



Volume #21 Issue #1
October 23, 2015

Current in the Creek

2016 Creek Connections Student
Research Symposia Dates:

Friday, April 8 @ YMCA Camp
Kon-O-Kwee

Friday, April 29 @ Allegheny
College

We hope to see you there!

ALCOSAN Open House

By Paul Sutkowski, Allegheny College Student

More than two thousand people attended the annual Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) Open House last month. They come to see all the inner workings of the sewage treatment plant and to visit the other organizations who partner with ALCOSAN. The Open House is an opportunity to learn how we can all work together to maintain the quality of our rivers and creeks. The free tour covered the primary and secondary operations, solids processing, energy recovery facility, and the outfall where almost 156,000 gallons of purified wastewater is released into the Ohio River every minute.

Creek Connections joined other environmental and educational organizations, state agencies, engineering groups, trade groups and ALCOSAN employees offering hands-on activities and behind-the-scenes peek into water quality. The guests were introduced to aquatic macro invertebrates-live ones!-and hellbenders, through photos and an activity. As well as all that Creek Connections has to offer.

Allegheny College alumni stop by to say 'Hi!' as well as parents of former Creekers. Teachers learn about Creek Connections opportunities and

students take information to share with their teachers.

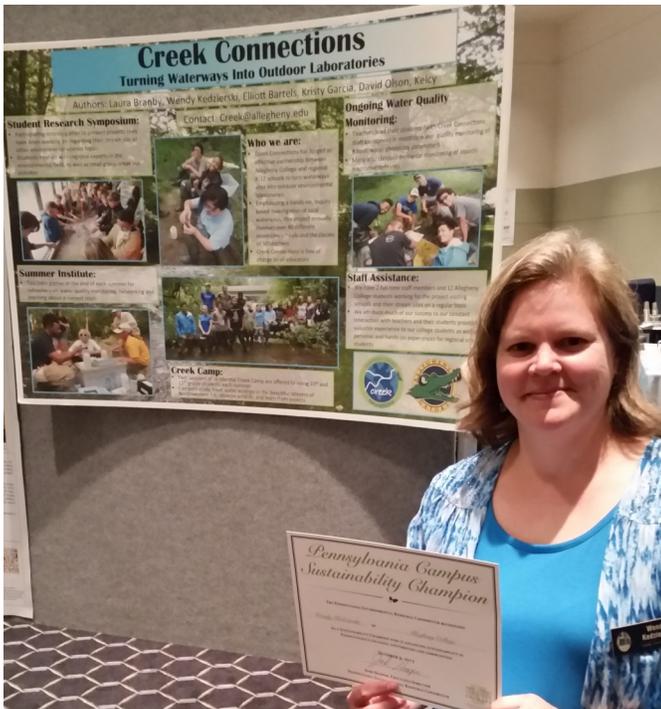
This year Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) Life Below the Waterline, a traveling aquarium was on site! It holds 2,200 gallons of water and many Ohio River fishes. The ORSANCO team pulled the fish from the river beside ALCOSAN. It's always amazing how many different types of fish live in the river and how big they are!

If you missed the Open House this year, be sure to put it on your to-do list for next fall! Creek Connections will be there!!!



Above: Creek Connections staff at ALCOSAN Open House. Ready to talk to the 1000's of visitors!

Campus Sustainability Champion!



Above: Wendy Kedzierski, Project Director, accepted the Campus Sustainability Champion award for Creek Connections and was on the panel of awardees during the annual conference.

Creek Connections was named as a Campus Sustainability Champion by the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC, PA Green Colleges) at their annual conference on October 9th. Additionally, Bennet Gould, an Allegheny College student, was named a student Campus Sustainability Champion. Creek Connections was honored for our work with western PA schools. Bennet received the honor for his leadership with Allegheny College's annual four-week energy challenge, for reviving the college's bike share program, and for developing a detailed proposal to add humidistats to dorm ventilation fans and to place outdoor recycling receptacles across Allegheny's campus. Check out the list of the other awardees on the PERC website at: http://www.pagreencolleges.org/2015_CSCs

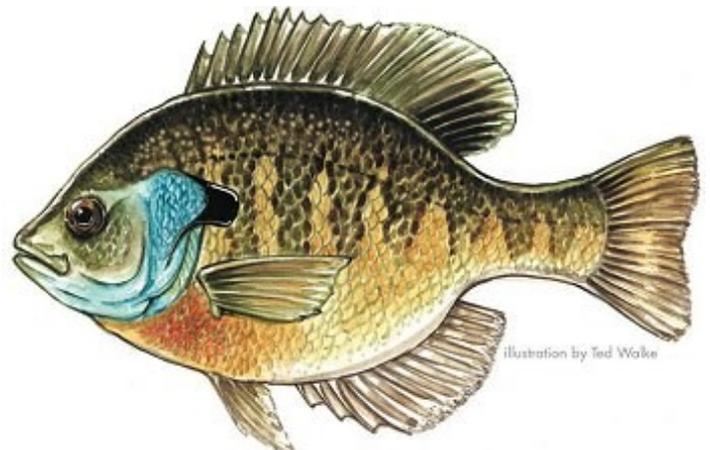
Feature Creature

By Paul Sutkowski, Allegheny College Student

I'm the state fish of Illinois. Naturally I live in waterways east of the Rocky Mountains, but I have been transported so much that I know live in all parts of America! I've even been introduced in Europe, Africa, South America, and Oceania. I'm considered an invasive species in Japan because I escaped from a research lab and have been attacking native species ever since.

