

—PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

Cinco de Mayo

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

CBF, Other Groups Ask State To Be A Partner in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan

In testimony before the [House Republican Policy Committee](#) this week, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Williamsport Sanitary Authority and other groups expressed their support for the proposed [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) that would help wastewater plant ratepayers and farmers finance improvements needed to reduce pollution in local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The hearing, co-chaired by Reps. Garth Everett (R-Lycoming), Steve Cappelli (R-Lycoming) and Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny), was held at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport.

Testifiers included the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Department of Environmental Protection, Chesapeake Bay Commission, Williamsport Municipal Water Authority and Sanitary Authority, Lycoming County Water and Sewer Authority, the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and the Lycoming County Commissioners' Office.

“There have been numerous media reports in recent weeks focusing on the high costs to municipal wastewater treatment plants associated with complying with the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy,” [said Harry Campbell](#), CBF’s Pennsylvania Scientist. “The critical point that has received far less attention is that these permit limits are not arbitrary – they are clearly required by the Federal Clean Water Act.”

“The cost of achieving compliance with these pollution reductions is high for all sectors,” said Campbell. “The most recent cost estimates for point source (sewage treatment) compliance ranges from \$620 million to \$1 billion. The cost for farmers to comply with the required reductions from agriculture is \$593 million.”

Campbell notes the states of Maryland and Virginia have committed over \$1.6 billion to help wastewater plants in the Bay watershed meet the new mandates, while Pennsylvania has not proposed a funding plan to meet the requirements.

“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 Campbell. “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.”



The Susquehanna at Williamsport

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The Fair Share Plan is supported by a coalition of groups, including: CBF, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and others.

The Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan proposes to invest \$170 million in 2008-09 in several ways to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers and farmers:

- \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements;
- \$50 million in direct cost share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (increase the cap on REAP farm tax credits to \$35 million and \$15 million in cost share grants);
- \$10 million to county conservation district to expand technical assistance to farmers;
- \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture budget in farm programs; and
- 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 water quality and sufficient future sewage capacity for new development.

"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 Campbell. "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."

Campbell says each member of the Coalition supports the efforts to cleanup Pennsylvania's waters, they just want state government to be a partner in that effort so ratepayers and farmer families do not have to shoulder that burden alone.

The Department of Revenue this week projected the Commonwealth will end this fiscal year on June 30 with a \$437 million surplus.

[Marel Raub](#), Pennsylvania Director of the legislative [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#), outlined the federal Clean Water Act requirements and the steps taken to get Pennsylvania to this point in implementing the Chesapeake Bay Compliance Plan required by federal law and a federal court decision.

Raub also said all sectors responsible for nutrient pollution—wastewater plants and agriculture—must be part of the solution.

"It is clear that we cannot rely on one sector to be solely responsible—both from a policy perspective and from a scientific and mathematical perspective—for the reductions that must be achieved," said Raub.

"I want to commend the coalition that has formed around the Fair Share (for Clean Water) proposal, because they have recognized that the best plan to meet our goals is one that is comprehensive," said Raub. "I also want to recognize Rep. Scott Perry for taking the lead to develop legislation in this regard."

Other witnesses from Lycoming County outlined the costs ratepayers expect to bear to pay for required reductions, if state and federal financial aid is not forthcoming.

"Implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy is just one of many regulatory requirements impacting the cost of water and sewer infrastructure improvements," said Lycoming County Commissioner Jeff Wheeland. "In Lycoming County alone, required sewer and water infrastructure improvements are estimated to cost in excess of \$200 million. We need a timely and well-defined funding strategy at the state and federal levels to support our local efforts. If the Chesapeake Bay is truly a national

priority, as we believe it should be, then the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Congress need to join us at the funding table."

In addition to providing an overview of compliance efforts, Walter Nicholson, Director of Operations for the Williamsport Sanitary Authority said, "We support legislative initiatives such as the Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan... and also the adoption of House Bill 2441 which would furnish 50/50 matching grant funding for Chesapeake Bay-related wastewater treatment plant facility improvements...."

Rep. Scott Perry (R-Cumberland) has sponsored legislation—House Bill 2441 (*not yet online*) -- to help ease the funding burden on taxpayers and local governments within the watershed. The legislation includes appropriating \$500 million over seven years to help local governments pay for needed plant upgrades and \$250 million over five years to help fund agricultural best management practices to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff.

"The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement places a heavy financial burden on local municipalities, governments and citizens," said Rep. Perry. "My legislation helps to reduce financial pressures on communities located within the watershed by having the state share some of the costs of meeting the new federal requirements."

Reps. Dave Millard (R-Columbia), Sandra Major (R-Susquehanna), Tina Pickett (R-Bradford), Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and Adam Harris (R-Juniata) were also in attendance at the hearing.

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

NewsClips: [April Tax Collections Brought Surplus for PA Coffers](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Timetable Questioned](#)
[Editorial: Not Doing Enough to Help With Chesapeake Bay Mandates](#)
[Centre County Times Blog: Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan](#)
[Letter: Our River-The West Branch of the Susquehanna](#)
[Duboisstown Discusses Chesapeake Bay Plan](#)

Video Blog: [Remarks By Coalition Partners on the Fair Share Clean Water Plan](#)

Links: [Coalition Proposes Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan](#)
[16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding](#)

Success of REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Lauded, CBF Urges Expansion

Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff celebrated the success of the [Resource Enhancement and Protection \(REAP\)](#) farm conservation tax credit program this week by presenting the Kopp family of Stoneylawn Farm in Dauphin County with \$19,500 in tax credits.

"REAP helps farmers cut costs when implementing conservation practices that will reduce soil and nutrient loss impacting Pennsylvania's streams and watersheds," said Secretary Wolff. "The significant response to this first-time program shows our farmers' commitment to protecting the environment."

"We commend the state Department of Agriculture and the State Conservation Commission for their ability to pull all of the pieces together so quickly, identifying worthy projects, and getting REAP on the ground within such a short timeframe," Matthew Ehrhart, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Office Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "Given the success of the REAP program and the unmet demand by farmers for these

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

conservation practices, we ask the Governor and the General Assembly to increase the REAP program to \$35 million per year, as called for in the Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water legislative proposal.”

The [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) was proposed by a coalition of groups, including the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs and the Pennsylvania Realtors Association, to help wastewater system ratepayers and farmers meet the costs of Chesapeake Bay cleanup mandates.

The first year of the Fair Share Plan proposes the allocation of \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements; \$50 million to direct cost-share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (including increasing the cap on REAP farm conservation tax credits to \$35 million and \$15 million in cost-share funding); \$10 million to county conservation districts to expand technical assistance to farmers; and \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture farm programs. The proposal would also reform the state’s nutrient credit trading program to help allow for future economic development.

The Department of Revenue this week projected the Commonwealth will end this fiscal year on June 30 with a \$437 million surplus.

The Kopps used the credits to purchase no-till planting equipment that will prevent water runoff from their fields. The family has instituted many other conservation practices, including developing a nutrient management plan, installing a manure system and adopting cropping practices specific to erosion prevention.

“The tremendous response to REAP demonstrates that farmers continue to make strides in protecting water quality on their farms, but need help to go even farther,” said Ehrhart. “REAP is a practical solution that’s helping farmers achieve the highest levels of stewardship while making those improvements economically feasible.”

The [State Conservation Commission](#) administers the REAP program and reviewed the applications on a first-come, first-served basis. In the first 10 days that applications were accepted, the requests surpassed the \$10 million credit allotment for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. To date, 277 eligible projects were approved by the commission, which will receive the tax credits from the Department of Revenue.

Approved conservation practices include nutrient management plans, stream bank fencing and riparian buffers, manure storage systems and alternative manure treatment practices, filter strips, grassed waterways and intensive grazing systems, among others. In addition, the tax credits can be used to purchase no-till planting equipment like the Kopps.

“Conservation programs like REAP give farmers new ways to incorporate the most efficient management practices specific to their operations,” Secretary Wolff added.

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

For more information on REAP, contact program administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or send email to: mabender@state.pa.us or visit the [REAP Program webpage](#).

NewsClips: [April Tax Collections Brought Surplus for PA Coffers](#)

Video Blog: [Remarks By Coalition Partners on the Fair Share Clean Water Plan](#)

Links: [Coalition Proposes Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan](#)
[16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding](#)

Department of Revenue Projects \$437 Million Budget Surplus

With April state tax collection figures now in, the Department of Revenue this week projected the current fiscal year will end with a surplus of \$437 million on June 30 that could be used to provide much-needed [funding for clean water mandates](#) or for other programs.

NewsClips: [April Tax Collections Brought Surplus for PA Coffers](#)

Budget & Finance Committee OKs Study of Chesapeake Bay Compliance Costs

The [Legislative Budget and Finance Committee](#) this week took steps to compile the costs to wastewater plants to implement the Chesapeake Bay clean water mandate pursuant to [Senate Resolution 224](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland).

The Committee, which is made up of members from the Senate and House, voted to approve the bid of [Metcalf & Eddy](#), a Philadelphia engineering firm, to conduct the study required by the resolution.

The preliminary schedule calls for the draft report to be done by October 3 and the final report by October 24.

The Department of Environmental Protection had wanted the Committee to broaden the scope of the study to include water and wastewater system needs throughout the entire state, but the Committee did not make that change and it was not included in the resolution.

Sen. John Pippy (R-Allegheny) serves as the chair of the LBFC and Sen. Gerald LaValle (D-Beaver) as the vice-chair.

Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force Holds Hearing May 8

Members of the [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) will hold its first public input meeting to gather comments on Pennsylvania’s drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs May 8 in Harrisburg.

The meeting will be held in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson Building starting at 11:00 a.m.

The Task Force is expected to hear from three groups of witnesses:

- **Financial Resources:** Carol Koslov, Public Utilitt Commission, Bruce Hottle, Pennsylvania Utility Contractors Association, Barbara Bisgaier, Public Financial Management;
- **Innovative Measures:** Charles Wunz, HRG Consulting, Bernard Sweeney, Ph. D., Stroud Water Research Center, John Schombert, 3 Rivers Wet Weather Project, Bob Wendelgass, Clean Water Action, Steve Moyer, Trout Unlimited; and
- **Needs:** Bernard Biga, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, Jeff Hines, United Water Dennis Beck, Portage Municipal Water, Don Amadee, Buffalo Township Municipal Authority, Jim Hassinger, Southwest Pennsylvania Commission.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

For more information, visit the [Governor's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force webpage](#) or contact Marcus Kohl, DEP, 717-783-7404 or send email to: mkohl@state.pa.us.

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 May 5.

