

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

January 21, 2008

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

REAP Farm Tax Credit Program Receives \$1 Million a Day in Applications



During the first 10 days of the application period for the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\)](#) farm conservation tax credits, the State Conservation Commission received over \$10 million in applications.

"Farmers are stepping up and taking advantage of the cost effective options available to meet their Chesapeake Bay obligations," said Cathleen Curran Myers, DEP Deputy Secretary for Water Management. "In the past few years, Pennsylvania's farmers made our Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program the largest in the country. Now they are exhibiting their willingness to invest in conservation measures and clean water as evidenced by the \$10 million in REAP requests received to date."

With the REAP applications containing an average 50 percent tax credit, this represents not only an additional \$10 million in state support for farm conservation projects, but an estimated matching investment of \$10 million in farmer dollars for conservation.

According to Myers, Pennsylvania's farmers are meeting the mandatory nutrient reduction targets they are required to make under the state's Chesapeake Bay Compliance Plan.

"Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Compliance Plan requires 25 million pounds of nutrient reduction from our farmlands—nearly five times the reduction required of our sewage treatment plants," said Myers. "Our farmers are rising to that challenge, laying claim to more than half of all the nitrogen reductions made by farmers anywhere in the multi-state watershed thus far."

Agriculture, collectively, is the largest contributor of nutrients to Pennsylvania's bay tributaries, according to Myers. The more than 40,000 Pennsylvania farms located within the watershed discharge 46 percent of the nitrogen and 58 percent of the phosphorus into these waterways and, consequently, farmers today face more stringent water quality requirements.

The state's laws are requiring best management practices on larger Pennsylvania farms. Practices mandated for farms considered concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, include a thorough process to obtain a permit and comply with regulations more stringent than the federal requirements.

Stronger regulations have expanded the number of CAFOs from 165 to 350. CAFOs are required to obtain permits that reduce nutrients and sediment flowing into local waterways.

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New manure requirements have added phosphorus to the nitrate regulations included as part of nutrient management plans. The new regulations also establish vegetative buffers or setbacks along the edge of streams, while farms that import manure must now meet the same requirements as the farm that produces the manure.

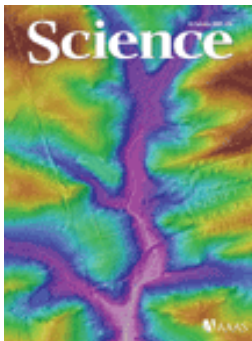
With these sweeping changes, more than 5,000 farms will have full nutrient management plans, as well as stream setbacks or buffers, increasing the number of highly regulated farms in Pennsylvania by 600 percent.

Larger farms with animals must now meet standards for constructing and using manure storage structures, and must obtain a state permit when their structures reach a minimum level of storage capacity. Additionally, every farm in the state is required to develop and implement erosion and sedimentation plans that meet established minimum standards for control of soil and nutrient runoff.

For more information, visit [Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Program webpage](#) or the [REAP webpage](#).

NewsClip: [State Releasing Cleaner Water](#)

Franklin & Marshall Professors Announce Legacy Sediments Article in Science



Franklin & Marshall College professors Robert C. Walter, Ph.D. and Dorothy J. Merritts, Ph.D. this week announced the publication of an article in the journal *Science* that outlines the contributions thousands of 17th to 19th Century milldams have made to causing sediment and nutrient pollution in today's streams.

The research published by Drs. Walter and Merritts have led to changes in public policy dealing with the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay and other watersheds.

The article, "[Natural Streams and the Legacy of Water Powered Mills](#)," is the feature cover story in the January 18 edition of *Science*, the most prestigious scientific journal in the world.

Financial support for the research was provided by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania members of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and Franklin and Marshall College.

The article shows that many streams in the mid-Atlantic region are impaired by centuries-old land use practices, primarily by the construction of early American milldams and contemporaneous deforestation for agriculture.

These practices increased sediment erosion, and the filling of millponds with sediment by the mid-19th Century. The authors conclude that high sediment and phosphorus loads (and to some degree nitrogen) in streams today are impacted substantially from stream bank erosion of stored "legacy sediment."

In addition, the work significantly alters the traditional scientific view on how mid-Atlantic streams formed and evolved. Areas called "floodplains" throughout the 20th Century are not floodplains, but the surfaces of the sediment filled millponds.

The research concluded that the current state of streams in the region – of small meandering streams with gravel beds and high, fine-grained banks -- is not the "natural" state that existed at the time of European settlement and that the pre-settlement streams were more akin to vegetated wetlands than they were to actual streams.

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Original stream valleys had many small channel-like threads of water flowing around vegetated islands, and the entire valley received frequent overbank flow. This wetland pre-settlement condition is in stark contrast to the current state in which high, dry “floodplain” surfaces are covered by invasive grasses, shrubs, and trees that normally would not exist in a riparian (river corridor) environment.

The results of this research have implications for environmental and agricultural policy. Stream restoration is a multi-billion dollar industry, fundamentally the authors found we have been restoring some streams to the wrong “natural” state.

In addition, the authors argue that agricultural best management practices are working better than previously realized, and that there has been a source of sediment and nutrients that was unknown before this research brought this to light.

Follow-up studies have shown that from 50 to 90 percent of sediment load attributed to agriculture or overland runoff is actually coming from streambanks and legacy sediments.

The Department of Environmental Protection is already pursuing the development of a floodplain restoration best management practice based on these new facts and recognized similar practices in the recently published [Stormwater Management Best Practices Manual](#).

The work done by Drs. Walter and Merritts has been used by watershed restoration specialists like LandStudies, Inc. in Lititz, Pa to help develop techniques for floodplain restoration.

“Numerous watershed assessments we completed pointed to a previously unidentified source of sediment and nutrient pollution affecting water quality in our streams,” said Mark Gutshall, LandStudies, Inc.. “It wasn’t until we saw the work Drs. Walter and Merritts did that provided an explanation for what we were seeing in our assessments. We’ve worked closely with them ever since.”

“Our [floodplain restoration technique](#) is designed to restore a stream to its original floodplain by removing the legacy sediment that would otherwise find its way downstream,” explained Gutshall. “Once we knew to look for old mill dams, we could accurately locate the old stream bed level and essentially put the stream back the way it was, with natural meanders but without the eroded stream banks.”

“This is another case where science and history were able to document a source of pollution that is dramatically changing the way we restore water quality in our watersheds,” said Gutshall. “The fact the work Drs. Walter and Merritts have done was published in preeminent journal like *Science* not only validates what they found, but makes it a more important force in changing public policy.”

For more information, contact Dr. Robert Walter by sending email to: Robert.Walter@fandm.edu or Dr. Dorothy Merritts by sending email to: Dorothy.Merritts@fandm.edu or by calling 717-291-4398.

