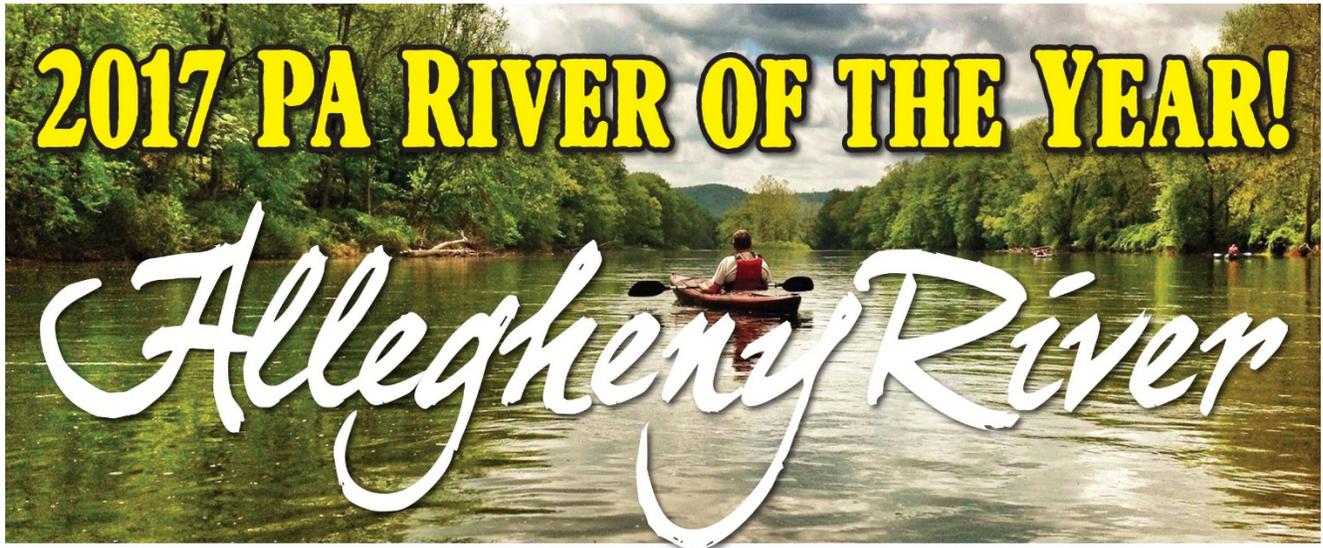


# Allegheny River

2017 Pennsylvania River of the Year Celebration

Final Report



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Produced By

Penn Soil Resource Conservation & Development Council

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In Cooperation with

PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers

And

With Great Appreciation to the numerous other partners, sponsors, and volunteers whose dedication and commitment made this River of the Year celebration possible.

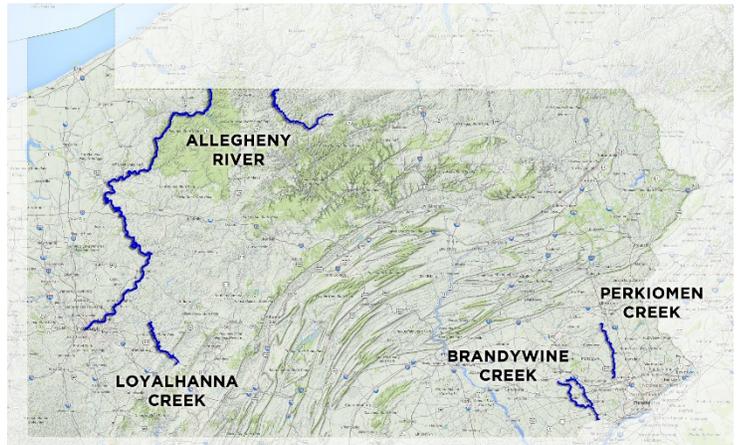
# Allegheny River

## 2017 PA River of the Year Final Report

### River of the Year Contest

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) have managed the River of the Year contest for the past 35 years. Approximately seven years ago they enhanced the contest by adding a public online voting process to give the public more participation in determining the River of the Year winner. In October of 2016, the Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council (Penn Soil RC&D) nominated the Allegheny River due to its unique biodiversity and the group's ongoing efforts to further improve the quality and use of the river. It was a great opportunity to get the name *Allegheny River* in the forefront of the public's mind locally and statewide.

The Allegheny River was one of four finalists nominated by DCNR/POWR. The general public was then invited to vote online, choosing from among the four waterways, which included the Allegheny River, Brandywine Creek, Loyalhanna Creek, and Perkiomen Creek to select the winner for the River of the Year designation. Statewide voting took place from November 14 through December 19, 2016. Penn Soil RC&D coordinated an active public outreach campaign on social media and traditional media outlets to bring attention to the River of the Year Contest and in particular the public benefits and the beauty of the Allegheny River. We posted photos and videos of the beauty of the River to help get our message out. Volunteers passed out campaign literature at large public events such as the Christmas parade and walk in Warren, PA and asked local businesses over a large area to help distribute voting slips which encouraged people to visit the [www.pariveroftheyear.org](http://www.pariveroftheyear.org) website to cast their ballot. Local pizza restaurants even taped the voting message slips on their outgoing takeout and delivery orders to customers during the contest.



It was an exciting voting contest and although we jumped out to an early lead in the voting, it was a close race with the Brandywine Creek about two to three weeks into the contest with our volunteers suddenly getting re-energized for a final push to get out the voters right up to the voting deadline. In the end, the Allegheny River was the top vote getter in the statewide contest getting 45% of the 16,700 votes cast online for the four finalists and was declared the 2017 PA River of the Year by POWR. We believe this to be the highest participation by the public in the online voting process up to that time. The Council members and volunteers worked very hard to get the word out, not only locally but also regionally. We believe that the small town and rural community spirit is what allowed us to successfully compete and win against the other watersheds, many of which were located in much more populated regions of Pennsylvania.



## Allegheny River and its Watershed

The Allegheny River rises from a spring in Potter County in north central Pennsylvania, 130 miles upstream of the Kinzua Dam, flowing west through Potter and McKean Counties, then northwest into New York before turning southwest and flowing back into Pennsylvania again on its 325 mile journey all the way down to Pittsburgh, PA, where it joins the Monongahela River at Point Park to form the Ohio River. Historically the Allegheny River was a main artery of transportation for Native Americans, early explorers, and settlers of the region and over time the river has had many names. The Iroquois and Shawnee Indians who lived along the river referred to it as the “O Hi Yo” and considered the Allegheny to be the upper part of the Ohio River. In Iroquois language, O Hi Yo means "beautiful river" (oh-, "river"; -io, "good, fine, beautiful"). French explorers in the 1700's called it “La Belle Riviere”-the beautiful river. When the Delaware, an Algonquian people, moved to western Pennsylvania in the 18th century and displaced the Iroquois, they translated Iroquoian Ohio into Delaware, yielding welhik-heny, "most beautiful stream" (welhik, "most beautiful"; heny, "stream"). The name Welhik-heny was then anglicized as Allegheny, as it is called today. No matter what language or name was used, everyone recognized the beauty and importance of this great river.



With a watershed area of 11,580 square miles, the Allegheny contributes 60 percent of the Ohio River flow at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Including its tributaries, the Allegheny River system contains one of the most diverse and populous freshwater mussel habitat in the world. Eighty-six miles of the Allegheny River from Kinzua Dam near Warren, PA downstream to Emlenton, PA are a federally designated National Wild and Scenic Recreation River and contains seven islands that are protected under America's National Wilderness Preservation System. The Allegheny River is over 315 miles long and every year, thousands of people paddle down this beautiful river.

## Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council

Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council is a 501-c-3 not for profit organization serving the residents of northwestern PA since 1964. We are registered with the Internal Revenue Service and the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations. We are also registered with Guidestar, the national clearinghouse for charitable organizations. You can look us up on their website at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) and view a copy of our most recent IRS Form 990. We have also been recognized as a member of the Circle of Diamonds by the National Association of RC&D Councils which recognizes RC&D Councils that proactively exhibit good stewardship and business practices and follow best management practices for non-profit organizations.

The mission of this organization is to provide the local leadership necessary to develop and implement a plan that will improve the economy, environmental and social well-being of the people through accelerated planning and development of the natural resources in the project area consisting of Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest,

Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties. We provide technical and/or financial assistance to community groups who would like to do community improvement projects, but who may not have sufficient legal structure to conduct business or enter into contracts to procure necessary resources, services, and manpower to complete a project. Our primary area of interest is in improving quality of life in four areas: Water Management, Agricultural Land Management, Forest Land Management, and Community Development.

Penn Soil RC&D has taken a very active role in working with community groups on facilitating community improvement projects associated with the Allegheny River over the last 15 years including engineering design and construction of many public facilities such as the Big Bend Bird Viewing Platform at Kinzua Dam, the Riverside Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Trail, upgrading the boat launch areas on the Allegheny River at Big Bend Recreation Area in Warren County and at Tionesta, PA. We have worked closely with community groups and public utilities to utilize the available water resources of our ponds, rivers, and streams to improve rural fire fighting capabilities through sponsoring a dry hydrant installation program. We worked to design and build an ADA accessible nature trail at Kinzua Dam and an ADA accessible fishing platform on the bank of the Allegheny River in Forest County. We have assisted with engineering and construction of segments of the Allegheny Valley Trail System, The Allegheny GeoTrail, The North Country Trail Connector, and are currently assisting with development of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail system, The Erie Bluffs Trail System, and the Two Mile Park ADA Trail in Venango County.

Penn Soil RC&D's strength is providing technical and financial assistance through partnering with community groups and other organizations who can share a common vision of stewardship improving our communities by utilizing our natural resources according to their capabilities while at the same time conserving our natural resources according to their needs. Penn Soil RC&D is also an active member of the Allegheny Watershed Improvement Needs (WINs) coalition of Non-Profit organizations, local, state, and federal government agencies working together for the betterment of the Allegheny River watershed. Our most recent accomplishment was to successfully nominate the Allegheny River as a finalist for the 2017 PA River of the Year Contest and to lead a social media campaign to win that contest with the largest vote total in the history of the contest. As part of the 2017 River of the Year Celebration, we collaborated on 24 public events to increase awareness of the value of clean water to our communities and residents of the watershed.