During mating I am very aggressive and will attack anything. I will even attack fishing hooks so fishermen like to fish for me. Females can release up to 100,000 eggs when mating! The males have to protect all of the eggs until the young can swim on their own, so he is pretty busy.

Illustration from: <http://fishandboat.com/pafish/fishhtmls/chap22.htm#blugill>



Annual French Creek Cleanup

By Johanna Stanley, Allegheny College Student

On September 12, 2015, a record-breaking 42,925 pounds of trash was recovered from French Creek Watershed by 800 registered volunteers; 100 more participants than in 2014. French Creek Valley Conservancy (FCVC) puts on this watershed-wide event every September.

French Creek Community theatre was awarded \$500 for being the community group with the most participants at 60 volunteers. Allegheny College was awarded \$1,000 for the most participants of an educational institution at 208 volunteers.

The volunteers spent the day cleaning the creek and then met at the Cochranton fairgrounds for free food donated by a variety of generous vendors, live music from the Salmon Frank band, and fun prizes.

The majority of the trash recovered was glass, tires, car parts, bottles and cans, but a few teams recovered some unique treasures. The most unusual object found in the creek was a sail boat



Above: after the trash is weighed, it is sorted into dumpsters for metal and non-metal materials. FCVC recycles the metal removed from the creeks.

brought in by Friends of Tamarack, followed by a beehive brought in by Ryan Mihalic and a Pepsi dispenser recovered by Acutec.

The small, medium, and large teams to bring in the most weight were the Cussewago Creekers at 1,100 lbs, Friends of Tamarack with 2,100 lbs and French Creek Community Theatre with 4,600 lbs respectively.



Above: Creek Connections staff members accept the check for Allegheny College for having the most participants registered by a school.

Creek Connections assisted with the post-clean up event by running the weigh-in station. This is one of the most exciting places to be during the event. We get to see all the muddy messy people bringing in their treasures. Everyone comes in tired but proud to have contributed to such a wonderful cause.

Overall, the entire community stepped up to the plate to help keep French Creek and its tributaries running clean, and had a lot of fun doing it.



2015-2016 Creek Connections Staff: Back: Johanna Stanley, Paul Sutkowski, Brogan McGowan, Melissa Mattwig, Matthew Hutchinson, Levi Lundell, Kala Mahen, Emily Worthing; Front: Wendy Kedzierski, Jacob Turin, Laura Branby. Missing from photo: Melissa McCann and Camille Sicker.

Feature Creature Answer from page 2:
 Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

Connect with

CREEK CONNECTIONS

Allegheny College
 520 North Main Street
 Meadville, PA 16335

Phone: 814.332.5351

Email: creek@allegheny.edu

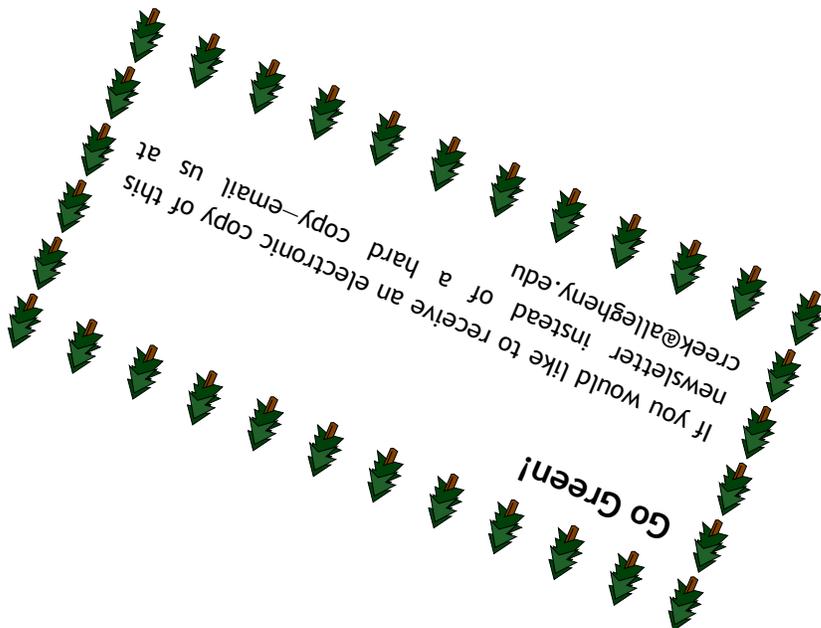
Web: <http://creekconnections.allegheny.edu>



CREEK CONNECTIONS

is supported by:

Allegheny College,
 Richard King Mellon
 Foundation, EPA,
 Bayer Foundation,
 Alcoa Foundation, Grable Foundation,
 Howard Heinz Endowments, Buhl Founda-
 tion, PPG Industries and The Nature
 Conservancy.



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

