

# —PA— Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

---

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

April 14, 2008

---

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

---

## Coalition Proposes Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan to Meet Cleanup Mandates



This week a coalition of environmental, farm, businesses and municipal groups announced the [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to help wastewater plant ratepayers and farmers finance improvements needed to address Chesapeake Bay and statewide water quality improvement mandates while preserving economic opportunity for future homeowners and businesses.

The groups include: Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In addition, the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors and the Federation of Sportsmens Clubs voiced their support for the plan.

“For the first time, the five groups that have the most at stake in meeting the water quality mandates have put together a responsible funding plan that we hope will help end the controversy over how these projects should be paid for,” said [Matthew Ehrhart](#), CBF’s Executive Director for Pennsylvania. “This is a comprehensive package that will enable Pennsylvania to meet our Chesapeake 2000 Agreement obligations, improve statewide water quality, secure vital funds to all county conservation districts and provide for future economic development.”

### **Video Blog:** [Matthew Ehrhart’s Remarks](#)

The Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan will invest \$170 million in 2008-09 in several ways to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers and farms: \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements; \$50 million in direct cost share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (\$35 for REAP farm tax credits and \$15 million in cost share grants); \$10 million to county conservation district to expand technical assistance to farmers and \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture budget in farm programs. It also proposes reforms to the state’s nutrient credit trading program that will help to make it a viable alternative to provide for both environmental improvements to the Bay and sufficient future sewage capacity for new development.

In future years, the [Fair Share Plan](#) calls for similar investments to reduce costs for ratepayers and farmers.

This plan is the result of a unique partnership of groups with varying missions, but with similar interests and end goals who have worked together to develop solutions to a complex situation.

Representing a farming community of members across 63 counties, The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau acts on issues relating to farmland preservation, commodity pricing, tort reform, property tax reduction, health insurance reform, Sunday hunting, water rights and wildlife management. The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supports the plan and the effort to enhance water quality through on-site agricultural improvements.

"Production agriculture is facing significant and potentially devastating economic burdens, said [Joel Rotz](#), State Governmental Relations Director for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. "Farmers are trying to comply with increased regulations recently imposed under revisions to federal and state regulations governing the handling and land application of manure and other nutrients, but they cannot do it alone."

**Video Blog:** [Joel Rotz' Remarks](#)

The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association and its members have been fighting for state and federal funding to help municipalities achieve required nutrient reductions at their facilities.

"Mandated nutrient reduction under the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy for sewage treatment plants imposes a heavy financial burden on communities and ratepayers, said [John Brosious](#), PMAA Deputy Director. "Upgrade costs for 184 impacted plants are estimated at \$1 billion. With no current state or federal funding available to offset these costs it is imperative that Pennsylvania, like Maryland and Virginia, provide funding assistance to impacted communities."

**Video Blog:** [John Brosious' Remarks](#)

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts oversees numerous programs directly tied to water quality, among other environmental concerns. Funding for districts has been substantially below levels needed to provide technical assistance to farmers implementing environmental projects, meaning that on-site programs and assistance for conservation efforts have suffered.

"The current state budget proposal of \$4.31 million for FY 2008-09 falls far short of the actual funding need, said PACD Executive Director [Susan Marquart](#). "The PACD believes that it is past time for a generous increase in funding for Pennsylvania's conservation districts."

**Video Blog:** [Susan Marquart's Remarks](#)

The Pennsylvania Builders Association represents 12,000-plus member-companies from across the state. PBA's 528,000 individual members include builders, remodelers, material suppliers, subcontractors, consultants, lending institutions, utilities and others involved in the housing industry.

"The Pennsylvania Builders Association fully supports cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. The solutions that have been offered up to now will not only fail to clean up the Bay, but will severely curtail economic growth and development in large portions of Pennsylvania," said [Robert J. Fisher](#), president of R. J. Fisher and Associates, a New Cumberland-based engineering, planning and surveying firm. "A functioning, viable nutrient credit trading program, combined with a funding plan that targets money where it can make the greatest environmental impact, can provide sewage treatment plants with a stable, economically feasible alternative to costly capital upgrades and protect future economic opportunity."

**Video Blog:** [Robert Fisher's Remarks](#)

With a PA state office in Harrisburg, CBF is dedicated to restoring the Chesapeake Bay and Pennsylvania's many rivers and streams. CBF works throughout the Chesapeake's 64,000-square-mile watershed to protect and restore the Bay with programs in environmental education, resource protection and restoration.

"Pennsylvanians will be the first to benefit from making investments to meet our Chesapeake Bay obligations because it will be our streams and rivers that will be cleaner," said Matthew Ehrhart, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Office of Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "We will have cleaner, cheaper drinking water, improved recreation opportunities and quality of life, improved animal health on our farms, improved opportunities for tourism, and a legacy of clean water to pass on to our children and grandchildren."

The members of this coalition wish to acknowledge the hard work of many state leaders in bringing these issues to the forefront, developing solutions and addressing concerns of their constituents. Our coalition looks forward to working with these and other leaders to put the necessary measures in place to meet this very significant challenge.

For more information, [download a Fair Share Plan fact sheet](#) or visit the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan webpage](#).

**NewsClips:** [As Bay Deadline Looms, Coalitions Says Time to Act is Now](#)  
[Groups For Money to Help Clean Up Chesapeake Bay](#)  
[PA Asked for Money to Help Clean Up Chesapeake Bay](#)  
[Chesapeake Bay Players Proposed Joint Plan](#)  
[PA Asked for Money to Help Clean Up Chesapeake Bay](#)  
[Cleanup Plan Offered for Chesapeake Bay](#)  
[Presentation Given on Chesapeake Bay Strategy](#)  
[Scientists Say Local Stream Restoration Working](#)  
[PA Municipalities Lawsuit Calls DEP Nutrient Strategy Unlawful](#)

**Links:** [Groups Say Funding Needed to Cleanup PA Waters Going to Chesapeake Bay](#)  
[Pennsylvania Will Be First to Benefit From Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan](#)  
[Nutrient Trading Valuable Tool to Reduce Water Quality Cleanup Costs](#)

**Video Blog:** [Cleaning Up 15,000 Miles of Impaired Streams in PA](#)

**Fact Sheet: Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan**

The Fair Share Plan proposes a state-funded \$170 million plan in 2008-09 to help communities and ratepayers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and farmers statewide achieve mandated nitrogen and phosphorus pollution reductions while accommodating future economic development and providing more options for farmers, wastewater treatment plants, and future homeowners and businesses.

Here's an outline of the Plan:



**Funding to Reduce the Cost to Communities and Ratepayers**

- State would pay 50 percent of the estimated \$1 billion cost of required wastewater plant improvements as other states have done in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;
- Fair Share Plan: \$100 million per year over three years, starting in 2008-09, and \$50 million per year for next four years (duration = 7 years) to help authorities finance improvements;
- 184 plants in the Bay watershed are mandated to meet new permit requirements and without state assistance, ratepayers will carry the entire burden of these mandates.

**Direct Help to Farmers to Reduce Nutrient Runoff**

- Direct aid to farmers through statewide cost share programs to help put best management practices on the ground, thus reducing pollution and improving water quality;
- Fair Share Plan: \$35 million per year in REAP tax credits and \$15 million per year in 50 percent cost share grants for necessary practices, to be administered by the State Conservation Commission (duration = five years);
- Without active farm participation, Pennsylvania cannot meet mandated water quality improvements.

**Funding for County Conservation District Farmer Assistance**

- Provide new, on-going funding to county conservation districts to provide technical assistance and planning services to farmers statewide. These are the first steps to putting best management practices on the ground to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution;
- Fair Share Plan: \$10 million per year in new funding beyond proposed budget;
- Without expanding district programs serving farmers, Pennsylvania cannot meet mandated water quality improvements.

**Keep PA Agriculture Growing: Restore Ag Funding**

- Restore Department of Agriculture funding in 2008-09 and the future, including the Nutrient Management Fund, Research, Crop Insurance, State Conservation Commission, and Farmers' Market Development;
- Fair Share Plan: \$10 million needed in 2008-09 to keep research, education and promotion programs on track;
- This funding is critical for the health of Pennsylvania's number one industry and to meet mandated water quality improvements.

**Ensure a Workable Nutrient Credit Trading Program**

- A viable nutrient credit trading program is needed to provide sewage capacity for future economic development in large portions of Pennsylvania.
- The current system must be strengthened by adding a nutrient credit bank to provide greater stability and predictability, reduce trading risks and provide viable nutrient reduction alternatives for wastewater treatment plants and other point sources.

