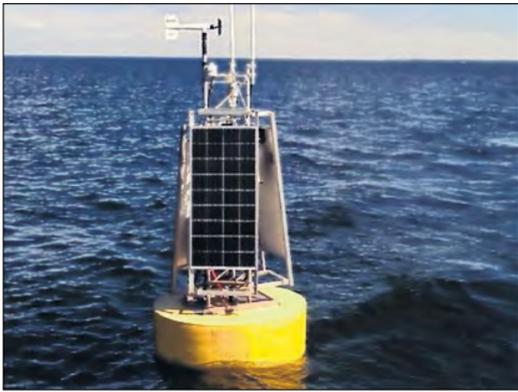




Reconnect with your environment

Learn about environmental issues, their affect on your community and actions for your involvement.



WWW.FONDRIEST.COM

This buoy is collecting data off the coast of Cleveland. Soon a buoy will be deployed in Erie waters.

Your votes lift buoy into win for grant

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

The Regional Science Consortium is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a Grassroots Grant from Boat U.S. Foundation at www.boat-us.org/grants/vote.asp.

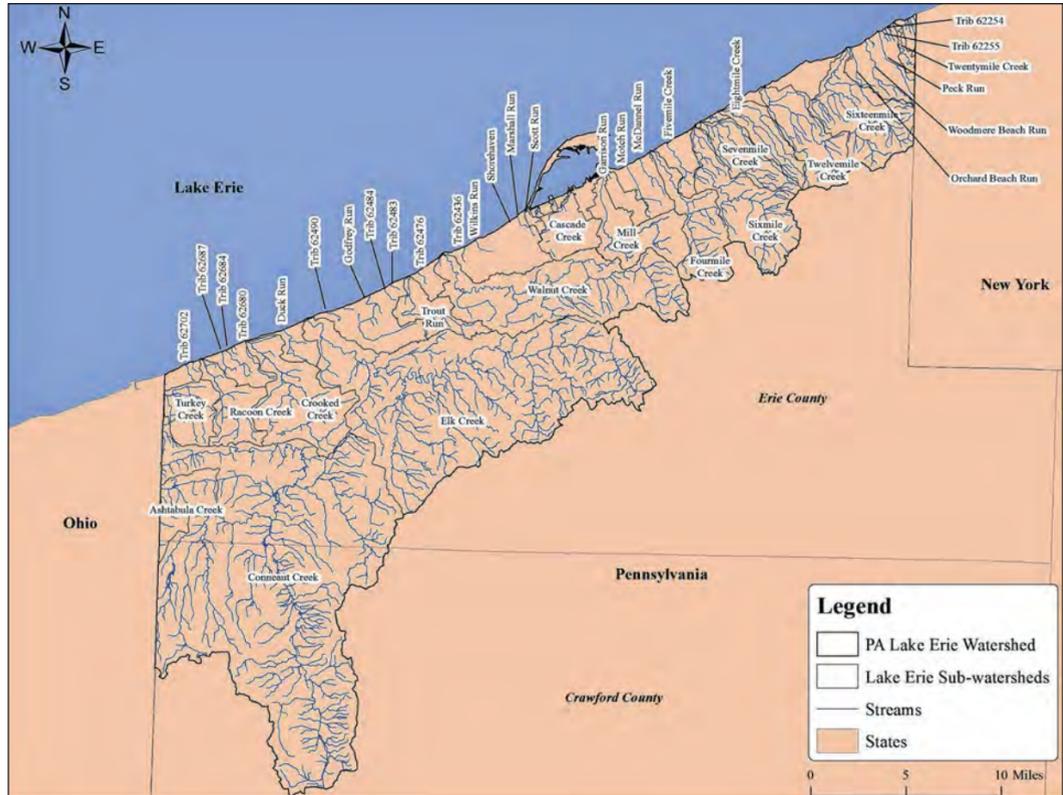
Thanks to the impressive community support, RSC and its project partners can educate boaters and others on how to access and use the data from a new buoy system that is being deployed in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. The projected launch date for the buoy is May 1 (weather permitting). The buoy will collect meteorological data required for accurate forecasts for this region, and could help reduce "the loss of life and negative impacts caused by coastal storms," according to the consortium's proposal.

Your vote helped to secure funding to pay for signs at boat launch loca-

tions and marinas, window clings, watch cards and fact sheets for distribution at marinas, bait shops, lectures and other events. The grant will also pay for the development of a text-alert system that can send text messages to users when weather, water or wave conditions change. A video camera attachment on the buoy system will provide 30-second clips of lake conditions (updated hourly). RSC and its partners will also provide lectures to yacht clubs, sailing groups, boater organizations and sportsman's clubs to educate boaters how to access and use the information.

For more information contact Jeanette L. Schnars at jeanette@reg-sciconsort.com.

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



PA SEA GRANT

The Pennsylvania portion of the Lake Erie watershed encompasses an area of 508 square miles that includes 1,122 miles of streams, 55 of which empty directly into the lake (see list below). While many of these streams may seem insignificant, they must all be protected to ensure safe drinking water and a healthy environment for all living creatures. Find out more about the condition of these streams at www.paseagrant.org.

