

President's Message

Hello SRVF Members and Friends,

I'll start off with a quiz question for you ... How long has it been since the Bellpoint Dam project was cancelled? (see the answer below)

It's been another good year for the SRVF. Over the years, our group has become somewhat of a "watch dog" for river related activities in our area. We are still keeping tabs on the Columbus Division of Water as they move forward (slowly) with their plans for the upground reservoirs on the west side of the Scioto River, north of Rt. 36. We want to ensure that the Division of Water has meetings with people in the area to make sure everyone's concerns are addressed for issues such as drainage problems and locations of the pipes running back and forth to the river.

We still have our typical activities such as road and river cleanups, an annual picnic in the summer to celebrate the anniversary of the cancellation of the Bellpoint Dam, and our quarterly meetings. We have now turned our Fall meeting into an education program about our community. This past year we had a wonderful presentation from Gayle's Tales about the history of the Scioto River valley area in Delaware County. We plan to continue that tradition this fall with another entertaining and yet educational program. So the SRVF is still alive and well. We would love to have you come and join us for a meeting or come to our annual picnic to share some food and stories.

As for the Bellpoint Dam, that project was cancelled 13 years ago. On a morning I'll never forget, as my phone rang about 6:30am to hear Tom Price's voice say, "We're off the list". I also remember holding up my daughter, Amanda, at a meeting (she was just a few months old at the time), explaining that one of the reasons we wanted to stop the dam, was so that kids like Amanda could still play in the river for years to come. Well, Amanda is now 13 and is a Cheerleader in middle school, but she still enjoys playing in the river on a hot summer day. Those are all awesome memories of an incredible effort by many people to convince Columbus not to build that dam. Let me once again say, "Thanks" to all who helped in that effort. I have appreciated your efforts many times as I've watched my kids play in and around the river!

God Bless
Joe

Summer's Comin' And So Is Our Annual Picnic

Plan on joining your Scioto neighbors and friends on **Sunday, August 7, at the Price Nature Preserve**. Catch up on events of the past year around a bonfire and walk the nature trail.

Meet at the Preserve at 5:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and a side dish, dessert or beverage to share. Grill items and lemonade provided.



Jim Kloiber will be the point person for this event. Jim will answer any questions you may have and also will be looking for a few volunteers for doing set up activities for the event.

Contact: Jim Kloiber: 740-881-2019 or jkloiber@hotmail.com

(continued from front page)

“The City has hired ms consultants, Inc. to begin the design and construction of the City’s Upground Reservoir Project. We are planning to construct public improvements in a phased manner. The individual phases include:

- A series of three additional water supply reservoirs.
- A raw water pumping station to fill and maintain the reservoirs; and
- A network of transmission main piping to interconnect the pumping facilities to the reservoirs and to allow the reservoirs to return the stored water to the Scioto River and O’Shaughnessy Reservoir, which is the water supply for the Dublin Road Water Plant.”

Ms. Roberto went on to say, “I look forward to sharing our plans with you and other stakeholders as we move forward on this important project. As more details become known, we will schedule public meetings, (estimated for late summer/early fall) and provide additional information to keep you updated.”

The meeting provided a forum for everyone to voice any issues and concerns with the project. As a result, a list of twenty two questions was developed and answers will be pursued with the appropriate project personnel in the coming weeks. An Upground Reservoir Project ad hoc committee was formed and Jim Kloiber will be the point person for the effort. Rick Van Gundy also volunteered to get involved and they are looking for a few more volunteers for the team. Contact information is at the end of this article. Going forward the committee will be posting periodic updates on the SRVF website and perform special mailings if necessary.

Additional information that has been learned since the meeting is that meetings have begun with various area and state public officials in Delaware, Union and Franklin counties. Melissa Tucker, the Public Information Officer for the DPU has been contacted and the SRVF/Jim Kloiber is on the email list for any future announcements related to the Project. In addition, a project website is now available and contains information on the overall project scope and timeline:

www.columbusupgroundreservoirs.com. For more information on the engineering consultants, ms consultants, Inc., their website is www.msconsultants.com. If you would like more information or to get involved with the committee please contact:

Jim Kloiber – Email: jkloiber@hotmail.com	Phone: 740-881-2019
Rick Van Gundy – Email: van-gundy.3@osu.edu	Phone: 740-363-7313

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moratoriums by Columbus and Franklin County that are set to expire at the end of the year. “The goal,” said Franklin County Commissioner Mary Joe Kilroy, “is to protect the watershed without regard to jurisdictional lines. If everyone pulls together, an agreement can be reached.”

