



Susquehanna Riverlands ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVE



Fall 2009 Environmental Programs

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION*	TIME
Sat., Oct. 10	PPL Susquehanna Fall Festival	R	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 11	The Joller Story: Life in a Company Coal Mine and Village	SEIC	2-3:30 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 15 Sat., Oct. 17	Fall Colors on Council Cup	CC	10:30 a.m.-noon
Sat., Oct. 31	Great Pumpkin Run/Fun Walk	R	10:30 a.m.
Fri., Nov. 6	TEA Workshop: Mini Nuclear Energy Seminar for Teachers	SEIC	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 7	All About Owls for Kids	SEIC	10-11:30 a.m. 1:30-3 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 14	Holiday Energy Saving Hints	SEIC	10:30 a.m. to noon

* Location Code: SEIC – Susquehanna Energy Information Center CC – Council Cup R – Riverlands Park 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.

Fall field trips



The Riverlands is a popular destination for school or other organizations' field trips in the spring. But we would like to remind our friends that we are here and ready to accept visitors all year long for perimeter tours and wetlands walks — and fall provides some wonderful weather and scenery to be out and about.

If you would like to schedule a fall program for your group, please call 866-832-3312.

Additional program details can be found on the Calendar of Events at

www.pplpreserves.com.



PPL Susquehanna Fall Festival

Saturday, Oct. 10

10 a.m. to 3 p.m..

Susquehanna Riverlands

Presenter: PPL Riverlands staff

Once again we are inviting our neighbors to come out to the Riverlands for a day of fun, food and community in appreciation for the successful partnerships we have been privileged to forge in the area.

We'll have hayrides, face and pumpkin painting and other children's activities. Local farmers are coming in to sell their produce, and Berwick Hospital will have a booth with information on healthy lifestyle choices. The Susquehanna Spinner's Guild will have a demonstration area where visitors can see raw fleece spun into wool, and Quilters in Bloom will have a quilt show in the Energy Information Center. Perimeter tours of the nuclear plant will be leaving from the center throughout the day.

In addition to the ongoing activities, Tonya Sagar will present a program at 10:30 a.m. in the Information Center auditorium on creating a forest garden and making your property a sustainable source of fresh-grown food.

Thanks to the support of our surrounding communities, last year's festival was a rousing success. We look forward to seeing all our neighbors back out this year.

The Joller Story: Life in a Company Coal Mine and Village

Sunday, Oct. 11

2-3:30 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center

Presented by: Steve Runkle,
Susquehanna River Basin Commission



Local historian Steve Runkle will recount for us the personal story of his family who developed, owned and operated the company coal mine and village of Joller in Huntingdon County. Runkle will cover the 35 years of deep mining at Joller and how the workers and their families lived, then move up to the present day to describe the successful efforts to reclaim the mine site and stop acid mine drainage.

Enhanced with period music, this program promises to be a fascinating look into Pennsylvania's coal-mining history and the effects the past still has on us today.



Fall Colors on Council Cup

Thursday, Oct. 15

Saturday, Oct. 17

10:30 a.m.-noon

The sights, sounds and smells of fall will come alive as you explore the unique habitat of Council Cup with naturalist Clem McIntyre. Vibrant autumn colors are the highlight of this program, but along the way we will get a chance to talk about autumn migrations, winter preparations and even a little Council Cup history. This program is being offered twice for those unable to attend the weekend session. The walk will start at the Council Cup parking lot and take about an hour. Please plan to navigate some hilly terrain. For more information, call 1-866-832-3312.

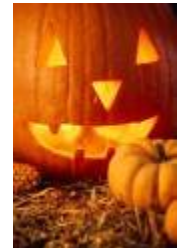
Great Pumpkin Run/Fun Walk

Saturday, Oct. 31

10:30 a.m.

Susquehanna Riverlands Large Pavilion

Presenter: Berwick YMCA



PPL's Community of Volunteers, the Berwick Area YMCA and the Berwick Marathon Association will sponsor the 5K Great Pumpkin Run/Fun Walk along the trails of the Susquehanna Riverlands. The course is flat and covers an out, two loops and back. The walk will take the same course. More information on registration, fees and awards is available by calling the YMCA at 570-759-1300. All proceeds benefit the Berwick YMCA.



Mini Nuclear Energy Seminar for Teachers

Friday, Nov. 6

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center

Presented by: PPL staff

Because of the overwhelming response to our annual weeklong NEST course, PPL will offer Mini-NEST this fall. We've condensed as much information as possible into this daylong course that will include sessions on energy basics, the fundamentals of nuclear power, physical security at the plant and the future of nuclear power in America. A perimeter tour of the plant and the site of a possible new unit at Susquehanna will end the day. PPL will provide a catered lunch for participants.

Presented by experts in their field, this lively discussion promises to be time well-spent. Space is limited, and

preregistration is required. Visit www.pplpreserves.com to register or call 866-832-3312 for more information.

This program is eligible for Act 48 hours.



