

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

March 12, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Connecting People to Natural Resources, Schuylkill Watershed Congress

“When you’re a watershed person, it’s more than just facts and figures, you feel it deeply and every day of your life.”

That’s how keynote speaker Cindy Dunn, Director of DCNR’s Bureau of Conservation and Recreation, described the commitment people have to protecting and restoring their watersheds at the [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#) in Pottstown last weekend.

Video Blog: [Cindy Dunn Talks About Connecting People to Natural Resources](#)

200 people attended the Congress to take advantage of more than 25 workshop sessions covering a broad range of watershed topics as well as exhibits by watershed organizations, consulting firms and government agencies.

Dunn told participants that Pennsylvania loses 110,000 acres a year to development and at that rate 20 percent of the remaining open space and farmland will disappear in the next 20 years.

Pennsylvania’s natural areas and greenways are major contributors to the Commonwealth’s economy Dunn said, in big and small ways.

Outdoor recreation-based travel spending generates \$4 billion in Pennsylvania and on a smaller scale the proximity of a home or other property to a park, trail or greenway increases property values by 15 percent and exercise by 25 percent.

“We realized we were not serving the people of the Commonwealth to our full potential if we just stayed in the boundaries of our 117 State Parks and 2.1 million acres of forest land,” said Dunn. “We have to become an advocate for natural resources to be better stewards.”

“Social value + economic value = political value which results in an increased ability to expand our ability to do more,” said Dunn.

Dunn outlined a number of DCNR programs has available, including the [Rivers Conservation Program](#), to help watershed groups assess watershed needs and fund implementation projects.



Angelica Park Stream Restoration Project, Reading, one of the tours from the Schuylkill Watershed Congress

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She ended her presentation by urging participants to “reach people where they are” like Pennsylvania’s own Rachel Carson who wrote *Silent Spring* to reach people about issues like the impact of pesticides on bird eggs, instead of just publishing research papers.

In addition to the workshop session, participants could take tours of two stream restoration projects in Berks and Montgomery counties.

Watch additional Video Blog stories from the Schuylkill Watershed Congress, including a tour of the Angelica Park Restoration Project in Reading, over the next few weeks. To see them now, visit the [PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#).

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session March 12.

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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- Penn State Offers Conservation Leadership School In Two Summer Sessions

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- EE Connections Newsletter Now Available from PA Environmental Ed Center
- Rachel Carson Forum on Reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund
- Doug Scott, Wilderness Historian, Author, Advocate Featured Speaker
- Celebrating Pennsylvania’s Native Elegance at Pennsylvania Garden Expo
- BP Solar Selected for Solar America Initiative Grant Award
- Lape Named New Director of EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Program
- Grace Appointed DCNR Deputy Secretary for State Parks and Forestry
- McDonnell Named Deputy Secretary for DEP’s Office of Administration
- PA Recycling Markets Center Names Bylone Executive Director

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- Westminster Students Present Research Findings at Slippery Rock Meeting

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Online Video

Cindy Dunn, DCNR, Connecting People to Natural Resources

“When you’re a watershed person, it’s more than just facts and figures, you feel it deeply and every day of your life.”

That’s how keynote speaker Cindy Dunn, Director of DCNR’s Bureau of Conservation and Recreation, described the commitment people have to protecting and restoring their watersheds at the [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#) in Pottstown last weekend.

Dunn summarizes the efforts DCNR is taking to connect people and natural resources in this Video Blog story.

Video Blog: [Cindy Dunn Talks About Connecting People to Natural Resources](#)

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House both return to voting session on March 12, with the highlight of their activities being in the House adopting the package of reform procedures developed by the Speaker’s Reform Commission and the Senate holding a series of confirmation hearings for agency heads.

House

Calendar: [House Resolution 98](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) designating March 12 as “PA Association of Conservation Districts” Day.

Committees: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds its organizational meeting, the Consumer Affairs Committee has scheduled two informational meetings with the PUC Commissioners and electric industry with industry leaders

Senate

Committees: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Michael DiBerardinis to be Secretary for Conservation and Natural Resources and will consider three bills: [Senate Bill 99](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) repealing the prohibition on General Fund dollars going to the Wild Resources Conservation Fund, [Senate Bill 355](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) requiring additional public review of Clean Air State Implementation Plans and their publication on the Internet and [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in statute; and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs will hold a hearing on the nomination of Dennis Wolf to be Secretary of Agriculture and a “Building a Vision for Rural Pennsylvania” listening session in Ephrata, Lancaster County.

Other Meetings: Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum providing an Update on the Southwest Regional Water Management Task Force and Joint State Government Commission Task Force on the Kilbuck Township Landslide organizational meeting pursuant to [House Resolution 897](#) (Petrone-D-Allegheny).

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week, here’s the rundown...

Landfill Moratorium: [Senate Bill 140](#) (Rhoades-R-Schuylkill) would establish a three year moratorium on issuing permits for new or expanded landfill capacity.

Biosolids Study: [Senate Bill 142](#) (Rhoades-R-Schuylkill) establishing a Biosolids Land Application Study Commission related to the environmental and public health safety of biosolids.

Dam Safety: [Senate Bill 145](#) (Rhoades-R-Schuylkill) authorizing a \$1 billion bond issue for the purpose of financing dam safety or repair projects.

Solar Energy Tax Credit: [Senate Bill 166](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) providing a tax credit for the installation of solar energy systems.

Sewage Laterals: [Senate Bill 176](#) (Pippy-R-Allegheny) authorizing state funding for financing sewage laterals.

Horticultural Education: [Senate Bill 208](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) establishing the Horticultural Education and Demonstration Fund within the Department of Education.

Restricting Waste Disposal: [Senate Bill 212](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) restricting waste disposal near schools.

Greenfield Quarries: [Senate Bill 244](#) (Punt-R-Franklin) prohibiting the operation of a greenfield noncoal quarry within 1,500 feet of a school.

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Climate Change: [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to report on potential global warming impacts, inventory greenhouse gases and create a stakeholder process to develop climate change strategies.

EQB Petition Process: [Senate Bill 354](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) requiring that rulemaking petitions by the Environmental Quality Board deal only with issues regulated by current state or federal law.

Review of Air Pollution Control Plans: [Senate Bill 355](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) providing additional review of Air Quality State Implementation Plans

Environmental Ed Center: [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) establishing the [PA Center for Environmental Education](#) in statute.

State Energy Office: [Senate Resolution 43](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) urging the Governor to reestablish the PA Energy Office.

Regulating Dredge Material: [House Bill 621](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) providing for municipal regulation of water dredge material and providing for a referendum.

Mine Rescue Equipment: [House Bill 636](#) (Surra-D-Elk) requiring the availability of self-contained, self-rescue devices in mines.

Wind Power Assessment: [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) amending the PA Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act to allow the use of preserved farmland for wind power generation.

Encouraging Biomass Projects: [House Bill 664](#) (George-D-Clearfield) providing a Sales and Use Tax exemption for biomass projects used for home heating purposes and agricultural products sold by the original producer for fuel. *(text not yet online)*

Frivolous Lawsuits: [House Bill 665](#) (George-D-Clearfield) further protecting citizens communicating with government and in the regulatory review process from frivolous lawsuits. *(text not yet online)*

Farmland Assessments: [House Bill 667](#) (Sonney-R-Erie) further providing for removal of land from preferential assessments and for continuation of preferential assessments. *(text not yet online)*

Definition of Regulation: [House Bill 674](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) requiring certain policy documents from the Department of Environmental Protection to be reviewed under the Regulatory Review Act. *(text not yet online)*

Plug-In Hybrids: [House Bill 690](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) establishing the Plug-In Hybrid Task Force, [House Bill 691](#) (Cohen) providing an exclusion from Sales and Use Tax for plug-in hybrid vehicles and [House Resolution 106](#) (Cohen) urging auto manufacturers to develop and produce plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. *(text not yet online)*

Alternative Energy Tax Credits: [House Bill 696](#) (Ross-R-Chester) providing tax credits for the development of qualified alternative energy enterprises. *(text not yet online)*

Electric Rate Transition: [House Bill 697](#) (Ross-R-Chester) establishing a transition process from rate caps to a market-based system for purchase of electricity. *(text not yet online)*

Mining and Land Recycling Program: [House Bill 710](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) including previously mined sites with preexisting discharges in the Land Recycling Program. *(text not yet online)*

PACD Day: [House Resolution 98](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) designating March 12 as “PA Association of Conservation Districts” Day.

