

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

February 28, 2005

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## Transit Funding Off Track

Gov. Rendell's talks with Republican Leaders from the Senate and House on funding transit, the largest remaining hole in the current year's budget, didn't go well this week.

The Governor came out in support of a 33 percent increase in the Realty Transfer Tax, along with increases in driver and vehicle fees, a plan similar to one a bipartisan group of Senate and House members are advocating.

Republicans pushed for a comprehensive solution involving highways and bridges and a "permanent solution" for mass transit. They encouraged the Governor to shift more federal dollars from highway projects until the end of the fiscal year to fill the gaps, which he apparently agreed to do at week's end.

**NewsClips:** [Rendell's New Transit Offer](#)  
[Rendell, Lawmakers at Impasse on Transit](#)  
[Rendell will transfer funds](#)

## Session Schedule

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## **On the Hill**

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### **Senate Committee Sets Hearing on Environmental Hearing Board Nominee**

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee scheduled a public hearing on the re-appointment of Bernard A. Labuskes, Jr. to the Environmental Hearing Board for March 15.

Judge Labuskes was appointed to the Environmental Hearing Board by Gov. Ridge in November 1998 and became a member of the Board in January 1999.

Prior to the Hearing Board, he served as Assistant Counsel at the Department of Environmental Resources (now DEP) from 1985 through 1987, where he focused on litigation and enforcement matters. He was also a partner and chair of the Environmental Practice Group of McNees, Wallace & Nurick in Harrisburg.

### **DEP, DCNR Budget Hearings Coming Up**

Next week the departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection have three of their four scheduled hearings before the Senate and House Appropriations Committee--

- March 2 – Senate Budget Hearing on DCNR.
- March 3 – House Budget Hearing on DCNR, DEP

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- March 9 – Senate Budget Hearing on DEP

Please find attached to this webpage an updated schedule of Senate and House budget hearings over the next few weeks.

### Joint Conservation Committee Forum, Environmental Synopsis

The [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) will hold another in its series of Environmental Issues Forums on March 14. The topic will be a presentation from Dr. Harold Schobert, Director of [The Energy Institute of Penn State](#) on the Institute's project to turn coal into jet fuel and related projects on the use of coal by-products.

The Committee also issued its [February edition of the Environmental Synopsis](#) newsletter that includes articles on waste tires, biofuels, chemical plant safety, hazardous site cleanups and critical habitat designations.

### In Other News

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#### USDA Provides \$9.3 Million For Watershed Recovery In 12 States

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that \$540,000 in Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) funding would be available in Pennsylvania for locally-sponsored watershed protection projects resulting from recent floods and other natural disasters such as tornadoes, fires, drought and hurricanes.

Pennsylvania is one of 19 states receiving the emergency assistance.

EWP funds can address public safety and restoration efforts on private lands and are used to remove debris, restore eroded streambanks, re-seed burned areas and take related steps to mitigate threats to people and property from impaired watersheds.

Contact your local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for more information or go to the [EWP webpage](#) for background and contacts.

**NewsClip:** [\\$601K Awarded to Projects in Bradford County](#)



#### Public Meetings Set on Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy

The Department of Environmental Protection will host five public meetings on [Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy](#). The meetings will be held as follows:

- March 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in DEP's Northeast Regional Office, Susquehanna Room, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre
- March 22 at 7 p.m. in the Lebanon County Conservation District, Penn State Extension Meeting Room, 2120 Cornwall Road, Lebanon
- March 23 at 7 p.m. in the Adams County Conservation District, Penn State Extension Meeting Room, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg

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- March 30 at 7 p.m. in the DEP's Northcentral Regional Office, Goddard Conference Room, 208 North Third Street, Williamsport

At the meetings, DEP staff will review the recently published Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy, answer questions on the development of the strategy, and seek public input on strategy implementation.

The strategy identifies a suite of nonpoint source Best Management Practices and point source management approaches that would be necessary to meet new Chesapeake Bay water quality goals adopted in 2004. The strategy calls for reducing nutrient and sediment loads to Pennsylvania streams and the Chesapeake Bay from a variety of sources such as agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, urban stormwater and septic systems.