NewsClips: [F&M Scientists’ Groundbreaking Work is Science Cover Researchers Challenge Water-Flow Model](#)
[Audio: Study-Are River Restoration Efforts Misguided? – NPR](#)
[What Does a Natural Stream Look Like?](#)
[Early Settlers Drained Marshy US Landscape](#)

Video Blog: [Legacy Sediments and Floodplain Restoration](#)

Links: [Unearthing New Truths, Franklin & Marshall Magazine](#)

[New Book: Floodplain Restoration Improves Water Quality, Reduces Floods
Documenting Stream Channel Erosion](#)

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Video Blog Feature

- PA Center for Environmental Ed Director Kathleen Paul

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- DEP, DCNR Encourage Participation in January 28 Grant Workshop
- Energy Management Institute Identifies \$50,000 in Annual Savings for Company
- PECO Launches Competitive Procurement for Renewable Energy
- PPL to Expand Holtwood Hydroelectric Plant in Lancaster County
- PUC Says Help Make Martin Luther King Day a "Day of Utility Service"
- 2008 The Business of Brownfields Conference Set for April 17-18 in Pittsburgh
- Pennsylvania's Forestlands Stable But Composition Changing
- DCNR Aerial Photography Now Featured on Google Earth
- Help Wanted: PRC Environmental Program Specialist

Spotlight

- Cross Fork Brook Trout Habitat Project, Potter County, *By Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited*

Grants & Awards

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

Video Blog Feature

PA Center for Environmental Ed Director Kathleen Paul

The January 14 Environmental Issues Forum sponsored by the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) featured a presentation by Kathleen Cowles Paul, Director of the [PA Center for Environmental Education](#).



PCEE was created through executive order in 1996 to "support and facilitate environmental education on a statewide basis." The center is located at Slippery Rock University and is administered by the State System of Higher Education.

Legislation-- [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango)—that would establish the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law was passed by the Senate and is now in the House Appropriations Committee.

In this [Video Blog Feature, Kathleen Paul](#) talks with *PA Environment Digest* editor David Hess about the Center, its role and services and its future.

Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) is Chair of the Joint Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) is vice-chairman.

On the Hill

Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session the week of January 28.

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House published floor Calendars for the week of January 28—

Calendars

House (January 28): [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) authorizing Pennsylvania to join the Great Lakes Compact governing water withdrawals in the Lake Erie Basin; [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) the Scrap Material Theft Prevention Act; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices.

Senate (January 28): [Senate Bill 497](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) limiting the liability of landowners making property available for recreational purposes.

Bills Introduced

The following bill of interest were introduced this week—

Drinking Water: [House Bill 2157](#) (Quinn-R-Bucks) amending the Safe Drinking Water Act to require applicants for a discharge permit in a critical water zone to demonstrate its application will not degrade existing water quality.

Deep Mine Safety: [House Bill 2164](#) (Solobay-D-Washington) updating the 1961 Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act. (Companion to [Senate Bill 949](#))

Energy Efficiency: [House Bill 2200](#) (George-D-Clearfield) requiring utilities to adopt energy efficiency and demand-side management programs. (Similar to [House Bill 2143](#)).

Market-Based Electric Rates: [House Bill 2201](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) amend Title 66 providing for a transition to market-based electric rates, requiring assistance to low-income customers and providing for advance payments of electric bills.

Senate/House Bills Moving

The following bills of interest are moving in the Senate and House—

Senate

Deep Mine Safety: [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) making the first comprehensive revisions to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act in 45 years, in-part based on recommendations made after the [2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue](#), was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and then referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Health Law Revision: [Senate Resolution 194](#) (Greenleaf-R-Montgomery) directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish a task force and an advisory committee to review, update and codify Pennsylvania’s public health law was adopted by the Senate.

House

Great Lakes Compact: [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) authorizing Pennsylvania to join the Great Lakes Compact governing water withdrawals in the Lake Erie Basin was reported from the House Appropriations Committee, amended on the House floor is in now on the House Calendar for final action. **NewsClip:** [State May Join Great Lakes Compact](#).

Floodplain Mapping: [House Resolution 465](#) (Hanna-D-Center) urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to review and update flood insurance maps every 10 years was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Energy Prices: [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. It is now on the House Calendar for action.

Scrap Theft: [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) the Scrap Material Theft Prevention Act was reported from the House Appropriations Committee, amended on the House floor and is now on the House Calendar for final action.

Electric Prices: [House Resolution 506](#) (George-D-Clearfield) directing DEP and the PUC to evaluate measures to manage the transition from electricity price caps and to minimize the impact on residential customers was adopted by the House.

Senate Committee Approves Deep Mine Safety Law Update

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week approved [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) making the first comprehensive revisions to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act in 45 years, in-part based on recommendations made after the [2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue](#).



"I am thrilled that this bill, which incorporates the findings and recommendations of numerous studies and expert testimony, has earned bipartisan support," Sen. Kasunic said. "I am hopeful that this legislation, once enacted, will help us prevent future accidents like the ones that took place at Quecreek and Sago."

He said his bill incorporates key recommendations from the Governor's Commission on Abandoned Mine Voids and Mine Safety, the Quecreek investigation team, and the Quecreek Grand Jury.

"The bill also contains numerous resolutions to issues that have been debated within the mining industry for decades," Sen. Kasunic said "Most importantly, Senate Bill 949 includes several long overdue provisions that would help our mining law keep pace with technological advances and further ensure the safety of those who work in the mines."

"Mining has a long, proud tradition in Pennsylvania, producing jobs for communities and energy for the nation. Enactment of this legislation will represent the culmination of a strenuous effort to make this inherently dangerous job safer," said Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Sen. White, Minority Chairman Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and the bill's sponsor, Sen. Kasunic, worked closely with Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty, DEP officials, coal mine operators and mine union officials in preparing the legislation. Pennsylvania's mine safety statute was last updated in 1961.

The bill would—

- Create a Coal Mine Safety Board to promulgate regulations and continually review and recommend the use of new mine safety technologies. The Board would be composed of representatives from the industry, labor, and DEP. A key shortcoming of our current law is the inability of any entity to promulgate regulations;

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- Provide the specifications for emergency shelter chambers in underground mines;
- Better ensures the availability and transfer of maps to DEP, as well as giving DEP statewide authority to copy all mine maps; enables DEP to establish a central map repository database;
- Bring state law in line with federal standards where appropriate;
- Eliminate obsolete language and provides clarity where practicable; and
- Provide for greater responsibility for operators to ensure the safety within mines.

"Today's committee vote marks a monumental first step in updating an antiquated law and better protecting Pennsylvania's miners," said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. "We should be able to use 21st century technology to protect our miners. We shouldn't be hampered by a 19th century law. This board will enable the department to keep pace with new developments and to ensure the latest technology is at work for a safe environment underground."

"By putting a board in place to regularly update standards, we won't have the Legislature trying to micromanage the mining process, in which today's technology can be outdated by the time the ink on a bill dries," said Sen. White. "The governor indicated he supports this measure, and I hope it will move through the Legislature and be enacted as soon as possible."

The bill was amended in Committee, reported out, then referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

For more information and an online video of the meeting, visit the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Ground Broken on Mine Safety in PA](#)
[PA Mine Safety Bill Gets a First Thumbs Up](#)
[Long-Awaited Mine Safety Bill is Here](#)
[Senate Panel OKs Bill on Mine Safety](#)
[Editorial: Legislature Poised to Act on Mine Safety](#)
[Editorial: Update for Mine Safety Regulations Finally Advancing](#)
[Bill Could Boost Coal Mining By Restoring Confidence](#)
[Mine Safety Bill Sent to Senate](#)
[Coal Mine Safety Rewrite Advances](#)
[Mine Safety Law Moving Forward](#)
[Ceremony Marks 1904 Mine Accident](#)

Flood Mapping, Energy Price Resolutions OK'd By House Committee

House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week reported out resolutions urging an update of the state's flood control maps and a Congressional investigation of energy prices. The resolutions include:

- [House Resolution 465](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to review and update flood insurance maps every 10 years; and
- [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

House Appropriations Committee Schedules Harrisburg Budget Hearings

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The House Appropriations Committee this week published a schedule of Harrisburg budget hearings, and Rep. Dwight Evans (D-Philadelphia) announced Appropriations Subcommittees will be going on the road to take comments on the budget in the field.