Alternative Energy Conference: [House Resolution 107](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) calling for the holding of a conference on the use of alternate energy sources in honor of Benjamin Franklin. *(text not yet online)*

Climate Change: [House Resolution 110](#) (Ross-R-Chester) directing the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to study and report on the issue of climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. *(text not yet online)*

Electronics Recycling: [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing the Department of Environmental Protection to implement policies which encourage electronic waste recycling. *(text not yet online)*

Senate Environmental Committee Sets Confirmation Hearing, Action on Bills

The [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) will hold a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Michael DiBerardinis to be Secretary for Conservation and Natural Resources as well as consider three bills March 13—

- [Senate Bill 99](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) repealing the prohibition on General Fund dollars going to the Wild Resources Conservation Fund;
- [Senate Bill 355](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) requiring additional public review of Air Quality State Implementation Plans and their publication on the Internet; and
- [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in statute.

New Waste Fees Would Cost Households \$6.13 Per Year DEP Tells Senate/House



Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty told House and Senate Appropriations Committees this week at budget hearings the proposals to raise municipal waste disposal fees to fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup and the original Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Programs will cost households only \$6.13 per year.

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During the Senate hearing, Secretary McGinty described this year's budget request by Gov. Rendell for DEP this way, "We cut into things you might be hearing about, we cut through the meat and into the bone."

The new waste fees proposed by Gov. Rendell would eliminate at least some of the current "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul" problem of taking money from one successful environmental program and giving it to another environmental program.

A 50 cent per ton fee increase is proposed to fund the debt service on the Growing Greener II bond issue approved by voters in 2005, eliminating some of the pressure to pay debt service from the original Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Program.

The original Growing Greener Program has since 1999 supplied \$181.7 million in watershed grants for 1,592 projects in all 67 counties to support community and watershed-based restoration projects cleaning up hundreds of miles of streams and reclaiming thousands of acres of abandoned mines.

By 2011-12, debt service for the Growing Greener II bond issue will take up half the monies going into the Environmental Stewardship Fund without an additional funding source.

A \$2.25 per ton fee increase is proposed to fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program. Over the last two years the program was funded by transferring \$50 million from the original Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Program, again "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul."

Under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program, there are at least 125 sites that present significant public health and safety hazards that need to be made safe under this program, Secretary McGinty said.

Rep. Frankel (D-Allegheny) and Rep. Reed (R-Indiana) expressed concerns about the proposed municipal waste fee increases.

Rep. Frankel said he hoped an alternative could be developed, because the fees would cost cities like Pittsburgh millions of dollars they are not prepared to pay.

Rep. Reed said he was surprised to see the proposed fee for the Growing Greener II bond issue debt service because when the legislation was passed in 2005 it was passed with the understanding that no new fees or taxes would be needed to support the program. Now, two years later, the Rendell Administration is proposing a fee increase.

Secretary McGinty responded the General Assembly has a decision to make—adopt the fees proposed or provide other funding, or see a cut in funding for Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Programs.

A similar exchange occurred on the proposed waste fees at the Senate Appropriations Committee hearing between Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Secretary McGinty.

While expressing support for the general direction of the Energy Independence Initiative made by Gov. Rendell, Sen. White expressed concern about floating yet another multi-million bond issue and the potential impact of the cost of the program on households and businesses.

Secretary McGinty, in response to another question, said the energy proposal would cost the average household \$5.40 per year, but was expected to save consumers \$73 per year in reduced electricity costs. Sen. White asked to see the calculations used to make those estimates.

In response to a question from Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) on how DEP was proposing to invest the \$1.4 billion in abandoned mine reclamation funding Pennsylvania

is slated to receive as a result of the program being reauthorized late last year, Secretary McGinty said DEP planned to do a series of outreach meetings across the state and would have a plan together by June.

Secretary McGinty said Gov. Rendell would soon be proposing a climate change initiative that would build on many of the initiatives already enacted by the Rendell Administration that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, like the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, adopting the California car vehicle standards and the new Energy Independence Initiative.

She said the climate initiative would include an “intensive” stakeholder process to help develop the next steps the Commonwealth should take to combat climate change.

Secretary McGinty also highlighted other initiatives in DEP:

- Gov. Rendell’s [Energy Independence Initiative](#);
- Outlined a new program that will commit the agency to make decisions on newly-required NPDES stormwater management permits within 32 days, excluding mandated public review times and after an applications is deemed complete;
- A new \$2.5 million increase in spending for flood protection and mitigation;
- A \$678,000 mine rescue equipment initiative to improve deep mine safety, noting in 2006 there were no underground mining fatalities in Pennsylvania for only the fourth year since 1870; and
- Proposals to increase in permit application fees by \$9.1 million.

Secretary McGinty also outlined the steps DEP has taken to reduce operating costs, including reducing staff by 83 positions over the last two years, cutting overtime work by 50 percent, eliminating 96 SUVs from agency’s vehicle fleet and reducing paid student internships by 36 percent.

[Secretary McGinty’s opening statement is available online.](#)

Game Commission Defends Habitat Approach to Controlling Deer Population

Game Commission Executive Director Carl Roe this week defended his agency’s approach to managing the state’s deer population using herd health, habitat condition and human-deer conflict indicators in his annual report to the House Game and Fisheries Committee.

Many legislators relayed complaints from hunters who said they hunted in the same areas for 25, 30 and 25 years and now find few or no deer during hunting season. The lack of deer, they said, is discouraging hunters and reducing the economic benefit of hunting to local communities.

“I even have body shops complaining because they don’t get as much business as they used to (from car-deer crashes),” said Rep. Surra (D-Elk).

“This is a serious concern for us and sportsmen,” said Roe. “We are listening and do care about our hunters and hunting traditions, but our primary concern remains with the mission—the conservation and responsible management of the wildlife resource for all Pennsylvanians.

“Allow me to read from a *Pennsylvania Game News* article: ‘Certain parts of the range have been found to be supporting only comparatively few deer, but these circumstances are almost invariably found to have arisen where food conditions are least



favorable and the range incapable of properly supporting even the occasional deer found therein.' When did this appear? September of 1938.

“We believe that our goals of a healthy herd, healthy habitat and a reduction in deer human conflict are sound public policy and, in the long term, will best serve wildlife conservation and the people of the Commonwealth,” said Roe. “As Legislators, you know from first hand experience that sound public policy is not always popular or easy to achieve.”

A 2005 study commissioned by Audubon PA, [Managing White-tailed Deer in Forest Habitat From an Ecosystem Perspective](#), made this dramatic statement about the impact of deer on the Commonwealth’s forests, “(the) regeneration of most tree species does not occur unless the affected areas are fenced to exclude deer.”

Over time, high deer populations have greatly altered forest understories. The abundance of native wildflowers and other forest-floor plants has been greatly diminished, shrub species have been dramatically decreased or eliminated, and the variety of tree species has declined.

To the casual observer the woods still look green, but they are much altered. In place of the diverse, multi-storied vegetation that was the norm, there are just a few species, either not preferred by deer or resilient to repeated browsing. Once the few tolerant or resistant species spread, their shade makes it difficult for most other members of the native flora to regenerate, even if deer numbers are later reduced.

Consider these other facts from a House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on deer and wildlife damage in 2006—

- There is an estimated \$90 million in crop loss and \$73 million in damage to our forests every year by deer, according to the Department of Agriculture;
- Over \$78 million in property damage occur in the over 39,000 deer/car collisions each year in Pennsylvania, not counting the deaths and injuries to the people involved. This is the highest of any state in the nation;
- The incidence of Lyme disease, a debilitating and sometimes fatal illness spread by deer ticks, has increased by over 9,000 percent between 1987 and 2004, according to the Department of Health; and
- State taxpayers lose \$18 million a year in deferred and lost timber stumpage sales.

“Audubon Pennsylvania strongly supports recreational hunting and other means to bring overabundant deer populations under control,” said Audubon PA Executive Director Timothy Schaeffer. “Over-browsing by deer eliminates thousands of acres of habitat for song birds and other wildlife species and is the largest single threat to bird habitat in many parts of the Commonwealth. Nearly every one of Pennsylvania’s Important Bird Areas has experienced significant damage caused by deer.”

Roe also expressed concern about the financial health of the Game Commission.

“We have had only two license increases in over 20 years and are well past due for another increase. We are more than willing to look at other funding programs,” said Roe. “We have discussed a state version of the federal Pittman-Robertson Program, a percentage of the state's sales tax, and a cost-of-living indexed license increase. But, we have not waited for these things to happen and have taken the initiative for other funding sources. In conjunction with Game Commission Staff and Board Members and other volunteers, the Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation was established in State College and is actively accepting donations that will, in the long term, build a private endowment for wildlife programs in the Commonwealth.”

