

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Permit No. 37



June 20-22, 2008



Wyoming Valley Sojourn
Paddle the Susquehanna in a Kayak
or Canoe

Saturday, June 21
Harding to Wilkes-Barre
Sunday, June 22

Wilkes-Barre to Hunlock Creek

**RiverFest is an event of the Wyoming
Valley Watershed Coalition**

- Coalition Partners:**
- City of Wilkes-Barre
 - Country Ski and Sports
 - Cultural Council of Luzerne County
 - Endless Mountains Outfitters
 - Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
 - Luzerne Conservation District
 - Luzerne County Parks & Recreation
 - Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau
 - Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority
 - North Branch Land Trust
 - Penn State Cooperative Extension
 - Pennsylvania Environmental Council
 - Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds & Rivers
 - PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
 - PA Department of Environmental Protection
 - PA Fish and Boat Commission
 - Susquehanna Greenways Partnership
 - Susquehanna River Adventures
 - Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks Committee
 - Wilkes University EEES Department
 - Wilkes-Barre YMCA
 - Wyoming Valley Wellness Trails Partnership

The Pennsylvania State University
College of Agricultural Sciences
Luzerne County Cooperative Extension
Luzerne County
16 Luzerne Avenue, Suite 200
West Pittston, PA 18643-2817

June is Rivers Month and what better way to celebrate, than to join in the Wyoming Valley RiverFest and Sojourn!

The ninth annual RiverFest is designed to bring people back to the Susquehanna River and discover the beauty, splendor and historical significance of a natural resource that flows through the Wyoming Valley.

Members of the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition have partnered to create a program that includes opportunities to canoe or kayak on the Susquehanna, explore the riverside trails and parks, and learn more about the wildlife, water quality, history and heritage of the watershed.

If paddling isn't for you, then join the festival **Friday evening, June 20th on Public Square in Downtown Wilkes-Barre on the Square** for live music, food, fun and art. On the afternoon of **Saturday, June 21 RiverFest begins at 1:00pm in Wilkes-Barre's Nesbitt Park (on the west banks of the Susquehanna River) and runs until 5:00pm.** Listen to live music, purchase lunch from vendors, view the live birds of prey and mammals programs, browse through the displays and exhibits, and hike through the historic Olmsted Park and riparian forest that abuts the river in Kirby Park. There will be pony rides, games, moon walk, kids tree climb, a rock climbing wall, arts & crafts, and more for children of all ages.



Wyoming Valley River Sojourn

Spend 1 or 2 days paddling on the beautiful and historic Susquehanna viewing bald eagles, egrets, peregrine falcons, river otters, Campbell's Ledge, the historic Battle of Wyoming site, remnants of the North Branch Canal, the Knox Mine Disaster site, and much more.

Day 1 - June 21 kayak or canoe from Apple Tree Boat Launch in Harding to Wilkes-Barre's Nesbitt Park (4 hours on the water)

Day 2 - June 22 - Kayak or Canoe from Wilkes-Barre's Nesbitt Park to Hunlock Creek (4 hours on the water)

Costs:
\$37 for a single kayak
\$54 for a tandem kayak or canoe (2 people)
\$17 if you are bringing your own boat -
Pre-Registration is required (includes the shuttle bus, RiverFest T-Shirt and River Guides)

A mandatory safety training will be given to all participants before the launch.

Shuttle Buses leave Nesbitt Park, Wilkes-Barre at **7:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 21** and take Sojourners to Harding. **On Sunday, June 22** a shuttle will transport paddlers from Hunlock Creek to Nesbitt Park at **2:00 pm** following the trip.

Free Camping is available in Nesbitt Park on Saturday evening for Sojourners.

**To Register for the Sojourn,
Contact:**
Susquehanna River Adventures at
570-328-4001
www.susqpaddle.org/
or
Endless Mtn. Outfitters at 570-746-9140
www.emo444.com

Wyoming Valley RiverFest 2008 Schedule of Events

Friday - June 20, 2008
Downtown Wilkes-Barre on Public Square
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Enjoy the Evening: Music by George Wesley, Food, Fun, Youth Activities, Scavenger Hunt, RJG Latino Multi-Cultural Dancers, Children Painting a Mural of the River, the Third Friday Arts Walk, and a Free Viewing of "Looking to the River" at Movies14 (8pm)

Saturday - June 21, 2008
Join the Festival at Nesbitt Park
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Enjoy the Afternoon: Music by Don Shappelle, Dustin Switzer, and the Non-Refundables. Food, Fun, and Activities for All Ages

Pony Rides - Woodland Stables

Moon Walk

Kayaking Demo

Art of the River - the Cultural Council of Luzerne County & Sue Hand

Rock Climbing Wall - Army National Guard

Penn State Kids Tree Climb

Pest or Guest - PSU Master Gardeners

Native Leaf Rubbing - PSU Master Gardeners

Make a Bird Feeder - PSU Master Gardeners

4-H Fly Tying Demo - Penn State

Guided Nature Hikes - WB Riverfront Parks Com.

