

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

February 7, 2005

Professional Services Directory Added, More Display Options for Articles

This week we are pleased to announce several improvements to the *Digest's* website.

We've added a [Professional Services Directory](#) for consultants, organizations and others interested in making the *Digest* community aware of their services. These generous organizations help support the publication of the *Digest* and we would encourage you to check the Directory whenever you have need for consulting, legal or other service professionals.

For information on being included in the Directory, contact David Hess, at 717-234-1716 or email DHess@HolstonCrisci.com.

You now have several new ways to view articles in the *Digest* and search for the information you want. Display articles by topic, county or by date of a previous *Digest*. You can also search for a word or phrase contained in articles.

We also added a Scrapbook feature to the front page as a way to display pictures contributed by members of the *Digest* community, or to highlight *Digest* sponsors and anything else we think of.

Give us your feedback on these improvements and others you'd like to see!

Keep the ideas and articles coming!

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Caddisfly larva moving under clear pond ice (center). Contributed by Rachel Baur, Nolde Forest EE Center, Reading, PA. Print your own copy from the file at the bottom of this webpage.

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On the Hill

Senate Environmental Com. to Consider Wild Resource, Hazardous Sites Fund Bills

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has scheduled a meeting for February 7 to consider two bills: [Senate Bill 149](#) (M.White- R-Venango) to provide

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funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (to be filed) and [Senate Bill 133](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) eliminating the limitation on providing General Fund monies to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund.

House Committees Set to Consider Green PA Plan, Other Bills

The **House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee** is scheduled to meet on February 8 to consider the recently proposed [Green PA Plan](#) in the form of two bills – [House Bill 2](#) (Quigley-R-Montgomery) would authorize placing a question before voters to incur \$800 million in indebtedness for the Green PA Plan; and [House Bill 3](#) (Quigley-R-Montgomery) that would establish the endowment account, extend the existing Growing Greener fees and provide for the sale of the \$800 million in bonds proposed in the program.

The Committee is also set to consider [House Bill 88](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) to authorize certain counties and municipalities to develop comprehensive stormwater plans and regulate stormwater within designated boundaries and [House Bill 124](#) (Dally) a land conveyance.

The **House Local Government Committee** has scheduled a meeting for February 9 to consider [House Bill 87](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) authorizing certain local government to hold and acquire open space lands.

Senate, House Republicans Outline Legislative Agenda, Including Growing Greener

Senate and House Republican Leaders stood side by side this week to announce their legislative agenda for the year— the “[Republican Playbook for Progress](#).”

Topping the list was a proposed cut in the Personal Income Tax based on an expected \$800 million surplus this year, limits on state and school district spending as well as initiatives on personal health savings accounts, education and the environment.

As House Majority Leader Sam Smith (R-Jefferson) said, it wasn’t so much these were brand new initiatives, the news was Senate and House Republican Leaders standing together to announce a program.

The plan did not contain specific legislative proposals, but broad areas of interest for the two caucuses.

On the environment, the Playbook said: “Protecting the environment by enhancing Growing Greener, the successful Republican-led environmental initiative, ensuring that Pennsylvania remains a leader in farmland preservation, securing a stream of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund, and improving flood mitigation efforts.”

The Republicans said they are eager to work with Gov. Rendell to implement this ambitious agenda, and that this agenda should guide public policy discussions during the current legislative session.



Sen. Jubelirer, Rep. Smith, Sen. Brightbill announce Playbook

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As an aside, Gov. Rendell was quote as saying the state's fiscal situation is a "grim, grim picture." He delivers his budget address Wednesday and more cuts in basic operating budgets for all agencies are anticipated.

PA Members Report on Cost-Effective Bay Cleanup Methods

The legislative members of the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#) from Pennsylvania this week released copies of their latest report identifying the most cost-effective steps to restore the Chesapeake.

"We have seen a number of recent studies putting multi-billion dollar price tags on the Chesapeake Bay restoration," said Commission Chairman Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York). "Because Pennsylvania is an upstream partner in the clean-up, I believed it was essential to work with our colleagues in the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies to help all of us target our limited public funds more wisely. This Report identifies the right ways for Pennsylvania to invest in our local streams and rivers, which ultimately benefit the Bay."

"[Cost Effective Strategies for the Bay: Smart Investments in Nutrient Reduction](#)," highlights six practices which can contribute significantly to on-time achievement of the Bay's nutrient and sediment reduction goals by 2010. Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and sediments coming down the rivers over-enrich and cloud the Bay's waters, interfering with the growth of underwater grasses and the health of fish and shellfish. Their reduction is the major focus of Bay restoration efforts.

The Susquehanna provides nearly half the fresh water entering the Bay.

The six highlighted practices include sewage treatment plant upgrades and five agricultural practices -- cover crops, conservation tillage, traditional nutrient management, enhanced nutrient management, and diet and feed adjustments. Together, these six practices can achieve three-quarters of the nutrient reduction goal and the entire sediment reduction goal at one-eighth of the total costs that other studies have estimated for the clean-up.

"This Report has a lot to say about effective and affordable agricultural practices," said Waugh. "This year in the General Assembly I hope we can make some progress in supporting our farm communities with many of the measures identified in the Report. Both they and the Bay can benefit."

For more information visit the [Chesapeake Bay Commission website](#) or contact Marel Raub 717-772-3651 or send email to: marelraub@covad.net

Nutrient Trading Efforts Get Joint Conservation Committee Spotlight

The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control Conservation Committee chaired by Rep. Hutchinson (R-Venango) held its first Environmental Issues Forum of the year this week on the issue of watershed-based nutrient trading.

