



Connect with your environment

Learn about environmental issues in your community and how you can get involved.



DAVE SKELLIE/Contributed photo

Restoration on this section of Seven Mile Creek will reduce sediment into Lake Erie by an estimated 46.6 tons per year.

Creek restoration will reduce erosion

Pennsylvania Sea Grant and its partners have obtained Growing Greener funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to restore 500 feet of Seven Mile Creek's stream corridor.

Because this tributary drains directly into Lake Erie, work at the site is expected to reduce sedimentation into the Lake by an estimated 46.6 tons per year. The project is located on land owned by the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. Inspections at the project site determined that there are two reaches within the project area where erosion and sedimentation problems need to be addressed. An upstream gravel bar island is forcing the stream to undercut its banks and an outside meander threat-

ens to undermine the Glinodo Center drive.

Native trees will be planted to expand the riparian buffer, hold the banks, reduce erosion and shade the stream to enhance wildlife habitat. Post-construction monitoring will continue for two years following installation of in-stream improvements and plantings.

PASG will conduct two future Walking Workshops (open to the general public) to inform people who want to learn more about the project's benefits and expected results. One will be this summer during construction and another this fall following construction.

For more information contact Dave Skellie at 217-9011, ext. 103, or dus18@psu.edu.

— Anna McCartney



ANNA MCCARTNEY/Contributed photo

Fairview students participating in the Center for Great Lakes Literacy program share their campaign to reduce plastic waste at the Pennsylvania Sea Grant Great Lakes Awareness Day.

Students promote use of reusable water bottles

The Ninth Grade Honors Environmental Science Class at Fairview High School is running a campaign in their school district to introduce and promote reusable water bottles. Students aim to lessen the environmental damage caused by disposable water bottles by reducing plastic water bottle use and by educating the community about harmful impacts of plastic on the environment. So far, ninth grade students have collected water bottles, constructed surveys, and even held an in-school assembly to educate peers about recycling and reducing disposable bottles. Students have also influenced others from different schools by sharing ideas at the Great Lakes Awareness Day at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

The ambitious project has also educated and

inspired many, leading to new behaviors within the school district. As students look to the future and a rapidly approaching end of the school year, they hope to make large changes at Fairview for the better. Many are optimistic about where changes may appear next year. "This project is really important to the school district because no one really realizes how much plastic water bottles affect the environment and the economy," said Harlie Yahn, a member of the PR verbal group. "Making reusable bottles available in the student store will really draw awareness." Through their work, students hope to inspire the community to help the environment.

— Maxwell Myers and Carter Houston, first period honors environmental science, Fairview High School



KEN WINTERS, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/Contributed photo

Presque Isle State Park has 7 miles of beaches, 14 miles of paved waterside trails and many hidden treasures for visitors to discover. This year the Presque Isle Partnership has partnered with Pennsylvania Sea Grant to offer Hidden Treasures of Presque Isle activities during Discover Presque Isle.

Hidden treasures

Discover Presque Isle adds new activities for park visitors

By ANNA MCCARTNEY
Contributing writer

Presque Isle State Park, a peninsula with seven miles of beaches and 14 miles of paved waterside trails is an Erie treasure. It draws approximately four million yearly visitors for every outdoor activity under the sun. Park visitors can swim, boat, fish, scuba dive, hike, bike, roller-skate and enjoy a great summer music series against the backdrop of beautiful Lake Erie sunsets.

However, you might not be aware of the park's many hidden treasures. The sandy peninsula provides a haven for migrating birds and the best place to birdwatch. The park also reports the greatest numbers of endangered, threatened and rare species in the state. And just off its coast lie shipwrecks that tell stories of the area's history.

Learn about these hidden gems during the Discover Presque Isle sponsored by the Presque Isle Partnership on July 29, 30 and 31. This year, PIP will partner with Pennsylvania Sea Grant to offer Hidden Treasures of Presque Isle. Free activities listed below will allow participants to be citizen scientists so they learn more about the rare plants and animals, natural events and historical significance of the area.