Big Darby Creek and its tributaries form a watershed of 372,000 acres in six central Ohio counties, but it’s the 57,000 acres within Franklin County where the pressure for development and the risks to the waterway are considered the greatest. Mike Brown, spokesman for Mayor Michael B. Coleman said Columbus would consider extending its moratorium if the process toward an accord is moving forward. Commissioner Dewey Stokes said he’d like to see the effort expanded to Union County and other parts of the Big Darby watershed.

More...Garlic Mustard’s Gotta Go!

We expect to continue wiping out the invasive garlic mustard from the trail, picnic shelter area and parking lot of the Price Nature Preserve this spring. Join Jan Fleischmann most Wednesday evenings in late April through mid-May from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the preserve (740-815-5996). We will pull the plants for removal from the site to be composted to prevent reseeding. Those so inclined may instead opt for general trail maintenance.

Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Price Nature Preserve on Warrensburg Road. Bring your work gloves and wear appropriate footwear for possible encounters with poison ivy and other challenges of nature.


> > > > > > > > > *River Echoes*
Membership Report

Thank you to the 82 members who have just joined or have renewed for 2005. We are now on a January-December renewal year. Take a look at your SRVF mailing label for your membership expiration date. If there is an old date or no date at all, we do not have a record of your membership. Check out the form in this newsletter, or go to our web site: www.sciotoriver.org.

Welcome to our 16 new members! Membership is up from 73 members last year. We lost a few members, but are gaining overall.

SRVF Elections Every Two Years

In 2003 the Federation Bylaws were amended to go to a two-year term of office for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. So, if you have been wondering about upcoming elections, this is the "off-year". By November we will be working on a slate of candidates for the next election, scheduled for February 2006. Thanks to the gracious and persevering efforts of our current officers, we have benefited by fine continuity in leadership.

<p>Yes, I (we) want to help preserve and protect the Scioto River for future generations!</p> <p>Name: _____ _____ _____</p> <p>Address: _____ _____ _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Home Phone: _____ _____</p> <p>Business Phone: _____ _____</p> <p>Email: _____ _____</p>	<p>MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL</p> <p>Membership period is January to December</p>  <p>THE SCIOTO RIVER VALLEY FEDERATION P.O. Box 1501, Delaware Ohio 43015 www.sciotoriver.org</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pick Your Own Level</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Basic Membership \$20.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member \$40.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member \$100.00</p> <p>Total Enclosed _____</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
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Finish What the Scioto Started — Time to Hit the Road!

The flooded Scioto moved a lot of trash this winter! Help to finish what the river started by picking up trash along riverside roads. We're teaming up with the Delaware General Health District and the townships to participate in the Great American Cleanup again this year. Focusing on pull-offs and around bridges will help us all enjoy the quiet cleanliness of our river.

Meet at **9:00am at the Price Nature Preserve on Warrensburg Road.**

- **April 23**
- **May 7**
- **May 14**

Please bring work gloves and appropriate footwear to protect against poison ivy encounters.

For more information contact 'Cosmo' Justin Prindle at 740.803.0111 or wolfgang_81@hotmail.com

Watershed Action Plan Nearly Complete

Gregg Sablak
Upper Scioto River Watershed Coordinator

740-368-1921 Ext. 109
www.delawareswcd.org

It is nice having the opportunity to write an article for this SRVF newsletter. I became the Upper Scioto River watershed coordinator last fall when Paul Gledhill left the project. Unfortunately this will be the only article that I write as the watershed coordinator because I too am stepping down from this position. However, despite these changes, the good work that has been started will continue and the people and resources of the Upper Scioto River watershed (and beyond) should benefit from these efforts.

