

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

May 23, 2005

Environment, Senate Democrats Ace Primary Test

If the May 17 election was a test, the environment and Senate Democrats aced it.

Senate Democrats held on to their two seats in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, both it turns out, were blow outs. The Senate will now have 30 Republicans and 20 Democrats.

The other political test was on the environment with the \$625 million Growing Greener bond issue on the ballot. Polling prior to the election showed support by likely voters to be 57 to 58 percent. The final 60 percent approval was another surprise to some given the very poor turnout in the election.

Now the task turns to passing legislation to say specifically how the new Growing Greener money will be spent and how it will be paid for in the context of a budget for next year that is already full of holes from increasing Medicaid costs, nursing home reimbursements and the need to replace hundreds of millions of dollars in one time general federal assistance.

There is also the matter of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund running out of money about June 30. (*More in this Digest*)

Budget Clock Ticking

- 13 voting days are scheduled through the June 30 budget deadline in the House
- 14 voting days in the Senate

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- Conservation Institute Revives Natural Science/Natural History Education

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On the Hill

The Senate and House return to voting session on June 6 and there are no scheduled meetings this week on environmental issues.

In Other News

Over 60% of Voters Approve Growing Greener Ballot Initiative

While turnout for the May 17 election might not have been stellar, the overwhelming support of the \$625 million Growing Greener bond issue was.

Over 60 percent of voters supported the new funding for environmental programs which carried in [47 counties across the state](#). Even in those counties where it was not approved, the margin of loss was relatively small.

“Voters made it absolutely clear that they want this investment to address some of the state’s most pressing environmental problems and help us win the race for new development and job creation,” Gov. Rendell said.



Photo courtesy Bruce Golden,
[WPCAMR](#)

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And the Governor added, “I applaud the Legislature for working to make sure this ballot initiative went before voters in the spring primary, and I look forward to working with members of the General Assembly to enact enabling legislation so we can get to work quickly to improve our quality of life here in Pennsylvania.”

Environmental groups from across the state raised more than \$500,000 to fund a vote yes effort through the Pennsylvania Conservation Campaign designed to educate and turn out favorable voters. It was the largest initiative of its kind in state history.

“Our future was at stake in this vote, and we thank voters for coming to the rescue of Pennsylvania’s environment in a big way,” said Andrew McElwaine, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. “This unprecedented effort was necessary because of the short timeframe to educate voters on the issue—less than four weeks—and the real benefits this bond issue will have in cleaning up our rivers and streams, preserving our working farms and natural areas and reclaiming abandoned mine.”

The next step is to pass legislation to more specifically define how the bond proceeds will be spent, over what length of time and who will be eligible for funding.

“Given this overwhelming voter mandate, we need to push hard to have the first of this new funding become available starting as early as possible next fiscal year which begins July 1,” said McElwaine.

The ballot question approved by voters focused on funding watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation, farmland and open space preservation and “other environmental initiatives.”

Gov. Rendell’s original Growing Greener II bond initiative, as introduced in [House Bill 2621](#) (George-D-Clearfield) in 2004, would have used a much larger bond--\$800 million—to fund these kinds of projects— parks, open space, farmland preservation and the improvement of facilities for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, environmental cleanup and revitalization of communities.

Since Gov. Rendell’s original proposal, a [\\$1 billion economic stimulus package](#) was passed that helps fund brownfield remediation and water and sewer infrastructure for economic development projects, a [\\$250 million bond issue](#) was passed by voters last Spring to fund water and wastewater projects and the [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#) was reactivated with \$10 million in state funding.

The House already approved [House Bill 3](#) (Quigley-R-Montgomery) in February that lays out a proposal for spending an \$800 million bond issue and it is now in the Senate.

House Bill 3 would primarily fund programs included in the original Growing Greener Program, plus provide some operation and maintenance funding for existing mine water treatment projects and funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund that will run out of money June 30. ([PaED 4/18/05](#))

For its part, the Senate passed [Senate Bill 149](#) (M.White-R-Venango) to provide funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund, the most urgent funding need, that the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out last week. ([PaED 5/16/05](#))

The [Senate Republicans also proposed](#) setting aside a portion of the new money authorized in the bond issue specifically for counties to spend for environmental purposes

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during discussions in April on [House Bill 2](#) that put the \$625 million bond issue question on the ballot and said the bond would be paid for from general state revenues.

But how to pay for the new spending will be an issue. Gov. Rendell joined Leadership in the Senate and House in saying they would not propose any tax or fee increases to payoff the bond issue.

All these actions have set the stage for the next step-- getting the new dollars overwhelmingly approved this week by voters to the communities, watershed and other groups and state agencies that can put them to good use.

NewsClips: [Editorial: Don't let Greener II bog down in politics](#)
[Editorial: Growing Greener II Spending- Listen to the People](#)
[Editorial: On Growing Greener, Spend it Like Taxpayers Wanted](#)
[State Voters Go Green](#)
[Legislators to Decide on Green Money](#)
[Growing Greener Wins Voter Support](#)
[Residents Vote Overwhelmingly to Keep PA Growing Greener](#)
[Voters Overwhelmingly Approve Growing Greener](#)
[Voters OK Open Space Spending](#)
[Growing Greener Gets Voter OK](#)

American Water Funds Three PA Watershed Protection Projects

American Water announced this week the organizations that will receive the first three grants under its new [Environmental Grant Program](#)-- the Indiana County Conservation District, PA Cleanways of Allegheny County and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

[PA Cleanway's](#) grant will support its Tireless Project. Under the project, 20 watershed cleanups on the Monongahela River will occur between June and September 2005. Riverfront blight is a pervasive problem in the Pittsburgh area. Litter, flood debris, and illegal dumping contribute to the blight, and cleaning up the Monongahela River will positively impact Pennsylvania American Water's source of supply for its Pittsburgh Mon-Valley and Washington operations.

The [Indiana County Conservation District](#) will receive a grant for its Ramsey Run Restoration project. The project will eliminate access for 30-plus livestock to 282 feet of a tributary of Ramsey Run, which feeds into the source water for the company's Indiana operations. Erosion will be minimized by the project, as will source water pollution from livestock feed and manure. A stormwater project will also be initiated to help prevent road run-off from causing pasture erosion.