Andrew McElwaine, President and CEO of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) offered an overview of the trading pilot project in the [Conestoga River Watershed in Lancaster County](#) that resulted in the first true trade of nutrient credits in the United States

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Trading programs involve establishing a budget of nutrient pollution going into a watershed from point sources like wastewater treatment plants and nonpoint sources—runoff from farm fields and stormwater from streets and development.

One tool for establishing these budgets is the [Total Daily Maximum Limits \(TMDL's\)](#) for streams and watersheds required by the federal Clean Water Act. TMDLs establish a budget for how much pollution a body of water can take and still meet water quality standards.

To meet pollution reduction goals, agencies like the Department of Environmental Protection can either use its regulatory power to enforce strict limits on pollution discharges into the watershed through very prescriptive limits, or businesses, municipalities and farmers can make voluntary agreements to reduce by trading credits for each unit of pollution they reduce.

Businesses that install pollution controls or farmers that adopt Best Management Practices (BMP's) that reduce the amount of nutrients that runoff their fields into the watershed earn "credits" in a credit bank.

Those businesses or farmers that need to further reduce water pollution can buy those credits from the businesses and farms.

McElwaine pointed out this was not a substitute for basic environmental regulations, but it is another method of reaching the same goal. He outlined a number of benefits of a trading program--

- Reduces cost by taking advantage of differences in control costs among sources, saving anywhere from 10 percent to 50 percent or even more;
- Generates market demand for new, innovative technologies;
- Provides greater and improved recreation and tourism opportunities;
- Allows sellers going beyond minimum requirements to create credits that can be sold, banked or retired;
- Targets locations of reductions to priority areas;
- Reductions in nutrients are achieved sooner
- ecological restoration, ecosystem protection, improved wildlife habitat, recreation and aesthetic amenities; and
- Creates healthier waterways overall

McElwaine also described the [Conservation Innovation Grants Program \(CIG\)](#) which is operated through U.S Department of Agriculture. (*See related story on CIG in this Digest.*) These grants can fund a "Reverse Auction" where farmers essentially compete (through the use of BMP's) to be chosen by buyers. The winning bids come from farmers that can produce *low cost* reductions, i.e. the more cost effective a farmer's Best Management Practices, the better chance he or she has of winning a bid. A special website, www.nutrientnet.org is used to make all the calculations.

Rep. Hutchinson announced the next Issue Forum would be held March 14 on the Innovative Uses of Coal.

Report on ATV/Snowmobile Grants Program Released

The [Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee](#) this week released a report on [DCNR's Implementation of the Grants Portion of the Snowmobile and ATV Program](#) .

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The report recommended DCNR should: (1) work with the Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee to develop a multi-year "Snowmobile and ATV Trail Development Plan"; (2) designate one of three bureaus currently involved in administering the program as the "lead office" responsible for overall program coordination and grant oversight; (3) submit annual progress reports on grant-funded projects to pertinent legislative standing committees; (4) work with the Department of Community and Economic Development and local partners to maximize the potential tourism and economic development benefits of Rock Run and other similar projects; and (5) actively seek sponsorship support from the off-highway vehicle manufacturing industry for Rock Run and other similar projects.

Environmental Legislation Introduced So Far in the General Assembly

Here's a quick reference list of environmental legislation introduced in the General Assembly so far this year and the current status of the bills attached to this story.

The *Digest* will periodically publish this list for the reference of our readers.

In Other News

Reminder: Growing Greener Grant Applications Due March 4

The Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for watershed restoration and protection grants for the seventh year of Growing Greener until March 4.

For the upcoming grant round, DEP will invest in projects that seek to address nonpoint source pollution, such as abandoned mine drainage, urban and agricultural runoff, atmospheric deposition, on-lot sewage systems and earth-moving activities.

Eligible projects could include reducing nonpoint source pollution in watersheds where streams are impaired; designing practices and activities that support water quality trading initiatives; integrating stormwater management and flood protection into watershed management; encouraging the beneficial use of abandoned mine pool water; and integrating air deposition controls and management with mitigating water quality problems.

Applications must be postmarked no later than that day. If hand delivered, the package must be received by 4:30 p.m. March 4. Late submissions will not be considered.

For more information, go to [DEP's Growing Greener webpage](#).

USDA Provides Up to \$5 Million for Chesapeake Bay Watershed Innovation Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week announced that up to \$5 million is available in fiscal year 2005 [Conservation Innovation Grants](#) (CIG) for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Applicants will have 60 days to submit proposals. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) issued a [request for proposals \(RFP\)](#) that contains all the details.

CIG is offered to a variety of potential applicants, including state and local agencies, nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, tribes and individuals, to help develop, test, implement and transfer innovative environmental solutions.

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Projects may be from one to three years in length and must address at least one of the CIG natural resource concerns identified annually by NRCS. Grants will fund projects targeting innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations.

Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, of which up to 50 percent may be from in-kind contributions. An exception allows for beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers, tribes and community-based organizations representing these groups to obtain up to 75 percent of project matching funds from in-kind contributions. The federal contribution may not exceed \$1 million for a single project.

This funding is in addition to the \$15 million announced on January 11 for the CIG nationwide competition for fiscal year 2005.

Applicants may apply for both the nationwide and the Chesapeake Bay watershed grants, but must submit separate applications. Proposals funded by one RFP will not be funded by the other.

Chesapeake Bay 2005 Riparian Buffer Plant Give-Away Set

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (CBF) is offering free plants for riparian forest buffer projects to qualifying groups and projects in the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Applications will be accepted through March 28. Applications received after that date will be filled as plant availability allows.