House 2008 Session Days—

May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30

Senate 2008 Session Days--

April 28, 29, 30

May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

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

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House published committee schedules and floor Calendars for next week--

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; [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs.

[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.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Senate (May 5): [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for reuse of brownfield sites; [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) providing for the resolution of coal bed methane rights disputes; [Senate Resolution 294](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) 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.

Committees

Senate: the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1317](#) (Waugh-R-York) providing incentive payments for cellulosic ethanol production.

Bills Introduced

These environmental bills of interest were introduced this week—

Swatara River: [House Resolution 725](#) (Swanger-R-Lebanon) urging the U.S.G.S. to change the name of Swatara Creek to Swatara River.

Senate and House Bills Moving

These bills of interested were the subject of action by the Senate and House this week-

Senate

Brownfields: [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for reuse of brownfield sites was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Coal Bed Methane: [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) providing for the resolution of coal bed methane rights disputes was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

NewsClip: [Committee Approves Bill to Resolve Surface, Mineral Disputes](#)

Allegheny Forest: [Senate Resolution 294](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) 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 amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

Drinking Water Week: [Senate Resolution 302](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) designating May 4-10 as “Drinking Water Week” in Pennsylvania was adopted by the Senate.

C.F. Martin & Company: [Senate Resolution 304](#) (Boscola-D-Lehigh) congratulating C.F. Martin & Company on their 175th anniversary and commending it for its positive globally conscious environmental and business practices was adopted by the Senate.

House

Permit Notification: [House Bill 146](#) (Belfanti-D-Northumberland) requires state agencies to notify municipalities when they issue permits was reported from the House State Government Committee this week. **NewClip:** [Bill Moves Requiring Permit Notice](#)

Senate Committee OKs Brownfields, Coal Bed Methane, Allegheny Forest Bills

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week approved legislation encouraging the redevelopment of brownfield sites, setting up a board to resolve coal bed methane rights disputes and on the Allegheny National Forest.

[Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) establishes a process to resolve objections between a surface land owner and the mineral rights estate owner regarding the location of coal bed methane wells or access roads.

The legislation was the product of a process initiated after the Committee held a public hearing on the subject last year. Under the bill, a well operator intending to drill or construct an access road must provide written notification to the surface owner. The notification must advise the surface owner of the right to file objections with a Coal Bed Methane Review Board, which is established by the bill. The Board will work with the surface owner and well operator and attempt to find common ground on the location of the well and accompanying access roads.

[Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) is designed to encourage the redevelopment of contaminated property known as "brownfield sites." The bill authorizes the state Secretary of Environmental Protection to enter into redevelopment agreements with developers who remediate brownfield sites, with developers eligible to receive a reimbursement of up to 75 percent of the remediation costs.

[Senate Resolution 294](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) addresses a forest management plan adopted by the Allegheny National Forest in February. The plan imposes new restrictions on the development of mineral rights underneath the forest. More than 90 percent of the minerals underneath the forest are privately held, and were retained when the surface was sold to create the forest.

Senate Resolution 294 urges the federal government to re-evaluate the plan, and reaffirms that when the commonwealth allowed land to be acquired to create the Allegheny National Forest it did not confer any authority to the U.S. government to diminish the Commonwealth's property rights or the rights of private property owners.

A similar [House Resolution 693](#) was passed the House in April.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair.

For more information on the Committee's activities, visit the [Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee webpage](#).

Groups Support Broadening Funding Base for Game, Fish & Boat Commissions

Sportsmen and environmental groups and representatives of the Game and Fish and Boat Commissions told the House Finance Committee this week they support broadening the funding base for the two wildlife agencies.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The Committee held a hearing on [House Bill 1676](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) that would set aside 0.00116 percent of the revenues collected for the Game Commission (about \$11 million) and 0.00058 percent for the Fish and Boat Commission (about \$5.5 million).

Rep. Levdansky said the two commissions face a funding “crisis” with ever increasing hunting and fishing license costs and a shrinking hunting population. He noted that every time there is a license increase the number of hunters and anglers falls.

He said the two commissions are not only charged with managing game species, but also non-game animals that benefit the citizens throughout the state, not just hunters and anglers. “It is appropriate that general revenues be used to support these programs,” Rep. Levdansky said.

Melody Zullinger, Executive Director of the [PA Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs](#) said House Bill 1676 would provide a more predictable source of income for the commissions who often go years between license fee increases. She said the bill would also help reduce the burden on hunters by helping to reduce the need for such large license increases.

“With the agencies’ mandates increasing, specifically for non-game species, and costs increasing everywhere we turn, we realize the rising costs of resource management is far outpacing what license buyers alone can afford to pay for, and some type of dedicated alternative funding must be provided if we hope to keep our agencies fiscally sound and independent,” said Zullinger.

Zullinger noted hunters and anglers spend \$3.5 billion a year in Pennsylvania and are responsible for creating 51,000 jobs.

[Audubon Pennsylvania](#) provided written comments to the Committee supporting the legislation saying diversified funding is needed to keep pace with the increasing demands for game and non-game programs.

Sarah Sargent, [Important Bird Area Coordinator](#) for Audubon PA, said based on recent surveys there are over 4.1 million people engaged in wildlife-related recreation in Pennsylvania—1.4 million hunters and anglers and 3.6 million wildlife watchers.

“Audubon Pennsylvania believes the funding sources for the agencies need to reflect the larger interest in wildlife on the part of Pennsylvania, beyond the sportsmen’s community, although certainly including sportsmen and women as primary stakeholders,” said Sargent.

Jan Jarrett, [Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future](#), told the Committee they have supported taxpayer funding for the two commissions, like the Growing Greener II bond issue in the past and they support House Bill 1676.

She cautioned, however, that environmental funding for watershed restoration, abandoned mine reclamation, environmental education, farmland preservation and greenway and trail projects will be reduced dramatically in the near future.

Jarrett pointed to the proposed use of up to \$60 million in the Environmental Stewardship Fund to pay for the debt service for the Growing Greener II bonds instead of directly for projects and the fact that the bond funds themselves will be exhausted by 2012 (and sooner in many categories).

She also said there needs to be a long term solution to funding the \$40 million Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

The Committee also heard from Ed Wentzler, [United Bowhunters of PA](#) who added his group’s support for the legislation.

Both the Fish and Boat and Game Commissions provided their support for the bill.

"As you may know, the Commission's current funding structure is largely dependent upon hunting and trapping license revenue. The Commission's duty, however, extends far beyond managing game and furbearers for sportsmen," said [Michael Schmit](#), Game Commission. "In Pennsylvania, the preservation and protection of natural resources, including wildlife, is a constitutional mandate, and the Commission is the state agency tasked with fulfilling this mandate. It is the Game Commission's responsibility to manage all wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of current and future generations. The alternative source of revenue provided for in House Bill 1676 would provide the Game Commission with a new, reliable long-term source of revenue, something absolutely vital if the Commission is to fulfill this state constitutional mandate."

J. Gary Moore, Legislative Liaison for the Fish and Boat Commission, said the Commission provides funding for many programs that benefit all citizens of the state including environmental permit reviews, environmental education and water safety awareness programs, conducting management studies of non-game species and more.

"With a supplemental funding source, future fishing license and permit increases may exceed 10 or more years in duration and the dollar amount may be at a much lower average percentage than the past three increases," said Moore.

The Fish and Boat Commission has a budget of about \$64.5 million and the Game Commission budget is \$89.2 million, all presently from license sales, federal funds, mineral leases and Growing Greener II bond funds.

Rep. David Levdansky (D-Allegheny) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Steven Nickol (R-York) serves as Minority Chair.

Steps Taken to Start Independent Review of Deer Management Program

The [Legislative Budget and Finance Committee](#) took the first steps in an independent review of the Game Commission's [Deer Management Program](#) by issuing an RFP for an out-of-state contractor to do the evaluation.

Proposals responding to the RFP are due May 14.

The Committee, which includes members of the Senate and House, was directed to do the study by [House Resolution 642](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny). The resolution laid out six objectives for the study—

- To examine historical deer population trends in Pennsylvania over the past 12 years and determine how the size of the state's deer herd has changed over time by Wildlife Management Unit or their approximate equivalent. This analysis should include the most current information on the number of deer in Pennsylvania and current and historical information on the age of the herd for both buck and doe (in absolute numbers and percentages).
- To identify the circumstances and problems that led to the initiation of a new approach to deer management in Pennsylvania around 2000 and how the current goals and objectives of the PGC's Deer Management Program address these problems.
- To document and conduct a science-based review and analysis of the basic components, principles, and objectives of Pennsylvania's Deer Management Program with an emphasis on examining the modeling, techniques, and management decision-making practices currently employed by the PGC, the extent to which they are based on sound science, and the impact the deer management program has had, to date on:

the size and health of the Commonwealth's deer herd; healthy forest regeneration, including the potential effects of factors other than the size of the deer herd, such as acid rain; and reducing the level of deer-human conflicts.

- To compare Pennsylvania's deer management practices to such practices in a sample of selected comparable states and to determine if there are more proven and scientifically-based deer management methods available that should be considered for use in Pennsylvania.
- To determine whether PGC's current Wildlife Management Units are appropriately sized for sound management, and in particular whether reducing the size of WMUs would likely result in improved deer management.
- To develop findings and recommendations, as appropriate, for improving PGC's deer management program.

Sen. John Pippy (R-Allegheny) serves as the chair of the LBFC and Sen. Gerald LaValle (D-Beaver) as the vice-chair.

Other News

Governor, Conservation Districts Celebrate Soil and Water Stewardship Week



Gov. Rendell this week proclaimed [Soil and Water Stewardship Week](#) in Pennsylvania-- April 27-May 4 and helping to celebrate were the [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts](#) and the [State Conservation Commission](#) at the Stoneylawn Farm in Dauphin County.

The theme of this year's observance is "Water is Life."

"Gov. Rendell is proclaiming Soil and Water Stewardship Week to remind all Pennsylvanians of our responsibility to be good stewards of the land," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "The agricultural industry is doing its part by using sound conservation practices to protect our soils and waterways for generations to come."

In the proclamation, the Governor urged all Pennsylvanians to recognize the importance of ensuring that we are wise stewards of our water and soil resources for generations to come. The proclamation states that it is every citizen's duty to live responsibly, protecting these soils and water for the future.

It also says that landowners, homeowners, farmers, and businesses have benefited from the help of Pennsylvania's sixty-six county conservation districts with more than 800 volunteer directors to help conserve vital soil and water resources, providing the state's citizens with a better quality of life.

The proclamation also praises local conservation districts for excelling at reminding all Pennsylvanians of the power of each person to conserve natural resources and improve the world.

