



Swatara Watershed Association

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March 2008

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

Board Members: Bob Arnold, Richard Blouch, Charles Cravotta, Stephanie Harmon, Dan Koury, Ann Lasky, Karen Light, Craig Morgan, and John Orr.

Lifetime Members: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Chuck & Charlotte Allwein, Michael Allwein, Lee & Susan Allwein, Wayne Anspach, Bob Arnold, Anna Bashore, Dr. Robert Bauer, Bethel Township, Richard & June Blouch, Harvey Bomberger, Pine Grove Borough, Tom Bowman, Steven Boyer, Donald Brown, Alvin H. Buck, Carmeuse, Edward Carney (Former Metal Products), Dick & Pauline Charles, Bob Checkett, Attorney John Childe, William & Carol Christ, CLEAN, Drs. George & Betty Conner, Simon & Patricia Dengel, Carl Donmoyer, Betty Eiceman, Tom Embich, Ruth Embich, Jay Felty, Jack Force, Fredericksburg Water & Sewer Authority, Walt & Barb Haber, Margaret Hatt, Col. (Ret) Raymond Hawthorne, Rugh Henderson, Charles & Jean Henry, Barb Herschkowitz, Mary Hicks, Nan Hoff, Nancy Hoke, Jonestown Borough, Kaylor Architects, Bruce Kurtz, Ann & David Lasky, Mary Jo Laughlin, Lebanon County Bassmasters, Lebanon County Conservation District, Lebanon Valley Conservancy, FW Light Jr., Karen Light, Neil Light, Jo Ellen Litz, David McSurdy, James & Sandy Meluskey, Cherie Mindy, Jennifer Minnich, Richard D Moore, John D. Murphy, Heidi Neiswender, Northern Swatara Watershed Association, North Lebanon Township Lions Club, Antoinette Onushco, Lee D. Peiffer, Pine Grove Township, Lynn David Pleet, Robert & Pamela Ponting, Dave & Patti Ravegum, Victor & Jean Rohrer, William E Schaeffer Jr. MD, Schuylkill County Conservation District, Jerry & Judy Schweingruber, David Sheridan, Thomas Sherk, Thomas Shott, Betty Shultz, Pete Silldorff, Gail Phelps Smith, James Smith, General Frank Smoker, South Hanover Township, Robert Spanuth, David & Renee Stachow, Sunset Lions, Ray Swingholm, Irene Van Tassel, Ed & Bonnie Tenney, Marta Trainer, Union Canal Canoe Rentals, Waste management, Wenger's Feed Mill Inc., John B. Wengert, John E & Marie Wengert, Jeff Werner, Beth White, John WorriLOW.

SCWA meetings: last
Wednesday of each month,
9:30AM, Swatara Watershed
Office, 2501 Cumberland St.,
Suite 4, Lebanon PA.

20th Anniversary—Still Paddlin' After All These Years

Please consider joining us for our 20th anniversary of canoeing and cleaning up the Swatara. A registration form is enclosed.

Swatara River:

Our mission is to educate the public about the Swatara. We also looked for ways to make our 20th anniversary of canoeing and cleaning up the Swattie very special. A proposed name change from creek to river is providing an outstanding opportunity to exercise this mission. People are talking about our waterway, asking questions, and becoming engaged.

Stories and editorials appeared in the Lebanon Daily News (River runs through it), Patriot News (How about 'Way down upon the Swattie River?'), WGAL TV8, & WHTM 27.

Letters of endorsement to date have come from: Berks County Conservation District, Mauree Gingrich, Lebanon County Commissioners, Lebanon County Conservation District, National Guard, North Londonderry Township, & Palmyra Borough's resolution is on the way. Your municipality or organization can help us with a letter or resolution too. Please send it as soon as you can for inclusion in a packet being prepared for the USGS comment period.

