

Connect with your environment

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students document the trash to determine its origin.



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Our Lady's Christian students clean up trash at Scott Park.

OLCS students clean up lots of trash at Scott Park

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

Thirty students from Our Lady's Christian School and their teacher, Nicole Fuhrman, picked up lots of cigarette butts, food-related containers and plastic bags in Scott Park for the International Coastal Cleanup.

Fuhrman is one of eight teachers participating in the Pennsylvania Sea Grant Great Lakes, Great Stewards project. The project provides funding and support for field trips and stewardship activities through the Center for Great Lakes Literacy (CGLL), a partnership between the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program office. For more information about CGLL, contact Marti Martz at mam60@psu.edu or 217-9011, extension 104.

Below are some student comments about their cleanup:

"My class did a good thing and made a difference in cleaning up Scott Park. The sad part was I realized that people do not bother to just walk over to the garbage can to throw their things away."
— Drew Sambuchino

"We participated in the ICC because we wanted to help lower the amount of pollution going into our streams, rivers, lakes and ocean. Pollution gets into these waterways through runoff and wind, or when it is dumped into the water. It is important that we all try to reduce pollution be-

cause we must have clean water for drinking, agriculture, recreation, cooking, cleaning and other uses. Humans need water to survive. If we ruin our water supply, we're going to be in big trouble. It is really important that we show people and teach them we can fix the problem."
— Grace Talbot

"The cleanup was important because we were helping the community become a better place to live. Cleaning up the litter also helps our lake stay clean."
— Chloe Eubank

"Even though we weren't at the coast, our participation still helped because the trash we picked up would have ended up in a creek and carried into Lake Erie. We learned in science class about watersheds and watershed addresses and how most everything that makes its way into a body of water that flows into Lake Erie is part of the Lake Erie watershed. It is important to pick up trash in our watershed, so it does not end up in our lake."
— Anna Stubenbort

"The ICC is a great thing to do and we should do this more often so that Scott Park will get cleaner and cleaner. If people around the world took part in cleanups, the Earth would be much cleaner."
— Michael Lucarotti

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

Erie County has a rich maritime heritage and areas with special ecological significance that draw tourists, anglers, boaters, divers, birders and others to participate in recreational and cultural activities. What it needs is community support to nominate this region for consideration as a new marine sanctuary to preserve these resources and our Great Lakes culture.

Depth perception

Our part of Lake Erie could be marine sanctuary

By ANNA McCARTNEY
Contributing writer

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Of the 14 national marine sanctuaries that currently exist in the United States, only one is within the Great Lakes region, at Thunder Bay on Lake Huron.

But with the latest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's community-based nomination process, Erie can join the competition for consideration as a new sanctuary. (Visit GoErie.com/nie to read our Dec. 2 story, "Treasure test," for more information.)

This week we explore the who, what, why and how of that nomination process.

Interested communities must have broad community-based support and should answer these questions:

1. Does the place have:
 - Natural resources or habitat with special ecological significance?
 - Maritime heritage resources with exceptional historical, cultural, archaeological significance?
 - Important economic uses such as tourism, fishing, diving and other recreational activities?
 2. Do all of these things depend on conservation and management of the resources?
 3. Are there:
 - Opportunities for marine research, education or partnerships?
 - Potential threats and impacts facing the marine resources?
 - Existing management/regulations that could help with conservation efforts?
- Because Erie County believes this region meets the national significance criteria and that it would benefit economically from becoming a national marine sanctuary, the county would like to submit a nomination.

There are no deadlines for submissions. Nominations will be reviewed on a rolling basis as NOAA receives them. The review process is expected to take approximately three to six months but a high

A National Marine Sanctuaries public meeting will be held tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. at Blasco Library's Hirt Auditorium. Taking part will be Ellen Brody, Great Lakes regional coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and Jeff Gray, superintendent of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

volume of submissions may increase review time lines. Successful sites will be placed in an inventory of areas NOAA could consider for national marine sanctuary designation.

Making the inventory list does not guarantee designation as a national marine sanctuary, and it does not establish any regulations or limit activities in the area. However, if an area makes the list, NOAA will decide whether to begin the multi-year, highly participatory designation process for that area.

Does the Pennsylvania Lake Erie watershed have what it takes to become a national marine sanctuary? Does it have the biodiversity, culture and history that make it special? Is it situated to take advantage of economic development by promoting conservation and ecological, historic and cultural tourism? The county believes it does, but it needs community input for a successful nomination.

Attend the public meeting tonight at 6 at Blasco Library's Hirt Auditorium to learn more and for your opportunity to ask questions and make comments. If you are unable to attend, contact Julia Donahue at jedonahue@eriecounty.gov or 451-6018. See websites below for more information.

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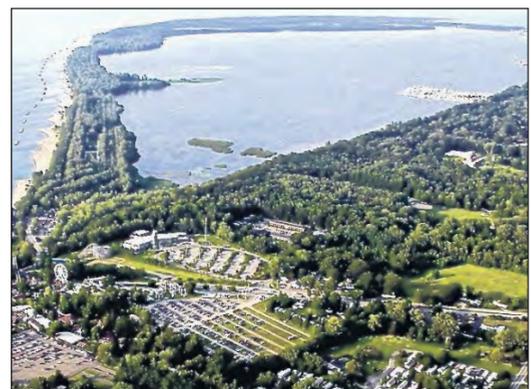
DAVID BOUGHTON PA SEA GRANT

The Pennsylvania quadrant of Lake Erie is home to an estimated 420 shipwrecks, including this unnamed one, which would benefit from a marine sanctuary designation.



BRIAN BERCHTOLD/Contributed photo

Anglers know this area is special. Every year, from October through April, approximately 100,000 of them target Pennsylvania steelhead in Erie County tributaries and from June to September "packs of boats" with anglers seek yellow perch and walleye.



JERRY SKRYPZAK/Contributed photo

Presque Isle State Park, a National Natural Landmark, provides many year-round recreational opportunities. It is a favorite spot for migrating birds and its many unique habitats contain endangered, threatened and rare species.

This page brought to you by:



Check out these websites to learn more:

- http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/
- http://www.nominate.noaa.gov/
- http://thunderbay.noaa.gov
- http://paseagrant.org

What makes Erie County special? Save newspaper articles for the next few weeks that demonstrate why this area should be considered as a National Marine Sanctuary. Use the websites to learn more about marine sanctuaries. Share your ideas with readers. Send them to axm40@psu.edu for possible publication in the "your space" feature.