Changes have been made in this season's give-away because of the smaller number of plants available. Applications will be filled according to the following priorities:

- Riparian forest buffer projects within 100 feet of small streams (streams less than 15 feet wide at water surface) will be the first priority.
- Local non-profit watershed groups will be given preference.
- Groups providing a [Stream ReLeaf](#) data form with specifics on where the desired plants will be used along with their application will be given preference versus groups who provide that information later.
- Giveaway Plants are not to be used for large projects where proposals should have included buffer restoration costs from the outset, particularly projects involving channel realignment.

There are a large number of green ash, silver maple and scarlet oak available that will allow CBF to show flexibility on these priorities for applications requesting primarily these species of trees.

Species available-- Scrubs: Black chokeberry, Arrowwood viburnum, Red chokeberry, Nannyberry viburnum, Gray dogwood, Silky dogwood; Trees: Silver maple, Swamp white oak, Green ash, Scarlet oak, Tulip poplar, Sycamore, Pin oak

There are some green ash, silver maple and scarlet oak left-over from the 2004 giveaway, so they will be a little bigger.

Requests must be for whole flats of 25 plants, one species per flat, with a minimum request of eight flats (200 plant minimum order). Unless specifically discussed

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with CBF, at least one-third of the total order must be green ash, at least one-third must be a mix of scarlet oak and silver maple (heavy on the oak would be ideal).

Give-away plants are premium plants grown by [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#). Plants are typically 15” to 30”+ tall, containerized seedlings in 3”x3”x9” pots, 25 per flat. These plants normally wholesale for over \$3 each. Additional species are available for purchase from [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#).

Recipients are responsible for return of containers to Octoraro Native Plant Nursery or the nearest CBF Buffer Specialist. A list of CBF Buffer Specialists will be sent with confirmation/directions.

Plant pick-up by groups will be at Black Rock Nursery in southern Lancaster County. Flats weigh about 30 lbs - loading assistance may not be available.

Pickup times are: March 30 - 10 a.m. to Noon, April 5 - 10 a.m. to Noon and April 15 10 a.m. to noon.

Interested groups should contact Cathy Hiebert in CBF’s PA office at 717-234-5550 or email at chiebert@cbf.org for further details.

1st Annual Adams County Fishing & Outdoors Expo – March 5 & 6

The Watershed Alliance of Adams County is planning a joint fundraiser with Adams County Trout Unlimited. The event is the "1st Annual Adams County Fishing & Outdoors Expo" to be held March 5 & 6.

For more information, contact Michelle Kirk, Program Administrator, Watershed Alliance of Adams County, P.O. Box 4329, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Phone: 717-677-4628 email (home). e-mail: tablerock@superpa.net or WAAC's email: waterstartshere@yahoo.com.

(Courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Opens in Harrisburg, Awards to Be Presented

More than 1,000 outdoor product suppliers and conservation organizations are participating in the [50th Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show](#) in Harrisburg running from February 5 through 13.

In addition to elk calling and owl hooting contests, there is a casting stream, wildlife and conservation displays, exotic animals and outdoor skills competitions, along with information on gardening, wildlife photography, boats and hunting.

The Show is in the Farm Show Complex.

Three New River Conservation Plans Approved by DCNR

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week gave notice that it has approved three new River Conservation Plans and added these segments to the Pennsylvania Rivers Registry—

[Lehigh River](#): the watershed and all tributaries covered in the Plan in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill and Wayne counties

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[Lower Neshaminy Creek](#): the portion of the Neshaminy Creek Watershed studied in the Plan in Bucks County

[Wiconisco Creek](#): the watershed and all tributaries covered in the Plan in Schuylkill and Dauphin counties

For more information, visit the DCNR [Rivers Conservation webpage](#) or call 717-787-7672.

Watershed Management Toolbox Workshop Set for March 16

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's [Watershed Assistance Center](#) and DEP's Watershed Academy are offering a one-day workshop on the new "Watershed Stewardship Guide" on March 1 in Williamsport and March 16 in Harrisburg.

This training is intended for watershed managers, watershed specialists, and watershed organizations. The "Guide" focuses on six components: Watershed Organization Development and Sustainability; Securing Financial & Human Resources; Watershed Assessments; Developing the Watershed Management Plan; Implementation; and Monitoring for Success.

Additionally, the National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Program from Annapolis Maryland will be partnering with the Academy to provide follow-up mentoring services to watershed organizations that attend in the areas that they need assistance with.

For more information email: wac@paconserve.org or call 724-459-0953

"Post 9-11 Water System Security and Liability" Seminar

The Pennsylvania-Section, American Water Works Association and LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae L.L.P. are co-sponsoring a seminar entitled "[Post 9-11 Water System Security and Liability](#)" to discuss and identify how vulnerabilities affect a public water supplier's liability should a malevolent act occur.

Scheduled speakers include Pennsylvania's Director of Homeland Security as well as presenters from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state agencies, Association staff and attorneys/staff from LeBoeuf, Lamb.

The seminar has been approved for: 2 PA DEP Contact Hours and 5.5 PA Continuing Legal Education Credits.

To register visit the [Association webpage](#), phone 717-774-8870 or send email to: mikesnyder@paawwa.org.

Game Commission Presents Annual Report to House Committee

The Game Commission this week delivered the agency's [2003-04 annual report](#) to the House Game and Fisheries Committee at an informational meeting in the Capitol.