### **River of the Year Activities**

Since Penn Soil RC&D had previously been involved in support of the Conewango Creek Watershed Association effort which resulted in their successful nomination of the Conewango Creek as the 2015 PA River of the Year, we had a good idea of what was involved in carrying out not only the successful campaign for River of the Year, but also in managing the River of the Year Celebration. Since our organization serves an eight county region of northwest PA and we only have part time staff managing our projects, one of the challenges we faced was planning and carrying out the River of the Year Celebration for the Allegheny River which begins in Potter County and flows 325 miles to Pittsburgh, PA. Our strategy was to develop a River of the Year mini-grant program to offer up to \$500 to other qualified charitable organizations and/or units of government to host local events on their stretch of the Allegheny River to thank the voters who had supported the Allegheny in the River of the Year Contest voting. The response from other project partners was very good. Penn Soil RC&D received 12 mini grant applications and awarded funding to 11 event proposals which greatly added to the number of events we could accomplish given our limited staffing. With the support of the great partnership we developed, we were able to host or co-host a total of 24 separate days or events focused on the Allegheny River. These events attracted 1560 participants which either were educated about water quality and other benefits of the River to the community, or helped clean up the river by donating their time to plant riparian buffer trees and remove a total of 449 abandoned tires, 105 cubic yards of trash, and 5,350 pounds of recyclable metal and steel to improve water quality, public safety, and the overall health of the river.

Date	Event	River of the Year Celebration Events					Cu Yds Trash	Pounds Recyclable Metals	Cash & donated services*
		Participants Educated	ROY Display	ROY Banners	Volunteer Hours	Tires Removed			
2/4/17	Eagle Watch	200	Yes	Yes	20				
4/7/17	Creek Connections Symposia	352	Yes	Yes	30				
4/18/17	Warren CD meeting/program	28	Yes	Yes	2				
5/13/17	Allegheny Reservoir Cleanup	92	Yes	Yes	736	352	55	\$2500.00	
5/21/17	Kayak Safety Training Course	8	Yes	Yes	118			\$120.37	
6/1/17	CGT Greenways Awards Program	26	Yes	Yes	8			\$932.51	
6/17/17	River Flowing North Event	50	Yes	Yes	92			\$662.00	
6/17/17	East Brady River Mural Project	150	Yes	Yes	110			\$14,041.92	
6/22/17	Allegheny Sojourn	25	Yes	Yes	32				
6/23/17	Allegheny Sojourn	20	Yes	Yes	20				
6/24/17	Allegheny Sojourn	35	Yes	Yes	64				
7/8/17	Anything That Floats Race	100	Yes	Yes	35				
7/26/17	Upper Allegheny WS Assoc Cleanup	20	Yes	Yes	54	2	5		
8/26/17	AVC River Cleanup	15	Yes	Yes	188	1	10	\$616.43	
9/16/17	Allegheny Cleanup 5 days Warren & Forest	317	Yes	Yes	1268	94	35	5350	\$5,000.00
9/23/17	Art on the Allegheny River	57	Yes	Yes	117			\$2,847.46	
9/27/17	Tri Anglers Celebration	37	Yes	Yes	12			\$749.21	
11/3/17	3RQ Stakeholders	28	Yes	Yes	140			\$140.00	
Totals		1560			3046	449	105	5350	\$27,609.90

\*Cash & donated services amounts in right hand column are figures reported by the individual event hosts provided by local event sponsors and partners as match to River of the Year grant funds. These funds are over and above the value of volunteer time donated by participants in the events which is calculated separately.

A total of 3046 hours of volunteer time was reported for all River of the Year Celebration events. For the purposes of the River of the Year Grants, volunteer time is valued at \$21.25 per hour generating \$64,727.50 of In-Kind Match to the River of the Year Leadership Grant. Combining the value of volunteer time and cash & donated services by other event partners, the \$10,000 DCNR 2017 PA River of the Year Leadership grant generated a total of \$92,337.40 in Cash & In-Kind match to help bring awareness and stewardship of the Allegheny River to western Pennsylvania. See included River of the Year Grant financial report for complete details.

## Event Overview

### Eagle Watch Event

The Big Bend Recreation Area of Kinzua dam is a great place to spot our national symbol-the Bald Eagle. Particularly in winter time when most lakes and streams in the Northeastern U.S. freeze over, the outflow below the Kinzua Dam is always open water and the Eagle population increases dramatically as Eagles frequently fish the open waters. The first official 2017 River of the Year Celebration event was held here on Saturday February 4, 2017 to bring folks out to see bald eagles and learn more about the River of the Year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Staff at Kinzua Dam, Kinzua Cachers, members of the Allegheny Outdoor Club, and the PA Game Commission were our primary partners in this great family event which attracted 200 participants



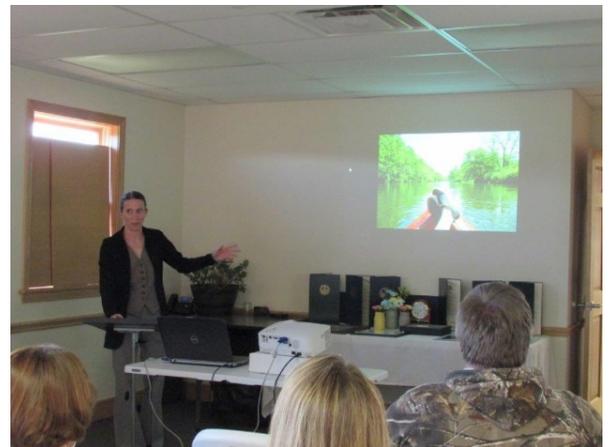
### Allegheny College Creek Connections Symposium

Penn Soil RC&D Executive Director Wes Ramsey was invited to be the featured speaker on the Allegheny River winning the 2017 PA River of the Year designation and provide a display about the River of the Year Celebration for the 352 students participating in the Student Research Symposium. The Symposium took place from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Allegheny College Henderson Campus Center on Highland Avenue in Meadville, PA. Our primary partner in this event was the Creek Connections Program of Allegheny College which has forged an effective partnership between Allegheny College and regional K-12 schools to turn waterways in Northwest Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh area, and beyond into outdoor environmental laboratories. Emphasizing a hands-on, inquiry based investigation of local waterways, this project annually involves over 40 different secondary schools and the classes of 50 teachers.



### Warren Conservation District Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Warren Co. Conservation District was held on Tuesday April 18, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the District Office located at 4000 Conewango Avenue in Warren, PA. The Conservation District annually presents awards honoring their award winners including Farmer of the Year, Educator of the Year, and Forest Landowner of the Year. It only made sense to honor the River of the Year at the same time with the educational display and the featured speaker was Piper VanOrd of Allegheny Outfitters who presented *A Brief History of the Allegheny River in Warren County*.



## **Allegheny Reservoir Cleanup**

The Allegheny National Forest and other partners organized the popular shoreline clean-up of the Allegheny Reservoir on Saturday, May 13th, 2017. Ninety-two volunteers donated 736 hours of their time to clean up the shoreline of this popular recreation destination and had a day of fun while cleaning up the reservoir and protecting the environment. The energetic volunteer crew was divided into numerous teams that were ferried by boats to different parts of the shoreline and managed to collect and retrieve 55 cubic yards of trash and remove 352 tires from the reservoir to improve water quality and public safety. There was a Thank You cook-out at the marina at the end of the day. Hot dogs, chips and pop were provided to the hungry volunteers by Wal-Mart.



## **Kayak Safety Instruction Event**

Penn Soil RC&D awarded a mini grant to the Conewango Creek Watershed Association to conduct a Kayak Safety Training Course with an American Canoe Association Certified Safety Instructor. The purpose of the course was to enable CCWA to provide enough trained safety personnel on the water for the Allegheny River of the Year Wilderness Sojourn as well as the annual Conewango Creek and Allegheny River Cleanup events. The training was conducted on May 21, 2017 by Allegheny Outfitters certified instructors in the swimming pool at the Warren WMCA. Eight volunteers participated in the 6 hour training course and agreed to provide additional volunteer time at ROY Celebration and other paddling events. The Flatwater Kayak Safety workshop introduced essential flatwater safety practices and rescue techniques that can be performed with a minimum of equipment, in the first few minutes of an emergency.



## **Council on Greenways & Trails Award Program**

The Council on Greenways and Trails (CGT) focused their annual Greenways Awards Celebration and Program entirely in honor of the Allegheny River being designated as the 2017 PA River of the Year. This meant that all award nominations were limited to those outstanding projects, persons, or organizations with project results along the Allegheny River in Clarion or Venango Counties. The CGT Awards program was held on the bank of the Allegheny on June 1, 2017 at the Franklin Trailhead. The guest speaker was Carolee Michener, local historian who presented a program entitled "*How the Allegheny River Shaped Human History.*" Award recipients received recognition at the ceremony and a new Serviceberry tree was planted in their honor at a location they selected along the Allegheny River to help beautify the riverbank. Trevin Chittester, a local Eagle Scout received an award for a project to improve access to the Allegheny River for kayakers.



## **River Flowing North Event**

This event celebrated the Allegheny River at its northern most reach in Pennsylvania! The Event was held Saturday, June 17th at the Clark Johnson property on Artline Road, near Eldred, PA. Family friendly events included River Ratings-water quality & river life; Lowland Forestry-learning about riverside tree & shrub species; Fly Fishing & Casting; and a Riparian Tree Planting for River Health. A canoe/kayak paddle and river cleanup was also held starting at the Eldred VFW at the intersection of West Eldred Rd. and Prentisvale Rd. Events both locations started at 9:30 am. Event partners included the Otto-Eldred School District, Trout Unlimited, Western PA

Conservancy, and McKean County Conservation District. Funding sources included Penn Soil RC & D 'River of the Year' Mini-Grant Program, and PA Association of Conservation Districts. See more photos in appendix.



## **East Brady Allegheny River Mural Dedication**

The event to dedicate the Playground of the Allegheny mural was held on June 17, 2017 and was attended by 150 people. The Trail Town Initiative Committee under the East Brady Area Development Corporation conducted a town assessment in January of 2016. Sprucing up the downtown area was one of the goals identified by many who participated in the assessment. With the schools and industries long gone the committee wanted to showcase what East Brady truly has to offer. The old town slogan of "Playground of the Allegheny" was resurrected as the theme of the mural. The mural showcases four seasons of outdoor recreation including motor boating, kayaking, wake boarding, water skiing, fishing, snow skiing, hunting and bicycling. The famous bend in the river is clearly illustrated and wildlife such as bald eagles, bear and deer are woven into the design. Combining the unveiling and dedication of this mural with the River of the Year designation reinforces the value of the Allegheny River to the community.



## **Allegheny Wilderness Sojourn**

Eighty-seven miles of the middle Allegheny River are designated as a federal Wild & Scenic River. This section of river also includes the Allegheny Islands Wilderness Area comprised of seven islands totaling 368 acres. This event was planned to cover a total of 26 river miles over a three day period. The first two days provided an opportunity to paddle 19 miles of the Allegheny through the Wilderness Islands learning about history, wildlife, and nature and offered a chance to experience primitive wilderness camping on an island in the river. For those not inclined to spend a night in the wilderness, a hotel option with shuttle transportation was also available. Day three of the Sojourn covered 7 miles of the Allegheny River from Kinzua Dam to Warren, PA and included a bonus optional inside tour of the Kinzua Dam. The entire trip included educational presentations all along the route spaced out to allow rest periods. Heavy



rainfall on day 2 limited the paddling, but we took all the educational presentations indoors to carry out the educational focus of the sojourn. A total of 80 people attended the three days of educational programming.

