to minimize their impact on the watershed from manure applications, egg washing and general operations. Upstream was also home of the Scioto River Valley Federation, a diverse non-profit group of local people interested in protecting the Scioto River and its tributaries. Ohio EPA was in the process of collecting water quality data, writing reports and developing their first TMDL just upstream of Columbus. The makings of a fight you say...hardly. Rather the makings of innovative group with the resolve to find solutions to water quality and drainage issues.



Before

Powderlick Run is a tributary to Bokes Creek, part of the upper Scioto River watershed which supplies 40% of the drinking water supply for the Metropolitan Columbus area. Nitrates are of special interest to Columbus because high nitrate levels are a result of rainfall events and when concentrations are above acceptable standards, a nitrate alert must be given warning children and pregnant women of “blue baby syndrome” where red blood cells don’t carry enough oxygen to tissues. The Bokes Creek watershed and especially Powderlick Run have been found to be a major supply of the nitrates to the Upper Scioto drinking water supply.

This diverse group got together and developed a restoration project aimed at reducing the transport of nitrate/nitrite and phosphorus downstream. The project was funded through the OEPA 319 grant program for non-point source pollution reduction. The project demonstrates scientifically sound methods of restoring the hydrology and biology of ditches (modified stream channels) while maintaining drainage benefits.



After

Impairments to Powderlick Run include nutrient enrichment, low dissolved oxygen associated with concentrated manure applications and extensive hydro modification. Because of the poor habitat and water quality, Powderlick Run was in non-attainment of its warm water habitat (WWH) designated use. A multi-disciplinary process was utilized in data collection and

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Organization begins to take shape on Upper Scioto River Watershed Project

By Paul Gelghill, Upper Scioto Watershed Coordinator

In my last SRVF article I described what a watershed action plan is and what a plan brings about. To recap: An action plan is a document produced by collaboration of all parties interested in conserving and improving a watershed's natural resources. It outlines the areas and issues of concern and/or in need of preservation. After collecting and compiling resource data, the stakeholders decide the goals to fix the problems and define actions that will achieve these goals. These actions are carried out by implementation projects. Some examples of implementation projects are natural resource/drainage education for watershed residents, incentives for farmers that utilize certain conservation practices, and on-site stream improvements. With this article I would like to discuss the steps I've taken in the past months to start to organize the Upper Scioto River Watershed Project.

Watershed Inventory

The watershed inventory will be used to support the creation of watershed improvement goals and actions. This collection and compilation of water resource data has been tricky for me to work on, and it has a way to go. I have learned about the water quality and quantity sampling the Ohio EPA and US Geological Survey (USGS) have carried out on the watershed. I have also collected information on current watershed land-use, as well as land cover prior to European settlement. The various soil and geology, wildlife distribution, and general farming practices throughout much of the watershed is also known. While there is a checklist watershed coordinators use for a watershed inventory, I have found that many of these categories haven't been measured in the Upper Scioto River Watershed. Some examples of this are miles of streams exhibiting little human impact, location and sizes of all dams (even the small ones), and the number and severity of eroding banks. I have discovered the only way to learn these factors, and much more, is by touring the watershed in a methodological manner. To do this, I plan to drive most of the roads on the more than 700 square mile watershed making notes on a special series of maps I have created. With this field work complete I believe there will be sufficient information in the watershed inventory to allow stakeholders to make decisions for the action plan.

Stakeholder Development

During the first six months of work, I have been developing relationships with people likely to be involved in the action planning process. Because agriculture is by far the largest land use in the Upper Scioto River watershed, I have been putting most of my stakeholder development efforts into working with farmers. Farmers are businesspeople, and as such they are interested in improving the way they operate to avoid unnecessary costs. The watershed action plan will bring about support for practices that can reduce economical and environmental costs. With help from the county soil and water conservation districts, I have identified and introduced myself to many farmers within the watershed who are most likely to want to become involved in the creation of an action plan. It is my hope that at the end of this summer a strong group of stakeholders will help to encourage good participation from the general public.