Here is a listing of the Harrisburg budget hearings so far—

February 19-- Department of Agriculture. 2:00

February 25— Public Utility Commission. 9:00.

PEMA, Homeland Security, Fire Commissioner. 10:00.

February 26— Department of Community and Economic Development. 2:00.

February 27— Department of Transportation. 9:00.

Office of Consumer Advocate and Small Business Advocate. 1:00.

March 4-- Department of Environmental Protection. 9:00.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. 10:00.

Department of Insurance. 1:00.

The Majority Chair of the House Appropriations Committee is Rep. Dwight Evans (D-Philadelphia) and the Minority Chair is Rep. Mario Civera (R-Delaware).

Sen. Rhoades Introduces Home Heating Rebate Program for Seniors

Sen. James Rhoades (R-Schuylkill) announced this week he will introduce Senate Bill 2148, the Home Heating Rebate Program, so seniors citizens can receive additional state assistance to offset the skyrocketing costs of home heating fuel.

With the way that the price of home heating fuel is rising, thousands of our senior citizens need help- right now," said Sen. Rhoades. "My legislation will give it to them."

The legislation will provide senior citizens who are eligible for the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program with home heating fuel rebates. Senior citizens would apply for a rebate to be used to offset the cost of home heating fuels. The amount of the rebates will be based on the availability of unused funds remaining in the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program.

According to Sen. Rhoades, over \$50 million is available right now.

"These funds are available now. They are supposed to be used for our senior citizens. So, we should use these funds for something that many of our senior citizens desperately need: help with paying their home heating bills," said Sen. Rhoades.

In 2006, The General Assembly doubled the size of the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program, by increasing payments \$131 million and adding 281,000 new participants. However, over \$50 million remains in the PTRR program that were not expended on claims this year. Sen. Rhoades' legislation simply uses any remaining funds for the home heating rebate program.

Last week, Sen. Rhoades introduced legislation that would mandate an immediate price freeze on all light fuel oil, which includes oil used for domestic heating. The restriction would expire at the end of the winter season on April 1, 2008. In addition, civil fines of up to \$1,000 maybe imposed for each violation of the law.

"The price of oil is hitting record highs and energy prices are continuing to rise," said Sen. Rhoades. "This bill will give our senior citizens the help they need - right now."

"For me, the question isn't why we should do this. The question is why we shouldn't," said Sen. Rhoades. "So long as I am a Senator, I don't want a single senior citizen to be left out in the cold."

Other News

Schuylkill Watershed Congress Set for March 2 at Montgomery Community College

The [2008 Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#) will be held on March 2 at Montgomery County Community College Pottstown Campus.

This annual gathering of citizens interested in understanding, protecting and restoring local watersheds and streams features a diverse program with concurrent and poster sessions covering a broad range of watershed topics.

The Keynote Speaker will be John K. Jackson, Senior Research Scientist, at the Stroud Water Research Center. His presentation is entitled, "Is a Cold Water Fishery by any other name still as clean a stream? A look at Pennsylvania's complex system for labeling streams and what these labels mean for a stream's biodiversity, management, and protection."

Concurrent and Poster sessions offer a wide variety of topics including: Open Space: an Investment in Sustainable Watersheds; Assessing Water Availability; Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring; Emerging Priorities in Urban Stream Restoration; The Hopewell Big Woods Partnership; Hands-on K-12 Watershed Education; Nutrient Cycling in Lawns and the Water Quality Impact of Fertilizers; High-tech Tools for Stream Assessments; Stormwater Planning for Urban Neighborhoods; Pennsylvania's Pollution Trading Policy; Erosion and Deposition Monitoring for Volunteers; The Effect of the Clean Water Act on Water Quality in Bucks County Streams; Headwater Stream Incision in the Schuylkill River Watershed; Integration of Natural Elements into Stormwater Facilities; and Water Quality Best Management Practices for Homeowners & Businesses.

For complete details on all sessions being offered and for registration and sponsorship information, go to the [Schuylkill Watershed Congress webpage](#).

DEP Invites Comments on TMDLs for 4 Watersheds in Beaver, Fayette Counties

The Department of Environmental Protection invites comments on Total Maximum Daily Load Plans for watersheds in counties. ([Pa Bulletin page 403](#)) The watersheds include:

Brush Run Watershed, Beaver County: DEP will hold a public meeting February 6 at 10:30 at the Greensburg District Mining Office to accept comments on the proposal. Contact: Michael Gardner at 724-925-552 or send email to: mgardner@state.pa.us.

Clarks Run Watershed, Beaver County: DEP will hold a public meeting February 6 at 10:30 at the Greensburg District Mining Office to accept comments on the proposal. Contact: Michael Piklo at 724-925-5517 or send email to: mpicklo@state.pa.us .

Saltlick Run Watershed, Fayette County: DEP will hold a public meeting February 5 at 1:30 at the Greensburg District Mining Office to accept comments on the proposal. Contact: Michael Gardner at 724-925-552 or send email to: mgardner@state.pa.us.

Wallace Run Watershed, Fayette County: DEP will hold a public meeting February 5 at 1:30 at the Greensburg District Mining Office to accept comments on the proposal. Contact: Michael Gardner at 724-925-552 or send email to: mgardner@state.pa.us.

To see a copy of these TMDLs and for more information, visit DEP's [TMDL webpage](#).

Rivers Conservation Fly Fishing Youth Camp Applications Due March 15



The [Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp](#) is now accepting applications for its 2008 camp to be held June 15-20 at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Pa.

The Camp was founded in 1995 through the efforts of the late Dr. John R. “Jack” Beck and the late Enoch S. “Inky” Moore, Jr. Their goal was to select thirty-two teenagers each year who are the leaders in their class. The thought is that today’s leaders in high school become the leader of

tomorrow’s communities.

In a few short years they will be the bankers, lawyers, realtors, municipal officials and the leaders in their communities. If the camp can implant a kernel of knowledge in today’s students about the importance of clean water, when those students become the decision makers in their communities it may have a positive impact on how water resources are used.

The highly structured curriculum is based on college level classes. The students are instructed in ecology, aquatic biology, geology, hydrogeology, erosion and sedimentation control, ichthyology, riparian corridor protection, watershed management, entomology and much more. Students also participate in a hands-on stream habitat improvement project.

But it’s not all work. Fly fishing and fly tying are included. Nationally known instructors teach the students fly casting, fly tying, stream etiquette, how to “read” the water, and of course there is fishing.

The camp begins on Sunday and ends the following Friday. The camp will be limited to 32 selected qualified students, ages 14 to 17. The applicants must have been born between June 20, 1990 and June 15, 1994. The thirty-two students will be selected through an application process where they must write an essay on why they want to attend camp and they must provide a reference from a science teacher or guidance counselor.

The competition for admission is fierce. The camp began accepting applications for the 2008 camp on November 1, 2007 and all applications must be postmarked not later than March 15.

