

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

February 21, 2005

Senate, House Leave Town, Leave Issues

There was no love lost between Gov. Rendell and Senate and House Republicans this Valentine's Day week. The Governor's priorities notwithstanding, the Senate and House left town without resolving the mass transit issue or environmental funding and instead settled in for budget hearings.

That's not to say they didn't move bills on these issues, some with lots of partisan wrangling, threatened vetoes and more hard feelings between the Governor and members over other funding issues.

The one program receiving near unanimous, bipartisan support among House and Senate members is the restoration of funding for the Black Fly Spraying Program cut in Gov. Rendell's proposed budget.

There are rumors of the formation of a "Black Fly Caucus" in the Senate and House to support the program.

Black flies, or gnats, are those pesky, small black bugs that circle endless around people during the summer months. Although a pest, they are in fact a sign that water quality in our rivers and streams is improving. If the water wasn't clean, the black fly larvae could not survive.

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Susquehanna ice just up river of Harrisburg in January. *Print your own copy from the PDF file at the bottom of this webpage.*

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On the Hill

Senate, House Act on Environmental Spending Proposals, Gov. Threatens Veto

With an emphasis on no new taxes and fees, the House voted along party lines to pass its Green PA Plan and send it to the Senate. The Senate, meanwhile, voted unanimously to send a proposal to the House to restore the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

The four hour plus debate in the House was punctuated by votes along party lines to turn down additional fees to fund the Fish and Boat and Game Commissions, charging fees on resource recovery facilities and to provide funding for historic preservation tax credits in [House Bill 3](#) (Quigley-R-Montgomery), the implementing legislation for the House Republican Green PA Plan. The vote on final passage – 109-86.

The House did amend the bill to make available funding for operation and maintenance costs and increased the funding set aside for restoration of abandoned mine lands from \$15 to \$39 million, which made less money available for other traditional Growing Greener uses.

Although amendments including the Governor's original Growing Greener II proposal were listed on the voting schedule, they were withdrawn by House Democrats.

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[House Bill 2](#) (Quigley-R-Montgomery), which contains the \$800 million bond issue question to be put on the ballot, was amended to remove language limiting the payback of the bond issue with existing waste disposal fees. Final passage –183 to 12.

House Bill 2 was amended to specifically insert “farmland” preservation in the ballot question and deleted language in the question referring to paying for the \$800 million with “existing waste disposal fees.”

Gov. Rendell weighed in on the House debate by sending an email to each member threatening to veto the bills if significant changes were not made.

After the vote, Rendell issued a statement saying he was pleased the House passed the legislation to put the bond issue question on the ballot, but again said he thought House Bill 3 was “fundamentally flawed.”

“I am gratified that the House leaders and their members recognize that we must put this initiative before the voters of Pennsylvania,” said Gov. Rendell. “By passing House Bill 2, which authorizes an \$800 million bond issue ballot question to support environmental programs, the voters of Pennsylvania will finally have their voices heard on an important package that will dramatically improve the environment and quality of life in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, House Bill 3, the “GreenPA” legislation, is fundamentally flawed and does not reflect the spirit, or the intent of my Growing Greener II initiative. I cannot sign this bill in its current form.”

House Majority Leader Sam Smith (R-Jefferson) said, “Green PA balances the various concerns and issues with a sound and fiscally responsible policy. As the governor is proposing budget cuts in health care, cancer research, police and fire protection, various groups are complaining that Green PA only spends \$170 million annually. Who is being unreasonable? Green PA puts more money into programs than the governor’s plan, which puts more tax dollars into repaying debt.”

The Senate also took action this week to unanimously pass [Senate Bill 149](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) that earmarks one-quarter mill of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax—about \$34 million annually -- to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund. The bill must now be considered by the House.

The fundamental differences between the Administration and Senate and House Republican leaders continues to be whether to impose new fees to support additional environmental spending and the size of the bond issue to be put on the Spring ballot.

A [Quinnipiac University poll](#) released this week again showed support for “raising \$800 million for environmental cleanup and land preservation” – 54 to 38 percent. But the poll asked a follow up question this time-- would their support change if they knew it was paid for by increased waste fees imposed on them? Support dropped six points to 48 percent.