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) will receive a grant for its Wyoming Valley Streamside Planting program. The project will identify areas in need of streamside buffers within the Wyoming Valley watershed in northeastern Pennsylvania. Plantings will be conducted as part of the buffer project.

Projects were judged based on criteria including clarity of project goals and projected impact, nature and strength of collaboration with other community and/or municipal organizations, as well as evidence that the project will provide sustainable environmental results.

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"Every individual and community has the ability to make a difference," said Joi Corrado, Director, Corporate Responsibility, American Water. "Through American Water's Environmental Grant Program, we're seeking to invest in our communities and help support the people behind the projects, who are looking to the future and coming up with innovative ways to improve the sustainability of our water resources."

American Water provides high quality water, wastewater, and other related services to over 18 million people in 29 states and 3 Canadian provinces.

For more information visit the [Environmental Grants webpage](#).

Public Meetings Set to Discuss Future Visions for the Clarion River Region

[Clarion River Greenway Partnership](#) and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will host three public meetings as a part of the development process for the Clarion River Greenway.

They are scheduled for

- May 24 - North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission I-Tech Building, Ridgway - 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.
- May 25 – Days Inn, Brookville – 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm.
- May 25 – Days Inn, Brookville – 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

The Clarion River Greenway is an important part of the local community. Working closely with local residents, business owners and other interested parties, ideas will be developed to focus attention on how best to address resource conservation, economic development, scenic value preservation, recreational improvements, cultural interpretation, historic preservation, and interagency cooperation within the Clarion River region.

Efforts will not place usage restrictions on land. Cooperation and input from private landowners is being sought and encouraged. Recommendations for long-term management, based upon public outreach and communications with private and public landholders, will seek to unify information and management efforts.

All area residents are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts about how the natural, historic, and scenic resources can be protected, recreational opportunities enhanced, and economic prosperity improved in the Clarion River region.

For more information, call Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Watershed Assistance Center at 724- 459-0953.

Workshop on Encroachment and Obstruction Permits Set For June 14

The Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection are [sponsoring a workshop June 14](#) on the permit process for encroachment and obstruction permits. The agencies are also seeking comments on their joint permit (PASPGP-2) for water obstructions.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the second floor auditorium of the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg.

Topics to be discussed include:

1. Wetlands placed in open space areas with protective covenants as part of subdivision design.

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2. Chapter 105 Permitting Process.
3. Presentation regarding waters regulated by both the Corps and DEP, identifying areas where jurisdiction does and does not overlap.
4. Review of delineation procedures, field expectations for verifications, anticipated time frames for field reviews, agricultural land determinations, etc.
5. An overview of General Permit BWM-GP-11, Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation, or Replacement of Water Obstructions and Encroachments.
6. PASPGP-2 is due to expire June 2006. The Corps and DEP are working to have PASPGP-3 in place by then. The agencies are soliciting comments regarding base operational issues. In addition, there will be a discussion regarding an overview of PASPGP-3, the timeline for development of PASPGP-3, and other operational issues.

To make reservations for the workshop, send e-mail tarrie.l.ostrofsky@usace.army.mil. Due to limited seating, the agencies are requesting that each company or agency plan to send only one representative. Additional representatives will be placed on a waiting list.

Water and Wastewater Plants Join Energy Star to Cut Electricity Costs

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has invited drinking water and wastewater plants to join a new EPA initiative to increase their energy efficiency and reduce municipalities' electric bills.

Over the next year, with participation by more than 20 organizations, the new [Energy Star Industrial Water and Wastewater Focus](#) will develop an energy performance rating system, a guide to assessing energy efficiency opportunities, strategies for superior energy management, and innovative approaches to financing energy efficiency projects.

This new Energy Star program for water systems is part of a series of efforts to improve the energy efficiency of selected industries.

Drinking water and wastewater systems spend about \$4 billion a year on energy to pump, treat, deliver, collect, and clean water -- with much of this cost borne by ratepayers and municipalities. The energy costs to run drinking water and wastewater systems can represent as much as one-third of a municipality's energy bill.

If drinking water and wastewater systems reduce energy use by just 10 percent through cost-effective investments in energy efficiency, collectively they would save about \$400 million and 5 billion kWh annually.

Currently, the Energy Star Water and Wastewater Focus includes the American Council for An Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), Awwa Research Foundation, California Energy Commission (CEC), Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE), Columbus (GA) Water Works, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), Los Angeles - Bureau of Sanitation, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Oakridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Public Technology Institute (PTI), Water Environment Federation (WEF), Wisconsin Focus on Energy, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), and WateReuse Association.

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For more information see the [Energy Star Industrial Water and Wastewater Focus](#) fact sheet or contact Katy Hatcher, ENERGY STAR National Manager for the Public Sector at 202-343-9676 or send email to hatcher.caterina@epa.gov.

EPA Region 3 Funds Database for Reuse of Building Materials

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 Source Reduction Assistance Program is helping the [Mid-Atlantic Council of Recycling and Economic Development Officials](#) (MACREDO) with funds to develop an access-based listing of businesses in the mid-Atlantic region as part of a waste/resource exchange.

The listing includes demolition, deconstruction and dismantling contractors; architects, designer-builder firms, interior designers; rehab/restoration and normal contractors; historic preservation and related firms and organizations; artists and community organizations.

More than 300 entries will be presented on the [MACREDO website](#) in the near future.

Rechargeable Battery, Cell Phone Recycling Available Free to Businesses

The [Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation](#) announced this week that it will now provide its [Call2Recycle](#) rechargeable battery and cell phone recycling program to businesses nationwide completely free of charge.



Businesses interested in enrolling can visit the [Call2Recycle Program](#) webpage or call toll free 877-723-1297 to find out more about the program.

Once registered, participants will receive a free shipment of collection boxes that includes pre-paid shipment, pre-addressed shipping labels, safety instructions and plastic bags for each used rechargeable battery and cell phone.

The federal Universal Waste Rule prohibits handlers (including contractors) from disposing Ni-Cd and lead batteries and requires that they be recycled.