[A complete copy of Mr. Roe's remarks is available online.](#)

NewsClips: [Research May Change Perceptions of Deer and Hunters](#)

[Editorial: Game Commission Rightly Seeks Sustainable Numbers](#)

[Deer Fight, Commission Prodded to Cut Doe Tags](#)

[Editorial: Bill Good First Step in Aiding Farmers Against Deer Herds](#)

Ethanol-Driven Commodity Prices Drive Up Costs for PA Farmers - Wolff



At his budget hearing this week, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff told members of the Senate Appropriations Committee that dramatic increases in corn and soybean prices driven up by the demand for turning them into ethanol and bio fuels are increasing costs for Pennsylvania livestock and dairy farmers.

And in response to a statement by Sen. Brubaker (R-Lancaster), the new Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, Secretary Wolff said that Pennsylvania would probably not meet the 2010 milestone for reducing nutrients and sediment to the

Chesapeake Bay, in spite of the best efforts of the farm community.

“While higher corn and soybean prices are benefiting some farmers, the higher prices are putting pressure on our livestock farmers raising the price of eggs, milk and meat,” Secretary Wolff said.

Cellulosic ethanol is more in line with Pennsylvania’s agriculture industry Secretary Wolff said, but added there is only one cellulosic ethanol plant in the United States (California) and one in Canada because the cost of producing cellulosic ethanol is about four times more expensive than making it out of corn.

Gov. Rendell has proposed an \$850 million Energy Independence Program to promote the use of ethanol and biodiesel made from soybeans and other renewable oil. Gov. Rendell has also proposed to mandate that all gasoline sold in Pennsylvania be made from 10 percent ethanol.

The Department of Environmental Protection has estimated there are 340 million gallons of corn-based ethanol production capacity planned in Pennsylvania and 60 million gallons of biodiesel production proposed.

Senators expressed concerns about several other cuts proposed by the Governor:

- Senators from both sides of the aisle expressed concern about the Governor’s proposed \$1.1 million cut in funding for county conservation districts which both the Senators and Secretary Wolff called critical to delivering services to farmers;
- Also of concern to Senators was a proposed cut in the Penn State Extension Service which Penn State officials said would result in layoffs in all 67 counties; and
- Secretary Wolff confirmed a reduction in funding for farmland preservation from \$105 million for the current year to \$77 million. The Secretary did agree to work with Sen. Brubaker to find ways of improving the farmland preservation program, including through the use of transferable development rights.

Sen. Brubaker said it was his understanding that Pennsylvania would be unable to meet the court-imposed 2010 milestone for reducing nutrients and sediment to the Chesapeake Bay and expressed concern that the media and others would criticize Pennsylvania family farmers for not meeting the deadline.

Secretary Wolff said Pennsylvania farmers have a great record of taking steps to reduce nutrients, including being the first state to require nutrient management plans, that have resulted in a reduction of over 23 million pounds of nitrogen and 906,000 tons of sediment.

He said he hoped the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would take that into account and focus on the fact that Pennsylvania is making progress in reducing nutrients.

Sen. Brubaker said he personally supports the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\)](#) to give tax credits to farmers who install best management practices to help give farmers another tool to reduce nutrients and sediment runoff by attracting private investment to conservation practices.

[Secretary Wolff's opening statement is available online.](#)

Other News

Senator, CMU Professor, PPG Researcher Win 2007 Shades of Green Awards

Sen. Jim Ferlo (D-Allegheny), Carnegie Mellon University architecture professor Stephen Lee and PPG Industries researcher Mike Rupert have been named winners of the 2007 [Shades of Green Leadership Awards](#).

Presented by the [Green Building Alliance](#), the awards recognize individuals in Western Pennsylvania who have contributed to the region's environmental transformation through green leadership within the built environment.

Winners will be honored during a luncheon at the [GreenSense 2007 conference](#) March 15 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel.

Sen. Ferlo, winner in the government category, led the creation of the Allegheny River Towns Enterprise Zone, which addresses industrial blight and encourages brownfields redevelopment in Aspinwall, Blawnox, Etna, Millvale, O'Hara, Shaler and Sharpsburg.

Sen. Ferlo also helped organize the Vandergrift Improvement Program, a group devoted to historical preservation and incorporating sustainability into community initiatives. For the past two years, Ferlo has sponsored a forum with state, county and city officials to discuss the challenges and opportunities in sustainability.

Lee, winner in the non-profit category, has been an advocate for green building since his undergraduate days at Carnegie Mellon University, where he studied inner-city energy efficiency projects in South Oakland and Manchester.

Now a professor in CMU's School of Architecture, a member of the research faculty at its Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics and director of the Master's of Science in Sustainable Design program, Lee serves as faculty chair for the university's green practices committee.

He is also faculty adviser for CMU's entries in the Solar Decathlon, a competition conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy to design, build and operate energy-efficient, solar-powered homes. Lee and his wife have been creating sustainable urban architecture in Pittsburgh for more than 25 years.

Winner in the business category, Rupert is director of technical services and product development for PPG's Performance Glazings business, where he led the team of scientists, technicians and engineers that developed Solarban 70 XL solar-control low-e glass.

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According to U.S. Department of Energy modeling software, substituting Solarban 70 XL glass in place of the next-highest-performing solar control low-e glass on a standard, glass-walled, eight-story office building can cut annual energy costs by 6.6 percent, or more than \$40,000 per year, based on 2006 energy rates. PPG's new, energy-saving glass product is featured in the Special Events Pavilion at the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

"These three individuals represent the vision, leadership, innovation and ability to collaborate and influence others that have become the hallmarks of the Shades of Green Leadership Award," said Marco Cardamone, a board member of the Green Building Alliance and a member of jury that selected this year's winners. "Their programs, policies and initiatives are making a lasting and profound impact on green building in our region."

[GreenSense 2007: Show Me the Money!](#) is the premier conference on green building for the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic regions. The one-day conference highlights case studies and strategies in green building, and features nationally recognized experts among its speakers.

The [Shades of Green Leadership Awards](#) are presented annually at the GreenSense conference. Other activities include exhibit booths displaying green building products and afternoon tours of Pittsburgh-area green buildings.

To register or to obtain more information, call 412-431-0709 or visit the [GreenSense 2007: Show Me the Money! Conference webpage](#)

Reminder: Western PA Environmental Award Nominations Due March 16

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Dominion, sponsors of the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program, are still accepting nominations for the 2007 Environmental Awards, to be presented at the Westin Convention Center Hotel on June 7.

Nominations are due March 16.

Community groups, schools, volunteers, businesses, 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 4 awards will be presented in the areas of Community (which includes a variety of eligible nominees), Higher Education, Primary/Secondary Education, and Business.

An independent panel of judges will evaluate all nominations. In honor of each awardee, the sponsors will make a \$5,000 donation to a nonprofit organization of the awardee's choice that provides environmental benefits to western Pennsylvania.

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

American Water Accepting Applications for Environmental Grant Program

American Water is now accepting applications for its [Environmental Grant Program](#) to support innovative, community-based environmental projects that improve, restore or protect watersheds and community drinking water supplies.

Applications are due April 13.

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be provided. Examples of activities supported by the program include watershed cleanups, reforestation efforts, underground tank inspection

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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 Dan Warnock, president, Pennsylvania American Water. "We encourage communities, schools and non-governmental organizations to consider their impact and to apply for a grant.

"There are opportunities for communities to lend the water supply and watershed a helping hand," continued Warnock. "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 and November 1 and be 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, evidence that the project will provide sustainable environmental results after the American Water funding ends.

For more information, visit the [Environmental Grant Program webpage](#).

POWR Insurance Sharing Program for Watershed Groups Renewed for 2007

The Glatfelter Agency advised the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers this week that Millers Mutual has decided to renew [POWR's general liability insurance policy](#).

This is good news for many watershed groups that seek coverage against potential third party claims of liability.

Under POWR's insurance sharing program, watershed groups that are members of POWR can be endorsed to POWR's general liability policy. After two years of no increases, Millers raised their premium rates, which are 52 cents per member with a minimum premium of \$104 for organizations with 200 members or fewer.

POWR's Executive Director, Judith Jordan, said that POWR's membership and insurance fees have not been raised and would remain at \$30 and \$100 respectively this year.

For more information or to be endorsed to POWR's policy, visit [POWR's general liability insurance policy webpage](#). Insurance purchase and renewal forms available from this website should be returned with payment to POWR by April 10 in order to receive coverage for the entire policy term of April 14, 2007 to April 14, 2008. Premiums for parties endorsed thereafter will be pro-rated by Millers Mutual.

EPA Promoting Use of Green Infrastructure to Protect Water Quality

Don Waye, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Nonpoint Source Control Branch, recently sent out an invitation to communities and states to work with EPA on opportunities to use green infrastructure to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Green infrastructure can be both a cost effective and an environmentally preferable approach to reduce stormwater and other excess flows entering combined or separate sewer systems in combination with, or in lieu of, centralized hard infrastructure solutions.

