

1st Ever Colorado Creek Connections Symposium

By Matt Knittel , Allegheny College Student

The frog ribbits, the hawk screeches, the tiger roars! On April 22nd, Creek Connections held its first symposium in Colorado at Colorado College. Organized by former Creeker and Allegheny Alumni Laura Tuel (Class of '03) and co-sponsored by The Catamount Institute, the symposium was a huge success. There were 9 schools with over 200 students and 15 environmental groups that presented and over 1000 people attended! The displays ranged from climate change effect on frog populations, to macroinvertebrate tolerance and more.

Environmental groups were also present sharing the environment through photographs, different programs students could sign up for, and animals such as snakes, lizards, hawks and even a real live tiger! Elementary high school students were thrilled to share their work and talk to the college students about what they had done that year. At the end of the day, there were smiling face everywhere, and it was a great way to celebrate Earth Day.



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Another Successful Creek Connections Symposium at Allegheny College

By Amy Kerschner, Allegheny College Student

What do you get when you add 1,000 students and their teachers, the Creek Connections staff, hundreds of student designed projects, and a creek? The Creek Connections Student Research Symposium at Allegheny College, of course! On Friday April 11, 2008, nearly 1,000 students from northwestern Pennsylvania and New York arrived in the Campus Center, armed with educational posters and displays to show off their creek knowledge. Project Director Dr. Jim Palmer started the morning with a welcoming speech, and then the students split up to present their research projects. While some students displayed their poster boards in the lobby, others gave presentations in Shafer Auditorium. There was plenty of time for the students to walk around and check out all the other interesting projects, which included everything from skits to games to music.

After a break for lunch, everyone was excited for some hands-on fun with the focus group activities. These activities were led by the project assistants, as well as environmental organization employees. During the focus group activities, students were able to have fun and learn about a variety of topics such as animal skulls, creek critters, human impacts on ecosystems, and many more. Overall, the symposium turned out great, and everyone had a very exciting day. The Creek Connections staff would like to thank the students and their teachers for all of their hard work this year and can't wait for next year's symposium!



Pittsburgh Symposium 2008

By Brandon Goeller, Allegheny College Student

YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee in Zelienople, PA, was abuzz on the morning of Friday, April 18 as over 150 students from 16 different secondary schools in the Pittsburgh area arrived at Creek Connections' annual Student Research Symposium. Students set up their research displays, proudly sharing what they had learned over the past year with their fellow peers, and then listened intently as Project Director and Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Jim Palmer delivered his welcome speech. The beautiful sun-filled morning was busy as groups of students and teachers enjoyed the "Birds of Prey" presentation given by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and visited the displays from many different environmental groups, including ALCOSAN, the PA Fish & Boat Commission,

and RiverQuest. Attendees also had a chance to show off their hard work in projects such as "Bees Where's the Honey," "Attack of Dr. Dirty and Trashman," and "The Scoop on Creeks in Fox Chapel." The highlight of the morning was the focus group activities, which gave students the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful day outside while learning new and interesting things, like "Freshwater Fish Exploration," "Mussels in the ConnoQ," and "Beaver Tale." Following a busy morning, students enjoyed their lunches, talked, and had fun before receiving their participation awards. All in all, it was a fantastic day filled with fun and excitement about the environment. Congratulations to everybody who worked so hard to make Creek Connections such a great success this year!





THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR FROM ALL OF US CREEKERS!

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