PACD supports the awareness campaign to educate the public about the importance of responsible soil and water stewardship. Participation in Soil and Water Stewardship

Week activities offers an opportunity to reflect on the state's renewable resource problems and consider actions to resolve them or reduce their impact.

"The quality of life for Americans is deeply affected by conserving our natural resources," said Susan Marquart, executive director of the PACD (*pictured above*). "We all need to realize the importance of water in our everyday life. That is why we are promoting conservation during Soil and Water Stewardship Week."

What can we do? Become aware of the water quality and quantity in your community. Sometimes we only think of the direct uses of water in our daily lives such as cooking, bathing, and watering our plants. Water is also needed to manufacture the steel in the car you drive, and to grow the cotton in the blue jeans you wear.

Try these ideas to improve water quality and quantity:

- Save water by using dishwashers and washing machines only when they are fully loaded. Install a water-saving shower head and take short showers instead of baths;
- Wash cars infrequently and on the lawn so soapy water can be absorbed instead of running off into storm sewers;
- Use lawn and garden chemicals carefully. Read and follow all label directions. Use chemicals only as a last resort;
- Never apply more fertilizer than your lawn needs. Excess nutrients can runoff and add to water pollution; and
- Clean up pet wastes to prevent nutrients and bacteria from washing into waterways.

"Soil and Water Stewardship Week helps remind us that we can all make a difference in conserving resources," said Marquart.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. For the past fifty-three years, a national network of conservation districts has helped Americans learn to conserve natural resources on a local level through this program.

To learn more, visit the [Soil and Water Stewardship Week webpage](#).

Wildlands Conservancy Receives 1 of 9 Worldwide Water Grants From Coca-Cola

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) was one of nine organizations in the world to receive a grant totaling over \$75,000 from [The Coca-Cola Foundation](#) to implement community water partnership projects within the Lehigh Valley and Lehigh River watershed region.

"We are very pleased that our water resource protection work has received national recognition. This opportunity has allowed us to continue our important work," said Christopher Kocher, president of Wildlands Conservancy.

Wildlands Conservancy will use the grant to implement recommendations made in the Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Management Plan for the protection of the critical water resources of the Lehigh River watershed.

It will also address non-point source related water quality impacts that include Abandoned Mine Drainage related water quality impacts to the Nesquehoning Creek and Lehigh River in Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton counties, and sediment related water quality impacts to the Little Lehigh, Saucon, Jordan, Monocacy Creeks in Lehigh and Northampton counties.

These stream restoration projects will reduce non-point source pollution, improve water quality and enhance aquatic and wildlife habitat conditions along several tributaries within the Lehigh River watershed in Eastern Pennsylvania.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The educational objectives of the projects are to provide community educational outreach opportunities through the use of these projects as best management practice demonstrations on both public and private lands.

[Coca-Cola's North America Lehigh Valley Syrup Manufacturing plant](#) will also provide volunteer assistance toward implementation of specific, hands-on project related activities including endorsing and promoting the projects and providing volunteer assistance with project site improvements.

James McGirr Kelly Award For Excellence Given to Rick Rogers, EPA

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies has selected Rick Rogers, Chief of the Drinking Water Branch of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 for its prestigious James McGirr Kelly Award.

The Chapter will present the award at a [luncheon and awards ceremony](#) on May 7.

The James McGirr Kelly Award for Excellence is the highest honor bestowed by the Pennsylvania Chapter and is presented each year to the resident of Pennsylvania who most exemplified dedication to promoting the availability of safe drinking water in the Commonwealth.

Rick Rogers has served as Chief of the Drinking Water Branch since 1987 and is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the majority of the Safe Drinking Water Act programs in the Middle Atlantic region.

That includes a wide range of responsibilities from regulatory development to oversight of delegated state programs and the associated federal grants directed annually to states.

Rogers has been front and center on all of the complex issues facing the water industry, addressing both industry and the public on the use of chloramines as a disinfectant, lead and pharmaceuticals in drinking water, and the need for sustainable water infrastructure initiatives. Roger's leadership of the Drinking Water Branch and dedication to promoting the availability of safe drinking water in the Commonwealth and throughout the region has been exceptional.

Since September 11, 2001, security and counter terrorism work has become a major focus of the Drinking Water Branch. Rick and his staff have been actively involved with the Environmental Protection Agency's Security Division and have done much to meet the challenges posed by the Federal Bioterrorism Act of 2002. Specifically, he worked with the Chapter in drafting Act 51 of 2005, which authorizes the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) to lend monies it receives from Federal and State sources to public and private water and wastewater systems for security-related infrastructure improvements.

In addition, Rogers and his staff provided guidance and support to the Chapter's efforts to enact Act 156 of 2006. Act 156 limits the public disclosure of confidential security information relating to public utilities, including municipal or authority systems, to protect such facilities against sabotage or criminal or terrorist acts.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2007, Rogers went to Louisiana and Mississippi to help restore drinking water service to thousands of Gulf Coast residents whose treatment plants were damaged or flooded.

His main role for the first ten years with the agency was the regional office lead for microbial quality of drinking water and the prevention of waterborne disease outbreaks. In

addition, Rogers serves as the agency's representative on the Water Utility Council of the Pennsylvania Section, American Water Works Association.

In 1994, Rick earned a Master of Science in Management degree from Boston University and the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. His undergraduate degrees in marine science and biology were earned from East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1982.

Prior to working with the Environmental Protection Agency, Rick spent four years with the Philadelphia Water Department as an aquatic biologist.

The Annual Award for Excellence was named for the late James McGirr Kelly, Senior United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Judge Kelly was a former member of the Public Utility Commission and former vice president of American Water Works Service Company, Inc. He was the first recipient of the award in 1983.

Past award winners include 2006 Paul K. Marchetti, 2005 Representative Carole Rubley, 2004 Terrance J. Fitzpatrick, 2003 Fredrick A. Marrocco, 2002 David E. Hess, 2001 John M. Quain, 2000 Senator Raphael J. Musto, 1999 Walter A. Lyon, 1998 Michael D. Klein, 1997 David A. Long, PhD, 1996 Governor Tom Ridge, 1995 Senator David J. Brightbill, 1994 Wendell F. Holland, 1993 William R. Shane, 1992 William R. Lloyd, 1991 Edith D. Stevens, 1990 Dr. Ruth Patrick, 1989 Governor Robert P. Casey, 1988 Senator D. Michael Fisher, 1987 George I. Bloom, 1986 Clifford L. Jones, 1985 Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, and in 1984 Governor Dick Thornburgh.

For more information contact Erik Ross by sending email to: eross@deltaone.com .

Partnership for Safe Water Program Improves Drinking Water Quality



A recent report from the national [American Water Works Association](#) shows drinking water systems that participate in the [Partnership for Safe Water](#) improve the quality of the water they produce.

The Partnership for Safe Water Program is a voluntary effort involving rigorous self-assessment procedures, known as Phase III, that are specifically geared toward identifying and correcting weaknesses in plant operation, design and administration. Correcting these weaknesses helps prevent waterborne disease outbreaks from organisms like *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*.

The partnership program is a key part of DEP's compliance assurance efforts and has demonstrated real outcomes for partnership members and their customers.

According to the report from AWWA, a review of annual turbidity data submitted by partnership plants from throughout the country showed that after completion of the Phase III self-assessment process, partnership filter plants realized a 60 percent improvement in the drinking water they produced.

Approximately 100 of Pennsylvania's surface water filtration plants are enrolled in the partnership program. Forty-six filter plants that together serve 3.6 million Pennsylvanians have completed the Phase III self-assessment process.

For more information, visit the [Partnership for Safe Water webpage](#) or contact Kevin Anderson at 717-772-4018, send e-mail to: keanderson@state.pa.us .

June 23 Benefit Concert Will Support Wildlands Conservancy

[Wildlands Conservancy](#) will host a concert featuring the renowned corporate band from Air Products *The Difference*, with special guest *Bloom*, at The Roxy Theatre in Northampton on June 23.

The ticket price is \$10.00 and can be purchased through Wildlands Conservancy. The concert will start at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). The concert is in conjunction with the organization's [12th Annual Lehigh River Sojourn](#), a multi-day whitewater rafting, canoeing and/or kayaking trip (June 20 – 25).

Proceeds from this concert benefit organizations that work to protect the Lehigh River. Wildlands Conservancy will host a raffle during the concert for a 6-person whitewater rafting trip donated by [Jim Thorpe River Adventures](#).

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Stephanie Bortz, at 610-965-4397, ext. 12.

DEP Requesting Comments on Tioga County TMDL Watershed Plan

The Department of Environmental Protection is requesting comments on proposed Total Maximum Daily Loading plan for Wilson Creek Watershed in Tioga County.

DEP will hold a public meeting May 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the DCNR, Bureau of Forestry District Office in Willsboro, Pa. DEP is excepting comments until June 11.

For more information contact L. Richard Adams at 570-321-6581 or send email to: lyadams@state.pa.us.

To see a copy of this TMDLs and for more information, visit DEP's [TMDL webpage](#)

PA CleanWays Coordinates Patterson Road Cleanup in Cambria County May 3

Patterson Road in Barr Township, Cambria County, was the place to dump your garbage and old tires for free. At least that was what many illegal dumpers had thought for decades.

Much attention is now focused on this winding, country road and an intersecting dirt road that runs through the headwaters of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

The Department of Environmental Protection is planning to build an abandoned mine drainage treatment plant nearby which will treat polluted mine waters from the former [Barnes & Tucker Lancashire No. 15 mine](#).

The local community has had enough of people dumping household waste, tires, animal carcasses, furniture, televisions, carpeting, vehicle parts, shingles, construction debris, and appliances – all which threaten drinking water supplies, endanger wildlife, and breed disease-carrying mosquitoes.

[PA CleanWays](#) of Cambria County has already begun leading the cleanup effort. Boy Scout Troop 115 from Hastings, Pa removed 372 tires from the site on April 6, under the PA CleanWays Fugitive Tire Program. As a fund raiser, they will be removing all of



PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

the scrap metal for recycling. However, there will still be many tons of waste left to remove and properly dispose.

Pictured in the photo are cleanup coordinators Noah Niedererr, Ameri Corps, Dan Sammarco, DEP, Vince Rietscha, Barr Township, Mike Kane, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Scott Horrell, DEP and Shannon Reiter, PA CleanWays

The next volunteer cleanup day is scheduled for May 3 and the entire community is invited to help.

Cleaning up an illegal dump of this size and volume will require the support of many, and in many forms. The affected private property owners are victims of this illegal dumping and have granted PA CleanWays permission to enter to organize the cleanups.