The Committee had also been scheduled to receive the Fish and Boat Commission report, but it was rescheduled until February 8

The report includes sections on wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, infrastructure needs, wildlife habitat protection, land access, law

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enforcement, cost savings/alternative funding, public accountability, program accountability, financial accountable and law enforcement accountability.

Also available online is the [2003-04 Commission Annual Report](#) that includes more detail about each of these topics and more about the management of the commission.

EPA Awards Wet Weather Funding for the Ohio River

EPA Region 3 awarded the [Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission](#) \$125,000, as part of an ongoing initiative supporting state and interstate efforts on water quality standard attainability and insuring a proper scientific and designated use foundation for water quality management programs. The project is designed to investigate the level of recreational use that can be attained during periods of wet weather flow on an industrial section of the Ohio River, near Wheeling, W.V.

Fish Commission Seeks Applicants for Boating Facilities Grant Program

The Fish and Boat Commission announced a new grant program this week for county and municipal governments interested in the planning, acquisition, development, expansion, or rehabilitation of public boating facilities.

The deadline for applications is April 30.

The program is designed for public entities that have or will have the capability to provide boat access facilities that are open and available for general public use. Schools, non-profit organizations, not-for-profit organizations and service clubs are not eligible for direct funding but can apply through their local government for funding.

Funds can be used for site acquisition, project design and engineering, development, expansion and major rehabilitation of public recreational boat access facilities. Activities must benefit and directly support recreational boating. Eligible projects must occur on public lands owned in “fee simple” by the project sponsor or where ownership is less than fee simple interest, ownership rights must provide for permanent control of the property commensurate with the proposed development.

Eligible construction projects include: boat ramps, courtesy floats, restrooms, access roads, parking areas, landscaping, transient tie-up floats, and signs. Grant funds are to be used only for major site improvements and not for any routine maintenance or operation activities.

Successful applicants must provide a 25 percent grant match and be willing to enter into a long-term agreement to keep the facility open to free public use for its useful life. The PFBC will give priority-funding consideration to applicants that provide more than the required 25 percent match, thereby reducing the total amount of grant funds required to complete the project.

The PFBC recognizes that in some instances that the cash match is not easily obtainable by the applicant. In select instances, the Commission may approve up to 100 percent of the construction costs.

The PFBC gives highest priority to the rehabilitation of existing facilities, followed by expansion of existing facilities, then acquisition and development of new boating facilities.

The Boating Facility Grant Program funds are derived from boat registration fees, state fuel taxes collected on fuel used in motorboats, and taxes on fishing equipment and

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motorboat fuel from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. No state general funds are used for any Commission programs.

For more information, go to the [Boating Facility Grant Program announcement webpage](#).

Bloomsburg, PPL Montour Preserve, Host 2005 PA Envirothon

On May 23 high school [Envirothon](#) teams from across Pennsylvania will travel to [Bloomsburg University](#) located in Bloomsburg, Columbia County and use [PPL's Montour Preserve](#) as the site for their 2005 competition.

Teams will participate in the oral component presentation and provided dorm lodging at the university. On May 24 teams will travel about 20 miles west to the PPL Montour Preserve to participate in the traditional Envirothon testing event.

The PA Envirothon program also announced that the winning teams at the state event will receive scholarships. The scholarships are being funded by the PA Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission.

The first, second, and third place team members will be awarded scholarships that can be used toward their post secondary education. First place scholarships will be \$1,000 per student. Second place scholarships will be \$500 per student. Third place will be \$300 per student.

For more information about the [PA Envirothon](#) contact Lorelle Steach, Program Coordinator, at 814-623-7900 ext.111 or send e-mail to: paenvirothon@pennswoods.net.

Coatesville School Join EPA's Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality Program

The [Coatesville Area School District](#), in Coatesville, Chester County has joined the EPA Region 3 [Tools for Schools program](#) to help eliminate its problems with mold, odors, housekeeping and thermal comfort. EPA Region 3 staff will assist the district on how to improve the indoor environment for its 13,000 students and staff. Walk through assessments of each building will take place as well as training for all occupants during in-service days.

West Penn Sustainable Energy Fund Seeking Proposals

The [West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund](#) (WPPSEF) has released a request for proposals for the development of clean energy toolkits and clean energy technology development within the West Penn Power service territory.

The deadline for applications is 4 p.m., April 20.

WPPSEF is focused on facilitating the promotion, development, and deployment of sustainable energy technologies throughout the 23-county West Penn service area in western and central Pennsylvania

The WPPSEF was established as a nonprofit organization as part of the West Penn Power Restructuring Plan Settlement Agreement with the West Penn Power Co. and the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission in October 1998. The mission of the WPPSEF is to promote the use of renewable fuel and clean energy; to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency; and to promote the start-up, attraction, expansion, and retention of sustainable energy businesses.

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Applicants applying for WPPSEF grant monies must clearly show benefit to the WPP ratepayer. For more information call Joel L. Morison at 814-865-4802 or download the RFP at the [WPPSEF website](#).

PPL Releases Annual CERES Principles Report on Environment

The [Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies](#) (CERES) is an organization of environmental, investor, and public interest groups working together for an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable future.

Companies that are associated with CERES have endorsed the CERES Principles, a ten-point code of business conduct for environmental responsibility and performance improvement.

The CERES Principles require companies to [report annually](#) on their environmental performance

PPL has been a CERES company since 1997 and this week issued their annual CERES report.

To review the report online, go to [PPL's 2003 CERES Report](#).

For more information on PPL's environmental activities, go to the [PPL Project Earth webpage](#) or contact Robert J. Barkanic, Director-Environmental Management, rjbarkanic@pplweb.com or phone 610-774-5466.