The camp costs each student \$275 for the entire week. All meals and accommodations are included for the residence camp. A student need not be an

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accomplished fly fisher or a budding aquatic biologist to attend. All the student needs to be is highly motivated and willing to learn.

In 2001 the RC&FFYC won the national Trout Unlimited National Coldwater Conservationist of the Year Award at the TU national convention in Portland, Oregon. Also in 2001 the Cumberland Valley Chapter, host of the camp received the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited Youth Education Award.

In November, 2001 the camp was featured on ESPN2's TUTV show. In 2004 the Camp received the Jack Beck Youth Education Award from the [Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#). The highly successful camp has been emulated in Michigan, North Carolina, Maine, Montana and Washington with other states looking to start their own programs.

Alumni are welcome to attend the Thursday evening picnic and share their experiences since they attended camp.

For more information or an application brochure contact the camp at the [Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp website](#). Questions can be direct to Matt Lourdeau by sending email to: MLflyfish@hotmail.com.

PA Sea Grant Program March 13-14 Workshop on Ballast Water in Lake Erie

The [Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program](#) is sponsoring a workshop in Erie on ballast water policy on March 13-14 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle, Erie.

The workshop will provide an update and overview of current ballast water policy, legislation and research as it applies to the Great Lakes. Scientists, legal experts, legislators, industry personnel and agency staff will discuss the current state of ballast water policy, pending legislation, proposed ballast water treatment methods and evaluating the current risk of introduction and spread of AIS to Great Lakes ports by foreign and domestic ships.

Goals of the workshop include: creation of a document that others can use as a tool to develop law, policy and regulations regarding the introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes and bringing invasive species stakeholders together from the lower Great Lakes in an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and relationship-building that will enable future gains in reacting to, mitigating and preventing introductions of additional invasive species into the Great Lakes.

Agency staff, industry stakeholders, policymakers and others interested in the impact of ballast water policy and legislation and the spread of invasive species in the Great Lakes

For more information and to register, contact Marti Martz at 814-217-9015 or send email to: mam60@psu.edu.

First Professional Crop Producers' Conference March 4-6

The first annual [Professional Crop Producers' Conference](#) will be held on March 4-6 in State College, combining a number of annual meetings by several groups.

The Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association, the Pennsylvania Soybean Promotional Board, the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance, and the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council are supporting this joint conference.

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This professional collaborative effort is designed to provide a unique one-stop educational experience. The program is packed with presentations on important topics like the latest in planting technology, unique forage, cover, and bio-energy crops for Pennsylvania, market dynamics, hybrid technology and engineered traits, and much, much more!

These diverse and informative concurrent sessions will cover topics that are of interest to each organization and to all members of your production team. Enjoy the opportunity to network with other producers and interact with exhibitors from both industry and government alike. Participate in sessions geared to provide practical, useable information that can be taken home and put to use.

But that's not all! In addition to world renowned keynote speakers and breakout sessions, a variety of round table sessions will engage producers in discussion on important issues and provide an opportunity to share ideas and techniques with others. Need to earn credits? For interested attendees, Pesticide and Certified Crop Advisor Credits will be offered.

This is a must attend for all producers who want to learn new ways to help manage farm operations effectively. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to meet other producers and get important information on innovations that will help improve productivity and profitability!

This dynamic conference will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees at a reduced rate of \$89. Space at the conference hotel is limited, so make your reservations early by calling 800-233-7505 before February 2 and use code PRO0303.

For more information, visit the [Professional Crop Producers' Conference webpage](#) or call 877-778-2937.

DRBC Extends Comment Period on New York City Reservoirs Management Plan

Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Carol R. Collier has announced that the period for submitting written comments on proposed regulations to implement a [Flexible Flow Management Program](#) for operation of the three New York City Delaware Basin reservoirs will be extended through March 3.

The comment period was to have ended today.

“The 45-day extension is in response to numerous requests voiced at DRBC public hearings held yesterday in West Trenton on the proposed amendments,” Collier said. “This will provide additional time for the public and government officials just taking office to study the proposed rulemaking and offer written comments.”

Comments should be mailed to Commission Secretary, DRBC, P.O. Box 7360, 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360. They also may be faxed to “Attn: Commission Secretary” at 609-883-9522 or emailed to paula.schmitt@drbc.state.nj.us.

All written comments must be received by 5 p.m. on March 3 and should include the name, address, and affiliation (if any) of the commenter, along with “FFMP” in the subject line. Comments on the earlier FFMP agreement published in February 2007 but subsequently withdrawn will be included in the administrative record for this action and need not be resubmitted.

The proposed regulations are consistent with provisions of a September 26, 2007 agreement unanimously reached by the parties to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decree that provides a comprehensive framework for addressing multiple flow management objectives. “Based on the public comments received during the rulemaking process, the DRBC may modify its proposed regulations and request that the decree parties consent to adoption of the final regulations,” Collier said.

The FFMP is intended to provide a more adaptive means for managing the Cannonsville, Pepacton, and Neversink reservoirs for competing uses including: water supply; drought management; flood mitigation; protection of the tailwaters fishery; a diverse array of habitat needs in the main stem river, estuary, and bay; recreation; and salinity repulsion. The 1954 decree, which resolved an interstate water dispute centering on the New York City reservoirs, made no provision for spill mitigation, conservation, or ecological releases.

The law creating the DRBC gives the commission the power to allocate the waters of the basin, but prohibits it from adversely affecting the New York City reservoir releases or diversions as provided in the 1954 decree without the unanimous consent of the five decree parties.

The parties to the 1954 Supreme Court decree include Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York State, and New York City. The members of the DRBC are the four basin states and the federal government.

The September 2007 FFMP agreement reached by the decree parties is being implemented on a temporary basis by New York State and New York City, in coordination with the Delaware River Master appointed under the decree, while DRBC conducts its notice and comment rulemaking process.

The FFMP would largely eliminate the reservoir storage “banks” previously used for habitat protection purposes and instead base releases on storage levels, resulting in larger releases when water is abundant and smaller releases when storage is at or below normal.

For more information, visit the [Flexible Flow Management Program webpage](#).

Youth Wildlife Leadership Adventures Program Now Accepting Applications



Spend a week in the field learning about deer from some of the top wildlife biologists and managers in the state through the [Wildlife Leadership Adventures Program](#).

Wildlife Leadership Adventures is a new cooperative education initiative focusing on wildlife ecology, management, and leadership development for Pennsylvania youth ages 14-17.

The 2008 Bucktails field camp will be held July 8-12 at the Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County

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The Program involves state agencies and conservation organizations and is coordinated and administered by the [Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education](#).

The Program brings the knowledge and expertise of Audubon PA, Game Commission, Pennsylvania State University, the Ruffed Grouse Society, the Pennsylvania Deer Association, Quality Deer Management Association, and the US Army Corps of Engineers directly to high school students.

The goal of this program is not to develop future wildlife professionals, but rather to equip future leaders from all walks of life with a better understanding of wildlife and conservation.

This is a year-round program that begins with an intensive five-day residential field camp focusing on a single species as a springboard for exploring ecological concepts and management issues.

In July 2007, WLA held its first wildlife camp, Pennsylvania Bucktails, which focused on white-tailed deer ecology and management in the Commonwealth. Selected to participate were twenty teens with demonstrated scholastic and/or extra curricular achievements from all over the state.