Here’s a thumbnail sketch of both plans—

Scope

Rendell Growing Greener II –

- \$800 million bond issue spent over 4 years for: restoring streams and abandoned mine lands, cleaning up brownfields, investing in alternative energy sources, preserving farmland and open space, improving recreation, expanding affordable housing, community redevelopment and infrastructure needs of the Fish & Boat and Game Commissions;
- Providing \$25 million more for recycling;

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- Providing funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (declining in future years)
- Funding proposed energy sales tax holiday on certain energy efficient appliances;
- Funding increased green energy purchases by state government;
- Providing grants to local governments for smart land use planning;
- Providing grants to local governments to for historic preservation tax credits; and
- Existing Growing Greener Program would be funded at slight higher levels.

Green PA Plan –

\$2 billion commitment through 2033 in these major areas—

- \$800 million in funding for original Growing Greener purposes spend over 7 years— watershed restoration, recreation, State Park and State Forests, open space and water and sewer infrastructure (\$170 million increase over currently planned funding through 2012);
- Operation and maintenance of watershed restoration projects;
- Hazardous Sites Cleanup Funding - \$25.6 million annually through 2033; and
- Farmland Preservation - \$10.2 million annually through 2033.
- An Endowment Fund by 2033 provides \$178 million for original Growing Greener II purposes.
- Original Growing Greener funding would end as currently scheduled in 2012.

Funding Sources

Rendell Growing Greener II

- Existing \$4.25/ton fee on municipal waste would increase by \$5/ton to \$9.25.
- New fee on solid residual waste at \$4/ton
- New fee on chemicals reported in Toxics Release Inventory of 15 cents per pound
- Total annual fee income about \$153 million for life of program.

Green PA Plan

- Existing \$4.25/ton fee would be continued through 2033, instead of expiring 2012.

Legislative Language

Rendell Growing Greener II: [House Bill 260](#), and from last session: [House Bill 2010](#) and [House Bill 2628](#).

Green PA Plan: [House Bill 2](#) and [House Bill 3](#)

Visit the [Growing Greener II webpage](#) and the [Green PA Plan webpage](#) for more information on both plans.

NewsClips: [House OK's Green Plan, Rendell Will Veto](#)

[Green PA Plan Falls Short](#)

[Green Plan Gets House Approval](#)

[GOP's Greener Measure Advances](#)

[Why Growing Greener II is the Right Choice for PA](#)

[Growing greener? House passes plan; veto threatened](#)

[House Approves Green Funding](#)

[House Passes Republican Environmental Plan](#)

Adolph/White Release Green Ribbon Commission Recommendations

At the final meeting of the Green Ribbon Commission this week, Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) and Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), co-chairs of the Commission released

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recommendations to the General Assembly and Rendell Administration on funding future environmental initiatives.

"I am proud to report that over the course of the past couple of months, members of the Green Ribbon Commission were able to gather meaningful input on Pennsylvania's top environmental needs from the administration, the business community and several local environmental organizations," said Adolph. "After carefully reviewing all the testimony we obtained, members worked cooperatively to draft a list of recommendations that will help better focus our legislative efforts."

Democratic members of the Commission expressed concern that the recommendations did not resolve the funding issues and left out key parts of Gov. Rendell's Growing Greener II spending plan.

The commission was charged with studying state programs affecting the environment and reviewing proposals aimed at possible program consolidation and improvements, as well as the appropriateness of various methodologies for enhanced funding to address environmental problems, including preservation of farmland and open space, reclamation of abandoned mines and cleanup of hazardous sites, and then present their recommendations to the General Assembly and administration.

The recommendations from the Green Ribbon Commission are:

- Develop additional short and long-term funding options for environmental initiatives.
- Environmental initiatives should recognize the diversity of needs across the entire Commonwealth.
- Pennsylvania's taxpayers should be asked, through a referendum, if they would support increased funding for environmental programs by issuing bonds in an amount up to \$800 million.
- Open space preservation, farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine remediation, and acid mine drainage cleanup have been identified as key environmental programs that also offer strong associated economic development benefits. These programs should be targeted to receive specific financial assistance in any future environmental funding decisions.
- Consideration should be given to options for funding needed infrastructure improvements within the Commonwealth's fish hatcheries and for repairs to Commonwealth-owned dams. Funding options could include priority within the Commonwealth's capital budget process, the out-sourcing of all or a portion of the fish hatchery program, as part of possible environmental bond issue, or through user fee increases.
- Provide a long-term, stable source of funding to the Hazardous Site Cleanup Fund.
- Identify and implement standard methods to monitor, measure, and report on the state of the Commonwealth's environment on a regular basis. This would include measuring improvements to the quality of Pennsylvania's land, air and water and determining the effectiveness of the Commonwealth's environmental funding in relationship to overall improvements in environmental quality.
- Recognizing that deep philosophical divisions remain on the appropriateness of new fees or taxes to pay for expanded state spending, a variety of creative funding options should be explored.