The Call2Recycle Program collects and recycles used rechargeable batteries found in products such as cordless power tools, two-way radios, cell phones, laptop computers, bar code readers, portable printers, and PDAs.

Through RBRC's recycling network, reusable metals from Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH) and Small Sealed Lead (Pb) batteries are recovered and recycled to make new products such as new batteries and stainless steel.

Any cell phone is accepted for recycling, regardless of the size, make, and model, digital or analog, with or without the battery or charger. Cell phones are recycled or refurbished and resold when possible, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting national charities such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

In addition to meeting federal and state legal requirements, the RBRC's Call2Recycle Program helps businesses to:

- Project a green image - Joining the Call2Recycle program demonstrates the business's commitment to preserving the environment.

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- Conserve natural resources - Primary components of rechargeable batteries can be reclaimed to make new products. Cell phones are refurbished and resold when possible. Portions of the proceeds received from resale will benefit select charities. Since 1994, RBRC has collected over 26 million pounds of rechargeable batteries. Consumers can find the nearest participating drop-off location by going online to the [RBRC webpage](#) or calling 1-877-2-RECYCLE or 1-800-8-BATTERY.

Reynoldsville Company Saves Over \$77,000 Reducing Waste

Reducing waste, water and energy use can save companies real money, just ask the Reynoldsville Casket Co. Inc. in Jefferson County that saved over \$77,000 by reducing the amount of paints and thinners they use.

Reynoldsville used a low-interest loan from the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) to help finance a new electrostatic painting system.

During the last five years, Reynoldsville reported saving 6,754 gallons of paints and thinners as well as 2,540 gallons of waste paint. The company has realized a savings of \$77,034 in addition to an increase in production in the five years since implementing the project.

The Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Loan Program is available to any small business owner for pollution prevention and energy efficiency project. The business must have 100 or fewer full-time employees. The loan must be used to purchase or upgrade equipment, or to implement a process change, that reduces or reuses raw materials on-site, reduces the production of waste at the source or significantly reduces energy consumption.

For more information visit the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) webpage or contact Gene DelVecchio at 717 772-8951 or send e-mail to gdelvecchi@state.pa.us

National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Award Nominations Due June 3

Nominations will be accepted until June 3 for the [National Pollution Prevention Roundtable's MVP2 Awards](#) for innovation, measurable results, transferability, commitment and leadership and optimization of resources.

Last year the [Pfizer plant in Lititz](#), Lancaster County won an MVP2 Award for reducing its waste stream and in 1999 [American Video Glass](#) in Mt. Pleasant won an award for its efforts to reduce lead and other waste.

Plaza at PPL Center Earns Energy Star for Efficiency

The [Plaza at PPL Center](#) has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Energy Star](#), which is reserved for the nation's most energy efficient buildings.

Energy Star recognizes buildings that demonstrate superior energy performance and, in turn, protect the environment by reducing greenhouse emissions. The Plaza is the first Lehigh Valley commercial or industrial site listed by the EPA as receiving the Energy Star.

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Across the United States, only about 2,000 top-performing buildings had earned the Energy Star by January 2005, according to EPA statistics. According to the EPA, Energy Star buildings use about 40 percent less energy than the average building and, as a group, are saving an estimated \$200 million annually and reducing approximately 6 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

Completed in spring 2003, The Plaza at PPL Center is an eight-story, 250,000-square-foot office building at the intersection of Ninth and Hamilton streets in Allentown. Developed and owned by Liberty Property Trust, it houses PPL Corporation's unregulated subsidiaries, including PPL Generation, PPL EnergyPlus and PPL Global, on six of its eight floors.

In addition to energy-efficient building materials like high-performance window glass, The Plaza at PPL Center includes energy-saving features such as rooftop vegetation for insulation, floor-to-ceiling windows and an eight-story glass atrium for ample natural light, and automatic lighting that dims when natural light pours in and turns off when rooms are unoccupied. The building also uses a heating, ventilating and air conditioning system that uses more than 30 percent less energy than conventional building standards.

The Plaza at PPL Center was the first privately owned building in Pennsylvania and the eighth in the nation to receive a "gold" rating from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

The American Institute of Architects named it one of the 10 best examples of architectural and green design solutions that integrate architecture, technology and natural systems.

In addition, the building won first prize in the large building workplace category of the Northeast Green Building Awards sponsored by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust and the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association.

For more information visit the [Plaza at PPL Center webpage](#).

Did You Miss a Green Building Conference or Workshop? Materials Now Online

The [Green Building Alliance](#) now has available online [presentations and other background materials](#) presented at several of its last conferences.

USA Patriot Act Changes PennDOT Process for Hazardous Materials CDL

The Department of Transportation this week issued a reminder of the new federal requirements that will take effect on May 31 for drivers who wish to renew a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a [HAZMAT endorsement](#).

In order to renew a CDL with a HAZMAT endorsement, individuals will be required to provide proof of U.S. citizenship or proof of appropriate immigration status. Additionally, applicants must submit a Federal Security Threat Assessment application as well as pass a federal criminal history background check. The new guidelines will also require applicants to be fingerprinted by the Pennsylvania State Police.

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PennDOT is changing its CDL renewal application process based on the "Uniting & Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act."

The new regulations will require applicants to pay additional federal fees totaling \$58, which includes \$34 for a federal criminal history background check and \$24 for an FBI fingerprint fee.

Customers will be required to complete this process each time a CDL with a HAZMAT endorsement is issued or renewed and PennDOT must receive notification from the federal Transportation Security Administration that the driver has passed the criminal history background check to retain a HAZMAT endorsement.

Renewing customers are encouraged to take their HAZMAT recertification knowledge test as soon as the recertification notice is received in the mail from PennDOT. Customers who recertify should allow 90 days from the date fingerprints are taken for the completion of background checks and notification of results to the driver and PennDOT. Customers who wait to take their recertification test could risk having their CDL HAZMAT license expire before PennDOT receives federal approval from TSA.

Customers can renew a license up to six months prior to the license expiration date. Individuals renewing their CDL with a HAZMAT endorsement prior to May 31 will not be subject to the additional federal requirements and fees until their next renewal. Customers who have not yet received a renewal notice from PennDOT can complete an "[Application to Renew Commercial Driver's License](#)" (Form DL 143CD). Drivers are required to pass their HAZMAT recertification knowledge test prior to renewing, or they will receive a CDL without the HAZMAT endorsement.