Size-wise approach

Small streams, wetlands vital to protecting water

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

Pollution even in a small stream or wetland can have disastrous consequences for people and wildlife.

It can migrate into the interconnected network of wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater and the ocean. This migration not only destroys habitat but it also pollutes drinking water.

The Pennsylvania portion of the Lake Erie watershed encompasses an area of 508 square miles that includes 1,122 miles of streams, 55 of which empty directly into the lake. Our watershed focus this week is on the small streams, which are mistakenly considered by many as insignificant.

How many streams can you name? Do you know if they can support wildlife? Do you know why they are important for safe drinking water?

Surface waterways — large or small, steady or intermittent — and groundwater aquifers all play important roles in the water cycle's ability to sustain communities environmentally and economically. Small streams and wetlands trap floodwaters, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollutants and provide habitat for fish and



EPA

The question isn't whether spills or leaks will happen, but when and where and why are there no consequences for small streams that have been left unprotected because of a loophole in the Clean Water Act.



WIKIMEDIA

No matter what size the stream, pollution migrates into the interconnected network of wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater and the ocean. This migration destroys habitat and pollutes drinking water.

They also play an important role in clean drinking water, fishing, hunting, agriculture, recreation, energy and manufacturing.

About 60 percent of the miles making up all smaller U.S. streams only flow seasonally, or after it rains or snow melts. Yet

they are vital to the health of waters downstream and for people. Approximately 117 million people — one in three Americans — rely on these streams for their public drinking water systems. The rest rely on groundwater or larger rivers and lakes fed by these streams. Protecting water must

therefore be based on this interconnectedness rather than by the size or location of the waterway. When the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972, it designated protection for "all waters of the United States." However a loophole that resulted from Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006 has left more than two million stream miles and 20 million wetland acres unprotected from oil, chemical and coal ash spills, from factory farm animal waste and from other pollution. The question isn't whether spills or leaks will happen, but when and where and why are there no consequences to keep them from happening.

To protect against such scenarios, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently proposed a Clean Water Act rule that addresses the loophole. You can learn more and comment on the proposal at www.epa.gov/uswaters. Read the PA Sea Grant habitat assessment and learn more about PA Lake Erie Watershed streams at www.paseagrant.org.

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Drink, don't talk, while the water is running.

Kids can help save our drinking water

We are 7- and 8-year-olds on the Neighborhood Art House Green Team.

For our Earth Action project, we are finding ways to save water because water is important for all living things. If we lose the water, we can die.

Here are some ways that you can help:

- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.
- Use a rain barrel to catch rain from your roof that can be used to water your plants.
- Use a broom, not water, to clean your sidewalks.
- Take quick showers.
- Wash your car on the

grass.

- Use a bucket of water to wash your car and then rinse with your hose.
- Repair leaky faucets.
- Wash only full loads of clothes.
- Inspect your toilet for leaks.
- Put mulch around your flowers and trees to soak up the water.
- When you are at the drinking fountain, drink, don't talk.

Please help us save the water.

— Barsha, Jonathan, Teajanae, Joel, Amarivys and Moise

PENNSYLVANIA LAKE ERIE STREAMS FROM WEST TO EAST

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ashtabula Creek | 16. 62489 | 31. Motch Run (62414) | 43. Woodmere Beach Run (62260) |
| 2. Conneaut Creek | 17. Godfrey Run | 32. Cemetery Run | 44. 62259 |
| 3. Turkey Creek | 18. 62484 | 33. McDannel Run (62412) | 45. Peck Run (62257) |
| 4. 62703 | 19. 62483 | 34. Four Mile Creek | 46. 62256 |
| 5. 62702 | 20. Trout Run | 35. Five Mile Creek (62387) | 47. 62255 |
| 6. Raccoon Creek | 21. 62476 | 36. Six Mile Creek | 48. 62254 |
| 7. 62687 | 22. Walnut Creek | 37. Seven Mile Creek | 49. 62253 |
| 8. 62684 | 23. 62436 | 38. 62328 | 50. Twenty Mile Creek |
| 9. 62683 | 24. Wilkins Run | 39. Eight Mile Creek | 51. 62251 |
| 10. 62682 | 25. Shorehaven | 40. Twelve Mile Creek | 52. 62250 |
| 11. 62680 | 26. Marshall Run | 41. Sixteen Mile Creek | 53. 62249 |
| 12. Crooked Creek | 27. Scott Run | 42. Orchard Beach Run (62262) | 54. 62248 |
| 13. Duck Run (62653) | 28. Cascade Creek | | 55. 62247 |
| 14. Elk Creek | 29. Mill Creek | | SOURCE: PA Sea Grant |
| 15. 62490 | 30. Garrison Run | | |

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Check out these websites to learn more:

www.epa.gov/uswaters
<http://water.epa.gov/type/rs/drinkingwatermap.cfm>
www.paseagrant.org

Collect newspaper articles about pollution to show why water needs protection. Use the information with what you learned today to convince people that water protection is necessary no matter whether it is a small stream, large river or lake or groundwater. Share your reasons by sending them to axm40@psu.edu for possible publication in the weekly "your space" feature.