Several cities, searching for alternatives to traditional hardscape solutions to wet weather discharge problems, have initiated some green infrastructure approaches. The Natural Resources Defense Council recently [published a special report](#) with information and case studies on these efforts.

“I strongly support the use of green infrastructure approaches described in the NRDC report and I suggest you share the report with States and promote other tools for green infrastructure,” said Waye.

Green infrastructure approaches essentially infiltrate, evapotranspire or reuse stormwater, with significant utilization of soils and vegetation rather than traditional hardscape collection, conveyance and storage structures.

Common green infrastructure approaches include green roofs, trees and tree boxes, rain gardens, vegetated swales, pocket wetlands, infiltration planters, vegetated median strips, reforestation, and protection and enhancement of riparian buffers and floodplains. Green infrastructure can be used where soil and vegetation can be worked into the landscape.

It is most effective when supplemented with other decentralized storage and infiltration approaches, such as the use of permeable pavement, and rain barrels and cisterns to capture and re-use rainfall for watering plants or flushing toilets.

These approaches can be used to keep rainwater out of the sewer system to reduce sewer overflows and to reduce the amount of untreated stormwater discharging to surface waters. Green infrastructure facilitates or mimics natural processes that also recharge groundwater, preserve baseflows, moderate temperature impacts, and protect hydrologic and hydraulic stability.

Green infrastructure has a number of benefits:

- **Cleaner Water** - Vegetation and green space reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and, in combined systems, the volume of combined sewer overflows;
- **Enhanced Water Supplies** - Most green infiltration approaches result in stormwater percolation through the soil to recharge the groundwater and the base flow for streams.
- **Cleaner Air** - Trees and vegetation improve air quality by filtering many airborne pollutants and can help reduce the amount of respiratory illness;
- **Reduced Urban Temperatures** - Summer city temperatures can average 10 degrees higher than nearby suburban temperatures. High temperatures are linked to higher ground level ozone concentrations. Vegetation creates shade, reduces the amount of heat absorbing materials and emits water vapor - all of which cool hot air;
- **Increased Energy Efficiency** - Green space helps lower ambient temperatures and helps shade and insulate buildings, decreasing energy needed for heating and cooling;
- **Community Benefits** - Trees and plants improve urban aesthetics and community livability by providing recreational and wildlife areas and can raise property values;
- **Cost Savings** - Green infrastructure may save capital costs on digging big tunnels and stormwater ponds, operations and maintenance expenses for treatment plants, pipes, and other hard infrastructure; energy costs for pumping water; and costs of wet weather treatment and of repairing stormwater and sewage pollution impacts, such as streambank restoration.

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“The Office of Water is working with a coalition of organizations, including the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), the [National Association of Clean Water Agencies](#), and the [Low Impact Development Center](#), to develop additional strategies for green infrastructure approaches to water quality challenges,” said Waye.

[Rooftops to Rivers: Green Strategies for Controlling Stormwater and Combined Sewer Overflows](#) is available online.

Contact Don Waye at 202-566-1170 or send email to: waye.don@epa.gov.

YO! Mark a Storm Drain, Save the Schuylkill



The Philadelphia Water Department, together with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, is asking homeowners and neighborhood leaders to improve water quality in the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers by installing storm drain emblems proclaiming “[Yo! No Dumping! Drains to River.](#)”

Volunteer training and materials will be provided at no cost.

Storm drain marking has been a family-oriented Earth Day activity since 2000 in the City of Philadelphia. Emblems installed by volunteers have served to warn citizens that dumping hazardous materials into storm drains contributes to stormwater runoff pollution, a leading threat to water quality in the Delaware Estuary.

“When storm drains are clearly marked, citizens are less likely to dump materials like litter, motor oil and paint,” said Lisa Wool, program director for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. “These and other contaminants can be discharged as untreated runoff into the waters we use for swimming, fishing, drinking water and more.”

Volunteers hitting the streets will also be equipped with educational tip cards. When distributed to residents by a friendly or familiar face, these tip cards go a long way toward protecting the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers, both of which are vital sources of drinking water for millions of people.

In addition to protecting the environment, storm drain marking can serve as a cultural or sight-seeing experience. Many drains yet to be marked exist in Chinatown, East Falls, Fishtown and still other boroughs boasting unique customs and historical points of interest.

For more information, visit the [Storm Drain Marking Program webpage](#) and to schedule an appointment to pick up supplies, please call Dee Ross at 800-445-4935, extension 106.

Lancaster Farmland Trust Supports New Dollars for Farm Conservation – REAP

[Lancaster Farmland Trust](#) views its job as more than preserving farmland, it also seeks to preserve the farmer on the land to keep it in active production. That’s why the Trust is supporting enactment of the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\)](#) tax credit program to help farmers install conservation practices.

“In addition to preserving farmland to keep it



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open and available for agriculture, Lancaster Farmland Trust recognizes that the conservation of Pennsylvania's natural resources is vital for maintaining the agricultural integrity of the region. The REAP legislation will be an extremely valuable alternative for farmers to improve their environmental stewardship while protecting water quality," Peter A. Olmsted, Land Preservation Coordinator, Lancaster Farmland Trust.

The most recent issue of "Open Views" newsletter from the Trust had this to say about REAP--

Farmers in Pennsylvania are under increasing pressure to improve water quality in the state and Lancaster County farmers are no exception. Farmers need financial assistance if they are to remain profitable and protect our watersheds and water supplies.

Unfortunately, money for state and federal conservation programs has not kept up with demand.

REAP, or the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act is an action-oriented plan to support pollution reduction projects on Pennsylvania farms. This plan is the first of its kind in the country, and it would provide state tax credits to farmers willing to install water quality improvement projects on their farms.

REAP is not yet available to Pennsylvania farmers since it is currently proposed as legislation. It will not pass without the support of Pennsylvania citizens like you. Please contact your state Representative, Senator and the Governor and urge them to pass this new program.

REAP has been introduced in the House by Rep. Stern (R-Blair) and Rep. Daley (D-Washington) as House Bill 100 and is being introduced in the Senate by Sen. Brubaker (R-Lancaster).

For more information visit [CBF's REAP webpage](#) and the [Lancaster Farmland Trust](#).

PA Joins 16 States Announcing Strategy for Brook Trout Restoration



The [Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture](#) this week released a first-of-its-kind conservation strategy to restore healthy, fishable populations of eastern brook trout throughout their eastern native range to respond to the fact that only 5 percent of historic brook trout habitat remains intact.

Brook trout are the only native stream dwelling salmonid to Pennsylvania waters and are the official state fish of the

Commonwealth.

The Conservation Strategy is based on the status and threats information contained in the Joint Venture's initial report, which was issued in May 2006. To see the areas where brook trout have been extirpated or significantly reduced, [Click Here](#).

Brook trout populations have been eliminated or greatly reduced in almost half of the areas that historically supported brook trout. Poor land management practices are responsible for the majority of this decline.

"Once the partnership recognized the threats facing brook trout within its historic eastern range, we developed regional and range-wide strategies to take swift and deliberate

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steps to conserve strong populations and restore weaker ones," said Steve Perry, Inland Fisheries Division Chief for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and Chair of the Joint Venture. "We created a model for fish conservation - a large-scale, habitat-focused conservation strategy for a species at risk. This strategy provides us with a roadmap to significantly improve brook trout populations by 2025."

The report contains a set of aggressive range-wide and regional targets, including protection of highest quality habitat, improvement of 30 percent of damaged brook trout watersheds, and reintroduction of brook trout to 10 percent of those watersheds where they have disappeared. Using the 2006 status and threats data as a baseline, the Joint Venture will evaluate progress toward these targets at five year intervals.

In conjunction with the range-wide strategy released today, each of the Joint Venture states is developing a specialized plan based on that state's existing brook trout populations and dominant threats.

Through these plans, the states will prioritize protection and restoration efforts to meet the collective targets outlined above. Projects will address priority needs in each state, ranging from restoring streamside habitat in Georgia to cleaning up pollution from abandoned coal mines in Pennsylvania, to fixing road culverts to improve brook trout passage in Maine.

"The significance of these state efforts really can't be overstated," said Gary Berti, Eastern Brook Trout Campaign Coordinator for Trout Unlimited and the Joint Venture's Communications Chair. "They are the ones who will do the hard work to make this range-wide plan a reality. And they will need support from conservation groups, watershed associations, landowners, businesses, educators, citizens and policy-makers at all levels to accomplish the ambitious goals laid out in this strategy."