For more information on changes to the licensing of CDL HAZMAT drivers as a result of the USA PATRIOT Act, or to obtain a copy of the Federal Security Threat Assessment Application, visit the [Driver Licensing Services webpage](#).

15th Annual Native Plants in the Landscape Conference at Millersville

The [15th Annual Native Plants in the Landscape Conference](#) will be held June 2, 3 and 4 at Millersville University in Lancaster County. The conference includes expert speakers, field trips, workshops, chat rooms and educational exhibits. Native plants and related books and merchandise will be offered for sale.

The conference provides a fertile environment for a varied audience to expand their knowledge of regionally appropriate native plants and sustainable landscapes. Attendees include home and professional gardeners, teachers, students, as well as landscape, nursery, botanical garden and environmental professionals.

This year's featured speakers include Julie Moir-Messervy, landscape designer and author of *The Inward Garden*. Ms. Messervy is highly acclaimed for her design of the Toronto Music Garden in collaboration with the eminent cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Other prominent speakers are Scott Weidensaul, naturalist and author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer-Prize-nominated *Living on the Wind and Mountains of the Heart*; Rich Pais, certified wildlife biologist and pioneer in the therapeutic integration of wildlife habitats with senior living projects; and David

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Robertson, Executive Director of the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust and an expert in native forest restoration and natural land stewardship.

Pre-conference workshops offered include a field trip to Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve or to the Milton Hershey School restoration projects, an ecology walk and a workshop on container bog gardening.

Evening programs inspire, inform and entertain. New this year is a potpourri evening, where attendees can choose from dried flower arranging, watercolor painting or a "green" film-fest. Also at the conference for the first time, Jim Beers and the Lenape Nations Drummers will offer a high-energy performance. "We Walk the Walk" will showcase home gardens of conference staff and long-time attendees.

The native plant sale at the conference is open to the public during selected hours for those who want to purchase native plants but will not attend the conference. Hours for the public plant sale are: Friday June 3, 3:30 - 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 4, 8 a.m. - noon.

The Native Plants in the Landscape Conference is co-sponsored by the following organizations: Millersville University's Department of Biology and Department of Professional Training and Education, Bartram's Gardens, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Mt. Cuba Center and Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust.

For more information visit the [Native Plants Conference webpage](#), phone 717-872-3030 or send email to npilc@yahoo.com.

Downtown Revitalization Conference Set for June 5-8 in State College

"[Cultivating a Greener Downtown](#)" is the theme of this year's annual conference in State College of the [Pennsylvania Downtown Center](#).

The conference will feature presentations on successful green space design, brownfield reuse, trail development and other strategies.

For more information visit the "[Cultivating a Greener Downtown](#)" webpage.

Center for Environmental Ed Issues Special Teacher Workshop Newsletter

The [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) issued a [special edition of its EE Connections newsletter](#) to highlight upcoming teacher workshops for this summer. Below is a sampling of its contents.

June: Birding by Ear, Wild about Threatened and Endangered Species Workshop, Leopold Education Project, Exploring the Delaware River, Spatial Data in the Classroom Language of Nature, PA CleanWays Environment and Ecology Curriculum, Online Seminars at the American Museum of Natural History, Birding Basics: Birds and Their Habitats, Advanced Birding: Identifying Birds in the Field, Invasive Species Workshop.

July: Wild about the American Lotus, Working the Waters: A Fly Angler's World, Butterfly Workshop, Project WET!, Woody Plants, Trees Shrubs and Vines, Environmental Science Training in Olympic National Park.

August: Grasses, Sedges and Rushes, Watershed Facilitators Institute, "GREATT" Summer Teacher Workshops, Sustainable Water Resources Workshop, Pennsylvania

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Amphibians and Reptiles Workshop, EE on a Shoestring, Plants of the Underworld: Mushrooms and Their Allies.

If you know anyone who would benefit from receiving EE Connections, please complete the [on-line form](#) or call 724-738-4555. To see all the resources available, go to the [PCEE website](#).

Take a Hike – During Pennsylvania Hiking Week May 28-June 5

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the [Keystone Trails Association](#) are giving Pennsylvanians 83 ways to "take a hike" during [Pennsylvania Hiking Week, May 28-June 5](#).

All of the scheduled hikes have leaders. Most hikes are on the two weekends of the event, but several weekday and evening hikes also are offered. Hikes include a variety of lengths and difficulty--from easy strolls to strenuous day hikes.

Some of the different hikes include:

- night hikes looking for nocturnal creatures;
- history and interpretive walks led by local specialists;
- hikes to spectacular vistas or through wildflowers and other scenic settings;
- hikes whose purpose is trail maintenance by volunteers; and
- an accessible hike for people with disabilities in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Most hikes will take place in state parks and state forests, with a few hikes scheduled on the Appalachian Trail, in city and community parks.

Most of Pennsylvania's hiking trails have been built and are maintained by hundreds of volunteers. Working in cooperation with DCNR field personnel, these dedicated volunteers -- most coming from KTA membership organizations -- have created an extensive network of trails throughout the Commonwealth.

Organized in 1956, the [Keystone Trails Association](#) is an umbrella organization consisting of almost 60 hiking and outdoor organizations in and around Pennsylvania, representing some 1,400 members.

Go to the [Pennsylvania Hiking Week webpage](#) to find out more.

Game Commission Accepting Deer Management Assistance Applications

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's [Deer Management Assistance Program](#) is now accepting applications until July 1 to help landowners manage deer on their properties.

Eligible properties include public lands; private lands where no fee is charged for hunting; and hunting club lands under certain circumstances. DMAP permit holders who failed to complete and submit the mandatory report information from the 2004-05 deer season will be ineligible for coupons/permits and refunds in the 2005-06 deer season.

To apply, visit the [Deer Management Assistance Program webpage](#).

Looking for a Job? Western PA Conservancy Has 9 Positions to Fill

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is looking to fill nine positions with conservation professionals (a project coordinator, agricultural and watershed specialists,

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scientists, data and GIS staff) for the following open positions. Applications are due June 10.

