

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

May 21, 2007

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## Finalists Announced for 2007 Western PA Environmental Awards



The ten finalists for the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards, co-sponsored by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and [Dominion](#), were announced this week. The winners will be announced at an awards banquet on June 7 in Pittsburgh.

The awards recognize and honor outstanding accomplishments in various environmental initiatives throughout western Pennsylvania. The awards include cash prizes of \$5,000 to be donated to local nonprofit environmental organizations designated by each winner.

Finalists were selected from the following categories: Community, High Education, Primary & Secondary Education, and Business--

**Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation:** Thanks to the efforts of the [Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation](#) one of the worst brownfield spots in Erie County has been given new life. Through brownfield redevelopment the former Cohen/A-1 Auto property site, located in the City of Erie's east side, is now a growing industrial park.

It is estimated that approximately 200,000 sq. ft. of industrial real estate will be constructed when fully built out, yielding 240 new and/or retained jobs and an annual tax benefit of over \$450,000 to local taxing bodies. In addition to tax revenue, the project has resulted in a renewed sense of pride in the neighborhood as well as economic opportunity.

## Secretary Michael DiBerardinis, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

[Secretary DiBerardinis](#) is working to bring about a new Pennsylvania by making teammates of former enemies: A Pennsylvania where the environment spurs the economy, and the economy restores the environment; a Pennsylvania where our natural resources combine with our human ingenuity to create a thriving region; a state where we want to see our children grow up. He is leading DCNR beyond its historic role as a steward of lands, into a new powerful partner for economic development in rural Pennsylvania.

**Shoup's Run Watershed Association:** The [Shoup's Run Watershed](#) has provided the economically deprived areas of Shoup's Run with a \$2 million environmental investment. This investment has helped to start small-scale community revitalization, and increased community pride. Projects have ranged from abandoned mine drainage mitigation to flood plain property buy-outs to illegal dump clean-ups to stream bank stabilization projects. The SRWA is a great example of how a small group of dedicated volunteers can make a significant impact in their community.

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force:** The [Southwest Pennsylvania HHW Task Force](#) was formed in 2002 to give homeowners a safe, economical and environmentally responsible way to dispose of potentially dangerous products. Since its first collection in 2003, the Task Force has collected and disposed of over 1,004,000 pounds of household hazardous wastes from over 11,000 southwestern PA households.

**Dr. Joseph Mark Shostell, Assistant Professor of Biology, Penn State-Fayette:** Dr. Shostell has a passion for environmental science research, mentoring, teaching and community action and he shares his passion with the students he teaches and the community. Through hands-on environmental research projects such as assessing the health of stream ecosystems in abandoned mine areas, and evaluating auto salvage yards as sources of toxicants, Dr. Shostell has improved community awareness of watershed issues and encouraged a sense of self responsibility within his students.

**[Audubon Society of Western PA:](#) School Ground Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program:** Utilizing a holistic approach ASWP focuses on methods that schools can use to mitigate habitat loss and degradation while also building environmental literacy. Since 1998, over 7,500 students and teachers representing 15 schools have participated in a schoolground habitat enhancement and restoration project. Working together, teachers, students and community members restore school grounds to more natural areas rich in species diversity.

**Laura L. Jackson, [Bedford High School:](#)** Laura Jackson has been a science educator for over 32 years and currently teaches environmental science and advanced biology at Bedford High School in Bedford, Pennsylvania. Laura's goal for her ninth grade environmental science students is to help them understand the importance of a healthy watershed. To do this Laura's students toured local farms and observed first-hand how land use impacts stream health. In addition, students participated in hands-on field work ranging from stream monitoring and building mussel buckets, to planting trees in riparian buffer areas.

**Verna A. McGinley: Creative Environmental Education:** Verna McGinley affectionately referred to as "Mother Nature" or the "Nature Lady" has spent the last thirty years helping children learn about the environment and teaching them about the interrelatedness of all living things. Verna's Creative Environmental Education programs help to integrate an appreciation of nature with self-esteem issues.

**PPG Industries Performance Glazings:** For more than a century, PPG has been a leading manufacturer of residential glass products. [PPG's Performance Glazings](#) business recently introduced a new product, Solarban 70XL Solar Control Low-E Glass. This product represents a major industry innovation, as it transmits 63 percent of the sun's natural light while blocking 73 percent of its solar energy. Solarban 70XL glass can reduce significantly the amount of energy it takes to cool large commercial buildings, thereby allowing architects and building owners to drastically reduce the cooling capacity and equipment requirements for their buildings.