Brook trout are the only trout native to the streams and rivers of the eastern United States. Once prolific throughout their historical range, brook trout populations have declined as land use changes have altered their habitat. These fish survive in only the coldest and cleanest water, and they serve as excellent indicators of the health of the watersheds they inhabit.

The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture partnership began in 2004 as a pilot project under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Active partners include fish and wildlife agencies from 17 states, federal agencies, conservation organizations and academic institutions. The Joint Venture is seeking additional partners and support to assist in the protection and restoration of brook trout habitat.

For more information on the range-wide eastern brook trout conservation strategy, visit the [Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture website](#).

Links: [Trout Unlimited's Back the Brookie Education Program](#)
[Pennsylvania's Brook Trout Conservation Strategies](#)
[Memorandum of Understanding Establishing the Brook Trout Venture](#)
[PA Council of Trout Unlimited](#)

Rain Barrel Workshops Coming Up in Allegheny County

The Pennsylvania Resources Council [Watershed Awareness/Rain Barrel Workshop](#) will raise your awareness of watershed issues, demonstrate how to assemble and install a retrofitted 55-gallon drum/rain barrel, and offer other rainwater harvesting options.

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Participants will receive the necessary hardware to assemble and install a rain barrel for rainwater harvesting and on-site usage. Workshops will be held--

- March 15 - Westinghouse Lodge, Forest Hills - from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.;
- April 5 - Whole Foods Market, Shadyside – from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.;
- April 11 - CCI Center, South Side - from 6:30-8:00 p.m.;
- April 19 - Mt. Lebanon Library, Mt. Lebanon – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.;
- April 30 - East End Food Co-op, Point Breeze- from 6:30-8:00 p.m.; and
- May 6 - Urban Gardener, North Side- from Noon – 1:15 p.m.

When you attend the PRC workshop you will learn how to harvest rainwater from your roof, store it and use it in your landscape. Take advantage of this free source of precious water while at the same time contributing to improved water quality in our rivers and streams by reducing your contribution to combined sewer overflow, flooding and polluted urban runoff.

Learn how to practice watershed protection and conservation in your own backyard. It's easier than you think!

The cost for the workshop is \$30/person or \$40/couple and someone will win the rain barrel used in the workshop.

For more information call 412-431-4449 x247 or visit the [Rain Barrel Workshop webpage](#).

Senior Environment Corps, Students Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution

Volunteers at the [Montgomery County Senior Environment Corps](#) recently received a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection's [Environmental Education Grants Program](#) to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the North Penn area watersheds through education programs for youth groups.

The new program calls for the Montgomery County Senior Environment Corps to design, develop and deliver a program to train young people on water quality testing and macroinvertebrate identification.

The program will follow the water quality monitoring protocols developed by the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps, which cover physical assessment of streams and surrounding land, chemical testing and macroinvertebrate collection and identification.

The program will be delivered to youth groups in the North Penn area of Montgomery County. At least six workshops will be conducted with Boy and Girl Scout groups and the local Boys and Girls Club.

The program will take place during 2007-2008 and will partner youths and seniors, giving young people a hands-on experience in basic water related environmental activities, and providing a look at the impact of nonpoint and point source pollution on the environment. It will also reinforce what young people are learning about water pollution and conservation, and give them a better understanding of a watershed and why it's important to protect it.

Members of the SEC will contact youth groups (scouts and clubs) in the North Penn area for guidance during the development stage. They also plan to recruit young people to assist with the presentations and will solicit feedback from their audiences on ways to improve the program.

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Corps members also partners with the North Penn Water Authority to conduct an educational outreach program using groundwater and surface water models. The models are used at various schools, municipalities, and civic groups.

The Montgomery County Senior Environment Corps is an active volunteer organization that is run by The PEAK Center (formerly the North Penn Senior Center), an organization that helps adults aged 55 and above to remain active, healthy, contributing members of the community. Another goal of The PEAK Center is to develop intergenerational programs that bring together youths, adults and senior adults.

For more information, visit the [Montgomery County Senior Environment Corps webpage](#). For information on Senior Environment Corps Programs in your area, contact Beth Grove, 717-244-6248 or send email to: PaGreatSEC@aol.com.

DCNR Announces \$23 Million in Recreation, Conservation Grants

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced the investment of \$23 million in conservation and recreation projects

Statewide, the grants will fund a variety of projects, including 10 swimming pools, 38 playgrounds and tot lots, 38 sports courts and fields, six skateboard parks, and 46 planning projects for regional efforts, parks, greenways and trails.

Included in the grants is \$1 million to continue developing the Great Allegheny Passage Trail. The new section starts in McKeesport and will run through multiple municipalities in Allegheny County and end at the Glenwood Bridge in Pittsburgh. The Great Allegheny Passage will connect Pittsburgh through the Laurel Highlands to Washington D.C. and is scheduled to be complete by Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary celebration in 2008.

Funding for the grants comes from Growing Greener II, a voter-approved \$625 million bond issue, and Keystone '93, a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax.

[A complete list of projects is available online.](#)

Grant Applications Due April 27 for Volunteer Forest Firefighters

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced it is accepting [applications for grants](#) to help Pennsylvania's rural communities better guard against the threat of fires in forested, undeveloped and unprotected areas.

Grant applications are due April 27.

In reviewing applications, the bureau will place priority on those seeking funds for projects that include the purchase of wildfire suppression equipment and protective clothing.

Grants may also be used for mobile or portable radios, installation of dry hydrants, wildfire prevention and mitigation, wildfire fighter training, or conversion and maintenance of federal excess vehicles received from the bureau and are being used for fire suppression.

"As the state agency responsible for protecting our state forests from fire, DCNR sees these grants as a boon to helping better organize, train and equip local firefighting forces in rural areas," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "The number of

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Pennsylvania homes and communities in wooded and rural areas continues to grow each year, as does the threat of wildfires."

Overseen by DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, aid is granted on a cost-share basis. Grants for any project during a fiscal year cannot exceed 50 percent of the actual expenditures of local, public and private nonprofit organizations in the agreement.

The maximum grant that will be considered from any fire company in 2007 is \$7,500. All items approved for purchase under the 2007 fiscal year program must be purchased between October 1, 2006, and November 30, 2007.

A record \$557,085 is being made available to volunteers this year. A total of 156 companies across the state were assisted last year with grants totaling \$514,405. More than \$6.5 million has been awarded during the past 25 years.

The grants and other forms of assistance are offered annually through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with funding supplied by the USDA Forest Service through the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (Volunteer Fire Assistance).

[Grant applications and more information](#) may be obtained from the Bureau of Forestry's Division of Forest Fire Protection. Contact Forest Program Specialist Charles C. Choplick at 717-787-2925, or send email to: cchoplick@state.pa.us .

Engineers' Society Sponsors 12th Brownfields Conference April 18-20

The Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania is sponsoring its 12th "[The Business of Brownfields](#)" conference April 18-20 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh.

Deborah Lange, Conference Chair said the conference planning committee decided to return to the Society's technical roots and have targeted a program that is not for the "fainthearted."

"Building on the foundations of previous brownfields conferences and years of collective experience, we aim to provide our audience with the latest advances in subjects such as investigation methodologies, remediation technologies, legal considerations, financial strategies and insurance options," said Lange.

"This year we will also add a research track and engage those universities that are finding cutting edge ways to improve and expedite smart brownfield development," explained Lange. "We encourage your participation in any number of ways: speaker, exhibitor, endorser, sponsor, attendee (or all of the above.)

"This year we are particularly excited that our conference will be located in the first 'green' convention center in the world and a boat tour of riverfront brownfields, hosted by the [Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Brownfields Association](#).

"We are returning to our roots, but we are returning with all of the latest in technologies! We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh in April.

For more information, visit the [Business of Brownfields Conference webpage](#).

Winter Edition of EPA Land Revitalization Newsletter Now Online

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Mid-Atlantic Region has released its Winter 2007 issue of [Land Revitalization Update](#) highlighting news, resources and policies impacting cleanup and reuse of contaminated properties.

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Articles in this edition include, "Training Grants Provide Opportunity in Cleanup Communities" and "From Contaminated Coke Works to Volcano Island." The update is also distributed via e-mail to stakeholders interested in the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Read the [Land Revitalization Update](#) online.

Check Properties for Superfund Liens Through This New Website

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed a website project to provide the public with information on properties having perfected (recorded) [Superfund liens](#).

The website can clarify to prospective purchasers whether a property is within a federal Superfund site and assist in determining the existence or potential existence of a federal Superfund lien.

The website also contains public [background information on Superfund liens](#).

Backyard Composting Courses Offered By Penn State Extension, DEP

The Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, in a partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection, has scheduled dozens of [backyard composting education programs](#) across the state this spring.