Housing Alliance Opposes Increasing Real Estate Transfer Tax to Fund Transit

The [Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania](#), a nonprofit advocate for affordable, safe housing for lower income families, has come out in opposition to plans for funding mass transit through an increase in the real estate transfer tax. A portion of their letter to legislators follows:

“First, any increase in the real estate transfer tax, if it were ever enacted, should be dedicated to making homes more affordable for working Pennsylvanians, such as through rental development and assistance, home repair and protection from mortgage foreclosure and predatory lending.

“Second, funding for transit should come from a more logical, related source.

“Third, we are concerned that any funding for transit systems without strings attached to manage them more efficiently, modernize them and make them better economic development resources for rural as well as urban communities, is cause for concern. We hope that the General Assembly will include accountability.

“Transit is of great concern to our members. We fully support efforts to address the long term funding needs. Indeed, transit is a housing issue. It is the only access to jobs and, services that many people have. It is a lifeline. But it should be funded through a more rational source.

“The Housing Alliance was founded in 1985 to work for homes within reach for all Pennsylvanians. We have 450 organizational and individual members representing the needs and interests of rural, urban and suburban communities throughout the state.”

Grant for Research Into Beneficial Reuse of Municipal Waste Combustion Ash

The York County Solid Waste Authority announced this week it will fund up to \$250,000 in research and development work to identify viable non-traditional commercial uses for municipal waste combustion ash from the York County Resource Recovery Center (YCRRC).

The Authority is inviting private organizations, corporations, business firms, individual entrepreneurs, academic researchers, other research institutions and organizations, federal or state agencies, national laboratories, or partnerships or joint ventures composed of the foregoing to submit research proposals under this program.

Proposals must show a connection between the proposed research and development or marketing of one or more commercial products that are composed, in some part, of one or more of the ash streams generated by the YCRRC.

The Authority will support high-quality research, development, marketability and/or market development proposals aimed at advancing opportunities for beneficial use of significant quantities of an ash product.

Grant applications will be accepted now through May 2.

The Authority anticipates that the funding agreement(s) will be completed and the research process initiated by the third quarter of 2005.

Interested grant applicants can obtain a complete [Research Proposal Solicitation Package](#). For more information contact David Vollero, Engineering Division Manager, by phone at 717-845-1066, or by e-mail at: d.vollero@ycswa.com.

The York County Solid Waste Authority coordinates the environmentally responsible, efficient and economic management of all municipal solid waste generated in York County. The Authority utilizes an integrated approach to the management of waste that emphasizes waste reduction, reuse, recycling and resource recovery. The Authority is the owner of the York County Resource Recovery Center in Manchester Township; and owns and operates a Yard Waste Transfer Facility, a Recyclable Materials Drop-off Center, and an Education Center.

Currently, ash from the YCRRC is recycled into an aggregate material marketed commercially as “AggRite”. AggRite is permitted by the state for use in a variety of construction applications. This is the first time the Authority has offered a grant for ash reuse research proposals.

EPA Completes Construction on Mifflin County Superfund Site

EPA completed construction at the [Jacks Creek Superfund site](#), Lewistown, Mifflin County. EPA is working with the scrap yard owner to turn over the wetlands area of the site to a nature conservancy group. Minor tasks remain, including reseeded, minor erosion-control measures and placing of visible barriers around the sediment basins to prevent dumping. Monitoring of the ground and surface water, fish and benthos are planned as part of the operation and maintenance activities at the site.

New Book from PHMC: “Voices of the Knox Mine Disaster”

The [Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission](#) (PHMC) this week announced the publication of "Voices of the Knox Mine Disaster: Stories, Remembrances, and Reflections on the Anthracite Coal Industry's Last Major Catastrophe, January 22, 1959."



The 268-page book is a companion volume to the best-selling "The Knox Mine Disaster" (1999).

The authors are Robert P. Wolensky, professor of sociology and co-director of the Center for the Small City at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Nicole Wolensky, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iowa and Kenneth C. Wolensky, a historian with PHMC.

The book tells the story of the 1959 Knox Mine Disaster through the voices of survivors, victims' families, newspaper accounts and through literature and music generated by the tragedy. The tragedy claimed the lives of 12 men at the River Slope Mine near Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County. The Knox Coal Company had ordered that the mine be illegally excavated beneath the Susquehanna River and the force of the icy water broke into the mine trapping 81 workers. Most escaped but 12 men were never found and remain entombed.

Never in history had a river crashed through a coal mine causing 12 billion gallons of water to flow into the mine. This catastrophe forced the shutdown of deep anthracite mining in a large area of Pennsylvania, which resulted in the loss of 15,000 jobs.

"The Knox Mine Disaster is one of the worst deadly mining events in American history. Using personal memories and contemporary accounts, this book helps readers to better understand how deeply people were affected by the disaster and its continuing legacy," Franco said.

The new book can be purchased for \$16.96 (plus \$4.00 for shipping and handling, 50 cents for each additional copy, PA residents add 6 percent sales tax) at fine bookstores and from: Publications Program, PHMC, Commonwealth Keystone Building, Plaza Level 400 North Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120-0053, Telephone: (800) 747-7790 for Visa and MasterCard orders

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (www.phmc.state.pa.us) is the official history agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Fish Commission Mourns the Loss of Leon H. Reed

Leon H. Reed, member of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, died on January 29, 2005. He was 82 years old.