For the first time, Pennsylvania's Tributary Strategy is built upon 13 individual strategies for watersheds in the Susquehanna and Potomac basins. The strategy identifies the full range of activities needed, regardless of their cost, so planning can begin for the new initiatives that will be needed to support Tributary Strategy implementation.

Copies of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Strategy may be obtained by calling Denise Caudill at 717-787-5267, sending email to [dcaudill@state.pa.us](mailto:dcaudill@state.pa.us), or on the [Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Program webpage](#).

### Hay Creek Added to PA Rivers Conservation Registry

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week [published notice of its approval](#) of the Hay Creek Watershed Management Plan and that it is placing Hay Creek and all its tributaries in Berks County on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry.

The [Rivers Conservation Registry](#) was established to promote river conservation and recognize rivers or river segments in communities who have completed river conservation plans. The registry is also an avenue to endorse local initiatives by binding them together in a statewide recognition program. In order for a river to be placed on the registry, it must have an approved plan and local municipal support. Registry status must be achieved to qualify for implementation, development or acquisition grants.

### PPL Invests \$630 Million in Voluntary Pollution Controls

[PPL Corporation](#) will invest an estimated \$630 million in pollution control equipment for three coal-fired generating units in a project that will further reduce air emissions, create jobs and improve the competitiveness of key generating plants in Pennsylvania.

PPL will install "scrubbers" on the two generating units at its Montour power plant north of Danville and on the largest unit of its Brunner Island power plant south of Harrisburg. Construction will begin early next year and is expected to be completed in 2008 for Montour and 2010 for Brunner Island.



Montour Power Plant

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The scrubbers will remove nearly all of the sulfur dioxide now emitted from these units. Sulfur dioxide is formed from the combustion of coal and other fossil-fuels and contributes to acid rain.

Scrubbers will make the plants more competitive because the cost of installing scrubbers is less than the anticipated future cost of buying required emissions allowances to operate the plants.

Additionally, the project is expected to lead to a significant economic development benefit for the region around the Montour plant. PPL is negotiating with a potential partner regarding the beneficial reuse of byproducts from the scrubbers. PPL and its potential partner hope to make an announcement about this innovative, environmentally sound and job-creating proposed venture soon.

During a time when demand for electricity has increased significantly, PPL has continued to make emissions reductions. Since 1990, the company's fleet of power plants has cut nitrogen oxide emissions by almost 60 percent, sulfur dioxide emissions by almost 40 percent and carbon dioxide emissions by about 15 percent.

At both Montour and Brunner Island, particulate collection equipment removes 99 percent of the ash that would otherwise be emitted from the stacks. Nearly 100 percent of that is processed and beneficially used as construction material.

Additionally, between 60 percent and 90 percent of those plants' nitrogen oxide emissions are removed through the use of low nitrogen oxide burners and selective catalytic reduction systems.

An additional environmental aspect of the scrubber installations is that all of the byproducts of the scrubbers will be beneficially reused and not landfilled. Scrubbers use pulverized limestone in a chemical process that removes sulfur dioxide from flue gases.

The project will create jobs at both power plants because operating the scrubbers will require more employees. Also, the major construction projects to install the scrubbers will create hundreds of jobs over a five-year period.  
United Kingdom and Latin America.

**NewsClip:** [PPL Plans to Clear Air Around 2 Power Plants](#)  
[Montour PPL Station's Scrubbers a Win-Win-Win](#)  
[Landfill Gas-fueled Plant Due in Lancaster](#)

## EPA Grants Address Environmental Health Threats to Older Persons

The Temple Center for Intergenerational Learning was one of 19 organizations nationwide to share \$492,180 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Aging Initiative grants](#). The grants are designed to encourage a better understanding of how to reduce the environmental health hazards associated with older persons.

The Temple project received \$24,662 to mobilize older adults from low-income neighborhoods in Philadelphia to educate elementary school children about environmental hazards that endanger community health.