The WLA dynamic team of instructors included Gary Alt, Pete Duncan, Chris Rosenberry, Merlin Benner, Tim Smail, Walt Cottrell, Bob Frye, Gary Abdullah, Jeannine Tardiff, Jeff Krause, and others. The week was electric. Students and instructors left the camp feeling energized and enthusiastic.

To attend the camp, youth commit to conducting at least three public outreach programs on their experience when they return home. Youth prepare for this aspect of the program with a curriculum emphasizing leadership skill development such as team building activities, public speaking experiences, and skill sessions with media professionals in television, radio and print media.

WLA staff mentor the youth throughout the year enabling them to conduct their outreach activities by connecting them with opportunities and resources. As of November 2007, the youth have conducted over 25 outreach programs and service projects, had 123 contact hours with the public, and reached an audience of over 979 people across five counties in the state.

2007 participants came from the following counties: Columbia, Berks, Schuylkill, Mercer, Dauphin, York, Philadelphia, Franklin, Bucks, Luzerne, Monroe, Allegheny, Erie, Butler, Susquehanna, Perry, and Crawford.

This unique program aims to instill a long-term commitment to conservation action. Please help us encourage conservation outreach efforts in these teens by featuring them and their activities in an article or story.

. Tuition for the Program is \$350, which includes room, board, and educational materials. Don't let tuition costs stop you from applying -- scholarships are available to help defray tuition costs. Scholarship application information can be found on the general application form.

For more information, to download application materials, visit the [Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education website](#) or contact the program director, Gail Farmer, at 610-756-3194; or send email to: gfarmer@picweb.org.

Group Unveils Plan to Manage Invasive Species in Raystown Watershed

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Through funding provided to Southern Alleghenies Conservancy by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, [Natural Biodiversity](#) has created a comprehensive management plan that is designed to prevent and control the spread of invasive and noxious weeds that are threatening the Raystown Watershed.

The spread of invasive plant species is one of the most pressing environmental issues facing the region today. Upon the completion of the year-long study, the management plan pinpoints species locations; provides control recommendations for each species; and sets the ultimate goal of eventually eliminating the threats caused by invasive plants within the Raystown Watershed.

Recommendations for control efforts were focused on the plants that posed the greatest threat to their ecosystems. One of the key elements of invasive species control is the development of an early detection and rapid response protocol. Reducing the cost and man-power necessary to eliminate the threat, makes early control of unwanted species essential to the struggle against invasive plants.

The plan includes maps pin-pointing identified species locations, control recommendations for each species, restoration techniques, and plans for education and outreach.

The complete conservation plan along with the Pennsylvania invasive plant and noxious weed factsheets that contain species identification and control information will soon be available for download on both the [Juniata Clean Water Partnership website](#).

For more information on the Raystown Riparian Vegetation Conservation Plan, contact Kristen Sewak, [Natural Biodiversity](#), 814-532-5049, send email to: ksewak@naturalbiodiversity.org or Ben Plunkett, Juniata Clean Water Partnership, 814-506-1194, or send email to: bplunkett@jcwpa.org.

Project Weed Whack, 8 Different Invasive Species Control Events

The Southern Laurel Highlands Plant Management Partnership has organized eight different invasive species eradication events throughout Western Pennsylvania they call the [2008 Project Weed Whack](#).

The Partnership includes The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Bear Run Nature Reserve, Fort Necessity National Battlefield and Ohiopyle State Park.

The events include:

- March 28-29: Introduction to Invasives and honeysuckle eradication, Fort Necessity;
- April 19: Bear Run Nature Reserve, garlic mustard eradication;
- May 17: Ohiopyle State Park, garlic mustard eradication;
- May 31: Ohiopyle State Park, Japanese Knotweed eradication;
- June 21: Fort Necessity common teasel eradication;
- July 19: Ohiopyle State Park, Japanese Barberry eradication;
- August 16: Bear Run Nature Reserve, Japanese Stiltgrass eradication; and
- September 13: Fort Necessity burning brush eradication.

For more information, download the [Project Weed Whack brochure](#).

DEP, DCNR Encourage Participation in January 28 Grant Workshop

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The departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources are encouraging municipal officials, community planners and watershed group representatives to attend a grant workshop open house on January 28 at the [Jennings Environmental Learning Center](#), Slippery Rock, Pa.

The workshop will last from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“The goal of this meeting is to bring together a wide variety of agencies and departments to help potential applicants who are thinking about applying for an environmental grant,” said DEP Northwest Regional Director Kelly Burch. “We want to make the grant application process as easy and convenient as possible.”

DEP staff will be able to provide information for Growing Greener, Energy Harvest, coastal zone management, source water assessment and protection, and environmental education grants, while staff from DCNR will be available to discuss applications for land protection, conservation and recreation project grants.

Representatives from the League of Women Voters Watershed Resources Education Network will also be available to answer questions about its grant programs, and the Fish and Boat Commission will have information on partnerships.

Those who plan to attend the workshop should bring at least two copies of documents that describe: the proposed project; how the project fits into the potential applicant’s master plan; why the project should receive grant funding; what match has already been obtained; and a one-page map of the location

For more information on the workshop, contact DEP Watershed Manager Diane Carson at 814-332-6984 or DCNR Recreation and Parks Advisor Kim McCullough at 814-332-6190.

Energy Management Institute Identifies \$50,000 in Annual Savings for Company

A recent study for Construction Specialties resulted in the identification of several significant cost reduction opportunities, one of which is a heat containment system on an anodize line that is being implemented and will save the company \$50,000 annually.

The study was done by the Energy Management Institute located at [ETAC at Northampton Community College](#) provides manufacturing companies with the skills necessary to effectively manage energy efficiency through reductions in energy consumption and costs.

Construction Specialties is an Architectural Specialties company located in Lycoming County.

The project also provided the company information on the impact of their carbon footprint: “Additionally, we sought to understand how our actions contribute to our carbon footprint; your analysis gave us that information. We can now tie savings and carbon footprint reduction to our initiatives” said Howard Williams, General Manager.

EMI performs investment-grade energy, pollution prevention, and process assessments for industrial and large commercial clients; offers distance learning courses on energy management and process heating; evaluates the technical and economic feasibility of renewable energy installations, combined heat and power; and a variety of other services.

For more information, please contact Pete Roberts, EMI Manager, 610-861-5367 pbroberts@etctr.com

PECO Launches Competitive Procurement for Renewable Energy

PECO is inviting alternative energy producers [to submit bids](#) to sell alternative energy "credits" to help the company fulfill renewable energy requirements set by Pennsylvania's recent Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards legislation.

The AEPS legislation requires that by 2011, 3.5 percent of the energy consumed by PECO customers be provided through renewable resources such as wind, low-impact hydro, methane, geothermal, biomass or fuel cells.

Renewable energy generators sell these credits on a one-to-one basis each time that they produce one megawatt-hour of renewable energy.

By seeking bids through a competitive Request for Proposal process, PECO intends to enter into fixed-price, five-year agreements to purchase up to a total of 250,000 credits per year. PECO anticipates entering into the agreements by this spring, for delivery beginning no later than December 31, 2008.

A second round of bidding this fall will seek the purchase of an additional 200,000 credits annually, for delivery beginning no later than December 31, 2009. Taken together these purchases will have the same benefit to the environment as planting more than 33 million trees, or alternatively, not driving 428 million miles.

