



Volume #19 Issue #1
October 18, 2013

Current in the Creek

We are accepting applications for our 2014 Creek Camps. We will again offer 2 sessions of Creek Camp for current 9th & 10th graders as well as one session of Family Creek Camp. Start your planning now so we can see you in the summer!

We LOVE a Parade!

By Brogan McGowan, Allegheny College Student

One of the larger events this summer in Erie, Pennsylvania was the Perry 200 Grand Parade. The Environmental Science Alliance, which is a group of organizations involved in environmental education in Northwest Pennsylvania, came together and constructed a float for the parade. The group decided that the float would have a central theme around the famous Oliver Hazard Perry quote: “Don’t give up the ship” with a slight adjustment, making it “Don’t give up the drip.” The idea being that every drop of knowledge counts as well as every drop of water! The slogan not only was a nice pun to go along with the theme of the parade, but a great way to represent the purpose of the collaborating groups. After a few weeks of engineering, handy work, and design of the summer Creek Connections interns and a few helpful hands, the fully functioning, water spewing float was ready to move. The Creek Connections’ van was volunteered to pull the float throughout the parade, and was proud to do so. With attendance of many thousands of people, spraying water off of the float and passing out fun freebies allowed for some great crowd interaction and increased community awareness of the Environmental Science Alliance.



French Creek Cleanup — pg.2
Testing Tip — pg.3

Feature Creature — pg.3
2013-2014 Staff — pg.4

Annual French Creek Cleanup

By Jake Turin, Allegheny College Student

Several days of perfect weather preceded by an abnormally wet summer created the ultimate recipe for success as the 21st annual French Creek Cleanup Day reached record highs! The large storms of summer washed out debris of all sorts, which was then exposed as the creek lowered for the cleanup. This, along with the clear skies and warm weather, gave way to nearly 700 participants on Saturday, September 7th. Volunteers varied by age and association, but the objective stayed true. With the health of the stream at hand, participants helped gather a combined weight of 35,720 pounds by the end of the day! With many odd items being found, there seemed to be a trend of toilet bowls and garden tools in the creek, and even a mattress appeared! All volunteers relaxed after a hard day of work, and gathered for a feast of well-earned food and refreshments. Through continuous conservation efforts from volunteers in the French Creek watershed, the unique waterway continues to flourish with ecological diversity. Cleanups like this are vital in maintaining the health and preservation of French Creek. You can help the creek next year at the French Creek Valley Conservancy's annual cleanup on the Saturday after Labor Day. Look for information on their website. Any area within the watershed can be cleaned and there are many categories of prizes including \$1000 to the science department of the educational institution with the most participants!



Feature Creature

By Jake Turin, Allegheny College Student

I am both a terrestrial and arboreal predator. As the second largest member of the weasel family found in Pennsylvania, I can reach weights of over ten pounds and lengths of three feet. After being extirpated in Pennsylvania from over-trapping and deforestation in the early 1900's, I was reintroduced in the 1990's and now have a well-established population in PA. Who am I?

Information from Wildlife Note 40 The Fisher by Dr. Matthew Lovallo PGC Game Mammals Section. Photo from Wikipedia.



See back page for answer.

Testing Tip - Dissolved Oxygen Test

By Wendy Kedzierski, Creek Connections Director

Many of us Creekers really love to do the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) water quality test because it's fun! The test is one of the longest because it has many different steps to follow and not a lot of waiting like some of the other tests. However, sometimes you can get to the middle of the test and feel like you must have made a mistake. The sample A and sample B solutions look different! Oh no! But wait! Even though the solutions can look very different, as shown by the photo from the Hermitage Green Team in January, 2013; the amount of DO in the sample (the number of drops of Sodium Thiosulfate) was exactly the same. So, don't give up on your sample just because you reach a point where they look different. Keep going to the end then compare your results. If your A and B samples are found to have different DO amounts then run the test again to be sure you followed the steps correctly. Many thanks to Michaela Burkhauser, Hannah Sever, and Iris Costar for letting us use their test as an example.





Above: Creek Connections 2013-2014 Staff Left to Right: Brogan McGowan, Jim Palmer, Kelcy Wagner, Katie Katilius, Levi Lundell, Kristy Garcia, Camille Sicker, Melissa Mattwig, Wendy Kedzierski, Evelyn Ma, William Tolliver, Jake Turin, Elliott Bartels, and David Olson.

Not pictured: Laura Branby & Kaitlynn Ingold

Connect with

CREEK CONNECTIONS

Allegheny College
520 North Main Street
Meadville, PA 16335

Phone: 814.332.5351

Email: creek@allegheny.edu

Web: <http://creekconnections.allegheny.edu>



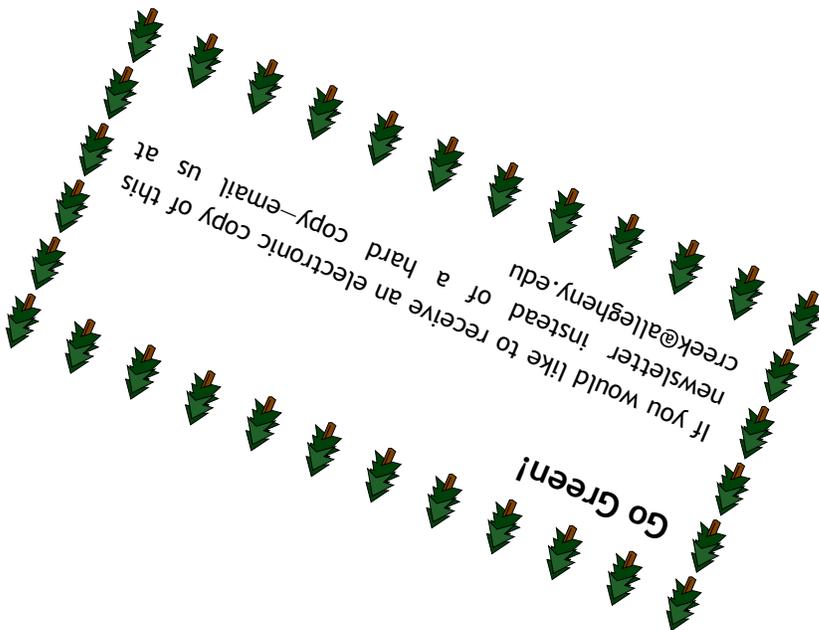
CREEK CONNECTIONS

is supported by:



Allegheny College,
Richard King Mellon
Foundation, Bayer
USA Foundation, U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency, Grable
Foundation, and the Buhl Foundation.

Feature Creature: from page 3, fisher, *Martes pennanti*



CREEK CONNECTIONS
Allegheny College
520 North Main Street
Meadville, PA 16335