Sen. Musto, Rep. Hershey Introduce Green Schools Initiatives

Legislators in the Senate and House introduced separate bills creating green school initiatives this week.

Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) introduced legislation that will increase the school construction reimbursement rates for school districts that follow the LEED green building design standards. Increased reimbursements would also be available for projects which rehabilitate or make additions to existing buildings in lieu of brand new construction.

The bill has not yet been assigned a number. For more information contact Marilyn Zilli, Esq., executive director of the Education Committee for Sen. Musto at 717-787-7105.

Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester) introduced [House Bill 633](#) this week that provides financial incentives to school districts to purchase buses and other vehicle fueled with clean alternative fuels by changing the annual state reimbursement rate for pupil transportation.

House Bill 633 would also increase the reimbursement rate for school districts that construct buildings meeting the LEED green building standards.

For more information contact Rep. Hershey's office at 717-783-6435.

Other Environmental Bills Introduced

Climate Change: [House Bill 500](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) providing for a report on global warming impacts and economic opportunities, greenhouse gas inventory and greenhouse gas plan of action.

Appliance Energy Standards: [Senate Bill 290](#) (Conti-R-Bucks) setting minimum energy efficiency standards for certain appliances and equipment.

Watershed Planning: [Senate Bill 291](#) (Conti-R-Bucks) Amending the Municipalities Planning Code to provide for watershed zoning cooperating among adjoining municipalities.

An updated list of environmental legislation introduced in the General Assembly is attached to this story.

In Other News

Groups Encouraged to Register for 2005 Great PA Cleanup! in April



Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, Transportation Secretary Allen D. Biehler, Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis, and Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Douglas Austen this week announced plans for the Second Annual Great PA Cleanup!, along with over two dozen other partners.

In 2004 over 100,000 people participated in roadside and

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streamside cleanups across Pennsylvania through the [Great PA Cleanup!](#) picking up over 233,000 bags of trash. The goal this year is to get even more groups involved.

This year the Great PA Cleanup! will take place April 23 in conjunction with Earth Day.

Benefits of Registration: Groups officially registered for the Great PA Cleanup! will be able to dispose of the trash they collect for free at participating landfills across the state, get information about contacts in their area that can help plan their cleanup, get gloves and safety vests from PennDOT, free trash bags donated by Glad, Inc., help dealing with tires and motor oil found by the cleanups from Firestone tire dealers and be included in a drawing for four Troy-Bilt yard-vacs given away by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

DEP has also waived the state's \$2/ton recycling fee and \$4.25/ton Environmental Stewardship Fee for registered groups.

Interested groups can go to www.KeepPaBeautiful.org to learn more on how to become registered or call 1-888-548-8372.

"Last year, thousands of residents joined together to make the first Great Pennsylvania Cleanup a tremendous success," Secretary McGinty said. "Because litter and illegal dumping affect everyone's quality of life, we challenge residents to get involved with community cleanup efforts. Whether you join an existing cleanup or organize one of your own, every resident can help us succeed in making Pennsylvania a much more attractive place to live, work and play."

"It is very gratifying to see so many different organizations and interests offering enthusiastic support for the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup," Secretary Biehler said. "We are proud to be partners with DEP and other state agencies in this coordinated effort to clean up Pennsylvania."

"Litter is caused by a few people who don't care about their communities," said Anthony L. Crisci, Legislative Counsel for the PA Soft Drink Association. "The Great PA Cleanup! is a wonderful opportunity to show how much people do care and to convince others littering is not only wrong, but illegal. Litter is more than an eyesore, it can ruin property values and pollute our rivers and streams. We want to thank DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Transportation Secretary Allen Biehler for putting together this initiative."

"Volunteers always have been the driving force behind cleanup and rehabilitation efforts in our parks, forests and trails," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "Thanks to these volunteers, visitors and residents can enjoy some of the most beautiful lands and waters in the country. Let's all do our part this year in keeping our landscapes free of litter."