Commissioner Reed served as a member of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for nearly 19 years. He was first appointed by Gov. Thornburgh in July 1986 to represent the Seventh District, which includes Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

In this capacity, Commissioner Reed capably served the anglers and boaters of the Commonwealth. He was known



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and respected for his statewide perspective and his ability to provide sage advice and counsel on matters before the Commission. He served as Commission president from July 1988 to July 1989.

“Commissioner Reed was very active in his role with the Commission and highly regarded by all who worked with him in this capacity. While his manner was soft-spoken, the messages that emanated when he addressed the Commission and the public were powerful. He was knowledgeable on matters relating to fishing, boating and conservation, and his input and dedication will be missed,” said Dr. Douglas Austen, Executive Director of the Commission. “He was a strong advocate for conservation of fishing and boating resources while providing anglers and boaters with the opportunity to enjoy wholesome and safe outdoor recreation.”

Commissioner Reed resided in Wayne County. He was a member of the Wayne County Sportsmen’s Association, Wayne County Trap Club, and a lifetime member of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs. He was also a member of the Old Buck Hunting Club and served as a hunter education instructor for Ducks Unlimited for 40 years.

He was a veteran of the United States military, having served during World War II and the Korean crisis, and a retired mechanical contractor.

Quick Clips

[Take A Walk Inside the Tom Ridge Center at Presque Isle](#)

[Vermont Company Proposes Wind Farm Near Liberty](#)

[Montco Reaches Open Space Milestone](#)

[Bean-based fuels no joke](#)

[Preserved Farms Bring Higher Prices](#)

[Raptors Sample Urban Dining](#)

[Montco Republicans Lining Up Behind \\$2 billion Green Plan](#)

[Editorial: Expand Key Environmental Program](#)

[Editorial: Getting Greener Means More Than Being Eagles Fan](#)

[Editorial: PA Environmental Initiative](#)

[Editorial: GOP Green Plan Thin](#)

Taking Positive Action

Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Presents Annual Outdoor Achievement Awards



In commemoration of the [50th Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show](#) this week in Harrisburg, the sponsors of the show began a new tradition of honoring the unsung heroes who have made a difference in the outdoors during the last year.

Three awards were presented at a special awards dinner Friday:

- Dennis Scharadin received the Youth Mentor
- Ed Wytovich, Schuylkill County received the Conservation Award

Ed Wytovich (Conservation Award), Sandy Pochapin (Reed), Dennis Scharadin (Youth Mentor Award), David Kreiger, Scott Neely, Bob Herman, Shawn Murphy- Bassmasters (Humanitarian Award)

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- Capital City Bassmasters Club received the Humanitarian Award

Here's a description of each of their accomplishments.

Dennis Scharadin, of Auburn, PA, (Schuylkill County) has been awarded the 2005 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Youth Mentor Award for his more 35 years of educating young people about the outdoors.

This first Youth Mentor Award is presented in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Show to an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to using their knowledge of the outdoors and outdoor sports to educate and help young people.

In 1970, Scharadin started an Outdoors Club for students at Blue Mountain Middle School, using outdoor-related projects to teach club members about the nature and conservation.

Scharadin was the liaison and instructor for a pilot BB gun program at Blue Mountain Middle School. He taught every seventh grade student to safely handle firearms and how to shoot BB gun rifles.

Scharadin also developed a program in which seventh grade students chose an outdoor education subject from a list of nine mini-courses including: Bass Fishing, Big Game Hunting and Management, Camping, Hiking, Small Game Hunting and Management, Trapping, Trout Fishing, Wildlife ID, and Introduction to the Outdoors.

In 1979, because of his work with youth, Scharadin was appointed to the Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth Advisory Committee by then Pennsylvania Fish Commission Executive Director, Ralph Abele.

Scharadin was responsible for starting the Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Association's Norm Thornburg Youth Conservation Camp, This three-day, two-night camp instructed young people in all aspects of the outdoors. He was also instrumental in starting the Schuylkill County Youth Field Day. He developed the activities and the programs for both the camp and youth field day.

Ed Wytovich, of Schuylkill County, has received the 2005 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Conservation Award for his work in cleaning up Schuylkill County's waterways.

The Award for Conservation is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to protecting and improving our outdoor resources and animal habitats.

Wytovich, an environmental science teacher in Upper Dauphin School District, was the driving force behind organizing the [Schuylkill Headwaters Association](#) and the Schuylkill River Sojourn.

The Schuylkill Headwaters Association's mission is to promote the environmental integrity, of the tributaries and watershed of the Schuylkill River.

The Schuylkill River Sojourn is an environmental awareness canoe trip from the headwaters of the Schuylkill River to its confluence of the river with the Delaware River in Philadelphia.

In addition, Wytovich single handedly formed 10 watershed associations in Schuylkill County to preserve the natural beauty and resources of the Catawissa, Mahanoy, Swatara and Wiconisco creeks.

Currently, Wytovich is working with the [Catawissa Creek Restoration Association](#) to place a passive treatment system on the Catawissa Creek to treat the high

volume, acidic Audenreid Tunnel discharge. When completed, it is expected that 41.5 miles of the Catawissa Creek will have been improved.

Wytovich's efforts to improve the water quality in Schuylkill County have resulted in the improved water quality of the headwaters in Schuylkill County--resulting in improved water quality in both the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Rivers.

Wytovich also received other honors for his work, including the [Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship in 2001](#).

Capital City Bassmasters has received the 2005 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Humanitarian Award for its Youth activities.

The Award recognizes an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to using outdoors sports and events to benefit others

Capital City Bassmasters conducts and participates in several Youth activities each year including the Casting Kids Program, Leukemia Society and Four Diamonds Fund Fishing Derby, and the City of Harrisburg Get Hooked on Fishing fishing derby. The Casting Kids Program is designed to teach children the fundamentals of fishing such as casting, pitching and flipping.