PECO has retained Navigant Consulting to serve as an independent RFP monitor. The monitor will oversee PECO's bidder evaluation process, evaluate bid proposals, and report to the Public Utility Commission on the results of the RFP process.

The PUC approved PECO's plan to satisfy the renewable energy requirements last month. PECO has scheduled a teleconference for January 22 to outline the details of the RFP process and the terms of the agreements.

Suppliers who wish to learn more about the bidding process must send an e-mail to AEPS_RFP@peco-energy.com with the subject line 'AEC Bidder Teleconference' in order to obtain information on how to participate in this procurement.

PECO will release information on the RFP process to interested parties as it becomes available. [Additional AEPS RFP information is available online.](#)

PPL to Expand Holtwood Hydroelectric Plant in Lancaster County

A proposal to more than double the amount of clean, renewable electricity produced at [PPL's Holtwood hydroelectric plant](#) took a major step forward when the company this week asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for permission to expand the Lancaster County, Pa., plant.

The expansion would also include significant improvements to fish passage operations at the Holtwood dam. PPL has been working with state and federal agencies on ways to improve the efficiency of fish lifts that help American shad and other species get over the dam during their annual migration.

"This project would have significant environmental benefits while helping to meet Pennsylvania's need for new sources of renewable electricity generation," said William H. Spence, PPL executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty attended the news conference in support of the project.

"Today marks a milestone in Pennsylvania's pursuit of clean energy production," Secretary McGinty said. "We've worked closely with PPL to craft this proposal in a way

that helps meet our energy needs, while also addressing the environmental and ecological considerations associated with this kind of expansion project. Clean energy is an imperative for our environment, our economy and our security.”

After federal, state and local approvals are received, PPL plans to begin construction in 2009 with generation operations scheduled to start in 2012.

The expansion would add 125 megawatts of electricity generating capacity to the plant — enough to power 100,000 homes. This clean, renewable energy would be a significant addition to the state’s renewable generation capacity, and would represent a significant increase in PPL’s commitment to renewable energy development.

PPL has held public meetings on the project, and has been working with state and federal agencies, private sporting groups and individuals to address potential concerns. Based on input received, PPL has committed to improve migratory fish passage and mitigate environmental issues.

The Holtwood hydroelectric plant began generating electricity in 1910. Currently, it generates 109 megawatts of electricity using the power of the water held back by a 55-foot-high dam.

The half-mile-long Holtwood dam creates Lake Aldred, an eight-mile reservoir that provides opportunities for boating, fishing and other public recreation. PPL operates two campgrounds, 39 miles of hiking trails, several picnic areas, and other facilities including the well-known Shenk’s Ferry Wildflower Preserve and Lock 12 Historic Area.

In December, PPL announced the donation of 3,500 acres of company land around the Holtwood plant to the Lancaster County Conservancy in a public-private partnership that will preserve the land as open space and enhance its benefits to the public.

“As Holtwood moves into its second century as a vital clean energy resource, this expansion plan shows the importance of this facility to PPL and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,” Spence said. “We’re proud to be advancing a project that benefits the environment while providing much-needed renewable energy for the region.”

More information on PPL’s proposed project is available at the [Holtwood plant webpage](#).

NewsClip: [PPL Seeks More Juice From Older River Dam](#)

PUC Says Help Make Martin Luther King Day a "Day of Utility Service"

The [Public Utility Commission](#) this week reminded Pennsylvania utility customers to make Martin Luther King Day, January 21 a "Day of Utility Service," as well as a "Day of Service," by helping people in their community to save energy and "Prepare Now" for winter heating bills.

Public service announcements continue through January 21, Martin Luther King Day, as part of the PUC's 5-year-old ["Prepare Now" campaign](#). A voiceover says listeners can contact the PUC by calling 1-800-782-1110 or logging on at the [PUC website](#).

PUC Chairman Wendell Holland of the Public Utility Commission said, "One of Dr. King's legacies was to improve the human condition. And we think it's important that, in addition to changing your light bulb and weatherizing your own home, think about

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helping a neighbor, change a light bulb at a church, community center or anywhere in your community."

Commissioner Tyrone Christy said, "We have a number of consumer-outreach specialists that are here to help community organizations understand all these different ways that you can save energy and manage your utility bill. Just give us a call here at the Public Utility Commission, and we'll be glad to come out and conduct workshops, seminars or just simply roundtable discussions about all the different techniques we have available here to help you manage your utility bill and 'Stay Warm.'"

The PUC has consumer-outreach specialists who provide utility education and outreach to consumers. The outreach team reaches out to consumers by regularly traveling throughout the state, conducting or participating in workshop events, free seminars, and roundtable discussions and community fairs.

Commissioner Kim Pizzigrilli said: "It's never too late to help a neighbor in need prepare for winter and higher heating bills. Learn ways to reduce energy and water usage in the new year. Encourage others on limited incomes to contact their local utility about programs that can help pay bills or weatherize homes. Help others to 'Prepare Now' and 'Stay Warm' by learning more and sharing tips on energy efficiency, conservation and weatherization."

Radio and print advertisements supporting this effort are funded by the PUC's current budget.

The PUC's "Prepare Now" outreach campaign urges all consumers to learn about ways to cope with higher winter energy costs; and appeals to consumers on limited or fixed incomes to call their utility about special programs such as Customer Assistance Programs and Low Income Usage Reduction Programs to help heat their homes and pay their energy bills, and budget billing, which allows consumers to pay similar amounts each month.

The Commission also is a partner in Gov. Rendell's "[Stay Warm](#)" initiative, which is a website that lists resources and programs that are available to help people pay home heating bills, and provides weatherizing information and conservation tips.

2008 The Business of Brownfields Conference Set for April 17-18 in Pittsburgh

The Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania will hold the [2008 Business of Brownfields Conference](#) on April 17-18 in Pittsburgh.

Conference organizers are looking for experience and research-based presentations from stakeholders who are involved with the assessment, cleanup and reuse of abandoned, idled or under-used commercial and industrial sites.

If you have information to help others overcome the challenges associated with these properties, The "Business of Brownfields" is the place for you to present and share your experience.

Visit the [Business of Brownfields webpage](#) to submit your proposals.

Pennsylvania's Forestlands Stable But Composition Changing

The U.S. Forest Service in December posted an anticipated report on the state of Pennsylvania's forests from 2000 to 2004. The [Pennsylvania Forest Inventory Report](#) shows the Commonwealth's forest land-base is stable, but the data also outlines some cause for concern.

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“The lack of understory plants and tree regeneration across Pennsylvania is one of the most disturbing findings in the report,” State Forester Dan Devlin said. “We can’t take our forests for granted, and have to continually seek to understand the complex interactions so we can maintain the healthy forest ecosystem that is so important to our quality of life and our economy.”

Forests account for 16.6 million acres in Pennsylvania, or 58 percent of the land area. Fifty-four percent of the forest land is owned by families and individuals. Forest land losses to residential and industrial development have been offset by agricultural land being converted to forests, but this trend varies across the state. Counties that show a net loss of forest land are located near urban centers or major connecting highways.