"More than 1.5 million anglers of all ages take in excess of 20 million fishing trips here each year. Much of that activity takes place on private lands whose owners are generous enough to allow public fishing," Executive Director Austen said.

"Unfortunately, litter is the number one reason landowners post their properties. As a result, more stream miles come off PFBC's trout stocking list each year because of litter-related concerns than any other reason."

"Trash and litter ruin property values, exhaust tax dollars and lower the quality of life for everyone," said Tom McMonigle, representing the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "It takes a shared commitment from residents, neighborhood groups, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and our

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state's large and small businesses to prevent litter. I am impressed by the enthusiastic support we have received so far, and I am looking forward to a successful Great Pennsylvania Cleanup.”

The following is a list of organizations sponsoring Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup:

- Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association: Allied Waste Industries Inc.; IESI; Penn Waste; Republic Services of Pennsylvania; Charles Chrin Cos.; and Waste Management Inc.
- Commonwealth: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of Corrections; Department of Transportation; Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; Military and Veterans Affairs; and Pennsylvania State Police.
- Cities: Allentown, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.
- Keep Lancaster Beautiful, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, Pennsylvania Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus; PA CleanWays;
- Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association; Steel Recycling Institute; Pennsylvania Host Municipal Inspectors; Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association; Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging; Pennsylvania Resource Council; Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania; Schuylkill Keep It Pretty; Cumberland Valley Chapter, Trout Unlimited; Various Sportsmen Groups

American Water Launches Watershed Grant Program in Pennsylvania

American Water has launched an Environmental Grant Program in Pennsylvania to support innovative, community-based environmental projects that improve, restore or protect watersheds and community drinking water supplies.

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be provided for projects that result in the protection or improvement of the community's public drinking water supplies and/or improve, restore or protect a watershed.

Examples of activities supported by the program include watershed cleanups, reforestation efforts, underground tank inspection programs, biodiversity projects, streamside buffer restoration projects, wellhead protection initiatives and hazardous waste collection efforts.

"Every individual and community has the ability to positively impact our source water and watersheds," said Robert Ross, president and CEO, Pennsylvania American Water. "We encourage communities, schools and non-governmental organizations to consider their impact and to apply for a grant."

Surface water (rivers, lakes and streams) is the source of 60 percent of the nation's drinking water; the remainder is supplied by groundwater sources.

"There are opportunities for communities to lend the water supply and watershed a helping hand," continued Ross. "It is American Water's hope that this environmental grant program will support and enable our communities to improve the sustainability of this precious natural resource."

To qualify, a proposed project must be located within Pennsylvania American Water's service area, be completed between June 1, 2005 and November 1, 2005, and be

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a new or innovative initiative for the community or serve as significant expansion to an existing program.

Projects will be judged based on criteria including clarity of project goals and projected impact, nature and strength of collaboration with other community and/or municipal organizations, and evidence that the project will provide sustainable environmental results after the American Water funding ends.

Applications must be postmarked by Friday, April 1 and mailed to American Water, 852 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. Attn: Joi Corrado.

To download the application, visit the [Environmental Grants Brochure webpage](#).

EPA Again Invites States to Submit Projects for Targeted Watershed Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invited state to submit nominations for its [Targeted Watersheds Grant Program](#).

Nominations by the states are due to EPA May 19.

Over the last two years, four watershed projects in Pennsylvania have received grants under this program: [Dunkard Creek](#), [Susquehanna Headwaters](#), the [Christina River](#), and the [Schuylkill Action Network](#).

This year Congress has approved \$18 million for grants to support community-based approaches and activities to help local water resources -- \$8 million of which will go directly to grants in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This week's notice announces the beginning of the 2005 process for the \$10million targeted for watershed nation-wide watershed grants.

For more information, visit the [Targeted Watersheds webpage](#).

Save the Date: August Mine Water Treatment Technology Conference



The [2005 Mine Water Treatment Technology Conference](#) will be held in Pittsburgh on August 16-18.

Presentation proposals for the Conference are due May 6.

The conference is a joint effort of the USDI Office of Surface Mining through its Appalachian Region Technology Transfer group, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, DEP, Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Kiski-Conemaugh Initiatives, and Canaan Valley Institute.

The conference is looking for presentations on the themes of passive treatment, chemical treatment, and resource recovery. Resource recovery includes the recovery and reuse of minerals in sludge or the reuse of mine pool water.