The goal of the backyard composting program is to promote the recycling and reuse of yard trimmings, leaves, grass, kitchen scraps and other organic materials.

County Extension agents and Master Gardener volunteers teach participants in “tricks of the trade” to operating successful backyard composting sites.

Participants in the workshops receive a free composting bin (1 bin per household). To date this program has offered nearly 600 workshops in 64 counties and over 20,000 composting bins have been distributed.

To see if a composting program is being held in your county, visit the [Backyard Composting Program webpage](#).

Penn State Offers Conservation Leadership School In Two Summer Sessions

If your ideal school is where the classrooms include more than 7,000 acres of forest, fields, wetlands and streams, and where learning about our environment goes hand-in-hand with having fun and meeting new friends, then consider enrolling in the Penn State [Conservation Leadership School](#).

In the unique setting at the Pennsylvania State University’s [Stone Valley Recreation Area](#) near State College, students aged 15 to 18 learn about the environment and conservation during a one-week program that emphasizes field-based, hands-on learning, group problem solving, and leadership.

The year’s curriculum will focus on four current natural resource issues affecting each and every Pennsylvanian:

- The Pennsylvania Elk: A wildlife conservation success story;
- Riparian Zones: What are they and why are they important;
- History of the Land: Changes in land use over the past 150 years; and
- Leadership Building: Identifying the leader in each of us.

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Two sessions are offered, June 24-30 and July 8-14. The curriculum for each is identical.

Students work in teams with faculty and staff from the School of Forestry Resources and representatives of the state Fish and Boat Commission, the state Game Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, state Rural Leadership program and state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Over the past 50 years, more than 7,100 young people have participated in this outdoor and leadership experience. The schools are excellent preparation for Envirothon programs.

Scholarships for [Lycoming County](#) students are available from the Conservation District in cooperation with the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association.

Scholarships are available from other participating Conservation Districts in Pennsylvania and area sportsmen clubs for students representing their district at CLS.

To learn more about CLS, [watch this GreenWorks Network, Inc. video](#) about the program.

More information can also be found at the [Conservation Leadership School event webpage](#) or contact the Office of Conferences and Short Courses at 814-865-8301 or by sending email to: shortcourse@psu.edu to receive registration materials. Registration is limited so apply early.

For questions regarding the content of the program, contact Mike Powell, Director of CLS, at 814-863-1113 or send email to: mjp175@psu.edu .

EE Connections Newsletter Now Available from PA Environmental Ed Center

The March issue of [EE Connections newsletter](#) from the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online. The highlights from this month's issue include—

Pennsylvania Center for
Environmental Education



Service Education Research

PCEE News: PCEE Links Two Environmental Education Groups, PCEE Staff Attend Annual PASA Conference;

General News: National Environmental Education Week, Let's Explore, Wild Resources Festival, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation;

K-12 News: Restoring the Nature of Childhood, Imagining Tomorrow, Online Nature Bee, Creating School Yard Field Guides, Global Warming 101 Expedition, Young Naturalist Award;

Higher Education: Pennsylvania Leads the Nation in RecycleMania Participation, College Sustainability Report Card;

Professional Development: Science Integration Workshop, Nourishing a Sustainable Pittsburgh, PEEC Now an Act 48 Provider, Changing Lives, Impacting Communities, Pennsylvania Environmental Advisory Council Conference, PRC Workshops, Watershed

and Global Warming Workshops, Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals' Annual Conference, "Invasive Species: Awareness to Action" Conference, Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, Environmental Education Workshop in Peru

Grants/Awards: Litter Hawk Youth Award Program, Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award, Water Resources Education Grants, Watershed Restoration and Protection Grants, Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants, Ecology/Environmental Science Teaching Award, Five-Star Restoration Program, Red, White, and Green Climate Change Grant

To get your own copy, send an email to: info@pcee.org or visit the [EE Connections sign-up webpage](#).

Rachel Carson Forum on Reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund

The March 15 Rachel Carson Forum on Future of the Environment will look at the reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund and what it means for Pennsylvania.

The forum will be held at noon in the Second Floor Training Room of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg.

On December 9, 2006, the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Lands Campaign celebrated a hard-won victory when Congress reauthorized the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund, which will send \$1.4 billion to the state to address environmental and safety impacts from past coal mining practices.

Since 1977, when the fund was established, the \$20 million it sent annually to the Commonwealth met only a fraction of the need posed by the state's 4,600 miles of abandoned mine drainage impacted streams, 185,000 acres of toxic land, and over 5,100 features such as dangerous high walls, mine openings, and acid mine drainage pits.

DEP currently is leading a stakeholder process to determine how best to spend Pennsylvania's funding.

The Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Lands Campaign led the reauthorization effort starting in 2003, convening representatives from 10 eastern coal states, and developing and advancing legislation with citizen volunteers.

In addition to staff from DEP's Office of Mineral Resources Management, John Dawes, chairman of the campaign and administrator of the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program matching grants program, will discuss how the group was able to work through a broad collaborative process to win the reauthorization effort and steer much-needed funding to the eastern states, where most of the environmental and safety problems remain.

Dawes will also share his current work with leading non-profit and academic partners to advance research and quantification of abandoned mine drainage impacts on streams and their biological resources.

The Rachel Carson Forum on Future of the Environment is a monthly mid-day speakers series that seeks to stimulate discussion on important environmental and sustainable development issues. The Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Policy, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation Science, and the [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#) are organizing this series.

Doug Scott, Wilderness Historian, Author, Advocate Featured Speaker

Doug Scott, one of the nation's leading experts on wilderness, will be traveling through northwest Pennsylvania over the next week discussing the history of wilderness protection and supporting local citizens in an historic effort to protect their public lands and wilderness.

His presentations are free and open to the public and are presented by [Friends of Allegheny Wilderness](#).

Scott will present selections from his book, *The Enduring Wilderness*, and will talk about the work of local people to protect public lands. Scott will answer questions about wilderness and talk specifically about efforts to protect the remaining wild areas of the Allegheny National Forest.

The speaking events will be held--

- March 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Bradford, PA: [University of Pittsburgh at Bradford](#), Mukaiyama University Room in the Frame-Westerberg Commons (in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Environmental Studies Program);
- March 13, 7:00 p.m. in Warren, PA: [Warren Public Library](#);
- March 14, 7:00 p.m. in Erie, PA: [Tom Ridge Environmental Center](#) (in cooperation with the Lake Erie Group of the Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club); and
- March 15, 7:00 p.m. in Meadville, PA: [Allegheny College](#) (in cooperation with the Allegheny College Department of Environmental Science)

Scott was involved in the founding of Earth Day; has worked on every major piece of wilderness legislation over the last four decades, including the enactment of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act, the Endangered American Wilderness Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Today he serves as Policy Director for the [Campaign for America's Wilderness](#).

For more information, go to the [Friends of Allegheny Wilderness](#) or contact Kirk Johnson with Friends of Allegheny Wilderness at 814-723-0620 or John Bartlett with Friends of Allegheny Wilderness at 814-676-4474.

Celebrating Pennsylvania's Native Elegance at Pennsylvania Garden Expo

The dramatic beauty of Pennsylvania's native plants will be featured in a formal background setting at the [Pennsylvania Garden Expo's](#) "A Garden Party" at the [Farm Show complex](#) in Harrisburg, March 8-11.

The 65-foot-by-70-foot exhibit, offered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#), will include a fountain crafted from a pine tree adorning the central pool; songbirds and lush native fauna and flora along the water features; conservation concepts, such as rain barrels, composters and more; and a bike and kayak promoting the opportunities available to enjoy the great outdoors in the commonwealth.

"This exhibit offers an inspiring snapshot of what can be created with plants that are native to Pennsylvania," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "Native trees and plants are well suited to our region; they don't have to be watered as much; and are naturally more resistant to disease and pests."

“From the shed to the table settings, every item in our garden is made in Pennsylvania and many of the items have been made using sustainable materials and practices,” Secretary DiBerardinis said.

Visitors can walk through the exhibit and learn about native plants and wildlife from information provided by DCNR, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, the Game Commission, the Fish and Boat Commission, [Audubon Pennsylvania](#) and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

“We’ll be able to let thousands of visitors know how easy it is to help protect our resources by choosing native plants for their yards and gardens,” Secretary DiBerardinis said.

Trees included in the display will include Red and Sugar maples, Service Berry, Riverbirch, American Hornbeam, White Pine and Eastern Redbud. Plants include Wild Columbine and Ginger, Butterfly Milkweed, Cinnamon Fern, Lyre-leaved Sage and Little Bluestem. In the rain garden will be Swamp Milkweed, Cardinal Flower, Eastern Skunk Cabbage and Soft Rush. Shrubs will include Sweet Pepperbush, Winterberry, Pinxter Flower and Arrow-wood.