Wetland Wonders - Luzerne Conservation District

Bike Safety - Free Kids Helmets - WB Health Dept.

Solstice Tile Mosaic and AMD Tie-Dyed River Quilt - EPCAMR

Children's Field Games - WB YMCA

Fire Safety for Youth - WB Fire Department

A Closer Look at Backyard Mammals - Second

Chance Wildlife Center - 2:00 pm Live Program

Live Birds of Prey Program - Carbon County Env.

Education Center - 3:30 pm Live Program



RiverFest 2008 Sponsors



We put space to work.™



Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers



Insurance • Banking • Investments



Here for good.™



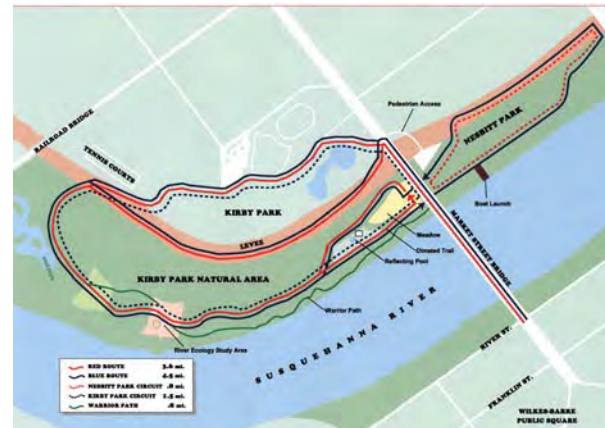
For More Information Contact:

**(570) 825-1701 or 602-0601
at Penn State Cooperative Extension
or (570) 331-7046 - Luzerne County
Recreation Department**

Directions to RiverFest at Nesbitt Park

Take exit 170B (formerly 47B) off Interstate 81. This is the Wilkes-Barre exit to get to PA-309 North. From the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-476) take the Bear Creek Exit, Route 115 North. Route 115 North will become Route 309 North in the valley.

- Continue on Route 309 North.
- Take exit #3 towards Wilkes-Barre/Plains.
- Turn Left onto River Street.
- Continue on River Street until you reach Wilkes-Barre. You will pass General Hospital on the left.
- **For Sojourners:** Continue on River Street past the courthouse and River Commons (under construction) and make a right turn onto the Market St. Bridge. Cross the bridge and make the first right into a parking lot. The shuttle busses will be leaving from here.
- **To Drive into Nebitt Park:** Turn right off of River St. at the Luz. Co. Courthouse and cross the Veteran's Mem. Bridge. Make the very first right onto First Ave and follow the road that leads over the levee. Continue South on the bumpy gravel road towards the Market St. Bridge.



Susquehanna River Tour Protocol

- PA Fish and Boat Commission and the river outfitters will conduct a boating safety briefing before the launch. All participants are required to attend this safety briefing.
- All canoe/kayak trip participants will be expected to wear their PFDs and keep them fastened throughout the duration of the trip.
- A guide will be assigned to all groups. For safety purposes all participants are expected to stay with their guide.
- Safety whistles will be given to participants to be used if help is needed. Three long blasts of the whistle is a universal signal for help.
- Participants are reminded to dress for the weather. You may want to consider suitable footwear to wade in the water during launching or landing boats, eye-wear, sunhats, sunscreen, and a water bottle and/or snack to sustain you along the way. Clothing that dries quickly like nylon or a change of clothing packed in a waterproof bag are also recommended.

In the event of unsafe conditions (high water), notice of postponement will be made by Friday June 20 via email or phone.

Disclaimer

The kayaker/canoer is participating in this event at his/her own risk. Every participant must wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD) while on the water. All boaters will be required to sign an assumption of risk form and furnish health information. The assumption of risk form will be available the morning of the trip. Participants are required to be a minimum of 4 years old and 40 pounds to be appropriately sized in a PFD. The outfitters reserve the right to exclude a participant for actions that may prove unsafe. Registration fees are to be paid to the outfitters.