For the past few months the focus of the project has been completing the watershed action plan. Currently it is in the editing stages, and there is a small amount of work needed in completing the implementation chapter. This chapter of the plan lays out the goals for resource improvements as well as specific actions that are to be taken to reach those goals. Several meetings and communications with watershed stakeholders have taken place to establish these goals and actions (the last newsletter talked about the input that the public provided regarding the resource concerns), which are highlighted in the following.

Since agriculture is such an important part of the watershed, several actions are geared towards mitigating unintended impacts of agricultural production on water resource quality. Some of the major goals are described:

Wider adoption of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) such as conservation tillage and manure incorporation. This is done to reduce loads to rivers and streams of sediment, nutrients, organic material, and bacteria. Low interest loans for the purchase of equipment used for these BMPs will be made available through the plan. The use of water table management (controlled drainage) on cropland especially in the Scioto Marsh area (Hardin County) may reduce the annual load of nitrate to surface water by 35 to 45 % and reduce wind erosion and other soil loss. Cost share available through farm bill programs and grant monies can go towards installation costs as well as a risk management tool that would hopefully reduce the reluctance of producers to take a chance on technology that is new to their operation. Channel restoration and riparian zone enhancement could provide the habitat that is needed for a more diverse and “healthy” aquatic community especially in the upper reaches of the drainage basin where channel modification is the most prevalent. WRRSP funds are geared towards improving habitat quality resulting in streams coming to meet their water quality standards. Farm Bill programs can also provide cost share assistance for riparian enhancement. Other sources of funding show promise in helping to accomplish this goal.

Other initiatives outlined in the plan include: Assisting the Marion County Health Department in developing a plan will be used to quantify the amount of failing Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTSs) and provide assistance to make the necessary upgrades/repairs. Facilitate the generation of a dam removal feasibility study that may be used in the decision process for taking out the lowhead dam south of Prospect.

Other news in the watershed:

The Scioto CREP has begun its enrollment and seen a remarkable amount of interest in Marion County. An estimated 1,500 acres are in the process of being enrolled. This means that a significant amount of floodplain and wetland areas will be protected from the stresses of crop production for 15 years or more!

The Little Scioto River clean-up can not be discounted either. There are several people actively working to resume the clean-up efforts. We may expect to see some activity as soon as this year. The City of Columbus now has a website for information regarding the upground reservoirs which is located at www.columbusupgroundreservoirs.com. The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District has been included in some of these communications of late with respect to the sub-surface drainage in the area. The district has recommended that the design incorporate a two-stage design for an interceptor ditch along the perimeter of the reservoirs. The good news is that maintaining a ditch in a two-stage configuration may be better for water quality than how ditches have traditionally been maintained. If a two-stage ditch is used, there would be an opportunity to study this system for its reliability and effectiveness in improving water resources.

Around the Watershed

New Incentive Program in the Bokes Creek Watershed

The Union County Chapter 535 of Pheasants Forever, in partnership with the Union Soil and Water Conservation District and the Bokes/Mill Creek Watershed Partnership, is offering a new incentive program for Bokes Creek watershed residents.

A one-time \$100 per contract acre bonus payment will be issued to landowners for eligible land enrolled in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) warm season grass filter strip program between July 2003 and June 2004. The Union County Chapter 535 of Pheasants Forever is offering this bonus in support of improved water quality and enhanced wildlife habitat.

The Bokes Creek watershed was selected for this pilot program for the following reasons:

- The watershed covers 35,259 acres in Union County.
- In 1998, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency declared Bokes Creek as polluted; a TMDL clean up plan (with community input) was designed in 2002.
- A community – driven watershed management plan to improve the water quality of Bokes Creek was developed in 2003.
- Acres of warm season grass filter strips will provide a continuous covered travel lane, escape cover, nesting cover, and winter shelter for wildlife.

Contact John Rockenbaugh or Keri Hudec at (937) 642-5871 for more information. The Bokes /Mill Creek Watershed Partnership meets monthly at the Marysville Public Library.

Official Endorsement for Bokes Creek and Mill Creek

In February 2005, the Bokes/Mill Creek Watershed Partnership received some long-awaited news: the watersheds inventory and action plan for Bokes Creek and Mill Creek were officially endorsed!