Capital City Bassmasters sponsors an annual Leukemia Society and Four Diamonds Fund fishing derby. The outing, held at Lakeside Marine in Harrisburg, provides chronically ill kids from the Leukemia Society and the Four Diamonds Fund of Hershey Medical Center and their families with an enjoyable day of fishing and instruction. Approximately 125 children and parents attended this year's event.

Each year, Capital City Bassmasters participates in the City of Harrisburg, Department of Parks and Recreation's annual Hooked on Fishing Derby. The event takes place at the Jackson Lick Municipal swimming Pool. Capital City Bassmasters organizes a basic casting demonstration, hands on instructional assistance and the conducting of a casting competition.

This year's first Capital City Bassmasters Leukemia and Lymphoma Benefit Bass Tournament raised \$4,500.

The Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show is owned and operated by Reed Exhibitions. Reed Exhibitions is the world leader in creating high profile, targeted industry events where buyers and suppliers come together to do business.

Black History Month

Ralph E. Brock, Pennsylvania's First African-American Forester



[Ralph Elwood Brock](#) was born on February 15, 1881 and raised in Pottsville, Schuylkill County. He graduated from the Howard School in Wilmington, Delaware.

He became the first African-American to become a Graduate Forester of the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy's first class in 1906.

Before the academy class was formed, Brock was employed at the former Mont Alto Reserve, now Michaux State Forest.

Immediately after graduation, and for five years, he served

as the superintendent of the newly established Mont Alto State Forest Tree Nursery from 1906 to 1911.

Forestry records indicate the nursery flourished under his direction, and his accomplishments are detailed in early annual reports of the former Department of Forestry (now Department of Conservation and Natural Resources).

He resigned from state service in 1911 to start his own nursery business in the Philadelphia area. He continued in this career for the rest of his life. He died on Dec. 9, 1959 and is buried in the Chestnut Grove Cemetery, West Chester, Chester County.

Brock graduated and advanced in the forestry field at a time when African-Americans had few chances for higher education or advancement.

In February 2000, DCNR [renamed the Bureau of Forestry's main seed orchard](#) in Franklin County near Mont Alto in Brock's honor to recognize his contributions to forestry and the African-American community.

Also in 2000, Brock and his story were included in an Earth Day educational program to familiarize students across the state with significant [environmental leaders in Pennsylvania's past](#).

Find out more by going to Pennsylvania's [Environmental Heritage webpage](#).

Find out more about [Black History Month](#).

Invitation: Do you know of other African-Americans who made a contribution to Pennsylvania's environmental heritage? Send his/her story to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com .

Inspiring People

Inspiring Folks to Get Involved in Their Watershed

By Jo Ellen Litz

There are so many great motivational leaders from whom we can learn—Colin Powell is one of these leaders. His pearls of wisdom are strung throughout this article.

For example, Powell says,

"Endeavors succeed or fail because of the people involved. Only by attracting the best people will you accomplish great deeds."

"Look for intelligence and judgment, and most critically, a capacity to anticipate, to see around corners. Also look for loyalty, integrity, a high energy drive, a balanced ego, and the drive to get things done."

"Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand."

"Have fun in your command. Don't always run at a breakneck pace. Take leave when you've earned it; Spend time with your families. Corollary: Surround yourself with people who take their work seriously, but not themselves, those who work hard and play hard."



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In my humble opinion, leading, and more importantly motivating, a watershed group, a business or a county involves similar steps. Let's get the tough one out of the way right from the start. Inevitably, leaders must take responsibility for the group's welfare, which means that from time to time you must make some unpopular actions or decisions.

Always remember that your best assets are your volunteers. Give them meaningful assignments and create a culture where the best, brightest, and most creative people volunteer, stay, and most importantly, are able to unleash their creative talent and passion. Seek people who have some balance in their lives (family, friends, hobbies), who are fun, who can laugh at themselves, and who have passion.

A leader can spread a ripple effect of enthusiasm and optimism, which is phenomenal. Create a climate that says, "We can change things. Together, we can achieve awesome goals. We are the best." The [Swatara Creek Watershed Association](#) has completed a Rivers Conservation Plan; created a [Water Trail](#), complete with maps, access points, and trailhead signs, that is recognized by both the state of Pennsylvania and the National Park Service via the Chesapeake Bay Gateways network; distributed water conservation kits during times of drought; written, published, and distributed two books; sponsored sub watershed groups; helped to implement best management practices on farms...the list goes on.

Just remember that titles don't mean much. Titles announce some authority or status, but titles don't convey absolute power to influence and inspire others. As long as they have pizzazz, drive, expertise, and genuine caring for teammates and products, individuals will attract people to volunteer, even if they don't hold a position.

Next, don't place barriers to communication. The Swatara Creek Watershed Association uses one-on-one visits, the phone, email, web site, and snail mail to communicate.

Further, don't be afraid to ask for help. It is not a weakness or failure. Be accessible and available. Get to know your volunteers—the name of their spouse and children, hobbies, pets....

Additionally, small watershed groups don't have the time or money to hire experts. The president answers the phone and pulls the garbage trailer when necessary; every volunteer contributes. As a result, when addressing problems or concerns, it is common to find hands-on informality, speed, and flexibility.

It is important for watershed groups to network with and tap into the expertise of the business world, colleges, and government. From time to time, it will be necessary to have the confidence to challenge top-down directives that don't make sense in the field.

