

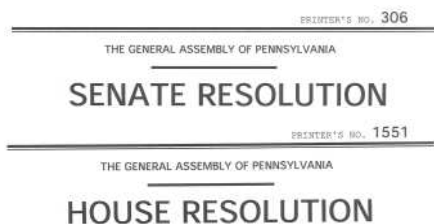
— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

April 17, 2006

Senate and House Set to Recognize May as Watershed Awareness Month



Resolutions have been introduced in both the Senate and House to designate May as “Watershed Awareness Month.”

In the House, Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield), the Majority and Minority Chairs of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and over 66 other members,

sponsored [House Resolution 711](#).

In the Senate, Sen. James Rhoades (R-Schuylkill), as well as Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), the Majority and Minority Chairs of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and over 27 other members are sponsors.

Adopting the theme of “**The Power of Positive Action is Restoring Our Watersheds**,” the resolutions recognize the critical contributions local watershed groups make to improving water quality.

They say in part-- “The Commonwealth recognizes and celebrates the efforts of hardworking volunteers within watershed groups who improve their communities today and for future generations”

Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session on April 18, the House returns April 24.

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- Senate Environmental Committee Sets Hearings on Mercury Emissions Reduction

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See & Hear

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Feature

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- 12 Winners of Governor Award for Environmental Excellence Announced

Go To the Watershed Awareness Month Events Section

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

On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda/Bills Moving

Here's the rundown of what's on the calendars and in committees—

Calendars

The House will start with these bills of interest on its April 24 Calendar--[Senate Bill 881](#) would tighten the definition of “blight” to prohibit local governments from using eminent domain authority to take private businesses; [House Bill 1588](#) providing for the fluoridation of public water; [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment; [House Resolution 661](#) designating May as “Lyme Disease Awareness

Month;” and [House Resolution 679](#) designating May as “Drinking Water Awareness Month.

Senate/House Bills Moving

With the Senate and House out of session this week, there was no movement on environmental legislation, but the Governor did sign two bills on his desk. Here’s the rundown.

Bills on Governor’s Desk

Ecoterrorism: [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) establishing penalties for ecoterrorism was signed into law by Gov. Rendell this week.

Water Shutoff: [House Bill 893](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) establishing procedures for shutting off water service for nonpayment of sewer bills was signed into law by the Governor.

Bills Introduced

Arbor Day: [House Resolution 706](#) (Marsico-R-Dauphin) designating April 28 as Arbor Day.

Watershed Awareness Month: [House Resolution 711](#) (Adolph-R-Delaware, George-D-Clearfield) designating May as Watershed Awareness Month. (*not yet online*)

Senate Environmental Committee Sets Hearings on Mercury Emissions Reduction

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee announced this week it will hold two days of hearings on the issue of reducing mercury emission reductions from coal-fired power plants.

The hearings will be held April 25 and May 2.

The agendas have not yet been posted, but will be available through the [Committee’s webpage](#).

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held a [hearing on the mercury issue in February](#).

In Other News

Pennsylvania Now Under Drought Watch, Conservation Urged

The Department of Environmental Protection this week issued a drought watch for all 67 counties in Pennsylvania calling on residents to voluntarily reduce water use by 5 percent.

"Despite recent rainfall, precipitation levels over the last two months are below normal in every corner of the commonwealth," DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty said. "Two-



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thirds of our counties are 50 percent or more below their normal precipitation levels. The remaining counties are reporting a deficit of at least 25 percent.

"Although conservation is a year-round responsibility, now is the time for residents to manage water resources even more carefully to avoid serious problems if precipitation levels do not return to normal in the coming weeks," McGinty said.

In addition to below normal precipitation, groundwater and surface water levels are low in many regions of the state. Even in areas with normal or near-normal groundwater and surface water levels, those levels are declining rapidly.

The Susquehanna River is 65 percent below its normal flow. Several streams and rivers recently posted record low flows for this time of year, including: Loyalhanna Creek, Westmoreland County; the Clarion River, Clarion County; Dyberry Creek, Wayne County; the Schuylkill River, Schuylkill County; Muncy Creek, Sullivan County; and onodoguinnet Creek, Cumberland County.

Public water suppliers, businesses and industries should monitor supplies during this drought watch period. Water-intensive commercial users should try to conserve water.

A drought watch is the lowest of three levels of drought status, asking for a 5 percent reduction in water use by residents. The next stage, a drought warning, calls for a voluntary reduction of 10 percent to 15 percent. A drought emergency, the final stage, includes mandatory water use reductions of at least 15 percent. Pennsylvania's last declared drought emergency was in 2002.

All 67 Pennsylvania counties have been in normal status since seven counties on the western edge of Pennsylvania were upgraded from a drought watch to normal on June 18, 2003. With that upgrade, it was the first time since August 8, 2001, that the entire state was normal.

For tips on how you can save water, visit DEP's online [Drought Information Center](#). For information on stream, groundwater and precipitation levels, see the [story from last week's PA Environment Digest](#).

NewsClips: [Drought Watch Declared in PA](#)
[PA Declares Statewide Drought Watch](#)
[Dry Spell Worry Grows Across State](#)
[Drought Watch Tempers Weather Bliss](#)
[Dry Conditions Spark Worries About Wildfires](#)

\$1.8 Million Grants Will Promote Water Quality Trading, Legacy Sediment Solutions

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced a series of grants designed to promote the establishment of a water quality credit trading program and solutions to the legacy sediment problem.

Conservation districts in Chester, Dauphin and Bradford counties will receive \$225,000 to assist in certifying credits and implementing best management practices on farm operations to generate credits for the nutrient trading program.

The credits can be sold to developers or treatment facilities faced with the challenge of reducing nutrient loads to meet state and federal permitting requirements. When credits are sold,



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farmers will be reimbursed for the loads they reduced through best management practices implementation.

Consistent with that approach, the conservation districts in Cumberland and Lancaster counties will take it one step further, bringing together the sewage treatment plants, developers and other sources in need of nutrient reduction credits with the farm community. Cumberland County will receive \$200,000 and Lancaster County will receive \$150,000 to support this effort, providing a cost-effective solution to meet nutrient loading goals, as well as protect the land and water resources of both counties.

To maintain these aggressive nutrient reduction efforts, a \$425,000 revolving fund will be established, providing a framework to continue to support a market for credits generated through conservation practices. The revolving fund will be used only for the installation of credit-generating BMPs. The credit income derived from the sale of these BMPs will replenish the fund for the cost of additional implementation of conservation practices on farm operations, thus creating and sustaining a healthy bank of credits.

The trading program will help Pennsylvania meet its obligations to reduce nutrients and sediments going to the Chesapeake Bay by 38 million pounds a year by 2010.

[Legacy Sediments](#): In addition, Franklin & Marshall College will receive a \$130,000 grant that will support research efforts to characterize the occurrence, distribution, nutrient characteristics and environmental impacts of legacy sediments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Legacy sediment is sediment that has been eroded and stored in valley bottoms during centuries of intensive land clearing, agriculture and milling.

Building on the Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environments initiative, or ACRE, the Governor awarded an additional \$700,000 for enforcement through the conservation districts. This effort coincides with DEP's focused effort to ensure compliance with existing prohibitions against unpermitted discharges to Pennsylvania waters under the state's Clean Streams Law.

Funding for all the grants announced comes from the Environmental Stewardship Fund. In executing the contracts for the grants, DEP will specify trading rules for the projects, including ratios, thresholds and baselines.

Visit DEP's [Chesapeake Bay Strategy webpage](#) for more information.

Photo: Santo Domingo Creek, Lancaster County. Courtesy [LandStudies, Inc.](#)

Links: [Senate and House Hold Hearings on Chesapeake Bay Strategy](#)
[Water Credit Trading Moves Forward With Reverse Auction on Conestoga](#)
[Pfizer, Community Show Benefits of Nutrient Trading Efforts](#)

DEP Stormwater Manual Published for Comment, Hearings Set

The Department of Environmental Protection has [published notice](#) that a new draft of the Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual is available and has scheduled public meetings to answer questions and accept comments.