BP Solar Selected for Solar America Initiative Grant Award



The U.S. Department of Energy will participate in the first phase of a three-year, \$40 million research and development program proposed by [BP Solar](#) and its partners aimed at decreasing the cost of solar cells and increasing their efficiency in order to make solar power cost competitive with electricity generated by other means.

The DOE [Solar America Initiative](#) grant, which could be up to \$7.5 million in Phase 1, was announced this week by U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman.

"I want to thank the Department of Energy and Secretary Samuel Bodman for their careful evaluation of our proposal and for their support," said BP America Chairman and President Bob Malone. "Our shared goal is to lower the cost and increase the supply of clean, renewable energy. BP is working with other companies, with leading research institutions and universities and with government to achieve the scientific, engineering and manufacturing breakthroughs to make that possible. This program is an important part of that effort."

The DOE grant will help fund phase 1 of a proposed, multi-phase, three-year research and development effort to reduce the cost of solar power by expanding the supply of solar grade silicon, reducing the amount of silicon required in the manufacture of solar panels, increasing the efficiency of existing solar panels and developing new, lower cost distribution, installation and finance programs.

"BP Solar is excited to be partnering with the DOE in this effort to make solar power more cost effective," said BP Solar President Lee Edwards. "We believe that we can make solar power cost competitive by working with suppliers to expand the availability of solar grade silicon, by improving our manufacturing processes so that less silicon is used in each solar cell, by improving the energy efficiency of the cells we make and by developing products that are less expensive to install."

[BP Solar](#) is working to reduce the thickness of solar cells by 50 percent while increasing efficiency 25 percent.

Lape Named New Director of EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Program

Jeffrey L. Lape has been selected as the next Director of the [Chesapeake Bay Program Office](#), according to Donald S. Welsh, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s mid-Atlantic region.

“Jeff has the leadership skills, experience and commitment necessary to build on our progress in restoring and protecting North America’s largest estuary,” said Welsh. “The Chesapeake Bay is one of our great natural treasures, and Jeff’s expertise will serve us and our many partners and stakeholders well as we continue to accelerate efforts to safeguard the Bay and its living resources.”

Welsh said that Lape has a record of “bringing people together and solving problems.”

He also has a strong background in the technical, legal and policy aspects of watershed management, and a wide range of environmental experience in federal, state and local government and the private sector in a more than 30-year career, said Welsh.

For the majority of his 16 years with the U.S. EPA, Lape has served in key positions involving leadership in national water pollution control strategies. He helped to spearhead EPA’s reform efforts with industrial wastewater management, combined sewer overflows, animal feeding operations, watershed-based permitting and several other Clean Water Act programs.

Lape will replace Rebecca Hanmer, who officially retires on March 18 and has held the position since March 2002.

Welsh praised outgoing director Hanmer for her accomplishments as head of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office.

“Rebecca has been a strong advocate for the Chesapeake Bay,” said Welsh. “Her passion for the Bay and her dedication to its improvement has helped the program take vital steps toward recovery.”

The [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) is a regional partnership of state and federal agencies, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations formed in 1983 to lead and direct restoration of the Bay.

Grace Appointed DCNR Deputy Secretary for State Parks and Forestry

Dr. James R. Grace was appointed deputy secretary for state parks and forestry in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week.

In this new position, Grace will be responsible for the direction of the bureaus of State Parks and Forestry, as well as the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction. With 117 state parks, Pennsylvania has one of the largest and most diverse park systems in the country. At 2.1 million acres of state forest land, the commonwealth also has one of the largest sustainable certified forests in the nation.

The Bureau of Facility Design and Construction designs and manages construction projects for bridges, water and sewage systems, swimming pools, beach areas and dams in the state parks and forests.

Grace has served as the state forester since 1994. He previously served in a deputy secretary role in the former Department of Environmental Resources from 1987 to 1993. During the early part of his career, he served on the faculty in forestry at Rutgers and Penn State universities.

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Grace has a Ph.D. in forest ecology from Penn State. He lives with his wife, Roberta, in Camp Hill.

McDonnell Named Deputy Secretary for DEP's Office of Administration

Patrick McDonnell was appointed as Deputy Secretary for Administration in the Department of Environmental Protection this week.

Since January 2006, McDonnell has served as the Policy Director where he has been responsible for oversight of the development of all DEP policy and regulatory initiatives. Prior to this, he functioned as the assistant to the Special Deputy Secretary where he was involved in many cross-agency projects such as the Governor's Growing Greener II initiative and a comprehensive evaluation of all department regulations.

He was also the Director of the Bureau of Environmental Sustainability where he oversaw the Commonwealth's renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy emergency planning programs.

He held other positions within the department such as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Secretary for Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance and was a Program Analyst within the same office. He was first introduced to DEP in 1997 through the Pennsylvania Management Intern program.

McDonnell holds an M.A. Degree from Lehigh University in Political Science and a B.A. degree from DeSales University in Politics.

PA Recycling Markets Center Names Bylone Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) this week announced the appointment of Robert J. Bylone Jr. as executive director for the RMC.

Since October 2005, when Bylone began at the RMC as Recycling Program Manager, he has developed relationships with many technical assistance partners; state-wide, domestically, and internationally. Likewise, Bylone has initiated markets development activity in glass recovery options, food residuals management, plastics recovery, and tire derived products.

Before joining the RMC, Bylone was employed in the Penn State Harrisburg Environmental Training Center as a researcher and instructor on water and wastewater operations.

Prior to employment at Penn State Harrisburg, Bylone gained experience in county government, industry, and consulting, serving briefly as the Schuylkill County Recycling/Environmental Coordinator, Copperhead Chemical Company, as a project/environmental, health, and safety engineer, and at Junkins Engineering as a project engineer, with industrial environmental experience in 18 different states and over 20 types of industry.

Bylone holds Masters and Bachelors degrees in Environmental Engineering from Penn State and is registered as a US Green Building Council LEED Accredited Professional, an ISO 14000 Environmental Management Systems Provisional Auditor, and as a Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania Certified Recycling Professional with subclass certification in collection systems. He also serves as the organics committee chair for PROP.

For more information visit the [Recycling Market Center's website](#) or call 717-948-6660.

Feature

Westminster Students Present Research Findings at Slippery Rock Meeting



Dave Davis, Mallory Strickland and Kelly Conley at Erico Bridge site.

The November meeting of the [Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition](#) was a special one, featuring the presentations of 19 students from [Westminster College](#).

The students, chemistry and biochemistry majors, had been researching abandoned mine drainage at the [De Sale](#) and [Erico Bridge](#) treatment sites as part of a unique service-learning project.

Guided by assistant professor Dr. Helen Boylan, the students took advantage of a partnership with the SRWC to delve into some hands-on science. By analyzing the chemistry of water samples taken at the treatment sites, students were able to take knowledge learned in the classroom setting and apply it to the environment in the real world.

"Students use their knowledge about the chemistry of acid mine drainage and chemical testing to study the water samples," said Dr. Helen Boylan, Westminster College assistant professor of chemistry. "They provide a service to the community by partnering with SRWC, a non-profit organization, by providing them with the analytical test results of their sites. This is a win-win

situation. The students get a hands-on experience with real world samples and observe chemistry in action, and SRWC avoids the very expensive cost to hire a commercial lab for routine monitoring of their systems."

"This certainly could be an on-going project," Boylan said. "Passive treatment systems use natural processes to clean the water such as limestone rock beds. They are installed around areas that have acid mine drainage problems, and these sites need to be checked continuously to make sure they are doing their job."

Students saw this "chemistry in action" over a 3 week period, during which time they analyzed DeSale and Erico Bridge water samples both in the field and in the laboratory.

Located in Venango Township, Butler County, the passive treatment complex at Erico Bridge has been removing essentially 100 percent of the acidity, 97 percent of the iron and 81 percent of the manganese from a 500 gallon per minute abandoned mine drainage discharge.

Students who presented research findings included: Mitch Taylor, Joe Elliot, Cory Criss, Mallory Bugel, Andy Olphin, Ryan Schubenski, Durann VanGorder, Jenny Steele, Mike Gorka, Mallory Strickland, Amy Thomas, Callie Croushore, Devin Smith, Ian Yarger, Bret Myers, Kelly Conley, Ryan Schafer and Dave Davis.

"Thank you so much, students, for your interest in passive treatment technology and for all of your hard work and time dedicated to water analysis," said Margaret Dunn, SRWC. "SRWC members were energized by the Westminster College student presentations and encouraged the participants in the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition to improve the function of the passive systems treating abandoned mine drainage."