Whenever possible, learn from the pros. Observe them, but also ask them to be mentors or partners. Powell says, "Leadership does not emerge from blind obedience to anyone. Xerox's Barry Rand was right on target when he warned his people that if you have a yes-man working for you, one of you is redundant. Good leadership encourages everyone's evolution."

Use the KISS principle, Keep It Simple, Stupid. Paint a visual picture that everyone can understand. Work on ideas until they can be implemented quickly and efficiently. Communicate decisions crisply and clearly. Convey firmness and consistency in your actions, which will result in clarity of purpose, credibility, and

integrity in your watershed organization. Delegate and empower others, but pay attention to the details.

There is an old expression, "it's easier to get forgiveness than permission." How true. If you ask enough people for permission, you'll come up against someone who believes it is his or her job to say "no." Less effective watershed organizations wait until they've been told 'no,' they can't do it," whereas others believe, "If we haven't been told 'no,' we can." There is a huge difference.

Don't fall into the "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" trap. It is another phrase that people use as an excuse for not getting things done. Instead of tackling problems, they hope their problems go away.

One reason that watersheds wither away is that managers don't challenge old-shoe comfortable ways of doing things. Create a climate where people learn new skills and take on new responsibilities.

Sometimes a firm directive is appropriate, rather than a long discussion. Some situations require the leader to closely monitor activity while other situations allow long leashes. Leaders stay true to their core values, but remain flexible.

In closing, Harry Truman was right. The buck stops here. Leadership is your willingness to make tough decisions and accept the consequences, but be willing to share the praise for and with your watershed organization. □

Jo Ellen Litz. In typical Jo Ellen style, she wanted to be listed as “sparkplug- one of many who ignite the [Swatara Creek Watershed](#).” But, she is also one of three Lebanon County Commissioners, started and operated two businesses in the county (one of them an auto body shop), and is a proud grandmother. You can contact her by email to: litz@mbcomp.com .

Related Links: [Swatara Creek Sojourn](#)
[EPA Green Community – Swatara Creek](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Scranton Times “Deep Trouble” Abandoned Mine Series](#)
[Successful Reclamation Results are All Around](#)
[Too Many Mines, Waiting to Reclaim Scarred Land](#)
[Danger Lurks in Mines](#)
[State Program Trying to Make Up for Lost Federal Reclamation Dollars](#)
[Partners must restore floodplains to save Chesapeake](#)
[Bushkill Creek corridor closer to changes](#)
[Bellfonte’s New Water Meters Yield Results](#)
[Orange Water, Silver Lining](#)
[Project to reclaim iron oxide may provide marketable product](#)
[GOP gets started on green program](#)
[Mine Leak Jots Public Into Considering Insurance](#)
[Lack of Data, Money Make Preventing Mine Blowouts Difficult](#)
[Brush Creek Smart Growth Initiative Moves Ahead](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board published these notices this week—

[Notice accepting extension of review](#) of mercury rulemaking petition submitted by PennFuture.

[Cancellation](#) of the February 15 Environmental Quality Board meeting.

The Governor’s Office published one of its [periodic notices of regulations under development](#) by state agencies, including DEP, DCNR and others ([PaB 810](#)).

The Public Utility Commission published notice inviting comments on additional language added to a draft order covering [public utility security planning and readiness](#). Comments due: February 11.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – February 5, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Regulations](#) [Technical Guidance](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#) [Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) it is seeking comments on this proposed guidance document—

DEP ID: 383-2129-003. Consumer Confidence Report Handbook. Description: This document was developed to provide guidance to community water suppliers that must comply with the consumer confidence reporting requirements. Comments due: March 7.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- [State Water Resource Plan Committee meeting schedule](#)
- **February 7** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee meeting to consider [Senate Bill 149](#) (M.White- R-Venango) to provide funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (text not yet online) and [Senate Bill 133](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) eliminating the limitation on providing General Fund monies to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund.
- **February 8** –House Game & Fisheries Committee meets to hear Fish & Boat Commission annual report.

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- **February 8** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee to consider the Green PA Plan in [House Bill 2](#) and [House Bill 3](#); [House Bill 88](#) concerning stormwater planning, [House Bill 124](#) a land conveyance.
- **February 9** – Governor’s Budget Address (yes this is a change caused by football)
- **February 9** – House Local Government Committee to consider [House Bill 87](#) on open space acquisition.
- **February 9** – Watershed Awareness for the Community. Delaware County. Sue Cochrane 610-353-1555, ext. 232. www.PRC.org
- **February 10** – [DEP Air Quality Monitoring Subcommittee](#) meeting + Feb. 23 meeting.
- **February 15** – DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting Harrisburg.
- **February 24** – Advanced Composting. State College. Amy Cicchiao, 800-769-7767. www.PropRecycles.org .
- **March 2** – Senate Budget Hearing on DCNR.
- **March 2** – Backyard Composting Class. Delaware County. Sue Cochrane 610-353-1555, ext. 232. www.PRC.org
- **March 3** – House Budget Hearing on DCNR, DEP
- **March 5** – [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#), Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown
- **March 9** – Senate Budget Hearing on DEP
- **April 4-5** – [Environmental Issues for Energy Generation](#) in the Non-Utility Sector. Arlington, VA.
- **April 10-12** – [Engineering Sustainability 2005](#) – University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering.
- **May 6-7** - West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium -_Location: Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA _Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or awolfe@tu.org

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

(courtesy [PA Organizations for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

[Senate Committee Schedule](#) [House Committee Schedule](#)

[Helpful Web Links](#)

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

Contributions Invited

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

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