■ Help Audubon scientists determine if hummingbirds are changing their feeding behaviors by learning how to attract and track the little birds that can hover in mid-air. Learn to use the Hummingbirds@Home App at this session.

■ Assist Purple Martin Conservation Association staff in conducting a public



ANNA MCCARTNEY/Contributed photo

Activities offered this year during Discover Presque Isle include conducting a public nest check with Purple Martin Conservation Association staff.



CENTER FOR GREAT LAKES LITERACY

Get wet or just observe a seining activity to learn about aquatic invasive species in Presque Isle Bay.

nest check. Learn about research at Presque Isle and how to use the E-bird app to collect data that provides an overall picture of the growth or decrease of Purple Martin populations.

■ Mark Lethaby of the Natural History Museum will share methods used by scientists so you can learn about the frogs, turtles and snakes of Presque Isle and get involved in the Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey.

■ Join Jerry McWilliams to see colorful and spectacular moths of Presque Isle. Some are decorated with

colorful patterns or bright metallic spots or patches.

■ See objects in the summer sky with Jim Gavio from the Yahn Planetarium at Penn State Behrend. Observe the sun using solar filters as well as planets and possibly meteors if conditions permit.

■ The Western PA Conservancy will provide hands-on training using the iNaturalist app for field documentation followed by field practice on multiple topics including dragonflies, butterflies, plants and more.

■ DCNR educators will teach you how the Ameri-

can Forest Association measures big trees using lasers and other forestry tools. Work on tree id and see some of the big trees on Presque Isle.

■ Get wet or just observe what types of aquatic invasive species are found below the surface in Presque Isle Bay when you seine with Sara Stahlman, PASG AIS expert.

■ Learn about impacts of marine debris on wildlife and water quality with Marti Martz from PASG and enter data on NOAA's marine Debris Tracker App doing a beach cleanup.

■ DCNR Brian Gula and PASG David Boughton will show shipwreck lovers survey equipment, metal detectors, measuring wheels, and other tools to learn about the procedures in establishing and preserving a site.

■ Learn about the white nose bat syndrome that is severely impacting the little brown bat population and how to provide housing for northwest Pa bat species from Terry Lobdell, local bat expert.

■ Regional Science Consortium Lab Manager Amber Stilwell will discuss blue green algae and what makes a harmful algal bloom (HAB) 'harmful'.

Most sessions will run approximately one hour to allow participants to attend multiple activities. Please dress for the weather and bring water, bug spray, etc. All events are on a first come basis. Contact Marti Martz at 217-9011, ext. 104, or mam60@psu.edu.

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HIDDEN TREASURES OF PRESQUE ISLE

July 29:

Time
10 a.m.-noon
11 a.m.
1 p.m.
2 p.m.
6 p.m.
7 p.m.
9 p.m.

Topic
Trees of Presque Isle
Hummingbirds
Aquatic Invasive Species
Project Martin Watch
Pa. Amphibian and Reptile Survey
Objects in the summer sky
Moths

Location
Sidewalk Trail
TREC/outdoors
Vista 3
West Pier
Graveyard Pond
Beach 6
Thompson Circle

July 30:

Time
9 a.m.
10 a.m.
10-11 a.m.
11 a.m.
1 p.m.
3 p.m.

Using the iNaturalist App
Harmful Algal Blooms
Conserving an Archeological Site
Hummingbirds
Pennsylvania Bats and Bat houses
Marine Debris tracking

TREC/TREC garden/PISP
Presque Isle Marina
Lagoon Boat Launch
TREC/outdoors
Stall Interpretive Center
Beach 7 Cleanup



This page brought to you by:



Check out these websites to learn more:

www.discoverpi.com/
http://seagrant.psu.edu/

A summer break for the Tuesday NIE environment page does not mean you should stop reading the newspaper. Over the summer, read your local newspaper and other news sources to keep track of environmental issues, especially those that impact Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes. Be ready to share what you learn and your ideas for solutions to any problems when we return in September.

