

# Paddlin'

## The West Branch

### Susquehanna River Sojourn coming in May

#### From staff reports

RENOVO — The West Branch of the Susquehanna River has been getting a lot of national attention lately. National Geographic named the West Branch a “Best Adventure Destination for 2012” and this 228-mile river was also designated as a National Recreation Trail by the National Park Service last year.

To encourage people to explore the river, a West Branch Susquehanna River Sojourn will be held May 19-24.

This six-day educational paddle trip will start in Curwensville, and travel 85 river miles to Renovo, with camping, stewardship activities and educational programming along the way.

“The West Branch Sojourn will be a great way for folks to explore this stretch of water trail, since much of it is breathtakingly rural, secluded and one of the clos-

See SOJOURN, A6



PHOTOS PROVIDED  
A young boy paddles down the Susquehanna River during a previous Sojourn.



The Express 4/18-





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Continued from A1

est things we have in Pennsylvania to a wilderness experience," said Erin Pierce, program coordinator with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. "Camping, meals and transportation are arranged ahead of time so sojourners can really just focus on enjoying the local educational programs, amazing landscape, wildlife, and company of the other paddlers."

Full registration includes professional guide service, camping, meals, insurance, shuttles, sojourn T-shirt, and interesting educational programming and entertainment as scheduled.

Registration for adults is \$65 per day and \$33 per day for children 12 and under. Registration forms and additional information are available online at [www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org), or by contacting Erin at 570-522-7244.

This is the first time in over 20 years that a PA

Sojourn has paddled this section of the West Branch, and organizers expect registration to fill quickly. Space is limited. The registration deadline is May 4.

Pennsylvania's river sojourns are a national model for connecting people to their natural environment in a fun and educational way. The purpose of this "floating classroom" is to raise awareness about the natural and cultural resources of the West Branch, promote public access to these resources and encourage stewardship of the watershed.

"We want the Sojourn to inspire people to connect with the river, and become advocates for the Susquehanna Greenway - the longest greenway in the state," said Pierce.

Paddlers must provide their own boat and gear. Rental information for local outfitters, as well as a preliminary Sojourn schedule, policies and additional

information are included in the registration packet. While river guides from Canoe Susquehanna of Lewisburg will direct the Sojourn and help participants navigate the river, first-time paddlers should seek instruction and experience prior to the Sojourn.

The Sojourn is partially funded by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers POWR, a grant from the Lumber Heritage Region and in-kind services from GenOn Energy's Shawville Station. Local planning partners include Canoe Susquehanna, Clearfield County Conservation District, Clearfield County Recreation and Tourism Authority, GenOn Energy Inc., Lumber Heritage Region, McCracken Canoe Sales and Rental, the PA Environmental Council and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

Organizations that would like to get involved

or be a sojourn sponsor can Pierce at [epierce@susquehannagreenway.org](mailto:epierce@susquehannagreenway.org).

To learn about other Susquehanna sojourns and trips happening this summer visit the Susquehanna Greenway calendar of events at:

[www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org). To learn about sojourns that are taking place on other rivers across the state visit the POWR website at [www.pawatersheds.org](http://www.pawatersheds.org).

The Susquehanna Greenway is a corridor of connected trails, parks, river access points, and communities, linking people to the natural and cultural treasures of the Susquehanna River and its West Branch. Over 500 miles in the length, the Greenway is one of our state's greatest resources, conserving the environment for all living things, and creating recreational opportunities for healthy communities.