Volunteers, equipment, trash bags, work gloves, safety vests, volunteer refreshments, hauling, and disposal are needed. Local donations to help in this large-scale cleanup are being accepted by PA CleanWays at 105 W. Fourth St., Greensburg, PA, 15601, or toll-free at 1-877-772-3673.

Volunteers are asked to register their participation with Sue Urchek at extension 23 using the toll free number. Youth ages 12-17 years must have a signed PA CleanWays Parental Consent Form, please call for more information.

Cleanup partners include Barr Township, the Department of Environmental Protection, Laurel Highlands Landfill, PennDOT, and PA CleanWays of Cambria County. Funding has been provided by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Penelec Fund for the Future of Greater Johnstown Fund, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, and the Robert S. Waters Charitable Trust.

All local residents are being asked to assist with helping maintain the site once it is cleaned by reporting any illegal dumping activity to Mark Stockley at [PA CleanWays of Cambria County](#) at 814-472-2120.

Tyler Run on May 3, Susquehanna River Cleanup Set for May 10 in York

Two cleanup events will be held in York County on May 3 and May 10 coordinated by the [Watershed Alliance of York](#).

On May 3, York College of Pennsylvania, in partnership with the Watershed Alliance of York, the York County Community Foundation, and Waste Management will team up to clean up a section of Tyler Run near the York College campus.

These community partners will join from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to remove trash and unwanted debris from a section of Tyler Run that runs from the York College campus north to Kings Mill Road.

The college recently acquired property on the western bank of the creek and hopes to bring new life to the area. Before that can happen, however, the area must first be cleaned of the tremendous amounts of trash in the creek and on its banks.

“Tyler Run is an important resource not only for the Chesapeake Bay to which it ultimately drains, but also for the residents of the local community,” said Jake Romig, President of Ecostruction, LLC and the Watershed Alliance of York.

The York College Biology and Chemistry clubs will be assisting with the clean-up, but volunteers are needed to help make this event successful. Those interested in volunteering should plan to register on May 3 at a designated registration table located at the end of Cottage Place (behind the Depot Bar).

On May 10 the Saginaw Concerned Citizens, in partnership with the Watershed Alliance of York, PPL, Republic Services, Inc., and York Waste Disposal will team up to clean up Gutt Road, East Manchester Township, along the Lower Susquehanna River.

The cleanup will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Gutt Road boat launch area in Saginaw. Dumpster, trash bags, gloves and will be lunch provided.

All ages welcome. Make it a family event! Come for the whole day, or just an hour or two. Rain or shine.

For more information call Kim Miller at 717-887-4297 or Jen Miller at 717-332-8643.

The Watershed Alliance of York is a coalition of stakeholders committed to encouraging watershed-based planning, restoration and protection in York County and beyond.

Exelon Supports New Solar Energy Facility on Philadelphia Brownfields Site

[Exelon Generation Corp.](#) has entered into a 20-year agreement to purchase the electricity generated from the Exelon-EPURON Solar Center to be constructed at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia.

The facility will be developed and owned by [EPURON LLC](#), a subsidiary of the world's largest solar integration company, [Conergy AG](#). Conergy has its North American headquarters in Pennsylvania.

The purchase is part of 2007 power purchase agreement that also includes the electricity generated at the Exelon-EPURON Solar Center in Falls Township, Bucks County.

The facility will feature between 6,000 and 8,000 solar panels on a tract of land north of the Aker shipyard, and will produce up to 1.4 million kilowatt hours of electricity by the first quarter of 2009, or enough to meet the energy requirements of as many as 200 homes.

At this output, emission levels of carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide that directly contribute to pollution and acid rain will be reduced by the equivalent of planting 300 acres of mature trees and offsetting the impact of cars driving as many as 50 million miles.

The Navy Yard project represents as much as a \$12 million investment that will create approximately 40 construction jobs and 10 permanent jobs. Together with the Falls Township site, the aggregate project is the largest solar photovoltaic installation on the East Coast.

“With the cost of fossil fuels continuing to rise, renewable energy technologies like solar, wind and biomass are becoming increasingly attractive and cost-competitive,” said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty. “This innovative solar project will take idle land and turn it into an asset for the commonwealth by creating energy, jobs and a stable, reliable supply of electricity to serve our families and businesses.”

NewsClip: [Solar Energy Plant Planned for South Philly](#)
[Solar Plant to Go Up at Philadelphia Navy Yard](#)

Pocono Environmental Education Center Honored for Green Design



The [Pocono Environmental Education Center](#) in Pike County has been selected by the American Institute of Architects as one of [the top 10 examples of sustainable architecture](#) and green design solutions that protect and enhance the environment.

The projects will be honored at the AIA 2008 National Convention and Design Exposition in Boston.

“These projects were judged against a rigorous set of criteria to determine the best examples of sustainable design concepts and intentions,” said Henry Siegel, chair of the AIA Committee on the Environment. “In addition to examining their architectural innovation, the buildings had to have shown design elements within their regional / community context, land use and site ecology that benefits surrounding ecosystems, resource conservation through bioclimatic design and the health benefits associated with improved lighting and indoor air quality.”

Pocono Environmental Education Center is designed to reinforce the mission of environmental stewardship and education. Through careful site and materials selection, analysis and design of building systems, the structure outwardly expresses the principles of sustainable design.

The building is a flexible, multi-purpose gathering space for dining, meetings, lectures and other environmental learning activities. As part of the site design, native grasses were planted to provide a landscape that is low maintenance and integrates the project into its natural surroundings.

“This is a dramatic transformation of a site by using the materials removed from its cleanup, to create the exterior envelope, which is exciting to see. The use of the recycled tires and the texture they produce are inventive,” said Susan T. Rodriguez of Polshek Partnership Architects, one of the judges in the competition.

The Top Ten Green Projects program celebrates projects that are the result of a thoroughly integrated approach to architecture, natural systems and technology. They make a positive contribution to their communities, improve comfort for building occupants and reduce environmental impacts through strategies such as reuse of existing structures, connection to transit systems, low-impact and regenerative site development, energy and water conservation, use of sustainable or renewable construction materials, and design that improves indoor air quality.

For more information, visit the [AIA Pocono Environmental Education Center webpage](#)

Philadelphia Phillies Knock It Out Of The Park With Green Power

The [Philadelphia Phillies](#) announced this week they will purchase 20 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power to serve the ball club’s 43,500-seat Citizens Bank Park.

The purchase not only places the Phillies as the largest green power purchaser in major league baseball, but also as the leader overall among major U.S. professional sports teams in [EPA’s Green Power Partnership](#).

The Phillies’ purchase is estimated to avoid the equivalent carbon dioxide emissions of nearly 2,800 vehicles each year.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

“EPA applauds the Philadelphia Phillies for 'playing ball' and protecting our environment by purchasing green power,” said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. “By being the first major league baseball team to join the Green Power Partnership, the Phillies have hit a grand slam for the environment.”

Buying green power is an effective way for an organization to reduce its environmental footprint. Green power is a kind of renewable electricity. It's produced from resources that provide the highest environmental benefit - - solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and low-impact hydropower. Green power resources produce electricity with an environmental profile superior to traditional power generation. It also does not produce a net-increase of greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA Regional Administrator Donald Welsh joined Gov. Rendell, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and representatives from the Phillies, Major League Baseball, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Department of Environmental Protection for the announcement. Among the organizations in EPA's Green Power Partnership, the Phillies are the third largest green power purchaser in Philadelphia and seventh largest in Pennsylvania.

EPA is looking to other professional sports teams to step up to the plate, buy green power, and help reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use. The partnership includes a diverse set of organizations from Fortune 500 companies, to small and medium businesses, to government institutions and colleges and universities.

Overall, more than 950 Green Power Partners are buying over 14 billion kWh of green power annually, which is the equivalent amount of electricity needed to power nearly 1.5 million average American homes for one year.

For more information on how your organization can partner with EPA, or for tips on how to buy green power, visit [EPA's Green Power Partners webpage](#).

Link: [Pirates Launch Greening Initiatives Program at PNC Park](#)
[Philadelphia Eagles, PPL Announce Completion of Solar Panel Project](#)
[Philadelphia Eagles Partner With Recycled Paper Products Firm](#)

Philadelphia Eagles Offset Carbon Footprint With 1,200 Trees

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis and Philadelphia Eagles owner Christina Lurie this week cut the ribbon on Eagles Forest, a 6.5-acre site at [Neshaminy State Park](#) in Bensalem, Bucks County, to help offset the team's carbon footprint, restore wildlife habitat and enhance public recreation areas.

This spring, volunteers and state park staff planted 1,200 trees and shrubs in Eagles Forest, including 58 trees that were purchased by Eagles fans.

"Forests score big in promoting physical and mental health for people," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "Not only will visitors benefit from the beauty of the new forest at Neshaminy State Park, but a trail that winds through the area and four attractive new interpretive signs will help them understand the benefits of trees, and how our personal actions affect our environment."



PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Secretary DiBerardinis said the tree plantings also are a part of the TreeVitalize initiative to restore tree cover in the southeastern part of the state. From the edge of the forest, visitors can see the Philadelphia skyline.

Eagles Forest is one example of the team's commitment through its [GO GREEN](#) initiative to better the planet through responsible business practices. The GO GREEN program, launched in 2003, incorporates green initiatives, sustainable business practices and educational outreach as core operating principals of the Philadelphia Eagles.

"The Eagles Forest is another opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and involve our fans in taking steps to reduce their impact on and improve our planet," said Lurie. "We appreciate the support that DCNR has provided to make this forest a reality."

Two of the acres within Eagles Forest were planted in partnership with The Conservation Fund's [Go ZeroSM program](#) to offset the carbon emissions that resulted from the team's away-game air travel during the 2007 season. Dubbed the "Go Zero Grove," the 870 native seedlings planted here will trap 565 tons of carbon dioxide over their lifetime.

Additional plans for Eagles Forest include the team's commitment to continue planting trees to help offset its carbon footprint. Eagles' corporate partner Pulte Homes recently announced a \$5,000 donation to help achieve this goal. At least 200 trees will be planted in the forest this fall.

Among the native trees and shrubs planted at the park are Redbud, Red Oak, Willow Oak, Sugar Maple, Black Gum, Sycamore, Swamp White Oak, Flowering Dogwood, Viburnum, Red Maple, Serviceberry and Sweet Gum.

Neshaminy is a 330-acre state park along the Delaware River that includes a slip marina, fishing access to the river, hiking trails, picnic facilities, boat launching ramps and a large swimming pool with spray water features. The park gets approximately 250,000 visitors annually.

