

UP FRONT



ACROSS MY DESK

By Brian Butko, Editor

We received many river-related articles in the past year, and you'll find some of them gathered in this issue. Reading them made us think about the many organizations that enliven our region's waterways. One of the best known is Riverlife Task Force, a nonprofit public/private collaboration to build and maintain Three Rivers Park, along the shores of Pittsburgh's three rivers. An ongoing goal is to increase the number of marinas, tie-ups, and public water landings for motorized and non-motorized boats. Check www.riverlifetaskforce.org for more information.

You'll also find programs related to rivers at Venture Outdoors, another non-profit that informs regional residents about the multitude of other outdoor groups, amenities, and activities. Their programs range from hiking and biking to kayaking and rafting. Visit www.ventureoutdoors.org for more information.



Riverlife Task Force

Friends of the Riverfront similarly aims to increase awareness of the Pittsburgh region's rivers and riverfronts through activities and expansion of water and land trails. Visit www.friendsoftheriverfront.org to download detailed maps to our area's many trails.

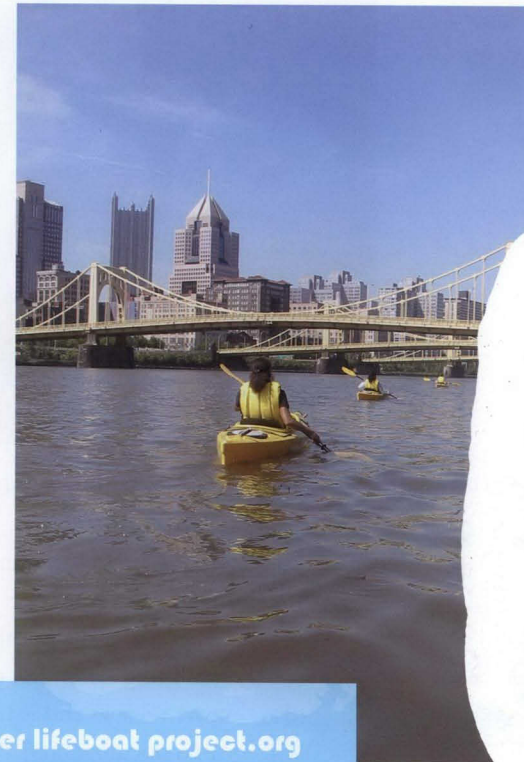
The Watershed Atlas of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers is a project of Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Alleghenies Watershed Network that promotes the protection of watersheds and



Carolyn Lambert

sustainable uses of land. Interactive maps at www.watershedatlas.org offer timelines, statistics, and conservation efforts in the 19,154 square miles included in the watersheds of these two rivers.

Perhaps the most whimsical of recent efforts is the Ohio River Lifeboat Project, a self-described "expedition into the social and ecological history" of the river. Carolyn Lambert is looking for people to gather on her boat, where they can



Venture Outdoors

then enjoy potluck dinners while telling their stories about the rivers.

Contact her at the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University, ohioriverlifeboatproject.org for more info.

There are many more organizations that encourage activities on the region's rivers, from rowing to documenting the steel mills that lined the shores. For researchers and casual fans alike, the History Center Library & Archives has a wealth of information and images documenting river life from steamboats to the reshaping of Pittsburgh's Point.