A group of 15-20 older adults will be recruited from neighborhoods that have been identified as having the highest rates of asthma and diabetes to serve as Environmental Health Coaches. The older adult participants will engage in a 12-week training program designed to increase their knowledge about the effects of environmental



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hazards on public health, enhance their ability to utilize the arts to effectively educate children, and build their skills as community leaders.

They will then work with teachers at 3-5 area elementary schools to engage approximately 140 children in a series of workshops intended to increase their knowledge about environmental triggers for chronic health conditions and help them develop action steps to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

These grants are part of EPA's larger effort to protect the health of older adults, who may be more susceptible to environmental hazards, through its Aging Initiative.

For more information visit the [Aging Initiative webpage](#).

### EPA Region Sponsoring Industrial Byproducts Beneficial Use Summit

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3's Solid Waste Program is co-sponsoring the fourth annual [Industrial Byproducts Beneficial Use Summit](#) in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection, and Waste News, to be held at the Wyndham Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia Nov. 29-30.

The summit will bring regulators and industry together to exchange information about the beneficial use of industrial byproducts and provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

The Summit supports several kinds of discussions: between industry and regulators to increase the understanding of industrial byproducts and regulatory programs; among state regulators to share information and experiences on beneficial use regulations and determination processes; and among industries to share experiences on navigating the regulator process and to assess the potential to utilize each other's byproducts.

For more information visit the [Beneficial Use Summit webpage](#).



### Brownfields Loan Transforms Vacant Lot to Business Center

The City of Philadelphia is preparing to make its first loan under the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) under a cooperative agreement with Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The loan will be used to clean up PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in a portion of the former 86-acre Frankford Arsenal site located along the Delaware River in Northeast Philadelphia. The \$350,000 loan will be made to the current site owner to redevelop the site as the Arsenal Business Center.

This will be the first cleanup loan awarded by any RLF grantee in Region 3.

For more information, visit the [Region 3 Brownfields Program webpage](#).

### DOE Special Projects Solicitations Open to Businesses, Nonprofits

Pennsylvania is now soliciting proposals for this year's U.S. Department of Energy [Special Projects funds](#) from industry, small businesses, institutions of higher learning,

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non-profit organizations, Native American organizations, and Federal facilities in Pennsylvania.

Two types of grant proposals are being solicited—Special Projects and Rebuild American grants.

Special Projects proposals are being sought for the following categories: Clean Cities, Industrial Technologies, Building Energy Codes and Standards, Rebuild America, Building America, Federal Energy Management Program, Solar Technology Program, State Wind Energy Support, Distributed Energy - Regional Combined Cooling Heating and Power Applications Centers, Biomass, and Clean Energy/Air Quality Integration.

The state's deadline for final submissions is April 11.

All applications must be submitted by the Commonwealth through the Department of Environmental Protection. DOE will not consider any applications sent directly to them. Submissions after that date will not be considered.

Rebuild America applicants must submit a two-page summary of their proposal by March 21 to be considered. If the project is selected based on the two-page summary, the applicant will be asked to submit a complete proposal.

For more information visit DEP's [Special Energy Projects webpage](#).

### Canal History Video Gets Emmy Nomination

“My Name is Jeremiah,” a video about canal life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in America and the Lehigh Valley, was nominated for an Emmy Award from the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the National Television Academy.

The video is based on a play created by the [Wildlands Conservancy](#) and [Mock Turtle Marionette Theater](#) to explain canal life to participants of the Conservancy's “[Bike and Boat](#)” educational program.

The video production work was done by [GreenTreks Networks, Inc.](#)

### PUC Keystone Competition Newsletter Now Online

The winter edition of [Keystone Competition](#), a newsletter published by the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission is now available online.

This edition includes an update on electric competition, demand side management activities, natural gas availability, energy cost forecasts, utility choices education program and more.