The purpose of the draft manual is to establish recommended guidance for stormwater management utilizing best management practices in Pennsylvania.

The hearings will be held on--

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- May 2 - Allegheny County: [Ross Township Municipal Building](#), 1000 Ross Municipal Dr., Pittsburgh. The 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. meeting will be held in the gymnasium. The 6 p.m.-9 p.m. meeting will be held in the Commissioner's Meeting Room.
- May 4 - Dauphin County: Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Both the 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m. meetings will be held in the second floor auditorium.
- May 8 - Lehigh County: [Lehigh Carbon Community College](#), Schnecksville Campus (Main Campus), 4525 Education Park Drive, Schnecksville. Both the 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. meetings will be held in Room 8113/8115 of the Administration Building.

Due to the increased need to improve water quality and protect water resources through improved stormwater runoff management, the draft manual will provide the planning concepts and design standards to guide local and state governments, planners, land developers, contractors, and others involved with planning, designing, reviewing, approving, and constructing land development projects in meeting those needs.

The draft manual advances the most recent innovations in stormwater management focusing on preserving onsite and offsite pre-construction hydraulic conditions, including volume and rate management through local onsite management. Water quality components composed of structural and non-structural techniques and technologies are emphasized and integrated into the draft manual.

Model Ordinance. In an effort to coordinate stormwater management identified in the draft manual, DEP also will publish a draft Stormwater Management Model Ordinance at a later date. It is anticipated that the draft Stormwater Management Model Ordinance will be discussed at the public meetings.

DEP will accept public comments on the draft manual until June 14.

Written statements should be sent to: Chief, NPDES Construction and Erosion Control, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Watershed Management, Division of Waterways, Wetlands and Stormwater Management, P.O. Box 8775, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8775. Comments may also be sent electronically to: epstormwatermanual@state.pa.us .

DEP said a copy of the draft Stormwater Manual will be posted in the [“Announcements” section](#) of its Stormwater webpage.

Rendell Calls for Suspension of Legislation Transferring Delaware River Waterfront

Gov. Rendell this week called for the temporary suspension of any legislation that would require the commonwealth to convey state-owned property along the Delaware River waterfront in Philadelphia to private entities.

“Increased interest by private developers in commonwealth property along the Delaware River has led to a proliferation of bills to hastily transfer ownership,” Gov. Rendell said. “To protect the quality of life of Pennsylvanians who live near this land, we need to take a step back and reevaluate our policies regarding the conveyance of waterfront or riparian rights to ensure that we do not negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods or infrastructure.

“I also want to protect our business interests. Pending the outcome of gaming licenses and their locations, Pennsylvania has the potential to command higher prices for

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these parcels of property and I'm all for protecting the best interests of the taxpaying public.”

While such legislation to convey riparian rights had been relatively infrequent, the state Department of General Services has recently seen a resurgence in such bills. As part of its responsibilities, DGS is charged with implementing legislation that authorizes the conveyance, by deed or long-term lease, of the commonwealth's riparian rights.

Gov. Rendell said this suspension would enable various state agencies and members of the General Assembly to reexamine the riparian policy so that it does not impact in any negative manner the best interests of Pennsylvanians. The Governor's Office of General Counsel, the Governor's Policy and Legislative Offices, as well as DGS and Department of Environmental Protection would work together to refine the policy.

May 18 Workshop on Riparian Buffers and Invasive Plants

The departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources will hold a workshop on Riparian Buffers and Invasive Plants at the [Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center](#) in Berks County May 18.

Topics to be covered include invasive plant identification, control of invasive plants and establishing and maintaining a riparian buffer.

The course is designed for conservation districts, watershed groups, municipalities, master gardeners and landowners. Attendees will receive wildflower field guide, a tree identification book, a riparian invasive plant identification book and many other useful materials.

To register, contact Ryan Zerbe, Berks County Watershed Specialist, 610-372-4657 x 208 or send email to: rzerbe@countyofberks.com .

Spending Plans for Wastewater, Drinking Water Projects Up for Public Review

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) that the spending plan for wastewater and drinking water projects for federal fiscal year 2006 is now available.

A public hearing on the plan is set for May 24 at 1 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg.

Comments on the plan are due by May 23.

[PennVEST and DEP said the 2006 plan will be available online.](#)

Exams for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers Set

The State Board for the Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers has published a schedule of upcoming certification exams.

[The schedule is available online.](#)

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

Attorney General Corbett Provides Grants from Fines to Watershed Groups

Attorney General Tom Corbett announced this week the distribution of \$15,000 to community and environmental organizations in Tioga County as the result of a criminal case prosecuted by the Attorney General's Environmental Crimes Section.

General Corbett said the \$15,000 environmental contribution is part of the sentence handed down in Tioga County Court of Common Pleas against Casella Waste Management of PA Inc.

According to the criminal complaint, Casella Waste Management repeatedly accepted more than the permitted amount of waste at a transfer station located at 200 Tioga St., Wellsboro. The defendant also was charged with failing to accurately record the amount of waste received at the transfer station between July 2000 and July 2002.



Representatives from Casella Waste Management entered pleas of nolo contendere to two misdemeanor counts of unlawful conduct under Pennsylvania's Solid Waste Management Act.

In addition to the \$15,000 environmental contribution, Casella Waste Management also was sentenced to pay a fine of \$35,000 to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Solid Waste Abatement Fund.

"As Attorney General, I am committed to investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes throughout the state," Corbett said. "In addition to holding violators accountable for their actions, it is important that we work to direct settlement funds into conservation, education and public safety efforts that will benefit all Pennsylvanians."

Corbett said the \$15,000 environmental contribution is being distributed to three non-profit organizations supporting various projects in Tioga County:

- [Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group](#), located in Wellsboro, will receive \$5,000 for reclamation and other services along the Pine Creek and the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon.
- [Babb Creek Watershed Association](#), located in Williamsport, will receive \$5,000 for reclamation and other services to reduce acid mine drainage and restore the Babb Creek in Tioga County.
- [Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy](#), located in Williamsport, will receive \$5,000 to support preservation and conservation of waterways, forests, wildlife habitat and historic sites in Tioga County.

Clearfield County Environmental Groups Receive Grants from Penalties

Attorney General Tom Corbett announced the distribution of \$7,500 to community and environmental organizations in Clearfield County as the result of a criminal case prosecuted by the Attorney General's Environmental Crimes Section.

Corbett said the \$7,500 environmental contribution is part of the sentence handed down today in Clearfield County Court of Common Pleas against John P. Niebauer Jr., 63, of 611 Devonshire Dr., State College, and his company, Delta Excavating and Trucking Company.

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According to the criminal complaints, Niebauer, and his company, allegedly dumped and buried construction and demolition waste without a permit on land that Niebauer owned in Boggs Township and Wallacetown Borough, located in Clearfield County. Niebauer and his company were charged with unlawfully dumping, storing and transporting solid waste without a permit and constructing or operating a solid waste disposal facility without a permit.

Corbett said Niebauer and Delta Excavating and Trucking pleaded no contest on Tuesday, April 11, to misdemeanor counts of unlawful conduct under Pennsylvania's Solid Waste Management Act.

Corbett said Niebauer and his company were ordered to pay fines and restitution in addition to the \$7,500 environmental contribution.

As part of the sentence, Niebauer was ordered to pay a \$55,000 fine to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Solid Waste Abatement Fund. Delta Excavating and Trucking Company was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine to the Solid Waste Abatement Fund along with \$12,133 restitution to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for costs related to the investigation.

"Environmental crimes harm the quality of life for every Pennsylvanian, and the Office of Attorney General is committed to vigorously investigating and prosecuting these crimes wherever they occur," Corbett said. "It is also important that we direct settlement funds into conservation, education and public safety efforts to improve the environment for all Pennsylvania residents to enjoy."