For more information, visit the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan webpage](#).

## **New Report Shows PA Has Nearly 16,000 Miles of Streams Not Meeting Standards**

The 2008 [Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report](#) and impaired streams listing shows that Pennsylvania has nearly 16,000 miles out of the 85,399 miles assessed and 38,357 acres of the 74,616 acres of lakes assessed do not meet water quality standards.

The Department of Environmental Protection is soliciting comments on the report, the list of impaired waters and the steps DEP is taking to cleanup these waterways.

[Comments are due May 27.](#)

The three biggest sources of water quality impairment streams remain abandoned mine drainage, runoff from agriculture operations and urban runoff/storm sewers. 5,543 miles are impaired by abandoned mine drainage, 5,234 miles by agricultural sources and 2,137 miles from urban runoff/storm sewers.

To find impaired streams in your area, visit [DEP's MapPA webpage](#).

Pennsylvania has 86,000 miles of streams and 161,445 acres of lakes and reservoirs.

For more information visit the [Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report webpage](#).

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

## **On the Hill**

---

### **On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Bills Introduced**

Here's what's coming up on the Senate and House agenda for next week, as well as the voting session schedule through June 30.

### **Session Schedule**

The Senate will return to voting session on April 28 and the House returns May 5, after the April 22 Primary Election.

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

The Senate and House published committee schedules for next week and floor Calendars when they return to voting session.—

### **Calendars**

**House (May 5):** [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) providing for a ban on dishwasher detergent with phosphates; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices; [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use

of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax.

## **Bills Introduced**

These environmental bills of interest were introduced this week—

**Presque Isle Funding:** [House Bill 2432](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) making an appropriation to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the operation of Presque Isle State Park.

**Coal Bed Methane:** [House Bill 2446](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) establishing a Coal Bed Methane Review Board.

**Electric Rates:** [Senate Bill 1352](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) providing for electric rate phase-in when electric rate caps expire in 2010.

## **Senate/House Bills Moving**

The following Senate and House bills of interest were moving this week—

### **Senate**

**Conservation Districts:** [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) to update the 1945 law creating Pennsylvania's county conservation districts was passed by the Senate and now goes to the House for consideration. *(See separate story)*

**Game Commission:** [House Bill 1214](#) (Surra-D-Elk) changing the terms of Game Commissioners from eight to four years was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

### **House**

**State Energy Office:** [Special Session House Bill 36](#) (George-D-Clearfield) creating a State Energy Office within the Department of Environmental Protection was passed by the House and sent to the Senate. Last week the House passed [Special Session House Bill 16](#) (King-D-Bucks) establishing a State Energy Office as a cabinet-level agency. The George bill is supported by the Rendell Administration.

**NewsClips:** [House OKs Bill Creating PA Energy Office](#)  
[Editorial: State Level Energy Office Makes Sense](#)

**Deer Audit:** [House Resolution 642](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) which would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to do an audit of the Game Commission's Deer Management Program was adopted by the House and now becomes effective.

**NewsClips:** [PA Deer Management to be Audited](#)  
[PA Game Commission Deer Management Audit Approved](#)  
[House OKs Deer Management Audit](#)



**Civilian Conservation Corps:** [House Resolution 648](#) (Baker-R-Tioga) Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps was adopted by the House.

**Allegheny National Forest:** [House Resolution 693](#) (Rapp-R-Warren) affirming the consent of the Commonwealth to the acquisition of Allegheny National Forest Lands is conditioned on the preservation of state and private property rights was adopted by the House.

**Lyme Disease:** [House Resolution 684](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) declaring May as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month” was adopted by the House.

**Arbor Day:** [House Resolution 696](#) (Ross-R-Chester) recognizing April 25 as Arbor Day was adopted by the House.

**Phosphate Detergent Ban:** [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) providing for a ban on dishwasher detergent with phosphates was referred to and reported from the House Appropriations Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

**Deep Mine Safety:** [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) updating the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act was amended, reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to House Appropriations Committee.

**Geospatial Council:** [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Mifflin) to establish a Geospatial Coordinating Council was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**County Waste Fee:** [House Bill 934](#) ( Scavello-D-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose a waste management fee was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

### **Senate Passes Legislation to Reform County Conservation Districts**

The Senate this week passed [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) to update the 1945 law creating Pennsylvania’s county conservation districts.

"Today, the Commonwealth's conservation districts have a wide range of environmental responsibilities. The expansion of local, state, and federal environmental protection laws and land use planning requirements over the years has greatly increased the conservation districts' role to serve the growing needs of our communities. My legislation sets forth a comprehensive roadmap that will bring our conservation districts into the 21st century," said Sen. Wonderling.

“We are thrilled with the Senate passage of Senate Bill 1020. The unanimous Senate vote confirms the bi-partisan effort and importance of this legislation to strengthen the Conservation District law,” said Susan Marquart, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

Larry Kehl, PACD President agreed. “We would like to thank the entire PA Senate for their support of Senate Bill 1020 and we are looking forward to working with PA House members for swift action on the legislation.”

The measure proposes to streamline and increase operating funds for the conservation districts, better coordinate efforts between districts, provide uniform staff capabilities, and establish fair review fees.

The bill also requires the General Assembly to provide one appropriation directly to the State Conservation Commission at a level sufficient to meet the 50 percent funding goal for certain district positions. It allows districts to receive advanced funding for certain programs and not be required to lapse unused funds.

It recommends districts apply for DCED land use assistance grants, and requests that the Commission consider alternative funds, including possible fees to support the Nutrient Management Program. The measure also requires the Department of Environmental Protection develop a training program to certify inspection personnel and improve standardization of enforcement activities.

Conservation districts advise county and local governments on land development issues, work with farmers to comply with land management laws, assist non-profit environmental organizations with watershed and conservation efforts, and review and process land development plans and permits for builders and contractors.

Many districts also administer the state's Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program, Nutrient Management laws, Floodplain Management plans, Waterways and Wetlands Protection measures, and a wide variety of environmental education and agricultural conservation programs.

It wasn't until the 1930's, in reaction to the "dust bowl", that state government became more involved in regulating agriculture as an industry. It was during this time that the Pennsylvania Legislature created the State's Conservation Commission. The initial purpose of the commission was to prevent soil erosion and help conserve water resources.

For more information on conservation districts, visit the [State Conservation Commission](#) and [PA Association of Conservation Districts](#) websites.

### **House Committee Moves Deep Mine Safety, Tables Plastic Bag Ban**

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee amended and reported out legislation updating the state's Bituminous coal deep mine safety law and tabled legislation that would ban the use of plastic bags at retail stores.

[Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) updating the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act was amended to include provisions sought by the United Mine Workers and reported from Committee. The bill was then referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

The bill is designed, in part, to prevent accidents like the one that occurred in the [Quecreek Mine in 2002](#).

"After 47 years since the last major upgrades and almost six years after the Quecreek Mine Accident, Pennsylvania now has before it a deep-mine safety law worthy of the 21st century and the 4,200 miners whose lives depend on it," said Rep. George. "Today's changes make safety the priority and make good legislation better legislation."

News media reported the Senate is unlikely to accept the changes because they feel the changes violate the agreement negotiated between the Union, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Coal Association.

[House Bill 2198](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny), banning the use of plastic bags in stores, was tabled by the Committee. In response to groups opposing the ban, Rep. Bennington said she would prepare an amendment to the bill to eliminate the ban and



require recycling of the bags instead and requested the bill be “set aside.” The Committee voted to table the bill.

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

**NewsClip:** [House Amends Mine Safety Bill, Senate Future Uncertain](#)  
[Disagreement Erupts Over Changes to Mine Safety Bill](#)  
[House Panel Amends Mine Safety Bill, But Senate OK Unlikely](#)  
[Editorial: Legislating Safety Can Be Dangerous](#)

## House Transportation Committee Holds Hearing on Diesel Idling

The House Transportation Committee this week held a hearing on [Senate Bill 295](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) that would limit the time diesel-powered commercial vehicles could idle their engines.

Testifying before the Committee, [Rep. Will Gabig](#) (R-Cumberland), who has sponsored [House Bill 1113](#) (Gabig-R-Cumberland) and [House Bill 1224](#) (Gabig) on the same issue, said, "Reports have shown that excessive idling is detrimental to air quality in Pennsylvania and represents a serious threat to the health and well-being of citizens."

