

STREAM LINES

The newsletter of the Mahoning River Consortium

Summer 2008

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The Mahoning river consortium – Mission & membership

The Mission of the Mahoning River Consortium (MRC) is to Restore and Maintain higher environmental quality of the Mahoning River and its Watershed, and to enhance the social, recreational and economic development of the communities along the Mahoning River.



If you have forgotten to renew your MRC membership or if you wish to become a new member in 2008, it is not too late to join. A membership application and a suggested dues schedule is attached, and can also be found on-line at our website: www.mahoningriver.com.

Since the MRC is a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are tax deductible. Completed membership forms and checks made payable to the "Mahoning River Consortium" can be mailed to: MRC, P. O. Box 6817, Youngstown, Ohio 44501.

By joining the MRC, or by making an additional contribution, you will be adding your voice to the growing chorus of those who are working to revitalize the Mahoning River, and the neglected lands along the river.

CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

Upcoming mrc meetings

In 2008, the MRC has been indeed fortunate to have several outstanding guest speakers. Earlier this year the following presentations were made: "Mahoning River Water Quality Issues in the 1970s," by Gary Amendola, P.E.; "Programs of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy" (www.wrlc.cc), by Scott Hill; "New MRC PowerPoint," by Christine Davidson; "A TDML Program for

the Upper Mahoning River," by Bill Zawiski of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; and, "Poland Municipal Forest: Wildlife Sanctuary," by Jim Swager. In June, MRC president Sarah Lown provided an update on the MRC's 17 proposed riverfront development projects.

Mark your calendars now for the MRC's July and August meetings.



On July 18th, the MRC will meet at WCI Steel (999 Pine Avenue, S.E., Warren) to receive an update by Tom Shepker about WCI's Mahoning River Dredging Project. **On August 15th**, we will assemble at Howland Township Park (2000 Rosegarden Drive, N.E., Howland Township) when Trish Nuskievich will inform us about the new Mosquito Creek Boardwalk Project followed by a boardwalk tour. The boardwalk is one of two MRC Clean Ohio Program initiatives, the other being the preservation of the Cranberry Run headwaters in Boardman Township.

Tentative future program topics include: the Ohio-Pennsylvania Canal; AquaBlocs, the Mahoning River Brownfield Initiative, Warren Riverfront Projects, a plan for the Mahoning Commons, and a progress report on the Mahoning River Ecological Restoration Project.

All future meetings and events are posted on the MRC's web site: www.mahoningriver.com.

Mahoning River Specialty License Plates

When it's time to renew your Ohio vehicle registration, consider purchasing a Mahoning River specialty license plate. As a result of a



initiative of the Mahoning River Tributaries, the MRC's youth group, Ohio Representative Robert F. Hagan sponsored legislation creating a special Mahoning River license plate. Available since 2005, the specialty plates, featuring an Ohio Muskellunge caught in the west branch of the Mahoning River, can be purchased either at your local license bureau or online at www.oplates.com. All proceeds from the sale of the plates are earmarked to help restore the Mahoning River and its watershed.

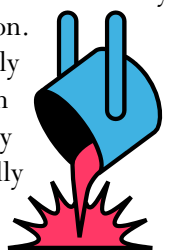
Trumbull county fair booth

Well maybe the Mahoning River Consortium is not as exciting as the demolition derby, a tractor pull or even a fireworks display, but after an absence of a few years, the MRC will have a presence at the 2008 Trumbull County Fair. Thanks to the Trumbull Soil & Water Conservation District, we will be sharing a booth, located in the Education Building, with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

So, if you plan on attending this year's fair from July 7th through July 13th, stop by and see us. And if you have perhaps four hours to volunteer on either Friday, July 11th or Saturday, July 12th, please contact Kim at kim.mascarella@twp.howland.oh.us.