All About Owls for Kids

Saturday, Nov. 7

10-11:30 a.m.

1:30-3 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy
Information Center

Presenter: John Fridman,
Supervisor, Susquehanna
Riverlands

Preregistration required

The night skies belong to the owl. Let John Fridman show you why as he discusses the adaptations that allow this superb hunter to fly silently, detect prey from a distance and strike with pinpoint accuracy on even the darkest night. Geared to children ages 7-12, this program will include the opportunity to dissect a regurgitated owl pellet to see what it reveals about the owl's habits and habitat.

Because of the popularity of this program, two separate sessions are scheduled. Preregistration is required due to space constraints and limited materials. To register or for more information, please call 866-832-3312.

Holiday Energy Saving Hints

Saturday, Nov. 14

10:30 a.m.-noon

Susquehanna Energy
Information Center

Presenter: Clem McIntyre,
Riverlands naturalist



The holiday season is almost upon us. On top of all the preparations, the rushing around and the stress, we also now worry about being environmentally conscious and keeping our energy bills manageable. It sounds like an impossible task, but it isn't. Come explore some helpful hints to keep your holidays jolly for you, your bills and the Earth.

The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for that future. ~Gifford Pinchot

RIVERLANDS NEWS BRIEFS

Tell a Friend

Do you know of someone who might enjoy hearing about upcoming environmental programs at the Susquehanna Riverlands? If so, please encourage them to sign up to receive our electronic newsletter.

Simply have them e-mail us at ctmcintyre@pplweb.com or call 866-832-3312 and we can get them added to our list.

Gearing up for the cold

Riverlands staff welcomes guests to our park year-round. However, as fall and winter loom, there are some changes that regular visitors should keep in mind.

Our public restrooms will be closing for the season the week of Nov. 1. Portable toilets will be set up in the park for the winter, and public restrooms will still be available at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center during regular business hours. However, after Sept. 1 the SEIC will not be open on weekends unless there is a scheduled program.

The Riverlands is open only during daylight hours, so as the days get shorter, the park will be closing earlier. Scheduled closing time is always updated and posted at the entrances. Please be sure to note the closing time on your way in.

We appreciate your patronage all year long, and we look forward to seeing you, no matter what the weather outside is like.

Can I hunt at the Riverlands?

As hunting season approaches, we would like to remind our neighbors that hunting is not allowed on any PPL Susquehanna property on the west side of the Susquehanna River. However, 891 acres are open to public hunting on the east side.

For a detailed map showing where you can and cannot hunt, stop in to the Information Center, e-mail us (be sure to include your mailing address) at mjmasich@pplweb.com, or call us at 1-866-832-3312.



Fighting Fire with Fire

Purple loosestrife may be beautiful, as plagues go, but it's still a plague. Removed from its natural checks and balances when it was imported from Eurasia in the 1800s, loosestrife ran riot over our wetlands and is now common over large swaths of North America.

Its beauty hides its threat: Purple loosestrife grows in profusion. It blooms for much of the summer, and each plant can produce up to 2 million seeds a season. The plant can spread by underground shoots, even if it is a sterile variety that doesn't produce seeds.

This aggressive fertility, combined with the fact that native animals don't eat loosestrife, makes it very difficult to stem this flowery flood. Simply cutting it down, if done carelessly, can spread the seeds further. And chemical controls often create collateral damage among native species and can have unintended and far-reaching side effects for the environment.

So if native animals won't eat it, why not just import an animal that does?

To be sure, Europe and Asia contain many species, especially insects, that avidly dine on purple loosestrife. In other words, we could use an invasive species to control an invasive species.

But the importation of one invader to deal with another is a touchy business. In Hawaii, for example, rats inadvertently introduced by Polynesian and European settlers were eating the sugar cane crop and decimating the native bird populations.

So in 1872, sugar cane farmers responded by importing the Indian mongoose to prey on the rats. Unfortunately, no one realized that the nocturnal rat and the diurnal mongoose would rarely cross paths and could actually occupy the same habitat quite comfortably.

The mongooses spread rapidly throughout the islands and immediately set to work eating the local birds during the day. Meanwhile, the rats continued to munch on birds and sugar cane, unchecked, all night long. The "solution" to the problem ended up making things much worse.

Because of past missteps like this, the introduction of loosestrife enemies from elsewhere in the world was not taken lightly. Hundreds of potential control species were rigorously tested to ensure they wouldn't suddenly prefer some beleaguered local plant to loosestrife. In the end, five species of Eurasian insect were deemed safe for importation because their whole life cycle was dependent solely on purple loosestrife.

In June 2000, the Susquehanna Riverlands joined with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for a trial release of three species of these loosestrife connoisseurs in our Wetlands Nature Area.

While the study is ongoing, early results seem very promising. The introduced beetles are definitely doing a lot of damage to loosestrife stands here in the Riverlands. They will never eradicate loosestrife in North America, but they might at least help alleviate this purple plague.

~ Clem McIntyre, PPL naturalist



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