All positions are full time and will provide a competitive salary, plus excellent fringe benefits. To apply, send resume, cover letter and salary expectations to: Nancy Bassett, SPHR, Senior Director of Human Resources, Box R, Mill Run, PA 15464 or email to nbassett@paconserve.org.

Special Projects Coordinator, Sideling Hill Creek: Located at the Sideling Hill Creek Center Clearville, PA (Bedford County). This position will implement and oversee several agriculture-related projects in the Sideling Hill Creek watershed.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of a BS degree in environmental or agriculture science and at least two year's experience in conservation or related field. Experience in sustainable agriculture and community outreach and engagement is preferred; additional experience in watershed science/planning, land protection/stewardship and partnership building is desirable. Bachelor's degree in environmental or a related field is strongly preferred.

The successful candidate must be willing to work out of the Sideling Hill Creek Center (located in the heart of rural Sideling Hill Creek) and be willing to participate in WPC activities in the area. Living accommodations are available, if needed. Must be willing to travel to Pittsburgh and other WPC sites as needed and must have access to reliable transportation.

Agriculture Conservation Specialist, Blairsville (2 Openings): Position provides technical assistance to agricultural producers and rural landowners for agriculture Best Management Practice (BMP) planning, implementation and promotion as they relate to WPC's aquatic conservation goals and agriculture conservation programs. The positions are located in WPC's Watershed Assistance Center in Blairsville, PA. Travel is required; will include some evening and weekend work.

The successful candidate will have a BS degree in agricultural science, watershed science or a related field and a commitment to conservation and sustainable agriculture. Experience working with the agricultural community in building relationships, educating and hands-on conservation practice implementation. USDA Technical Service Provider and PA Nutrient Management Specialist certifications desired.

Agriculture Conservation Scientists, Northwest Field Station: Position provides technical assistance to agricultural producers and rural landowners for agriculture Best Management Practice (BMP) planning, implementation and promotion as they relate to WPC's aquatic conservation goals and agriculture conservation programs. The position is located at WPC's North West Field Station office at Lake Pleasant, near Erie, PA. Travel is required; will include some evening and weekend work.

The successful candidate will have a BS degree in agricultural science, watershed science or a related field and a commitment to conservation and sustainable agriculture. Experience working with the agricultural community in building relationships, educating and hands-on conservation practice implementation. USDA Technical Service Provider and PA Nutrient Management Specialist certifications desired.

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Watershed Scientist, Blairsville: Delivers watershed program elements to local and statewide constituents. Participates in field data collection activity related to several watershed restoration/protection project types. Coordinates monitoring components associated with Riparian Restoration and Protection Initiative as well as other agricultural projects.

The successful candidate will have a BS degree in watershed science, stream ecology, environmental planning, geography or a related field. Excellent communication and public presentation skills are required; experience with GIS desired.

Watershed Planning Specialist, Blairsville: Develops and writes river conservation plans as well as all components required in carrying out the DCNR planning process. Delivers watershed-related assistance in areas including water quality, watershed restoration, remediation of pollution from acid mine drainage and agriculture runoff, volunteer training, organizational development, project implementation and monitoring. Minimum of a bachelor's degree in watershed science, stream ecology, environmental planning or geography required. 3-5 years of experience in completing river conservation plans and participating in the DCNR planning process preferred. Familiarity with hands-on projects to remediate watershed problems caused by non-point source pollution beneficial.

Watershed GIS Technician, Blairsville: Delivers watershed program elements to local and statewide constituents utilizing geographic information systems (GIS). Provides direct technical assistance including GIS training to local groups working on watershed protection and restoration.

The successful candidate will have a BS degree in environmental planning, geography or a closely related field. Experience using ArcView, ArcGIS or ArcInfo software required. Experience with hands-on GIS projects used to depict watershed characteristics regarding water quality, socio-economics, recreation and land use is preferred.

Conservation Data Management Assistant, Pittsburgh: Working in conjunction with WPC's Conservation Data Manager and Heritage GIS Technician, the primary emphasis for this position is to assist in the processing of natural heritage program information and entering data into database, map and manual files and to provide information to users as appropriate.

The successful candidate will have a education or background experience in biology, conservation or a related scientific field. Must be able to generally comprehend and summarize basic scientific or biological information. Must have knowledge and experience working with ArcView or other GIS software. Experience with Microsoft Access or Oracle, SQL or VB experience preferred.

Seasonal Pools Project Coordinator, Pittsburgh: Creates and conducts outreach programs for WPC's Seasonal Pools Registry and Monitoring Program. Responsibilities include literature review and research, outreach program development, website development, creation of monitoring and informational materials, database creation and data entry, grant-writing, and development of citizen scientist network to monitor pool

locations. In addition to office work, the seasonal Pools Outreach Coordinator will assist WPC science staff in field sampling and verification of seasonal pools ecosystem.

The successful candidate will have a BS degree in biology, ecology or a related field. Experience in coordinating and developing public outreach programs is required; experience with identification of amphibian species and plant species occurring in the Eastern United States is preferred. Experience with Microsoft Access, PowerPoint, GIS/GPS, and website development software such as Dreamweaver is preferred. Must have good communication skills and be comfortable interacting with volunteers of all types. Some travel is required; may include some evening and weekend work.

Taking Positive Action

Gary Alt, Eastern Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Win Mason Award



Karl Mason

The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals this week announced two winners of the [Karl Mason Award for 2005](#).

Dr. Gary Alt was honored for his work involving the Pennsylvania Game Commission's bear and deer management programs. The [Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#) (EPCAMR) was honored for their non-profit, non-partisan, local, state, federal, and industry partnerships to improve water quality through cooperative efforts to reclaim abandoned mine lands in the Commonwealth's Appalachian coal communities.

Dr. Gary Alt retired in 2004 from the Pennsylvania Game Commission as the Section Supervisor for the Deer Management Program since 1999. In his job he had to balance the needs of the hunters and nonhunters, the news media, legislators, landowners and other wildlife enthusiasts. Dr. Alt joined the agency in 1977 when he headed up the bear management program.