EPA Makes Diesel Trucks in Pittsburgh Cleaner, Clean Diesel Grant Apps Due

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a \$127,000 grant to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association who will, in turn, issue a grant to the City of Pittsburgh and two partners for a pilot project to cut emissions from the city's heavy-duty diesel trucks used for hauling waste.

EPA's Mid-Atlantic region is also [currently soliciting proposals](#) for additional projects to reduce diesel emissions in the region. An estimated \$3.1 million is available for the deployment of EPA-verified and certified technologies.

The deadline for proposals is June 13.

"Heavy duty trucks are some of the workhorses of cities' infrastructure and public works services," said Donald S. Welsh, mid-Atlantic regional administrator. "This grant will help improve air quality and reduce air pollution from diesel trucks hauling waste in Pittsburgh."

EPA is implementing the project in Pittsburgh with partners Clean Water Action and the Group Against Smog and Pollution.

EPA said the grant will provide staff resources and expertise to retrofit eight to 12 diesel trash trucks in Pittsburgh with filters that will reduce air emissions of diesel particles. The grant may also be used to purchase equipment to clean and maintain the filters.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

"It is great opportunity to work with our partners on this project in Pittsburgh. This will show how our regional collaborative can help reduce fine particle pollution," said Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association Susan Wierman.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association coordinates the [Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative](#), a partnership of public and private entities in the five Mid-Atlantic States and the District of Columbia who are working together to reduce emissions from diesel engines.

Diesel emissions contain large amounts of nitrogen oxides and fine particles (soot). Diesel engines in the region emit more than 15 thousand tons of fine particles every year and create 40 per cent of the fine particle emissions from human activity. Fine particles in the air are a serious health problem and can aggravate respiratory and heart diseases.

The Pittsburgh grant is part of [EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign](#) promoting many options for modernizing and upgrading existing diesel fuel and equipment by refueling, retrofitting, repairing and replacing older equipment with new engines or vehicles. EPA and the states are also underway with important anti-idling programs.

For more information, visit EPA's [National Clean Diesel Grant program webpage](#).
NewsClip: [Green Devices Scrub City Trucks' Toxic Exhaust](#)

Local Harrisburg Home Receives Energy-Efficient Modifications

Volunteers from [Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg](#) and the Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania worked this week to help improve a local homeowner's quality of life, as well as reduce her energy use and save money as part of an energy-efficient rebuild of her home.

The rebuild is part of the Energy Efficient Homes Initiative, a national partnership between Rebuilding Together and America's oil and natural gas industry, which incorporates energy efficiency into home renovations for low-income homeowners nationwide, many of whom are elderly, disabled or have young children.

The energy-efficient modifications, which include new windows, a storm door and an Energy Star refrigerator, along with exterior and interior renovations will help reduce the homeowner's heating and cooling bills, and ultimately help preserve her homeownership.

"Our combined efforts have an ongoing, positive impact on homeowners in our neighborhood and across the country," said Sue Gebhart, executive director of Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg. "The Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania's support enables us to help improve the quality of life for many deserving homeowners who can now live more comfortably, safely and use less energy."

"America's oil and natural gas industry practices energy efficiency every day within its operations, so we know the significant value of such a commitment," said Rolf Hanson, executive director of the Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania. "We are delighted to partner with Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg in this outstanding initiative. Our efforts will help provide the homeowner with the dual benefit of saving energy and money."

Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg is renovating numerous homes on National Rebuild Day, with 88-year-old Rosella France's home being the first to receive energy-

saving renovations. Ms. France, whose 49-year-old son lives with her, was in desperate need of repairs on her home.

"There are no words," said France. "We've really been blessed. These improvements will allow us to live more comfortably in our home, while saving money."

Since 2005, the Initiative has expanded its reach, doubling the number of rebuilds conducted nationwide and affording homeowners the ability to save as much as 30 percent on monthly energy bills, thanks to a variety of energy-efficient techniques incorporated into their homes.

The Initiative is an additional component of Rebuilding Together, which is celebrating 20 years having revitalized more than 100,000 homes and nonprofit facilities with the help of millions of volunteers in communities across America.

In addition to making homes more energy efficient, the Initiative also provides homeowners, volunteers and others with materials and information with recommendations on how to preserve energy now and in the future.

[Rebuilding Together](#) is the nation's largest nonprofit organization working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize neighborhoods by providing free home repair and modification services to those in need.

3 PA Colleges & Universities Recognized as Top Green Power Purchasers



Led by the University of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week recognized colleges and universities across the country for the green power initiatives.

For the second year in a row, the Ivy League won the crown as the overall champion conference in EPA's 2007-2008 [College & University Green Power Challenge](#). This year's challenge included 40 competing institutions representing 18 different conferences nationwide.

The Pennsylvania schools recognized in the challenge were: [University of Pennsylvania](#), [Pennsylvania State University](#) and [Duquesne University](#).

In total, the colleges and universities represented in this year's challenge are buying more than 960 million kWh of green power annually. EPA estimates that this amount of green power is equal to the electricity needed to power nearly 97,000 average American homes each year.

"EPA applauds this year's College & University Green Power Conference Champions for their leadership in green power purchasing," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By switching to green power resources these schools are proving that doing what's good for the environment is also good for education."

Since the spring of 2007, EPA has ranked collegiate athletic conferences by the total amount of green power bought by their member schools. To be eligible, each school in the conference had to qualify as an EPA Green Power Partner and each conference had to collectively purchase at least 10 million kWh of green power.

Green power is a subset of renewable energy and represents those resources and technologies that generate electricity with the highest environmental benefit. Green power is produced from eligible resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydro. Green power has a superior environmental profile to traditional power

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

generation, generating electricity with no net increase of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

EPA's Green Power Partnership encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with traditional fossil fuel-based electricity use. The partnership includes a diverse set of organizations including Fortune 500 companies, small and medium businesses, government institutions as well as a growing number of colleges and universities.

A complete list of all partner organizations in [EPA's Green Power Partnership](#) is available online. More information is available online at the [College & University Green Power Challenge webpage](#).

Appalachian Regional Commission Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants

The Appalachian Regional Commission is now accepting applications for a second round of a [grants competition](#) to assist Appalachian communities in leveraging renewable-energy and energy-efficiency resources to revitalize their economies.

The deadline for applications is June 30.

ARC expects to provide eight to 10 awards of up to \$75,000 each, for a total of \$500,000 in awards, to help communities implement these strategies.

Pennsylvania grantees last year were Saint Francis University, which received \$60,000 for a geothermal heating and cooling system project, and the SEDA-Council of Governments, \$25,000 for an LED traffic light conversion program.

The ARC grants may be eligible for use as matching contributions for [Pennsylvania's energy grants](#).

Nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, and public educational institutions located within the Appalachian Region are eligible to apply. Private, for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply.

An independent review panel will be convened to evaluate submissions. This panel will include leading energy-efficiency and renewable-energy organizations and federal, state, and local partners. The review panel will forward recommendations to ARC for final approval.

Additional consideration will be provided for projects focusing on ARC-designated distressed counties and areas and at-risk counties, and for projects involving multi-state collaboration.

The first round of the grants competition held last year saw grants totaling \$605,000 awarded to 12 winners from 10 Appalachian states for projects promoting energy-efficient buildings, biofuels production and distribution, clean energy incubators, geothermal heat systems, landfill gas collection and distribution, LED traffic light installation, wind energy production, and energy-related education and training.

For more information, visit the [ARC Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Grant Program webpage](#).

Energy Management Workshop Set for Chester County May 6

The Department of Environmental Protection will provide a free workshop in Chester County to help business owners find ways to reduce soaring energy costs on May 6 in Malvern.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Penn State - Great Valley Campus, 30 E. Swedesford Road, Malvern.

Although open to the public and businesses of all sizes, the workshops will focus on small- and medium-sized businesses—or those with fewer than 100 employees. Typically, these companies do not have the resources to employ or retain an energy management expert.

Business owners will receive information on energy-supply options, and learn how to identify energy-saving opportunities and develop an energy action plan.

The workshop will also offer attendees information on financial and technical resources that are available for energy-efficiency upgrades, including easily implemented, cost-effective changes for manufacturing facilities.

Registration for the workshops is free, and the session is open to the public. Similar workshops are being held statewide this spring.

The workshop is sponsored by DEP’s Office of the Small Business Ombudsman in partnership with the [Electrotechnology Application Center](#), the [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program](#) and the [Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia](#). Funding for the Energy Management Workshop is provided through a U.S. Department of Energy grant.

DEP’s Office of the Small Business Ombudsman provides assistance to small businesses needing help with environmental issues and helps owners realize the potential cost savings of pollution-prevention and energy-conservation strategies.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact DEP at 717-783-8411 or visit the [Ombudsman’s Events webpage](#).

Exelon Power To Pursue Development of New PA Power Plant Project

[Exelon Power](#) will actively pursue development of a 600-megawatt combined-cycle natural gas power plant in Pennsylvania this year, the company announced this week.

If a new power plant is ultimately developed, it will entail more than 500 construction-related jobs, a capital investment of more than \$700 million and generate new property tax revenues for the host community. A power plant of this size would provide enough electricity for nearly 525,000 typical households.

A key factor in the company’s decision to pursue development opportunities now is the competitive market structure within PJM, Exelon Power President Mark Schiavoni said. Exelon Power is the non-nuclear generating unit of Exelon Generation.

“New power plants are critical to meet growing electricity demand and to maintain reliable electric service in Pennsylvania and the PJM region,” Schiavoni said. “The Reliability Pricing Model policy adopted by PJM and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is designed to provide the transparent price signals we need in order to pursue a new power plant.”

PJM’s Reliability Pricing Model is designed to help ensure adequate resources to meet future demand by compensating power generators for the costs of building and maintaining power plants. For example, Schiavoni said, the pricing model program is a key driver of upgrades being explored that will eventually add additional generating capacity to Exelon’s low carbon nuclear generation fleet in PJM.

The plant would advance Exelon’s efforts to combat carbon emissions associated with electricity generation. Exelon’s chairman, president and CEO John W. Rowe has

established a corporate-wide goal of reducing, displacing or offsetting the equivalent of Exelon's entire carbon footprint by 2020.

Exelon Power is in the initial stages of looking at several existing power plant sites it already owns because those properties have the access to transmission lines, water, and fuel needed to operate a new power plant. Within the next six months the company expects to narrow the list of sites, begin talking with local communities in potential locations, develop and submit applications for required environmental permits, and establish a timeline for submitting applications for local construction permits and obtaining any required zoning approvals.

Schiavoni said the company would work with state agencies to complete the permit review process as quickly as possible so that it can bring much needed new power on line as quickly as possible. He said the company would make a final decision on whether to move forward only after it has more certainty around the environmental permitting process as well as a detailed economic review of building a new plant.

