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The Pennsylvania Lake Erie Environmental Forum will address Lake Erie and Great Lakes issues.

Forum to discuss lake concerns

Pennsylvania Sea Grant and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection are pleased to invite the public to attend the first meeting of the Pennsylvania Lake Erie Environmental Forum, (PA LEEF). The meeting will take place on Monday, April 18 from 1-4 p.m. in Room 112 of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

The PA LEEF venue will provide the opportunity to present information and get public participation and input to address concerns about Lake Erie and the Great Lakes Basin. Two additional meetings will take place this year on Sept. 19, and Dec. 12 and another on March 13, 2017. Each meeting will focus on different issues.

The initial meeting will cover the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; the proposal by Waukesha, Wisconsin, to divert water from Lake Michigan; how commissions and organizations including the PADEP address environmental issues; how Pennsylvania utilizes federal and state funding; new methods of online resources and spatial data; projects that evaluate and monitor erosion along Pennsylvania's shorelines and monitoring Lake Erie's health and current nutrient reduction actions.

If you are able to attend on April 18th R.S.V.P to Marti Martz by e-mail mam60@psu.edu or phone (814) 217-9011, Ext. 104.

— Anna McCartney



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grimbsy helps Neighborhood Art House students learn about the Great Lakes.

Students learn about Grimbsy's travels

Neighborhood Art House students learned about Grimbsy, a delightful sea serpent that learns to face his fears and those of everyone he meets on his travels through the Great Lakes. Donald McQuaid, who created Grimbsy, lived near Presque Isle Bay when he was a boy. He is a poet and was a publicist at Mercyhurst University in the 1990's. Students' comments include:

Grimbsy is sweet. People thought he was a monster, but he is a hero! He saved eight adults and two children in a big storm on Lake Erie by pulling a boat with a rope. Hurrah for Super Grimbsy!

— Ella Snitko

Hattie is a smart and cute hamster that sets Grimbsy free and plays a big part in helping him find his way to Port Erie.

— Lucind Igras

Mike the Pike helped Grimbsy to not be afraid and helped to get the Sea Lamprey off of Grimbsy.

— Angel Rivera

Gus the Gull has a big role in delivering letters and news on the Gulls News Network. Gus wears

a red cap and a delivery bag like most mailmen and women. When Grimbsy got hurt and lost, Gus made the light fly over Grimbsy and helped him to know that he is important and a big star. I love Gus the Gull.

— Brooklyn Brewington

Gus the Gull leads Grimbsy to shore during the storm on Lake Erie. He saved eight Great Lakes Governors who were on the boat.

— Nathan

Sea Lampreys are evil. They attacked Grimbsy by sucking his blood. King Lamprey also attacked Stella the Sturgeon.

— Julliana Vega-Abreu

Grimbsy saved Stella the Sturgeon by ripping off the lamprey. Stella tells Grimbsy not to run away from his fears and that we must all face our fears.

— Julia Lauri

Stella the Sturgeon told Grimbsy that you must find the courage to face your problems.

— Rickimarie Langdon

Grimbsy met a sturgeon under the water called the Lady of the Lake that saved Grimbsy from the lamprey.

— Jonathon Wassolo



ROBERT FRANK/Contributed photo

Richard Spinrad, NOAA's chief scientist, center, presents Penn State with Sea Grant College status to Neil Sharkey, Penn State Vice President for Research, left, and Bob Light, Pennsylvania Sea Grant Director and Penn State Behrend Senior Associate Dean and COO, on April 1 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

Sea and do

NOAA awards Sea Grant College Status to Penn State

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

Since Pennsylvania Sea Grant was established at Penn State Behrend on May 8, 1998, the Erie region has benefited from its research and outreach programs.

Eighteen years later, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Sea Grant College Program awarded Sea Grant College status to Penn State based on the work and strength of PASG in the Lake Erie, Delaware River and Susquehanna River watersheds.

Richard Spinrad, NOAA chief scientist, made the formal presentation for this highest accreditation level. The audience included government officials, Penn State and PASG staff and their partners and friends.

"The work of Sea Grant is integral to NOAA's capacity to partner regionally

and deliver locally meaningful services," Spinrad said. "The research, outreach, and education efforts by Pennsylvania Sea Grant have contributed to sustaining aquatic ecosystems, coastal shorelines, and the jobs and businesses that depend on a healthy environment."

"This validates our commitment to enhancing Pennsylvania's coastal areas," said Bob Light, director of PASG and senior associate dean for research and outreach at Penn State Behrend. "Our professional staff across the state has collaborated with numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals to sustain and add value to the state's coastal regions, including Lake Erie and Presque Isle State Park."

PASG has coordinated nearly \$3.4 million in applied research projects, including studies of fish tumors and harmful algal blooms and has worked

with partner organizations to address beach closings, bird deaths, climate adaptation and fish consumption advisories. The program also led the effort to develop a statewide management plan for aquatic invasive species, which resulted in more than \$6 million in funding for rapid, coordinated responses to invasive species infestations.

Other PASG highlights include their work with landowners to preserve environmentally sensitive land and their contribution to educational programs across the state and the country.

"On boats or on land, collecting data and sometimes litter, or properly discarding unused pharmaceuticals, citizens and students from kindergarten through college better understand how human activities affect the environment," said Marti Martz, PASG senior coastal outreach special-

ist and a project leader for the Center for Great Lakes Literacy. "Not all people need to have a career in science," Martz said, "but they can all become environmental stewards. That could dramatically improve our environment, our health and our economy."

Pennsylvania Sea Grant is one of 33 programs based at top universities in every coastal and Great Lakes state, and Puerto Rico, Lake Champlain and Guam. For 50 years, Sea Grant has directed federal resources to pressing problems in coastal communities to create and maintain a healthy environment and economy. PASG is a partnership of NOAA, Penn State, and The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ANNA McCARTNEY, a communications and education specialist for Pennsylvania Sea Grant, can be reached by e-mail at axm40@psu.edu.



SOPHIE SARKAR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICES

PASG and their partners provide opportunities for students in the Philadelphia and Erie regions to learn about the health of their local waterways by participating in activities that provide real life experiences.



SARAH CROSBY/Erie Times-News

Tom Cermak, left, Sean Rafferty and Sara Stahlman of PASG collect brown bullhead catfish at the Presque Isle State Park lagoons to study ecosystem health.



DAVE SKELLIE/Contributed photo

PASG has helped to preserve more than 1,600 acres of recreational and open space, including 2.6 miles of Lake Erie shoreline, and to establish fishing access at eleven sites along Lake Erie and its tributaries.



DAVID BOUGHTON/Contributed photo

Working with the Regional Science Consortium, PASG is helping to survey shipwrecks in Pennsylvania Lake Erie waters.

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Check out these websites to learn more:

www.seagrants.noaa.gov
www.seagrants.psu.edu



Find articles about environmental concerns relating to Lake Erie or other Pennsylvania coastal zones. Why are programs like those offered by the Pennsylvania Sea Grant important in solving these problems? Have you ever participated in a PA Sea Grant program? Share your experience and what you learned and how you will use the information to make a difference in your community. Send your letters to axm40@psu.edu for possible publication in the weekly "your space" feature.

