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[The Progress Home](#) >> [Friday, May 17, 2013 - River Sojourn group paddles into Clearfield](#)

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[Sports Department](#)

[Classified Advertising](#)

[Legal Advertising](#)

[Display \(Retail\) Advertising](#)

[Circulation Department](#)

Death Notices

Forms and Submissions

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River Sojourn group paddles into Clearfield

Friday, May 17, 2013

By **Jeff Corcino** Staff Writer

As part of the annual River Sojourn, canoeists and kayakers, 63 in all, are making the 5-day 99-mile trip from McGees Mills to Keating, picking up trash along the way.

The event is sponsored yearly by the Susquehanna Green ways partnership.

The flotilla made a stop at Lower Witmer Park yesterday afternoon for lunch and an informational talk on the area from Clearfield County Planning Director Jodi Brennan.

After Clearfield, the group was stopping in Shawville for the evening and to perform a river cleanup with employees of the Shawville power plant.

Participants are from all over the Eastern U.S., including Connecticut, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, New York and Washington D.C.

The purpose of the sojourn is not only to improve the environment, but also to promote tourism in the area and give people a greater appreciation and connection to the river, according to Erin Pierce, program coordinator.

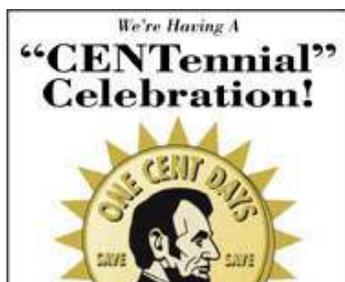
The sojourn is an annual event, but this is only the second year it has visited Clearfield County.

She said the heavily-wooded stretch between Karthaus and Keating was the most popular leg of the trip last year.

She said because of this they decided return again this year and start farther up river to allow participants to see the McGees Mills covered bridge, the only covered bridge on the river and paddle through Chest Falls, which has the steepest drop on the river.

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