The earliest that a plant could be operational is 2012.

NewsClip: [Exelon Considering New Power Plant for Region](#)

EPA Region 3 Spring Land Revitalization Update Now Available Online

For those interested in the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties in the mid-Atlantic region, [the spring issue](#) of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Land Revitalization newsletter is now available online.

Highlights include: Mid-Atlantic area gets \$3.7 million in brownfields cleanup and assessment grants, more than 60 percent of Targeted Brownfield Assessment sites are being reused or have a plan for reuse, bulk oil storage site becomes a Walgreens in Abingdon, Va., and other success stories.

For more information, visit the [Mid-Atlantic Land Revitalization webpage](#).

\$4 Million Grant Helps Acquire Glatfelter Tree Farm in Adams County

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded a \$4 million grant to help protect approximately 2,500 acres of forested land in a part of western Adams County that has lost a significant amount of open space in recent years.

The money will help [The Conservation Fund](#), a national non-profit land and water conservation organization, recover funding used for its March purchase of what is known as Glatfelter Tree Farm #1. The land will eventually be added to the Michaux State Forest.

Funding for the grant comes from Growing Greener II, a voter-approved, \$625 million bond issue.

The Conservation Fund provided financing for the \$12.5 million purchase, and has agreed to hold the property until other public and private funding can be raised to transfer the land to the Commonwealth.

The fund is building a coalition that includes federal partners; DCNR; Adams County; townships and boroughs throughout the region; nonprofits, such as the [Land Conservancy of Adams County](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#); and local citizens to raise the purchase amount and project costs by the end of 2008.

Current zoning for the property would allow 500 homes on the site if it were to be developed.

"This is a watershed that extends to the Chesapeake Bay, a buffer to the Appalachian Trail corridor, and a part of the 400,000-acre South Mountain landscape. It's a fragile environment that deserves protection," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "There are many partners on this project and we are happy to be able to help them meet the vision they have for their community."

DCNR Bureau of Forestry will manage and patrol the site during the interim ownership. The property will remain closed to the public until it is transferred to the commonwealth.

"Folks expressed interest in purchasing this property for conservation – we felt compelled to act," said Todd McNew, Pennsylvania representative for The Conservation Fund. "This grant represents a milestone. It is the first piece of funding needed to ensure that we are able to permanently protect this land. We are deeply grateful to DCNR and Gov. Rendell for this investment."

The 85,000-acre [Michaux State Forest](#) is located in Adams, Cumberland and Franklin counties. From the mid-18th century to the early 20th century, the land that is now the Michaux State Forest was owned by large iron companies. The iron companies needed large land holdings so they could cut wood, convert the wood to charcoal and use it to fuel their iron furnaces.

Potable water may be the Michaux's most valuable resource. Numerous local communities depend on its pure water for their municipal water supplies.

State Agencies Working to Rid Potter, Cameron Counties of Noxious Weed

[Mile-a-Minute](#), an [invasive, noxious](#) vine that can kill other plants, is being targeted for removal this summer near [Sinnemahoning State Park](#) in Potter and Cameron counties, said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff.

"Mile-a-Minute can kill native plants, depriving them of sunlight by rapidly growing over them," Secretary Wolff said. "The population in these two counties is isolated and, with a concerted effort from local residents and our state organizations, we hope to contain and reduce the weed, eradicating it within a few years."



Mile-a-Minute is a state noxious weed regulated by the Pennsylvania Noxious Weed Control Law.

State agencies joining the Department of Agriculture in the eradication effort include the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' State Parks and Forestry bureaus, Department of Transportation, Fish and Boat Commission, Game Commission, and Department of Environmental Protection. The United States Forest Service and Penn State University also are supporting the effort.

Mile-a-Minute, or *Polygonum perfoliatum*, is native to Asia. The plant has a reddish stem armed with downward pointing, sharp hooks or barbs, also found on the underside of its light green triangular leaves. While not poisonous to humans, the barbs can tear clothing and cut the skin. Wearing gloves is recommended when handling the weed.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The weed first was introduced to southeastern Pennsylvania in the 1940's, where it is now widespread. The seeds were likely transported to the Sinnemahoning State Park and north to Costello, Pa., by water, migrating birds or other wildlife.

Property owners can hand-pull any vines discovered this summer to help limit its spread. Hand-removal, chemical-spraying or mowing of the vines before setting fruit is critical to preventing seed dispersal by birds and water. It may take several years of treatment to eliminate the weed completely.

Last summer, the Department of Agriculture and volunteers from the other organizations conducted a "weed walk" to determine the severity of the infestation along Route 872 and the first fork of the Sinnemahoning Creek.

This year, the agriculture department hired Cameron County resident Jim Zoschg to help slow the spread and eradicate the weed from private land in the Sinnemahoning Valley. From April 14 – August 29, Zoschg will travel in a white Dodge truck with state tags along Route 872, beginning at the northern edge of Sinnemahoning State Park and continuing through Costello.

To report this vine, or for assistance in controlling it on their property, landowners should contact Zoschg at 570-417-2661 or 814-486-0705.

If property owners have already signed a consent-to-spray form and Mile-a-Minute weed is on their property, Zoschg can aid with the necessary steps to destroy the weed, which may involve mowing the weed before it produces seeds.

The Bucktail Watershed Association is also planning educational outreach efforts this summer relating to Mile-a-Minute. Todd Deluccia, Cameron County Watershed specialist, will work with Zoschg to remove the vine. Deluccia can be contacted at 814-486-9354.

Additionally, the Sinnemahoning State Park began implementing a management plan for the infestation in the park in 2006 and will continue the effort through this year. Anyone interested in volunteering with the park should contact Lisa Baine or Jackie Flynn at 814-647-8401.

For more information, look for the [noxious weeds links](#) on the Department of Agriculture's website or contact Melissa Bravo at 717-787-7204.

DCNR Accepting Grant Applications to Protect Non-Game Species

Applications are now being accepted for \$1 million in grants for projects protecting Pennsylvania's non-game animals, native plants and their habitat by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The deadline for applications is June 30.

For more than 25 years, the [Wild Resource Conservation Program](#) has helped to protect Pennsylvania's native biodiversity by supporting research, conservation, and education projects.

This year, the Wild Resource Conservation Program is focusing on five critical areas: effects of climate change on biodiversity; elementary education materials; Wildlife Action Plan priorities; wild plant management; and general biodiversity projects.

"By funding projects that address one or more of these priorities, we will be able to address the most critical issues facing Pennsylvania's non-game species and wild plants," said program Executive Director Greg Czarnecki. "We'll be focusing on those species and

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

habitats most at risk, and filling educational needs identified during teacher workshops we've held over the past year."

Launched in 1982, the program is funded through Growing Greener and voluntary contributions, and supports research and protection efforts to conserve Pennsylvania's diverse native wildlife resources, including bird and mammal species, amphibians and reptiles, insects and wild plants.

Projects for the current round of grants must be completed between January 2009 and June 2010.

A manual that includes information on how to apply, along with selection criteria, is available at the [Wild Resource Conservation Program webpage](#).

Paper copies of the manual can be ordered from the Wild Resource Conservation Program, P.O. Box 8764, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8764. Questions on the grants program can be directed to Czarnecki at 717-783-1639 or send email to: gczarnecki@state.pa.us.

DEP Launches New Falcon Website to Enhance Learning Experience



Just days before five eggs are expected to hatch on the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg, the Department of Environmental Protection this week unveiled a new and improved [Peregrine Falcon webpage](#) to enhance visitors' online experience.

"With its streamlined navigation and easy access to the live video feed of the falcons, this new site greatly improves the educational experience for our viewers," said DEP Director of Environmental Education Jack Farster. "Through the website,

Pennsylvania has been able to share this wildlife success story with a worldwide audience."

Visitors to the site will immediately notice the large window that provides still pictures and live video of Harrisburg's two Peregrine falcons. The redesign also incorporates new features, such as a photo gallery featuring hundreds of spectacular images of the falcons captured throughout the years.

Popular features like the Falcon Wire and history of the nesting project remain. A separate section for educators allows teachers to register their classrooms and download falcon lesson plans. Visitors also can access archived webcasts of young falcons being banded by the Game Commission.

This year's live Webcast will take place from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., on May 22. By then, the five eggs the female falcon produced this year will have hatched and the nestlings will be several weeks old.

Game Commission officials will retrieve the young falcons from their nest on the 15th floor of the Rachel Carson building and take them to the auditorium where a numeric metal leg band will be attached before a live audience of central Pennsylvania students. The bands help to identify and track the birds when they leave the nest.

In addition, the falcons are weighed and examined to determine their sex, and they are checked for any health issues before they are returned to their nest.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Thirty-five teachers who attended a falcon educator workshop conducted by DEP and the Game Commission are invited to bring their students to watch the live banding in person.

The students will follow the falcons' progress online as part of their classroom activities.

In Pennsylvania, Peregrine Falcons remain an endangered species. In the early 1900s, there were about 350 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons in Pennsylvania. By the mid-1960s, the pesticide DDT had wiped out the Peregrines' native breeding population in the eastern United States and records indicate the bird did not nest in Pennsylvania from about 1959 to 1987.

Thanks to recent reintroduction efforts, the number of Peregrine Falcons is slowly increasing. There are at least a dozen pairs of nesting falcons in Pennsylvania. They have adapted to life in urban environments like Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Williamsport.

Since 2000, 32 Peregrine falcons have hatched from the nest at the Rachel Carson State Office Building. Of those, 20 falcons have survived -- 11 females and 9 males.

To learn more, visit the [new Falcon website](#).

NewsClip: [3 Peregrine Falcon Chicks Born Atop U. of Pittsburgh](#)

Game Commission Schedules Wildlife Workshops For Teachers

With summer recess for schools just around the corner, the Game Commission this week announced a series of exciting wildlife education workshops for educators and scout and youth group leaders in June.

The three programs, which are Act 48-approved for educators and include standards-based activities to help address the Environment and Ecology Standards, are Wild about Owls, WILD about Watersheds and WILD about Schoolyard Habitat.

Dress is causal for all three workshops, and participants should bring a lunch. Following is a summary of the three programs.

WILD About Owls: June 11, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., at the Game Commission's Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area along Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, Lebanon County.

This one-day workshop will examine owls in Pennsylvania, and feature Game Commission biologists. Participants also will watch agency biologists banding barn owls nesting at Middle Creek. For more information or to register, contact Theresa Alberici, Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Education specialist, at talberici@state.pa.us. There is no charge for this workshop.

