

Centre County Senior Environmental Corps Newsletter January 2019



Our Holiday Calibration

CCPaSEC members met on December 12 at the Penn Stater for our annual holiday luncheon. All CCPaSEC volunteers were invited and to bring a guest if you wish. Pictured are President Betsie Blumberg, Past President with founding member Douglas Macneal, and Dr K (Khalequz-zaman) Professor of Geology at Lock Haven University.

Elections results for the offices of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary

Each year we conduct an election for our officers. Lou Mayer is our new president of CCPaSEC beginning in January 2019. Our new Vice President is Carolyn Hatley. Our treasurer, Rob Fugate and secretary Patty DeLotto were re-elected.

February Equipment Check

Volunteers are needed in February. Each year our Quality Team inspects our field kits and is an evaluation of equipment accuracy as determined by measurement using certified standards. We are not using Laboratory certified equipment. The goal is 90 –110% for field type equipment.

The information, expressed as **Percent Standard deviation (PD)** is important to users as one indicator of the reliability our data.

Disappointment to Advantageous



Our Marcellus Team 14 has established a new site for Sandy run in the Beech Creek watershed. The team reported major beaver activity near the original site and we unofficially named the new beaver pond "Lake PaSEC". Rumors are that the lake is a great fishing spot.

Sandy Run is important because meanders through the Marcellus area and Beauty Run is sullied AMD. The team previously monitored Sandy Run and Beauty beginning in July 2013, just above the confluence. The team curtailed monitoring those sites when the land owner posted new no-trespassing signs and could not be contacted to renew permission.

The new site for Sandy Run is about two-tenths of a mile downstream from the confluence. Its significance is to determine how the discharge from Beauty Run influences Sandy Run downstream. We thank Genie Robine for her assistance in gaining permission from the Kormanic's site owners to visit the new site.



Lisa Grove and Team 14 leader Dave Truesdale monitoring our new site at Sandy Run

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Advantage: The new site will allow comparison of our Team 14's field data and Lock Haven University's detailed chemical analysis above and below the confluence.



Infrared photo of gray crane taken at night at "Lake PaSEC"

Centre County Grant 12/18/2018

Harrisburg, PA - The Wolf Administration today announced the awarding a grant of \$1.6 million to the Centre County Conservation District to implement stream restoration and riparian buffers at four agricultural sites in Centre County.

Commonwealth News Bureau Room 308, Main Capitol Building Harrisburg PA., 17120

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) and the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)

Are to network with colleagues, learn how to strengthen your local organizations, and discover new and emerging resources at the 2019 PA Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations.

Date and Time: Sun, Feb 24, 2019, 11:00 AM – Mon, Feb 25, 2019, 4:00 PM EST.

Wyndham Garden Hotel, 310 Elks Club Road
Boalsburg, PA 16827

Registration is available for full conference as well as single-day attendance. Please note that regular registration deadline is February 14th!

<http://pecpa.org/connections2019>

Oakton pH and conductivity meters



Teams have been experiencing problems measuring pH using our Oakton meters. The manufacture has discontinued the models but will sell us replacement probes.

To prolong its use please:

- Inspect the probe, the glass bulb should be clean, the fluid level visible and the two electrodes free of debris
- Calibrate less than 24 hours before use.
- pH and conductivity calibrations are temperature dependent. The pH meters are compensated but the calibration setting you enter for conductivity should be set at the temperature value shown on the standard bottle label.
- Please remember to turn the unit OFF. We have set most of them for automatic turn off but please verify that it shut down to conserve battery life.
- Use the potassium chloride solution to prolong the life of the probe. See our supplies chairman for the solution.

The chemical in the probe will eventually be consumed and a new probe will be needed. Please immediately report any problems you have with the meter to our Supplies chairman.

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From the Editor: Concern for our future



As many of you are aware continued government support from Nature Abounds for our chemicals and equipment is likely to be reduced or even could be curtailed. Pennsylvania is blessed with abundant water. Some say we are second only to Alaska. While mining has seriously sullied many of our streams, Pennsylvania is tasked to help monitor and improve our watersheds that drain into the Chesapeake Bay.

CCPaSEC's volunteers work with PSU and LHU to help, by providing real month by month data on the health of many streams in the Spring Creek and Beech Creek watersheds. The Clear-Water Conservancy provisions our extensive website to make the information available to the public and used by student researchers.

It is my hope, as publicity chairperson, to expose the need and support for continued surveillance of our precious natural resource. As our previous Quality Control chairperson, I can attest to relevance of our data and seriousness of our volunteers in preserving the quality of our measurements. Both the Centre Daily Times and the Gazette published articles on our behalf this year.

Pennsylvania cannot afford to fund this level of examination. We need volunteers like CCPaSEC and our sister groups to carry on.

CCPaSEC Grant Applications

Gary Moorman submitted a "Dominion Energy Watershed Mini Grant" application in behalf of CCPaSEC. The grant application the organization must state a specific use for the money

requested and use that money within the required time-frame.

Membership

Help support teams of seniors who gather water quality data and macroinvertebrate populations that are published on our public WEB site.

Directions for contributions are on our website:

<http://www.ccpasec.org/index.php/donations>

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.

Just a gentile: Valentine's Day reminder

A romantic holiday celebrated each year on February 14. Observed by people in many countries; is a time to give cards, letters, flowers or presents to their spouse, friend or partner and February is National Chocolate Lovers Month.

On February 14, St. Valentine's Day is named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century, but has origins in the Roman holiday Lupercalia.

*"All you need is love. But a little **chocolate** now and then doesn't hurt." Charles Schultz*