Mrc powerpoint

At a recent MRC meeting, 24 members and guests witnessed the MRC's new PowerPoint presented by Christine Davidson. This approximately 20-minute program authored by Christine and Holly Burnett-Hanley documents the abuse of the Mahoning River during the first three quarters of



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the 20th century when tons of harmful materials were deposited in the river on a daily basis. The presentation concludes by noting when the Mahoning River Ecological Restoration Project from northwest of Warren to Lowellville is eventually implemented, this 31-mile stretch of the river will be converted into a community asset stimulating considerable economic development in all eight communities lining the river's banks (Warren, Niles, McDonald, Girard, Youngstown, Campbell, Struthers and Lowellville.)

A clean Mahoning River will also enable future recreational opportunities, namely fishing, boating, canoeing, hiking and possibly swimming, thus



enhancing the Mahoning Valley's quality of life. If your group would like a presentation of the MRC PowerPoint, please contact Christine Davidson at: davidson_christine@yahoo.com.

Educational Credits for Attending MRC Meetings

If you are a professional engineer, registered sanitarian or waste water treatment plant official, you can now receive educational credits for attending selected MRC meetings. For additional information about the program, please contact Bill DeCicco (wdd@castlo.com) or Keith Riley at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA): (keith.riley@epa.state.oh.us)

Summer Fun along the Mahoning River in Warren

Despite the current undesirable and under-utilized condition of the Mahoning River, there are many positive things

happening all along the river! This summer, consider enjoying some



of them: Foster Park with a canoe livery in Newton Township; Newton Falls' Riverfront Park; Canoe City in Leavittsburg; the Mill Creek MetroPark's Fellows Riverside Gardens; riverfront dining in downtown Youngstown; events at Youngstown's Chevrolet Centre; the Stavich Bike Trail from Struthers to New Castle; and, periodic riverfront programs in downtown Lowellville.

However, the local community with the most cultural, educational, entertainment and recreational venues along its riverfront is Warren with its Community Amphitheatre, Courthouse Square Park, Kinsman House, Packard and Perkins Parks, the Packard Museum, the Packard Music Hall and the Warren River Walk. For a current listing of Warren riverfront activities, check out the following web sites: www.metromonthly.net and www.TrumbullArts.org. Imagine what might be possible once our Mahoning River is fully restored.

THE MAHONING RIVER CORRIDOR REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

The Mahoning River corridor stretches approximately thirty-one miles, traveling through nine cities and villages from Lowellville to Newton Falls.



These lands hosted industries that built a prosperous region. Since the demise of the steel industry, most of the land has been abandoned. The Mahoning River Corridor Revitalization Initiative will restore that prosperity by rebuilding strategic

sites in each community along the River.

A partnership between the Mahoning River Consortium, YSU



Center for Urban and Regional Studies, The Mahoning Valley Mayor's Association, CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation, the City of Youngstown, and Greater Mahoning Valley the locally based Greater Mahoning Valley Redevelopment Initiative will coordinate the revitalization of the corridor.

Members of the partnership identified 18 sites for redevelopment, at least one in each city and village. We will begin by identifying the best re-use for each site—whether it is for industrial development, recreation or environmental conservation. We will identify the resources needed to redevelop and market each site.

Steps are already underway to create bike trails, conservation areas and new industrial parks. In ten years, let's hope the entire corridor will be vibrant and attractive to each member of our community.

IMAGES OF THE MAHONING RIVER



The confluence of Eagle Creek (right) and the Mahoning River near Canoe MetroPark in Warren Township (from Trumbull County MetroParks)



The Mahoning River at the Mill Creek confluence

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Mahoning River Consortium Membership/Donation Form

P.O. Box 6817
Youngstown, OH 44501

www.MahoningRiver.com

Date:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-Mail:	
Circle amount	High school Students \$ 5.00
	College Students/Senior citizen (over the age of 65) \$ 10.00
	Individual \$ 20.00
	Family \$ 30.00
	Group/Agency/Business \$ 50.00+
	River Keeper \$ 500.00+
	Life Preserver \$ 1,000.00+
	Ex-officio (Public Officials, etc.) \$ 25.00
	\$_____ Other tax-deductible donation
	Special Instructions:
	(The MRC is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible.)

Please mail to:
Mahoning River Consortium
P.O. Box 6817 Youngstown, Ohio 44501