### **Emlenton Anything That Floats Race**

The event was held on July 8, 2017 to bring more attention to the Allegheny River during the Emlenton Summer Festival with fun, recreation and creativity. The festival organizers hoped to revitalize this river event which has not been able to occur in recent years and wanted to strive to expand it from a local event to one that might bring in more tourism for the community and local businesses with more focus on the Allegheny River. The organizers were very conscious that summer tourism can affect the natural state of our river in a negative way. A crowd of people wished the participants well as they launched their home made crafts for the five mile race downstream to the Emlenton Community Boat Launch. High water limited the race contestants to four actual homemade crafts launched and about 35 people who watched the races start, but three of the four crafts made it safely to the finish line, and Penn Soil RC&D manned a river of the year educational display and passed out River of the Year brochures and posters to about 100 people attending the festival near the finish line.



### **Upper Allegheny Watershed Association Cleanup**

The Upper Allegheny Watershed Association held a river cleanup on the Allegheny River from Burtville to Port Allegany, PA to promote appreciation for the Allegheny River in Potter and McKean Counties. The cleanup covered a distance of about 5.6 miles. Twenty members and volunteers participated and collected more than 5 cubic yards of trash and two tires during the event. Event insurance was provided by Pennsylvania Cleanways. Other partners for the event included McKean County Conservation District, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Liberty Township, and Potter County Conservation District. The volunteers had a hot dog roast after the cleanup event.



### **Allegheny Valley Conservancy River Cleanup**

The Allegheny Valley Conservancy (AVC) held a river clean-up from the Oil City Marina to Franklin, six miles downstream. Twenty participants either walked or biked the trail alongside the river or they floated the river and collected 10 cubic yards of trash along the way. The event took place on August 26, 2018 and 20 volunteers donated 188 hours of time. Other partners providing assistance were Venango County Recycling Office, Walmart of Cranberry, Amazing Foods Catering and Café in Franklin, and Landscaping Connections, LLC.



## Allegheny River Cleanup in Warren & Forest County

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Allegheny River Cleanup Event was held over a ten day period beginning on Thursday September 7, 2017 and ending on Saturday September 16, 2017. In total, there were six separate cleanup events which included 3 separate days cleaning several stretches of the Allegheny River in Warren and Forest Counties, as well as three other days on two of the major tributaries to the Allegheny-Conewango Creek and Brokenstraw Creek. A total of 317 volunteers donated 1268 hours of their time to retrieve 94 tires, 5350 lbs. of recyclable metal, and 35 cubic yards of trash from the Allegheny River and the two tributaries. Partners included Allegheny Outfitters, U.S. Forest Service, Conewango Creek Watershed Association, and 317 volunteers.



## Art on the Allegheny Event

The primary focus of the Allegheny River is often outdoor recreation such as canoeing, kayaking, or fishing. The Forest Area Arts Council wanted to host an event to encourage people to focus on the aesthetics of this beautiful community asset. Art on the Allegheny offered a chance for the public to witness artists creating river themed art in real time on the banks of the Allegheny while demonstrating *plein air painting*. For folks who are physically unable to participate in boating and fishing, the event provided a wonderful opportunity to make a personal connection with the River of the Year through their appreciation of beautiful artwork and a day of relaxation by the river listening to live musical performances. The event was held on September 23, 2017 and a total of 57 people stopped by our River of the Year Display to learn more about the Allegheny.



## Tri-Anglers Celebration

The Pittsburgh based non-profit organization-Venture Outdoors believes everyone deserves the chance to experience how incredibly fun the outdoors can be, so the organization provides the gear, guidance, and inspiration to make outdoor recreation part of people's lives. Fishing has been the single outdoor activity that seems to appeal to all age and cultural backgrounds more than any other outdoor activity. Venture Outdoors sponsors a free weekly lunch time fishing program for seasoned anglers and beginners. The TriAnglers End of Season Celebration provided an opportunity to thank participants, reward big catches, and celebrate the designation of the Allegheny as 2017 PA River of the Year. The event was held along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail next to the Roberto Clemente Bridge along the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh on September 27, 2017. Thirty-seven people participated in the River of the year Celebration which featured fishing lessons, live music, awards, and distribution of River of the Year posters and brochures.



## **Three Rivers Quest Stakeholders Meeting**

Three Rivers Quest (3RQ), a stream monitoring consortium in which both the Upper Allegheny Watershed Association and the God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited participate, held a stakeholders meeting at the Kinzua Bridge State Park Visitors Center on Friday, November 3rd from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. 3RQ has been monitoring the upper Allegheny River and its tributaries since 2013 and provided an educational program outlining their water quality monitoring program and sharing some of the findings. In addition, the final River of the Year Celebration Event provided an opportunity to hear observations and concerns about water quality in the basin from those in attendance. The event also provided a good networking opportunity among the various stakeholder groups and organizations in the Allegheny River watershed.



## **Public Awareness of the River of the Year Celebration**

Throughout the nomination, voting, and selection process of the 2017 River of the Year, there was extensive publicity throughout northwestern Pennsylvania, generating much interest in the Allegheny River and its watershed. Through a series of press releases, radio interviews, and social media posts on Facebook conducted by Penn Soil RC&D and our other event partners, plenty of coverage of the River of the Year Celebration was made available to the public. Penn Soil RC&D also built a special page on its website <http://www.pennsoil.org/events> to keep the public up to date about scheduled River of the Year Celebration events. Penn Soil RC&D created two sets of River of the Year Celebration Banners which were displayed at all the public events. We also created a River of the Year educational display which was used at many events and was displayed continuously at the Hatch Run Conservation Center when not being used at an event. We also created River of the Year window clings and stickers for boats to create awareness of the River of the Year designation for the Allegheny River. See a small sample of River of the Year publicity in the appendix.

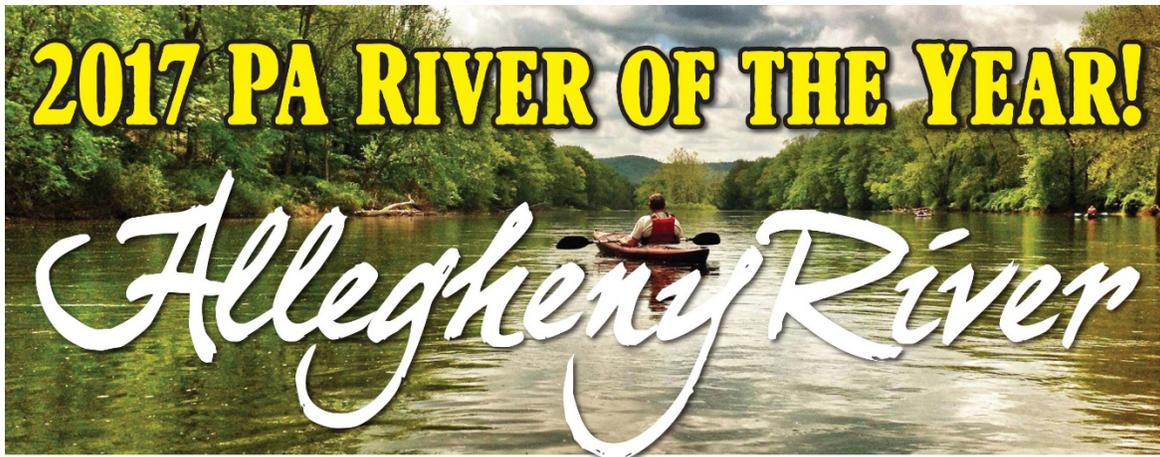
## **Financial Report**

The River of the Year Celebration had 41 sponsors bringing in \$ 5200 in cash donations and an additional cash and in-kind donations worth \$20,489.16 provided by other partners. We have also documented 3046 hours of volunteer time valued at \$21.25 per hour totaling \$64,727.50 of additional in-kind match. The original \$10,000 DCNR Leadership Grant to Penn Soil RC&D Council resulted in a River of the Year Celebration valued at more than one hundred thousand dollars generating better than a 9:1 match of cash & In-kind donations to the original grant funds. See the included financial report for more details.

## 2017 PA River of the Year Platinum Sponsors

Allegheny Outfitters  
Inscale Architects  
Pennsylvania Wilds Center  
Venango County Conservation District

Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance  
Oil Region Alliance  
Redhorse Environmental, LLC  
Warren County Visitors Bureau



Penn Soil RC&D Council gratefully acknowledges the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers for their financial support in carrying out the 2017 River of the Year Celebration on the Allegheny River.

## **River of the Year Celebration Donor List**

**Allegheny Outfitters**  
**Allegheny River Cleanup Committee**  
**Allegheny Site Management**  
**Allegheny Valley Conservancy**  
**American Rivers**  
**Brokenstraw Creek Watershed Council**  
**Central Electric Cooperative**  
**Conewango Creek Watershed Association**  
**Council on Greenways and Trails**  
**Culligan Water Systems**  
**East Brady Area Development Corporation**  
**Ed Shults of Warren**  
**Eldred Borough**  
**Emlenton Summer Festival**  
**Forest County Conservation District & Planning Board**  
**Friends of Allegheny Wilderness**  
**Huber Blacktop**  
**Inscale Architects**  
**McKean County Conservation District**  
**Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, & Tourism**  
**Penn Soil Resource Conservation & Development Council**  
**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources**  
**Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers**  
**Pennsylvania Wilds Center**  
**Redhorse Environmental, LLC**  
**Seneca Nation of Indians Fish & Wildlife Department**  
**Targeted Pet Treats**  
**Tom Erlandson**  
**Tom Ridge Environmental Center**  
**The Main Landing Restaurant**  
**Upper Allegheny Watershed Association**  
**United Refining Corporation**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Staff at Kinzua Dam**  
**U.S. Forest Service**  
**Venango County Conservation District**  
**Warren County Chamber of Business & Industry (WCCBI)**  
**Warren County Visitors Bureau**  
**Warren County Conservation District**  
**Watson Township Supervisors**  
**Western Pennsylvania Conservancy**  
**Whirley Industries, Inc.**

# 2017 PA River of the Year Report

## APPENDIX

2017 River of the Year Celebration on the Allegheny River by Penn Soil RC&D Council

Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers

2017 Sojourn Report

Final Financial Report (Round to \$100)		
A. REVENUE	Budget	Actual
GRANTS (DCNR & other)	\$10,000	\$10,000
REGISTRATION FEES	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,300
BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,800
BOAT RENTALS		\$0
OTHER <u>Donations by individuals</u>		\$ 400
	\$12,000	\$17,500
<b>B. EXPENSES</b>		
PERSONNEL		
Staff salaries	\$2,000	\$4,900
Contracted labor (e.g., Sojourn coordinator)	\$3,000	\$1,800
EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES		
Promotional Items (t-shirts, etc.)*	\$1,000	\$ 800
Banners and Signage	\$1,000	\$2,400
Postage & Supplies	\$ 250	\$1,000
Printing	\$ 250	\$ 400
CONTRACTUAL EXPENSES		
Facility Rental & Boat Rental	\$ 900	\$2,100
Advertising	\$1,000	\$ 300
Food*	\$ 500	\$ 200
Transportation	\$1,000	\$ 500
Educational speaker stipends	\$ 600	\$ 400
OTHER EXPENSES (Please list)		\$1,100
Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 500	\$ 600
Insurance Cost	\$ 500	
		\$16,500
	Total Expenses \$12,000	\$
	Net Revenue	\$1,000 \$
<b>C. NON-CASH MATCH</b>		
VOLUNTEER LABOR (safety, educational, instructors, guides, organizers, etc.)		
3046 hours x \$21.25	\$21.25	\$ 64,727.50
PRODUCT OR SERVICE DONATIONS		\$ 20,489.16
	TOTAL I	\$ 85,216.66

\* Food and promotional expenses are not covered by DCNR and must be paid for using matching funds.

