

FRIENDS OF THE NESCOPECK

A Watershed Association

You are receiving this information because of your interest in the environment. As you may know, we are a watershed association based in the Nescopeck Creek Watershed in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Although our primary focus is the Nescopeck Watershed, we view our association as part of a larger collection of entities and we maintain partnerships with other environmental groups, local, state and national agencies, municipalities and related non-profit organizations.

WE HAVE THREE MAJOR GOALS

- ❖ **To educate the public about the importance of conservation, maintenance of quality fish and wildlife habitat, and natural diversity.**
- ❖ **To develop and assist in programs that identify, assess and monitor areas of impact within the watershed.**
- ❖ **To develop and assist in programs for the maintenance and improvement of the watershed.**

On the following pages, you will find a newsletter describing our activities in 2018 and a membership application should you care to join us in our work.

You can find us on Facebook or email us at nescopeckfriends@yahoo.com or contact us at PO Box 912, Conyngham PA 18219.

We meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month in the Conyngham Borough Municipal Building located at 215 Main Street Conyngham, PA 18219



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P.O. Box 912, Conyngham, PA 18219

nescopeckfriends@yahoo.com

Principal Officer: Judith Samler

FRIENDS OF THE NESCOPECK 2018 NEWSLETTER



Friends of the Nescopeck has finally joined social media. Look us up on Facebook and like us. We will be sharing photos, information, and activities on our Page, so check us out!



Christmas shopping is right around the corner. The Friends have partnered with Smile.Amazon.Com so by choosing us as your non-profit organization, you will contribute to our continuing efforts to test and monitor water quality. We appreciate your support!

Water Quality



The Friends of the Nescopeck is continuing monthly water quality-testing program at five sites. Three sites are on the Nescopeck Creek; near the headwaters in Nescopeck State Park, below the confluence with the Little Nescopeck Creek near Rt93 and in Nescopeck Borough above the Susquehanna River. The remaining two sites, Little Nescopeck Creek and Black Creek,

are on the two largest tributaries of the Nescopeck Creek, both affected by AMD (acid mine drainage). This year we partnered with BAMR (Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation) coordinating our sampling and allowing the Friends of the Nescopeck to compare test results and obtain additional tests, primarily aluminum and manganese. The Friends also tested stream flow on these tributaries to better understand the level of pollution. Test results are available upon request. (Seen in the photo are Audra Mitchell, AmeriCorps volunteer with Tim Ference, board member of Friends of the Nescopeck, collecting water samples at Black Creek).



FON participated in Bosco's Friends Helping Friends Event in September through early October. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards replenishing testing supplies and equipment maintenance. Thanks to all who purchased a shopping pass from us.

Tour of the Rausch Creek Water Treatment Plant



Some members of the Friends received a complete tour of the Rausch Creek Treatment plant in September. The plant was constructed in 1972 and has been effectively removing contaminants from the water. Except at high flows, the creek is diverted into the facility and goes through a clarifying process before leaving the plant.



Facebook Postings



(Photo of Jeddo Tunnel)

The Friends having been keeping their Facebook up to date, posting recent activities and events. As posted on Facebook, the goals of the Friends is to educate the public about the importance of conservation, maintenance of quality fish and wildlife habitat, and natural diversity. The Friends want to develop and assist in programs that identify, assess, and monitor areas of impact within the watershed and to develop and assist in programs to maintain and improve the watershed.

Display at Hike & Bike Event

The Friends had a display set up on June 9th at the Hike & Bike Event at Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails. The purpose of the display was to inform people in nearby areas how the Friends are trying to improve the Nescopeck watershed. Maps of the watershed and informational brochures were available. Seen in the photo are board members of the Friends: Tim Ference, Gary Leander, and Carl Frankel.



Friends Conduct Film Festival



As part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the anthracite industry, Friends conducted a festival featuring coal-related films. The festival was held on May 16 at the Cinema and Drafthouse in West Hazleton. One feature and two shorts were screened.



The feature film was *King in the Mountain* by Dave Edwards and it chronicled the history of anthracite from discovery, to its critical role in the American Industrial Revolution, to its decline, and to the impact of that decline. A short on mine fires in Pennsylvania and a trailer for an upcoming documentary on the Huber Breaker, both by John Welsh, completed the program. A number of displays and a selection of informational handouts were also located in the theater lobby.

The films were enthusiastically received by the audience, many of whom remained after the viewing to ask questions and discuss the films.

Winterfest at Nescopeck State Park



Seen in the photos are Friends of the Nescopeck board members Tim Ference and Gary Leander with principal officer Judith Samler.

Once again Friends of Nescopeck participated in Nescopeck State Park's annual Winterfest held on February 3, 2018. The Friends manned an information table inside the park visitor center and discussed watershed issues and membership opportunities with many folks attending the event. Aside from our Friends display, visitors participated in many recreational activities, walks, and presentations. About 300 people attended Winterfest this year. This event is just one way Friends of Nescopeck is connecting with our local community. Visit us this year at Winterfest at Nescopeck State Park slated for February, 2, 2019!



Municipal Report

As part of its water quality monitoring program, Friends produced a 13 page summary report and distributed copies to all of the municipalities in which we had test sites. The report included information on methodology, quality control, test parameters, and site selection criteria. Also included were site maps, test results with comments, and a summary. In addition to providing the report, we offered to conduct public presentations for citizens in each of the municipalities.