He earned his doctorate in Forest Resources Science from West Virginia University, Master of Science Degree in Wildlife Management from Penn State University, a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Science from Utah State University and an Associate's Degree in Wildlife Technology from Penn State University.

Dr. Alt has received numerous honors and awards for his professional achievements including the Quality Deer Management Association's Professional Deer Manager of the Year Award which recognizes biologists or manager who promote quality deer management program principles and practices.

EPCAMR is responsible for taking the lead in developing a new technical innovation for abandoned mine drainage (AMD) water treatment after recognizing the prevalence of iron oxide precipitate deposited for decades in Anthracite and Bituminous coal region watersheds of Eastern Pennsylvania.

EPCAMR works in Appalachian coal communities to assist under-served populations, community groups, and local governments, to reclaim abandoned mine lands, restore streams, and build community support for education programs in watersheds impacted by AMD.

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The Karl Mason Award was named for Karl Mason who served as Pennsylvania's first State Environmental Administrator from 1952 to 1966. Karl's holistic vision of environmental management set the pattern for the state that embraces all essential elements of the problems of air, water and land related waste disposal and community environmental protection.

He was committed to the belief that continuing education was an essential part of the career of every environmental professional. He was never willing to spare himself the luxury of leisure and rest, and as a result he died from a serious heart ailment that was aggravated by the stresses of his assignments.

[Past Recipients of the Karl Mason Award](#) include—

2004 – Somerset Conservation District, for the successful Casselman River Watershed Major Nonpoint Pollution Assessment and Restoration Plan which exceeded its intended objectives of assessing major nonpoint pollution sources in the watershed and by producing a Restoration Plan to guide future restoration activities.

2004 – Jim Kunkle, Executive Director of the Wildlife Information Center, recognized for his dedication and involvement in establishing the Wildlife Information Center and negotiating the purchase of what is now the Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge.

2003 – Department of Environmental Protection in recognition of the Growing Greener Program, which supports local watershed groups, county conservation districts, local governments, business people, farmers, teachers, and students by funding local watershed restoration and protection projects, abandoned mine reclamation projects and oil and gas well plugging projects.

2002 - Dr. Arthur C. Hulse, recognized for his career interest in amphibians and reptiles and gravitation to the structure of snake communities, population ecology of aquatic salamanders, and the distribution and abundance of amphibians and reptiles through Pennsylvania.

2001 – Larry J. Schweiger, President & CEO of the Western PA Conservancy, recognized for his lifetime commitment to the protection of Pennsylvania's environment.

2000 - Dr. Ann F. Rhoads, Ph.D. for her lifetime contribution to cataloging and monitoring the health of Pennsylvania's flora, and her role in co-authoring The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania, Annotated Checklist and Atlas.

For more information visit the [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals webpage](#).

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

Winners of First Shades of Green Award Announced in Pittsburgh

The [Green Building Alliance](#) announced the winners of its first [Shades of Green Leadership Award](#) that recognizes the contributions of individuals and organizations to sustainable building and community design.

The winners are:

[Carnegie Mellon Green Practices Committee](#)

(originally the Environmental Practices Committee) was established to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and energy conservation program at Carnegie Mellon University. This unique committee is comprised of faculty, staff and students from many disciplines across campus, and focuses on a wide range of university-related environmental issues, including recycling, purchasing, energy use, dining, buildings and construction, transportation, and communications and outreach. The diversity of expertise and experience among the committee members results in innovative collaboration, teamwork and successes that may not otherwise be achieved.



From left: **Barbara Kviz**, accepting for Carnegie Mellon Green Practices Committee; **Gary Jay Saulson**, Director of Corporate Real Estate for PNC Financial Services Group; **Ann Gerace**, Executive Director of Conservation Consultants, Inc.; **Bob Kobet**, President of Sustainaissance International; **Joan Blaustein**, accepting for the 3 Rivers Wet Weather team.

[Gary Jay Saulson](#), Director of Corporate Real Estate, PNC Financial Services Group: PNC Realty Services is a team of real estate professionals, facility managers, transaction specialists and technology experts led by Gary Jay Saulson, Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Real Estate. Under his guidance, the group established a green vision with the development of their first LEED certified building, the PNC Firstside Center, which was completed in 2001 and received a Silver rating. It was designed to be both energy-efficient and employee-friendly. Beyond that, six retail branch banks in Ohio, northern New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania are also LEED Registered or Certified. PNC is currently engaged in an aggressive expansion of its network and over 50 new branches will be completed with the existing PNC footprint, all built to LEED standards, during 2005 and 2006.

[Ann Gerace, Executive Director, Conservation Consultants, Inc.:](#) The driving force behind Conservation Consultants, Inc., Ann Gerace has been at the helm of the environmental organization since 1990. She had worked as an educator and auditor for CCI several prior to that. Under her guidance, the organization purchased and renovated an 80-year-old former commercial building on Pittsburgh's South Side in 1993 for its growing staff. Consistent with its mission of preserving Western Pennsylvania's resources, CCI retrofitted its new headquarters (The CCI Center) by using environmentally friendly building materials. The Center is used regularly as a teaching

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tool to complement middle and high school science curriculums. Through its award-winning Green Neighborhood Services program, CCI partners with utility companies, community development corporations and others to create sustainable communities. Its Energy Education programs are designed to foster environmental awareness, increase energy education and cultivate resource conservation. Lastly, its eSmart3 Energy Services program offers energy audits for homes and businesses.

[3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Project:](#) The deteriorated state of the Pittsburgh region's sewage infrastructure is creating unsafe and unhealthy conditions in our streams and rivers. The sewage collection system within the ALCOSAN service area is an integrated network of systems that have evolved over more than 100 years. Adding to the complexity of the problem is the number of municipalities and authorities (83 total) involved, each owning a piece of the total sewage system. As little as one-tenth of an inch of rain-an average Pittsburgh rainfall is one-quarter inch-can cause raw sewage to overflow into the region's rivers and streams and backup into homeowners' basements. Melting snow can cause the same effect. These consequences can last for days and pose a public health risk. Not only can exposure to disease-causing organisms cause sicknesses or death, but Pittsburgh's three rivers serve as the main source of drinking water for 90% of Allegheny County residents.