For more information, visit the [Conference webpage](#) or direct questions to bmeans@osmre.gov or luranows@osmre.gov.

Apply Now for Composting Infrastructure Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications from businesses and nonprofit groups to help develop composting projects until March 4.

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A total of \$375,000 is available for projects which increase the volume of organic materials being composted and helps businesses increase the use of organic materials in the production of finished products.

Grants of up to \$75,000 for business projects that incorporate recovered organic materials into their products or increase the amount of organic material processed at an existing composting facility.

For more information, visit the [Composting Infrastructure Development Grant Program webpage](#).

Recycling Market Infrastructure Grants Available Through DEP



The Department of Environmental Protection is accepting grant applications for its [Recycling Markets Infrastructure Grants](#) through March 4.

The department will award grants of up to \$500,000 to any one recycling infrastructure development project to finance the purchase of machinery or equipment that will increase consumption of recyclable materials recovered in the Commonwealth.

Advanced Energy Project Development Proposals Due to DEP April 1

The Department of Environmental Protection is [now soliciting proposals](#) for what it calls advanced energy development projects that focus on renewable energy systems, energy efficiency and conservation and clean advanced energy businesses.

The deadline for proposals is April 1.

Through these proposals, the Department hopes to find manufacturers, sales, marketing and distribution businesses to locate in Pennsylvania.

The Department said it is most interested in project proposals that will establish long-term manufacturing operations within this Commonwealth or will provide low-cost, reliable energy to manufacturers and industrial customers from energy resources indigenous to this Commonwealth, such as coal gasification, coal-mine methane, waste coal, biomass, wind and solar.

Interested parties are encouraged to send a letter of interest to DEP that includes the following: a two-page executive summary that contains a description of the project, project principals, goals and objectives of the project, financial requirements, if any, and expected project benefits, including job statistics, economic development benefits and environmental improvements. The letter should also include a general overview of the company, including its history, present situation and future goals. If past sales and market development data are available, include these as well.

DEP said it would work with the Governor's Action Team and a variety of financial assistance programs available in Pennsylvania to entice advanced energy companies to the state.



Mill Run Windmills, Somerset County off PA Turnpike.

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DEP also pointed out Pennsylvania has a wealth of natural resources and infrastructure that makes it a prime location for advanced energy development, including approximately 300 years of proven coal reserves, 11.3 trillion cubic feet of coal-mine methane, the largest stream and river system in the continental United States, a large agricultural sector and some of the most significant wind resources in the northeastern United States.

Questions related to this solicitation should be referred to Eric Thumma or Jeanne Dworetzky, 717-783-0540, ethumma@state.pa.us or jdworetzky@state.pa.us .

Responses to the solicitation should be mailed to the Office of Energy and Technology Development, Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Market Street, P. O. Box 8772, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8772.

PA Joins EPA, Other States In Clean Energy-Environment Partnership

Pennsylvania joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and nine other states this week to launch the new [Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program](#).

Under the new partnership program, States agree to work with EPA to develop and implement a state-specific Clean Energy-Environment State Action Plan that contains one or more clean energy-environment goals.

EPA provides Partner States with access to a comprehensive technical assistance package of planning, policy, technical, analytical and information resources and helps direct them to other federal programs that support clean energy-environment strategies.

In addition to receiving technical assistance from EPA, partners benefit from learning from their peers about successful programs and policies at work in other states, identifying themselves as environmental and clean energy leaders, and receiving EPA recognition for the environmental benefits that result from their efforts.

EPA estimates that if all 50 states implemented cost-effective clean energy-environment policies, the expected growth in demand for electricity could be cut in half by 2025, and more demand could be met through a cleaner energy supply. This would mean annual savings of more than 900 billion kilowatt-hours and \$70 billion in energy costs by 2025, while preventing the need for more than 300 power plants and the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 80 million of today's vehicles.

For more information visit the [Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program](#) webpage.

Green Building, Renewable Energy Seminar March 9

On March 9 join the [Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania](#) for a virtual tour of the new PPL headquarters building in Allentown.

Robert Barkanic, a former member of the GBACPA board and Director for Environmental Management at PPL, will provide the tour of this LEED Gold building. There will also be a presentation about green power as it applies to LEED.

The seminar will be held in conjunction with the Central PA chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute annual conference.

