



Volume #17 Issue #3  
March 21, 2012

## Current in the Creek

May 18 & 19

Loving the Land through Working Forests  
A Foundation for Sustainable Forests Conference  
Friday Evening May 18  
Allegheny College

Wendell Berry, renowned author and  
sustainable communities advocate.  
Saturday, May 19

On-site at a FFSF property near Blooming Valley  
Three concurrent morning sessions beginning at 9:30.  
Each focuses on different management desires while  
maintaining a productive forest.

Lunch 11:30

Forest Management as a Land Ethic 1:15 p.m.  
Wendell Berry, Troy Firth and others

For More Information E-Mail:

[Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org](mailto:Info@FoundationForSustainableForests.org)

## Green Hornets Go Green

Hermitage School District is moving in a sustainable direction. The “Green Hornets Campaign” encourages environmentally-friendly practices in the school. The latest “green” initiative is “Trayless Tuesdays” in the Hickory High School cafeteria. Sean McKnight came up with the idea since he was concerned about the use of styrofoam trays in the cafeteria. Food Service Director Marcel Caron plans the menus for Tuesdays so that students can carry their food without the use of trays. After the first “Trayless Tuesday” was implemented, there were only 3 half-full bags of trash as opposed to the usual 11 bags of trash packed full. Usually an entire container of soap and half a container of sanitizer is needed for the dishwasher but none were needed on the first “Trayless Tuesday.”

Mr. Caron explained that students threw out some of the plastic re-usable trays and with staff cuts there were not enough people to run the dishwasher in between lunch periods. Reducing waste in the cafeteria is part of McKnight’s project for the JAWS program (Japanese American Watershed Stewardship). He spent three weeks in Japan last year partici-

pating in the program with other students throughout the US (See October 2011 Newsletter).

Hermitage School District has initiated a school-wide recycling program to eliminate paper, bottles, and cans going to the trash. Students and staff practice separating their trash and recyclables to reduce the amount of waste generated by our schools.

Another “Green Hornet Project” is the creation of more green spaces for students. The Artman courtyard has been transformed into an outdoor learning laboratory. Teachers, principal Amy Wanchisn, Curriculum Director Brian Schaller, and members of the Green Team and PTO worked during the summer to transform the courtyard into a more usable space for our students. This project was funded by a grant from the Western Pennsylvania Job Partnership. A butterfly garden was established by members of the Green Team. Money for this project was donated by retired teacher Carol Bauzo, in honor of her late husband and other family members.

*Continued on page 4*



# Fort LeBoeuf Middle School Fall Visit to French Creek



*Left: students kicknet for macroinvertebrates in French Creek.*

*Right: students monitor the water quality of French Creek using the test kits provided by Creek Connections.*



*Left: students discover which macroinvertebrates are in French Creek.*

*Right: Just a few of the crayfish captured during the visit.*



## Feature Creature

*By Katie Katilius, Allegheny College student*

This creek side critter can live in or around lakes ponds and streams; most often on leaves or sticks. They are a part of the largest order of arachnids, have 8 legs, and fangs that inject venom. They do not possess gills but do have a very unique way of breathing while in the water. This creature will spin their web on the water surface and collect air bubbles to fill it from underneath. It can then pop up underneath the web and breathe when it needs to. This creature also uses the air bubble to mate and lay their eggs in. You may find this general critter around your house but this specific type has adapted to live in and around water very successfully. What am I? See last page.



Photo Credit: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/evolutionary-psychology/message/116536>



July 15-19, 2012

## FAMILY CREEK CAMP



Elementary/middle school students and their families can explore the wonders of nature and environmental science at their own residential camp! Activities take place both on campus and in local area creeks, including French Creek! Imagine spending time with other families learning and enjoying the natural world with an all-inclusive package. There's so much to discover!

<http://creekconnections.allegheny.edu/familycreekcamp.html>

## Testing Tip

*By Mark Kirk, Allegheny College graduate*

### Think outside the Stream

While performing water chemistry in the field, students often do not take the time to consider what is going on around them. What happens in the stream chemically can often be attributed to what the immediate landscape is like. Take the time to look around and make observations. Is the surrounding landscape dominated by forests, pasture, or urbanization? Are stream banks highly eroded or stable? Is your stream flowing higher or normal than usual? We all have observed how the stream chemically changes throughout the year, but you should also ask how the stream and the landscape changes *physically*. Then ask how any of those parameters seen in the field could be affecting your chemical results. And if students happen to be stuck inside conducting water chemistry, teachers should make sure that somehow the stream is brought to them. Take them on a field trip to their site or take pictures and bring them to class for the students to see. It is one thing to understand how to do the chemistry, but another ability in itself to apply why the results seen are the way they are.

Plans are underway to create raised bed vegetable gardens in the High School courtyard. Gary Facemeyer is assisting with this endeavor as part of his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Caron hopes to use the garden's herbs and vegetables in the cafeteria.

The overall goal of the Green Hornet campaign is to make students and staff aware of how their actions impact the environment in addition to saving energy, materials and money in our school district.

Feature Creature: Water spider, *Argyroneta aquatic*. Found only in northern and central Europe and northern Asia.

Connect with

### CREEK CONNECTIONS

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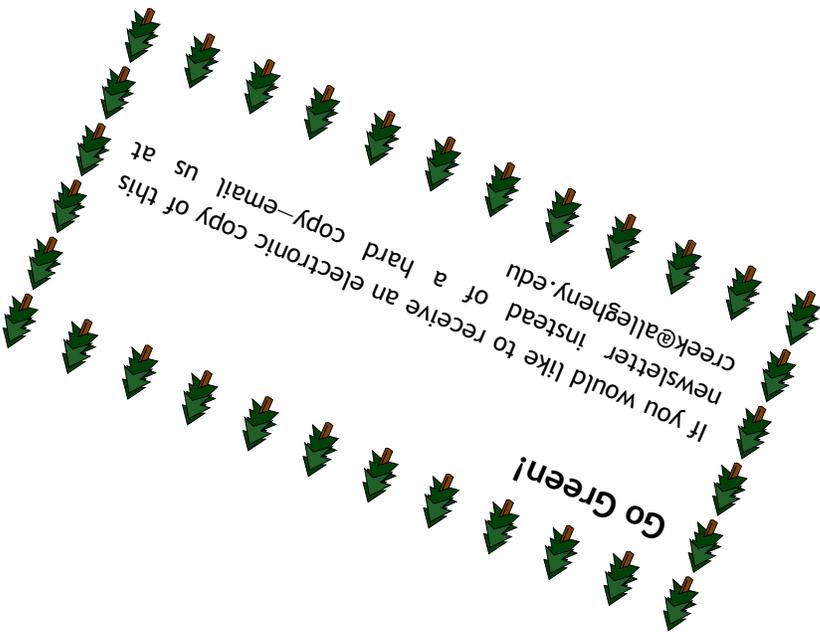
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### CREEK CONNECTIONS

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