

Hickory Creek festival Saturday

By HP STAFF | Posted: Thursday, August 1, 2013 6:00 am

STEVENSVILLE - Efforts by some Blossomtime royalty to collect data about Hickory Creek will culminate in a Hickory Creek Community Festival on Saturday.

The festival will include a community cleanup during which people will help pick up trash along the creek banks, according to Marcy Colclough of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. The day will include refreshments, prizes, free screenings of well water for nitrates and nitrites, discounts on testing well water, hands-on educational activities for children, and handing out information about Hickory Creek, she said.

People taking part in the clean-up should wear sturdy shoes, Colclough said. Gloves, trash bags and refreshments will be provided, she added.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Colclough said Miss Stevensville Kaitlyn Lucker and her court chose the Hickory Creek Watershed Partnership for their community service project. On Saturday they will lead clean-up crews, staff information booths and help out with children's activities.

Also scheduled to take part are: Rachel Marquardt, first runner-up; Samantha Randall, second runner-up; Samantha Johnstone, third runner-up; Hailey McAllister, Miss Congeniality; and Michael Hoodlebrink, Mr. Stevensville 2013.

Colclough said the group was out earlier this summer recording GPS locations, collecting data about the stream and taking photos. The data will be used by Watershed Partnership volunteer Gaye Blind and Lakeshore High School advanced placement biology teacher Lynda Smith to choose areas to conduct a "macroinvertebrate inventory" to monitor the creek's health, she said.

Wayne Gleiber of Great Lakes Scientific in Stevensville has been helping Lakeshore High School students collect and analyze water samples.

Sponsors include the Berrien Conservation District, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, village of Stevensville, Great Lakes Scientific, Prism Science & Technology, Berrien County Health Department and Martin's.

The Hickory Creek Watershed Partnership is aimed at improving the water quality and the habitat along the Hickory Creek watershed area through education and stewardship. People who want more information on the creek may visit <http://www.swmpc.org/hickory.asp>.

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