For more information go to the [Green Building Tour webpage](#) or call Dave Sheridan at 717 497-5768 or email to info@gbacpa.org .

Campus Strategies for Sustainability- Energy, Community, Curriculum

The [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#) is sponsoring a conference on April 12-13 in Philadelphia entitled, “[Campus Sustainability Initiatives: Energy – Community – Curriculum.](#)”

Learn about tools and programs for energy management on campus, models for campus/community partnering on energy efficient projects on and off campus, and issues and opportunities for greening the curriculum.

Day one will feature a discussion of EnergyStar and the LEED green building standards, green design and energy cost reduction and an overview of the [Meadville Community Energy Project](#). Day two is greening school curricula and environmental studies degree programs.

To register email Connie Luckadoo at Cluckadoo@state.pa.us or call 717-787-9368.

For more information contact: Howard Greenberg at HJG3@psu.edu or Don Brown at BrownD@state.pa.us

NewsClip: [U. of Scranton Expands Concept of Sustainability to More Programs](#)

PA Preserves 29 More Farms Totaling 3,085 Acres

The Department of Agriculture’s Farmland Preservation Program approved an additional 29 farms, totaling 3,085 acres this week. These farms join more than 2,500 others already preserved in perpetuity through the program.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the total number of farms and total acreage preserved for agriculture. Currently, 2,565 farms and 295,447 acres have been preserved through the state program.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed in 1988 to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements (also called development rights) from owners of quality farmland.

For more information, visit the [Farmland Preservation webpage](#) or call 717-783-3167.

America’s Backyard Bird Count, February 18-21

People across North America are being asked to count the birds in their back yards and report them over the Internet as part of the [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) (GBBC) planned for Friday through Sunday, February 18-21.

One of the largest volunteer efforts of its kind, the GBBC is a valuable research study that allows people of all ages and backgrounds too supply vital information on North America’s birds.

Marking its 8th year, the event is developed and managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited storeowners.

The theme, “North America’s great Backyard,” celebrates the abundance and beauty of birds found across the continent. Participants are asked to participate in one of

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the event's three days by monitoring and tallying species and numbers of birds seen in their back yards, on their property, or in their surroundings that day.

Sightings then are reported over the Internet at the [Backyard Bird Count webpage](#).

Biodiversity Conservation: From Knowledge to Action Conference – March 9

Shippensburg University and [Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center](#) are hosting their annual Spring conference on March 9. This year the theme is “Biodiversity Conservation: From Knowledge to Action.”

The program will include Ben Moyer, feature writer and outdoors columnist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, former editor of Pennsylvania Sportsman magazine, and author of *Out Back: Reflections from the Appalachian Outdoors* for opening address.

The post-luncheon speaker will be Randall Cooley, director of the Westsylvania Corporation, an economic development program that promotes resource-based ecotourism in economically depressed areas of southwestern Pennsylvania.

Both speakers will highlight the importance of garnering public support and understanding of biodiversity, for both its conservation values and economic impact.

For more information, contact Kings Gap at 717-486-3799.

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

Find Out More About Where You Live with EnviroMapper, eMapPA

Do You Ever Wonder What's In Your Air or Water? Go to the Environmental Protection Agency [Search Your Community webpage](#) to find out. Just type in your ZIP code and your community will pop up with an interesting menu of environmental information for your area. This tool also lets you zoom in on toxic air, hazardous waste and other byproducts. You can customize the map by choosing elements like streams and schools.

The Department of Environmental Protection has a similar eMapPA program that allows users to map all sorts of environmental and facility information in your community. Visit DEP's [Geographic Information System webpage](#) to learn more.

Forest Service Centennial Celebration, Film Features PA's Gifford Pinchot



As part of its 100th birthday celebration, the U.S. Forest Service commissioned a feature length film called, “[The Greatest Good](#)” that reviews the prominent role Pennsylvania Gov. Gifford Pinchot played in founding the Forest Service and its early development.

The film will be shown at film festivals around the country in 2005. [The Greatest Good webpage](#) also features parts of the film and other background on the 100-year history of the Forest Service.

The Region III office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting a screening of the film at the [D.C. Environmental Film Festival](#) March 10 to 20 and the [Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#) in June.

Reminder: Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Seeking Nominations

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Dominion, sponsors of the [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#), are accepting nominations for the 2005 Environmental Awards through February 28.

