

## **Ecology Field Days Held in Selinsgrove Area and New Berlin**

Several aquatic ecology events were held in the area in July and August 2016 in which the Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) and faculty and students from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA, coordinated and facilitated with other organizations.

At all events, both adults and children collected and learned about the water quality, insects, crayfish, clams, and fish that inhabit our streams and rivers; and how the surrounding land use affects the local aquatic ecology. They were successful in collecting many species of animals and fish. (Examples include: mayflies, crayfish, dragonflies, beetles, bass, cutlips minnows, and darters).



The first event was held at the Little Norway section of Penns Creek in Selinsgrove on July 18, 2016. This activity was part of a summer day camp series hosted by Summer Seals Day Camp. (See note about the Day Camp at the end of this article.) An estimated forty (40) kids and adults participated in the event.

*Both Photos: Children and adults look for aquatic life with nets, under rocks and stream vegetation during the July 18 event. Jason Winey, SCCD Watershed Specialist (above, blue t-shirt,) holds a rock for a child looking for aquatic life while Renee Swineford, SCCD Administrative Assistant (above, green shirt), helps another child in the creek.*



On July 30, 2016, SCCD and the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association (LPCWA) hosted a Penns Creek Ecology Day at the New Berlin Commons. Participants will learn about stream ecology through in-stream activities, microscope, and learning stations. LPCWA group members assisted the SCCD and Susquehanna University faculty and students guide the participants' learning experience. Approximately forty (40) people of all ages attended.



*All Photos this Page taken during the July 30 event. Jason Winey, SCCD Watershed Specialist (above left, blue shirt), helps a father and two sons find aquatic animals in Penns Creek. Below Left: A girl holds a tadpole found in Penns Creek. Below Center: One boy reaches into a net while another boy holds an aquatic insect. Below Right: Another girl peers into a microscope looking at small aquatic invertebrates.*



Finally, two Ecology Adventure Day sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon were held on August 6, 2016. They were located at the Boat Launch on the Isle of Que in Selinsgrove and sponsored by the Borough of Selinsgrove. Roughly forty (40) people of all ages attended each session along the Susquehanna River.



*All Photos this Page taken from the August 6 events. Mike Bilger, Aquatic Ecology Research Scientist, Susquehanna University (above, blue shirt and red cap) explains to the group what to do and expect when entering the Susquehanna River to collect aquatic animals. Below Right: A man looks at a computer screen projecting an image of aquatic lifeforms in a petri dish. The blue item in his right hand is a magnifying camera connected to a computer.*



For more information about the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association, go to its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lower-Penns-Creek-Watershed-Association/401861636547702> or contact Diane Lengle at [dianelengle@gmail.com](mailto:dianelengle@gmail.com).

Additional details about the August 6 Isle of Que events may be secured by contacting Makenzie Stover, Selinsgrove Borough Recreational Coordinator & Deputy Zoning Officer at 570-374-2311 or at [mstover@selinsgrove.org](mailto:mstover@selinsgrove.org).

Questions regarding watershed protection and environmental education may be forwarded to Jason Winey at 570-837-3000, extension 112 or at [jwiney@ptd.net](mailto:jwiney@ptd.net). Questions about other Snyder County Conservation District other events and programs may be forwarded to [us](mailto:us) at 570-837-3000, extension 110 or at [sccd@ptd.net](mailto:sccd@ptd.net).

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*Note #1: “The Summer Seals Day Camp is an innovative summer learning program designed to give hands-on multifaceted assistance to students during a six-week summer day camp.” It is a “unique summer program sponsored by the Summer Seals Day Camp, the Selinsgrove Area Community Foundation, the Selinsgrove Rotary Club, Susquehanna University, and the Selinsgrove Area School District.” Information taken from [www.summerseals.org](http://www.summerseals.org).*

*Note #2: Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association “striving to protect, conserve and improve the lower Penns Creek from Weikert to Susquehanna.” Mission: Create a healthy and vibrant environment along the creek due to belief in the value of this resource. Build network of creek loving people, information and sharing. Information taken from its Facebook site.*

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