Corbett said the \$7,500 environmental contribution is being distributed to two organizations supporting various environmental projects in Clearfield County:

- [PA Cleanways of Jefferson, Clarion and Clearfield Counties](#), located in Summerville, will receive \$5,000 to support litter cleanup along waterways and roads in Clearfield County, and to fund community education programs about pollution prevention; and
- [The Pennsylvania Rails-to-Trails Program](#), administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, will receive \$2,500 to support maintenance and cleanup work along the Houtzdale Line Trail, located near one of the defendant's dump sites.

Urban/Suburban Deer Management Plan, Deer Estimate Procedure Posted

The Game Commission this week released its first ever plan to more effectively [manage deer in urban/suburban landscapes](#), asking the public to offer comments on the draft by May 12. Also posted was more information on the Commission's [deer harvest estimate procedure](#).

Last year, from April until mid-September, the agency sought public input prior to developing the urban/suburban deer management plan. More than 500 residents offered comments that were reviewed and used by members of the agency's Deer Management Section in drafting the plan.

"We asked Pennsylvanians for their thoughts about resolving deer-human conflicts in urban/suburban areas, as



Photo: Game Commission

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well as suggestions on how to address the unique challenge of urban/suburban deer management," said Jeannine Tardiff, Game Commission deer biologist and author of the plan. "In addition to gathering input from the public, we also reviewed actions being taken by other state wildlife agencies."

Although white-tailed deer provide many Pennsylvanians countless hours of recreational opportunities and enjoyment, are important to the state's economy, and officially recognized as the Commonwealth's "state animal," they can wear out their welcome quickly when they begin stripping vegetation in backyards and becoming frequent obstacles on city streets.

"The whitetail populations in some Pennsylvania urban and suburban settings are living proof that you can have too much of a good thing," Tardiff emphasized.

The plan outlines four main goals: reduce deer impacts in developed areas as much as possible to socially acceptable levels using hunting options; supplement hunting in developed areas and reduce deer-human conflicts using non-hunting options where hunting options are shown to not be feasible or sufficient; inform urban leadership, residents, and hunters about deer management options and opportunities in developed areas; and encourage positive relationships between hunters and communities in developed areas.

To accomplish these goals, the urban/suburban deer plan includes recommendations to:

- Expand hunting opportunities and create an "Urban Deer Control Program" that allows for the taking of deer outside of the regular hunting seasons in developed areas, similar to the Agricultural Depredation Program ("Red Tag" program);
- Discourage deer feeding and support local ordinances that prohibit deer feeding in developed areas with unacceptable levels of deer conflicts;
- Develop a written agency policy on the use of deer fertility control agents, then review and update the policy as needed. While, no effective deer contraceptive program has been developed to effectively manage free-ranging deer populations, such as those in urban/suburban areas of the state, a comprehensive review of current literature and reports about ongoing studies needs to be conducted so the agency and the Deer Management Section can be in a position to address the issue when it arises;
- Increase availability of written, electronic, and web-based informational and educational publications and presentations concerning hunting and non-hunting deer management options in developed areas;
- Create and develop a landowner/hunter database template to be used by communities and municipalities; and
- Provide an advanced hunter education course for hunters in developed areas.

Hunter access historically has hindered efforts to reduce deer numbers in suburbia. Other factors include sporting arms limitations; safety zone restrictions; distorted public perceptions about hunters; and the inconveniences and appeal associated with hunting in areas with large numbers of people, homes and automobiles.

"It's no secret why there is great difficulty managing urban/suburban deer populations," noted Tardiff. "A deer population inaccessible to hunters can quickly exceed the tolerance level of those in the community. The safety issues can become serious, and property damage severe.

"We believe that the urban/suburban deer management plan provides a starting point from which the Game Commission can develop and implement a program that will

help hunters, landowners and municipal officials achieve mutually acceptable goals of increasing hunting opportunities and greater control of the deer population in highly-developed areas of the state."

The Game Commission's five-year Deer Management Plan - adopted in 2003 - identifies the reduction of human-deer conflicts as one of its three goals. Those conflicts are most common in urban/suburban settings; places many Pennsylvanians rarely consider whitetail country. But the deer are there, often in excessive numbers, causing property damage and genuine safety concerns.

"The Game Commission is challenged to minimize the negative impacts of urban/suburban deer, yet retain the positive benefits they provide many metropolitan residents," Tardiff said. "Our goal in developing this management strategy is not to eliminate whitetails in urban/suburban areas. Rather, we are developing options that any community with deer overpopulation can use for relief.

"But communities must recognize that there are no quick fixes, or one-time solutions to reducing deer-human conflicts in urban/suburban settings. Deer must be managed aggressively in these situations. If they aren't, years of progress can disappear over a relatively short period of time. Every community needs a deer management plan that is supported by residents and actively pursued."

Deer Harvest Estimating Procedure

Game Commission also posted a more detailed version of its [white-tailed deer harvest estimating procedures](#).

"There always seems to be a desire for more information about the Game Commission's deer management program and procedures, so in an effort to increase understanding and to explain our harvest estimates, these procedures have been posted on our website," explained Dr. Christopher Rosenberry, who supervises the agency's Deer Management Section. "We encourage individuals who care to learn more about how the process works to read the document."

A description of these procedures has been available for some time under the agency's Annual Wildlife Management Reports section of the website. The new document expands on the earlier document and places the information in an easier-to-access, high profile location.

A recent independent review of the deer harvest estimating method used by the Game Commission was determined to be valid and was published in the Journal of Wildlife Management. The method employs a fundamental wildlife management technique called "mark-recapture," which has been used for decades by wildlife managers throughout the world. It also includes data collected by the annual physical examination of tens of thousands of hunter-harvested deer.

In the near future, the Game Commission will hold an open house at the agency's Harrisburg headquarters to provide the public an opportunity to learn about the deer harvest estimating process. Details will be announced in early May.

Comments on the Urban/Suburban Deer Management Plan can be sent by email to urbandeer@state.pa.us, or by mail to: Pennsylvania Game Commission, ATTN: Draft Urban Deer Management Strategy, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.

[The Urban/Suburban Deer Management Plan is available online.](#)

NewsClip: [State Releases It's First Urban/Suburban Deer Plan](#)
[Game Commission Explains Deer Management Science](#)

[Deer Damage Costly to Landscape Association](#)
[Outdoors: More on Hunting License Debate](#)
[Outdoors: Deer vote Will Define Agency's Identity](#)

Quality of Deer Habitat Health Added to Deer Management Program



Photo: Game Commission

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has added new criteria it will use to guide the management of white-tailed deer in the Commonwealth.

This new approach, first identified in 2003 with the adoption of the current deer management plan, will lean heavily on data-collection and analysis to measure the quality of and [changes to deer and forest habitat health](#) to develop deer management recommendations for the agency's Board of Game Commissioners to consider.

"There has to be a solid scientific foundation from which deer management recommendations are made to ensure program integrity and to monitor change," emphasized Dr. Christopher Rosenberry, Game Commission Deer Management Section supervisor. "These measures will provide deer managers and Pennsylvanians more details - a clearer picture of what's going on. It is hoped that increased awareness will lead to a better understanding of deer impacts and deer management actions.

"These measurements support the agency's goals to manage for healthy deer, healthy forest habitat and reduced deer-human conflicts; goals that were first identified by representatives of various groups with an interest in deer management, including hunters, and subsequently adopted by the Game Commission as part of its deer management plan. When we finalize procedures for assessing deer conflicts with human activities, we'll have a much more complete assessment of what's going on in the whitetail's world and how it's impacting ours."

Cal DuBrock, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management director, noted that managing whitetails has always been - and likely always will be - controversial because the views of Pennsylvanians interested in or trying to influence deer management are so different.