[Bob Kobet, President, Sustainaissance International:](#) Kobet's individual impact on the built environment is extremely difficult to measure since it spans numerous categories and several decades. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Science in Sustainable Systems (MS3) from Slippery Rock University, a degree he was instrumental in creating and which received the first Three Rivers Award for Environmental Education in 1994. He wrote the curriculum for the Built Environment track of the MS3 program, and designed and participated in the construction of the Robert A. Macosky Center for Sustainable Design and Research-the nucleus of SRU's MS3 program-for his master's thesis. Bob is currently the president of Sustainaissance International, a consulting firm specializing in sustainable design and development, high performance architecture, and environmental education. Company projects include individual building and sustainable community work in the U.S., China, Haiti, Eastern Europe and Africa.

The Shades of Green Leadership Award is designed to highlight the efforts of a distinctive person or team within the built environment who: demonstrates a visionary impact on the greening of Greater Pittsburgh through work on buildings, developments, infrastructure or other built factors of our environment; possesses proven leadership skills that exhibit creativity and innovative results; diligently partners with others in the region to facilitate positive change; and consistently influences others to improve the environment

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

Keep PA Beautiful Awards Groups in Great PA Cleanup! Troy-Bilt Yard Vacs



[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) this week announced groups in Bucks, Cambria, Delaware and Juniata counties were winners of [Troy-Bilt yard vacs](#) for their participation in the Great PA Cleanup! in April.

“Through the generous sponsorship of Troy-Bilt and the Keep America Beautiful organization, this year’s registered participants in the Great PA Cleanup! were eligible to win one of four Troy-Bilt yard vacs as an additional reward for their hard work,” said Bill Heenan, Co-Chair of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and President of the Steel Recycling Institute.

The winners picked by random drawing are:

- **Langhorne Borough, Bucks County** - 85 volunteers from the Langhorne Rotary Club, Recreation Board, Open Space Board, and Youth Services picked up over 225 bags from the Mayors Park, the Children's Peace Park, the Revolutionary Cemetery, Borough Streets and a local farm.
- **Misty Hollow 4H, Cambria County** - 16 volunteers walked a mile of Route 36 and picked up approximately 25 bags of trash.
- **Hilltop Elementary, Delaware County** - 400 students and parents picked up about 40 bags of trash, raked and cleaned the entire school yard and parts of the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, Juniata County** - 8 volunteers cleaned up the Port Royal Environmental Education Area and collected approximately 15 bags of litter.

“The winning groups demonstrate how litter and rural dumping are issues that concern everyone in the community, and how everyone can get together to solve these problems,” said Heenan. “Just these four groups involved over 500 volunteers to pick up over 300 bags of trash at their events in April.”

“Troy-Bilt is pleased to sponsor the year-round beautification efforts of Keep America Beautiful and its affiliate Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful,” said Jon Mellow from Troy-Bilt. “We are proud that our products are used all over the country to help clear debris and maintain landscaping in an effort to improve parks, downtown areas and waterways.”

“It was wonderful to see over 670 groups participating in the Great PA Cleanup! this year— 140 more than last year,” said Heenan. “The results were dramatic in the amount of trash collected and the chance to educate many more people about the harm caused by littering and rural dumping.”

“We also want to thank all the other sponsors of the Great PA Cleanup! in Pennsylvania, including the departments of Transportation, Environmental Protection,

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Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fish and Boat and Game Commissions, as well as our many private sponsors,” said Heenan.

Sponsors of the Great PA Cleanup! included:

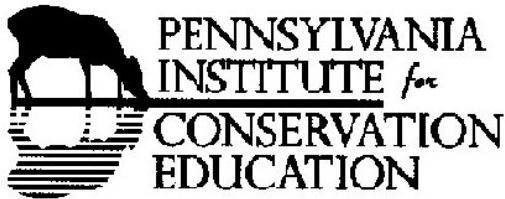
- Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Keystone Sanitary Landfill and landfills across the state that accepted Great PA Cleanup! trash for free
- Cities: Allentown, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh
- County Conservation Districts
- Keep Lancaster Beautiful • Keep Philadelphia Beautiful • Keep York Beautiful
- Pennsylvania Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus
- PA Builders Association • PA Cleanways • Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
- Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association • Pennsylvania Host Municipal Inspectors
- Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association • Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging
- United States Steel • Pennsylvania Resource Council
- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society • Penn State Extension Service
- Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania and County Recycling Coordinators
- Schuylkill Keep It Pretty • Cumberland Valley Chapter, Trout Unlimited
- Various Sportsmen Groups

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is an alliance of business, government and community groups dedicated to cleanup and prevention of litter, beautification and proper waste handling.

For more information, visit the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful website](#).

Feature

Conservation Institute Revives Natural Science/Natural History Education



It may sound strange, but the [Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education](#) owes its creation, in part, to the Rocky Mountain Ecosystem.

“I was teaching at the American Wilderness Leadership School in Wyoming when I began to notice how many of the participants were educators coming from PA and the Appalachian Mountains,” said Michele Richards, CEO and Executive Director of the Institute. “I began to think of how these teachers are learning about Rocky Mountain Ecology but live and teach in the Appalachian ecosystem demonstrating to me a need for more localized natural history based program in my home state of Pennsylvania. That, together with a visionary group of people like Jim Brett helped get the idea of the Institute off the ground.”

The Institute was founded in 2002 as a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to advancing awareness, knowledge and skills in natural history, natural science and the conservation of natural resources.

“We’re trying to reach an audience that is becoming more and more disconnected from the natural community that sustains us,” says Richards. “That’s why we need to connect people to nature through direct learning experiences in the out-of-doors, and

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teach them they aren't just part of an environment to be managed, but to be understood and appreciated.”

The Institute's guiding philosophy is simple-- experience teaches best.

“There is a void in environmental education where few programs teach about natural sciences like forest ecology or watershed ecology,” said Richards.

“Environmental education programs tend to concentrate on the larger picture of ecologically roles and functions and environmental issues. We want people to understand their role in the ecology, be able to identify plants and animals and conduct natural inventories, and their role in the biology of a place. When national research demonstrated that youth were able to identify hundreds of marketing symbols while barely able to identify less than a dozen natural objects, we recognized an inherent need for our program” says Richards.

