

Centre County Senior Environmental Corps

June 2020 -Doug Macneal-



Doug Macneal a founding member

The Centre County Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps (CCPaSEC) acknowledges with sadness the death of Walter Douglas Macneal, a founding member and the first president of our organization. Doug had a way of encouraging everyone to contribute. With warmth and a smile, he led every meeting in a way that made members feel comfortable and that helped us enjoy what we were doing. Doug served as president of CCPaSEC for more than ten years; under his leadership, our membership increased from about two score of people on six teams to over sixty members and thirteen monitoring teams.

CCPaSEC, a creation of a federally funded environmental effort, EASI (Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement) overseen by Centre County's Retired Senior Volunteer Program, (RSVP) began at the Willowbank Building in February of 2002. The original six volunteer teams shared three testing kits to monitor at fixed sites on the Bald Eagle Creek, Spring Creek, and Elk Creek tributaries. As our membership grew, Doug was instrumental in helping us secure funding for additional testing kits from Trout Unlimited, and in establishing our affiliation

with the ClearWater Conservancy of Central PA.

In addition to serving as the organization's president, Doug was the team leader of his monitoring team for their two sites on Elk Creek. His Elk Creek Team would do their measurements on Elk Creek and then take their water samples to Doug's home in Livonia to complete the testing with their monitoring kit, usually sharing lunch there and enjoying time together. When Doug retired as president of the organization, he maintained contact as our historian and mentor.

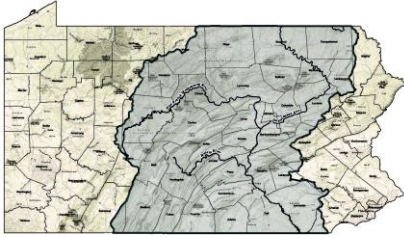
Doug Macneal had many talents and interests and loved his life in Centre County, living simply in the rural Rebersburg area at the Macneal Orchards. Doug was the kind of leader who gave freely of his time, energy, and expertise. His dedication to CCPaSEC's purpose was critical in making the organization what it has become. He made it clear to us that we were making valuable contributions to protecting our Centre County's water quality.

Doug shall be remembered and forever appreciated for his contributions to our Centre County PaSEC. We shall miss you, Doug. We will hear your lovely singing voice in our minds, as we continue our monthly monitoring at our stream sites. - CCPaSEC founding members

While the halcyon days of the past are slow to return, there are now some encouraging signs of a revival.

The coronavirus pandemic heavily impacted our monitoring this year, but the Centre County Senior Environmental Corps will persevere in pursuit of our investigations. Our streams and tributaries are a critical natural resource and a part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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Citizen-based water monitoring is often overlooked as a citizen initiative. Pennsylvania does not have unlimited resources to monitor them. Our volunteers augment the limited state sponsored remote sensors. We are a key information resource to provide a status of conditions of many local and remotely accessible streams.

Our planet is running out of fresh water resources. The Centre County Senior Environmental Corps Volunteers monitor our county's streams water quality. We are a non-profit group associated with the ClearWater Conservancy and our County RSVP. We focus on data collection and posting it on our public website for county conservation and public use. We are older adults (55+). Members work in teams of 3-6, regularly visiting sites throughout the watershed to gather about 40 data points per site, including water chemistry, stream flow, riparian characteristics, and counts of macro invertebrates (twice a year). – Ken Johnson

Thankfully, generous grants and contributions from donors provided us a means to purchase needed supplies and equipment.

August picnic

The August Clearfield PaSEC - CCPaSEC picnic has been canceled.

Duplicate testing

Lou is hoping to resume regular testing in June (depending on news and RSVP requirements).

Bill has met with our team leaders and to re-schedule testing for those teams that had to be cancelled.

Pennsylvania Senior Corps



To join us: Please call the Centre County 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.

Pennsylvania Senior Corps

Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges. Last year, 2019 more than 10,400 Pennsylvania seniors met critical community needs while contributing to longer, healthier lives through one of three Senior Corps programs.

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Doug Macneal helped us celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2012 with a special prayer for all those who cherish our earth's beauty and its most precious natural resource.

"Doug Macneal's meaningful and eloquent Grace at our 10th anniversary beautifully articulates the reason we continue stream monitoring". – Carolyn Hatley

A STREAM MONITOR'S GRACE

God of Creation, we have deeply benefited by our monthly visits that brought us face to face with the presence of the spirit and the chemistry of running streams.

We have delighted in our growing insights into the depths of our earth's beauty beneath the surface, the familiar landscape we cherish in our minds and the familiar mystery that teases us—we cannot visit the same stream twice. The flapping slant of geese and herons rising, the fleeting blossoms of bluets and teasel, the occasional rattler, all are fastened to place, while the waters pass and pass, ever renewed and ever gone.

We have rejoiced in the gifts of surprise that rewarded us so richly—dew beads thronging the florets of sun-stunned grasses—curtains of crystal flowers whose inch-long needles of hoar frost freeze us in our tracks—the brown horses and wild white hurdles of floods—the 'bottomless spring' that murmurs up the whole stream from its long underground cave.

But the gift of ten years' returning to a single site, where changes are too slow to be surprised at or even noticed, is the gradual mingling of reverence and science, each deepening the other.

We thank you, God, for the opportunity to join this community in our 'golden years,' for our grateful enjoyment of each other's support and steadiness and love, as we thank you for this food tonight. Amen. - *Douglas Macneal*

"The struggle of today is not entirely for today, but for a vast future." -- Abraham Lincoln

The ClearWater Conservancy and Centre County RSVP are major supporters. The following have provided additional support funding for special equipment for one field kit: Financial support for this grant is provided by the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation which is dedicated to the economic, physical, and social health of the communities served by Dominion Energy companies. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: This grant program was administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership, and collaboration, Patagonia for the protection of water resources in Centre County, PIG Difference, a charitable initiative to salute our customers' passion for protecting habitats and preserving wildlife and our many individual contributors through Centre Gives.