For example, in the past month, the House Democratic Policy Committee held a hearing in DuBois, Clearfield County, to collect public comment on the state's reduced deer populations, while testimony before the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee in the Capitol focused on information that deer are causing upwards of \$150 million in damages annually to Pennsylvania farming, forestry and nursery industries.

"Establishing what are socially-acceptable deer population goals for the state's Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) system is about as uncomplicated as establishing the best way to reduce property taxes in the Commonwealth or solving the Social Security debate throughout the nation," DuBrock said. "There is always one group of stakeholders that wants what another doesn't, creating extremes that cannot or refuse to find middle ground."

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From a management perspective, this uncompromising arrangement regularly places the Game Commission in the unfortunate position of being in one extreme - or the other's - crosshairs, DuBrock noted.

"We do strive to accommodate all Pennsylvanians - as well as habitat and other wildlife species - in our deer management deliberations and recommendations," DuBrock said. "And now with measures of deer and forested habitat health, we are positioned to further refine that approach."

The strategies for collecting and analyzing deer health information will involve using reproductive data - embryos per doe and fawn pregnancy rates - from each Wildlife Management Unit to evaluate trends in deer health.

"Reproduction was chosen as a primary measure for deer health because research has repeatedly shown there are differences in the reproductive rates of females in good physical condition and those in poor physical condition," Rosenberry explained. "Research also has confirmed that as a deer population's size increases, its reproductive rates decline. In fact, female fawns often stop breeding when deer populations are high."

Under the guidelines of the new measures, deer health would be gauged as good when 30 percent or more of fawns are bred; when two-year-old females have 1.5 fawns or more; and when females three-years-or-older have 1.7 fawns or more.

"Reproductive measures have been used in other states to assess the nutritional plane and/or physical condition of deer," Rosenberry noted. "Adding it to our new monitoring system's mix of measurements is just another way to strengthen our deer management recommendations."

Habitat - or specifically, forest acreage and age - has been used by the Game Commission for decades as a foundation to help establish deer population goals. Under the refined habitat measures, monitoring will examine forest sustainability.

"A healthy forest can sustain deer, as well as a variety of plant and animal life, and replace its losses," pointed out Rosenberry. "So, we decided one way to gauge a forest's well-being would be to measure its ability to replace itself. In other words, are there enough young trees in a forest to replace older trees when they die, are harvested for timber, or are damaged by natural causes, such as windstorms."

Under the guidelines of the new measures, forest habitat health would be gauged as good when at least 70 percent of sampled plots had adequate regeneration to replace the current forest canopy.

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, and Pennsylvania State University already collect tree seedling and sapling data from public and private lands in all WMUs as part of an ongoing "forest inventory analysis." Only plots where enough light reaches the forest floor to support growth of tree seedling and saplings are included in this analysis.

The deer and habitat health measures the Game Commission has integrated into Pennsylvania's deer management program have been reviewed by other wildlife biologists and foresters, including professionals from the Northeast Deer Technical Committee, a group of deer biologists from all northeastern states and some Canadian provinces; Penn State University; Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; U.S. Forest Service; and the Quality Deer Management Association.

"As we gain more experience with these measures and gather additional information, we will continue to refine them so we are making deer management recommendations based on the best assessments of deer and forest habitat health in Pennsylvania," Rosenberry said. "It's what scientific wildlife management is all about, and what Pennsylvanians should expect from the Game Commission."

More information on [deer and forest habitat measures](#) can be found on the Game Commission's website

NewsClip: [Game Commission Explains Deer Management Science](#)
[State Releases It's First Urban/Suburban Deer Plan](#)
[Deer Damage Costly to Landscape Association](#)
[Outdoors: More on Hunting License Debate](#)
[Outdoors: Deer vote Will Define Agency's Identity](#)

Game Commission Offers Advice on How to Avoid Attracting Bears



Photo: Game Commission

With a deadly Tennessee bear attack in the news this week and Spring blossoming around the state, many Pennsylvanians are seeing signs of new life in the outdoors, including bears shaking off their winter hibernation.

Pennsylvania has an estimated 15,000 black bears, all of which will be looking for food, which is scarce this time of year.

Mark Ternent, Pennsylvania Game Commission black bear biologist, said that bear sightings are common during this time of year.

"Now is the time to keep bears from becoming a nuisance later in the summer," Ternent said. "Bears that wander near residential areas in search of food are less likely to stay or return if they do not find anything rewarding. Conversely, if bears find food in your backyard they quickly learn to

associate residential areas with food and begin to spend more time in those areas. Encounters between humans and bears increase, as does property damage, the risk of human injury and vehicle accidents involving bears."

"The best solution is to prevent bears from finding food at your house in the first place," Ternent said. "Food placed outside for any reason - whether it is food for wildlife, pets or unsecured garbage - is food available for bears. Homeowners should begin now to remove food sources or make them unavailable to bears."

Ternent listed five suggestions that could prevent attracting bears to a property:

Play it smart. Do not feed wildlife. Food placed outside for wildlife, such as corn for squirrels, may attract bears. Even bird feeders can become "bear magnets." Feeding birds during the winter months is not a problem, but at other times of the year you run the risk of attracting problem bears.

If you do chose to feed songbirds during the summer, Audubon Pennsylvania offers some tips, including: avoid foods that are particularly attractive for bears, such as sunflower seeds, hummingbird nectar mixes or suet; bring feeders inside at night; or

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suspend feeders from high crosswires so they are at least 10 feet above the ground and four feet from anything a bear can climb, including overhead limbs.

Keep it clean. Don't put out garbage until pick-up day; don't throw table scraps out back; don't add fruit or vegetable wastes to your compost pile; and clean your barbecue grill regularly. If you have pets and feed them outdoors, consider placing food dishes inside overnight. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Keep your distance. If a bear shows up in your backyard, stay calm. Shout at it like you would to chase an unwanted dog. Don't approach it. If the bear won't leave, call the nearest Game Commission regional office or local police department for assistance.

Eliminate temptation. Bears that visit your area are often drawn there. Neighbors need to work together to reduce an area's appeal to bears. Ask area businesses to keep dumpsters closed and bear-proofed (chained or locked shut).

Check please! If your dog is barking, or cat is clawing at the door to get in, try to determine what has alarmed your pet. But do it cautiously, using outside lights to full advantage and from a safe position, such as a porch or an upstairs window. All unrecognizable outside noises and disturbances should be checked, but don't do it on foot with a flashlight. Black bears blend in too well with nighttime surroundings providing the chance for a close encounter.

"Bears needn't be feared, nor should they be dismissed as harmless. They simply need to be respected," Ternent said. He stressed that in the past 25 years fewer than 15 people have been injured by bears in Pennsylvania, and there are no known records of a Pennsylvania black bear killing a human.

"Black bear aggression is most often the result of a human intentionally or unintentionally threatening a bear, its cubs, or a nearby food source, and the best reaction is to defuse the threat by leaving the area in a quiet, calm manner," Ternent said.

He also advised:

Stay Calm. If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, leave the area calmly. Talk or make noise while moving away to help it discover your presence. Choose a route that will not intersect with the bear if it is moving.

Get Back. If you have surprised a bear, slowly back away while talking softly. Face the bear, but avoid direct eye contact. Do not turn and run; rapid movement may be perceived as danger to a bear that is already feeling threatened. Avoid blocking the bear's only escape route and try to move away from any cubs you see or hear. Do not attempt to climb a tree. A female bear may falsely interpret this as an attempt to get at her cubs, even though the cubs may be in a different tree.

Pay Attention. If a bear is displaying signs of nervousness - pacing, swinging its head, or popping its jaws - about your presence, leave the area. Some bears may bluff charge to within a few feet. If this occurs, stand your ground, wave your arms wildly, and shout at the bear. Turning and running could elicit a chase and you cannot outrun a bear.

