



Swatara Watershed Association

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Officers: Jo Ellen Litz, president; Tom Embich, vice president; Walt Haber, treasurer; Betty Conner, secretary.

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SCWA meetings: last
Wednesday of each month,
9:30AM. Email
Swatara@mbcomp.com for
locaiton.

Year in Review

To keep you informed as we implement the Swatara Rivers Conservation Plan utilizing the Swatara Water Trail, an annual update of activity follows.

In honor of the **70th anniversary of the Bordner cabin in 2009**, we are implementing a **Capital Campaign** to raise funds for repair of the **Bordner cabin and purchase of the Wise property**. At this time of year, please consider a donation to help preserve our heritage and maintain and improve riparian buffers and wetlands in the Swatara Watershed.

Bordner Cabin:

- On November 10, SWA met with Architect Bob Hoffman, Architect Mike Willeman, and Swatara State Park manager Angel Croll. Mike will work with SWA probono to get a Labor and Industry occupancy permit, which will facilitate removal of 'no trespassing' signs.
- Piers: One pier washed out from under the porch, and another pier needs reinforced. A DEP permit is needed for repair of the piers. For your safety, until further notice, please stay off of the porch.
- Electricity: MetEd Engineer James Fuhrman is looking at underground line design.
- Historic designation: Karen Light is leading the charge by working with Francis Ditzler and/or Bethel Township Supervisors.
- Bridge: Rotary presentation by Angel Croll—not yet scheduled.

Union Canal Canoe Rentals: A 33.69-acre parcel along the Swatara Creek at 1929 Blacks Bridge Road, Annville (East Hanover Township, Lebanon County PA).

- In addition to a boat access, the site adjoins two historic Union Canal locks;
- Is improved with a 960 square foot pavilion;
- A 240 square foot stilted office with both a 200 Amp electrical service and a 120 square foot porch;
- A permeable parking lot,
- An approved public water source; and
- 3,341 feet of riparian buffer that shades and cools the Swatara.
- Because we start or end our sojourn at here each year, SCWA considers this site an essential hub in the wheel of the Water Trail. A long-term goal is to become part of an inter-county trail system that could link to the proposed north-south rail-trail and east-west rail-trail linking Berks, Dauphin, Lebanon,

and Schuylkill counties. The property will be open to the public from sunrise to sunset.

- George Gress performed a Phase I Environmental Assessment.
- Awaiting approval of a Fish and Boat grant. County comprehensive plan implementation grant application also submitted. Tourist dollars from the Hotel Tax will be used to award this grant.
- Sent a request to rescind "lease/management agreement" with East Hanover Township.

Eddie Kosik Eagle Scout project: "I have gotten my (bridge signing) project approved by Harivadan Parikh (at Penn DOT). He is getting the final legal details. I'm placing the orders for the signs so that, if all goes well, we can (finish) attaching them (in) December. The signs will look like street signs. The Bridges to be signed include: Heilmandale Rd. (twice), Ono Rd., Yorty Bridge Rd., Black's Bridge, Gravel Hill Rd., Route 743, Sand Beach Rd., and Route 39.

Union Township Farm: Pam Spayd Shellenberger, a US Fish and Wildlife Biologist who previously worked with Berks Co. Conservation District, is doing environmental reviews for project impacts to endangered and threaten species. She met with the developer/consultants/DEP at a log house that is being donated to SWA. The 3 wetlands on site qualified as potential bog turtle habitat. Instead of surveying for turtles, the developer opted to implement a 300' buffer around these wetlands. Two of the wetlands are right behind the house and are formed from the spring house. The developer wanted to know if the SWA would be interested in acquiring not only the tract where the house is, but also the 300' buffer area around the two wetlands behind the house. He also would be willing to give responsibility of the 3rd wetland and its 300' buffer to the SWA if they would be interested. SWA will meet with Pam in December and talk about where these buffers and wetlands are located and to see the site plans.

Swatara River: USGS sent letters to each municipality requesting feedback on SWA's quest to have the Swatara named a river. To be proactive, SWA also forwarded information to each municipality for consideration. In addition, on July 12, Mary Klaus ran an article in the Patriot News. **SWA** contacted Senator Casey's office for an update.

Jonestown Boat Launch: Completed by Jonestown Borough with State grants. SWA was asked for suggestions to finish the area: land scaping around the Water Trail sign, a bench; and/or an additional sign in between the legs of the existing sign that says "Welcome to the Swatara Water Trail" arched across the top; "Boat Access" arched across the bottom; with Jonestown larger across the center. As funds allow, this design could be added to identify other launch sites.

Calendar

Mark your calendar for the Swatara Sojourn on May 2 & 3, 2009. Watch www.swatarawatershed.com for details after the beginning of the new year.

Please use my dues to help SCWA to preserve our natural resource, the Swatara Watershed. Please enroll me as a subscriber with full benefits and use my dues to help protect our water. I have added \$5 shipping to receive my incentives by mail. I enclose \$20 for a one year subscription (EELS—Envisioning an Environmental Legacy for the Swatara—book) I enclose \$200 for a lifetime subscription (Autographed EELS book and a Mills & Bank Barns book) I enclose \$500 for a gold sponsorship (Autographed EELS book, EELS, in Their Own Words—a DVD collection of over 40 hours of living history (Interviews conducted to create the EELS book) on the Swatara Watershed, and a Mills & Bank Barns book)

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