Community groups, schools, volunteers, government officials, projects, organizations, individuals, or programs are eligible to receive a Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award for their efforts to enhance the environment of western Pennsylvania.

A total of 5 awards will be presented in the areas of Community, Government, Green Design, Higher Education and Primary or Secondary Education.

In honor of each awardee, the sponsors will make a \$1,000 donation to a nonprofit organization of the awardee's choice that provides environmental benefits to western Pennsylvania.

Nomination forms and guidelines are available online at the [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#) webpage or by calling the Awards Program office at 412-481-9400.

POWR Watershed Directory - Has Your Listing Been Updated?

The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers maintains one of the most comprehensive listings of watershed organizations in Pennsylvania.

But any Directory needs to be constantly updated.

You can update your organization's information or add your listing to the Directory by going to the [POWR Watershed Directory webpage](#).

Quick Clips

[Oil City Schools Save \\$70,000 in Energy Costs](#)
[Op-Ed: Communities of Faith Care About the Environment](#)
[Greenway Plan Unveiled in Northampton County](#)
[Township May Use Gas From Landfill](#)
[Details of Biodiesel Plant Emerge in Clarion County](#)
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[Editorial: Standards Save Electricity](#)
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[Ford City Breathing New Life into PPG Site](#)
[Does It Pay to Recycle?](#)
[Pittsburgh Cracks Down on Recyclers](#)
[Student Run Recycling Program a Success](#)
[New Source of Electricity – PECO Wind](#)
[Conservancy Director Urges List of Goals](#)
[Western Pennsylvania Conservancy hires leader](#)
[Ruling on Waste Fee Could Have Wide Impact](#)
[Montco Lends Hand with Trail](#)
[Bear Kill PA's 4th Largest](#)

Taking Positive Action

Chester County Dentist Makes His Office Cleaner, Brighter

Dr. Richard A. Tanzilli II, D.M.D., P.C., a West Chester dentist, will use funding from DEP's [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) program to conserve water, reduce waste disposal costs and increase energy efficiency.

Specifically, Dr. Tanzilli will install a new digital panoramic x-ray system. The business projects the complete elimination of hazardous chemicals used and a 70 percent reduction of the radiation emitted.

In addition, the office will realize a reduction in their hazardous waste stream, labor and maintenance costs, and dental supplies. Combined, these savings are expected to save the practice approximately \$10,360 annually. The business has projected the payback period will be about 6.6 years.

The loan program is available to any small business owner whose pollution prevention/energy efficiency project is located in Pennsylvania. The business must also have 100 or fewer full-time employees and be a separate legal business entity.

The loan must be used to purchase or upgrade equipment, or to implement a process change that: reduces or reuses raw materials on-site, reduces the production of waste at the source, or significantly reduces energy consumption.

Equipment and processes that focus on recycling or pollution control (scrubbers, filters, dust collectors, etc.) are ineligible for the loan. The project must have a payback period less than or equal to the term of the loan, and the expected benefits must extend beyond the term of the loan. The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 with a 2 percent interest rate and a maximum term of 10 years.

For more information, visit the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) program webpage contact Gene DeVecchio at 717 772-8951 or by e-mail at gdelvecchi@state.pa.us.

NewsClip: [Dentist Will Use Loan to Save Money](#)

Feature

“State of the ‘Sock,” Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

Watershed groups all over Pennsylvania take great pride in their work and share their results through newsletters to members and partners.

Here's one example from the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association in Lycoming and Sullivan counties that combines reporting on all their good work, and a lesson in stream chemistry--

For the past year, volunteers from around the watershed have been testing the water on a monthly basis. Marc



Loyalsock Creek in [World's End State Park](#)

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Lewis, Jon Weaver, Herb Wahl, Britt Bassett, Richard Hill, Kevin Partington, Matthew Bennett and Carol Kafer have spent a lot of time and energy collecting and testing water samples. Here are some of the things we have learned:

Minimizing effects of acids. Alkalinity measures the capacity of water to neutralize acids. Alkalinity is an important property because it is a measure of the stream's ability to neutralize acidic pollution from rainfall or waste water and raise the pH. Many of the essential animals that live in the Loyalsock creek can not tolerate acid conditions. Alkalinity measurements of less than 10 parts per million (ppm) indicate a high risk of acidity. From 10 to 20 ppm, the risk of acidification is moderate.

