

Exploring the river

WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY'S
LEHIGH RIVER SOJOURN
2005
June 24-27

- Introduction
- Sojourn -- Day 1
- Sojourn -- Day 2
- Sojourn -- Day 3
- Sojourn -- Day 4

**PHOTOS**

Colorful cool-down

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Lehigh River Sojourn -- Day 3

Travis Dziadual

Today we canoed a long stretch of the Lehigh River. The 14-mile trip was long and strenuous. This stretch started with a bang! The biggest rapids were the first ones we went over. There were two people in a canoe who dumped over the first set of rapids. For the first half of the day I was in a canoe with Mr. Mauser. We hit only a couple of rocks, but that was his fault. Otherwise, it was pretty awesome. During the first part, we saw an osprey and an immature eagle. The scenery was astounding. There were trees everywhere. At lunchtime we ate under the bridge at Bowmanstown, and went swimming afterward. After swimming was a presentation on water quality and macro invertebrates that thrive in clean and dirty water. Before we put back in after lunch, we switched partners, now I was with Tony, and Andy was with Mr. Mauser. Being with Tony was a little bit harder than being with Mr. Mauser. It didn't help that the shallowest parts were coming up next. After getting stuck once or twice we were fine the rest of the way. Canoeing 14-miles down river is a tough task. I'm glad tomorrow is only 10 miles.

Tony Bunce

Today, we canoed for 14 miles from Jim Thorpe to Walnutport. We started out at the train station and made our way down the river from there. It was an exciting day with many rapids and twists and turns. I, Tony, tried my hand at steering today, and it was a success. Even with the rocks and rapids, I was able to navigate the Lehigh with the help of the many guides. The sojourn stopped to eat lunch under a bridge at Bowmanstown, the lunch was provided by Alfie's Pizzeria. After eating lunch, we set off again on our expedition. As soon as we came up on the other side of the bridge I heard someone yell, "Tony!" I immediately looked up and saw my whole family up there waving to me. I waved back then proceeded along with the rest of the sojourn. There were some more tricky spots along the way, but by working together we all got through. When we finally came ashore at Walnutport, everyone was tired from a hard day's work. I think today was a great trip, even though it was 14 miles long.

Andy Longacre

Today, when we started on the river, the sun wasn't out, so it felt better than the previous days when it was very hot. Everyone thought the river would be low, but it wasn't, so we had a good time. Tony had his own cheering crew part way down the river. When I was with Mr. Mauser, I had fun because he knew everybody on the trip, so we could splash them. The rapids were very exciting. Going through some of the rapids our canoe took on water. Then the sun came out and it felt good. Soon it was too hot so we jumped into the river to cool off. The water felt nice. Today was fun, but I have to leave the Sojourn to go to Scout Camp. I had a lot of fun. I hope I can go on the trip again next year.

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