



# CREEK CONNECTIONS

## Teacher's Memo

To: Creek Connections Teachers  
From: Wendy Kedzierski  
Laura Branby Project Assistants  
Re: 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter

October 23, 2020

### **USE NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR STUDENTS**

The Creek Connections Newsletter is a quarterly publication by and for Creek Connections for you to use with your students. Please take advantage of this resource and encourage your students to read them. Reading the newsletter might inspire some research topic ideas or encourage students to learn more about creek topics on their own or on the web. You can access current and past issues at our website at <https://sites.allegheny.edu/creekconnections/about-us-2/newsletters/>.

### **GET PUBLISHED!**

The more submissions we get from you and your students, the better the newsletter can serve as a forum of discussion and a venue for the exchange of ideas and learning experiences among participating schools. Please have your students write reports of sampling outings, poems, songs, limericks, word searches, cross words puzzles and games or draw their impressions of their field studies. Questions are also welcome as responses could be published in the newsletter. These assignments could be for a grade, or extra credit or just fun. You could even encourage your colleagues in other departments (e.g., English, art, etc.) to give similar assignments relevant to their subject. In subsequent issues, we'd like to have the majority of the newsletter be by Creek students. Submissions can be sent to Creek Connections via email, or mail. Your comments on additional content you'd like to see in subsequent issues are also welcome.

### **NEWSLETTER AUDIENCE**

Who receives this newsletter? Not just you and your students, but many others do as well: your school administrators, our project funders, Allegheny College staff, environmental groups, government agencies, and other interested teachers. Feel free to pass along the newsletter to whomever you like. Even though a diverse crowd receives the newsletter, it is primarily written for your students and contains information pertinent to their watershed education endeavors.

### **SEND PICTURES**

Send some of the images you are capturing at your field site or in the classroom. We would love to use them for the newsletter and for other project purposes. It's best that images submitted do not include faces of students unless parental consent is given for the students in the picture.

### **CREEK CAMP IS NOW FRESHWATER ACADEMY**

Freshwater Academy being planned for July 2021. We may have to change our plans, but we are hopeful we can make it happen! Please encourage any ninth through 11<sup>th</sup> graders to check us out.

### **SAMPLING DATES**

We know monthly water quality monitoring will be difficult if not impossible to complete. Please do what you can. Let us know if we can help with additional equipment or meeting with your students remotely.

## **SYMPOSIUM**

We are currently brain-storming and beginning to plan one virtual symposium in April that will include live sessions as well as asynchronous sessions. We would love to have your input and suggestions. Please contact Wendy or Laura with your ideas.

## **CREEK CHATS**

We are holding weekly drop-in meetings on Zoom Tuesdays at 3:30pm featuring science and education experts. You can find the link on our [teacher resource center](#). We are recording each session and posting them to a google drive folder also accessible from the [teacher resource center](#).

## **MODULES**

Modules are still circulating! They are great to use if you are in-person with your students or to demo activities if you are remote. Find up-to-date availability calendars for each module [online](#). Please check the calendar before reserving. When you are repacking the module in preparation for its return to Creek Connections, please be sure to inventory the module using the Module Contents sheet in the front pocket of the module binder (and also available online). This will ensure that you are returning **all** components of the module. Our goal is to deliver complete modules each time a school requests to use one; however, we need your help!

## **NEW CREEK CONNECTIONS STAFF**

Creek Connections welcomes to the staff Allegheny College students: Bianca Sanchez and Kaitlyn Royal. Laura has Molly Gilleland and Brinnah Porada returning and joined by Jenny Lautenschlager to assist her from Robert Morris University and University of Pittsburgh. All are eager to help with your classes however we can (mostly virtually, of course!).

## **MACROINVERTEBRATE SAMPLING**

Not able to make kicknetting work this year? How about deploying leaf packs? You can find [information here](#) and from [Stroud Water Research Center](#). Contact Wendy for mesh bags.

## **DATA SUBMISSIONS**

We'll take data any way you can submit it but prefer electronic submissions from the [link on our website](#). Have your students do the entry to give them another chance to think about the values.

## **STUDENT BEFORE PROJECT EVALUATIONS**

If you haven't already, please have your students complete our student BEFORE project evaluation. [The link is found on our website under Current in the Creek on the bottom right side of the home page](#). If you need [paper copies](#), you can print from link or we can mail them to you. Thank you for your help with this! It's important for our future funding.

## **THANK YOU**

We appreciate all the teachers figuring out how to continue water quality monitoring, the start of this school year. Our college students are thrilled to be working with you and gaining valuable experience in the classroom and field. Let us know how we can help as the year continues.