11-12-16 Times Observer

# River Voting

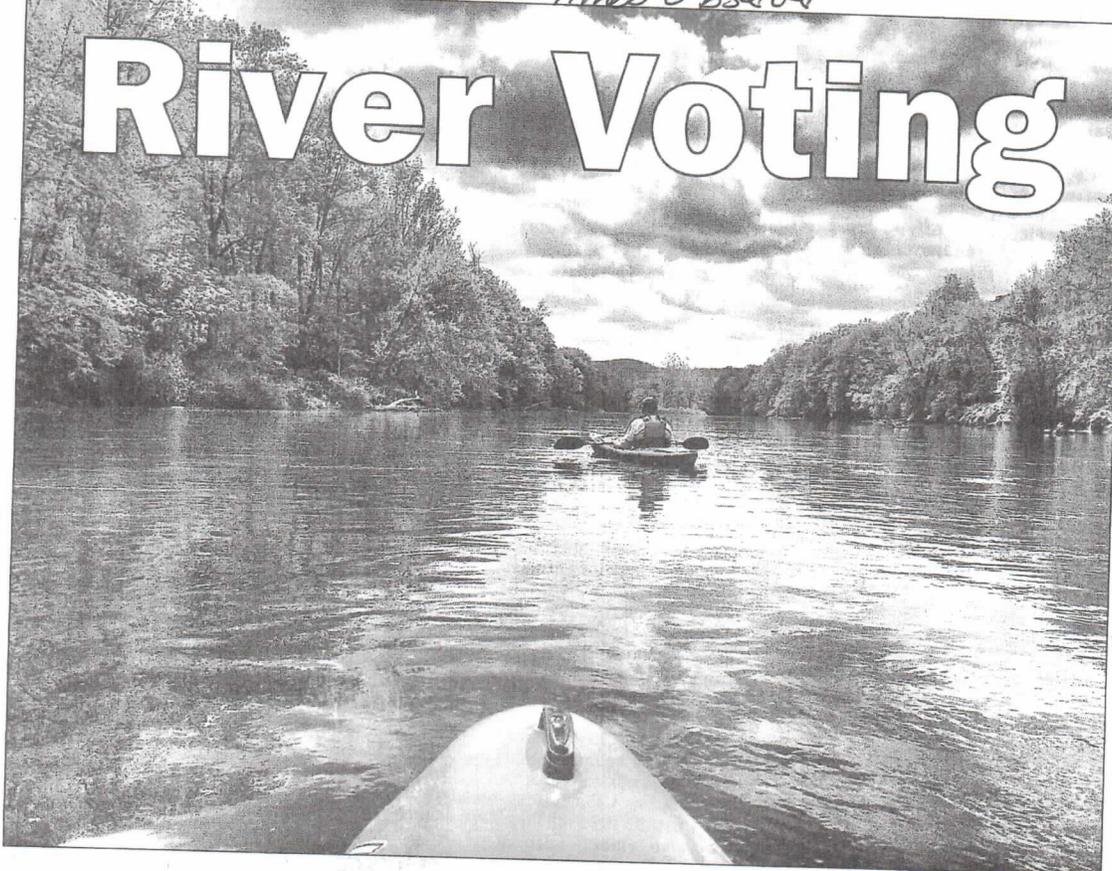


Photo submitted to Times Observer

## Stretch of Allegheny River selected as finalist for 2017 River of Year

By BRIAN FERRY

[bferry@timesobserver.com](mailto:bferry@timesobserver.com)

The Allegheny River has been named a finalist for Pennsylvania's 2017 River of the Year.

Voting opens Monday, Nov. 14, at [www.pariveroftheyear.org](http://www.pariveroftheyear.org).

The Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council nominated the stretch of the river from its headwaters near Coudersport to the confluence with the Clarion River in Clarion County.

"We nominated it because it's a great asset for tourism and recreational opportunities throughout the region," Penn Soil RC&D Executive Director Wes Ramsey said on Friday.

Penn Soil covers an eight-county area, with six of those being part of the Allegheny watershed. The river itself runs through four of the Penn Soil counties.

Starting at the Kinzua Dam tailwaters, 86 miles of the river has been classified as national wild and scenic recreation river,

Ramsey said.

Being named River of the Year would bring attention and dollars to the waterway. "It would mean we try to engage the public in taking a more active role in" using and protecting the Allegheny, Ramsey said.

The winning nominating agency receives a \$10,000 leadership grant to celebrate its river. Ramsey said Penn Soil would put on multiple family-oriented

See RIVER / A8

### River of Year voting...

events.

Celebration plans are taken into account by Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in determining the finalists.

The other finalists this year are the Loyalhanna (southwestern Pennsylvania), and Brandywine and Perkiomen creeks (both in southeastern Pennsylvania).

"These nominated rivers and streams showcase so many unique natural resources, recreational opportunities and incentives boosting

local economies," DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "They also show just how blessed this state is with its wealth of major rivers and streams, and committed folks willing to support them."

The Allegheny is the second of Warren County's waterways to make the final cut in the last three years. Conewango Creek won the voting and was named 2015 River of the Year.

Those looking to vote may visit [www.pariveroftheyear.org](http://www.pariveroftheyear.org). One vote will be accepted per unique email address. Voting closes at 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19.

Warren Times  
Nov. 12-2016

# Allegheny in lead for River of the Year, votes still needed

By BRIAN FERRY

[bferry@timesobserver.com](mailto:bferry@timesobserver.com)

The Allegheny River is in the lead, but the gap is narrowing and those backing its run for Pennsylvania River of the Year are looking for support.

"We really need to keep getting the message out to vote for the Allegheny River this week to maintain our lead in order to win the contest," Penn Soil RC&D Council Executive Director Wes Ramsey said. "Our lead is shrinking day by day and our competition is coming on strong, trying to overtake us before the deadline next Monday at 5 p.m."

Penn Soil nominated the Allegheny for the contest

and the river was named a finalist by the event sponsors Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR).

Voting began in November, and the Allegheny has been in the lead since the beginning.

The standings as of Monday evening were:

- Allegheny River, 39.6 percent;
  - Brandywine Creek, 31.2 percent;
  - Loyahanna Creek, 16.4 percent; and
  - Perkiomen Creek, 12.8 percent.
- Anyone with a valid

email address may vote at [www.parriveroftheyear.org](http://www.parriveroftheyear.org).

The organization that nominates the winning river receives a \$10,000 DCNR grant to help celebrate as River of the Year with educational and recreational events.

"We sincerely appreciate those who have gone online and voted for the Allegheny, but we would like to ask each of our supporters to check with their families and friends to see if they have voted yet, and to encourage them to vote for the Allegheny River," Ramsey said. "Every vote counts. The River of the Year designation will be important to our entire region."



A May sunset colors the sky over the Allegheny River. The river is one of four finalists for Pennsylvania River of the Year 2017.

Photo submitted to Times Observer

# River of Year

## Allegheny River gets the official nod on Monday

By BRIAN FERRY

[bferry@timesobserver.com](mailto:bferry@timesobserver.com)

It's time to celebrate the Allegheny.

As a result of online voting through the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR), the Allegheny River is Pennsylvania's River of the Year 2017.

Executive Director Wes Ramsey of Penn Soil RC&D Council, the organization that submitted the application for the river, received the good news Monday morning.

"It's definitely great news for the whole region," Ramsey said. "It'll put a lot more people on the water and bring it to people's attention. It's a chance for us to stress public education on water quality issues to benefit the resource in the long run."

The other finalists were the Brandywine, Loyalhanna and Perkiomen creeks.

"It's great that there's so much support out there for the Allegheny — a lot of people loving the things that it does for them," Ramsey said. "It's great to see that support."

"It was a tight race right at the end and it could have gone either way," he said. "It's a good feeling to know that it all paid off."

"Win or lose, it was going to be a great opportunity to create public awareness of the value of our waterways and engage the public to support the importance of the Allegheny River as a huge asset to our region," he said. "Every year, thousands of people paddle down this beautiful river."

"Pennsylvania is blessed with several large, iconic rivers and the Allegheny's attributes are many, diverse and known so well to the thousands who fish and paddle its rebounding water and hike, bike and camp along its banks," Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "So rich in scenic beauty and historical significance, the Allegheny River is deservedly one of western Pennsylvania's natural treasures."

DCNR awards a \$10,000 leadership grant to help fund the River of the Year celebration and requires that there be a number of activities held throughout the year.

It means some work for Ramsey and others.

"We have to get ready, roll up our sleeves, and plan a year-long celebration of the river," he said.

See RIVER / A-8

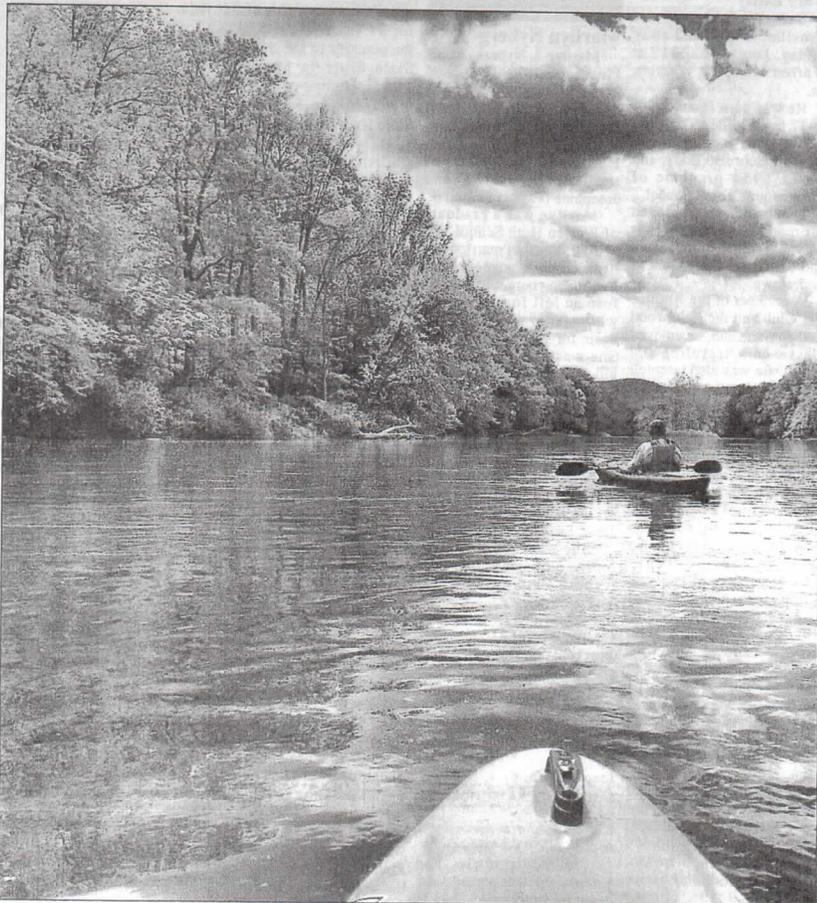


Photo submitted to Times Observer

This photo of the Allegheny River was used in promotional materials sent to the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers. The Allegheny was named Pennsylvania River of the Year on Monday.