Fight Back. If a bear attacks, fight back as you continue to leave the area. Black bears have been driven away with rocks, sticks, binoculars, car keys, or even bare hands.

More information, visit the [Game Commission's Black Bear webpage](#).

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

PA Preserves Another 5,000 Acres of Farmland in April

Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Board prevented the development of another 5,000 acres of valuable farmland this week during its April meeting by voting to preserve it,

The board has now preserved 2,834 farms totaling 323,366 acres since the program began in 1988.

The latest preserved farms are in 18 counties: Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cambria, Cumberland, Clinton, Dauphin, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Mercer, Northampton, Schuylkill, and York. Fifty-six of Pennsylvania's 67 counties are enrolled in the program.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed 18 years ago to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements (also called development rights) from owners of quality farmland.

Pennsylvania has 7.7 million acres of farmland, representing 27 percent of the state's land base.

For more information, visit the [Farmland Preservation Program webpage](#).

EPA Hosts Workshops on Toxic Release Inventory Reporting

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is [hosting workshops for industry](#) to learn how to comply with federal chemical and waste reporting requirements, commonly known as the Toxic Release Inventory reporting.

Utilities, mining operations, refineries and manufacturing are among the types of facilities that are required to report under the TRI regulations.

EPA will conduct a total of 11 TRI workshops throughout the mid-Atlantic region. These classes are intended to assist facilities in preparing their annual TRI reports which are due to EPA on or before July 1, 2006. TRI reports provide detailed information on chemical releases and other waste management activities at each facility.

The voluntary workshops will take place in the following cities: Meadville, Pittsburgh, State College, and Philadelphia, Pa.; Richmond and Roanoke, Va.; Towson, Md.; and Charleston, W. V.

Workshops will be offered either in a traditional seminar setting or via an internet conference. All workshops will consist of lectures and interactive discussions, with practical exercises to illustrate course concepts. The curriculum will include TRI reporting requirements; determining reporting thresholds for listed toxic chemicals; identifying and calculating releases; waste management reporting; pollution prevention reporting among others.

Manufacturers with 10 or more employees may be subject to TRI reporting requirements, including metal mining, coal mining, electric generating plants, any commercial facility that treats, stores or disposes of hazardous waste, chemical and petroleum production bulk plants and terminals, and solvent recovery operations.

To register for the TRI Training Workshops, visit [EPA's TRI Training webpage](#) and look for Region 3 workshops.

Radon Test Kit Giveaways Available for PA Residents

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Protection and the American Lung Association are providing Pennsylvania residents with [free radon test kits](#) to prevent undue deaths from lung cancer.

Radon, a naturally occurring element is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. affecting more than 21,000 people per year. Testing the home is the only way to find out if and how much radon is present.

The ALA has a limited supply of radon test kits and will provide only one test kit per household. Information on the free test kits can be found at the [Free Radon Test Kit webpage](#).

Deadline Extended for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Department of Public Welfare announced this week Pennsylvania is extending the deadline for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to April 28.

Earlier this year, at a time when home heating costs were skyrocketing, Pennsylvania increased the income threshold for LIHEAP grants from 135 percent of the federal poverty level to 150 percent, allowing 67,000 more Commonwealth families access to the LIHEAP benefit.

In addition, the Rendell Administration and the General Assembly recently doubled from \$300 to \$600 through the first-ever appropriation of state funds to the LIHEAP program.

In most counties, individuals seeking crisis grants should contact their local County Assistance Office (CAO). However, individuals in the nine counties listed below should contact the following agencies that operate the crisis component in their area:

- Allegheny – Allegheny County Department of Human Services, 1-800-851-3838;
- Carbon – Carbon County Action Committee, (610) 377-6400;
- Centre – Central PA Community Action Agency, (814) 765-1551, or Millheim Family Service Center, (814) 349-5850;
- Lackawanna – Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency, (570) 963-6836
- Lancaster – Community Action Program of Lancaster County, (717) 299-7301;
- Luzerne – Commission on Economic Opportunity of Luzerne County, (570) 826-0510;
- Philadelphia – Department of Licenses and Inspections, (215) 686-2590;
- Wyoming – Commission on Economic Opportunity of Wyoming County, (570) 836-4090; and
- York – Community Progress Council of York County, (717) 846-4600.

The federally funded LIHEAP helps low-income households pay for a variety of home heating fuel sources and furnace repairs.

To learn more about applying for heating assistance, call 1-866-857-7095 or visit a local CAO or www.compass.state.pa.us.

NewsClip: [Energy Assistance Program Deadline Extended to April 28](#)

Community Energy Project Helps Churches Save on Energy Costs

On April 4 twelve congregation leaders from Crawford and Erie counties met with the [Commonwealth Community Energy Project](#) and the Department of Environmental

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Protection as part of an ongoing initiative on “Congregations & Energy”, aimed at helping religious congregations manage their energy costs.

This group met to discuss utility consumption and costs, with discussion focusing on two major points. First, there was a review of the Energy Project’s analysis of 12 local congregations’ utility cost and consumption trends.

This analysis revealed that the average energy use per square foot for the study group was 68 kBtu/sqft-year, slightly higher than average for religious buildings in this climate zone. The range in usage, from less than 50 kBtu/sqft-year to over 125 kBtu/year, indicated the large savings opportunities the more energy-intensive congregations have.

Second, congregation leaders shared their experiences in dealing with rising energy costs this winter. Most notably, several congregations have installed programmable thermostats to reduce interior temperatures during unoccupied periods.

Congregations interested in holding the line on rising energy costs were urged to develop an energy management plan, including tracking utility usage, developing a purchasing policy, and considering an energy audit.

For more information, visit the [Commonwealth Community Energy Project webpage](#).

Learn About Composting at Upcoming Workshops

The Penn State Cooperative Extension Service and Department of Environmental Protection will again sponsor backyard composting workshops across Pennsylvania beginning this month.

Almost 12 percent of the trash heading for landfills is food scraps and another 12 percent is yard waste, according to waste composition studies. Those are wastes that could be kept out of landfills by composting them instead. That would increase the useable life of landfills by almost 25 percent.

By composting, residents can also help their local government keep waste disposal costs down, too. During the summer, grass clippings can comprise up to 50 percent of municipal waste. Leaf waste can account for as much as 60-80 percent in the fall.

This large, seasonal volume of yard wastes puts a strain on municipal garbage collection systems, requiring extra equipment that is not needed year-round and increasing personnel expenses.

Finished compost can also be a boon to backyard gardeners and landscapers. Compost not only adds organic material to the soil, it also helps soil retain water during periods of drought.

Participants in the workshops will receive free composting bins.

To find a Backyard Compost Workshop in your county, visit the [Penn State Extension website](#). Visit DEP’s “[Compost-It’s Mulch Better](#)” webpage for more information on composting.

Governor to Recognize Whole Foods/PA Resources Council Partnership

On April 24 Gov. Rendell will issue a proclamation to acknowledge a unique business/nonprofit partnership that promises to help Pennsylvania’s environment statewide.

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The Pennsylvania Resources Council, one of the Commonwealth's oldest environmental organizations, has [joined forces with Whole Foods Market](#), one of the nation's leading natural foods retailers, to work toward a healthier environment in Pennsylvania.

The relationship started several years ago when PRC's western office began offering backyard composting classes at the Pittsburgh Whole Foods store. Since that first class, the waiting list of "wanna-be composting gurus" has grown each season.

In 2005, PRC-East followed suit with composting classes for four of the six greater Philadelphia region stores. Workshops about other environmental issues -- energy conservation, organic gardening and "Greener Lifestyles" -- are being scheduled for the future.

Many of the earth-friendly principles that PRC teaches to children and adults are embraced by Whole Foods Markets, whose environmental sensitivity was lauded recently in the *New York Times*.

Whole Foods Markets have personnel dedicated to watching over the environmental practices of each store, making sure that employees join their customers in living by the motto, "Whole Foods, Whole People, Whole Planet."