He noted that it is estimated that approximately 3,000 long-haul truck loads start their journey each day in Cumberland County and another 3,000 end their trip there with approximately 60,000 commercial loads passing through each day.

[Jim Runk](#), President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, said his group supports a statewide standard for diesel idling and Senate Bill 295 because it eliminates the need for truckers to become familiar with a patchwork of local anti-idling ordinances.

[Thomas Au](#), Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania, said diesel idling at rest stops, truck stops and along highways represents a serious air pollution concern. The Board submitted a petition to the Environmental Quality Board that prompted the Department of Environmental Protection to propose a regulation limiting diesel idling.

Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air and Radiation Management [Thomas Fidler](#) proposed a series of amendments to the bill that would strengthen enforcement options, give the owners of warehouses, truck stops and commercial lots a greater role in ensuring the law would be followed and increase the penalties that could be levied against violators.

"The Department of Environmental Protection fully supports the concept of statewide idling restrictions to limit emissions from diesel-powered commercial vehicles," said Fidler. "However, the department cannot support Senate Bill 295 in its current form and recommends substantive amendments to bring this legislation in line with neighboring states and better protect the public's health."

Fidler recommended three amendments:

- Because the owners and operators of locations where diesel-powered vehicles load, unload and park often share responsibility with vehicle operators for excessive idling, they should also be accountable for causing delays;
- DEP should be given the flexibility to assess civil penalties or fines for idling restrictions under the existing framework of the Air Pollution Control Act; and

- The summary offense fines for violation of Senate Bill 295 should be increased significantly to coincide with the penalties already in place in certain parts of Pennsylvania and neighboring states.

The Environmental Quality Board is [currently promulgating regulations](#) to restrict idling under the authority of the Air Pollution Control Act. This proposed rulemaking, like Senate Bill 295, would prohibit the unnecessary idling of diesel-powered commercial vehicles—with certain exceptions—and imposes fines and penalties for violations of idling restrictions.

According to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, diesel exhaust contains significant levels of small particles, known as fine particulate matter. The fine particles pose a significant health risk because they can pass through the nose and throat and lodge in the lungs, causing lung damage and premature death. The particles can also aggravate conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

In addition to the three bills mentioned above, [Senate Bill 1095](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland) also sets limits on diesel idling.

For more information, visit DEP's [Diesel Idling webpage](#).

### **House Passes Challenge to Allegheny National Forest Oil & Gas Drilling Rules**

The House this week unanimously passed [House Resolution 693](#) (Rapp-R-Warren) that challenges new regulations imposed by the U. S. Forest Service to limit the development of private oil and gas rights within the [Allegheny National Forest](#)

"In addition to throwing up yet another unnecessary obstacle on Pennsylvania's road to foreign energy independence, I am gravely concerned that this new Allegheny National Forest management plan oversteps the limits of federal law that authorized the creation of the forest 97 years ago," said Rep. Kathy Rapp.

According to Rep. Rapp, the new rules take the form of so-called "design criteria" and "standards" in the Forest Service's latest Land Resources Management Plan for the Allegheny National Forest. Through this plan, the Forest Service is asserting new and unprecedented authority to control private oil and gas development as well as restricting producer access to their mineral rights.

"When the Commonwealth approved the creation of Allegheny National Forest, it did so with the understanding that the federal government would respect and uphold the rights and interests of the individuals and companies who share ownership of this wonderful natural resource as required by law," said Rep. Rapp. "This so-called Land Resources Management Plan completely undercuts an effective regulatory policy that was designed to keep the federal government from blatantly trespassing on both the private property and day-to-day activities of private entrepreneurs where it has no authority to do so."

As further evidence, Rep. Rapp cites the Weeks Act of 1911, the law granting the federal government the authority to purchase lands for National Forest Reserves in the Eastern United States. She explains that the federal law mandated the Commonwealth to approve the creation of Allegheny National Forest and also established firm limits on the Forest Service's authority to regulate private property rights that it did not purchase.

The Weeks Act clearly states in no uncertain terms that the Forest Service may regulate private mineral rights, easements and other private property interests associated

with purchased forest lands only to the extent that such rules and regulations are contained in the deeds conveying ownership of the lands to the United States.

Rep. Rapp maintains that the new forest management plan reverses long-standing Forest Service practices and rewrites national policy.

"Current law is crystal clear when it comes to restricting the amount of oil, natural gas and other resources that can be produced by non-government employers operating in Allegheny National Forest," said Rep. Rapp. "The Weeks Act specifically prohibits such regulation, and there is no other federal law conferring such authority to the Forest Service. The Forest Service's unwarranted decision to adopt this plan sets the stage for a lot of unnecessary litigation, and worst of all, holds the potential to seriously jeopardize future economic growth and job creation in the rural communities that comprise the Allegheny National Forest area."

Rep. Rapp's resolution states that the Commonwealth's consent to the creation of the Allegheny National Forest was based on the clear authority and restrictions contained in the Weeks Act. It also reminds the U.S. Forest Service of the limits on its authority to regulate private property within Allegheny National Forest.

"The U.S. Forest Service should step back from these misguided and uninvited new rules to embrace the proper relationship it has maintained with private natural resources producers for nearly a century," said Rep. Rapp. "That means recognizing that the federal government is neither the Chief Executive Officer, nor an equal stakeholder with private land owners or private industry. In reality, the Forest Service is a taxpayer funded servant that is legally bound from interfering with privately purchased mineral rights or private economic development."

## **Earth Day News**

---

April 22 is Earth Day and to help celebrate, *PA Environment Digest* will set aside this special section to highlight Earth Day-related programs, projects and events. Send your stories to: [DHess@CrisciAssociates.com](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com).

**Earth Day Clips:** [Citywide Cleanup Underway in Philadelphia](#)  
[Wilkes-Barre Holding Spring Cleanup](#)  
[Volunteers Needed to Tame Wild Area of Mont Alto Park](#)  
[Gordon's Cleanup Day Will Carry a Charge](#)  
[Editorial: Philadelphia City Cleanup](#)  
[Take Baby Steps to Save Earth](#)

## **Wildlands Conservancy Celebrates Earth Day In the Lehigh Valley**

In celebration of Earth Day, the Wildlands Conservancy will host and participate in numerous events throughout the Lehigh Valley promoting environmental stewardship.

"Earth Day is a wonderful opportunity for Wildlands Conservancy to talk about the local environment and make people aware of their impact and what they can do to help protect their surroundings," says Christopher Kocher, Wildlands Conservancy president.

The events include the following:

**April 13: Wild in the Parks: Slimy, Squirmy and Wearing a Mask**, South Mountain Reservoir, 2:00 p.m. They're everywhere! These little russet, or chocolate brown, or dusky

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

gray critters wearing black masks hide under leaves, crawl into rock crevices and float on the surface of vernal pools. And, the mask isn't their only disguise. Wait until you hear their voices! These slimy guys will have you thinking they are ducks! Don't miss the fun when we investigate the weird life of wood frogs! Advance Registration Required: Adults - \$10 (registered adult may bring one child free; additional children \$5).

**April 15: Salamander Search.** Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Creative, recreational and naturally entertaining. Don't miss this rare opportunity to visit a salamander breeding site. Take home: PA Amphibian & Reptile charts. Advance Registration Required: For 11+ year olds. Fee: Members - \$10; Non-Members-\$12.

**April 17: You & Me: Tadpole Tales.** Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Tadpoles. They wriggle. They squiggle. They have chubby tummies. And may bring you good luck! Craft: Tadpole beanbag game. You & Me programs are designed for 3-4 year olds and their caretakers and focus on simple but engaging activities that encourage exploration of the natural world. Advance Registration Required: M-\$10/NM-\$12 per child/adult team.

**April 18: Friday Night Out: Peeper Hike B.** South Mountain Preserve, 7:00 p.m. Our annual visit to view the tiny frogs with powerful voices. We'll search for spring peepers, salamanders and other signs of spring. Meet at the Alpine St. entrance to S. Mountain Preserve. Fee Adults -\$10/ Registered adult may bring one child free; additional children \$5 each. Register by 4/16/08.

**April 19: Great Pennsylvania Clean-up Day,** 10th & Turner Streets, Allentown, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Wildlands Conservancy will conduct activities appropriate for all ages during an event sponsored by the Old Allentown Preservation Association. These activities will include presentations featuring wildlife from our education animal group including all-time favorite, Stinky the Skunk. Wildlands Conservancy naturalists will also engage participants in a "look at litter" using field microscopes suitable for handling by children. To round out the day, the Conservancy will offer a "Your Litter Lives On and On and On..." contest that reinforces the idea that some litter remains recognizable long after it leaves your hand. Prizes will be provided by Wildlands Conservancy.