Although endorsed, the majority of the plan was granted *conditional endorsement*. After completing revisions suggested by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the plan will receive the full endorsement stamp of approval. However, one subwatershed did receive the coveted *full endorsement*: Powderlick Run. As you're probably aware, a large amount of restoration work has been occurring in this area for the past couple of years to return this previously channelized ditch to a natural, meandering stream channel.

With the success of an endorsed plan under our belt, we are eagerly looking forward to implementing the plan and improving the water quality of these two tributaries of the Scioto River!

Darby Study Could be Watershed of Cooperation

Excerpts from The Columbus Dispatch – March 9, 2005; By Robert Vitale

Environmental consultants who have shaped plans to protect the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania and restore a key tributary of Lake Tahoe in California will guide efforts by 10 area governments to preserve the Big Darby watershed.

Franklin County commissioners voted yesterday to participate in a study by EDAW Inc., which could lead to a broad accord governing development on the county's western edge. Such an agreement would replace building

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> > > > > > > > > > *River Echoes*
Powderlick Run

By Steve Phillips

The restoration of Powderlick Run in Union County is slowly moving forward. Powderlick Run is a headwater tributary to Bokes Creek which meets the Scioto north of State Rt. 37. Bokes Creek and its tributaries are listed as impaired waters in the State's 303d list, which is a document prepared by the state annually that lists all the degraded or impaired waters for the Federal Gov in compliance with the Clean Water Act. The goal of the project is to improve the ability of Powderlick Run to assimilate pollutants, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, and to restore the Warm Water Habitat life use-designation as set forth in the Ohio Water Quality Standards.

The first segment of Powderlick Run to be restored has been completed and is performing very well. This involved restoring over 3600 linear feet of an agricultural ditch back to a stream channel with a floodplain. This project was sponsored by the SRVF and funded by OEPA through the 319 non-point source pollution program. SRVF was instrumental in forming the "team" that accomplished this project, one of the largest restoration projects of this kind in the mid-west to date.

This project has had a lot of attention with well over 100 visitors from USDA, NRCS, ODNR, USEPA, Ohio Dept of Agriculture and local Soil Districts and environmental groups.

Restoration by definition means *"actions taken to correct previous alterations that have destroyed, diminished or impaired the character and function of riverine systems. Restoration is the process of converting an unstable, altered or degraded stream channel to its natural condition considering recent and future watershed conditions"*.

The second phase will involve an additional 1500 linear feet of restoration immediately downstream of the original project. This phase is being sponsored by the City of Columbus and funded by the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program through OEPA. Additionally, the Union county SWCD is participating with Conservation reserve monies to provide easement purchase and livestock exclusion fencing on a third property. Once the second phase is completed this summer, approximately 7000 linear feet of corridor will have been "restored" and protected.

The initial biological sampling results have been very positive at Powderlick Run (see table 1). Prior to restoration, Powderlick run was in non-attainment of it's designated Warm Water Habitat use. The state of Ohio is one of just a few states that quantifies water quality, at a minimum, on the basis of attaining the aquatic life use designation as measured with biological criteria. Ohio adopted numerical biological criteria into the Water Quality Standards (WQS) as part of an existing water quality management process in 1990. Biological criteria are based upon measurable characteristics of aquatic communities that are structured in Ohio's WQS regulations in a system of tiered aquatic life uses.

Aquatic life-use designation describes a stream's water quality and physical attributes based upon key indices that would be expected in a given ecoregion. The Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) measures the physical integrity and habitat of the stream channel including the floodplain. This index ranks features necessary to support aquatic life such as riffles, substrate embeddedness, pool depths and riparian vegetation. The Invertebrate Community Index (ICI) is a combination of 10 metrics collectively used to describe the health (production, function, tolerance, and reproduction) of the macroinvertebrate community in the stream. Finally, the Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) is a combination of 12 metrics collectively used to describe the health (production, function, tolerance, and reproduction) of the fish community in a stream. The ICI and IBI indices quantitatively measure the diversity and density of the aquatic biology and are direct indicators of water quality.

