

PA CleanWays

Lawrence County Chapter Newsletter



Issue #9

Fall 2001

Chapter Achievements 1993-2000

- Cleaned up twelve (13) sites.
- Twenty-six (30) cleanups.
- Removed more than 181 tons of trash.
- Recycled 44 tons of the removed trash.
- Removed more than 4,000 tires from roadways.
- Collected more than 5,000 tires from residents.
- Recycled 21 tons of magazines.
- Recycled more than 100 appliances.
- Received help from 1,200 volunteers and sponsors.

Tire Day Results

Our annual tire collection was held on June 16. A constant rain that lasted most of the morning didn't keep away our dedicated volunteer crew, but unfortunately did keep a lot of residents away. The collection brought in 353 tires. Since we have offered this collection since 1997, residents have turned in more than 5,000 tires. For residents who missed our collection, there are several tire dealers throughout the county that collect tires continuously. For a list of locations contact the Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Department at 724-658-6925.



PACW Growing Greener Info on Web

Want to find out what's happened or is planned for our watershed assessment and cleanup project? Visit our web page, provided free from DEP for its Growing Greener Grant recipients.

Go to www.dep.state.pa.us and type "G2 Directory" in the directLINK box. You will be transferred to the directory which lists the currently posted projects.

Growing Greener Project Report

Our chapter's Watershed Assessment and Cleanup Project, funded through DEP's Growing Greener grant program, is moving along nicely.



Two cleanups for the project were held this spring. The first cleanup, held on March 31, targeted a site upstream of the Wilmington Township covered bridge. The site, right next to the Neshannock Creek, had its first cleanup in April 1994. The original group of 18 volunteers found that there was much more trash present than originally thought. By the time the 1994 cleanup was completed, the volunteers had removed about eight feet of a hillside that was all trash. Although we were successful in restoring a flowing spring and removing most of the large items and almost 2 tons of trash, a significant amount of material remained.

On April 6, almost seven years after its original cleaning, another group of 19 volunteers came forward to complete the task. After several hours, this latest group of volunteers found that they were still removing sections of hillside. However, persistence paid off and we ended the day by removing 15 yards of materials.



Another site along the Neshannock, just about a mile downstream from the covered bridge site, was cleaned a week later on April 7. This site was cleaned last April as the kick-off event for the Growing Greener project. A small group of 18 people found that they had much more on their hands after digging into the site and realizing that there was much more than originally thought. This year we were prepared and with the help of the Laurel Conservation Club, 35 volunteers removed another 4 tons of trash and 2 tons of metals from the site. We will continue to monitor the site because of the presence of new trash. Previously, the site was inactive but recently some minor dumping has started. In spring 2000 after the initial cleanup, some evidence was found linking someone to one of the piles dumped. Thanks to the cooperation of Wilmington Township and The Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Department, the alleged illegal dumper was required to remove a load of trash and perform community service. We will continue our work to prevent illegal dumping at this location.



Also as part of our Growing Greener project, we recently completed our assessments of the Neshannock Creek and the Mahoning River. No dump sites were identified along the banks of either waterway, but some isolated appliances, tires, and miscellaneous junk was found here and there. We want to give a special thanks to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for becoming part of our assessment team. The Conservancy invited us to float the Mahoning River with them as part of their Natural Heritage Inventory study for Lawrence County.



\$5,000 WREN Grant Awarded to Chapter

We recently partnered with the Lawrence County League of Women Voters and Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Department to receive a \$5,000 Water Resources Education Network (WREN) grant from the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund.

The coalition will conduct the cleanup of an illegal dumpsite that has the potential to contaminate local drinking water sources. The cleanup will be filmed and turned into a video. The main component of the program is a placemat contest for young people ages 8 through 18. Students, classrooms, or youth organizations interested in submitting drawings will be asked to attend the cleanup. Those unable to attend the cleanup will be required to watch the video, which can also be used by local schools and various youth organizations for other water and environmental protection programs. After watching the video, the youth will be asked to make a drawing emphasizing drinking water protection, based on what they have gained by attending the cleanup or watching the video.