There is great promise this could become an on-going project for Westminster students and the SRWC.

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The advanced laboratory chemistry class in which the presenting students are enrolled is a part of Westminster College's service-learning projects. Funded by the Drinko Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, its goal is to enrich undergraduate education using a multitude of varied methods.

Collaborations addressing community and regional needs, including strengthening pre-K-12 education, are a major component of its work. Undergraduate research with faculty and incorporating academically meaningful community service into the curricula are often employed to full the mission of the program.

Research and travel grants and internships are afforded participating students.

For more information, contact Dr. Boylan at 724-946-6293 or send email to: boylanhm@westminster.edu.

NewsClip: [Students Present Results of Acid Mine Drainage Research](#)
(Reprinted from *The Catalyst* newsletter, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition)

Quick Clips

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

[Green Pioneer from Ross Still Blazing Trail](#)

[Carbon County Student Honored for Phone Book Recycling](#)

[Audubon House Provides Background for Exhibit](#)

[Audubon Guides Schoolyard Project](#)

[RiverQuest Group Floats Idea for Ecological Responsibility in Pittsburgh](#)

[RiverQuest: City's Newest Floating Classroom Is On Its Way](#)

[Environmental Council Sponsors Tree Sale](#)

[Penn State Offers Conservation Leadership School](#)

[Students, State College Need to Improve Recycling Habits](#)

[Carbon County Students Collect 26,300 Phone Books for Recycling](#)

[Appliance Recycling Program Funded](#)

[Berlin Ag Teacher Reaps State Award](#)

[Its Double-Digit Surge in Electricity Rates](#)

[More Electricity Costs Less](#)

[PJM Declares Wholesale Energy Markets Again Proved Competitive](#)

[Penn State Students Laud for Emissions Cuts](#)

[Cumberland Energy Savings Beat 1st Year Goal](#)

[Rendell Says Plan Aids Energy Contracts](#)

[Manure to Become Energy in Mount Joy](#)

[Holden Chairs First Hearing on Renewable Energy](#)

[Will Daylight Savings Time Save Your Wallet?](#)

[Cameron County Could Be Site of Wind Turbines](#)

[Siemens Readies Fuel Cell as Source of Power](#)

[Editorial: Global Warming Requires Drastic Changes](#)

[Airborne Soot More Harmful Than Thought, CMU Researchers Say](#)

[Candidates Go For the Green at Flower Show](#)

[Fattah Announces Plan for Trees and Energy Savings](#)

[Bucks Task Force Pegs Open Space Funding at \\$98 Million](#)

[Lancaster Communities Review Big Goal-Setting Growth Plan](#)

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[Cumberland To Join Program for Land Use, Development](#)
[State Cuts Funds for Berks County Preservation Program](#)
[Monto Allots \\$4 Million to Preserve Part of Erdenheim Farm](#)
[Conservancy Eyes Land OK'd for Homes](#)
[Restarting Growth in Region's Brownfields a Tough Sell](#)
[Happier Trail in Lancaster County](#)
[Group Builds Opossum Trail](#)
[Reviving Camp Hill Trail](#)
[Lehigh Officials Aim to Keep Lehigh Mountain Green](#)
[Tapping Maple Trees Begins in Harrison Hills Park](#)
[Attorney General Could Challenge Sludge Ordinance](#)
[Mine Agency Falls Behind on Inspections](#)
[Editorial: Safe Underground: Better Mine Inspections Mean Greater Prevention](#)
[Wildlife Day to Feature Many Slithery Subjects](#)
[Frogs May Be Saved by Detour on St. Peter's Road](#)
[Outdoor: Clean Backyard Feeders Aid Birds](#)
[State Tracks Rumors of the Return of the Eastern Cougar](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Groundwater Guardians Present Well Seminar](#)
[RiverQuest Group Floats Idea for Ecological Responsibility in Pittsburgh](#)
[RiverQuest: City's Newest Floating Classroom Is On Its Way](#)
[Up the Pine Creek](#)
[Stormwater Plans Top Watershed Issue](#)
[Allentown Has Waterfront Plan](#)
[Editorial: Initiatives That Enhance River Deserve Support](#)
[PFGC Salutes Forage, Grassland Achievers](#)
[Op-Ed: Waterways Could Benefit by New Rules](#)
[Environmental Reports Oppose River Dredging](#)
[Burying I-95 Would Enhance Delaware River Waterfront](#)
[Six Clearfield County Municipalities Receive Growing Greener II Funds](#)
[Anglers To Be Greeted By Larger Trout, Different Season Starts](#)
[17 States Announce Strategy for Brook Trout Conservation](#)
[Eastern US Strategy for Brook Trout Conservation](#)
[Potential Buyers Line Up for McCormick Island](#)
[Feds Decline to Name Longnose Sucker an Endangered Species](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Quality Board and the Fish and Boat Commission all published regulatory notices this week. Here are the details...

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice of proposed changes](#) to the State Air Quality Implementation Plan for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley 8-Hour Ozone Plan.

The Environmental Quality Board provided [notice it has accepted a rulemaking petition for study](#) on the reclassification of the Perkiomen and other streams.

The Fish and Boat Commission published a list of changes to the [Class A Wild Trout Waters list](#) and [proposed reclassification of Wild Trout Streams, Additions, Deletions and Adjustments](#) both with comments due April 9

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – March 10, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published proposed guidance on implementing the NPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Permits for Manure Storage Facilities for comment and a [revised process for review NPDES Stormwater Management Permits](#). (*Click here for more explanation*)

Draft: DEP ID: 390-2100-001. Implementation Guidance for NPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Permits and Water Quality Management Permits for Manure Storage Facilities. This guidance document was developed to provide clarification concerning the Environmental Quality Board's rulemaking on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Other Agricultural Operations (25 Pa. Code Chapters 91 and 92), published at 35 Pa.B. 5796 (October 22, 2005). Comments due: April 9.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [No-Cost Online Training Courses March/April for Cleanups](#)
- **March 9-18** – [Pennsylvania Heritage Week](#).

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- **March 12** – Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum: Update on Regional Water Management Task Force. Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **March 13** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Michael DiBerardinis to be Secretary for Conservation and Natural Resources and consider [Senate Bill 99](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) repealing the prohibition on General Fund dollars going to the Wild Resources Conservation Fund, [Senate Bill 355](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) requiring additional public review of Clean Air State Implementation Plans and their publication on the Internet and [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in statute. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:00.
- **March 13** – Senate Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Dennis Wolff to be Secretary of Agriculture. Room 8E-A East Wing. 12:00.
- **March 13** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee organizational meeting. Room 39 East Wing. 9:00.
- **March 13** – House Consumer Affairs Committee informational meeting with PUC Commissioners. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **March 13** – Joint State Government Commission Task Force on the Kilbuck Township Landslide organizational meeting pursuant to [House Resolution 897](#) (Petrone-D-Allegheny). Room 108 Finance Building. 12:00.
- **March 13** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meeting. The next scheduled meeting is June 12.
- **March 13** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. The next scheduled meeting is June 12.
- **March 14** – [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) holds its regular meeting. Will also hear a special presentation on Morrison Cove: A Watershed Under Stress. Ramada Conference Center, Altoona. 1:00.
- **March 15** – House Consumer Affairs Committee information meeting to get an overview of the electric industry with industry leaders. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **March 16** - Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs a “Building a Vision for Rural Pennsylvania” listening session. Four Seasons Produce, 400 Wabash Road, Ephrata. 10:00.
- **March 18-20**: [Governor’s Outdoor Conference](#). State College.
- **March 20** – **CANCELLED**. [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. The next scheduled meeting is April 17.
- **March 21** – Tree Care and Planting Workshop at Gifford Pinchot State Park. 10:00. Contact: Bob Deffner at R.B. Winter State Park to register by sending email to: rbwintersp@state.pa.us .
- **March 22** – House Consumer Affairs Committee informational meeting with members of the Natural Gas industry. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **April 5-6**: [Preparing for the Storm: Stormwater Solutions for PA Communities](#). State College.
- **April 13-15**: [PA Assn. Environmental Educators “No Child Left Inside” Conference](#). Wilkes-Baree.

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- **April 16** - [Environmental Issues Forum](#), Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featuring Julia Marano, Keep PA Beautiful. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **April 27-28**: West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium III. Genetti Hotel. Williamsport. Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or send email to: awolfe@tu.org .
Video Blog: [Amy Wolfe Talks About Restoring the West Branch](#).
- **May 3** – **CANCELLED**. Forestry Task Force (Joint Conservation Committee) will meet. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#) (courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

Stories Invited

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

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 Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716.

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