**April 19: Lehigh River Clean-up.** Bucky Boyle Park, Allentown, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The city of Allentown, in partnership with Wildlands Conservancy, is hosting their annual clean-up of the Lehigh River and its banks in the area between Tilghman Street and Hamilton Street Bridges (based out of Bucky Boyle Park, Allentown). Clean-up materials and canoes will be provided.

**April 19-20: Camp In at Pool Wildlife Sanctuary** - Junior Girl Scouts, Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, 6:30 pm Saturday to 9:30 am Sunday. We couldn't wait for the warm weather to set up our tents so...We're camping in the Education Center. We'll provide the tents, fun, an evening snack and breakfast. You bring your sleeping bag and anything else that you need to make it to morning. Before we finish, you'll have earned your Wildlife Badge. Registration by troop. \$40 per participant. 2 free chaperones per troop (10 girl minimum) – Wildlife Badge included.

**April 22: PPL Earth Day Assemblies.** Cleveland Elementary School, 424 N. 9th St., Allentown, McKinley Elementary School, 1124 W. Turner St., Allentown, 8:15 a.m., 9:20 a.m., 10:25 a.m., 1:30 p.m. at Cleveland Elementary School, 1:15 p.m. at McKinley Elementary School. Wildlands Conservancy naturalists will teach the students of Cleveland Elementary School and McKinley Elementary School about the importance of biodiversity during interactive assemblies that are sponsored by PPL. The programs – Wildlife in the City – will feature live animals. PPL will donate white pine tree seedlings in the students' names to the Lehigh County Trexler Nature Preserve. These seedlings will be the foundation of a new "Children's Forest" dedicated to the children of Lehigh County.

**April 22: Lehigh County Envirothon** at Pool Wildlife Sanctuary. Pool Wildlife Sanctuary 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Students from seven Lehigh County school districts, the Diocese of Allentown and KidsPeace will compete to represent Lehigh County at the Pennsylvania State Envirothon (May 19-20, 2008 at Penn State). Students test in the following areas: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soil & Land Use, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues.

**April 22-25: Bethlehem Earth Days.** Illicks Mill Ice Rink, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. daily. Children in grades K-12 in the Bethlehem Area School District will learn about human impact on the environment during Wildlands Conservancy's presentations during Bethlehem Earth Days events at the Illicks Mill Ice Rink.

**April 24: Lehigh County Junior Envirothon,** Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Students from 11 junior highs and middle schools in eight Lehigh County school districts will participate in the Lehigh County Junior Envirothon. Unlike the competitive Senior High Envirothon, students in this event observe presentations and then take part in noncompetitive testing in the following areas: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soil & Land Use, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues.

**April 29: Trexler Trek: Stalking Salamanders.** Trexler Nature Preserve, 2:00 p.m. Frogs aren't the only amphibians to be found out and about this early in the year. We're going to track down their often elusive cousins – the salamanders – on this trek to some out-of-the-way locations at the nature preserve. Registration: For adults and families. All children must be accompanied by a paying adult. Fee Adults -\$10 (Registered adult may bring one child free; additional children \$5 each). Register by 4/24/08.

For more information on all of Wildlands Conservancy's Earth Day Activities, please call 610-965-4397, ext. 26.

### **Join the Philadelphia 5K Run for Clean Air & Earth Day Celebration**

The 27th Annual [5K Run for Clean Air](#) will take place in Philadelphia on April 19 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Join thousands of runners and volunteers as they run to help celebrate Earth Day 2008. Free run bags and t-shirts will be given away to the first 1,000 registrants.

This annual event is organized by the [Clean Air Council](#).

## **Bethlehem Holds Week-Long Earth Day Celebration April 21-25**

Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan is leading the celebration of [Earth Day 2008](#) in a week-long series of events dedicated to teaching the importance of environmental stewardship to Bethlehem's public and private school students April 21 to 25.

Thirty-four area companies, organizations and city bureaus will dedicate the week showing what they do for our environment that is good and why it is so important.

According to Donna Albright, Earth Day Committee Co-Chair, "This year's event will build upon the successes of our first 6 years, putting this year's event over the top! Mayor Callahan added a special preview night to also bestow the value of environmental stewardship to residents. We are fortunate to have a mayor so committed to caring."

The public is invited to attend Preview Night from 3 – 7 p.m. on April 21 at the Municipal Ice Rink on Illick's Mill Road. Mayor Callahan will host the Opening Ceremony with a special presentation at 4 p.m. Public attendance is not permitted Tuesday – Friday., which is blocked for pre-scheduled school groups only.

Over three thousand students and teachers from grades K - 12 will visit Earth Day 2008 throughout six private sessions on April 22 –25.

"The organization, structure and educational standards of this event are what have earned the approval of so many educators," Mayor Callahan said. "Our goal is to have children learn the many ways that we, as individuals, can step up to the plate and help our environment. Children learn by witnessing, first-hand, how business, municipal and organizational entities resolve issues like water pollution, waste minimization and energy efficiency, to name a few. Exhibitors find this forum to be a most effective form of outreach which helps to dissolve negative, apathetic attitudes and replace them with positive, green initiatives that last. It's interesting, educational, fun and, most of all, it's rewarding. Children are given materials to review with their teacher in school and knowledge to share with their families at home, compounding the power of one."

For more information, [download the Earth Day 2008 flyer](#) or contact co-chairs Karen Dancho 610-865-7169 or Donna Albright 610-997-7631 can answer questions.

## **Want to Volunteer for a Great PA Cleanup! In Your County? Look Here!**



Help celebrate Earth Day 2008 by volunteering to be part of a Great PA Cleanup! in your county. Go to the [Great PA Cleanup! website](#) and find a litter cleanup event near you.

Last year, more than 139,000 volunteers from all 67 counties removed 7.4 million pounds of trash from roads, parks, schools, waterways, wildlife areas and communities.

The entire cleanup campaign - with a special emphasis on creating [Litter- Free School Zones](#) - will run from April 19 to May 3.

**Link:** [Join Your Neighbors, Community Groups in the 2008 Great PA Cleanup!](#)

## **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Speaks at California University of PA April 16**

The American Democracy Project at California University of Pennsylvania welcomes environmental activist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. on April 16 as part of a national initiative by



the AASCU's American Democracy Project, *The New York Times*, and Center for Deliberative Democracy.

Kennedy will speak at 7 p.m. in the Steele Hall Main Stage.

Kennedy is senior attorney for the National Resources Defense Council, chief prosecuting attorney for the Hudson Riverkeepers, and president of Waterkeeper Alliance. There is no admission charge and this event is open to the Cal U community and general public.

For more information contact Angela Burrows, Cal U Director of Public Affairs, at 724-938-1540.

## **Earth Day Online Video Feature**

---

### **Why Promote Hands-On Environmental Education? Check This Out**

Our nation's future relies on a well-educated public to be wise stewards of the very environment that sustains us, our families and communities, and future generations.

It is environmental education which can best help us as individuals make the complex, conceptual connections between economic prosperity, benefits to society, environmental health, and our own well being.

Ultimately, the collective wisdom of our citizens, gained through education, will be the most compelling and most successful strategy for environmental management.

This video by the [No Child Left Inside Coalition](#) clearly demonstrates the value of hands-on environmental education, in particular, education about how we interact with the streams, watersheds and habitats around us.

**Video Blog:** [No Child Left Inside](#)

**Online Video:** [GreenTreks Environmental Classroom – Monagacci Program](#)

## **Other News**

---

### **Lancaster County Recognizes Floodplain Restoration Publication With Award**

The [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#) recognized [LandStudies, Inc.](#) with one of seven 2007 Smart Growth Leadership Awards for its publication, "[Floodplain Restoration](#)."

The award was presented during the Lancaster County Planning Commission's Envision educational event and Smart Growth Leadership Awards Ceremony at the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in February.

"Floodplain Restoration" describes how a previously undocumented source of watershed pollution – "legacy sediments" eroded from stream channels and floodplains – were discovered through an unusual combination of history and science and how LandStudies' approach to restoration provides multiple benefits to communities and the environment.

The 11 x 17, 30-page booklet, which explains how stream systems are supposed to work, the intended interactions of stream system components, and how they can be

restored, is written and designed for broad audience – technical, scientific, and lay persons alike.