Alkalinity recorded by the DEP at the Loyalsockville bridge from 1962 through 2001 averages 14.2 ppm with a range of 5.5-28 ppm. Alkalinity recorded by the LCWA at the same location from 2002 through 2004 averages 23 ppm with a range of 0-32 ppm. The increase may be due to a difference in sampling equipment and techniques, or it may be the result of treatment of acid mine drainage in the headwaters. Irregardless, the alkalinity of the Loyalsock Creek is substantially lower than what it needs to be to protect aquatic organisms from acid events.

pH: According to the DEP, the acceptable values for pH are between 6 and 9. On the three days of sampling in 2003, the pH at Ringdale Bridge on SR 220 was 6.36, 6.4 and 6.33. Between 1974 and 1982, the average pH at this location was 5.53. Two treatment facilities for acid mine drainage upstream from the Ringdale Bridge were completed in late 1999. Since then, the average pH at the Ringdale Bridge is about 6.2. This is quite an achievement because the pH of the water entering the treatment facilities has a pH between 3 and 4. Conclusion: The outflow from abandoned mines in the headwaters of the Loyalsock is a source of acid. Since mine acid helps to deplete existing buffers, we need to continue to treat mine drainage aggressively.

Undesirable Bacteria: Lycoming College clean Water Institute tested water along the 'Sock twice during the summer of 2003. The only sampling location that had large numbers of fecal coliform (2400 per 100 ml) was a site on the Little Loyalsock about one mile down stream from Dushore. Those of us who forget to close our mouths while swimming in the 'Sock are greatly relieved.

For more information on the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association contact president Carol Kafer, by email to: ckafer@pct.edu or call 570-320-2400, ext. 7678, or write LCWA, Box 216, Montoursville, PA 17754

Info Links: [Map: Watersheds in Lycoming County](#)
[Loyalsock Creek Watershed Study](#)
[Loyalsock Trail](#)
[GreenWorks Gazette – Loyalsock Example](#)

History: The LCWA has been in existence for about 30 years and was founded to preserve and protect a beautiful creek and its watershed from acid mine drainage and pollution associated with the dairy industry. The group has water quality data going back

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to the LCWA's inception-- evidence that the water quality has improved. The Association has about 200 members. President Carol Kafer said that although “many of the founders of the LCWA have passed on, we are grateful for what they began and the progress they made.”

A full copy of the LCWA “Loyal to the ‘Sock” newsletter is attached to the story.

Note: Sharing newsletters is a great way for organizations to learn tips and tricks from each other. (And brag a little!) If you would like to see your newsletter featured here, just send it to the Pa Environment Digest or give us a link!

Watershed NewsClips

[Watershed cleanup volunteers needed](#)
[Spruce Creek Watershed Association Formed](#)
[100-year storm is getting worse](#)
[Proposed hatchery may not be funded](#)
[Seminars Aim to Help Preserve Watershed](#)
[A better way to save the bay](#)
[Sarbanes floats idea of bay water trail](#)

Regulations

No notices of regulations were published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – February 19, 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 of a final drinking water program technical guidance](#): Turbidity Reporting Instructions for Public Water Systems Using Filtered Surface Water or Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GUDI) Sources. DEP ID: 383-3301-106.

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- [DEP Notice of Regional Stormwater Manual Focus Group Meetings](#)

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- **February 23** – DCNR Citizens Advisory Council meeting Harrisburg.
- **March 2** – [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority Board meeting](#).
- **March 2** – Senate Budget Hearing on DCNR.
- **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
- **March 9** – [Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania](#) virtual tour of the new PPL headquarters building in Allentown. For more information go to the [Green Building Tour webpage](#) or call Dave Sheridan at 717 497-5768 or email to info@gbacpa.org .
- **March 9** - Shippensburg University and Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center conference is “Biodiversity Conservation: From Knowledge to Action.” For more information, contact Kings Gap at 717-486-3799.
- **March 19** - The Penn State Cooperative Extension in York is sponsoring a pond management workshop at the York County 4-H Center. For more information, contact 717-240-6500.
- **April 4-5** – [Environmental Issues for Energy Generation](#) in the Non-Utility Sector. Arlington, VA.
- **April 12-13** - The [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#) is sponsoring a conference entitled, “[Campus Sustainability Initiatives: Energy – Community – Curriculum](#)” in Philadelphia.
- **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 .

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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