### Youth Bass Anglers School Invites Students to Apply

The Youth Bass Anglers Conservation School is inviting students 14 to 17 interested in fishing and learning about warm-water fisheries to apply for the 2005 program.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission announced they will begin to accept enrollments March 1.

The five-day/four-night program will be July 17, through July 21, on Lake Perez at Pennsylvania State University's Stone Valley Recreation Area.

The Youth Bass Anglers Conservation School is a cooperative effort by DCNR's Bureau of State Parks, the PFBC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Pennsylvania State

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University, Marsh Creek Bass Club and the Pennsylvania Chapter, Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.).

Study topics will include fish biology, fisheries management, habitat improvement, boating safety, fishing skills and techniques, fish and boating law enforcement, fisheries and conservation careers and tournament angling. Other conservation-related and hands-on activities are also planned.

Student applicants must submit a written essay on the topics, “What fishing means to me,” and the importance of conservation, as well as a letter of recommendation from a teacher or close associate. A total of 20 students will be selected.

A \$100 enrollment fee will be charged upon acceptance. Enrollment applications and more details can be obtained from Spring Reilly at 814-625-9369, by e-mail at [spreilly@state.pa.us](mailto:spreilly@state.pa.us).

### **Parks and Forests Foundation Seeks Executive Director**

The [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#) is seeking a person to fill its executive Director position.

This is an executive level position in a four year old non-profit, tax-exempt foundation that supports our state parks and forests. A successful candidate should possess a Bachelors degree and have an understanding of the processes used in state government.

Fundraising is a required and travel to state parks in all parts of the state is essential. Additional staff is possible if fundraising is successful and interns can be hired. Candidate must be able to train individuals and groups in fundraising, organizational development, volunteer recruitment and other subjects as needs develop. Independent work ethic is a must. Salary: up to \$60,000, no benefits.

Inquiries should be directed to Jack Keith at 717-236-7644 or [jkeith-ppff@pa.net](mailto:jkeith-ppff@pa.net). Resumes should be send to Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation, 105 N Front St, Suite 305, Harrisburg, PA 17101

### **Quick Clips**

[Organic Farm Will Use Natural Energy](#)

[Indiana County Starts Comprehensive Plan with Natural Resource Component](#)

[Wayne County Windmills to Be Under Construction This Spring](#)

[Birds of a Feather](#)

[High Tech Used to Count Deer](#)

[Editorial: Greener 2](#)

[Op-Ed: Warming to Nuclear Power](#)

[Loyalhanna Gorge Acquired by Westmoreland County](#)



## Taking Positive Action

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### Johnson & Johnson Recognized as Corporate Environmental Leader by EPA



For the first time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is recognizing corporate-wide environmental leadership under its National Environmental Performance Track program.

[Johnson & Johnson](#) was selected as one of EPA's first three [Performance Track Corporate Leaders](#).

To qualify for Corporate Leaders, companies must have a substantial number of facilities in Performance Track. For example, 82 percent of Johnson & Johnson's facilities are part of the program.

Johnson & Johnson has seven major facilities in Pennsylvania located in Fort Washington, Malvern, Exton and Warminster.

The companies also promise to continuously improve their environmental performance and that of their suppliers and customers. Companies can improve the environmental performance of their customers by providing them information such as how to use a product or how to recycle.

Other Corporate Leader qualification considerations include: a strong record of compliance with environmental regulations; robust corporate management of environmental issues; past and future commitments to environmental performance improvement; and public outreach and reporting on environmental achievements.

Based on these criteria, each year EPA expects to invite a limited number of companies to apply for the Corporate Leader designation.

Historically a facility-based program, Performance Track has added this Corporate Leader designation to recognize companies that have demonstrated a commitment to company-wide environmental excellence.

Since the program's inception in June 2000, Performance Track membership has grown and produced solid environmental results. The program currently has over 350 members in 46 states and Puerto Rico. To date, Performance Track members have collectively reduced their water use by 1.3 billion gallons and their generation of solid waste by nearly 970,000 tons, increased their use of reused or recycled materials by nearly 77,000 tons, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 67,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

Performance Track encourages participation by small, medium and large facilities. The major industries are represented, with manufacturers of chemical, electronic and electrical, and medical equipment composing nearly 40 percent of the current members.