“We developed our floodplain restoration technique based on studies we conducted in numerous watersheds over the last several years,” said Mark Gutshall, LandStudies president.

Watershed assessments in the Susquehanna River Watershed have demonstrated that 50 to 80 percent of the sediment loads in certain watersheds are coming from stream beds and banks, along with the nutrient pollution they carry. Measured rates of bank erosion in the field are often exponentially greater than commonly used models indicate.

“Our work revealed stream beds and banks as a major source of sediment and nutrient pollution,” added Gutshall, “but it wasn’t until we began talking to geologists at Franklin & Marshall College who were studying land-use history that we gained a fuller understanding of how and why that happened.”

“Drs. Dorothy Merritts and Robert Walter at F&M showed us their research, recently published in the journal Science, that identified hundreds of mill dams built in the 18th and 19th centuries,” Gutshall continued, “and behind each dam, sediment had been trapped up to the height of the dam – in some cases up to 20 feet of sediment stretching hundreds of yards.

“When the dams collapsed or were removed, the old sediments were still there. The stream began cutting its way down through those sediments toward the original channel and floodplain elevations and, in the process, is carrying away significant amounts of soil.

“Our floodplain restoration technique speeds up that natural and often destructive process and returns a stream system closer to its natural, stable pattern,” Gutshall explained.

More than 200 copies of “Floodplain Restoration” were distributed in Lancaster County, throughout Pennsylvania and nationally during the two months following the first printing last September and a second printing now being distributed.

Since the documentation of legacy sediments as a pollution source, the floodplain restoration technique has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in its Stormwater Best Practices Manual and as part of its Nutrient Trading Program for the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

The agency is also in the process of developing a formal floodplain restoration Best Management Practice and is studying how to incorporate this technique into local sewage facilities planning.

LandStudies is working with several developers in the Central Pennsylvania region to incorporate floodplain restoration into their development sites to fulfill stormwater management, open space, and other requirements.

LandStudies also is working on municipal projects to apply floodplain restoration to Act 537 sewage facility planning and nutrient reduction credit generation for wastewater treatment plant projects.

“[Floodplain Restoration](#)” is available for sale by contacting [LandStudies](#) at 717-627-4440, by sending email to: [land@landstudies.com](mailto:land@landstudies.com)

## Fish & Boat Commission Awards Education Grants

Sport fishing, boating and aquatic resource education programs for today's youth received a boost this Spring with the Fish and Boat Commission awarding educational grants totaling more than \$50,000.

Ten organizations will receive Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grants from the Fish and Boat Commission to develop or expand programs that teach fishing and boating skills or educate participants about waterways and the organisms that live within them.

"The Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grants program expands on the Commission's long-standing commitment to youth education," Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Doug Austen said. "I'm excited to see some of the outcomes of these grass roots projects, as research shows that well-structured education programs such as these lead to kids increasing their interest in fishing and boating, improving their skills, and helping them build a greater sense of aquatic stewardship and outdoor ethics."

The volume and quality of applications the Fish and Boat Commission received in three rounds of grant applications exhibits a clear demand for even more of this type of programming in Pennsylvania.

Since June 2006, the Commission received 125 applications for the grants, requesting more than \$419,000. With the grants announced this week, more than 40 organizations have received more than \$150,000 in funding through the Education Grant Program.

"The challenge is to provide the resources necessary to re-engage youth in outdoor activities," Austen said. "Succeeding in this effort is critical to the future of sportfishing and building a more environmentally connected citizenry."

Increased funding for grassroots initiatives such as this grant program is one of the cornerstones of a Fish and Boat Commission initiative to expand youth-oriented programming using revenue from a youth fishing license.

[House Bill 1436](#), sponsored by Representatives Gergely (D-Allegheny) and McGeehan (D-Philadelphia) proposes a low-cost fishing license for anglers 12-15 years of age, with the revenue used to fund programs such as the Education Grants. This approach will let the grant program grow not only in dollars distributed, but also in the number of youth and adults benefiting from new and expanding programs.

[A list of grants awarded is available online.](#)

For more information on fishing education programs for kids, visit the [Fish and Boat Commission education webpage](#).



## Nine PA Communities Receive EPA Brownfields Grants

Nine communities in Pennsylvania received part of the \$74 million the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded this week in brownfield revitalization grants.

"Brownfields initiatives demonstrate how environmental protection and economic development work hand-in-hand. This funding will help the community assess, and if

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

needed, clean up an abandoned eyesore, provide employment and turn problem properties into productive reuse," said Donald S. Welsh, administrator for EPA's mid-Atlantic region.

The Pennsylvania grants include:

[Cambria County Redevelopment Authority](#): A \$200,000 brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 10 Phase I and five to 10 Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to conduct health monitoring and support community outreach activities.

[Chester County Public Safety Training Foundation](#): A \$200,000 grant to clean up a 40-acre site along Route 82 in Coatesville. When the site is cleaned up, the foundation plans to build and operate a public safety training center at the location. Training activities and site operations are expected to create 35 to 50 new jobs. Cleanup of the site also is expected to reduce environmental contamination of the nearby Brandywine Creek.

[Clearfield County Economic Development Corporation](#): Two grants, one \$200,000 for hazardous substances and \$200,000 for petroleum. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform a site inventory, conduct five Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments, and support community involvement activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

[Johnstown Redevelopment Authority](#): A \$200,000 hazardous substances assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Rosedale KOZ/Ore Yard site in Johnstown. The site was once used to store raw materials for the Bethlehem Steel Complex. Site soil is contaminated with heavy metals, including zinc, arsenic, and cadmium. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities.

[Lancaster County](#): A \$200,000 brownfields assessment grant. County officials have identified about 180 sites throughout the county that could benefit from brownfields funding including many in the urban areas of the city of Lancaster. Brownfields assessment is expected to help the county determine the extent of environmental contamination at these sites and catalyze investment in brownfields redevelopment.

[Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation](#): A \$200,000 hazardous substances grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to update a brownfields inventory and conduct about seven Phase I and about three Phase II environmental site assessments in the Lehigh Valley. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities.

[North Side Industrial Development Company, Allegheny County](#): Two grants \$200,000 hazardous substances and \$200,000 for petroleum assessments. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to develop a brownfields inventory and perform five Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Scranton: A \$200,000 brownfields assessment grant. Through informal brownfields inventory efforts, the city has identified at least 19 potential properties that could benefit from brownfields funding. Brownfields assessment is expected to help the city determine the extent of environmental contamination at the sites and catalyze investment in brownfields redevelopment.

Washington County Authority: A \$550,000 hazardous substances grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Old Dietary Building, Laurel Hall, and the General Storeroom, all part of the former Western Center at 333 Curry Hill Road. Grant funds also will be used to develop cleanup plans and conduct post-cleanup monitoring. Environmental concerns include inorganic materials, solvents, and electrical equipment components made with hazardous materials.

For more information, visit the [EPA Brownfields Grants and Funding webpage](#).  
**NewsClip:** [Scranton Gets EPA Grant to Study Brownfields](#)

### **Outdoor Lighting Workshops for Municipal Planners In April, May**

The departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council, are sponsoring three Outdoor Lighting workshops this Spring for municipal planners.

The workshops will be held from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on these dates:

- April 29 at the Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, 2910 New Holland Road. in Reading, Berks County;
- May 29 in Lehigh County, at the Lower Macungie Township Community Center at 3400 Brookside Road.; and
- June 25 in Potter County at the Gospel Tabernacle Church, 420 Route 6 West, in Coudersport.

These workshops will help define good and bad outdoor lighting, showcase equipment to help reduce glare and light pollution and provide tools for communities to protect themselves against irresponsible lighting practices.

There will also be an important discussion on the elements of an effective lighting ordinance and the process of getting such an ordinance enacted and enforced in your community. Participants will be provided information on energy waste, light trespass and ways to save on utility bills.

Although workshops will focus mainly on the needs of municipal officials, they are also open to interested members of the general public.

To register for any of the scheduled workshops, please contact DEP's Jim McTish at 484-250-5180 or send email to: [jmctish@state.pa.us](mailto:jmctish@state.pa.us) .

### **DEP Partners With 43 Groups to Recycle Fluorescent Bulbs**

The Department of Environmental Protection is partnering with 43 counties, townships, environmental groups and small businesses statewide to set up compact fluorescent collection programs.

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

More than 110 containers were purchased from Pennsylvania firms [AERC Recycling](#), based in Allentown, and Hellertown and Northampton County-based, [Bethlehem Apparatus Company](#).