Highlights from the report are:

- The forest is maturing, and the types of species are shifting. Hemlock, sugar maple and oaks are decreasing, the increases in red maple are slowing, and black birch continues to increase. The number of smaller trees is decreasing, while the number of larger trees is increasing.
- Timber inventory is the highest recorded since the beginning of the Forest Inventory. Expanding harvest levels are most evident on private lands.
- Advance regeneration is occurring on only half of the forest land where it should and only one-third has adequate regeneration for commercially desirable timber species.
- Several exotic diseases - including gypsy moth, hemlock woolly adelgid and beech bark disease - are threatening the health of the forest.
- Exotic invasive plants pose a threat to native plant diversity and forest health.
- Stressors such as drought, acidic deposition and ground-level ozone pollution are adversely impacting the forests and should continue to be monitored for better understanding.

“It’s very important to continually assess the status of all of our forests - both publicly and privately-owned,” Devlin said. “This report is an important tool in helping to better understand the character of our forests, and for informing our management decisions.”

Gaps in statistically sound information on net growth, harvest levels and mortality will be filled as the annual inventory progresses through the second 5-year cycle. Additional research on wood availability, ecosystem services, and resource projection models also will aid in understanding resource dynamics.

Annual updates from the inventory will allow the Bureau of Forestry to report major changes in the data in a timely manner.

[A copy of the report is available online.](#) (Reprinted from [DCNR’s Resources newsletter.](#))

DCNR Aerial Photography Now Featured on Google Earth

More people will get a clearer birds eye view of Pennsylvania now that a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Geologic Survey has been reached that will put the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' [PAMAP high-resolution aerial photography](#) on [Google Earth](#), free of charge.

PAMAP is a seamless digital base map of the state that provides access to road, parcel, elevation, boundaries, hydrography and other data at a scale 10 times better than what was previously available through existing topographic maps.

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"PAMAP is the most detailed look at the state ever," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "Nearly a thousand users per day were accessing this information on the PAMAP Web site, and now that it is available on Google Earth, we expect the data will be even more widely viewed and used."

The statewide digital base map is being created by the DCNR Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey in partnership with other state agencies, counties, the federal government and other government entities.

"Thanks to these highly accurate pictures, now you can not only see exactly what your house looks like from the sky," said State Geologist Dr. Jay Parrish. "This imagery can also help emergency responders deal with hazardous situations faster, help planning agencies plan for development, and help with more accurate flood plain mapping."

Some examples of how the data is used:

Government agencies - Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency used it to respond to northeastern flooding in summer 2006; PennDOT is using the imagery for updates of state and local road networks; at the Department of Environmental Protection, it has helped with the evaluation of underground and surface mining, especially subsidence impacts; Adams County used it for exhibits in criminal cases; and Allegheny County for planning and security for the 2006 Major League All-Star Baseball Game.

Private industry - ProLogis has used it for facility siting; UPC Wind for preliminary siting of alternative energy wind farms; James Sewell Corp. for research on forest canopy structure; GeoDecisions/Gannett Fleming for hydro network and watershed delineation; and Iron Compass Map Co. to prepare information for emergency responders.

Academic institutions - Lafayette College for processing new gravity observations; Penn State to classify forest types in the Allegheny National Forest; and Bloomsburg University for mapping glacial deposits in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey has been collecting this specialized high-resolution aerial photography, known as orthophotography, since 2003 as part of the PAMAP program. Orthophotography is digital photography taken from the air and aligned with geographic positioning systems, or GPS. Each year, the PAMAP program flies a large section of the state on a continuous basis to update these orthophotos.

While Google Earth is using the imagery only, the PAMAP program includes topography, buildings, boundaries, land cover, transportation, and hydrography. PAMAP data also is contributed to the national map being created in support of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

More information, visit the [PAMAP webpage](#).

Help Wanted: PRC Environmental Program Specialist

[Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) is seeking a qualified candidate to conduct its scenic issues and environmental stewardship technical assistance programs at its Newtown Square, Delaware County, office.

Duties include: working with municipalities/planning organizations to provide billboard inventories and technical assistance in the effective control of billboards and the removal of illegal or nonconforming off-premise signs along target transportation corridors; consulting with businesses and other entities to create and implement recycling/environmental stewardship program recommendations.

Degree in environmental science, urban planning or related field and 3 years experience required.

Send resume to Barbara Van Clief, PRC, 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073 or vanclief@prc.org.

Spotlight

Cross Fork Brook Trout Habitat Project, Potter County

By Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited

Many, many thanks to each and every person who assisted with the coordination and construction of the brook trout habitat enhancement project on Cross Fork Creek in Potter County.

Sixteen log vanes and two modified bank cribbing structures, which are similar to mud sills, were installed at five project sites on Cross Fork between the confluences of Yochum Run and Windfall Run.



Additionally, a 130 foot mud sill with a 30 foot wing logs and multi-log vane deflectors was installed on kettle Creek in Clinto County near the village of Cross Fork as a separate project sponsored by the [Kettle Creek Watershed Association](#) and the Kettle Creek TU Chapter.

With the oversight and guidance of Dave Keller from Fish and Boat Commission and equipment operation by his staff, labor assistance was provided by the Quehanna Prison Boot Camp, Potter County trailblazers, [Clinton County Conservation District](#) and more than 20 volunteers representing the following organizations: Kettle Creek Watershed Association, Kettle Creek TU Chapter, Allegheny Mountain TU Chapter, Blair County TU Chapter, James Zwald TU Chapter, Gods Country TU Chapter, and the PA Senior Environment Corps.

While installation of the mud sill at the Bear Trap Lodge took place last fall between September 11-21, the majority of work at the rest of the project sites was completed this past summer between July 5-11, with a couple extra days in mid-September to finish the installation of log vanes at the most upstream project site on Cross Fork.

Other than excavation of trenches to construct the mud sills and modified bank cribbing, most of the excavation and installation of the habitat structures was accomplished through good old-fashioned sweat labor.

Although the sunny weather and low flows this summer provided optimal conditions for this type of work, this project would not have been such a success without the volunteers.

The cost for all materials, i.e. logs, stone, rebar, used in the Cross Fork brook trout habitat enhancement project was covered by a \$20,000 grant to Trout Unlimited from the [FishAmerica Foundation](#) (\$12,000) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$8,000) as part of the [Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture](#). It is noteworthy to mention that this grant award was the first such grant given to a project in Pennsylvania through the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture.

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Additional material costs of \$2,483 for the Kettle Creek project site were covered by the Kettle Creek Watershed Association.

The Kettle Creek Watershed Association and [Trout Unlimited](#) look forward to assisting the Fish and Boat Commission with future fish surveys so that we may continue to report back to everyone with the results of how these projects have benefited resident trout populations—so stay tuned.

