



Susquehanna Riverlands ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVE

Winter 2010 Environmental Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION*	TIME
Sat., Feb. 27	American Indian Artifact Exhibit	SEIC	9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 28	Animal Skulls and What They Tell Us	SEIC	1:30-3 p.m.
Sat., March 6	Leave No Trace – Treading Lightly in the Wild	SEIC	1-4 p.m.
Sat., March 13	Pennsylvania Basic Boating Class	SEIC	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun., March 14	St. Patrick’s World	SEIC	1:30-3 p.m.
Wed., March 17	St. Patrick’s World	SEIC	7-8:30 p.m.
Sat., March 20	Celebrating the Spring	SEIC	1:30-3 p.m.
Fri., March 26 Sat., March 27	March into Spring	W	10:30 a.m. to noon

* Location Code: SEIC – Susquehanna Energy Information Center W – Wetlands Nature Area

For more information, please call 1-866-832-3312 or e-mail pplpreserves@pplweb.com.

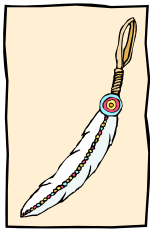
Since August 1980, the Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve has been providing the residents of north central Pennsylvania with quality recreation and environmental education. Encompassing 1,200 acres on both the east and west banks of the Susquehanna River, the Riverlands is jointly owned by PPL Corporation and Allegheny Electric Cooperative Inc. The preserve is on Route 11 near Berwick.



Schedule Early

It might seem like it’s a bit early to start thinking about the spring field trip season, but Riverlands staff would like to remind our local teachers, home-schoolers and Scouting groups that now is actually a great time to schedule your visit. April and May are popular times for wetlands or energy programs, and slots fill up fast. Give us a call at 1-866-832-3312 to reserve your spot today.

Additional program details can be found on the Calendar of Events at www.pplpreserves.com.



American Indian Artifact Exhibit

Saturday, Feb. 27
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Pennsylvania Indian Artifact Collectors Association

The Riverlands once again welcomes the Pennsylvania Indian Artifact Collectors Association and its annual artifact exhibit. Local association members will display their collections of tools, weapons and trade items and discuss the history and original use of the pieces. There will be flint-knapping demonstrations throughout the day and an atlatl (spear-thrower) exhibition, weather permitting. Visitors are encouraged to bring along artifacts they have found for identification.

For more information, contact association member Bill Vezendy at 570-759-1792.

Animal Skulls and What They Tell us

Sunday, Feb. 28
1:30 to 3 p.m.
Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Dr. James Montgomery, Environmental Studies Director, Ecology III



What are some of the differences between the skulls of a meat-eating animal compared with a plant-eater? Can a skull indicate the health of an animal when it was alive? How do skulls show us the adaptations that help an animal compete in its environment? Jim Montgomery will answer these questions and many more as he shares his expertise with us in this compelling program. Audience members will get up close and personal with the skulls of many of our planet's wilder residents to find out why it really is "all in your head."



Leave No Trace — Treading Lightly in the Wild

Saturday, March 6
1-4 p.m.
Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Mike Yeager, retired teacher, Milton School District

As wilderness areas shrink and the number of people visiting them grows, it's hard to find a place that doesn't have signs of people having been there: firepits, disturbed areas, trash and

sometimes even personal waste. A new ethic is needed to ensure that wild places stay wild and inviting. That ethic is "leave no trace."

In this program, Mike Yeager introduces the basics of the leave no trace ethos. You will learn how what you bring, what equipment you use and even what you wear can make a huge difference in the size of the footprint you leave on the land. Whether you frequent the most remote outpost or the busiest state park, this course can teach you how to leave the natural world as you found it so generations to come can know the pleasure of unspoiled wilderness.

Pennsylvania Basic Boating Class

Saturday, March 13
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
For ages 12 and over. **Preregistration is required**
Call toll-free 1-866-832-3312.

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission will once again be offering a one-day boating safety course at the Susquehanna Riverlands. Designed to help boaters reduce the risk of injury on the water, this class will cover legal equipment requirements, nautical terminology, weather and the "rules of the road." Those who successfully complete this course can apply for a boating safety education certificate issued by the commission. There is a \$10 fee for the certificate, which is required for all operators of personal watercraft, and for boat operators born after Jan. 1, 1982, who operate motorboats of more than 25 horsepower.

The boating class is free and open to anyone 12 years old and up. Space is limited, however, and preregistration is required. To register, call the Riverlands at 866-832-3312. More information about the course can be found on the commission's Web site at <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/98boatco.htm>.



St. Patrick's World

Sunday, March 14
1:30-3 p.m.
Wednesday, March 17
7- 8:30 p.m.
Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Clem McIntyre, Riverlands naturalist

Everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day. But there is much more behind the day than leprechauns and green beer. The story of the man who would become St. Patrick is one of kidnapping and slavery, daring escapes, Imperial Rome, the early Christian church and the last remnants of a mysterious civilization that once spanned most of Europe. Add to that the fact that Patrick may just have had a hand in saving western civilization, and you get a sense of why his life has been celebrated though the

centuries. In addition to St. Patrick, this program will touch on the nature, history and culture of Ireland. It's a nice way to welcome the holiday.

