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Reconnect with your environment

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

Pennsylvania's Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup

September 21, 2013 Coastal Cleanup locations and site coordinator information

GOERIE.COM/COASTALCLEANUP

Volunteers can register online to work at these locations.

How to join ICC effort in Erie area

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

To register for the Pennsylvania Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup, visit www.goerie.com/coastalcleanup, www.Facebook.com/erieinternational-coastalcleanup or contact a site coordinator below.

Sites and meeting locations:
1. Raccoon Creek, park pavilion, Jean Ganger, 922-3785
2. Erie Bluffs State Park, parking lot/ Elk Creek Access Area, parking lot, Ray Bierbower, 833-7424; Brian Zeppenfeld, 825-6403
3. Avonia Beach, park, Pete Kraus, 474-5942
4. Walnut Creek Access Area, parking lot, Mark Signorino, 836-0255
5. Upper Walnut Creek, Asbury Woods Nature Center, Kelly Lang, 835-5356
6. Presque Isle State Park, TREC parking lot, Brian Gula, 833-7424
7. Cascade Creek, Frontier Park green gazebo, Robert Yates 449-7750
8. Upper Mill Creek, Belle

Valley Presbyterian Church, Doug Ebert, 860-4477
9. Downtown Erie, 140 E. Fifth St., Christina Katen, 455-3743
10. McDannell Run, Kids Club, Sr. Pat Lupo, 490-3108
11. Lower Four Mile Creek, Lawrence Park Fishing Club near golf course, Dave Skellie, 217-9014
12. Upper Four Mile Creek, Reed Hall on PSU Behrend's campus, Ann Quinn, 898-6993
13. 7 Mile Creek, Glinodo Center, Angela Porfilio, 873-5164
14. Shade's Beach, Harborcreek Township building, Krista Jelley, 899-3171
15. Freeport Beach/20 Mile, North East Marina, John Hallenburg, 725-8659
16. Edinboro, EU Athletic Complex Dome/McKean, parking lot off I-79 McKean, exit next to Elk Creek, Matt Pluta, 835-8069, Ext.104 and Melissa Gibson, 732-1592

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

yourspace
a place to share

ANNA McCARTNEY/Contributed photo

Sign up for a school cleanup and receive these books free.

Teachers: Get supplies for school cleanups

By ANNA MCCARTNEY
Contributing writer

Local students in K-12 programs can collect trash and data at their schools and in the neighborhoods.

The PA Coastal Resources Management Program and Pennsylvania Sea Grant invite schools that receive sponsored copies of the Erie Times-News with Tuesday's "Reconnect with your environment" page to make a difference by hosting a school cleanup anytime this month.

Teachers can decide on a convenient day when school meets. After the cleanup is complete, they will share the data with PA

Sea Grant to add the results to the Lake Erie ICC data and then to Washington, D.C., for worldwide totals.

To reserve bags, gloves, pencils, data cards and instructions, contact Anna McCartney at axm40@psu.edu to register your school.

If you don't already receive free Tuesday newspapers for your classroom, order them at http://nie.goerie.com where you can also find teacher lessons for this weekly page.

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

ANNA McCARTNEY/Contributed photo

Dave Skellie, center, is PA Sea Grant land use specialist and coordinator for the Pennsylvania Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup lower Four Mile Creek site. He weighs the trash that he and his volunteers collected at the site in 2010. Each year the data is recorded, added to the other local sites and school cleanups, shared with the Ocean Conservancy then added to the worldwide totals.

No picnic at the beach

Plastic utensils, cups and plates tarnish waterways

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

Why should you volunteer for the International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon?

Your help is needed to protect wildlife and water resources by keeping trash out of local waterways.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers comb lakes, rivers and beaches around the world for trash. Since the one-day Ocean Conservancy's event began 27 years ago, more than 9.5 million volunteers have collected nearly 164 million pounds of trash. They safely dispose of the trash they find, keeping it from reaching the ocean. And they document what they find to shed light on a serious marine debris problem.

The majority of the items collected are disposable plastics or other single-use items. These volunteers found enough plastic cups, plates, forks, knives and spoons to host a picnic for 2.3 million people and enough plastic and glass bottles to provide every resident of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia and Phoenix with a cold beverage on a hot summer day.

