

Samantha Holbert committed to helping community

Activist awarded Volunteer of the Year for local park efforts

by Iris Rosario

Community, Connection, Collaboration, and Creativity. Samantha J. Holbert uses each one of her “four C’s” as a way to guide her through her work as Chairman for the Stroud Township Open Space and Recreation. In her fifteen years of experience, her dedication and passion to help others have made a difference for the environment and the community. When she sets her mind to something, there is no way she will give up.

“When you find something that you’re really passionate about, you should go for it. Growing up, I liked to do positive things for others,” Holbert said. “I wasn’t involved in a structured volunteer situation, but was always interested in community projects.” She was involved in the National Honor Society in high school, which gave her an opportunity to do some volunteer work; and she worked at her local pool.

As she continued to work there, she was offered an office position for the borough. She quickly realized what her college major would be: Recreation and Leisure Services Management. She also minored in Spanish.

After graduating from East Stroudsburg University, Holbert began working for Stroud Township. She started volunteering for local parks after having children. “There’s something fulfilling with volunteer work as opposed to getting paid,” said Holbert. She wanted to continue to help the community and still have time for her family. Now a



Mrs. Samantha Holbert visited Mr. Sobrinski's journalism classes last month. Here, she shows the students a detailed map of the Levee Loop Trail that runs along both sides of the Brodhead Creek, linking East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg.

photo by Emily Duda

Chairman of Open Space, she is in charge of running the meetings that are held once a month.

Holbert helped with one specific project that she's particularly proud of. She noticed that the Penn Estates water sewage was damaging the Brodhead Creek, and she was determined to fix it. Although many people believed that she was in no position to go in and change something like this, she did not hesitate. She successfully gathered a team of volunteers to stop the contamination of the Brodhead Creek. As president of the PTA at Stroudsburg Inter-



mediate Elementary School, she has used her volunteer work to become more involved with SASD. One of her goals is to promote educational field trips that help schools meet their students' needs. She also tries to encourage schools and the community to recycle.

Additionally, Holbert was the project manager for re-opening an animal shelter. She worked with the media to inform and involve the public, as well as coordinate people in operations, funding, and securing a lease offer for the shelter building.

“I did the animal shelter project because I felt that it was important and I used my four C’s to finish the project,” said Holbert.

Holbert has also volunteered on the Citizen Advisory Board for the East Stroudsburg University Recreation and Leisure Services Management Department since 1999. She received the Volunteer Service Award from the PA Recreation and Park Society this year, as well as the Outstanding Alumni Award from the ESU Recreation Department in 2009.

Holbert is working hard to finish the Trailhead project and has hopes of accomplishing this soon. Her hard work and leadership show that there is hardly any chance that she will fail at her next task.

“I like to manage and, as a leader, use what I like to do and what I am good at to try to empower others to do what they’re good at.”

Creekview Park winds along beautiful Brodhead

by Allie Jurjevic

I was driving in my red van on my way to check out Creekview Park with my mom and my sister. I pulled into the park on a gray, rocky, rough road. There was an off-yellow house on my left and a baseball field on my right. In front of me was a jungle gym and a big field with a lake nearby.

I got out of the car and walked on the big field going towards the lake. The field was filled with light green grass, almost resembling hay. When I was halfway on the field, I could hear the calm, rushing river, where men were fishing. There was also a gray bridge that looked lonely and cold. There was one green fern isolated on the rocks, looking something like a Christmas tree. Before the river, there was a whole bunch of assorted rocks.

After the river, I walked over to the jungle gym. There was a wooden square surrounding it with wood chips inside. Inside was a big slide, green and red monkey bars, and a

rock climbing wall with different rocks on the wall for children to climb.

Once I was done playing on the fun-filled jungle gym, I walked over to the baseball field. There was a black bar surrounding the gigantic field. You could see the white pitcher plate from afar and all of the bases. The grass was greener than any type of grass I have seen.

Being at Creekview Park was very relaxing and calm. It is a popular place, not only to bring your family, but to bring pets, as well.

“I love bringing my dogs to the creek when nobody is around and play around with them,” said sophomore Savannah Cappiello.

Creekview Park is a great place to fish, play baseball or softball, run around, or just sit by the creek and enjoy the beautiful sounds of nature.



photos by Allie Jurjevic