The Institute runs programs seasonally from spring through fall almost every other week. They held 25-28 programs in 2004, including many for the general public through its annual catalog of courses. More than a dozen instructors come from all over the state to help teach PICE Programs, some of who donate their teaching time.

The programs include: natural history seminars, teacher education, youth and school programs, conservation internships, expeditions and custom programs for organized groups. PICE is approved by the Department of Education to offer its coursework for ACT 48 Continuing Education hours for teachers. And growing partnerships with Intermediate Units and a state college allow PICE to offer some of our coursework to teachers for academic credit.

“We don't run thousands of people through our programs. Given the nature of our field programs, classes are small to ensure quality, enjoyment, learning, time with the experts, and low impact on the environment but more intense.” Richards said.

Guiding the development of these unique experiences are several principles: teach the convergence of natural and cultural history, science, literature and the arts; address natural history and conservation as unifying themes; affirm human history as integral to the history of landscapes; encourage exploration, reflection and stewardship through immersion in the out-of-doors; promote respect among people and the broader community of life.

Typically two and three-day residential sessions, the programs are packed with plenty of fieldwork catering to a diverse audience of educators, professional conservationists, consultants and interested individuals.

Also, the Institute will custom-design programs for organized groups.

“We are partnering with the Junior Zoo Apprentice Program at the Philadelphia Zoo to provide urban youth with a direct learning experience in the natural environment, familiarizing them with the natural history of the Delaware Water Gap and connecting them with the rest of their watershed,” said Richards. “With Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization, we are collaborating on an outdoor mentoring program to provide at-risk youth with hands-on outdoor experiences through a long-term relationship with a mentor.”

Staff from the [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#), [The Nature Conservancy](#), State Parks, and environmental education centers across the state have benefited from the natural sciences training provided by the Institute.

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Institute programs are held throughout the state using Pennsylvania as an outdoor classroom. For example, the [Raystown Field Station](#), established by Juniata College and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1974 to provide special opportunities for environmental research and education at the 29,000 acre Raystown Lake Project in Huntingdon County, serves as one of Institute's program sites.

"[Juniata College](#) and the Raystown Field Station was one of our first academic partners who recognized the need for natural science education programs," said Richards. [Woolrich](#) was the Institute's first corporate sponsor, and [Canon](#) helps provide in-kind support for our programs."

The strength and comprehensive nature of PICE involves a collaboration of conservation professionals and organizations, biologists, ecologists, field naturalists, educators, and individuals who support our mission.

The Institute is a 501(c)(3) charitable educational organization. Foundation and government grants, corporate support and income from its programs provide financing for the Institute. With this support they are often able to offer participants scholarships to its programs.

The future holds some exciting plans for the Institute-- developing a program to certify instructors in natural history and expanding its offerings to support the growing interest in ecotourism.

"In this new age of ecotourism, natural history has a fundamental role to play," said Richards. "Many of our programs are hosted at Inns, retreats, camps and private lodges in areas that are rich in natural history and highlight phenomenal landscapes and outstanding wildlife viewing."

The Institute is also developing a partnership with [Cedar Crest College](#) in Allentown to offer programs for Masters-level course credits for formal educators.

Richards, a Pennsylvania native, is glad to be back home doing what she loves.

"In our short history, we're demonstrating that people are interested in learning of their natural environment and our program is filling a significant void," said Richards. For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education webpage](#) (temporary link). The [2005 Catalog of courses](#) is also available online. Or, contact Michele Richards, CEO/Executive Director, 570-458-5227 or by email to: naturecorp@enter.net .

And watch for the opening of the Institute's new website at: www.PICEweb.org .

Attachment: PICE Photo Feature – PDF

Quick Clips

[Stay Out! Stay Alive! Mines & Quarries Safety Program](#)
[Innovative Green Roof Project Underway in Erie County](#)
[Fuzzy Falcons Nesting Over River](#)
[West Chester School Receives Grant to Reduce Diesel Emissions](#)
[Philadelphia School Recognized for Radon Awareness](#)
[Montgomery County to Develop Climate Change Plan](#)
[Switchgrass Protects Soil, Wildlife](#)
[Search for Clean, Renewable Fuel Comes to Westmoreland](#)

[Rendell Pushes Mercury Cap](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[ORSANCO Sponsors Workshop on Protection Ohio River Recreation Uses](#)

[EPA Backs Off Sewage Policy Change](#)

[Susquehanna River Basin Commission Honors Two](#)

[Grants Already Helping Watershed Cleanup Efforts](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 21, 2005](#)

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

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice this week](#) of a final policy on Agricultural Land Preservation and a proposed policy for comment on underground coal mine shaft construction. The [Public Utility Commission published a final order](#) updating filing requirements for water and wastewater systems it regulations. The [Historical and Museum Commission published notice](#) of properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Final: DEP ID: 012-0700-002. Agricultural Land Preservation Policy. The purpose of this guidance is to provide policy guidance to Department staff to: 1) consider ways to prevent the irreversible loss of prime agricultural land; and 2) administer the Department's programs so that Department funds and Department-administered Federal funds are not used to encourage the conversion of prime agricultural land to other uses when feasible alternatives are available.

Proposed: DEP ID: 580-2200-009. Safety Requirements for Construction of Shafts for Underground Mines. This document provides guidance to identify the safety requirements applicable to the development of shaft and slope entries to underground mines. Comments due June 20.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **May 25** – [Spinning Green Energy Into Gold Conference](#). Mechanicsburg.
- **May 27** – Rachel Carson Forum – [Examining the Carbon Cycle](#). Harrisburg
- **May 31** – DEP [Energy Advisory Board](#) meeting.
- **June 6** – Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) providing penalties for ecoterrorism.
- **June 7** – Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee meeting on conservation districts report.
- **June 13** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution and Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum](#) on Philadelphia’s new [RecycleBank](#) incentive based recycling program.
- **June 21** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on global climate change.
- **June 21** – Chesapeake Bay Found Sponsors [Advanced Public Outreach Workshop](#). Harrisburg.

DEP Calendar of Events

Watershed Events

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

Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar

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

Senate Committee Schedule House Committee Schedule

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Stories Invited

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

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and

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