Both companies shipped the receptacles directly to the participants for use in conjunction with Earth Day and other hazardous household waste collection events.

The AERC containers will hold 100-150 bulbs, and the Bethlehem Apparatus containers will hold slightly less than 100.

Once the containers are filled, participants will ship the receptacles back to AERC or Bethlehem Apparatus for the physical recycling.

DEP invited counties, municipal governments, environmental groups and other organizations to host CFL recycling containers in publicly accessible buildings. To recycle a bulb, a consumer simply needs to hand it over to a trained employee, who slides it into the container.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs can save up to 75 percent of the energy used by traditional light bulbs, said Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, but a lack of options on where to recycle the bulbs may make some consumers reluctant to adopt the increasingly popular technology.

“If all of the households in Pennsylvania changed just one incandescent light bulb to an ENERGY STAR-qualified CFL, consumers could save \$25.5 million annually on household electric bills and prevent nearly 382 millions pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year,” said Secretary McGinty. “That is the power of energy efficiency, and we need to encourage people to take advantage of that power by adopting these safe and readily available technologies as soon as possible.”

For more information on handling CFL bulbs safely, visit the [Energy Star FAQ on fluorescent light bulbs](#).

**NewsClip:** [Mahanoy Program to Recycle Light Bulbs](#)  
[State, PPL to Help Recycling Fluorescent Bulbs](#)

### **Reminder: Students Urged to Apply for Sue Wiseman Scholarship**

If you are a Pennsylvania resident, age 16 – 21, who has made an environmental impact or improvement in your community, there is still time to apply for the PA CleanWays [Sue Wiseman Scholarship](#).

Applications are due May 1.

This is an annual \$1,000 scholarship program that recognizes youth who have demonstrated leadership and shown exceptional commitment and dedication to reducing litter and illegal dumping in their community.

Application forms are available at the [PA CleanWays webiste](#) or by calling the PA CleanWays office at 877-772-3673.

### **EPA Launches Environmental Indicators Gateway Website**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week launched the [Environmental Indicators Gateway](#) website to provide enhanced public access to environmental and health information generated by EPA.

Information is presented in the context of "environmental indicators," numerical values that provide insights into the status and trends of environmental and public health



conditions over time. The Gateway establishes a single catalog of EPA's indicator work that allows browsing and searching among existing EPA websites and indicator materials.

The site allows users to browse EPA's environmental indicator reports by geography, topic area, or time period. For each report featured on the site, users can find information on key details of the project including geography, project purpose, contact information, and data quality considerations.

In addition to enhancing public access, the Gateway provides a resource for EPA and other federal agencies and partners to better coordinate their own environmental indicator work. By sharing key information and best practices among existing projects, EPA can improve its ability to generate environmental indicator information in the future.

To better accomplish the goals of [EPA's Environmental Indicators Initiative](#), EPA plans further enhancements to the site, which will improve coordination among existing indicator work and provide additional tools for accessing environmental indicators and information across EPA.

Visit the [Environmental Indicators Gateway website](#) for more information.

### **Allegheny National Forest to Offer Certified Weed Warrior Program for 2008**

People interested in becoming a Certified Weed Warrior for the [Allegheny National Forest](#) are invited to participate in a training session on April 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Slater Room in the Warren Public Library.

The training will include an introduction to invasive plants, their impacts on wildlife and other plants, identification, and control practices. The training will lead to certification as a Weed Warrior after participation in one of the upcoming Weed Warrior events.

Forest botanists have selected locations on the Allegheny NF where volunteers can work on their own to help control non-native invasive plants.

People interested in becoming a Weed Warrior, but not able to attend the training on April 17, may still learn about the Weed Warrior program by attending any of the Weed Warrior scheduled events:

- April 26: Garlic Mustard Pull and Picnic Lunch at Buckaloons Recreation Area;
- July 12: Purple Loosestrife Removal and Picnic Lunch at Point Park (Warren); and
- September 27: Invasive plant Pull and Picnic Lunch at the Buckaloons Recreation Area.

The public will be notified in advance for each event. Please contact April Moore at 814-728-6168 for additional information or to register.

Please register in advance by April 15 for the April 17 Weed Warrior training at 814-728-6168 so the Forest Service can provide enough hand-out materials.

### **Manada Conservancy Holds Native Plant Sale May 3**

Celebrate spring with [The Manada Conservancy's](#) volunteers at their 8th Annual Native Plant Sale on May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at [Meadowood Native Plant Nursery](#), 24 Meadowood Drive, Hummelstown, Dauphin County, rain or shine.

This popular annual event offers a wide variety of regional plants that are suitable for all types of landscapes in south Central Pennsylvania and ready for immediate transplanting.

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Native plants featured this year include spring blooming woodland phlox and wild pinks, Bowman's root, wild bleeding heart, marsh marigold, summer and fall blooming Culver's root, Helen's flower, bee balm, cardinal flower, tall blue lobelia, foamflower, blazing star, several varieties of black-eyed Susans, Joe-Pye weed, phlox, asters and goldenrod. Also available will be woodland spring ephemerals, ferns, grasses, and a wide selection of vines, trees and shrubs appropriate for conditions ranging from bright sun to heavy shade in wet or dry soils.

All plants are chosen for their beauty, hardiness, and wildlife value including their ability to attract butterflies, beneficial insects, hummingbirds and songbirds. Native plants are as useful for strengthening our local ecosystem as they are enjoyable, low-maintenance additions to the garden.

Manada volunteers present a broad selection of carefully cultivated plants for sale. No plants are collected from the wild; many are potted by the Conservancy volunteers. Many are difficult to find in retail garden centers.

The Conservancy's "Gardening for Nature" consultant will also be on hand along with Manada's customer service volunteers to answer questions, give planting instructions and provide horticultural advice.

Admission to the sale is free. Manada Conservancy members receive a 10 percent discount on all native plant purchases. All proceeds from the sale benefit The Manada Conservancy's Educational Program and Land Preservation Initiatives.

For more information about the sale contact the Manada Conservancy office at 717-566-4122 or send email [manadaconservancy@verizon.net](mailto:manadaconservancy@verizon.net).

### Western PA Environmental Awards Dinner May 28

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and [Dominion](#) will host the [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards](#) dinner on May 28 in Pittsburgh.

The Awards recognizes and honors outstanding achievements of organizations, businesses, and individuals in a wide range of environmental initiatives throughout the 29 county region and pays tribute to those that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence, leadership, and accomplishment in their respective fields.

The awards cover Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

Past winners have included innovative land use and development projects, energy efficiency projects, public awareness programs, pollution prevention activities, and other initiatives to protect or enhance the environment of this region.

For more information, contact Sally Tarhi by sending email to [environmentalawards@pecpa.org](mailto:environmentalawards@pecpa.org).

### The Deep and Tangled Roots of Pennsylvania's Ginseng Industry- May 15

The May 15 Rachel Carson Forum on the Future of the Environment will feature a presentation by Eric Burkhart, Instructor and Program Director with Penn State's [Shaver's Creek Environmental Center](#), on Pennsylvania's Ginseng Industry.

The Forum will start at noon in the Second Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg.

American ginseng is a native Pennsylvania forest plant whose root is collected for the international medicinal plant trade. As the prices paid for wild ginseng continue to soar, this plant is increasingly recognized at both state and federal levels as a species of particular conservation concern.

However, not much is known about the ginseng collector, or “sanger,” community in Pennsylvania, or about the impact of recent state and federal government management steps intended to encourage sustainable behaviors within this industry.

In his talk, Burkhart will share results from his research on the ginseng community and industry in Pennsylvania and the impact of management actions on these groups and outlook for American ginseng.

Burkhart will discuss: stakeholder attitudes regarding management efforts, industry behaviors which influence management program accuracy and efficacy, stakeholder and study suggestions for improving management and conservation of this culturally and economically important forest resource.

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.

### **Game Commission to Begin Accepting DMAP Applications for Deer Hunting**

Landowners looking to enroll in the Game Commission's [Deer Management Assistance Program \(DMAP\)](#), which is designed to help landowners manage deer on their properties, have until July 1 to submit an application.

Eligible lands for DMAP are: public lands; private lands where no fee is charged for hunting; and hunting club lands owned in fee title so long as the club was established prior to January 1, 2000, and they provide a club charter and list of current members to the agency.