## River of Year...

Penn Soil is going to share the excitement. "The vision we had going into this was it wouldn't be Penn Soil doing all the work on this," Ramsey said. "There's a lot of interest."

The winning portion of the Allegheny is not restricted to one county.

"The way we approached it, we included the Upper and Middle Allegheny River, from the source up in Potter County to the confluence with the Clarion River," Ramsey said.

He expects to find eager partners in the conservation districts in Potter, McKean, Warren, Forest, Venango, and Clarion counties as well as other groups, like Trout Unlimited Chapters.

"There are a lot of groups that have already been working on the river," Ramsey said. He mentioned the Allegheny River and Reservoir clean-ups and Allegheny WINS.

And there may be more. "If there is somebody out there that hasn't already let me know that they're interested in doing some kind of event or project on the river, they're welcome to reach out to me," Ramsey said.

There are some local resources familiar with the River of the Year process. The Conewango Creek was the 2015 Pennsylvania River of the Year.

Warren Times Observer  
January 10, 2017

# Penn Soil RC&D Council to co-sponsor 2017 PA River of the Year mini grants and celebration

By BRIAN FERRY

bfferry@timesobserver.com

The organization behind the 2017 River of the Year is kicking off events and grants.

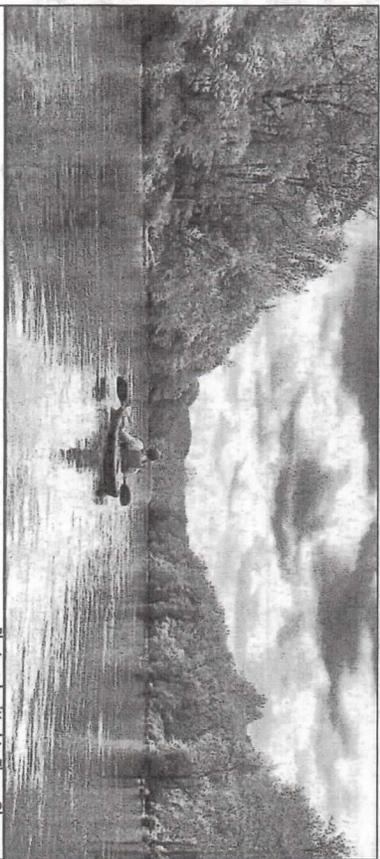
Penn Soil RC&D Executive Director Was Ramsey said there are already six events in the works and could be as many as 20 throughout the year to celebrate the Allegheny River and raise awareness.

Penn Soil is the agency that nominated the Allegheny

agency working on celebrating.

"Every year, thousands of people paddle down this beautiful river," Ramsey said. "Winning this designation helps us focus more attention on its history; the value of clean water; its biological diversity; the recreational opportunities it provides; and the economic value of the Allegheny River to our region."

"Through public educational and recreational



This photo was submitted to Times Observer as a nomination for the 2017 River of the Year.

## River...

events and projects in the coming year, we hope to increase public awareness and participation in activities which will lead to increased stewardship of our natural resources," he said.

Penn Soil will receive a \$10,000 leadership grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania

Organization of Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) to support events this year.

"The River of the Year Grant we are receiving requires us to provide a local cash match to those funds and there are limitations on what the grant funds can be used for," Ramsey said. "So we are also searching for additional partners who would be interested in co-sponsor-

ing the River of the Year Celebration. We invite you to consider becoming a River of the Year Celebration Sponsor by reviewing the sponsorship materials displayed on our website at [www.pennsoil.org](http://www.pennsoil.org)"

"As part of the River of the Year Celebration, Penn Soil RC&D will accept applications for mini-grants of up to \$500 each from quali-

fied applicants to co-sponsor River of the Year activities, events or educational programming associated with the Allegheny River that meet the criteria specified in the grant application," he said.

"DCNR and POWR will work with the Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council to create a free, commemora-

tive poster celebrating the Allegheny River," Ramsey said. "Penn Soil RC&D will also coordinate with many partner organizations to manage the 2017 River of the Year celebration over a large geographic area to hold educational and recreational events connecting residents and visitors alike to the value of clean water and the resources provided

by a high quality stream such as the Allegheny River."

"At the present time, we are aware of at least six events that are already being planned and we anticipate that the number of events could possibly grow to more than 20 events that will occur throughout this calendar year starting in April," he said.

# 352 tires pulled from Allegheny Reservoir

By STACEY GROSS

[sgross@timesobserver.com](mailto:sgross@timesobserver.com)

The thirteenth Allegheny Reservoir cleanup was a success.

A total of 55 cubic yards of trash and 352 tires were removed from the reservoir this year, said Wes Ramsey of Penn Soil RC&D. "It was a great event," Ramsey said, adding that it was even more successful than last year's cleanup, which gathered over 30 cubic feet of trash and 82 tires.

According to Nate Welker, Fisheries Biologist at the U.S. Forest Service, the cleanup planners "were able to focus on a couple of really bad hotspots," before the cleanup started, making it easier to concentrate on the areas most affected by debris.

In the last four years, the reservoir cleanup has migrated north, with ferries taking volunteers to designated areas of shoreline identified during pre-cleanup. Boats carrying volunteers left from Onoville Marina to as far north as Highbanks and as far south as Willow Bay, returning to Onoville throughout the eight hour event with load after load of debris.

According to Ramsey, three or four television sets were recovered, along with numerous lawn chairs and barrels. "It's kind of amazing to see some of the stuff that comes out of there," Ramsey said. The debris was found along the shoreline, deposited there after the water rose, washing contents up onto rocky and wooded banks before receding to leave it there.

Much of the litter in the reservoir, according to Welker, isn't necessarily intentionally dumped into the water, but the re-

sult of people throwing trash out of car windows or not disposing of it properly while camping. But those recreating on the reservoir are making a difference too, Welker said, adding that boaters have been making positive impact with their efforts to clean up whatever trash they find while enjoying the reservoir.

"From our perspective," said Ramsey, speaking for Penn Soil RC&D, the non-profit agency that nominated the Allegheny River for 2017 Pennsylvania River of the Year, "it was a great start for the Allegheny River of the Year celebration, and we have many more events planned." Ramsey said that the organization has received dozens of mini-grant applications for river-related events from Warren to Pittsburgh, and will be approving more grant applications at its meeting on Wednesday.

Anyone interested in events that celebrate the river of the year can continue checking the organization's website at [pennsoil.org](http://pennsoil.org) to find out what's being planned. "The calendar will be filling up," Ramsey said.

In total, 92 volunteers showed up for Saturday's cleanup. According to Welker, "we try to cap it around there," as more than 100 volunteers can become difficult to manage and transport. Welker said around three to four floating docks were collected over the course of the cleanup, with around 20 or so barrels gathered per dock. Welker said that planning for the Allegheny River cleanup will begin in June. "We've had good feedback" about the reservoir cleanup, Welker said. "I'm pretty happy."



A total of 352 tires and 50 cubic yards of trash were collected at Saturday's Reservoir cleanup. Photo submitted to Times Observer

5-30-17 Times Observer

# Allegheny Sojourn registration set

By **STACEY GROSS**

[sgross@timesobserver.com](mailto:sgross@timesobserver.com)

Registration for the Allegheny River Wilderness Sojourn is now open.

The sojourn is a part of the 2017 River of the Year celebration. There will be three days of paddling from June 22-24. A two-day drip will run Thursday and Friday, June 22-23, with the option of a primitive camping experience on Thursday night. The third day is a stand-alone, one-day paddle on Saturday, June 24. Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council is offering two different trips with different options to appeal to as many people as possible.

The base cost to participate in the two-day trip is \$30, which buys registration, sojourn souvenir, water, snacks, educational presentations, a goodie bag, and a picnic supper on Saturday, June 24. The fee does not cover lodging, boat

rentals, shuttles, or meals other than snacks and the Saturday picnic. Optional canoe or kayak rentals, as well as options to rent the primitive camping equipment and catered camping meal package, and shuttle service for personal boats, are available. Packages can be customized to suit needs. A motel option will also be available for those who wish to say in a motel Thursday night instead.

Day one will start with paddling from Buckaloons Campground launch and end at "no-name island" near the Tanbark Trail Head. Day two will begin at the island and end at the Tidioute boat launch. Total paddling miles is approximately 20, and the water is flat/class one rapids.

"The character of this paddle," according to a press release from Penn Soil, "will be quieter, less

See **SOJOURN / A-2**

## Sojourn registration...

rushed, and more relaxing. The camping equipment package will supply you with everything you need for primitive camping except the sleeping bag and pillow. The nicest part is that the equipment will be transported, set up, and torn down by staff of Allegheny Outfitters." Another option, available only to campers, is the meal plan. Allegheny Outfitters staff will provide lunch and supper on day one and breakfast and lunch on day two. Meals will use locally available meats and vegetables where possible.

The one day trip, according to the release, "will probably be a little more exciting. Saturday is a busy

day on the Allegheny River as far as paddles go. The base fee to participate is \$25. This gives you registration, sojourn souvenir, water, snacks, educational presentations, and a picnic supper on Saturday, June 24, and a goodie bag." Participants of the one day trip are asked to bring their own water, water bottle, and lunch. This trip starts at the Big Bend area just below Kinzua Dam, nine miles east of Warren. It will end at Allegheny Outfitters Livery just east of Warren. Shuttles will then return everyone to the Big Bend Recreation Area for the picnic supper.

The Saturday, June 24 picnic supper will start at 4

p.m. and is provided to participants of both sojourns. Also at this time, a tour of the Kinzua Dam just for sojourn registrants will be provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Two time slots are available, 4 or 5 p.m. and the time slot will be assigned by Penn Soil.

