



# CREEK CONNECTIONS

## Teacher's Memo

To: Creek Connections Teachers  
From: Wendy Kedzierski  
Laura Branby Project Assistants  
Re: 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter

October 18, 2017

### **USE NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR STUDENTS**

The Creek Connections Newsletter is a quarterly publication by and for Creek Connections for you to use with your students. Please take advantage of this resource and encourage your students to read them. Reading the newsletter might inspire some research topic ideas or encourage students to learn more about creek topics on their own or on the web. You can access the full-color version at our website at <http://sites.allegheny.edu/creekconnections/about-us-2/newsletters/> along with most of the past newsletters.

### **GET PUBLISHED!**

The more submissions we get from you and your students, the better the newsletter can serve as a forum of discussion and a venue for the exchange of ideas and learning experiences among participating schools. Please have your students write reports of sampling outings, poems, songs, limericks, word searches, cross words puzzles and games or draw their impressions of their field studies. Questions are also welcome as responses could be published in the newsletter. These assignments could be for a grade, or extra credit or just fun. You could even encourage your colleagues in other departments (e.g., English, art, etc.) to give similar assignments relevant to their subject. In subsequent issues, we'd like to have the majority of the newsletter be by Creek students. Submissions can be sent to Creek Connections via email, or mail. Your comments on additional content you'd like to see in subsequent issues are also welcome.

### **NEWSLETTER AUDIENCE**

Who receives this newsletter? Not just you and your students, but many others do as well: your school administrators, our project funders, Allegheny College staff, environmental groups, government agencies, and other interested teachers. Feel free to pass along the newsletter to whomever you like. Even though a diverse crowd receives the newsletter, it is primarily written for your students and contains information pertinent to their watershed education endeavors.

### **SEND PICTURES**

Send some of the images you are capturing at your field site or in the classroom. We would love to use them for the newsletter and for other project purposes. Many images submitted will not be placed on our website unless parental consent is given for the students in the picture.

### **SUBMIT WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY (WWMD) DATA**

World Water Monitoring Day data collection goes through the end of this year. Any data you submit to us till December 31<sup>st</sup> will be submitted to the WWMD group. You do not need to submit anything separately or register on the site.

## **NEW TEST KIT**

We received a grant from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation and Western PA Conservancy to add in a pH Test Kit this year. Please use both the new test kit and your pH meter and report both sets of data. We plan to compare the data and possibly switch to using only the test kit in the future.

## **SAMPLING DATES**

Please send Wendy & Laura your sampling schedules for the year if you'd like Creek Connections staff to assist you on any of your outings. You can also contact us via email or telephone (814.332.5351) to request Creek staff help.

## **MODULES**

Find up-to-date availability calendars for each module online. Please check the calendar before reserving. When you are repacking the module in preparation for its return to Creek Connections, please be sure to inventory the module using the Module Contents sheet in the front pocket of the module binder (and also available online). This will ensure that you are returning **all** components of the module. Our goal is to deliver complete modules each time a school requests to use one; however, we need your help!

## **NEW CREEK CONNECTIONS STAFF**

Creek Connections welcomes to the staff Allegheny College students: Gretchen Barbera (from Yarmouth High School in Maine) and Isabella Petitta (from Seneca Valley High School) and from Robert Morris University: Cortney Carr and Brian Toma (both are seniors). They have already been out working with students and look forward to getting out more!

## **DATA SUBMISSIONS**

We'll take data any way you can submit it but prefer electronic submissions from the link on our website. Have your students do the entry to give them another chance to think about the values.

## **STUDENT BEFORE PROJECT EVALUATIONS**

Please have your students complete our student BEFORE project evaluation. The link is found on our website under Current in the Creek on the bottom right side of the home page. If you need paper copies, we can mail them to you. Thank you for your help with this! It's important for our future funding.

## **SYMPOSIUM**

Start planning now! You are invited to choose the date and location that work best for you and your students. Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at Allegheny College or Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee.

## **THANK YOU**

We appreciate all the schools that have been eager to use the Creek Connections staff assistance during the start of this school year. Our college students are thrilled to be working with you and gaining valuable experience in the classroom and field. Let us know how we can help as the year continues.

## **CREEK CAMP**

Creek Camp continues to be a success. We rely on you to encourage students to attend. Find details on our website. Send your interested high schoolers our way!