A panel of judges, selected from the local arts community, will be established to review the drawings and make a determination for top honors. The overall winner will receive a \$100 savings bond provided by the sponsoring organizations. Winners in the other age categories, 8-9, 10-11, 12-14, and 15-18, will receive \$50 bonds.

The top drawing will be used on a restaurant placemat, along with information about the effects of illegally dumping trash in our waterways, overall water conservation efforts, and how to properly manage household hazardous waste (HHW). Fifty thousand placemats will be printed and distributed to restaurants in the county.

We need your help to make this project successful. If you have a restaurant and would like a supply of the completed place mats or you know some youth who may be interested in entering the contest contact us at 724-658-6925.

Beechwood Road Cleanup

On Saturday, May 5, 13 PA CleanWays volunteers removed trash from behind a residence on Beechwood Rd. in Wilmington Township. Beneath the carpet, shingles and other debris we found items as large as a furnace and as small as a plastic Smurf figurine.

When the current owner of the property, Alice Sankey, purchased the property 14 years ago she and her family had no idea that a dump existed in the back yard. "We purchased the house in March and it wasn't until the snow melted a few weeks later that we discovered the dump site," Alice explained.

"I am so very pleased with the efforts of the volunteers and with PA CleanWays. The amount of work we accomplished in over four hours amazed me," She commented, "Considering we pulled out a refrigerator, a water heater, a furnace and two sinks," she said rattling off a list of the larger items pulled from the dump.



Altogether a total of XX tons of trash and XX tons of metals were removed from the site.

Chapter Mourns the Loss of One of its Founders

PA CleanWays has lost a founder, a visionary and a friend. Larry Whitman, who was there in the early, uncertain days of Lawrence County's PA CleanWays chapter, and who was with us until the end, died April 19. He was 57.

It is impossible to fully explain the importance and impact Larry had on this chapter. He was its first president and served on the State board for a number of years. In so many ways, he helped to establish this organization and propel it forward. Larry was the complete PA CleanWays volunteer and officer. He participated in cleanups and other events. He guided many of the technical aspects of running a nonprofit organization on a shoestring.

Poor health affected Larry during the past few years. But when able, he attended chapter meetings and participated in our projects. Among his last acts as a board member was to assist with the strategic planning that allowed the chapter to pursue and obtain a grant to hire formal staff for our organization. He also participated in the interview process that followed. This has positioned PA CleanWays to do even more to improve our community in the coming years.

Larry did all this, and more. PA CleanWays was just one of his community interests. Despite personal challenges, he remained active because he cared about Lawrence County and its future. For all who knew Larry, he was a role model and an inspiration. Even in death, Larry did not abandon PA CleanWays. He asked that memorial contributions be made to the chapter in his memory. To date, those contributions total \$175. These funds will be put to good use in the community.

Still, Larry's passing has left a void within our organization. But we take comfort in knowing the chapter's good works will go on and that the example Larry set will serve us in the future.

Larry Whitman is gone, but for as long as there is a PA CleanWays, he will never be forgotten.

Thanks to our Sponsors and Donors for 2001

Telephone Pioneers of America, Fort Pitt Chapter
 Trout Unlimited, Neshannock Creek Chapter
 New Castle Junior Women's Club
 S & S Processing
 Pagley' Pasta and Pizza
 Tri-County Industries, Inc.
 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
 Slippery Rock Salvage
 CFS Waste Services
 Wilmington Township
 Wayne Township
 Wal-Mart
 ESSROC Cement
 Cadence Environmental Energy
 Bessemer Supply
 Wendy's – Union Township
 Dominoe's Pizza
 Panera Bread
 Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Dept.
 Lawrence County Maintenance Dept.
 Lawrence County Commissioners
 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
 Alice Sankey
 Lawrence County Association for the Blind
 League of Women Voters of Lawrence County
 PA CleanWays – State Organization
 The Family and Friends of Larry Whitman



PA CleanWays of Lawrence County Membership/Newsletter Form

Individual \$5.00 Date _____
 Family \$15.00
 Student \$2.00
 Business/Organization \$25.00
 Special Donation to help with projects

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone (h) _____ (w) _____
 E-mail _____

This information is used to communicate with you. It is not shared with anyone else. Contributions are tax exempt as allowed by law.