The public sector is also represented by members such as national defense installations, postal facilities, and municipalities. Performance Track provides incentives that promote high levels of environmental performance and a learning network in which best practices are shared.

For more information on membership benefits, visit the [Performance Track Partnership webpage](#).

## Feature

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### **Flooding and the Value of Riparian Buffers – Conservation Tools for Landowners**

By Brian J. Vadino, [Wildlands Conservancy](#)

Last September, our local streams flooded their banks, thanks to the remnants of Hurricane Ivan. Flooding is a natural phenomenon, yet no one relishes the destruction of roads, properties, and personal belongings as a result of flooding.

Experiencing Hurricane Ivan was both difficult and eye-opening, and it showed us, first-hand, nature's ability to alter our landscape in a matter of a few hours. One of the things that we also immediately observed was that the effects of flooding were minimized at locations where riparian buffers were in place.

Riparian buffers are areas of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation along rivers, streams, lakes, or other water bodies that form a transition between land and water environments. The creation of riparian buffers is one of the most effective tools that can be used to protect the health of our waterways and watersheds, and can provide a multitude of benefits for landowners and the community.

Riparian buffers filter sediments and pollutants commonly found in runoff, protect drinking-water supplies, provide floodwater storage, increase groundwater infiltration, provide cooler water and air temperatures, decrease streambank erosion, increase wildlife habitat, act as a food source, provide recreation areas, and improve the aesthetic beauty of an area. For these reasons, riparian buffers and no-mow zones are effective and logical tools that landowners along both small and large waterways can use to protect streams and stream corridors.

Land-use activities, such as the development of land that converts forest acreage into residential, commercial, and industrial uses, can negatively influence the health of riparian buffers and stream corridors. For example, an increase in the amount of impervious surfaces, such as roads and parking lots, in a watershed also increases the volume and velocity of water directed into streams through storm drains and other stormwater-management structures.

Regulating the encroachment of land-development activities into floodplain areas is one of several more obvious strategies that can be used to reduce the potential for a flood to cause losses or damages to property. Riparian buffers can also be an extremely effective tool in lessening a flood event's potential to create the loss or damage to property while achieving several additional environmental and ecological benefits.

Using riparian buffers as a type of individual "best management practice," or as part of an integrated management system, such as nutrient management and sediment-



[Cedar Creek riparian buffer project](#)  
completed by Wildlands Conservancy in  
South Whitehall Twp., Lehigh County

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and-erosion control practices, can produce a number of beneficial effects on the quality of our water resources.

The design of a riparian buffer zone should be determined by the management objectives for the area and by site characteristics. Generally, the zone should be wide enough to achieve the management objectives for the area. Some of the site characteristics that should be considered when designing a riparian buffer include slope, soil texture and erodibility, drainage area, streambank height, adjacent land use, and existing vegetation.

Although establishing standard-width guidelines for riparian zones at a regional or state level offers some protection for waterways, site-specific considerations are usually needed to determine the most appropriate width. However as a rule of thumb, the wider the riparian buffer, the better.

Even though specific species recommendations for riparian buffer areas depend on the geographic location of the buffer and other factors, the use of native vegetation is highly recommended for its ecological value in providing food and habitat for wildlife. Generally, riparian buffer plant species lists should include a diversity of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.

Some maintenance is usually required in order to successfully establish a viable riparian buffer area. Examples of maintenance requirements might include watering newly established plants, checking vegetation for signs of deer browse, and removing exotic or invasive plants. Although some level of maintenance is usually required in newly created buffer areas, riparian buffer maintenance activities are usually required less regularly in established areas.

