



Crooked Creek

Environmental Learning Center

Geocaching

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment.



Easy Steps to Geocaching

- Register for a free membership at www.geocaching.com.
- Click "Hide & Seek a Cache."
- Enter your postal code and click "search."
- Choose any geocache from the

list and click on its name.

- Enter the coordinates of the geocache into your GPS Device.
- Use your GPS device to assist you in finding the hidden geocache.
- Sign the logbook and return the geocache to its original location.
- Share your geocaching stories and photos online.

Before You Go

Find a geocache that will meet your immediate goals. Are you looking for a difficult hike or an easy adventure?

If you're headed out on the trail, pack any needed supplies such as water, food and extra clothing. Bring both a map and a compass. Check geocache terrain and difficulty ratings.

For safety, let someone know where you are going.

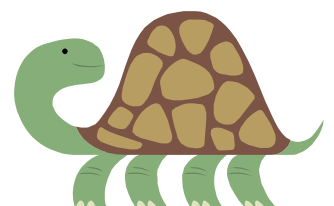
Do not forget your GPS and extra batteries.

Continued on Page 3



Inside this issue:

<i>Emerald Ash Borer</i>	2
<i>Directions Update</i>	3
<i>Field Trip Comments</i>	3
<i>Geocaching Continued</i>	3
<i>Support the ELC</i>	4



Emerald Ash Borer

EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY; QUARANTINE IMPOSED Campers Statewide are Urged to Stop Transporting Firewood



June 10, 2009

HARRISBURG - Emerald Ash Borer beetles have been found in Allegheny Township, Westmoreland County, bringing to seven the number of counties where the ash tree-destroying pest has been identified, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff announced today.

The invasive beetle was first detected in Pennsylvania in the summer of 2007 in Butler County, and subsequently was found in Allegheny, Beaver, Lawrence, Mercer and Mifflin counties. To help slow the spread of the beetle, the state-imposed quarantine for those six counties is being expanded to include Westmoreland County.

State and federal Emerald Ash Borer quarantines restrict the movement from the quarantine area of ash nursery stock, green lumber and any other ash material, including logs, stumps, roots and branches, and all wood chips.

This summer, 20 crews - 15 in Western Pennsylvania, one in Mifflin County, and four in the eastern part of the state - and

two regional coordinators have been deployed to assess the spread of the beetle. The Westmoreland County crew detected the new infestation. "Our survey crews are assessing the extent of the infestation in Westmoreland County and surrounding areas," said Wolff. "We remind consumers to heed the quarantine when traveling and camping this spring and summer—not just in the quarantined areas but throughout Pennsylvania—to prevent any further spread of the beetle."

Due to the difficulty in distinguishing between species of hardwood firewood, all hardwood firewood—including ash, oak, maple and hickory—are considered quarantined.

Since many species of wood-boring insects, including the Emerald Ash Borer, can be spread by transporting infested firewood and logs, campers and homeowners are encouraged to use only locally harvested firewood, burn all of the firewood on-site, and not carry it to new locations.

Emerald Ash Borer is a wood-boring beetle native to China and eastern Asia. The pest likely arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer and other goods. It was first detected in July 2002 in southeastern Michigan and

neighboring Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The beetle has since been blamed for the death and decline of more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Virginia and Illinois.

Typically, the beetles will kill an ash tree within three years of the initial infestation. Adults are dark green, one-half inch in length and one-eighth inch wide, and fly only from early May until September. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees. When they emerge as adults, they leave D-shaped holes in the bark about one-eighth inch wide.

There is no known practical control for this wood-boring pest other than destroying infested trees.

People who suspect they have seen Emerald Ash Borer should call the department's toll-free pest hotline at 1-866-253-7189. For more information about the quarantine, contact Walt Blosser at 717-772-5205, and for more information about Emerald Ash Borer, contact Sven-Erik Spichiger at 717-772-5229.

Information is also available at www.agriculture.state.pa.us/emeraldashborer.

Information courtesy of www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp?A=390&Q=152988

Directions Update

Many people are using the internet or a GPS unit to locate the ELC. The problem many people are encountering is that most internet sites and most GPS will give directions to the incorrect Kerr Road. There are at least 3 different Kerr Roads in or around the park.

Here are some tips to remember when receiving or giving directions to the ELC.

When using internet maps please only use Google Maps.

When searching for the ELC please include “Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center 142 Kerr Road Ford City, PA”.

Google Maps has been the only site where we have been able to correct our location.

If you are using a GPS unit and enter the address, please ensure your directions are correct. If they are incorrect or you are unsure most GPS units will allow you to enter the coordinates of your destination.

The coordinates that work best are

N40° 42.970'
W79° 31.003'



Use internet maps and GPS directions as a guide only. Many of the roads in the area are incorrectly labeled or are in the wrong place online and in most GPS units. If your directions differ from the ones on www.crookedcreekelc.org, please follow the directions on our website.

Field Trip Comments

Thank you to everyone who help to with our spring field trips.

We recently received a thank you from Mrs. Foust’s third grade class. Here are some of the comments the kids wrote

about their field trip experiences.

“When you kick a net in the creek, you can find cool things.”

“I caught two worms. I named

them Henry and Bob.”

“I do not like bugs, but Holly said not to be scared, so I touched a bug.”

“Stick animals are wonderful blenders.”

Geocaching



Get Out and Play

Mark your car as a waypoint to ensure your safe return.

Be mindful of the environ-

ment, practice Cache In Trash Out.

Bring friends and family with you; sharing the experience can be very rewarding. Pets are usually welcome, too!

Remember that distances can be deceiving. A geocache can take longer to find depending on trails, rivers and other obstacles.

Share Your Experience

If you take something from the geocache, leave something of equal or greater value.

Write about your experience in the geocache logbook.

Place your geocaching stories and photos online.

Information courtesy of www.geocaching.com

Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center

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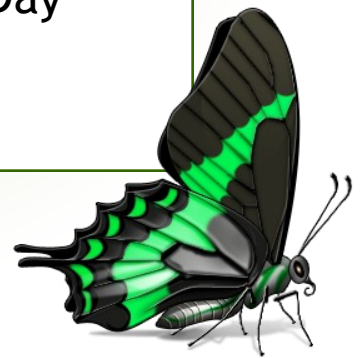
Mark your Calendar

July 7 Chocolate Day

July 19 Ice Cream Day

July 26 Parents Day

www.crookedcreekelc.org



Sponsor the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center

Armstrong County has no county or state parks. The Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center is uniquely suited to fulfill the need for a facility and organization to provide environmental and resource conservation education.

The ELC must rely on grants, user fees, donations, and sponsors to sustain operation. Donation benefits include an engraved leaf on our Donation Tree, a monthly e-newsletter, an ELC T-Shirt, and most importantly, the pride and satis-

faction that comes from helping to improve environmental and resource conservation and the quality of life in our community.



Bronze Leaf

\$100.00 - \$249.00

Silver Leaf

\$250.00 - \$499.00

Gold Leaf

\$500.00 - \$999.00

Foundation Stone

\$1,000.00

In Addition to monetary donations, donations of supplies like trash bags, light bulbs, cleaning supplies, and paper products are always needed and appreciated.