

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

For the week of
April 20, 2008

Q. Dear Twig: "Susquehanna." Now *that's* a beautiful word.

A. Your question? Is that a question? Bueller? ... Bueller?

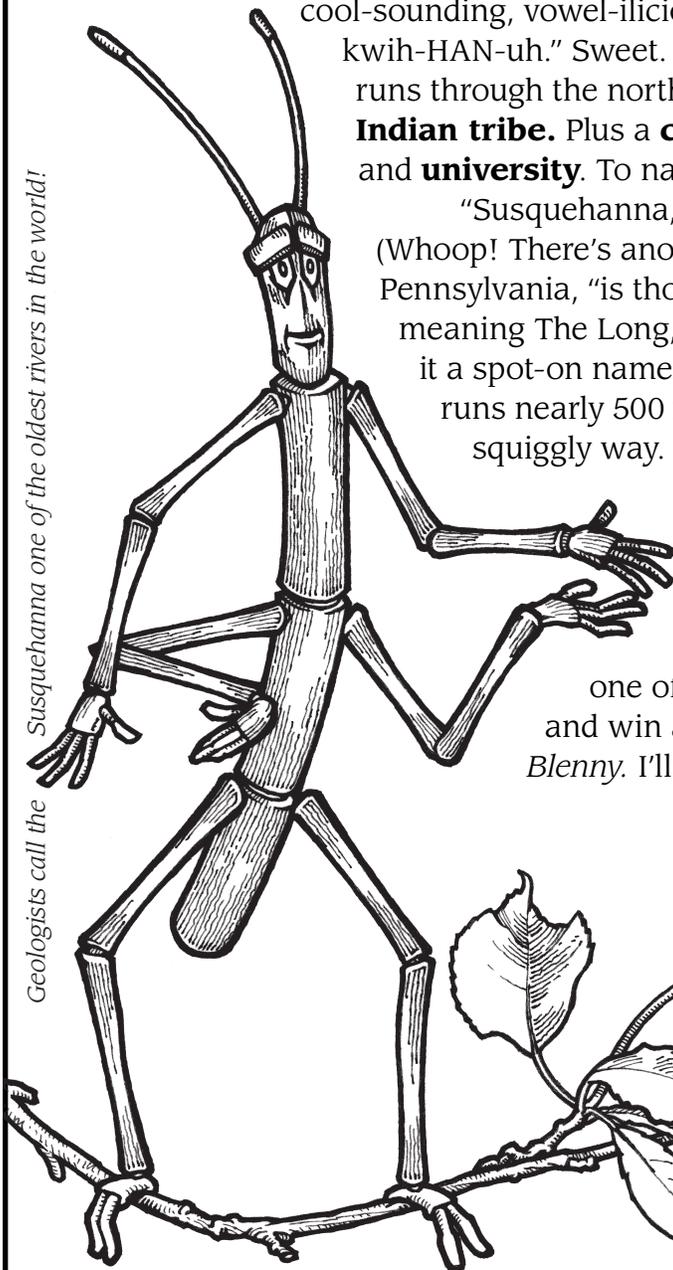
All right. Yes. Yes, it is. It *is* a beautiful word. A smooth-flowing, cool-sounding, vowel-ilicious word. Susquehanna. "Suss-kwih-HAN-uh." Sweet. The name of a major **river** that runs through the northeast United States. Also of an **Indian tribe**. Plus a **county, township, state park** and **university**. To name just a few.

"Susquehanna," writes the Susquehanna (Whoop! There's another!) Greenway Partnership of Pennsylvania, "is thought to be an Indian word meaning The Long, Crooked River." Which makes it a spot-on name. The **Susquehanna River** runs nearly 500 miles. And it does it, yep, in a squiggly way.

Readers: What's your own favorite word? Make it a **noun**. Write a **haiku** about why you like it. Send them to me at ct-oardc@osu.edu. Be one of the first 10 (starting NOW!) and win a free copy of my book, *Hairy Blenny*. I'll share the best!

Cuyahoggily,

Twig



Geologists call the Susquehanna one of the oldest rivers in the world!

From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).

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Notes: According to a Maryland Department of Natural Resources Web site, "Captain John Smith [the guy Pocahontas kept out of trouble] first explored the Susquehanna River in 1608. It impressed him favorably. ... During his journey, Smith met and described the native Susquehannocks, for whom the river is named." Of interest, too, or maybe instead boring to you ("Class? Class? Cl- ... Wake up!!!" Far out ...), is that Smith spelled the tribe "Sasquesahannocks" in his writings and the river "Sasquesahanough" on a map he did. (OK. Enough Susquehanna. Now write down and e-mail those words and haikus! Oo! Hey! Dibs on "Monongahela"!)

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