A limit of 25 people per tour - a total of 50 - is observed and security regulations require a background check the week before for all wishing to attend the Kinzua Dam tour.

Each person wishing to reserve a spot needs to fill out the tour registration form with complete information.

The form is found at

[www.pennsoil.org](http://www.pennsoil.org) or by calling (814) 726-1441.

Tour spots will be filled on a first come first served basis. Failure to provide all required information will result in denial in participation of the tour.

Deadline for submission of registration material is 11:59 p.m. on June 16.

"A sojourn," according to the release, "is a guided paddle where people knowledgeable about the river give you a tour of the waterway. Also education speakers will address subjects such as wildlife, history, birds, forests, etc., along the way. Sojourns have become a very popular way to get people outdoors and on the many waterways of Pennsylvania."

For more information go to [www.pennsoil.org](http://www.pennsoil.org), or call (814) 726-1441.



4000 CONEWANGO AVENUE  
WARREN, PA 16365  
PHONE: 814-726-1441  
FAX: 814-406-0005  
www.pennsoil.org

Penn Soil R C & D Council, a 501(c)3 charitable organization serving North-western Pennsylvania since 1964, is the official host of the 2017 PA River of the Year celebrations.



Pennsylvania Organization  
for Watersheds & Rivers



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

*Allegheny River*

**2017 PA  
River of the  
Year**



The name Allegheny is probably derived from a Lenape Indian word "*welhik hane*" meaning "beautiful stream." Before that the Iroquois and Shawnee Indians referred to it as the "O Hi Yo." During the 1700's the river was named "La Belle Riviere" by French explorers. For centuries, the Allegheny has been a main artery of transportation for Western Pennsylvania and Western New York and even today there is important commercial boat traffic on its lower reaches.

The highly scenic Allegheny flows through areas of narrow forest valleys, wilderness islands and broad, rural landscapes rich with the early history and culture of the region. Pastoral farmlands, small towns and the narrow winding valleys provide a diversity of views for those travelling the river. The middle and upper Allegheny River is internationally known for some of the best freshwater mussel habitat in the world and is perhaps the most biologically diverse watershed in Pennsylvania.

Whether you are at the headwaters of the Allegheny in Potter County, at the mouth of the River in Pittsburgh, or anywhere in between, we are sure you will find your Pot of Gold on the Allegheny River, the 2017 PA River of the Year!



- **EIGHTY-SEVEN MILES OF THE MIDDLE ALLEGHENY IS DESIGNATED AS A FEDERAL WILD & SCENIC RIVER**
- **ALLEGHENY ISLANDS, A FEDERAL WILDERNESS AREA CONTAINS SEVEN ISLANDS TOTALING 368 ACRES**
- **THE LOWER 72 MILES OF THE ALLEGHENY HAVE 8 LOCKS & DAMS TO MAKE IT NAVIGABLE FOR COMMERCIAL SHIP AND BARGE TRAFFIC**
- **1.8 MILLION TONS OF COMMODITIES ARE TRANSPORTED ANNUALLY ON THE LOWER ALLEGHENY RIVER**
- **PITTSBURGH, THE ONLY METROPOLIS ON THE RIVER, DRAWS 70 MILLION GALLONS OF DRINKING WATER DAILY FROM THE ALLEGHENY RIVER**



## 2017 PA RIVER OF THE YEAR



- **SINCE ITS COMPLETION IN 1965 THE KINZUA DAM HAS PREVENTED AN ESTIMATED \$1.2 BILLION IN FLOOD DAMAGES DOWNSTREAM**
- **OVER 500,000 RESIDENTS DRAW THEIR DRINKING WATER FROM THE ALLEGHENY RIVER EACH DAY**
- **THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 135 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES ALONG THE ALLEGHENY RIVER**
- **WATER RECREATION ON THE RIVER IS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC FACTOR IN THE REGION**
- **THE ALLEGHENY RIVER SUPPLIES 60 PERCENT OF THE FLOW OF THE OHIO RIVER AT PITTSBURGH**



# 2017 Pennsylvania River of the Year Allegheny River



The Allegheny River is a principal tributary of the Ohio River and joins with the Monongahela River to form the Ohio River at the "Point" of Point State Park in Downtown Pittsburgh.

The Allegheny River is, by volume, the main headstream of the Ohio River.

Approximately 325 miles long, the river drains a rural dissected plateau of 11,580 square miles in the northern Allegheny Plateau, providing the northeastern most drainage in the watershed of the Mississippi River



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, Governor  
Chidy Adams Dunn, Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Rivers Programs  
This project was funded in part by a grant from the Commonwealth Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.  
Under the Administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

# *Flowing North*



Come Celebrate !

**Saturday, June 17th**

The Allegheny River - Pennsylvania's River of the Year !

Visit the northernmost stretch of the Allegheny River near Eldred

Family Friendly Activities, River Paddle, River Clean-Up

FREE Lunch, FREE Paddlers Shuttle

Events Start at 9:30 am

- Allegheny Activities: Clark Johnson Property: 2.2 miles on Artline Rd., from West Eldred Rd. (watch for signs). Family friendly events include River Ratings-water quality & river life; Lowland Forestry-learn about riverside tree & shrub species; Fly Fishing & Casting; and a Riparian Tree Planting for River Health
- Learn to Canoe River Float and Clean-Up: Eldred VFW, intersection of Prentisvale and West Eldred Rd.– Paddling lessons, canoes for loan, river clean-up while floating to Johnson Property (approximately 2 hours)

Need more information? Call 814-887-4001

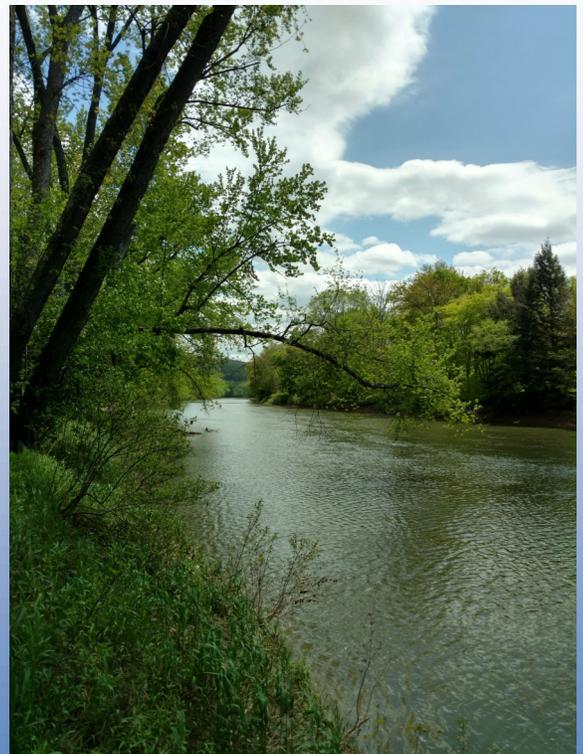
Local Event sponsors: Otto-Eldred School District, McKean

County Conservation District, Western Pennsylvania

Conservancy, Seneca Trout Unlimited, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Platinum Level Sponsors for River of the Year Events:

Allegheny Outfitters, Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, INSCALE ARCHITECTS, Oil Region Alliance, PA DCNR, Penn Soil RC&D Council, Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers, Pennsylvania Wilds Center, Redhorse Environmental, LLC, Venango Co. Conservation District, Warren County Visitors Bureau



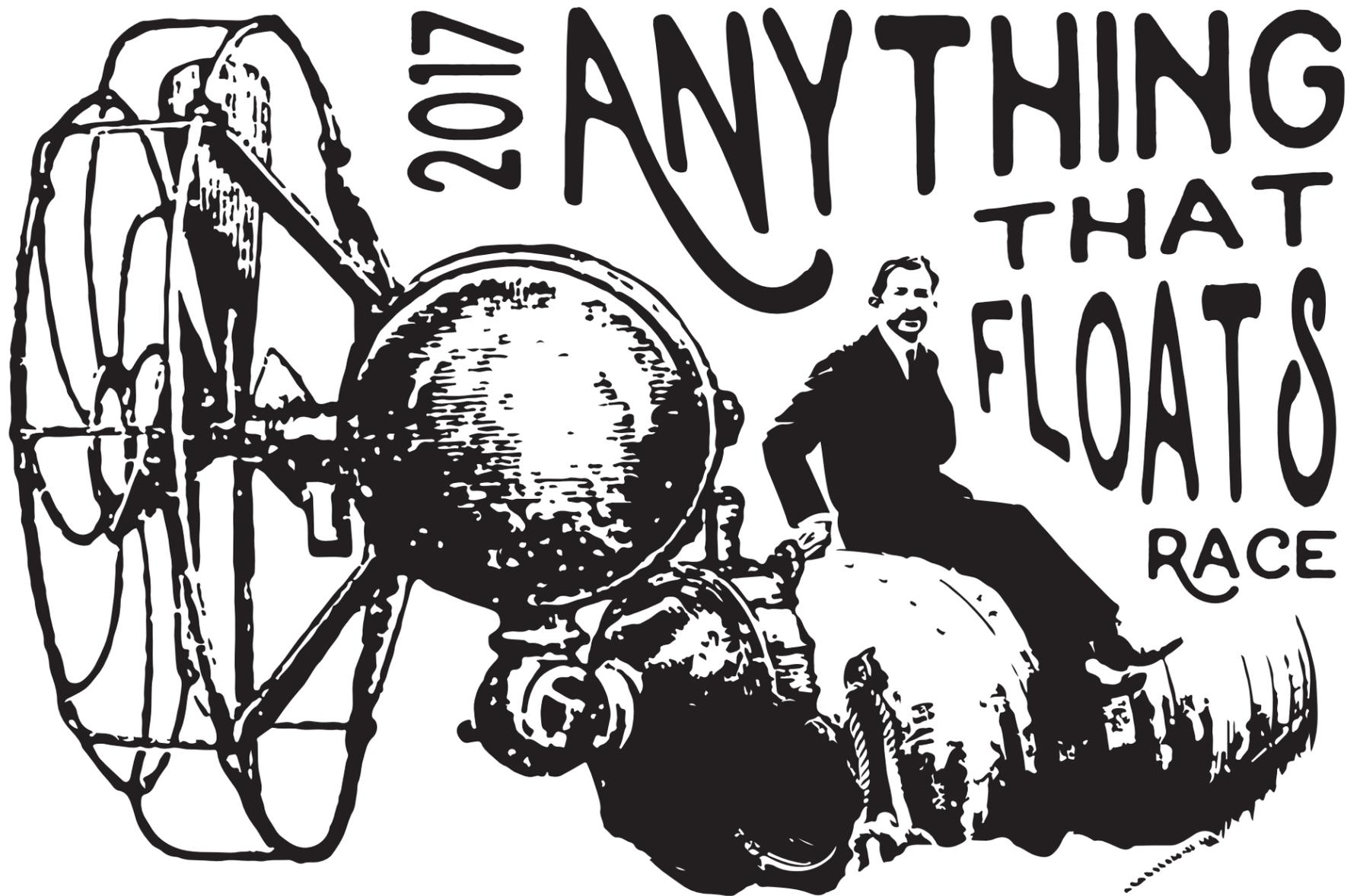


Flowing North River Celebration

Event Photos (more on Facebook page of McKean County Conservation District)



