# Allegheny River Stewardship Project

## Volunteer Newsletter

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# www.chec.pitt.edu chec@pitt.edu

#### PARTNERS

Alle-Kiski Health Foundation

Rachel Carson Homestead

River Quest

Venture Outdoors

University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

UPMC Center for Environmental Oncology

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Allegheny River Stewardship Project (ARSP) is for leading researchers in environmental and behavioral health sciences to work together with concerned citizens of the Alle-Kiski Valley river communities, volunteers from communities around the Allegheny River watershed and strategic partners to determine the sources and types of river pollutants by monitoring the levels of toxins in fish living in the river and to create long-term community environmental and specific water quality goals so that the footprint of the project widens and deepens with the passage of time

To Provide the Fish Sample for the Project

FORD CITY at Old PPG Glass Plant

MAY 10, 2008 - 6:00 a.m. - 9::00 p.m

SPRINGDALE/CHESWICK at Reliant Energy Plant Site

MAY 31' 2008 - 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**FREEPORT at BUFFALO CREEK** 

JUNE 7, 2008 - 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m

**UPPER ALLEGHENY near Bradford** 

JUNE 14, 2008 - 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Come out to the river and catch some fish, have great fun and support a great environmental project!!

Tell your family and friends and bring them with you, they can sign up on line at our website!

Venture Outdoors will be providing kayaks, canoes, rods and reels.

There will be an opportunity to purchase a fishing license on line at each site for those who don't have one or forgot their license

Education on various aspects of our environment will be available a

We have met with a number of environmental partners. January 15th - Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center we held a community meeting. It was a snowy cold evening but we had over 38 interested people show up and many signed on as volunteers for the project. Dr. Volz spoke on the background, nature and mission of the project.

### January 16<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with the PA Fish and Boat

Commission. Dr. Sue Thompson brought Dr. Volz and Chuck Christen to meet with officers, district chiefs and biologists at Pleasant Gap near Penn State University. This was a very interesting and collaborative meeting. January 24<sup>th</sup> – PA **Department of Environmental** Protection's conference on **Emerging Contaminants.** Dr. Volz presented on Estrogens and Xenoestrogens as emerging contaminants in our rivers and water supply.

#### January 31<sup>st</sup> – Undergraduate class at the University of Pittsburgh, the instructor Don Hopey, a collaborator with the ARSP invited Dr. Volz to present on the Allegheny River Project and asks for student volunteers. Three students contacted us.

**February 1<sup>st</sup> – Meeting with Cheswick Boro Secretary**. Dr. Volz and Mr. Chuck Christen met with Andrew Bock of the

### Project Activity To-Date

Borough office of Cheswick. He was very interested in the ARSP and offered help. **February 5<sup>th</sup> – Meet with PSU Extension Cooperative and Conservation District of McKeon County.** This was a very important meeting. The key personnel we met with are very interested in the project and have offered to organize a community fishing derby. They have a strong interest in pharmaceutical disposal and water quality.

#### February 7<sup>th</sup> – Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Seminar.

Dr. Volz presented on the background, science, results and findings from the Three Rivers Fish Consumption project as well as informing the scientists present of the current ARSP. **February 8<sup>th</sup>**, 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ford City Junior Senior High School.

Mr. Chuck Christen, project manager, and Dr. Patricia DeMarco, executive director for Rachel Carson Homestead, were scheduled to present to the biology classes but due to the weather and school closings this event has to be rescheduled. Dr. DeMarco has spoken to students at Bethel High School about the ARSP and recruited student volunteers.

#### February 26<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Armstrong County Sportsmen Conservation League. Mr.

Paul Caruso, field coordinator for the ARSP, and Mr. Chuck Christen met with the various

sportsmen and angler club representatives who belong to the Armstrong County Conservation League. The men were very interested and many requested we come to speak at their individual club meetings. February 27<sup>th</sup> – Water **Quality Roundtable Meeting**. Dr Volz and Mr. Chuck Christen presented the ARSP to members of the Water Quality Roundtable meeting at the site of the Three Rivers Rowing Association. There was a very positive response and collaborative spirit from the members.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3 – Café Scientifique at Penn Brewery, Dr Volz will be presenting on the ARSP March 5 & 6 – File Review at Department of Environmental Protection offices. March 6<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 p.m. Presentation to River Quest at Discover Pavilion at Carnegie Science Center March 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m. Presentation of ARSP to Westmoreland County Sportsmen League March 14<sup>th</sup> – Odilith Training for ARSP staff with PA Fish and Boat Commission March  $24^{th} - 7:00$  p.m. Community Meeting at the Allegheny Township Community Center hosted by the Allegheny Township Environmental Council.

March 29<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m. Presentation on the ARSP at Rodef Shalom Temple in Oakland. Sponsored by G.A.S.P. April 7<sup>th</sup> – Lecture by Dr. Volz at Univ of Pittsburgh at Bradford on Emerging Contaminants