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> > > > > > > > > ***River Echoes***

Additional restoration and research funding are also being pursued for Powderlick Run. Now that a significant portion of the watershed has been restored, understanding stream nutrient dynamics in modified vs. restored channels in an agricultural watershed will become a key focus of this project. Unaltered headwater stream ecosystems provide important functions or “services” such as nutrient retention, hydrologic retention, and other physiochemical parameters.

The primary product from these future projects will be to quantify the correlation of how Natural Channel Design (NCD) engineering technology can achieve the state’s TMDL nutrient and sediment reduction goals and use attainment goals when applied to impaired agricultural watercourses.

Table 1. Comparison of conditions 3 months post-restoration with target goals

Metric	Pre-condition	Post-condition	Target (ECPB ecoregion, WWH Use Designation)
QHEI	39	58	60
ICI	< 6	NA	36
IBI	18	30	40

Meeting Ohio Water Quality Goals

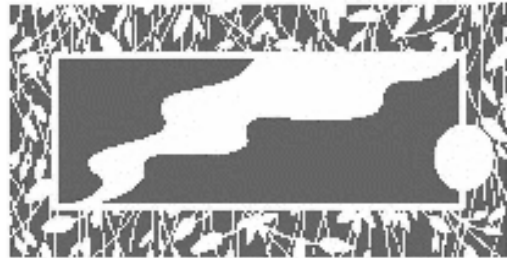
The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (P.L. 92-500), better known as the Clean Water Act, stipulated broad national objectives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters (33 U.S.C. 1251). In order to reach the federal objective, Ohio has set an interim goal for 80% of streams miles to meet water quality standards by 2010 (Ohio EPA 2004). This goal was partially based on the water quality improvements observed through the 1990’s. This was a period of great recovery of water resources as many sewage-treatment plants rushed to meet a Clean Water Act deadline in 1988 for effluent compliance. By the end of the 1990’s, streams in Ohio had mostly recovered from the regulation and reduction of these point source discharges and since then there has been no real additional improvement. Almost all the remaining water quality impairment is from non-point sources (NPS) of pollution including hydromodification of stream channels. Any additional improvement in water quality will have to come from reductions of non-point sources of pollution and more specifically, the physical improvement of streams and floodplains. The effectiveness of our existing NPS programs is debatable. Based on the lack of further stream improvement, NPS program approaches don’t appear to be helping to further water quality attainment in Ohio. The point source pollution sources have been masking the serious impacts of NPS. We need to find a cost effective solution that achieves our 2010 WQ goals at the least cost. Until we focus on NPS issues as intensely as we have on point sources, improvement will come slowly if at all. The required solutions are not easy or cheap. No substantial improvements will be made until there is an appreciation of the magnitude of the problem.

Headwater stream channels with extensive hydromodification often do not attain their Clean Water Act goals. These streams, typically in agricultural settings, receive and export high levels of nutrients and sediment. Nationally, U.S. EPA (2002) reports that nutrients, along with habitat degradation and siltation, are among the top four causes of aquatic life impairment. Nutrient enrichment impairs 38% of Ohio’s monitored watersheds (Ohio EPA 2004b) and habitat degradation and siltation are the two top causes of aquatic life use impairment across Ohio. It is clear that there is a close association between nutrients in streams, habitat degradation and siltation in these waters.



Don't forget to pick up your free t-shirt with your paid membership at the next quarterly meeting — **MAY 1, 7:00 p.m. @ the Old Stone Church.**

Been there. Done that. Get your T-Shirt???



The Scioto River Valley Federation
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KEY DATES

- April—May Wednesdays, garlic mustard weed-pulling, 7 p.m. Page 3
- April 23, May 7 & 14, Saturdays, Great American Cleanup, 9 a.m. Page 5
- May 1, Sunday - SRVF meeting, 7 p.m.
- August 7, Sunday - SRVF Picnic, 5 p.m. Page 2
- November 6, Sunday - SRVF meeting

Online at www.sciotoriver.org

All SRVF membership meetings are the first Sunday of February, May and November. They are held at the Old Stone Church which is at the corner of Hodges Road and SR 37. The public is most welcome.