Check here to receive future newsletters.
 Check here to discontinue receiving newsletters.

I am also willing to:

Help at cleanups
 Help organize cleanups/special events
 Help at special recycling events
 Attend monthly meetings
 Donate services or equipment
 Participate in education projects
 Help raise financial support
 Help recruit new members
 Other _____



Adam Sipe
 Alice Sankey
 Amy Jo Labi-Carando
 Andrew Johnson
 Andy Ubry
 Anthony Orelli
 Ashley Johnson
 Bill Scranton
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 Brian McCurdy
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 Carrie Fowler
 Chad Parrott
 Charles Hart
 Chase Laszlo
 Colton Summa
 Connie Oshop
 Dale Elder
 Dave Aldan
 Dennis Higgins

Thanks to our Volunteers!

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 Diana Campbell
 E. Oshop
 Emily Baker
 Eric Book
 Evan Hart
 Evan Ottawiani
 Frank Manfredi
 Jake Erhardt
 Jake Ubry
 Jami Nimmo
 Jamie Clouse
 Jan Cunningham
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 Tom Emery
 Wendy Stafford

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CleanWays – What we're All About

PA CleanWays is a nonprofit organization that fights illegal dumping and littering. We facilitate the cleanup of areas affected by illegal dumping, we address problem items, such as tires, and we educate the public on proper waste disposal and the environmental and personal consequences of improper disposal.

If litter and trash thrown along the roads personally offend you, join us in the fight. Your contribution can be your dues, or you can join us in our other activities. We need all levels of support.

This newsletter was printed through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

The 2001 Fugitive Tire Program

On September 22 we will be holding our third Fugitive Tire Program (FTP). The FTP is a hands-on environmental education program for our youth in which they collect "fugitive" (illegal dumped) tires from various areas in the county and turn them in for a bounty. Groups participating in the FTP get to learn first hand about the effects of illegal dumping on the environment.

Participation in the program is first-come, first served. The first five groups that sign up will be permitted to participate in the program. Three alternate groups may be selected to participate in the event that one of the five participating groups cannot attend. Each group participating will be eligible to turn in up to 300 tires and receive a 50-cent bounty for each tire turned in.

Groups interested in participating in the 2001 FTP can contact Emily at 724-658-6925 or lawrecyc@ccia.com. All participating groups and alternates will be required to attend a mandatory training session a week or two before the actual event.



Jockey Moore Road Cleanup

Seven PA CleanWays volunteers along with approximately 21 youth from Ellwood City School District assisted in the annual maintenance of Jockey Moore Road in Wayne Township. Divided into groups, each party took a section of the road. With plastic bags in hand, we walked the country road in search of litter along the berms and in the ditches.

In the first two years (1996 and 97) the road was cleaned, almost 20 tons of trash were removed from it.

We are happy to report that the amount of trash strewn along the roads has decreased since this event began in 1996. Thanks to our cooperative efforts of volunteers, sponsors, Lawrence County, Wayne Township and the chapter, illegal dumping is virtually non-existent. When it does occur it is promptly removed via enforcement action or the diligence of the township. This year's event yielded just a couple bags of litter.

You're Invited to our Annual Picnic!

We may be known for our strong work ethic and dedicated volunteers, but we'll be putting the gloves and bags to rest for a day of R & R. We'll be holding our annual membership meeting and picnic on Sunday, September 16 at Camp Eliot, the Girl Scout's Camp just outside of Volant.

Like the rest of our events, the picnic is open to everyone. If you're interested in attending, please contact Emily Baker, chapter president at 724-658-6925 or lawrecyc@ccia.com.

