



Reconnect with your environment

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



ANNA MCCARTNEY/Contributed photo

Local anglers can register to participate in a Department of Environmental Protection session to improve outreach materials.

Join fishing discussion, earn reward gift card

By ANNA MCCARTNEY
Contributing writer

Attention, local anglers! Do you fish in Lake Erie or Presque Isle Bay and eat your catch? If you do, Cornell University and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection want your help to improve their outreach materials. They are asking men and women anglers to join them in a small group discussion on Jan. 8. Space is limited, so call to register.

They will:
Need about two hours of your

time.

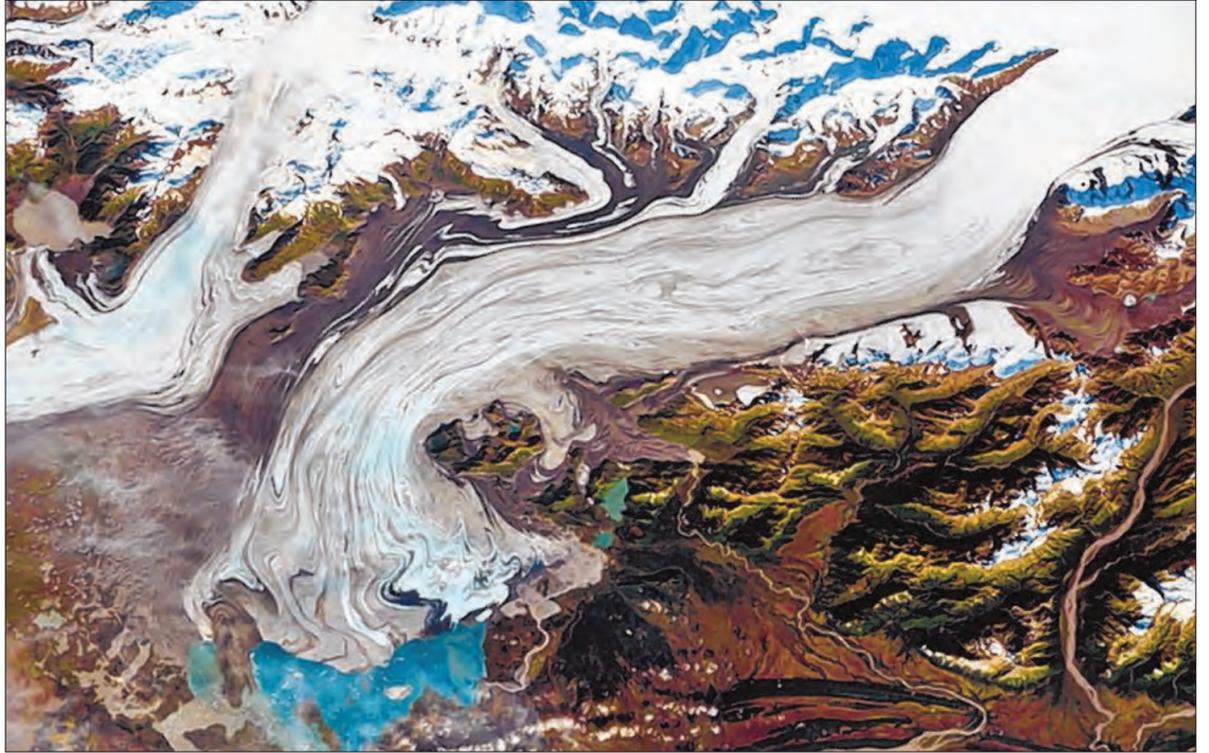
Provide you with a light meal. Thank you with a \$25 Visa gift card for your participation.

When: Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: Tom Ridge Environmental Center

Contact: Jim Grazio with the Department of Environmental Protection at 217-9636 to register.

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



NASA

The Bering Glacier in Alaska is the largest glacier in North America. Almost 10 percent of the world's land mass is covered with glaciers, mostly in places like Greenland and Antarctica. Because glaciers and ice caps lock up 68.7 percent of the total fresh water on Earth, it is unavailable for use by humans and other living things that need it for survival.

