



**Volume XXIII
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Spring 2016**

Save the Date:

June 11– Learn to Paddle (See page 3)

June 18– Ohio River Sweep, for details: <http://www.orsanco.org/sweep>

June 22-23— Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference, “Economics and the Environment,” IUP Kovalchick Conference Center, Indiana. For details: <http://2016.treatminewater.com>

July 14– SCRIP Board Meeting, Greenhouse Park, noon. Covered dish to follow.

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Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project

Outdoor Night at PNC Park Honors PA Fish and Boat Commission Watershed Groups Display Information on Their Organizations

By Len Lichvar



The Pittsburgh Pirates hosted Outdoor Night at PNC Park in Pittsburgh on Wednesday May 25 where they recognized the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) during a pregame ceremony. Also a number of local conservation organizations were invited to participate and were also recognized during the on the field festivities.

They included L to R, Len Lichvar, District 4 PFBC Commissioner and District Manager of the Somerset Conservation District, Mia and Anne Daymut, of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Bob Hook, of the Somerset Lake Action Committee, Jim Moses, of the Somerset County Conservancy, Keith Largent, of the Somerset Conservation District, Frank Sojak and Kelsea Palmer of the Stonycreek – Conemaugh River Improvement Project and Jenna Shaffer, Ameri-Corps member for the Mountain Watershed Association.

The Mountain Laurel and Forbes Trail Chapters of Trout Unlimited, Shade Creek Watershed Association and the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, in addition to the other organizations represented, all had information displays along Federal Street adjacent to PNC Park prior to game time. *Photo by Steve Kralik, PFBC*



Kelsey Palmer, SCRIP board member, beside the display she created for the event. *Photo by Annie Quinn*

KC Stream Team Works to Update Conservation Plan by Melissa Reckner

The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team has been working to update the 1999 *Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Conservation Plan* to quantify the changes in the watershed over the last 16 years through interviews with watershed organizations and conservation districts, review and status reports of the 120 recommendations in the original plan, and collection of chemical and biological water quality data to compare to historical data.

In 2015, the Stream Team completed 45 macroinvertebrate and 47 fish surveys, focusing on the streams on which AMD treatment systems have been constructed. Nine additional fish surveys were done in partnership with California University of Pennsylvania on the main stems of key rivers throughout the basin, since many had not been surveyed since the late 90s. While data are still being crunched, preliminary findings show that many of our rivers have seen an aquatic community shift as many waters are now net alkaline, meaning the acidity has been negated, and are more conducive to aquatic life. For example, in 1997, a fish survey found that the Conemaugh River in Seward was dominated by species that were pollution tolerant: blacknose dace, creek chubs, and white suckers. In 2015, the dominant species were pollution intolerant: banded darters and longnose dace. Additionally, a greater diversity of fish species was found in 2015 (9) than in 1997 (6).

SCRIP \$500 Scholarship Awarded

Hello, my name is Stefan Long and I am honored to announce I have been awarded the 2016 \$500 SCRIP scholarship. Receiving this award is much appreciated and will be a welcome contribution towards alleviating the burden of college tuition. As the culmination of my studies at Saint Francis University are approaching, I am excited at the prospect of graduating as an Environmental Engineer. Saint Francis University has done an exceptional job of providing a solid educational foundation by supplying quality instruction combined with real life experience. Through Saint Francis University I have made many connections with local environmental organizations and am pleased to have attended numerous meetings and worked alongside members of SCRIP on monitoring water quality in and around the Cambria county area.

This summer, the Stream Team will pull all the data together and prepare its report for dissemination this fall.

Funding for this project is provided primarily through a Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant for which the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority served as a pass-through and a grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.



California University of PA professors and students, Westmoreland Conservation District's Watershed Technician, and the Stream Team's Director conducted a fish survey on the Conemaugh River in Seward in September. Photo by Melissa Reckner.

I have even had the opportunity to travel to Bolivia and conduct research on the water chemistry and biological life of hypersaline lakes as well as collecting data on streams affected by mining.

At present, I am interning with Blair County Conservation District under Jim Eckenrode, the Watershed Specialist for Blair County. Our main focus lies in monitoring numerous sites along the Little Juniata River and its tributaries. By installing sondes (water tracking devices), we have continuous monitoring within 15 min intervals. Additionally, with the installment of a semi-permanent portable sampler, water chemistry and flow can now be conducted at baseline flow as well as during storm events.

(Continued on page 3)



**Learn to Paddle—June 11,
Wilmore Reservoir South near
Portage**
Classes: 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 pm
Call Joe Gorden at 814-479-4902

This free event will provide information on how to choose an appropriate paddle and life jacket, enter and exit a boat, and safely enjoy a day on the water. Each class will include 30 minutes of hands-on use of a boat on the lake. Free of charge.

Children younger than 12 must be accompanied in the boat by an adult.

Directions to Wilmore South from Route 219:

Take the exit for Route 53 (Portage/South Fork)
Turn right, following Rt 53 N to Wilmore
Turn left at the stoplight onto Rt. 160N
Turn right onto Willow Beach Road
Turn right onto Law Road
Follow this road to the Reservoir

More information about Wilmore Reservoir can be found at: www.cambriasomersetwater.com/WilRec.html

Classes are being offered in cooperation with the Stonycreek-Conemaugh river Improvement Project (SCRIP) and the Cambria-Somerset Authority.

SCRIP Scholarship (continued from page 2)

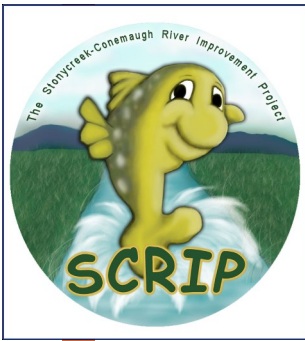
I have always had an appreciation for the sciences and a healthy respect for those investing their time and energy into environmental preservation and restoration. After spending time teaching environmental education near the Chesapeake Bay then teaching Montessori Education for several years I decided to follow my passion because “In the end we only regret the chances we didn’t take.” (Lewis Carroll)

It has been a privilege to work alongside such professionals as Jim Eckenrode, Missy Reckner, and Dr. Bill Strosnider among others actively involved in my education and training. I look forward to receiving my degree and finding my niche as an environmental engineer.



Congratulations to SCRIP Board Member, Jim Eckenrode and his wife, Holly, who welcomed a baby girl, Zoe Jordan, into their lives on January 20, 2016. We wish them the best!

Join or renew* SCRIP today!		
Name _____		
Street Address _____		City _____
State/Zip _____		Email _____
Phone _____	Date _____	Do you wish to volunteer? _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20)
<input type="checkbox"/> Club/Small Business (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$100)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$500)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (\$1000)	
<p>Make your check payable to SCRIP, or for a tax-deductible contribution, make the check to Southern Alleghenies Conservancy/ SCRIP. * <i>If you are not sure of your membership status contact SCRIP’s secretary at 814-444-2669 or mreckner@kcstreamteam.org.</i> Send donations to: SCRIP, P.O. Box 164, Windber, PA 15963</p>		



Southern Alleghenies Conservancy
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SCRIP is the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project,
 a coalition of grass-roots groups and local resource agencies working to
 restore and promote the Upper Conemaugh watershed.

Board of Directors

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
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People of SCRIP

New and Renewing Members

- Richard and Vicky Blasic
- Richard Burkert and Ellen Singleton
- Cambria County
- Robert and Brittany Chippie
- Robert and Sue Hook
- Laurel Run Rod and Gun Club
- Rob and Cindy McCombie
- Allen and Christina Smith