Celebrating the Spring

Saturday, March 20
1:30-3 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy
Information Center

Presented by: Clem McIntyre,
Riverlands naturalist



Spring is a season associated with rebirth and renewal — a time when the world thaws, the sun returns and animals awake from their long winter sleep. So why is it connected now with rodents that deliver weather predictions, birds that deliver babies and a rabbit (or is it a hare?) that delivers candy? This program focuses on the natural events and the observances, myths and traditions from around the world that surround the time leading up to the vernal equinox and the coming of spring. From the first flowers through the last of the colored eggs, we'll explore the origins of these practices and how they were influenced by the natural world. You'd be mad as a March hare to miss this one.

Parents of very young children are cautioned that some of the Easter Bunny's deeper secrets may slip out during this program.

March into Spring

Friday, March 26
Saturday, March 27
10:30 a.m. to noon

Wetlands Nature Area

Presented by: Clem McIntyre,
Riverlands naturalist



Welcome spring with a walk through the wetlands to look for signs of the natural world awakening from the long winter doldrums. Migrating birds and mating amphibians are just some of the many busy creatures we may catch a glimpse of. We might also spot some of the first wildflowers to peek out from the chilly soil.

We will meet in the wetlands parking lot to begin our hike. Spring weather can be very unpredictable, so be sure to dress appropriately. Waterproof footwear is strongly recommended.

The least movement is of importance to all Nature. The entire ocean is affected by a single pebble. ~ Blaise

Pascal

RIVERLANDS NEWS BRIEFS

Tell a Friend

Do you know of anyone who might enjoy hearing about upcoming programs at the Susquehanna Riverlands? If you do, encourage them to sign up to receive our electronic newsletter. Just have them e-mail us at ctmcintyre@pplweb.com or call the Information Center at 1-866-832-3312, and we'll get them on our mailing list.

Program Information

PPL maintains a total of six preserves in Pennsylvania, including the Riverlands. If you are interested in programs at any of our other sites, visit our Web site at www.pplpreserves.com. There you will find program information for all PPL Preserve locations, naturalist blogs and podcasts of Senior Naturalist Jon Beam's WVIA radio program, "Nature Notes."

You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/pplpreserves>.

Envirothon Returns to Riverlands

Riverlands is proud to host the Luzerne County Envirothon, a scholastic competition in which teams from different schools from around the county pit their environmental knowledge against one another. The winning school goes on to the State Envirothon, with a chance to compete in the nationals. The theme of this year's Envirothon, which will take place on March 31 and May 5, is "Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning."

The Riverlands will remain open to public traffic during the Envirothon, but visitors are reminded that access to some facilities may be limited. We appreciate your patience.



Hands-on Environmental Education

These are some obvious benefits from having a power plant and environmental preserve around. Sure, PPL's Susquehanna nuclear plant makes electricity, providing power for almost 2 million homes. PPL also is one of the larger employers in the

area, adding thousands of jobs to the local economy. And PPL's Susquehanna Riverlands and Wetlands environmental preserves provide recreation opportunities for thousands of visitors each year.

But there is a less-obvious benefit: environmental education.

All nuclear power plants are required to monitor for any environmental impacts around the plant. Monitoring here at the Susquehanna plant is done by environmental scientists working for an independent company called Ecology III. But PPL and EIII have gone beyond simply complying with regulations. EIII scientists not only monitor the area, but also engage in original research projects.

Scientists at EIII have published about 100 studies on the ecology along the Susquehanna River, looking at things such as water quality, fish populations and the impact of invasive species like purple loosestrife, Asian clams and rusty crayfish. As a result, this section of the river and the land surrounding the plant are among the best-studied in Pennsylvania. The base of knowledge is so considerable that EIII scientist Brian Mangan said, "We have accumulated a database for this area that is regarded by many to be authoritative concerning the North Branch of the Susquehanna."

After nearly two decades working as an environmental consultant for PPL at EIII, Mangan became a professor of environmental science at King's College in Wilkes-Barre in 2000. However, he still works part time for EIII and PPL, giving him an opportunity to practice what he preaches to students. It

also provides him with a great place to bring his students. Mangan has often used the Susquehanna Riverlands through the years to give his students practical field experience in wildlife techniques such as live-trapping small mammals, tracking large carnivores using tracking stations and assessing fish populations in Lake Took-A-While using an electrofishing boat.

Most summers Mangan runs a graduate course for area teachers about river studies centered here at the Riverlands. This summer, he is partnering with science teacher Mary Jo Gibson from Berwick Area Middle School for a graduate course on the Chesapeake Bay, sponsored in part by a PPL Project Earth grant.

Another EIII scientist and an adjunct professor at King's, Jim Montgomery, taught upper-level classes this summer and fall in wetlands identification and delineation here at the Riverlands. Montgomery is a botanist and internationally recognized authority on ferns (he actually has a species of fern named after him). He taught students to identify plants and soils and use them as an indicator of wetlands areas that may need special protection.

Mangan summed up the attraction of Riverlands for him and his students. "King's is an urban college," he said. "For us to have access to a natural space close by, and have it also be an area that is recognized by the Audubon Society as an important bird area rich in all types of wildlife — is an invaluable asset for many environmental educators like me in this region."

~ Clem McIntyre, PPL naturalist



Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve
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