Deep questions

How much fresh water can you find on Earth?

By ANNA MCCARTNEY
Contributing writer

EARTH'S WATER DISTRIBUTION

There are approximately 336,000,000,000,000,000 gallons of water on the Earth.

While all of this water makes our planet appear blue from space, not all of it is visible.

For a detailed explanation of Earth's water, look at the data table at right. Of the world's total water supply, more than 96 percent is saline. The remainder, less than 3 percent, is freshwater. And, of the total fresh water, more than 68 percent is locked up in ice and glaciers. Another 30 percent of fresh water is in the ground.

Water source	Percent freshwater	Percent total water
Oceans	—	96.5
Glaciers and icecaps	68.6	1.74
Groundwater, fresh	30.1	0.76
Groundwater, saline	—	0.93
Moisture in the soil	0.05	0.001
Ground ice and permafrost	0.86	0.022
Freshwater lakes	0.26	0.007
Inland saltwater seas	—	0.007
Water in the atmosphere	0.04	0.001
Swamp water	0.03	0.0008
Rivers	0.006	0.0002
Biological water	0.003	0.0001

Rivers and lakes that supply fresh surface water for human uses only constitute about 0.27 percent of fresh water, yet rivers

are the source of water for many people.

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

ANNA MCCARTNEY, a



LEARN MORE

What: DesignUp Teachers Workshop: Find out how you can recycle materials donated by design professionals for your art projects and share their expertise with your students.

Where: Tom Ridge Environmental Center

When: Jan. 12 at 10 a.m.

For more information: Contact Megan Hopton at mhopto36@lakers.mercyhurst.edu.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from area schools participate in the Nov. 6 Earth Action Youth Training Day.

2 Youth Training Days on schedule for 2013

By ANNA MCCARTNEY
Contributing writer

Challenges facing the Lake Erie watershed and ways to protect the Great Lakes were the focus of the Earth Action Youth Training Day on Nov. 6.

More than 80 students from Klein Elementary School, Fort LeBoeuf Middle School, Villa Maria Elementary School and the House of Mercy participated in the daylong program.

Professionals from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Erie County Conservation

District, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Environment Erie presented the workshops.

Two more Youth Training Days are scheduled for Jan. 10, and March 12. For more information about the Earth Action program at Environment Erie, contact Nate Millet at nmillet@environmenterie.org or 835-8069, Ext. 103.

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Not all of the water on Earth is visible. Groundwater collects and flows through porous rocks, soil and sand, and layers of earth until it discharges in springs, streams, lakes and oceans. People use wells to tap the fresh water stored underground.



NASA

Freshwater lakes contain much less than 1 percent (.26 percent) of the total fresh water. The Great Lakes, which were carved by Ice Age glaciers, contain 20 percent of this amount. They provide drinking water for more than 40 million people.



ANNA MCCARTNEY/Contributed photo

The Allegheny and Monongahela rivers join in Pittsburgh, forming the Ohio River. Rivers worldwide contain only .006 percent of all fresh water. They are used when possible because the water is easier to access.



ANNA MCCARTNEY/Contributed photo

Approximately .04 percent of the Earth's fresh water is in the atmosphere. Most of the water in the atmosphere occurs in the gaseous state called water vapor. Only a small fraction is rain or snow.

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Check out these websites to learn more:

- <http://water.epa.gov/drink/local/>
- <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream/atmos/hydro.htm>
- http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/learning/7_water_cycle/water_cycle.html
- www.paseagrant.org

Do you know where your drinking water comes from or the role fresh water plays in your community? Collect articles about water. Are there any threats that require your attention? What are some of the uses for water? Is your local economy dependent on clean water? What are some of the benefits of living in an area with plentiful fresh water?

Share your ideas about the need to protect our valuable water resources for possible publication in the "Your space" feature. Support your ideas with facts. Send them to axm40@psu.edu.