Coupons for DMAP antlerless deer harvest permits are issued to landowners at a rate of one coupon for every five acres in agricultural operations or one coupon for every 50 acres for all other land uses. Management plans are required only when an applicant for DMAP requests more than the standard rate for issuance of DMAP harvest permits.

Landowners must designate their boundaries in a manner approved by the Game Commission. Landowners will receive one coupon for each DMAP permit allocated for their property, and they may give up to two DMAP coupons per DMAP area to a licensed hunter, who will then apply to the Game Commission for DMAP harvest permits.



Landowners may not charge or accept any remuneration for a DMAP coupon. Hunters may possess up to two DMAP permits for a specific DMAP property in any given license year.

DMAP permit allotments will be made separate from the general antlerless deer license allocations, and will be \$10 for residents and \$35 for nonresidents.

After August 1, hunters can begin to apply for DMAP antlerless deer permits. Also on August 1, a listing of DMAP properties that have available coupons will be posted on the [agency's website](#).

Those without access to the Internet can obtain listings by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with a letter indicating their county of interest, to the Game Commission Region Office responsible [for that particular county](#).

### **Peregrine Falcon Banding Event – View it Live May 22**

The Department of Environmental Protection and Game Commission this week announced that its annual [Peregrine Falcon banding event](#) will be held from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., May 22 in the Rachel Carson State Office Building's auditorium in Harrisburg.

Viewers can watch the event live through a webcast on [DEP's website](#). You can watch past falcon banding events through the [Falcon Focus GreenTreks webpage](#).

Although not a public event, mid-state teachers, non-formal educators and students will attend the event where biologists will weigh and band the newly-hatched nestlings, called eyases.

When the falcon eggs hatch, the young falcons will “pip” through their shells, after which the female will eat the shells to clean the nest and regain calcium. On May 22, biologists will retrieve the young peregrines from the nest located on the 15th Floor of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

Students and teachers will witness the biologists placing an alphanumeric metal band around the left leg each of the eyases' with a falcon-specific code. The band code will be used by wildlife officials to monitor the birds once they leave the nest. In addition, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife band will be placed on the eyases' right leg registering each on a federal banding database.

This banding is a unique opportunity for teachers and students to witness firsthand wildlife management techniques to reintroduce and monitor endangered species in the Commonwealth.

Since 1997, a pair of Peregrine Falcons have made their home on the 15th Floor of the Rachel Carson State Office Building. In Pennsylvania, Peregrine Falcons, a state endangered species, were extremely rare for many years. Yet, through reintroduction programs, Peregrines have adapted to life in urban environments like Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Williamsport.

Each year, DEP and the Game Commission track the activities of these amazing birds of prey and share educational information with the world.

The falcon pair successfully has reproduced since 2000, and this spring, the female falcon again laid a clutch, or nest, of five eggs. This is the third straight year that the



female has laid clutch of five eggs. Egg production is determined by nutrition, which indicates that there is a high-quality food base, and the male is an adept hunter and provider.

For more information about the Peregrine Falcon banding event, contact DEP's Environmental Education and Information Center at 717-772-1644 or send email to: [adevine@state.pa.us](mailto:adevine@state.pa.us).

**Links:** [Pittsburgh Falcon Nest](#)  
[Peregrine Falcon Lays Eggs in Allentown](#)

**Online Video:** [Falcon Focus GreenTreks webpage](#).

### **Brian Hill Takes Position With Richard King Mellon Foundation in Pittsburgh**



Brian Hill, President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, is taking a new position with the Richard King Mellon Foundation as Program Officer effective May 5.

Hill became acting President of PEC in December 2005 and President in April 2006. Prior to that in 2004 and 2005 he worked as an executive policy specialist for Governor Rendell. He also served as senior vice president for watersheds for the Council and as director for the PEC French Creek Project based in Meadville, Pa.

During his tenure as president, Hill was instrumental in launching the [Keystone Green Investment Strategy](#) in the State Treasurer's Office that invests state funds in developing green technologies and renewable energy sources, unveiled a unique stakeholder-driven [Climate Change Roadmap](#) for Pennsylvania and pushed legislation to create a climate change action plan for the state, promoted increased [transit and transportation funding](#), opposed steps to [divert environmental funding](#) to other purposes, promoted [innovative public-private partnerships](#) to accomplish environmental objectives, helped develop and promote adoption of the [Great Lakes Compact](#) in Pennsylvania, pushed for a state program to invest in [renewable energy and energy efficiency](#), encouraged the use of new tools like [nutrient credit trading](#) to reduce the cost of cleaning up streams and rivers and developed new venues for honoring organizations [promoting environmental excellence](#).

Previously, Hill served as director of the Western Pennsylvania Office of PEC in Pittsburgh for six years developing a wide variety of environmental educational programs, including workshops and seminars on solid and hazardous waste management, the reuse of industrial sites, and land use policy in Pennsylvania.

Hill is a past chairman of the Citizens Advisory Council to the Department of Environmental Protection and has served as a member of the Environmental Quality Board. He received his B.S. in environmental science from Allegheny College and his M.S. in natural resource management from the University of New Hampshire.

### **PA Bar Association Honors Former DEP Counsel for Distinguished Service**

The Pennsylvania Bar Association this week presented its 2008 Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession to former DEP Assistant Chief Counsel Dennis Strain.



Strain was honored for his 33 years of service to the commonwealth at the association's annual Environmental Law Forum held April 9-10 in Harrisburg.

Prior to his retirement earlier this year, Strain served as DEP's Assistant Chief Counsel and Litigation Coordinator in the Office of the Chief Counsel. He joined DEP in 1974 as an assistant counsel in the department's Southwest Regional Office in Pittsburgh.

In addition to representing the department's mining, waste management and water quality programs, he also handled many enforcement matters, litigating increasingly complex and important cases, achieving success before the Pennsylvania Supreme and federal courts.

In 1986, he was transferred to DEP's central office in Harrisburg to take on the role of Litigation Coordinator, and in 2004, he was appointed as an Assistant Chief Counsel. During this time, he was one of the department's representatives on the Environmental Hearing Board Rules Committee, and he developed great expertise in e-commerce and electronic discovery issues, making him one of DEP's primary counselors in those matters, as well as with questions relating to Right to Know Law.

### **Help Wanted: CBF Seeking Susquehanna Watershed Education Program Educator**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation seeks an educator/assistant manager in Harrisburg for the SWEP mobile canoe program.

The [Susquehanna Watershed Education Program](#) is a one-day, hands-on, active and educational experience designed to provide students with the opportunity to investigate and explore a local waterway and learn about its connection to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This mobile canoe program explores the rivers, creeks and lakes of Pennsylvania.

Participants learn about water quality through chemical and biological analysis. They discuss the effects that pollution, agriculture and poor land use have on the Susquehanna River and its tributaries. They will also learn what watershed issues are affecting the waterway they are paddling. They will study the area's plants and wildlife and investigate water quality.

The "canoeing classroom" affords students the opportunity to discover how they can take action to help preserve and restore the watershed. The program manager and assistant manager travel extensively throughout Central Pennsylvania to canoe some of the most scenic tributaries in the watershed.

To apply, please send resume, cover letter and salary history by April 25 to: Laura Burrell Baxter, Director of Education Operations, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403 or send email to: [lbaxter@cbf.org](mailto:lbaxter@cbf.org).

### **Governor's Advisory Council Seeks Candidates for Game Commission Board**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation is seeking a qualified candidate to represent southwestern counties in District 2 on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's board of directors.

District 2 includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Applications are due May 7.

"We need someone who knows about wildlife conservation and restoration and who is adept at listening to the needs and concerns of the hunting, trapping and



conservation community," said Ed Grasavage, chairman of the council's game and wildlife subcommittee. "We're reaching out to sportsmen and women of the district in an attempt to find highly qualified candidates interested in interviewing for the position."

Roxanne Palone, of Waynesburg, Greene County, currently represents District 2. Her term expires in November.

Commissioners serve eight-year terms without compensation. They receive travel reimbursement and are not eligible for reappointment.

Candidates will first interview with the game and wildlife subcommittee of the advisory council and will be rated on their responses, as well as on their professional and volunteer experience with wildlife conservation, youth recruitment and hunter retention, land conservation and other similar activities. All applicants must live in the district.

Gov. Rendell will select the final candidate to be presented for Senate confirmation. Individuals interested in applying should send a résumé and detailed cover letter explaining their desire to serve to Robb Miller, Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., 7th Floor, P.O. Box 8767, Harrisburg, Pa 17106-8767.

