

Dredging the South Branch of the Little Wolf River

In 2017, The American Legion Sheveland-Taylor Post 14 requested through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow the American Legion to dredge the South Branch of the Little Wolf River between the dam and bridge that runs along the north side of the Veterans Memorial Park.

The sediment had filled over half way across the river restricting the water flow, in addition it was an eye sore and keeps building up more and more over time. Grass and other vegetation were growing in the sediment.

It interfered with the laying of the wreathes during the Memorial Day Service, when the wreath was placed in the river honoring the United States Navy and other United States Armed Forces that lost their lives at sea during combat, the sediment kept the wreath from floating down the river.

The sediment area that we wanted to remove with a backhoe or some other method was about 23' long and 15' wide. The American Legion Sheveland-Taylor Post 14 which owns the Veterans Memorial Park on the south side of the South Branch of the Little Wolf River requested permission to remove sediment along the south side of the river through the DNR. The DNR Stated the permit was \$600 which actually ended up at \$636.

The American Legion went to both John Lashua and Chad Bestul to see if one of them could do the dredging, but neither could reach the area with their backhoes. John Lashua recommended that the American Legion contact Faulks Bros Construction, which we did and met with Nick Pankratz of Faulks Brothers and they would be able to dredge the river with their backhoe long stick, at a cost of \$900.

The dredging took place from the south side of the river from the American Legion property. The village of Iola stated they would be willing to haul away the material dredged and put in one of their areas where they dispose of soil and stones.

The American Legion wishes to thank the Krause Foundation for their \$1,500 donation to help pay for the dredging of the river and for the Village of Iola for hauling away the sediment. The river flows much better and river is much cleaner in appearance as you can see from the images of the dredging.