WILD about Schoolyard Habitats: June 19, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center in Reading.

This one-day workshop explores ways to utilize large and small schoolyards as outdoor classrooms, and identifies methods and specific plants to help attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife to schoolyards. Workshop participants will even have an opportunity to apply for a small grant to start schoolyard projects! For more information, contact Theresa Alberici, Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Education specialist, at talberici@state.pa.us. There is no charge for this workshop, which is sponsored by the Game Commission, Nolde Forest EE Center and DCNR's Bureau of State Parks.

WILD about Watersheds: This two-day workshop will be held June 25, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Olewine Nature Center at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary, off Industrial Road, in Harrisburg, and June 26, at 8 a.m. at the Fish and Boat Commission Boat Launch north of the Fort Hunter Mansion on Front Street, and conclude by 4 p.m.

The first day will include classroom and hands-on activities that can be done indoors or outdoors to help students learn about watersheds. The second day will "immerse" participants in the watershed as they canoe the Susquehanna River, making stops at different locations to learn about Native Americans along the river, and about the reintroduction of American shad, bald eagles and peregrine falcons to the watershed. Participants also will survey aquatic insects to evaluate water quality. Pack a lunch and plenty of drinking water and dress for outdoor activities.

Pre-registration is required, and arrangements can be made by calling the Wildwood Lake Sanctuary at 717-221-0292. There is a \$25 per person fee, which covers two days of instruction, educational materials, canoes, paddles, life jackets and shuttle service.

Friends of the Wissahickon Lead Free Spring Bird Walks in May

The [Friends of the Wissahickon](#) will sponsor a series of free bird walks during May that will showcase some of the 125 species of birds will migrate through or over the Wissahickon Valley in the Spring.

Each Spring Bird Walk is led by an experienced birder: Richard Berman, Robin Mattison, and Steve Lawrence of FOW, and Debbie Carr, Trish Fries, and Megan Sgarlat of Fairmount Park. The walks are free and each lasts for two hours, sometimes longer if the day is productive.

Dates, Times, and Locations:

- May 8, 8-10 a.m. Meet on Forbidden Drive at Bell's Mill Rd. Led by Richard Berman, Debbie Carr, and Steve Lawrence.
- May 15, 8-10 a.m. Meet at Ellet St. entrance to Carpenter's Woods (end of 600 block of W.Ellet). Led by Richard Berman, Debbie Carr, and Steve Lawrence.
- May 20 6-8 p.m. Meet at the Wissahickon Environmental Center (Andorra Tree House) at 5:30 p.m. for light refreshments and walk to the Meadow. Led by Richard Berman, Trish Fries, Steve Lawrence, and Megan Sgarlat.

For additional information or directions, contact FOW's office at 215-247-0417 or send email to: office@fow.org .

Set Up Backyard Composting Sites Now at the Beginning of Gardening Season

Are you ready for free fertilizer and a soil conditioner that will give your flowers and vegetables a boost? Then break out the compost bin.

For people who recycle regularly and are looking for ways to reduce their household waste even further, composting is the sensible next step. Yard trimmings and food residuals together constitute 24 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream. That's a lot of waste to send to landfills especially when you could put it to good use in your garden.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Tea bags, coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable peels, pet hair, dryer lint, egg shells, leaves, and grass clippings – almost any organic materials -- can be thrown into the compost pile.

You can get started quickly and easily. You don't need special equipment – just a level, well-drained space outdoors for a compost pile, which shouldn't be larger than 3 feet by 3 feet. It could take a year or two, but eventually you will get rich, dark humus that will keep your plants healthy.

Many homeowners invest in a compost bin to save space, hasten decomposition, and keep the yard looking neat. These are available in home and garden centers and on the internet.

The most important thing is to keep the compost aerated. Be sure to mix it up whenever you add new materials. That will add oxygen, which will speed up the process. You will also want to keep the compost pile fairly balanced with materials. Too many leaves, for example, will cause the material to break down too slowly.

When your humus is ready, your soil will love it. You will, too, when you notice a reduction in your water bill. Compost improves the soil's ability to hold water. And with regular use of compost, you'll greatly reduce the need for chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, which is not only good for your wallet but will reduce contamination to streams, lakes and other waterbodies.

International Compost Awareness Week is May 4 to May 10.

For more information, go to [EPA's Composting webpage](#) or watch the GreenTreks Network online [How to Compost video](#). You can also sign up for one of the Pennsylvania Resources Council's [backyard composting classes](#).

Environmental Attorney to Lead Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc.

John W. Ubinger Jr. of Pittsburgh has been selected as the new Executive Director of [Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc.](#), a subsidiary of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#).

Mr. Ubinger is a retired Partner of the law firm of Jones Day, where he was the Coordinator of the environmental law practice group in Jones Day's Pittsburgh Office. He also served as the Administrative Partner of the Pittsburgh Office from 1994 through 2003.

He has more than 30 years of experience as an environmental lawyer. He served on PEC's board of directors and its policy committee for many years, including several years as policy committee chairman.

He also served as chairman of the Allegheny Land Trust Board of Directors and is a member of the adjunct faculty for Duquesne University's Environmental Science and Management Master Degree Program, where he teaches conflict resolution and problem solving.

EESI works in Pennsylvania and across the country. It has grown significantly in the last two years and needs an executive director who can manage a growing organization, understands PEC's mission and approach to issues, and knows environmental issues inside-out, said Paul King, the Chairman of the EESI and PEC boards.

"EESI is a public-private partnership that works to identify and implement best practices in environmental protection through policy innovation, market-based solutions and economic incentives. Its Center for Climate Strategies has supported state governments in developing and implementing innovative policy solutions to global

warming in more than 20 states, which has enabled EESI to grow to a \$5 million per year operation,” King said, adding, “As someone who has known Jack for 30 years, he has the right skill set to take EESI to the next level.”

Ubinger noted, “I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to represent a diverse set of environmentally responsible clients in the resolution of a wide variety of challenging problems over the past three and one-half decades. Over that time I have come to appreciate the critical role that innovative, problem-solving organizations such as the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and EESI can play in the formulation of solutions to matters affecting the environment. I am excited to have the opportunity to contribute the knowledge and experience that I have accumulated over the course of my former career to these two extraordinary organizations.”

Spotlight

Jennings EE Center Demonstrates New Approach to Hardwood Reforestation

The [Jennings Environmental Education Center](#) in Mercer County and the federal Office of Surface Mining are pioneering a new method of re-establishing a productive hardwood forest at abandoned and active mine sites under a new program called the [Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative](#).



This is the first site in Pennsylvania to be integrated with ongoing environmental education programs. Where for over 20 years, students, professionals, government agencies, and volunteers have worked side-by-side to develop and to evaluate abandoned mine restoration techniques that are not only environmentally-friendly but also innovative.

To celebrate Arbor Day and to “kick-off” the new effort, on April 25, local students had a “hands-on” learning experience while planting about 30 chestnut and oak seedlings with environmental educators, students, foresters, private citizens, representatives from the [American Chestnut Foundation](#), members of the U. S. Office of Surface Mining and representatives of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Over 50 people attended and participated in the event.

Dave Hamilton, Office of Surface Mining, said “This small plot of land demonstrates the two primary reclamation goals associated with the successful restoration of a diverse and vital forest on previously mined lands. They are loose placement of the top 4 to 6 feet of spoil, and elimination of competing grasses. This approach is being implemented at a site that will serve as an example for future restoration projects throughout Pennsylvania. Our demonstration will complement the efforts of seven states in the Appalachian Coalfields and play a role in successfully re-establishing our native hardwoods.”

Dave Johnson, Jennings Environmental Education Center Manager, commented “The addition of the ARRI project adds a new dimension to our education and research program. This is a partnership effort and we thank everyone.”

Rep. Richard Stevenson (R-Mercer) participated in the event saying, “This is a very exciting project and it will be interesting to follow and see if this method of reforestation will be successful in reclaiming these areas while providing a future economic product.”

As all materials and site preparation were donated, a special “thank you” is extended to all volunteers, including the [Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition](#), Quality Aggregates Inc., McClymonds Trucking, and [Stream Restoration Inc.](#)

Environmental Heritage

The Environmental Amendment to the State Constitution – 37 Years Later By: Franklin L. Kury

At the primary election held on May 18, 1971 the voters of Pennsylvania approved the Joint Resolution 3 for an environmental amendment to the State Constitution by a vote of 1,021,342 to 259,979. With that overwhelming support, House Bill 31 became Article 1, Section 27, Natural Resources and the Public Estate, of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

With it the environmental revolution in Pennsylvania reached its zenith.

Beginning with the passage of House Bill 585 in 1965, that brought the coal companies fully under the Clean Streams law, the legislature and the Governors with revolutionary zeal enacted a string of laws to bring about protection of the environment on behalf of the public - the All Surface Mining Act, the Coal Refuse Disposal Act, the Air Pollution Control Act, the Clean Streams Act, the Solid Waste Management Act, the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act, the Department of Environmental Resources law, the \$500 million conservation bond issue, and a law to require the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to conduct environmental evaluations in planning highway projects.

After a century of environmental exploitation by the coal, steel and railroad industries that inflicted great damage on our air, streams and land, an exploitation in which the state government had acquiesced, the people of Pennsylvania - like a sleeping giant suddenly aroused in anger - acted through the legislature to stop the environmental degradation and begin to repair the damage.

Article I, Section 27 provided a constitutional policy of stewardship of the environment that replaced the previous tacit policy that condoned the ravaging of our natural resources in the name of industrial prosperity. It provided strong advantages to the fight to reclaim our state's environment. Everyone taking public office in our state now swears to uphold Article I, Section 27 as part of the constitutional obligation of all public officials. As a constitutional amendment, it can not be changed nearly as easily as an act of the legislature. The Constitutional amendment gives the spirit and philosophical basis for environmental protection that can endure indefinitely.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

With the enactment of Article 1, Section 27 in 1971, it could be said - as William Butler Yeats said in another context - that out of Pennsylvania's history of environmental devastation a terrible beauty was born. Our way of looking at our air, land and water was changed radically forever. No longer would environmental law be basically a matter of property rights alone. From then forward we would view the environment as a public trust to be administered by our state government. A new order had replaced the old.

The enormous environmental awakening that shook the body politic occurred in large measure because television brought into everyone's homes the devastation of oil spills and other disasters. The public conscience reacted politically and created a movement in the states and federal government to change course.

Today, thirty-seven years later, thanks to the laws passed during the environmental revolution of 1965-1972 and in the years since, the threats to Pennsylvania's environment from sources within the Commonwealth are in check. Progress is being made to undue our state's environmental damages. However, Pennsylvania's environment is now under a protracted siege from sources far beyond our state. Now the entire planet confronts serious environmental and humanitarian threats that cover our globe without regard to governmental boundary lines.