While this vital effort to

clean up trash in the environment is important, it will not fix the problem. So much more trash, which is not biodegradable, makes its way to the ocean and can't be removed. And it kills and harms countless birds, turtles, and marine animals that often mistake it for food.

The marine debris problem is entirely preventable. Individual responsibility, innovative science, smart public policy and industry leadership is crucial for eliminating one-use items and changing the behaviors that allow trash to reach shorelines in the first place.

Join volunteers who will collect and document trash along the entire Pennsylvania Lake Erie coastline and tributaries. You can volunteer at more than 16 locations. For a map and information, visit goerie.com/coastalcleanup or see side article for sites and meeting locations. Advance registration on the website is preferred, but volunteers can also meet at cleanup locations on Saturday.

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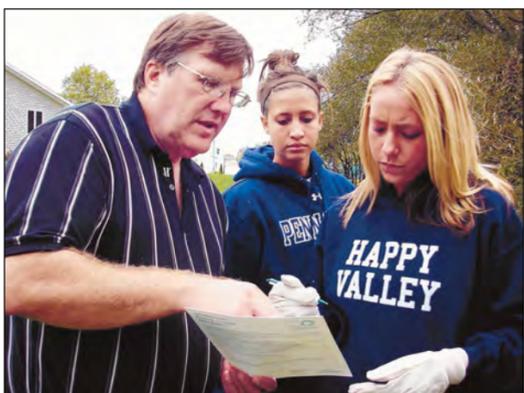
FREDA TARBELL/Contributed photo

Doug Ebert, Erie County Department of Health biologist and ICC Upper Millcreek/Belle Valley site coordinator shows volunteers how to complete the data forms that help organizers track the trash collected.
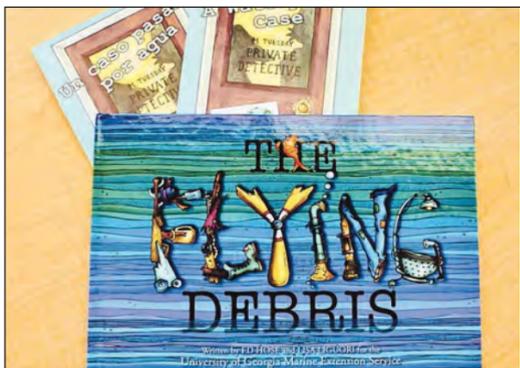

FREDA TARBELL/Contributed photo

Gannon students volunteer to collect trash at the downtown Erie site and other local ICC sites. Their work keeps trash from reaching waterways and the data they collect helps shed the light on the marine debris problem.

TRASH-FREE SEAS

1. **Refuse it:** Don't buy unnecessary or single-use items.
2. **Reuse it:** Use reusable mugs, picnic supplies, shopping bags, etc.
3. **Reinvent it:** Tell companies to reduce packaging/ create ocean-friendly materials.
4. **Tap it:** Drink tap water in reusable bottles.
5. **Butt out:** Don't flick your cigarette butts outdoors.
6. **Butt in:** Ask for policies that address ocean trash.
7. **Recycle it:** Sort, separate and participate in recycling.
8. **Stow it:** Keep trash aboard your boat, until you properly dispose/recycle it.
9. **Can it:** Use trash cans with lids and don't overfill.
10. **Remove it:** Participate in the International Coastal Cleanup and other cleanups.

ANNA McCARTNEY/Contributed phtoo

Harborcreek Township Parks Coordinator Krista Jelley coordinates volunteers at the Shades Beach site for the PA Lake Erie ICC. Volunteers can help collect and document trash at more than 16 locations in Erie County. See side article for other site coordinators and contact information.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Coastal Resources
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Check out these websites to learn more:

www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/
www.facebook.com/
NOAAMarineDebris
www.oceanconservancy.org
www.paseagrant.org

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter and your assignment is to write an article about how trash has changed over the last 100 years. Were there as many single-use items as there are today? What other changes have led to so much trash in the ocean? Submit your article to axm40@psu.edu for possible publication in "your space."

OUT THE NEWSPAPER