



Teacher Memo

2nd Newsletter & Symposium Ideas
December 18, 2020



YOU ARE AMAZING

We are in awe of our teachers every day. You are doing fantastic work giving your students the best experience possible during a difficult year. We are here to assist you in your work and NEVER intend to add to your stress or workload.

CREEK CHATS

We held the final Creek Chat of 2020 this week with Chris Davis from University of Pittsburgh Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology. He has fantastic resources to share with you now and wants to see you and your students at the PLE facility in the future! You can find the recording of this and all other [Creek Chats here](#). We will be continuing the Chats in 2021 at the same day and time (Tuesdays at 3:30pm). We'll be letting you know our guest lineup soon!

MODULES ON THE MOVE

We are still able to loan out our modules. We can deliver to your school or your home. Check the [module calendars online](#) but also ask us if you aren't sure because ALL the modules are available to borrow in any area. We also created a list of activities you can do with your students that don't require special equipment or actually getting the module. [Find this list here](#). We are still maintaining the list of online resources, which [can be found here](#).

WATER QUALITY DATA

In this unusual year, we definitely want to capture the water quality data that is being collected. Enter data on the on-line data submission page or copy your data sheet and mail it in – Creek Connections, Allegheny College, 520 N Main ST, Meadville PA 16335. You may also scan and email data sheets to creek@allegheny.edu. We'll take the data in any form, just please send it in!

SPRING SYMPOSIUM

We will be holding an online Student Research Symposium in April. We are still working out the details. We are planning for asynchronous and live sessions. We will likely hold the sessions over a week then make recordings and presentations available through the end of the year. We would love [your input](#) on what platforms would work best for your school and how you envision your students participating.

2021 FISHING LICENSES

Fishing licenses are now on sale in stores and [online](#). We can reimburse you for the cost of your license for your work with Creek Connections. Scan and [email the receipt to Wendy](#) or mail to Wendy at Creek Connections - Allegheny College, 520 N Main ST, Meadville, PA 16335. The license, which is required when kicknetting or sampling aquatic macroinvertebrates with a net smaller than 4'x4' (if you use a larger net you

need another permit). If your stream is a trout stream, you are also required to get the trout stamp, and if your stream is a tributary of Lake Erie, you must get the Lake Erie permit as well. You **MUST** have a fishing license in your possession when leading your class in collecting macroinvertebrates even if you don't plan to keep any samples. You can keep up to 50 macroinvertebrates with your fishing license. If you plan to keep more than 50 you must get a [Scientific Collectors' Permit](#). High School teachers! If you have students who are 16 years old or older that you plan to have sample for macroinvertebrates; you also need to get a [Special Permit for Educational Exemption to Fishing License](#).

CREEK CONNECTIONS STAFF ASSISTANCE

[Laura can meet](#) you or you and your students outdoors following COVID-19 mitigation protocols. This could be especially useful if you are creating online content for your students when you are unable to be in the school with them. Laura and possibly the Pittsburgh College Creekers can assist with creating videos at your stream site. Wendy and the Allegheny Creekers cannot work in-person, but we are available for helping to create online content or delivering equipment. We can also meet with your class(es) virtually through Zoom, Google Meet, Teams or other platforms. [Contact Wendy to schedule](#).

CREEK SAFETY

Now that winter weather is upon us, be sure you and your students are extra cautious around the creeks. To be safe, no one should enter the creek at this time of year; use a bailer to obtain your water sample. If we have an EXTRA cold winter and your creek becomes inaccessible due to ice, then it's fine to miss a month of testing. Safety first!

STUDENT SURVEY

If your classes are in semesters, please remember to have your students complete the [Student After Project Feedback either online](#) or [on paper](#). Links to both online and paper versions are found on the right side of the front page under Current in the Creek. These surveys help us prove the effectiveness of Creek Connections to our funders.

winter solstice (December 21)