Talking Points:

- The dictionary defines a river as a body of water that is fed by tributaries and empties into a larger body of water. The Swatara Creek meets this definition of a river.
- The Swatara flows through **four counties and 46 municipalities**, then empties into the Susquehanna River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.
- **71 miles in length over 570 square miles** of south-central Pennsylvania, the Swatara is fed by the **Upper, Lower and Little Swatara Creeks as well as the Quittapahilla, Manada, Boe, and other Creeks such as Trout Run.**
- Previously, the **50-mile long Conestoga** Creek was named as the Conestoga River.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conestoga_River
- **Other rivers in PA are smaller** than the Swatara: **For example, tributaries to the Delaware River like the Lackawaxen River is approximately 25 mi long; The West Branch is approximately 15 miles long; and the Christina River is approximately 35 miles long.**
- Since the 1700's the Swatara is listed as a **navigable river** on maps. Still

navigable by small craft, the **Swatara Sojourn** is held annually.


- The Swatara is a working river with **water companies** like PA American, Lebanon Water Authority, and United Water relying upon withdrawal to service business, industry and the citizens of the Watershed. In other words, the Swatara is **the lifeblood of our communities**. The Swatara is **integral to public health and safety**.
- In several instances, the Swatara **determines political boundaries**-- between Jonestown Borough & Swatara and Union Townships; between East Hanover & North Annville; between East Hanover and Derry Townships; between South Hanover & Swatara Townships and Hummelstown Borough; between Lower Swatara and Londonderry; and between Middletown and Royaltown Boroughs in Dauphin County.
- Therefore, on January 17, 2008, an application with USGS was completed


SCWA Name Change:

To accommodate an anticipated name change from Swatara Creek to Swatara River, a name for the organization from the Swatara Creek Watershed Association to the Swatara Watershed Association has taken place. The website, letterhead, and banners are updated.

Water Trail:

Eagle projects require 100 hours of community service.

 **Eddy Kosik:** Eddy is working with Ray Ebersole, Senior Project Manager for Bridge Management at PennDOT. If all goes well, these bridge signs will be in place for the Swatara Sojourn: Jonestown Road, Route 72, SR 4006, SR 4007, Yorty Road, SR 934, Black's Bridge, SR 4011, SR 743, SR 2015.

 **Joe Hirneisen:** Also an Eagle scout candidate, will sign the northern bridges: Route 22, Route 78, Lickdale (iron bridge), Monroe Valley (new cement bridge), Inwood Iron Bridge (County owned and scheduled for replacement), Route 81 (Two tall bridges on pillars), Appalachian Trail (iron bridge), Swope's Valley Road. By sharing information, uniform signs should be on the upstream side of bridges. The efforts of these two young men will improve the safety of boaters on the Swatara by helping them to identify their whereabouts. Thank you Scouts!



Water Deficit Areas – Betty Conner reported that the Lower Susquehanna Regional Water Resources Board helped to prioritize critical watersheds, per Act 220, where public water supply is not enough to meet demand. The group identified the Swatara, Conestoga, and Octorara on the east bank and the Conewago and Codorus on the west bank. Determinations were made using DEP and USGS 'Pour Point' data at the mouth of each waterway

Union Canal Canoe Rentals

SCWA was awarded a DCNR acquisition grant for 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). However, a successful closure depends upon a pending July matching grant application submission to the PA Fish and Boat Commission. 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; an 18-hole chip and putt golf course; camping; 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.






Calendar

March

-  **20** Scott Weidensal, author of [A Feather](#), will appear at 7PM, Sweet Arrow Lake
-  **25-29** Builder's Show

April

-  **7**, A Green Roof Symposium is being held by the Lebanon County Conservation District's Karl Kerchner in Berks County.

-  **10**, **Rain barrel workshop**, 6-7PM at Conservation District. \$20.
-  **16**, Tree seedlings will be ready for pickup from the Lebanon Conservation District.
-  **19**, **United Way Day of Caring** volunteers needed to clean up and install the mantel at the **Bordner cabin**.
-  **20**, the LV Conservancy is hosting Chad Kister, on Polar Bear Survival, at the Allen Theater, 1:30PM.
-  **21**, Manada Conservancy will host a review of the historical and natural resources along the Swatara Greenway, 7PM at the Hershey Library.

May 3 & 4 Swatara Sojourn

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Return Service Requested
Non-profit Organization
US Postage Paid
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Lebanon PA

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)