(Reprinted from the January 2008 [Kettle Creek Watershed Association News](#))

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **February 1** – PA Land Trust Assn. [Government Leadership Award Nominations](#).
- **February 1**— [PA Rural Water Assn. Annual Awards](#)
- **February 8** – [PA American Water Watershed Art Contest](#)
- **February 15**—**NEW**. [AEP Acquisition, Restoration Project Proposals](#)
- **February 19** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **February 20**— [USDA Conservation Innovation Grants](#)
- **February 22**— [Allegheny County Global Warming Poster Contest](#)
- **February 22**— [Clean Water Begins and Ends With You Student Art Contest](#)
- **February 29**— [Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants](#)
- **February 29**— [Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grants](#)
- **March 17**— [Community Action for a Renewed Environment Grants](#)
- **March 31** – PAEP [Karl Mason Environmental Award](#).
- **March 31**—[DEP Host Municipality Inspector Grants](#)
- **April 2** – [WREN Water Resources Education Project Grants](#)
- **May 20** – **NEW**. PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

Quick Clips

Here's a selection of NewsClips on environmental topics from around the state

[Out of Control, Deer Send Ecosystem Into Chaos](#)

[Audit Likely for Handling of Deer Management Program](#)

[Proposed Change in Deer Season](#)

[Montco Must Reduce Deer Population](#)

[Rifle Hunting May Be Limited in Lehigh Valley Due to Development](#)

[Fewer Hunters Taking to Woods](#)

[State Hunters Fear Thinning Deer Population](#)

[Editorial: Independent Audit Should Help Deer Management Program](#)

[Modern Trailblazer, Frontier Spirit](#)

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[Lifeguards Eliminated From State Park Beaches](#)
[Penn State Hydrogen Study Fuels Possibilities](#)
[Word Nears on Liquid Coal Plant](#)
[Editorial: Solar Power Shines](#)
[Op-Ed: Another Tired Rendell Plan on Energy Will Cost Consumers](#)
[Op-Ed: Delay on Energy Plan will Only Cost State in Long Run](#)
[Op-Ed: PA Energy Plan Needs Action](#)
[Biodiesel Project Gets \\$1.9 Million](#)
[PPL Offers Online Energy Analysis for Savvy Consumers](#)
[Editorial: Surveys Help Customers Cut Electric Bills](#)
[Op-Ed: Market Best Way to Check Electric Costs](#)
[Households Shop Around for Electricity](#)
[Duquesne Light Given Tentative OK to Leave PJM and Join Midwest Grid](#)
[Casey: US Sapping State Electric Power](#)
[Counters Recount Interest in Birding](#)
[Where Have All the Seagulls Gone?](#)
[Hawks Snatch Birds at Homes Feeders](#)
[Trail Section Echoes History in 2 Counties](#)
[Lifestyles Grow Greener, Leaving Smaller Footprints](#)
[Monroe County Explores Funds for Open Space](#)
[Nature Conservancy to Buy Poconos Tract](#)
[Editorial: Trashy Oakland, Neighbors Deserve Action on a Nagging Problem](#)
[Students Seek Help for Spring Cleanup](#)
[Lawyer Urges Challenge to Dauphin County's \\$5/Ton Incinerator Fee](#)
[York County Collects Hazardous Waste](#)

Watershed NewsClips

Read a sampling of NewsClips on watershed topics from around Pennsylvania.

[Sen. Vance Seeking Study of Costs for Chesapeake Bay Strategy](#)
[Capital Region Council of Governments to Sue Over Chesapeake Bay Cleanup](#)
[Lock Haven Against Chesapeake Cleanup Plan](#)
[Gathering Storm on DEP Chesapeake Bay Strategy](#)
[Millions of Gallons of Water Disappear Daily in Easton](#)
[Trout Unlimited Statement on Delaware River Flow Plan](#)
[Editorial: Seek Sensible DRBC Flood Protection Plan](#)
[Reservoirs Contributed to Flooding Along Delaware River](#)
[Brodhead Watershed's Stream Upgrade Request Gets Controversial OK](#)
[State May Join Great Lakes Compact](#)
[Op-Ed: To Fight Floods, Clear the Floodplains](#)
[River Common Flood Work Should Be Done By Fall](#)
[Casey: Farm Bill Shows Some Progress](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin – January 19, 2008](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations \(DEP website\)](#)

[Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar \(DEP website\)](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) of proposed guidance fecal coliform reporting and a final policy on disinfectant residuals related to the Safe Drinking Water Program. Also published was an update to the list of those certified to perform Radon-related activities ([Pa Bulletin page 401](#))

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. **NEW** indicates new from last week. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- [DEP published notice of Water Resources Regional Committee meetings for 2008](#)
- **January 21**—Martin Luther King Day. State Offices are Closed.
- **January 23**— DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **January 24**— **CANCELLED**. DCNR [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **January 25**— Westmoreland County Conservation District “Verifying Proper Installation of Erosion and Stormwater Controls,” District office on Donohoe Road in Greensburg. 7:30 a.m. to noon.
- **January 30**—**NEW**. House Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1812](#) (Gillespie-R-York) amending the Municipalities Planning Code related to mediation. Room 205 Ryan. 9:30.
- **January 31**— House Consumer Protection Committee hearing on electric rate cap legislation-- [House Bill 2200](#) (George-D-Clearfield) requiring utilities to adopt energy efficiency and demand-side management programs and [House Bill 2201](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) amend Title 66 providing for a transition to market-based electric rates, requiring assistance to low-income customers and providing for advance payments of electric bills Room 140. 9:30.

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- **February 2**—**NEW**. [Groundhog Day](#).
- **February 5**— Governor’s Budget Address.
- **February 5**—**NEW**. House Consumer Affairs Committee meeting to consider energy bills. Room G-50 Irvis. 9:00.
- **February 13**— **Location**. House Game and Fisheries Committee meets for a presentation of the Game Commission annual report. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.
- **February 14**— **Location**. House Game and Fisheries Committee meets for a presentation of the Fish & Boat Commission annual report. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.
- **February 19**— **CANCELLED**: House Republican Policy Committee hearing on electric rate cap mitigation. Room 418. 11:00.
- **February 19**—**NEW**. House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Agriculture. Room 140. 2:00.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.
- **February 25**—**NEW**. House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Public Utility Commission. Room 140. 9:00.
- **February 25**—**NEW**. House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – PEMA, Homeland Security, Fire Commissioner. Room 140. 10:00.
- **February 25**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Budget Secretary. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 3:00.
- **February 26**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Insurance. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:30.
- **February 26**—**NEW**. House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Community and Economic Development. Room 140. 2:00.
- **February 27**—**NEW**. House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Transportation. Room 140. 9:00.
- **February 27**—**NEW**. House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Office of Consumer Advocate and Small Business Advocate. Room 140. 1:00.
- **February 26**—[PA Chamber Energy Summit](#). Harrisburg Hilton.
- **February 28**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Agriculture. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:00.
- **February 28**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Health. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:30.
- **February 28**—[Pennsylvania Wild Resources Symposium](#). [Powdermill Nature Reserve](#). Pittsburgh.
- **February 28-March 2**—[PA Assn. of Environmental Educators Conference](#). Antiochian Village Camp and Conference Center near Ligonier, Pa.
- **March 3**—**NEW**. House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Environmental Protection. Room 140. 9:00.
- **March 3**—**NEW**. House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Room 140. 10:00.
- **March 4**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:00.
- **March 4**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Transportation. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 1:15.

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- **March 5**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Environmental Protection. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 3:00.
- **March 6**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Community and Economic Development. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 1:15.
- **March 19**— Capital Region Water Board Meeting. Susquehanna River Basin Commission Building. 1:00. Contact: Cindy Rock, Cindy.L.Rock@comcast.net or call 717-633-7959.
- **March 28**— Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference and Shad Symposium. Holiday Inn, Fogelsville.
- **March 29**—**NEW**. [PennFuture’s Annual Watershed Conference](#). Chadd’s Ford.
- **May 13-15**—[PA Water/Wastewater Association](#) annual conference. Valley Forge.

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[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

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Stories Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - DHess@CrisciAssociates.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

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