Just as PRC offers individuals and communities guidance on environmental stewardship, Whole Foods Markets is committed to improving the community as well.

Three times a year, individual Whole Foods stores hold "5% Days" when they donate 5% of that day's total sales to a local nonprofit or educational organization.

This April, for the first time, all the Whole Foods Market stores statewide are working together to support a statewide organization – PRC.

Shoppers at specific stores on April 25-27 will know that 5% of their selections' purchase price will support all of PRC's environmental programs, including school and community education about litter prevention; recycling; energy and resource conservation; watershed stewardship; community visual environment and environmental sustainability.

The Governor's proclamation will recognize this reciprocal and synergistic relationship.

[A schedule of Whole Foods Markets 5% Days for PRC is available online.](#)

Grant Applications Now Being Accepted from Centre County Groups

The [Altrusa International](#) of Centre County is again soliciting applications for grants from Centre County nonprofits for environmental and other projects. The deadline is April 21.

The primary function of Altrusa International of Centre County's grant process is to use locally, in the most beneficial manner possible, funds raised by its members for projects and programs that benefit the people and communities of Centre County, Pennsylvania. Grant proposals should specify in detail how the requested funds will improve and benefit the Centre County community.

For a grant application and more information, visit the [Altrusa webpage](#).

Businesses, Organizations Seeking Educational Improvement Tax Credits Apply Now

June 30 is the deadline for applying for this year's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program which can benefit groups involved in offering environmental education programs.

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Eligible businesses can apply to the Department of Community and Economic Development for credits against a variety of businesses taxes. Credits of up to 75 percent of the value of their contributions to eligible educational programs to a cap of \$200,000 annually are available on a first come, first served basis.

For educational programs to qualify for tax deductible contributions, they must be pre-approved and meet the guidelines for a qualifying educational program.

Up to \$60 million has been available annually for this program.

For applications and more information, visit the [Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program webpage](#).

Green Building Workshops Set on Energy Modeling, Green Advantage

Green building workshops have been scheduled for May 10, June 2 and other dates for persons interested in learning more about the green building related topics.

The [Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania](#) will host an energy modeling workshop for green building design on May 10 at the Central Penn College Conference Center.

This workshop is intended to inform building design professionals on how to apply energy modeling to improve the performance of their buildings.

To register, visit the [U.S. Green Building Council website](#) (look for the May 10 Harrisburg workshop in left column).

On June 2 in Harrisburg, the Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley Green Building Council will present a [Green Advantage Training Program](#).

Green Advantage is a voluntary environmental certification program for construction industry practitioners that is aligned with the U.S. Green Building Council mission to foster energy and resource efficiency and healthful interior environments.

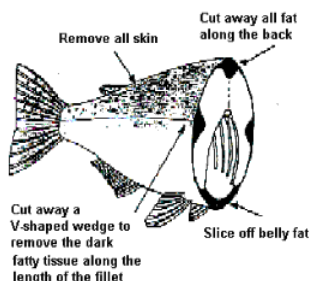
The program consists of a day-long training workshop followed by a certification exam. Certification and listing in the Green Advantage Directory identifies a building professional as having proven knowledge of green building techniques and practices.

Training is also scheduled for April 21 in East Norriton and November 9 in Pittsburgh.

For more information, email: info@gbacpa.org or visit the [Green Advantage Training workshop webpage](#).

See & Hear

Trout Season Begins: Anglers Reminded How to Safely Eat What You Catch



As the 2006 Pennsylvania Trout Season opens on April 15, special online videos from WNEP-TV show you how to safely clean and cook the fish you catch.

Fish are high in protein and are a valuable source of vitamins, minerals and beneficial oils that are low in saturated fat. Trout are especially high in vitamin B-12 and omega-3 fatty acids, which improve cardiovascular health and brain

development in children. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, American Heart Association and other nutrition experts recommend eating up to 12 ounces, or 2-3 servings, of fish per week; with a one-meal-a-week limitation on certain large ocean fish.

To help Pennsylvanians make educated choices about which fish from the state's many waters to eat and how often, the commonwealth conducts regular sampling and testing of wild fish, as well as hatchery trout released to Pennsylvania streams. Because exposure to high levels of various chemicals can increase certain health risks, this testing enables the commonwealth to make both general and specific recommendations.

As general guidance, the departments of Health, Environmental Protection, and Agriculture, along with the Fish and Boat Commission, suggest that pregnant and breast-feeding women, women of childbearing age and children can make sport-caught fish the source for one of their weekly meals of fish.

More detailed recommendations vary based on specific test results. For instance, trout raised at Pennsylvania's eight hatcheries are regularly screened for polychlorinated biphenyls. In 2006, tests have shown no need for additional special guidelines for eating these fish. A half-pound meal of hatchery-raised trout for a 150-lb person would be a good addition to the weekly menu.

All sport-caught fish in Pennsylvania are subject to a one-meal-per-week consumption advisory. In some instances, testing of wild fish in specific areas suggests they should be eaten less often, or in rare cases, not at all.

Anglers can find these more detailed recommendations in the Pennsylvania Fishing Summary Booklet issued when a PA fishing license is purchased.

Information is also available on [DEP's Fish Advisories webpage](#).

The 2006 Pennsylvania Trout Season starts at 8 a.m. on April 15.

For more details, including information on the location of great trout fishing waters all over the state, select the "[Fishing](#)" from the Fish and Boat Commission homepage.

Feature



Gov. Rendell this week announced the winners of the [2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) at the site of one of the winners—the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park brownfield site.

"Pennsylvania is working with residents and businesses to make environmental protection an engine of economic growth," Gov. Rendell said. "Lehigh Valley Industrial Park is a perfect example of how investments in environmental protection can spur innovation and foster productivity. The work at the former Bethlehem Steel property will generate in excess of \$1.5 billion in new investments and create 6,000 jobs in the Lehigh Valley."

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Since Bethlehem Steel Corp. ceased manufacturing, site redevelopment has been a priority in the Lehigh Valley. The 1,600-acre property, named the Bethlehem Commerce Center, represents 20 percent of the city's taxable land and represents the region's single-most-important economic development project.

The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence honors Pennsylvania businesses and organizations that put in place projects that take on environmental problems in ways that build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in their communities.

Winners of the 2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence receive a commemorative plaque and outdoor flag to acknowledge their commitment to environmental quality. Each recipient will be presented with these exclusive awards during individual press events at the winner's location.

In addition to the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park Inc., the other 11 winners of the 2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence include:

- **Southern York County Library, Shrewsbury, York County:** The library employed several green building technologies to achieve a 35 percent reduction in overall energy use, with \$4,475 in energy savings projected annually. The project was awarded the NC 2.1 certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, making it the first library project in the state to be so honored.
- **CENTRIA, Ambridge, Beaver County:** CENTRIA performed an oven and line speed upgrade at its facility, increasing the throughput of the Ambridge paint line and minimizing the use and expense of natural gas. Gas savings as a result of these upgrades are expected to range from \$600,000 to \$800,000 per year.
- **Exhibit Place Inc., McKees Rocks, Allegheny County:** This small business realizes savings of about \$12,800 per year in energy costs through energy efficiency improvements made to their new facility. With these upgrades, Exhibit Place was able to expand their business while achieving a 40 percent energy cost reduction.
- **Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Ligonier, Westmoreland County:** This group's e-cycling program began in an effort to create a recycling program that would greatly benefit the environment and provide a convenient location for the community to dispose of small household, office and computer items free of charge. The e-cycling program is now one of just 13 in the commonwealth, and the only one run by a private organization. As of last fall, the program was one of only four free permanent electronics recycling centers in the state.
- **Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp., East Earl, Lancaster County:** In 2004, Conestoga created an Environmental and Community Outreach Team to extend their environmental efforts into the community. Through programs like the Conestoga Urban Forestry Initiative, sponsorship of environmental field trips for local schools and a new summer camp program, Conestoga is engaging the next generation of environmental stewards.
- **Granger Energy of Honey Brook LLC, Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County:** The Lanchester Landfill Gas Utilization Project is the first multiple customer landfill gas-to-energy project in Pennsylvania. Landfill gas is transported underground from the landfill for 13 miles to multiple customers, making it the longest landfill gas pipeline in the United States. Enough landfill gas will be used annually to save 122,800

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barrels of oil, offset the use of 250 railcars of coal, provide greenhouse gas reduction benefits equal to planting 15,600 acres of forest, remove emissions of 11,550 cars or heat 33,900 homes.

