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Posted: 6:27 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2012

River Sojourn Under Way In Clearfield County



By Brittany Boyer

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, Pa. — The West Branch of the Susquehanna River was named "Best Adventure Destination for 2012" by the National Geographic.

The recent designation has been drawing in more people to Clearfield County.

On Sunday morning, a river sojourn kicked off along the West Branch in Curwensville.

Organizers said that the four-day, three-night journey consists of 60 people kayaking 85 miles down the West Branch.

"What's so cool about the West Branch is that it starts up way up in the headwaters and really small towns up here and it travels all the way down to Williamsport and it has so much different character," said Sarah Koontz of Tioga County.

On Monday part of the sojourn consisted of a river cleanup. The event was sponsored by GenOn Energy.

"Anything that you might find in someones back yard that could get washed up into the stream, we found,"said Bill Baker of GenOn Energy.

Monday morning organizers said that they already surpassed the one ton of trash they collected last year.

Visitors to the county and employees at GenOn are hopeful that people will be more assertive in keeping the waterways clean.

"Watersheds are very valuable for fish and wildlife habitat and their valuable for us for recreation, so think before you do those types of things because its your back yard,too," said Baker.

"West Branch is a great resource and unfortunately its not recognized the way it should be always but it'sso important to keep it clean to give the best viewpoint to anybody visiting the area," said Koontz.

The sojourn will continue through Thursday.

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