Kickoff Events

In the next month I will organize two or three planning kickoff events that will take place in the Autumn. These will involve outdoor demonstrations of a conservation practice and a short talk about the upcoming action planning meetings. The goal of these activities is to interest landowners in participating in the planning process. Throughout the summer I will be advertising these meetings at county fairs and in local newspapers.

Members of SRVF are welcome and encouraged to help with the planning of the kickoff meetings and field monitoring work. For the kickoff meetings I could use assistance from people who are good at event planning and people interested in field monitoring should be willing to get their feet wet. Volunteers with this watershed

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(Powderlick Run, continued from page 3)

synthesis, design, implementation and the development of monitoring performance standards. This included engineers, biologist, stream morphologists and other scientists. The channel morphology and hydraulics of Powderlick Run were studied to determine baseline conditions. A comparison of baseline and reference reach data were made to define restoration goals and the morphological characteristics for a restored channel. A design-build approach took the project from data collection and design through construction of the channel and re-vegetation.

The project has caught the eye of many agencies. Before completion, USEPA, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and NRCS had made site visits. "The Powderlick Project is a prime example of responsible environmental stewardship as it relates to production agriculture," says Jim Buchy, Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. "There is no question that this project will help ensure clean water for the next several decades in the area surrounding the Daylay Egg Farm."

The project was completed in June, 2003 and will take several years to mature before real water quality benefits will be realized. Monitoring of the project will include 18 grab samples per year for three years upstream of the project and at the downstream end of the project to track nutrient and sediment reductions at various flow events. A continuous pressure transducer data logger is installed immediately upstream of the project to record and correlate flow discharge with nutrient concentrations. Benthic communities will be monitored yearly using a quantitative kick sampling methodology as well as an instream habitat using the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI).

(Organization, continued from page 4)

project will be signed up as a Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Earth Team Volunteer which offers some prizes based on hours volunteered. Please call or email me if you are interested.

Paul Gledhill- Upper Scioto River Watershed Coordinator
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557-A Sunbury Rd. (Rt. 36-37 E.)
Delaware, OH 43015-8656

Scioto Upground Reservoir Project Update

Dan Binder of the Columbus Division of Water spoke with Roger Huff, the Project Engineer for the Division of Water on the status of the Upground Reservoir Project targeted for the Upper Scioto Watershed.

Two consultant teams composed of several engineering consulting firms, Huff said, have given their presentation to Columbus in a meeting with other community representatives in attendance. Currently the City of Columbus review committee is evaluating the different Team's presentation and the credentials of the member firms and is preparing a recommendation on which Team will begin to work on the next phase of the Upground design, construction, and community involvement. Huff added that since the team has not been selected yet, no further details on the projects next steps will be available until the selection has been made. "We are hopeful that this will be completed in the next month or two but there is no good way to determine when this part will be completed."

Dan or a member of his staff will join us at the **SRVF picnic on August 3**, and be able to provide additional information and answer any questions that you or the many other picnickers may have on their minds.

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

Name _____
 Business or Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Telephone: (____) _____
 Business Telephone: (____) _____
 E-Mail Address: _____

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 < < < <

Volunteer Opportunities:

- If you would like to help with the SRVF picnic, please call Jan Fleischmann, 740-595-3203, or email: janfleischm@aol.com
- To participate in the October 4th Scioto River Sweep and Clean Up, call Jan Fleischmann, 740-595-3203, or email: janfleischm@aol.com, or call Jim Kloiber, 740-881-2019, or email, jkloiber@hotmail.com. Check the web site as the event gets closer for last minute details.



Membership:

Watch for a separate mailing in coming weeks regarding your SRVF membership renewal. We will have t-shirts with our logo for all those who renew their memberships.

Printed On Recycled Paper

KEY DATES

- August 3, Sunday - Picnic
- October 4, Saturday - Scioto Sweep and Clean Up
- Mid October - Next SRVF newsletter
- November 2, Sunday - SRVF Quarterly Meeting, 7 p.m.

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.