

Centre County Senior Environmental Corps Newsletter April 2018



Team 14 water sampling in the Beech Creek Watershed

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Pennsylvania has not met EPA's requirements to reduce water pollution under the requirements of federal court orders and regulations. The Wolf Administration announced today that in its first year, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) expanded agricultural inspections program for clean water management in Pennsylvania's part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed not only exceeded federal expectations for number of acres inspected, but also found that a majority of farms are complying with state erosion and sediment control and manure management planning requirements.

"The addition of the new to our existing farm inspection programs has had strong results out of the starting gate," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "While the focus is on-the-ground best practices, the goal is the conservation of natural resources. Much as Pennsylvania farmers need healthy land and livestock, our fishing and other commercial interests and our communities need clean water and healthy aquatic life."

http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/Final_SOP_Chesapeake_Bay_Agricultural_Inspection_Program.pdf

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect" - Mark Twain

Volunteer Safety

The safety and health of the members the highest importance during the sampling process. We are responsible for our own safety, but we also need to be ready to assist our teammates. Safety measures and unique team issues are to be discussed annually among all volunteers.

Use common sense before entering a stream. every stream can be dangerous.

Ensure the team is equipped with a team First Aid kit and means of communication (cell phone and/or Personal Locator Beacon).

Minimum Team Size: Teams of three or more are preferred. One volunteer should remain on dry land to provide help if needed. Ideally, only one person is needed to enter the water to collect samples or perform flow measurements using the FloWatch™ meter.

Teams should let someone else know when they intend to return, know the site location(s), and what to do if they do not return on time.

Some of our Marcellus survey sites are not within range of cellphone service. To assure those teams can obtain emergency help, the Centre County Commission purchased an emergency satellite Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) for our CCPaSEC teams.



The PLB will summons help from anywhere in the world through the national NOAA service which will contact a local designee, for us, the Centre County Emergency Center, when the device is activated.

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PLBs are portable units designed to be carried by an individual person. They can only be activated manually. PLBs also have a built-in, low-power homing beacon that allows rescue forces to home in on the distress beacon once the satellite system has provided the necessary position information. The number of people rescued in calendar year 2017 in the United States: 275.



Rescues at sea: **186** people rescued in **66** incidents.

Aviation rescues: **15** people rescued in **8** incidents.

Terrestrial rescues: **74** people rescued in **58** incidents.

Volunteer Mishaps

Our RSVP registered volunteers are provided supplemental insurance coverage in the event of injury while performing surveys.

2018 Watershed CleanUp Day

Last year, during ClearWater Conservancy's 22nd Annual Watershed CleanUp Day, 552 volunteers cleaned up 38 TONS of trash across 59 sites!

This year's clean-up day will be held on Earth Day, April 21. Our group will probably do the same sites as done previously, Upper Fillmore Rd. and Upper Gyp Rd. Genie Robin will know the definite sites by the April meeting. Following the clean-up there will be a picnic at Circleville Park.

Sign up at:

<http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/event/watershed-cleanup-day/>

The Bellefonte Volunteer Fair

Our volunteers helped cover the CCPaSEC booth at the Bellefonte Volunteer Fair on March 3, 2018. Mick, Joyce and Ken set up the easel and the display boards, brochures, business cards, and a 'Contacts' list for those interested in volunteering to sign up. Ralph and Betsie (president) joined the group before opening to help answer visitor questions.



Betsie (left) interviewing a potential volunteer

We had three folks indicate their interest in our group and two others who had contacted the RSVP.

RSVP's Brenda Reeve and Ken Pendleton, director of Centre County Office of Aging, came by to chat. Ken discussed a new RSVP program proposed by Ken Johnson for Radon and Rabies mitigation.

To join us: Please call the Centre Counter RSVP

(Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)

Monday – Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Phone **(814) 355-6816**

The CCPaSEC newsletter is published quarterly except for special events. To contribute news articles, or corrections please contact Ken Johnson via our CCPaSEC website.