## Grants & Awards

---

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

- **April 25**— DCNR [Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants](#)
- **May 1**— [PA CleanWays' Sue Wiseman Student Scholarship](#)
- **May 2**— [Friend of the Lehigh River Awards](#)
- **May 2**— [DCNR Volunteer Forest Firefighter Grants](#)
- **May 5**— [Fish & Boat Commission State Wildlife Grant Program](#)
- **May 16**— [DEP Growing Greener Watershed, Flood Protection Grants](#)
- **May 20** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **May 28**— [ConocoPhillips Energy Prize](#)
- **June 13**— [EPA Clean Diesel Program Grants](#)
- **June 16**— [Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest](#)
- **June 20**— DEP [Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)

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

## Quick Clips

---

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

[Slippery Rock Students Vote to Pay \\$5 Fee for Environment Loss of Energy Grant Will Hurt Many](#)

[Editorial: Rendell Should Rethink the LIHEAP Cutoff](#)  
[Editorial: Heating Assistance](#)  
[Change to Green is Viewed as a Business Opportunity](#)  
[Today, Green is Good](#)  
[People Can Make Money While Saving the Earth](#)  
[PNC Bank Branch is Showcase of Green Engineering](#)  
[Keystone Theatre Performs Green Renovations](#)  
[Editorial: Harness Nature to Save Energy and Money](#)  
[House OKs Bill Creating PA Energy Office](#)  
[Editorial: State Level Energy Office Makes Challenges More Transparent](#)  
[Area Landowners Seeing Benefits from Oil and Gas Exploration](#)  
[Editorial: We've Become More Dependent on Foreign Oil](#)  
[Snipes Farm to Soak Up Solar Power](#)  
[Solar Power Touted at Bucknell](#)  
[Several Factors Fuel Mess Over Diesel](#)  
[Biodiesel, Sneak Peek](#)  
[Editorial: PA Cities Deserve Attention](#)  
[Editorial: Climate's Nature](#)  
[Op-Ed: Climate-Change Solutions Lie Beyond Self-Interest](#)  
[Delaware County Recycles Award](#)  
[State, PPL to Help Recycling Fluorescent Bulbs](#)  
[PUC Puts Off Vote on PPL Electric Rate Phase-In Plan](#)  
[Chestnut Tree Seeds Sown, Now It's Up to Nature](#)  
[Dorothy the Falcon Scores New Beau](#)  
[PPL Peregrines Trying to Hatch History](#)  
[Bats' Death May Mean More Bugs, Less Food](#)  
[Great Backyard Bird Count 2008](#)  
[PA Deer Management to be Audited](#)  
[PA Game Commission Deer Management Audit Approved](#)  
[House OKs Deer Management Audit](#)  
[Milford Spends \\$2 Million to Preserve Woodlands](#)  
[Strasburg Twp. To Buy 129-Acre Farm for Park](#)  
[Op-Ed: Preserve Cherry Valley as National Wildlife Refuge](#)  
[Conservation Group Urges Land Buys at Valley Forge, Other Parks](#)  
[In Primary, It's Not Easy Being Green](#)  
[DEP Prepares to Launch Annual Black Fly Control Program](#)  
[Editorial: Land Use Timeout](#)  
[Billboard Opponents Seek Switch to Federal Court](#)

## **Watershed NewsClips**

---

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

[Retired DEP Worker Focused on Environmental Activism](#)  
[Scientists Say Local Stream Restoration Working](#)  
[What's Best for Brookies?](#)  
[Streaming In- Yellow Breeches Creek](#)

[Four Mile Creek Ecosystem Gets Makeover](#)  
[80 Percent of Trout-Stocked Streams Remain on Private Property](#)  
[Call to Release Water Panned as Not Enough](#)  
[Berks County Conservation District Presents Annual Honors](#)  
[Bill Would Assist Farmers in Switch to Organic Crops](#)  
[Lancaster County Farmers Planting But Not Digging In \(No-Till\)](#)  
[Swatara Creek Floods Don't Discourage Life](#)  
[Wyoming County Takes Steps to Complete Stormwater Plan](#)  
[Wyoming County Supports Streambank Project](#)  
[Reducing Stormwater Flooding](#)  
[Movie Carries Warning for Our Rivers](#)  
[Camp Appeals Ruling Keeping Rafts Off Yough](#)  
[Editorial: High Cost of Clean Water in Delaware Basin](#)  
[Agency Revises Lehigh River Water Flow to Protect Fish](#)  
[Despite Cost, State Aims to Fix Water, Sewer Issues](#)  
[Mine Treatment System Sabotaged](#)  
[Reading Panel Reviews Plans for \\$1 Billion RiverView Project](#)  
[Refilling of Lake at Lyman Park Begins](#)  
[Lake Managers Begin Self Testing Water](#)  
[Letters: Time for Action on Great Lakes](#)  
[PA Municipalities Lawsuit Calls DEP Nutrient Strategy Unlawful](#)  
[Analysis: Water Woes Rising](#)

## **Regulations**

---

The Environmental Quality Board, Department of Environmental Protection and Game Commission all gave notice of regulation changes this week. Details follow.

The Department of Environmental Protection published a notice to generator owners of renewable energy qualifying resources and demand side management energy efficiency qualifying resources that [ozone season allowance applications are due](#).

The Environmental Quality Board published for comment general air pollution control provisions and other changes needed to implement the Clean Air Interstate Rule. ([Pa Bulletin pg. 1705](#))

The Environmental Quality Board [meets to consider final regulations](#) setting stream redesignations, changes to surface mining program, mine opening blasting and coal mine reclamation fees and bonds on April 15.

The Game Commission [published proposed season and bag limits](#) for wild boar (feral swine) for comment.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 12, 2008](#)

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

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

---

The Department of Environmental Protection [published final guidance](#) on evaluating wastewater discharges in intermittent streams, notice that a general permit for erosion control is [available for oil and gas exploration](#) and an updated list of those certified to perform radon-related activities (*Pa Bulletin pg. 1776*) . The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [published revised fees](#) for camping activities within State Parks.

DEP ID: 391-2000-014. Policy and Procedure for Evaluating Wastewater Discharges to Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams, Drainage Channels and Swales and Storm Sewers. This document provides guidance on the Department's process for evaluating and permitting wastewater discharges to intermittent and ephemeral streams, drainage channels and swales and storm sewers.

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

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

---

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

- **April 14**—[PA Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) meeting. Dixon University Center, 2986 N. Second St., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **April 14**— Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. (*Executive Order*)
- **April 15**—[Environmental Quality Board meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **April 15**—[DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **April 17**— DCNR [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **April 17**— Sewage Task Force, [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) meeting. Penn State, State College. 10:00.
- **April 18**—**NEW**. DEP [Statewide Water Resources Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. Harrisburg. 9:30.
- **April 18**—PEC [Water Trail Working Session Conference](#).
- **April 18**—DEP [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board](#) meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **April 19**— Protecting Our Headwaters Streams and Wetlands-What You Can Do. Cedar Crest College, Allentown. 10:00-3:00. Contact: Barbara Benson, 610-282-33611 or send email to: [barbarabenson@bensonsails.com](mailto:barbarabenson@bensonsails.com) .
- **April 22**— . Primary Election Day / **Earth Day**
- **April 23**—**NEW**. DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **April 23**—**NEW**. DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 2nd Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **April 23**— [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) meets to consider increase in consumptive water use mitigation fee. Fish and Boat Commission office, 1601 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **April 30**— [House Republican Policy Committee](#) hearing on the cost of implementing the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Cleanup Strategy. Pennsylvania College of Technology. Williamsport. 1:00.
- **April 30**—House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee hearing on [House Bill 1908](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) relating to liability for opening private lands to recreation. Patton Volunteer Fire Company, Patton. 10:00.
- **May 8**—**NEW**. Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. (*[Executive Order](#)*)
- **May 13-15**—[PA Water/Wastewater Association](#) annual conference. Valley Forge.
- **May 14**—**NEW**. DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **May 15**—**NEW**. House Labor Relations Committee hearing on the Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act. Bridesburg Rec. Center, 4625 Richmond St., Philadelphia. 11:00.
- **May 28**—**NEW**. DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **May 28**— [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#). Pittsburgh.
- **June 10**—**NEW**. DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 10th Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

### [DEP Calendar of Events](#)

### [Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

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

## Helpful Web Links

---

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

[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](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://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. All rights reserved.

## Supporting Member PA Outdoor Writers Association

---

*PA Environment Digest* is a supporting member of the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association](#).