- **Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development LLC, Lower Gwynedd Township, Montgomery County:** Through installation of a "zero" discharge cooling tower water treatment system, Johnson & Johnson achieved a water use and corresponding wastewater discharge reduction of 4.8 million gallons per year, resulting in a cost savings of \$29,472 annually. This avoidance also reduces the burden on the local water authority and publicly owned treatment works. Another Johnson & Johnson facilities received a [2003](#) Governor's Environmental Excellence Award.
- **Wirerope Works Inc., Williamsport, Lycoming County:** The company installed a combination of technologies successfully eliminating 27,000 pounds of lead pollution annually from their manufacturing process, and recycled more than 80,000 pounds of lead that was used in the old process, helping to fund the change. In addition, more than \$50,000 annually is avoided in maintenance costs with the new process.
- **Cranberry Township, Cranberry Township, Butler County:** The township developed the Collection Connection, a comprehensive municipal waste management program that addresses the changing needs of its community. The Collection Connection includes fully automated collection, enabling fewer vehicles to service more homes in a shorter time; single-stream recycling, allowing storage and collection of all recyclables in one container; a pay-as-you-throw variable rate disposal/collection system; and year-round curbside yard waste collection for composting.
- **Scrubgrass Generating Co., Kennerdell, Venango County:** The Benjamin No. 6 Reclamation project transformed a formerly abandoned mine land into a environmentally viable landscape capable of supporting diverse vegetation, wildlife and aquatic species. Approximately 445,450 tons of coal refuse was removed from the site, and the entire 59 acres has been completed and revegetated, improving overall water quality, decreasing metal loading and stopping erosion and sedimentation runoff. Scrubgrass won Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards in 1998 and [2000](#).
- **PhillyCarShare, Philadelphia:** PhillyCarShare is the first system worldwide in which government employees and local residents share vehicles by the hour in a major car-reduction effort. The project has replaced 330 municipal vehicles, saving the city \$2 million annually, and residential members have sold or avoided the purchase of roughly 1,200 vehicles and saved about \$5.5 million annually versus car ownership.

DEP received 78 applications for the 2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The applications were evaluated according to the following criteria: overall environmental benefit, public service, economic impact, use of innovative technology, teamwork and environmental education and outreach.

To view a more detailed summary of the 12 winning projects, visit the [2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#).

From 1997 to 2003, the 295 winners of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence have saved the following: \$1.4 billion in costs, 1.6 billion gallons of water, reduce air emissions by 212 million tons, eliminated or recycled 227 million tons of solid waste and saved over 273 million kilowatt hours of electricity. ([click here to see updated results](#))

[Past winners can also be viewed online \(bottom of page\).](#)

There will be no 2006 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards, but applications for the 2007 Awards will be available soon on [DEP's Awards webpage](#).

Feature

Roll Up Your Sleeves This Earth Day, Join the Great PA Cleanup!



In 1970 when the first Earth Day was held it was a populist movement by people young and old all across this country and around the world that shared one vision—learn about the earth and how to protect it.

If you're looking for a good way to continue this celebration on Earth Day 2006 (April 22), join one of the over 500 groups who have organized cleanups throughout Pennsylvania under the [Great PA Cleanup!](#)

The [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance](#), Audubon Pennsylvania, the departments of Transportation, Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources and these partners are sponsoring this third annual Great PA Cleanup!—

AAA Mid-Atlantic; Audubon Pennsylvania; Best Buy; County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania; Cities: Allentown, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh; GreenTreks Network; Home Depot; Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries; Keep Lancaster Beautiful; Keep Philadelphia Beautiful;

Keystone Sanitary Landfill; PA CleanWays; Pennsylvania Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus; Pennsylvania Builders Association; Pennsylvania Downtown Center; Pennsylvania Farm Bureau;

Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association; Pennsylvania Horticulture Society; Pennsylvania Host Municipal Inspectors; Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds and Rivers; Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation; Pennsylvania Resources Council; Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association; Pennsylvania State Association of Borough Managers; Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors; Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association;

Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau; Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania; Schuylkill Keep It Pretty; Sierra Club of Pennsylvania; The Steel Recycling Institute; United States Steel; and Waste Management.

Quick Clips

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

[Editorial: Earth Day Years in Making](#)

[State Releases It's First Urban/Suburban Deer Plan](#)

[Deer Damage Costly to Landscape Association](#)

[Outdoors: More on Hunting License Debate](#)

[Outdoors: Deer Vote Will Define Agency's Identity](#)

[Game Commission Explains Deer Management Science](#)

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[Anglers Diverge Over Opening Day Traditions](#)
[Environmentalist Wants to Halt Development Near Appalachian Trail](#)
[Expert Shows Practical Steps to Revitalize Landscaping with Native Plant](#)
[Spraying for Black Fly Control Set to Begin](#)
[Energy Assistance Program Deadline Extended to April 28](#)
[Retail Sales of Biodiesel Fuel Begins in Harrisburg Market](#)
[Met-Ed Petitions for 17.6% Electricity Rate Hike](#)
[FirstEnergy Seeks 14% Electric Rate Hike](#)
[FirstEnergy Seeks Rate Increase in PA](#)
[Electric Rates Sting Pike County](#)
[Alternative Fuels Key to Penn State’s Environmental Strategy](#)
[Delivered Coal Prices Rose 13% in 2005](#)
[Wolff, Armstrong Tout Renewable Energy](#)
[Gas Prices Rising for Summer](#)
[Op-Ed: Wildlife Can Be supported in Tax Refund](#)
[Lancaster County Earmarks \\$25 Million for Land Preservation](#)
[Wyoming County Banquet Recalls Year of Good Stewardship](#)
[Editorial: Growing a New Generation of Nature Stewards](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Op-Ed: Don’t Abandoned Mine Cleanup Efforts](#)
[Op-Ed: Trading Program Can Help Meet Chesapeake Goals](#)
[Volunteer Master Well Owners Test Well Water](#)
[Ligonier Warned to Protect Itself for Future Mining](#)
[Report Finds East Branch Antietam Creek](#)
[Editorial: Dam Removal](#)
[McDonald Borough Mining, Restoration Plan Wins Approval](#)
[Centre County Looks Toward Mine Reclamation](#)
[Northampton Twp. Ordinance Would Limit Waterway Development](#)
[Carbon County Enters Groundwater Guardian Program](#)
[Cleaning Up the Paint Creek Watershed](#)
[Creek Connections Connects with Area Students](#)

Watershed Awareness Month Activities

This special Calendar section is devoted to activities going on in and around Watershed Awareness Month in May. If you have events to add, send them to:
DHess@HolstonCrisci.com.

Beaver County

- **April 8, 29, May 6, 13, 20, June 3** – [Tire Collection Events](#) at various locations around the county starting at 9:00 a.m. at all locations.

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- **April 22** – [Route 68 at Industry Borough Cleanup](#) from Sebring Road to Barclay Hill Road. Meet at Merrill's Landing Restaurant at 8:30.

Blair County

- **May 12** – Water Festival sponsored by the [Blair County Conservation District](#), the Altoona City Authority, the Allegheny Ridge Corp and local watershed groups to educate the public of all ages on the value and necessity of protecting water through fun indoor and outdoor activities. Contact: Becky Albaugh, 814-696-0877 ext. 5 or send email to: americorps@blairconservationdistrict.org .

