Allegheny sojourn will push off from Buckaloons June 1

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The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) will hold its annual canoe trip on Saturday, June 1, from the Buckaloons Recreational Area in Irvine to a boat access in Tidioute.

This year’s event is called “Back to the Allegheny: A Float Through Time” and will explore the region’s history, present, and future. The event costs $65 per person and registrations will be accepted through May 16.

The Allegheny River is a National Wild and Scenic River, a designation held by less than one quarter of one percent of U.S. rivers.

The event is supported by Allegheny Outfitters, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the WPC.

The Friends of Allegheny Wilderness wrote in a letter of support, “The sojourn will raise awareness about the Allegheny River and its history, and educate participants about the natural and recreational values within the watershed,” it states. “It will in-

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include paddling directly beside the Allegheny Islands Wilderness islands, which were given permanent statutory protection along with Hickory Creek as part of America’s National Wilderness Preservation System in 1984. Through experiencing the Allegheny River first hand, sojourners will better understand the need to permanently protect from harmful human activities the scenic beauty and wildlife habitat along the river.”

The WPC website explains, “The WPC enhances the region’s quality of life by protecting and restoring exceptional places. A private nonprofit conservation organization founded in 1932, WPC has helped to establish ten state parks, conserved more than 233,000 acres of natural lands and protected or restored more than 1,500 miles of rivers and streams. The Conservancy owns and operates Fallingwater, which symbolizes people living in harmony with nature. In addition, WPC enriches our region’s cities and towns through 135 community gardens and green spaces that are planted with the help of 13,000 volunteers. The work of the WPC is accomplished through the support of more than 11,000 members.”

To register for the sojourn or for more information, visit www.waterlandlife.org or contact Jean Keene at 724-471-7202, ext. 5110.