Several federal, state, and county agencies can provide various forms of technical information and assistance to landowners interested in designing and establishing riparian buffers on their properties. Technical information and lists of appropriate riparian plant species can be obtained from the following sources:

- [County conservation districts](#) (multiple counties)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- [Pennsylvania Game Commission](#)
- [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

In the future, it will become increasingly more important for landowners and communities to take advantage of opportunities to establish riparian buffers along our smallest and largest of waterways. By seizing such opportunities, we can reduce the potential for floods to cause loss and damage to property, while also achieving a number of additional environmental and ecological benefits.

**Brian J. Vadino** is Stream Restoration Manager for the [Wildlands Conservancy](#) and can be contact at [bvadino@wildlandspa.org](mailto:bvadino@wildlandspa.org).

## Opinion

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### **Taking the Next Step in Watershed Protection – Private Support for a Public Good**

*By Ed Wytovich, Catawissa Watershed Association*

For many years many of us, as volunteers, have been involved with the reclamation work necessary due to past mining practices, mostly coal mining. My own experience has been limited to the Anthracite fields of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



When I first became involved back in the mid-1970s we were mainly concerned with land reclamation as passive ways to treat Abandoned Mine Water were just in their infancy. Looking back through the mists of time I remember planting thousands of trees, mostly conifers, to cover the scars left by mining. Innovation may have been as simple as planting an annual grass cover crop in order to provide shade so that trees had a chance to survive on our “black deserts.”

These efforts were successful in their time, but led to monocultures and little diversity of species. They did provide cosmetic cover to the landscape as well as erosion control. This was a step forward.

Many of us wanted to treat the water, but were at a loss how to do so economically. The Commonwealth, through “Operation Scarlift,” came up with plans to build “Yellow Boy” plants on several large discharges, but the efforts were thwarted by the high cost of both building and maintaining these facilities. Only two were built. Scarlift did provide us with much good data on chemistry, flows, and locations of AMD discharges. Much of this is still valuable data.

The first passive efforts that I remember were wetlands to remove metals that were moderately successful, but did not address the matter of water chemistry and acidity. During the 1980s, many advances were made in the area of “passive” treatment systems. The first that I saw was a diversion well on the Rauch creek tributary to Stony creek in northern Dauphin County.

The success of the diversion well led to the building of others in the anthracite region. Diversion wells are not completely passive, in my mind, because they require constant filling and maintenance but they do work and are still in use.

There seemed to be a renewed interest in cleaning up AMD discharges at this time and to get public involvement in the process. Much credit must be given to the Department of Environmental Protection for a policy change from enforcement to taking a proactive stance in helping establish watershed organizations and providing advice and leadership to these groups.

This was enhanced by the establishment of Growing Greener, the availability of funds through many sources, education of volunteers, the involvement of the Conservation Districts and the establishment of the watershed specialist position at the conservation districts. All of these factors and many others have led to some great success both in Eastern and Western Pennsylvania.

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Our passive technology has evolved to the point where we are now tackling discharges that at one time were considered too big and too expensive to treat with either active or passive systems economically.

As a result, many miles of streams are and will be made clean and once again become habitat for the fish and bugs and plants that once flourished there. We have done and continue to do this with little thought of the consequences of our actions.

The Constitution of Pennsylvania guarantees us the right to clean water and all of our efforts in that direction are now bearing fruit. The one thing that is not a right, however, is access to these waters.

In order to get to most stream reaches one must cross private property, and that is a privilege. I have thought long and hard about this as we continue our efforts to clean up the Catawissa Creek, one of my pet projects. This, I feel, is our next step.

One Sunday afternoon while watching the Steelers play at Heinz Field, it struck me-- naming rights. If corporations are willing to spend large sums of money to get their names on stadiums, would they be willing to spend some money on what I call “Sponsoring” rights on stream reaches? That is, to provide funds to purchase access easements from landowners so that we all can enjoy the fruits of our labors.

On our display board for the Cattawissa Creek Restoration Association we proudly proclaim “Soon to be a world class trout stream.” I think that all of us involved in restoration efforts feel that way about our streams. So how do we get landowners and corporations together in order to provide access?