Bucks County

- **April 22** – Neshaminy State Park Cleanup. Meet at State Park Office at 9:00. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .

Centre County

- **April 22** – [ClearWater Conservancy](#) annual Watershed Clean Up day, State College. Contact Becky Dunlap at becky@clearwaterconservancy.org or at 237-0400 for more information.
- **May 1- 6** – [ClearWater Conservancy](#) is sponsoring the Beatty Memorial Arbor Day Planting of a 500-foot long riparian buffer at the State College Elks country Club. Volunteers are need to plant 600 native trees and shrubs. RSVP for May 6 by calling 717-237-0400 or emailing katie@clearwaterconservancy.org .

Erie County

- **April 24-28** – Earth Force Storm Drain Stenciling Week – Call 814-835-8069 to participate
- **May 3** – Earth Force Annual Youth Summit, Presque Isle State Park – Call 814-835-8069
- **May 20** – 4th Annual Bike Around the Bay event for Earth Force youth program, 10, 30 and 50 mile routes - all proceeds go to Earth Force youth program – Call 814-835-8069 or bab@lea.earthforce.org
- For more information on Erie County events, send email to: ssmith@lea.earthforce.org.

Fayette County

- **May 8** – **Fayette County Children's Water Festival.** Penn State Fayette-The Eberly Campus. 1,000+ sixth graders will hear presenters, participate in demonstrations and visit exhibitors organized by 150 volunteers and is funded by the Conservation District, Western PA Conservancy, local water suppliers, watershed groups, school districts, DEP, Ohio State Park and local businesses. Contact: heatherdfowler@yahoo.com .
NewsClip: [Fayette Water Festival-GreenTreks Network](#)

Greene & Washington Counties

- **April 30** – [Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy](#) holds its annual Spring Wildflower Walk and Enlow fork Spring Extravaganza near Wind Ridge on Gamelands 302. Migratory bird, wild flower, tree and butterfly identification along

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with other critters with background presentations on watershed conservation topics.
Contact: 724-627-7871 or send email to: cnelson@greenepa.net .

Lancaster County

- **May 9-** [Lititz Run Watershed Alliance Watershed Day](#) for 350+ 5th graders in Warwick School District spend a day filled with conservation/wetland/watershed information and activities. Volunteers from numerous businesses and organizations who volunteer every year. Lancaster County Conservation District, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Game Commission, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Severn Trent, Lititz Sportsmen's Assoc. Trout Unlimited, and numerous others sponsor the event. This event is not open to the public limited to the children and their teachers.

Monroe County

- **May 20** – [Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association](#) Wetland Trail Ribbon Cutting. Pocono Mountain West High School. 10:00 a.m. Contact: 570-643-2001 or send email to: mlord@ptd.net .
- **May 20** – [Aquashicola Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy](#) Open House. Polk Township Park (Rt. 534 in Kresgeville). 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact 610-681-4873 or send email to: info@apwc-pa.org .
- **May 21** – Bank and Stream Life in Our Watershed Program by [North Pocono CARE](#). Learn how you can help to preserve this heritage by visiting the Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company Annual Auto, Truck and Motorcycle Show. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact: 570-472-3274 or send email to: NPCARE@att.net .
- **May 27** – [Broadhead Watershed Association](#) River Ramble III. Pick up your map and directions and set off on this self-guided tour of creeks and other waterbodies in the Broadhead Watershed. An “after-Ramble” gathering is planned at 4:30. Meet at the Barrett Friendly Library in Mountainhome at 1:00 p.m. Contact: 570-839-1120 or send email to: brodheadwater@enter.net .

Montgomery County

- **May 6** – [Green Valleys Association Envirofest Family Fun Festival](#). A 5K run, birds of prey, music, environment-friendly living demonstrations, native plant sale, displays and food will all be part of the fun.

Philadelphia County

- **April 22** – Poquessing Watershed Cleanup, Philadelphia. Meet at Frankford Ave. and Hegerman St, behind 7-11 at 9:00 a.m.. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .
- **May 6** – Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Cleanups, Philadelphia. Meet at Bingham St. & D St and look for cleanup signs at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .
- **May 23** – [Saylor Grove Wetland Dedication](#), Philadelphia Water Department. Lincoln Dr. & Wissahickon Dr. and Rittenhouse Ave, Philadelphia. 6-8:00 p.m. Contact: Tiffany.Ledesma@phila.gov 215-499-3756.

Venango County

- **May 13** – South Sandy Creek Watershed Association [recycling and reptile program](#) at the Mineral Township Building along Rout 965. Contact: Valerie Tarkowski at 814-425-7308 or send email to: penguin42@earthlink.net.

York County

- **April 22** – York County Stream Steward Cleanup Day, 9 am to 1 pm, multiple locations: The locations are: 1) PPL’s Susquehanna River Boat Access Area on Wago Road, E. Manchester, 2) Outboard Boating Club, Pequea Borough, Lancaster County, 3) Lock 12 Public Access Area, Holtwood, York County, 4) Mill Creek at Chestnut Hill Road, York Township, and 5) Willis Run, Lincoln Park, City of York. Please contact Gary R. Peacock at 717-840-7430 or by email to gpeacock@yorkccd.org to register.
- **April 30 to May 7** – [National Soil & Water Stewardship Week](#)
- **May 2-3** – York County Envirothon grades 7 & 8 and 5 & 6
- **May 5** – Greater Hanover Alliance hosting Regional Watershed Protection Workshop for Municipal Officials, 8 am to 4 pm, location TBA
- **May 9**- York County Envirothon grades 3 & 4
- **May 9**- York County Envirothon grades 3 & 4
- **May 13**– Restoration Monitoring Workshop, 8 am to 4 pm, at Penn State York
- **May 18**– CCWA’s 9th Annual Meeting, 7 pm, at York Water Company’s Lake Redman facility
- **May 22**– What’s the Big Deal about Invasives? Workshop, 7-9 pm at ANNEX, sponsored by MAEscapes

For more information on York activities is available from Gary Peacock, York Watershed Specialist, by sending email to: GPeacock@Yorkccd.org .

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 15, 2006](#)

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 a draft Stormwater Management Practices Manual for public comment](#) and scheduled public hearings.

[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](#)

- [Notice of Regional State Water Plan Advisory Committee meetings.](#)
- **April 17** – DEP [State Water Plan Statewide Committee](#) meeting. Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, 1735 Market St, 42nd Floor, Philadelphia. 10:00.
- **April 18** – **CANCELLED** – Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- **April 18-19** - [Chamber Environmental Conference and Trade Show](#). Camp Hill (near Harrisburg).
- **April 19** – Governor’s Invasive Species Council meeting. Room 309 Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg. 11:00.
- **April 20** – [Rachel Carson Forum](#). Guest speaker Dr. Will Delavan, DEP Economist, on environmental economics. Auditorium. Rachel Carson Building. Noon.
- **April 21** – Senate Local Government hearing on watershed planning and management relating to stormwater and flooding. Darby Twp. Municipal Building, Upper Darby, Delaware County. 10:00.
- **April 25** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **April 25** – [PA Energy Development Authority](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 2:00.
- **April 26** – House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee public hearing on deer damage. Hearing Room 2, North Office Building. 9:30.
- **April 26** – [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **April 28-29** – [PA Land Conservation Conference](#). State College.
- **May 2** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:00.
- **May 5** – Forestry Task Force meeting ([Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#)). Penn Stater Conference Center. State College. 10:00.
- **May 18-19** – [2006 Pennsylvania Heritage Partnerships Conference](#). Preservation PA. Franklin, Venango County.
- **May 26** - DEP [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 to 1:00.

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- **June 12** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum](#) – Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) “Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania.” Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **July 19** – Governor’s Invasive Species Council meeting. Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

[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@HolstonCrisci.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

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

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