



Lake Towhee

13th Annual Paddle with A Purpose

Join the Bucks County Conservation District and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the county's longest running lake clean up event. Will you help us rid Lake Towhee of invasive European Water Chestnut?

July 20th-22nd

9:00 am- 2:00 pm

800 Old Bethlehem Rd

Quakertown, PA 18951



Bucks County Conservation District Volunteer Liability Waiver

- I. I acknowledge and understand that the volunteer work that I will participate in may involve strenuous physical activities and work under difficult conditions and can result in serious personal injury or in death. I certify that I am physically fit and have not been advised otherwise by a qualified medical person. I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to obtain medical treatment that may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident, and/or illness during my volunteer activities.
- II. In consideration for the use of provided supplies and opportunity to engage in volunteer work sponsored by the Bucks County Conservation District ("BCCD"), partnering with the Delaware Canal State Park (PADCNR), I agree for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, successors and assigns to: (A) waive, release and discharge the following persons and entities from any and all liability for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind which may hereafter occur to me: BCCD, PADCNR, and their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, event holders, and landowners whose facilities are being used or whose property is being cleared or cleaned (collectively the "Released Parties"); and (B) indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all liabilities, claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, damages, fines, penalties and expenses, including but not limited to attorney's fees, which arise in connection with my use of the provided supplies and participation in the volunteer activities, without limit, and whether caused by the acts or omissions of the Released Parties.
- III. This waiver, release, and indemnity and image agreement shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law and agree that if any portion is held invalid, the remainder of the waiver will continue in full legal force and effect apply to all event participants. Volunteers under the age of 18 are required to have an additional signature by a parent or guardian. In consideration which I acknowledge, I grant Bucks County Conservation District and the Company's assigns, licensees, and successors, the right to use any photographs of myself or my child (regarding *social media, reports, and publications*, for a period of **3 years**). I grant the right to use my image for the purposes listed above in all forms and media, including composite or modified representations, and waive the right to inspect or approve versions of my image used for publication or the written copy that may be used in connection with the images.

Volunteer Information			
Name of Volunteer:			
Home Address:			
Cell Phone:		Email:	
Emergency Contact: (Name and Number)			
Signature of Volunteer:	Date:		
Signature of Parent/Guardian: (If under the age of 18)	Date:		

Email the signed form to Intern@BucksCCD.org, or print it and bring it to the event.

Water Chestnut

About water chestnut

Latin name: *Trapa natans* L.

Native to Eurasia and Africa, water chestnut was an ornamental plant used in many fixed water features much like lily pads nowadays. In the United States, the water chestnut has become a highly problematic invasive species.

Plant biology: Water chestnut is a rooted plant with floating leaves. Each root can reach up to fifteen feet long meaning it doesn't need shallow water to survive. In the US during the month of June, the plant will grow a small white flower signaling the production of its seed pods. The seed pods are brown, and pyramid shaped, with many sharp points and are hard to crush.

Water chestnut negatively impacts water systems by shading out native species, competing for nutrients, and changing habitat structure with its mats of roots and stems. This lowers biodiversity and makes native plants more vulnerable to environmental changes.

The tangled mats full of spiked seeds quickly become a nuisance and a major safety concern to recreational lake users.



Figure 1: Floating Water Chestnut



Figure 2: Water Chestnut seed pod



Figure 3: Water Chestnut matt



In 2009, water chestnuts were observed in both Lake Towhee and Lake Luxemburg during a routine water quality check by the PA DEP. While they were observed in 2009 it is suspected they had been in the water system for years prior to being discovered. The Bucks County Conservation District in partnership with the PA Department of Environmental Protection have been monitoring and managing the blooms each year since their discovery. The continuing effort aims to eradicate the plant from the lake. The annual Paddle with a Purpose event brings together multiple organizations, recreational users, and other interested residents to educate and encourage conservation for healthier, cleaner water ways.

Volunteers will be provided complimentary refreshments and educational material on how to identify and effectively pull water chestnut from the water. You may bring your own motorless watercraft or sign up early with our volunteer waiver to secure a kayak for the day, courtesy of Delaware Canal State Park. Each volunteer will be given a trashbag to collect the plants. Once full, event organizers will collect and properly dispose of the bags.