THE ALLEGHENY RIVER, PENNSYLVANIA RIVER OF THE YEAR



# 2017 ANYTHING THAT FLOATS RACE

JULY 8, 2017, STARTS AT 11AM

EMLENTON, PENNSYLVANIA

ALL SAINTS CAMP TO THE EMLENTON BRIDGE

VISIT [EMLENTONPA.COM](http://EMLENTONPA.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION

OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK @EMLENTONSUMMERFESTIVALOFFICIAL

## ALLEGHENY RIVER OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

### PLATINUM SPONSORS:

ALLEGHENY OUTFITTERS • ERIE TO PITTSBURGH TRAIL ALLIANCE

INSCALE ARCHITECTS • OIL REGION ALLIANCE • PA DGNR

PENN SOIL RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PENNSYLVANIA ORGANIZATION FOR WATERSHEDS & RIVERS

PENNSYLVANIA WILDS CENTER

REDHORSE ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC

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WARREN COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

### ALSO SPONSORED BY:

THE EMLENTON CIVIC CLUB

THE EMLENTON SUMMER FESTIVAL

STAAB TYPOGRAPHIC

RACHEL BROSHAHAN GRAPHIC DESIGN



Race Rules: • Safety first and have fun! • All watercraft must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable (Type I, II, III or V) PFD on board for each person and worn at all times. PFD's will not be provided by race organizers. • All regulations for Pennsylvania waterways apply to this race, found at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com). • Watercraft must be handmade, therefore kayaks, canoes, inflatable rafts or pool toys cannot be used in any way. • Gas/battery/electric power cannot be used to propel the craft. • Watercraft must float solely, and cannot be towed or attached to another one. • Maximum of 4 people per craft. • All participants must remain within or on their craft. Participants cannot swim alongside their watercraft. • All craft must launch from the All Saints Camp ([www.allsaintscamp.org](http://www.allsaintscamp.org)) north of Emlenton at the 11:00AM start time. • Participants should arrive no later than 10:30AM. • All craft must be accounted for and removed from the Allegheny River, "River of the Year" by participants at the end of the race. Pack it in and pack it out. • The fastest watercraft to pass under the Emlenton Bridge from the launch point wins 1st place. • Grand prize for the fastest watercraft and a follow-up prize for the most creative, which will be announced closer to the event. • The most creative watercraft will be judged by all participants and volunteers at the end of the race.



**ART**  
on the **Allegheny**

**10AM-6PM**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2017**

River Street/Ballfield/Lions Club River Walk, & Lighthouse Island in Tionesta

**FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES**

**LANDSCAPE & NATURE ARTIST VENDORS  
MINI ART WORKSHOPS/KIDS ART ACTIVITIES  
PLEIN AIR DEMONSTRATIONS/RIVER HISTORY DISPLAYS  
CONSERVATION DISPLAYS/MUSIC/FOOD VENDORS**

**SCOTT & KATHY PEARSON 10:00-11:30 AM**

**BORDER RIDE NOON-2:15 PM**

**PORCH MUSIC 3:00-4:30 PM**

**PONY FARM ROAD 4:30-6:00 PM**

**BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR!**

**SPONSORED BY:**

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Redhorse Environmental, LLC • Venango County Conservation District • Warren County Visitors Bureau

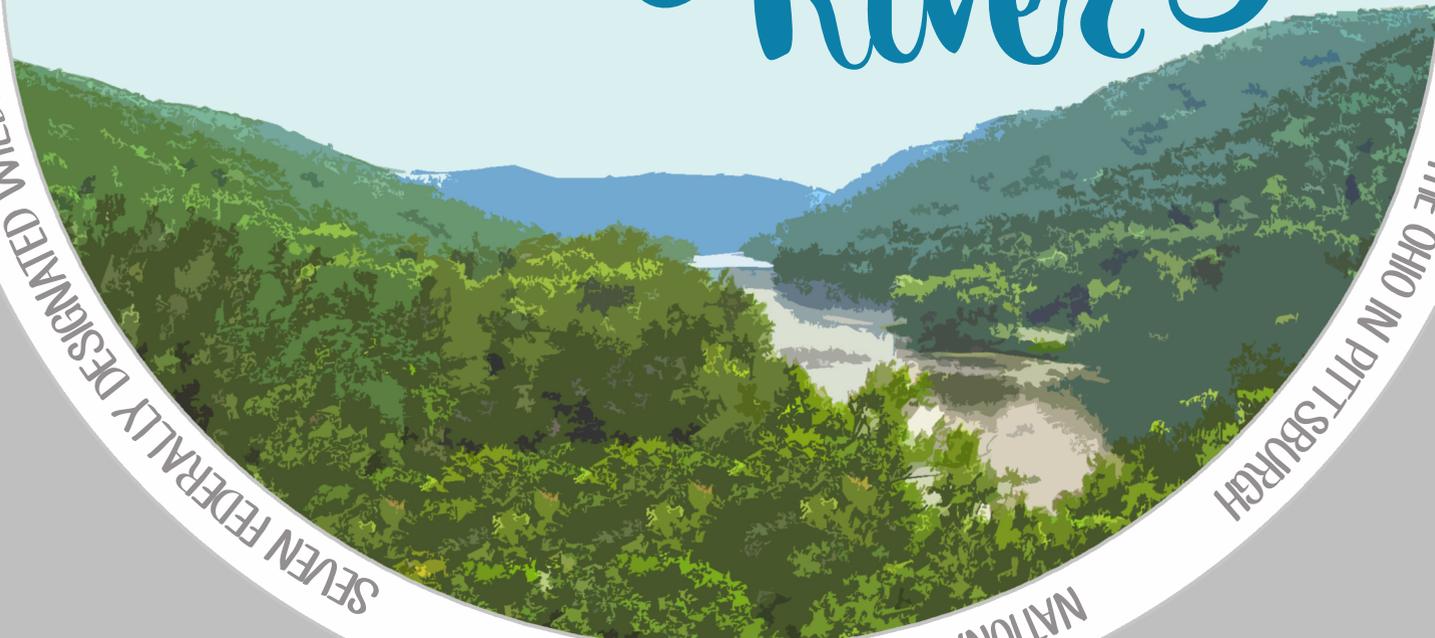
325 MILES LONG

FROM A SPRING IN POTTER COUNTY - TO THE MOUTH OF THE OHIO IN PITTSBURGH

PENNSYLVANIA'S  
RIVER OF THE YEAR  
2017

THE MIGHTY

Allegheny  
River



LA BELLE RIVIERE - THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER

SEVEN FEDERALLY DESIGNATED WILDERNESS ISLANDS

NATIONAL WILD & SCENIC RIVER

## **Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council**

4000 Conewango Avenue, Warren, PA 16365

814-726-1441; 814-406-0005 – fax

email: [pennsoilrcd@wccconservation.net](mailto:pennsoilrcd@wccconservation.net)

[www.pennsoil.org](http://www.pennsoil.org)



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### **Penn Soil RC&D Council to Co-Sponsor 2017 PA River of the Year Celebration in Western PA**

Among the most biologically diverse watersheds in Pennsylvania, and a federally designated National Wild and Scenic Recreation River, the Allegheny River in western Pennsylvania has been designated the 2017 Pennsylvania River of the Year. The general public was invited to vote online from Nov. 14-Dec.19, 2016 choosing from among four waterways nominated across the state. At the conclusion of the public voting campaign, the Allegheny River was the clear winner tallying 45% of the more than 16,700 total votes cast for the four finalists.

As the organization that nominated the Allegheny River, Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, a registered 501-c-3 charitable organization serving the residents of eight northwestern PA Counties will receive a \$10,000 leadership grant from the PA DCNR and the PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers to help plan and celebrate the River of the Year celebration. DCNR and POWR will work with the Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council to create a free, commemorative poster celebrating the Allegheny River. Penn Soil RC&D will also coordinate with many partner organizations to manage the 2017 River of the Year celebration over a large geographic area to hold educational and recreational events connecting residents and visitors alike to the value of clean water and the resources provided by a high quality stream such as the Allegheny River.

As part of the 2017 River of the Year Celebration, Penn Soil RC&D will be co-sponsoring a series of public events to be held in various locations from the source of the Allegheny River in Potter County all the way downstream to the confluence with the Monongahela River in Pittsburgh, where it forms the Ohio River. From the \$10,000 River of the Year grant awarded by PA DCNR and POWR, Penn Soil RC&D will be offering a mini-grant program to co-sponsor River of the Year Events in communities all along the Allegheny River. The River of the Year Grant requires us to provide a local cash match to those funds and there are limitations on what the grant funds can be used for, so we are also searching for additional partners who would be interested in co-sponsoring the River of the Year Celebration.

We invite you to consider becoming a River of the Year Celebration Sponsor by reviewing the enclosed sponsorship materials. Your sponsorship benefits will apply to all River of the Year events occurring after receipt of your sponsorship commitment. At the present time, we are aware of at least six events that are already being planned and we anticipate that the number of events could possibly grow to more than 20 events that will occur starting in April and happen throughout this calendar year.