My plan would entail talking to and, more importantly, listening to landowners and assessing their needs and concerns. Next I would get a land conservancy to share my dream and find out as much as possible about access easements and landowner liability. There is also a need to establish a set fee to be paid for these easements. Then it is on to sell the idea to possible funders of a project.

One of the big concerns of landowners is litter. The way that I propose we handle litter concerns is to manage our new fisheries for wild fish, this would take the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

It is sad to say but much of the litter along streams seems to follow the “Great White Fleet” of stocking trucks. By not stocking streams we should reduce the amount of litter and also reduce the crowding that is evident on so many stocked streams. We should also make our streams special regulation streams, catch and release, artificial lures, and barbless hooks only. This would serve to protect the resource, in this case the fishery itself and negate the necessity of stocking.

I would propose that our watershed groups in concert with others such as Trout Unlimited and scouts team up to provide stewardship in the way of litter patrol and trail maintenance. This will not only help the landowner but also give local groups ownership through labor.

What about overcrowding? I suggest that our fisheries access points be “walk in only” from established parking areas. These parking areas could be built with help from the local watershed group, Trout Unlimited and others as part of the easement deal. We would limit the amount of traffic by the number of parking spaces. Stream access would be prohibited from other areas unless the landowner decides otherwise.

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A landowner may want to provide guide service with privileged parking closer to the stream and that may be a way for the landowner to realize additional income from access, while still keeping the stream open to all.

Another way for the landowner to gain some income and maintenance funds for the parking area is to put up a donation box at the parking area. Other, special access points might be provided for handicapped anglers.

Having limited access from designated parking areas will help to control not only the crowds but also Riff and Raff who generally seem to be too lazy to walk in to areas.

What about hunting and having fisherman interfere with hunters in the early seasons such as archery? Simple, close the area at the end of the traditional trout season-- August 31. This will not only keep the hunters happy but also take the stress of fishing off of the Brook and Brown trout during their fall spawn. Remember, we must also protect the resource.

Another project that I am involved with will require the acquisition of property. On this site we will be doing research on the use of composted poultry manure to reclaim and restore abandoned mine land. This particular site in Northern Dauphin County provides us with several unique opportunities.

The parking area we must build to accommodate researchers and equipment can also be used by hunters to access an adjoining State Game Land which is tough to get to without crossing private property. We also suggest that it be used as a trailhead for the eastern terminus of a rail trail proposed to be built from the town of Millersburg on the Susquehanna River to Williamstown, a distance of about 30 miles. Also on this site are settling ponds that were used in the preparation of coal, we hope to demonstrate the use of composted poultry manure as a sub base for constructed wetlands.

While we were at it we realized that this would make a great wetlands park and also provide access to the Wiconisco Creek, which will soon have its water chemistry restored and provide a trout fishery. There is also an opportunity to fish for bass and panfish in ponds on the site. This one site provides many unique opportunities.

As I said, this site requires acquisition and having a sponsor supply some or all of the matching funds required to secure an acquisition grant would be another funding opportunity for potential sponsors.

What might a sponsor realize out of a financial commitment besides tax benefits? A tasteful sign that might say something to the effect of "Access to this site provided in part by the generosity of XYZ Corporation." This will be soft advertising for the company and may also provide a site where the company may want to do some filming of a promotional nature.

Opening or keeping open more land and water will also serve to expand opportunities for outdoorsmen and perhaps help get more young people get involved in both environmental efforts as well as enjoyment of outdoor sports whether they be fishing, hunting, hiking, birding, biking, etc. This I see as an opportunity to pass on a legacy of appreciation of the outdoors.

I do not feel that all sites will meet corporate criteria for funding, but I do believe that carefully choosing and marketing our restoration efforts will lead to some positive responses from possible funding partners.



## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

All in all I feel that developing a plan for sponsorship will enhance not only outdoor opportunities but help build trust and partnerships throughout the community of our watersheds. It is up to us to “Take the next Step.”

