



The Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center



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The ELC E-Newsletter (Vol. I Issue IV)

Greetings from the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center. We hope that you enjoyed last month's activities and that you will pay us a visit in the coming months.

ELC Booth at the Dayton Fair

The ELC will have a booth at the **Dayton Fair** the week of August 15 – 21. We will be looking for **new memberships** and passing out **new informational brochures**. Stop out and see us!

Benefit Auction Collection is Still On-Going

The ELC is still actively collecting items to be used for our upcoming benefit auction. **We need your help for this event to succeed.** The auction will be held at the Burrell Township Firehall as soon as enough donations are accumulated. To donate, contact the ELC to arrange for pick-up or drop-off times. If **you have contacts at area businesses** that might be **convinced to donate items**, please help the ELC by either **asking them**, or provide the contact information to the ELC so that we can approach them.

ELC Work Weekend August 20-21

The ELC will be holding a **work weekend** to tackle needed **maintenance and cosmetic issues** at the center. **Volunteers are needed** to help with tasks such as cleaning, painting, trimming, etc. We also **need tools** such as: paintbrushes, ladders, pruners, hand tools, vacuums, mops, sponges, and anything else that might be useful. We are also in need of **donated supplies** such as: AA & 9 volt batteries, incandescent and fluorescent bulbs, cleaning supplies, paint, stain, and much more. Contact the ELC for specifics if you would like to donate items.

A Thank You to Our Sponsors

We would like to **thank the groups and businesses** that **sponsored the ELC** in the **past month**. **T-Shirt ads** were purchased by: The Kiskiminitis Watershed Association, Roaring Run Watershed Association, the Armstrong County Conservation District, and the Armstrong County Community Foundation. **Auction items** were contributed by: Gail Seiffert of the ACCF and numerous other individuals.

West Nile Virus

Programming Coordinator Dennis Hawley has provided the following informational article on West Nile Virus. The Virus has again been verified in Armstrong County this year.

What You Should Know About West Nile Virus

Visit our revamped website, www.crookedcreekelc.org for more information on upcoming events, facility usage, other useful information, or with any and all questions.



The ELC is available for rental year round by organized groups to use for environmental and resource conservation education, workshops, meetings, and retreats. Contact the ELC for more information.

Remember, the ELC is entirely dependent on grants, user fees, and donations to survive.

Do you have an idea to help the ELC obtain additional funding? Have contacts at local businesses? Want to be more involved? Then contact the AET and ELC's Fund Development Administrator, Brian Coil at 724-763-1531 or brianaet@alltel.net to find out what you can do to help the ELC thrive!

Remember to visit the [calendar of events](#) on our website to see the dates for **new programs and activities** that are coming to the ELC!

Information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Pennsylvania's West Nile Virus Surveillance Program

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a potentially serious illness that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall.

Approximately 80 percent of people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all.

Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected will display symptoms which can include fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days, though even healthy people have been sick for several weeks.

Only about one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

WNV is usually spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite.

In a very small number of cases, WNV also has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breastfeeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby.

WNV is not spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus.

People typically develop symptoms between 3 and 14 days after the infected mosquito bites them.

There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. In milder cases, people experience symptoms such as fever and aches that pass on their own. In more severe cases, people usually need to go to the hospital where they can receive supportive treatment including intravenous fluids, help with breathing and nursing care.

Milder WNV illness improves by itself, and people do not necessarily need to seek medical attention. However, if you develop symptoms of severe WNV illness, such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, seek medical attention immediately. Severe WNV illness usually requires hospitalization. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are encouraged to talk to their doctor if they develop symptoms that could be WNV.

People over the age of 50 who get sick are more likely to develop serious symptoms and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.

The more time you're outdoors, the more time you could be bitten by an infected mosquito. Pay attention to avoiding mosquito bites if you spend a lot of time outside, either working or playing.

All donated blood is checked for WNV before being used. The risk of getting WNV through blood transfusions and organ transplants is very small, and should not prevent people who need surgery from having it. If you have concerns, talk to your doctor.

The risk of WNV to a fetus or an infant infected through breast milk is still being evaluated. Talk with your care provider if you have concerns.

Although no cases of dead bird-to-human infections have been recorded, people should avoid barehanded contact when handling *any* dead animals. If you find a dead bird, don't handle the body with your bare hands. Contact your local health department for instructions on reporting and disposing of the body.

The easiest and best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites.

When you are outdoors, use insect repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). Follow the directions on the package.

Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours. Light-colored clothing can help you see mosquitoes that land on you.

Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.

Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flowerpots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in birdbaths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep wading pools empty when they aren't being used.

State and county mosquito control professionals have been using Bti, naturally occurring bacteria. Bti can be purchased in small, donut-shaped form, called "mosquito dunks", which is useful in small areas of standing water. A granular form is available, and is effective for larger areas.

Bti can be purchased in lawn and garden, outdoor supply, and home improvement stores. The great thing about these bacteria is that it kills only mosquito and black fly larvae. It is not harmful to people, pets, aquatic life (such as fish) or plants.

For more information call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675, the Pa Health Department at 877-PA-HEALTH, or online at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/wnv> or <http://www.westnile.state.pa.us>