# 2017 PA River of the Year Celebration Donor Recognition Signs

Donor Recognition Plaque for Platinum Level Sponsors



Canoe Plaque Dimensions

Overall size including paddle: 16x8.5" Canoe size: 16x6" Thickness Canoe: 3/8" Paddle 1/4"



**Rectangular Black Cherry Plaque**  
**8"x10" Gold Level Sponsor**  
**7"x9" Silver Level Sponsor**  
**6"x8" Bronze Level Sponsor**

**5"x5" Plastic Window Sign**  
**All Sponsor Levels**

**2017 PA River of the Year Celebration Sponsorship Levels**  
**Benefits Cover all Events on the Penn Soil RCD 2017 PA River of the Year Celebration Calendar**

<b>Sponsorship Levels of Recognition</b>	<b>Platinum</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Friend</b>	<b>Booster</b>
Donation Level Required to earn the Sponsorship Level( Cash or In-Kind Services)	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Recognition Entitlements</b>						
Sponsors's Logo on banner prominently displayed at all River of the Year Celebration events	★					
Large Logo on top of River of the Year event calendar page on Penn Soil RC&D Website	★					
Logo placement on River of the Year event home page below Calendar of Events		★	★			
Photo Opportunity, optional ceremonial check presentation+	★	★				
News Media Release publicizing your donation to regional media outlets	★	★	★			
Facebook Post for recognition of your contribution	★	★	★	★	★	
Prominent placement of Sponsor's Logo on Event Program	★	★				
Spoken announcements of your sponsorship on Public address system at event	★	★				
The right to use the Allegheny River and 2017 PA River of the Year for your marketing purposes	★					
Cross-promotion of Your sponsorship on Penn Soil RC&D website and Facebook pages	★	★				
Text listing of sponsorship on donor page of Penn Soil RC&D Website	★	★	★	★		
16"x8.5" Black Cherry Canoe Sponsor Recognition Plaque with your name or logo laser engraved	★					
8"x10" Rectangular Sponsor Recognition Plaque with your company name or logo laser engraved		★				
7"x9" Rectangular Sponsor Recognition Plaque with your company name or logo laser engraved			★			
5"x7" Rectangular Sponsor Recognition Plaque with your company name or logo laser engraved				★		
5"x5" plastic window sign stating Proud Supporter of Allegheny River 2017 PA River of the Year	★	★	★	★	★	★
<b>See attached photos for samples of the donor recognition plaques.</b>						
Please help support the 2017 PA River of the Year Celebration with a tax deductible contribution in any amount to Penn Soil RC&D Council, or consider making a pledge of your sponsorship at a level from the River of the Year sponsorship levels listed above. You can contribute by mailing your check to Penn Soil RC&D at 4000 Conewango Avenue; Warren, PA 16365. If you have questions or would like to discuss potential sponsorship opportunities, you may email <a href="mailto:pennsoilrcd@wccconservation.net">pennsoilrcd@wccconservation.net</a> or call Wes Ramsey at 814-726-1441 if you would like to schedule a visit with a member of the River of the Year Celebration Committee.						
<b>2017 PA River of the Year Celebration</b>			 Resource Conservation & Development Council			
River of the Year Celebration events will be happening throughout the year and although we will gladly accept sponsorships at any time, for maximum advertising benefits, we suggest that sponsorships be purchased by May 1, 2017. Penn Soil RC&D will be awarding mini-grants to add additional events to the River of the Year Celebration over the next few months and your sponsorship benefits will be in effect for all events after your sponsorship is received.						
Benefits expire on December 31, 2017 at the conclusion of the River of the Year Celebration. Visit <a href="http://www.pennsoil.org">www.pennsoil.org</a> to see the River of The Year calendar of events.						
Penn Soil Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council is a registered 501-c-3 charitable organization serving the residents of northwestern PA since 1964.						

**Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council**

4000 Conewango Avenue, Warren, PA 16365

814-726-1441; 814-406-0005 – fax

email: [pennsoilrcd@wconservervation.net](mailto:pennsoilrcd@wconservervation.net)

[www.pennsoil.org](http://www.pennsoil.org)



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## 2017 PA River of the Year Celebration Sponsorship Form

Yes, please count me in as a sponsor of the Allegheny River of the Year Celebration in honor of the Allegheny being designated as the 2017 PA River of the Year.

*Sponsorship levels are determined by cash donation, services donated, merchandise donated or a combination of these. Donor provides Value.*

Total Value of Sponsorship \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Sponsorship in cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Cash Donations: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Value

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor, please complete this form (Please print legibly):

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form along with your check to the Penn Soil RC&D office at 4000 Conewango Avenue; Warren, PA 16365.**

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Your contribution is tax-deductible. The Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization registered in Pennsylvania. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Platinum Sponsors



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Pennsylvania Organization  
for Watersheds & Rivers



Gold & Silver Sponsors

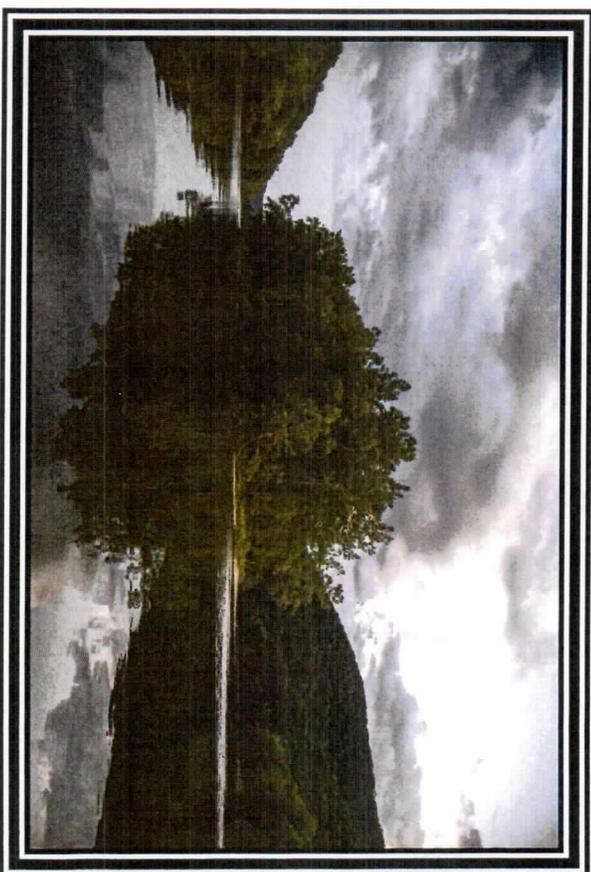


MCKEAN COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Western Pennsylvania  
Conservancy

2017 PA River of the Year  
Allegheny River Sojourn



June 22 - 23, 2017  
Invine, PA to Tidionte, PA

**Thursday - June 22, 2017**

9:00am

Buckaloons Campground: Safety Briefing – Piper VanOrd / CCWA

9:50am

Brokenstraw Creek: Brokenstraw Watershed Council (BWC)

12:15pm

Thompson Island: Geology / History – Tom Erlandson

2:45pm

Near Tanbark Trail: River of the Year Celebration-Wes Ramsey

3:45pm

Camping Island: Wilderness System & Islands – Kirk Johnson

Evening

Tanbark Trail: Piper Lindell

**Friday - June 23, 2017**

9:00am

Tanbark Trail: Safety Briefing – Piper Lindell / CCWA

10:00am

Stewarts Island: Spiny Softshell Turtle – Mark Lethaby

12:20pm

Near Fuellhart Island: Lumber Industry – Cecile Stelter

1:30pm

Near Courson Island: Wilderness – Nate Welker



Platinum Sponsors:



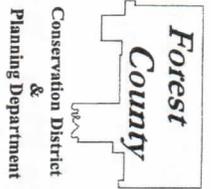
**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Pennsylvania Organization  
for Watersheds & Rivers



Gold & Silver Sponsors



McKean County  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Western Pennsylvania  
Conservancy

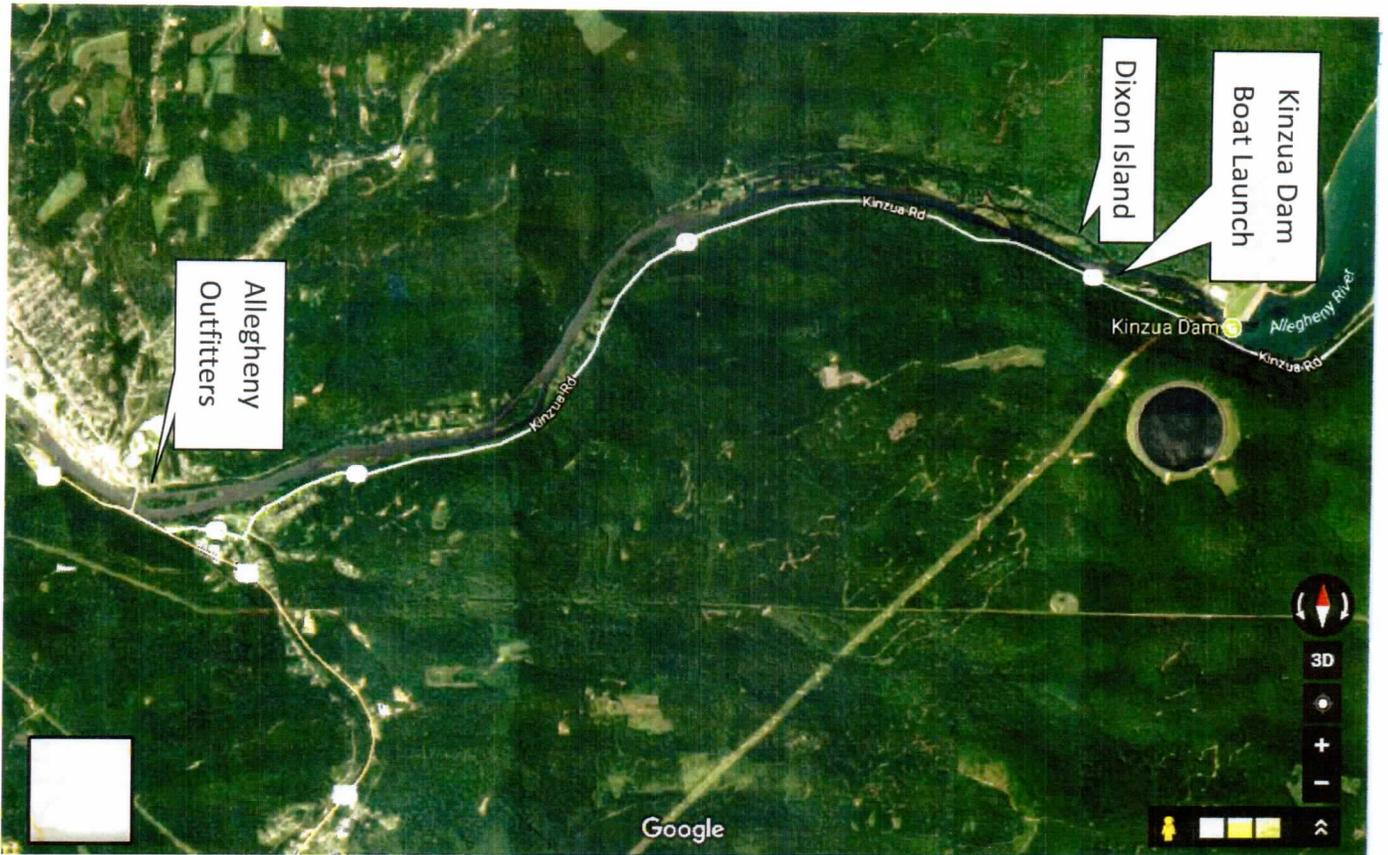
water, land, life.

2017 River of the Year  
Allegheny River Sojourn



June 24, 2017

Kinzua Dam to Warren, PA



### Schedule:

8:30am

Kinzua Dam Boat Launch: Hellbenders - Kylie Maland / Bill Miller

Kinzua Dam Boat Launch: Safety Briefing – Piper VanOrd / CCWA

10:30am

Dixon Island: Dam Removal – Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy

12:00pm

Wardwell Island: River Cleanups & History – Ron Keeney

2:00pm

Fox's Den: Macroinvertebrates – Jean Gomory

4:00pm

Disembark at Allegheny Outfitters – Shuttle to Big Bend for picnic.

**Special Thanks** to The Main Landing for their donation to the Allegheny Sojourn Picnic.