**Ed Wytovich** is president of the [Catawissa Creek Restoration Association](#), the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation and a middle school science teacher. He can be reached at [crickguy@ptd.net](mailto:crickguy@ptd.net)

## Web Resources

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### Teaching Environment & Ecology In School and at Home

Teachers in all grades and home schoolers can find a wealth of information available online for teaching environment and ecology lessons.

You can find background on the state Environment and Ecology Standards that outlines what concepts should be taught each year, curriculum and instruction resources and information about the upcoming Governor’s Institute on Environment and Ecology in July.

You can also learn about opportunities for professional education for established programs like Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Food, Land and People, Wonders of Wetlands, Integrated Pest Management and the Wonders of Song Birds.

Visit the Environment & Ecology webpage or contact [Patricia L. Vathis](#), Environment & Ecology Education Advisor, at 717-783-6994.

**Other Resources:** [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#)

## Watershed NewsClips

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[Stormwater Program May Help Improve Water Quality](#)

[Group Makes Septic Pump-Outs Easier](#)

[Students Make Progress on Opossum Creek](#)

[Upper Makefield May Adopt Stormwater Ordinance](#)

[Pennsylvania Leader in Dam Removals](#)

[State Leads Nation in Dam Removals](#)

[Editorial: Dam Demolitions](#)

[Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access Features Watershed Information](#)

[Coal, Coke Trail facing some red-tape issues](#)

[Fishing Notebook: Fish art contest looking for entries](#)

[Dam talk could benefit watersports](#)

[Pine Creek cleanup worthy project](#)



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## **Regulations**

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The Department of Environmental Protection and Fish & Boat Commission published several regulatory notices this week on a water quality standards review, additions to the Class A Trout Streams list and an unsuitable for surface mining petition in Clearfield County.

[Fishing Creek, Lancaster County](#): Water quality standards review has been started and DEP is soliciting comments and input.

[Additions to List of Class A Trout Streams](#): Fish & Boat Commission published suggested list of additions to the list of Class A Trout Streams in Berks, Blair, Bedford, Cambria, Elk, McKean, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Potter and Wyoming counties and provided an opportunity for comment over the next 30 days.

[Unsuitable for Mining Petition](#): DEP gave notice it has received a petition a proposed designation of a 2,800 track of land unsuitable for surface coal mining in Graham Township, Clearfield County in Big Run and Willholm Run watersheds. Information is available from Thomas Callaghan at 717-787-4761 or email to [tcallaghan@state.pa.us](mailto:tcallaghan@state.pa.us) (PaB 1476)

### **[Pennsylvania Bulletin – February 26, 2005](#)**

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) of a final guidance document on sampling water sources and a draft guidance on protecting surface water from underground bituminous mining.

DEP ID: 383-3130-108. New Source Sampling Requirements for Surface Water Sources. This guidance provides information to public water suppliers concerning the minimum sampling requirements for new surface water sources under the Commonwealth's drinking water management programs.

DEP ID: 563-2000-655. Surface Water Protection--Underground Bituminous Coal Mining Operations. Description: This draft guidance describes procedures for protecting perennial and intermittent streams and wetlands from potential adverse effects caused by underground bituminous coal mining operations. It replaces existing technical guidance document No. 563-2000-655: Perennial Stream Protection, which pertains only to the protection of perennial streams. Comments due March 28.

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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- **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** - [On-Farm Composting Workshop Set](#), Lackawanna County
- **March 9** – [DEP Water Resources Committee meeting cancelled](#).
- **March 14** – Joint Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum presentation by Dr. Harold Schobert, The Energy Institute at Penn State on using coal as jet fuel.
- **March 15** - Senate Environmental Resources Committee confirmation hearing on the Bernard A. Labuskes, Jr. nomination to the Environmental Hearing Board.
- **April 5** – [Fifth Goddard Forum: Putting the Market to Work for Conservation](#). Harrisburg.
- **April 10-16** – [National Environmental Education Week](#).
- **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](mailto: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**

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

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

## **Contributions Invited**

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - [DHess@HolstonCrisci.com](mailto:DHess@HolstonCrisci.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com) .

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