The polar ice caps of both the Arctic and Antarctic are melting and restructuring. Food shortages plague significant areas in several continents. The expanding populations in China and India and our relatively stable population in the USA continue a rapacious consumption of oil and gas for automobiles. Great fisheries of the oceans are depleted. Rainforests are being cut relentlessly. These and other developments cast a serious doubt on the long-term security of our planet's life support systems.

Our world is in a position similar to that of Pennsylvania a century ago. Forces of economic and commercial prosperity are overwhelming rational analysis of the environmental damage. But there is a good side to the global news. People around the world are becoming aware of the problem and are increasingly angry and concerned about it. This year Earth Day was celebrated in 180 countries. The numbers of political and governmental leaders talking about the global environmental condition are increasing. Motion pictures and television inform the worldwide public of the damages being done and the action that must be taken.

Will the forces of rational environmental policy on our planet overtake and control the forces of commercial development in time? Our generation of citizens must address this question or risk losing our planet. Today's environmental challenge is infinitely greater for the world than it was for Pennsylvania a half century ago. The scope and complexity of the threats to the world's environment dwarf those that then confronted Pennsylvania. The number and diverse natures of the national governments involved compound the challenge immensely.

What can we in Pennsylvania, occupying such a small piece of the globe, contribute to aid in this planetary cause? A lot, I think. We must continue to defend and protect Pennsylvania's 45,000 square miles of the earth. We can live smarter and take steps to move away from gasoline powered vehicles and be more efficient in the use of electric power. We can use alternative energy sources. We can act politically to elect candidates for office, especially at the federal level, committed to working with other governments to save and protect our world's environment. We can also contribute the principles embodied in Article 1, Section 27, by urging all governments to adopt a policy of stewardship of the environment for the public now and for the future.

Franklin Kury, as a state Representative, was the author and advocate of the legislation that became Article 1, Section 27 of the State Constitution. He now is a state government affairs consultant with Malady & Wooten LLP, and resides in Harrisburg. He can be contacted by sending email to: fkury@malady-wooten.com.

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—

- **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 15**— [Merck Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Grants](#)
- **June 15**— [EPA Region 3 Environmental Achievement Awards](#)
- **June 15**— [Northeast Environmental Partners Environmental Awards](#)
- **June 16**— [Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest](#)
- **June 20**— DEP [Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP PA Energy Harvest Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP Biofuels Subsidy Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [PEDA Innovative, Advanced Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [PEDA Duquesne Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 30**— **NEW**. [DCNR Wild Resources Conservation Grants](#)
- **June 30**— **NEW**. [Appalachian Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 24**— [Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **October 15**— [PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**— [PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Susquehanna Expedition Student Receives Award](#)
[Envirothon Tests Students' Knowledge of Environment](#)
[Susquehanna Valley Middle School Envirothon](#)
[A Day of Cleaning Up](#)
[Spring Cleaning in the Great Outdoors](#)

[Editorial: Earth Day Embrace Must Become Everyday](#)
[Corn Blamed for Everything](#)
[Pittsburgh Area Smog Alerts Likely to Increase](#)
[Commuters Urged to Share a Care and Clear the Air](#)
[Watkins Glen Rally to Spotlight Green Vehicles](#)
[1,500 Acre Lancaster Farm Runs on Cow Juice](#)
[Philadelphia Brownfield to Get Solar Power Plant](#)
[Project Green Light Bulb Recycling Program](#)
[Pittsburgh Installs First Energy-Efficient LED Street Lights](#)
[PUC Approves Alternative Energy Requirements for Citizens Electric, Wellboro](#)
[Op-Ed: Most Effective Way to Deal With Higher Costs of Energy](#)
[New Worry: The Cost of Electricity](#)
[Op-Ed: Invest in an Energy Future](#)
[PPL Seeks 30 Percent Residential Natural Gas Rate Increase](#)
[TMI Saves State Residents on Electric Bills, Study Says](#)
[DEP Applauds State’s Latest Solar Energy Project in Philadelphia](#)
[State College Considering 4-Day Week to Save Fuel](#)
[English’s Answer: Lift Gas Tax, Drill For More Oil](#)
[Conference Debates Coal-Fired Power Plants in PA](#)
[Lancaster Construction Firm Goes Green](#)
[Northampton Seeks to Widen Recycling](#)
[Conrad Weiser Students Spur School to Recycle Plastic](#)
[Recyclables Reborn in Wearable Sculptures](#)
[Editorial: Campaign Signs – Electoral Hopes and Litter](#)
[Pollution Prevention Program Helps Another Dentist](#)
[Green Design Mandate Gets Look](#)
[American Cities Foundation: Going Green and Project RISE in Philadelphia](#)
[Green With Energy Homes](#)
[Urban Rambles Explore Nature That’s Hiding in Plain Sight](#)
[Pittsburgh Region Passes L.A. on Pollution List](#)
[Welcome Back to Smoky City?](#)
[66 Dams in Pittsburgh Region Deemed Unsafe](#)
[Audit: PA Needs to Improve Dam Safety Enforcement](#)
[DEP Responds to Auditor General’s Dam Safety Program Audit](#)
[House Panel Talks About Encouraging Outdoor Recreation](#)
[Hanover Rail Trail Work to Begin in May](#)
[Editorial: Oil Wells Drain Beauty From State Forests](#)
[Wildlife Wonders Right at Home](#)
[State Closes Fayette County Cave to Hone In On Killer Bat Fungus](#)
[Editorial: Bats Play Vital Role](#)
[Length of Deer Season Cut Back in Latest Move](#)
[Take an Honest Look at Raising Hunting Fees](#)
[Letter: Take These Steps to Avoid Hitting Deer](#)
[3 Peregrine Falcon Chicks Born Atop U. of Pittsburgh](#)
[State Set to Do Battle With Gypsy Moths](#)
[Bird Feeding’s Effects Remain Uncertain](#)
[Editorial: Progress on Deep Mine Safety](#)

[Families' Group to Buy Flight 93 Crash Site Land](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Editorial: State, Federal Govt. Not Doing Enough to Help With Chesapeake Bay Mandates](#)

[Centre County Times Blog: Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan](#)

[Duboisstown Discusses Chesapeake Bay Plan](#)

[Letter: Our River-The West Branch of the Susquehanna](#)

[State Conference to Focus on Agricultural Nutrient Balance](#)

[Landfill Money Allocated to Help Cleanup Dairy Farm](#)

[June 10 Workshop to Explore Effect of Gas Wells on Water](#)

[Kids Fight Storm Drain Dumping](#)

[One-Man Cleanup Crew Hopes to Inspire Others to Improve River](#)

[Tioga County Stream Cleanup On Its Way](#)

[The Snot That Can Strangle a Stream](#)

[Conservation – It's for Everyone](#)

[It's Easy to View Smaller Ponds at Middle Creek](#)

[Delaware Bay's Oysters Are On Their Way Back](#)

[Sun Rises on Shad Tournament, Devoted Fisherman](#)

[Storm Drains in York Labeled by Volunteers](#)

[Work Begins to Clean Area Streams](#)

[Abandoned Mine Lands to Be Reclaimed at No Cost to Taxpayers](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 3, 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 notice of a final policy change in the Coastal Zone Program (*see below*) and a proposed updated [Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan for 2009](#) is now available for public comment. Public comments are due June 2 and the plan must be submitted to the federal government by July 1.

Final: DEP ID: 394-0300-001. Pennsylvania Coastal Resources Management Program Technical Guidance Document. At 36 Pa.B. 6599 (October 28, 2006), 33 Pa.B. 426 (January 18, 2003) and 31 Pa.B. 886 February 10, 2001) the Department, as required by 15 CFR 923.84(b)(2) (relating to routine program changes), published notice that it was

proposing several program changes to its Coastal Resources Management Program and requested public comments be submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management on whether the changes constitute a Routine Program Change.

[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](#)

- **NEW.** [Revised Schedule of meetings for DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.](#)
- [DEP Announces Upcoming No-Cost Remediation Training Courses](#)
- **May 5--NEW.** Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1317](#) (Waugh-R-York) providing incentive payments for cellulosic ethanol production. Room 8E-A East Wing. 12:00
- **May 7**—Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies will hold a Sustainable Water Infrastructure meeting and awards luncheon. Hearing Room 1, Keystone Building, Harrisburg. Contact: Erik Ross, eross@deltaone.com.
- **May 8**—[Governor's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting and hearing to accept comments on infrastructure needs and financing. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **May 10**—[Hundredfold Farm Earth Day Celebration](#). Orrtanna, Adams County. 12:00-5:00.
- **May 12**—Environmental Issues Forum, hosted by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#), presents a program on the [Environmental Management Assistance Program](#) provided by the PA Small Business Development Centers. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **May 13**—**Correction on Date.** Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee holds a hearing on energy efficiency and demand side response programs. Room 461. 10:00.
- **May 13-15**—[PA Water/Wastewater Association](#) annual conference. Valley Forge.
- **May 14**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs meets to consider [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the county conservation district law. Room 205 Ryan Building. 10:00.
- **May 14**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **May 15**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Radiation Protection Agency Committee meeting. Rescheduled to May 29.
- **May 15**—House Labor Relations Committee hearing on the Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act. Bridesburg Rec. Center, 4625 Richmond St., Philadelphia. 11:00.
- **May 17**—**NEW**. [Global Warming Conference 2008](#). University of Scranton.
- **May 20**—**CANCELLED**. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting is June 17.
- **May 21**—[Capital Region Water Board](#) meeting and plant tour. Lebanon Authority Office, 2311 Ridgeview Road, Lebanon. 11:00. Contact: Cindy Rock, Cindy.L.Rock@comcast.net.
- **May 28**—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.
- **May 29**—**NEW**. DEP [Radiation Protection Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 5**—**Changed Venue**. DEP Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators. Rescheduled to a conference call. Contact: Cheri Sansoni 717-772-5158 or send email to: csansoni@state.pa.us.
- **June 9**—Joint State Government Commission Task Force meeting on the Kilbuck Township Landslide pursuant to [House Resolution 897](#). Room 108 Finance Building. 12:00.
- **June 10**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 10th Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 16**—Environmental Issues Forum, hosted by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#), presents a program on the services provided by the [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program](#) (PennTAP). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **June 17**—**NEW**. [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 24**—**NEW**. DEP [Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

[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 or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

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

Supporting Member PA Outdoor Writers Assn./PA Trout Unlimited

PA Environment Digest is a supporting member of the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association](#), [Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited](#) and the [Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited](#).