**United States Steel Corporation:** In 2006 [United States Steel Corporation](#) voluntarily transformed a 1.89 linear brownfield into a ready-made trail corridor that will help complete the Great Allegheny Passage, part of a premier trail system that will connect Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

Funding for the awards comes from the Dominion Foundation, which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies.

For tickets and other information about the awards dinner, contact the Pennsylvania Environmental Council at 412-481-9400 or view the [online invitation](#).

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#### Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session May 21.

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- Wildlands Conservancy Holds Workshop on Tax Incentives for Preserving Land
- Take a Hike! June 2 at Hickory Run State Park
- DCNR Celebrates Opening of Rock Run ATV, Snowmobile Site on Former Mine
- Westmoreland's GreenForge Building to Become Even Greener
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- Help Wanted -- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

### Spotlight

- Electric Transmission Line Siting Highlighted at Land Conservation Conference

### Feature

- The Spotted Sandpiper, *By Patrick McShea, Carnegie Museum of Natural History*

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

## View Falcons Online

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### Pittsburgh, Harrisburg Falcon Nests Alive With Activity, Watch May 24 Banding

Right now is prime time for watching the Peregrine Falcons nesting in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg because the chicks (eyases) have hatched and their parents are trying to keep up with their ravenous appetites.

[In Pittsburgh](#), three males and a female were temporarily taken from their nest this week, banded by the Game Commission and examined by University of Pittsburgh veterinarians.

[In Harrisburg](#), four of the five eggs hatched, and banding by the Game Commission should happen on May 24 that you can watch live online.

The next steps could literally be big ones as the eyases take their first tentative steps toward learning to fly.

**NewsClip:** [Gulf Tower Peregrine Falcons Get Their Medical Exams](#)



**Links:** [To Lure Birds to Your Yard, Think Like One](#)  
[Luring Hummingbirds](#)  
[Monarchs Welcomed in Garden](#)  
[West Nile Virus Has Profound Effect on Birds](#)

## On the Hill

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### On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

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The Senate and Senate return to voting session May 21 and here's what's on the agenda--

### House

**Calendar:** [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) limiting liability of landowners in connection with opening their lands for hunting and recreation; [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 193](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the future value of assets on Game Commission land; [House Bill 772](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) establishing the Keystone Energy and Environmental Excellence Awards program and an energy efficiency and pollution reduction initiative; [House Bill 894](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) authorizing additional reimbursements for school building construction which meets the LEED standards; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies.

**Committees:** the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 543](#) (Watson-R-Bucks) establishing an energy-efficient home assistance program in the PA Housing Finance Agency, [House Resolution 106](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) urging automakers to develop plug-in hybrid, electric vehicles, [House Resolution 136](#) (Josephs-D-Philadelphia) urging the President and Congress to ban exportation of elemental mercury; the Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development; the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging the president and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; the Transportation Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1178](#) (D.Evans-D-Philadelphia) to provide for an Independence National Historic Park license plate; the Game and Fisheries Committee public hearing on [House Bill 251](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) Amending Title 34 related to game feeders.

### Senate

**Calendar:** [Senate Bill 782](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transport escorts.

**Committees:** the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a public hearing on coal bed methane property rights issues.

**Other Meetings:** the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) holds an Environmental Issues Forum to hear a presentation on the federal Abandoned Mine Land Fund.

### Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

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**Green Buildings:** [House Bill 1204](#) (M.Smith-D-Montgomery) requiring buildings funded with state monies to meet certain energy and environmental building standards.

**Green Buildings Tax Credit:** [House Bill 1205](#) (M.Smith-D-Montgomery) providing a tax credit for construction of high-performance green buildings.

**Energy Efficiency Assistance:** [House Bill 1317](#) (DePasquale-D-York) establishing an energy efficient home assistance program in the Housing Finance Agency.

**Waste Coal/Methane Incentives:** [House Bill 1318](#) (DePasquale-D-York) providing tax credits for the development of energy from coal waste and coal bed methane.

**Anti-Littering Education/Penalties:** [House Bill 1319](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) requiring an acknowledgement of anti-littering law at the time a learner's permit or driver's license is issued, and providing additional penalties for littering.

**Home Disposal of Sharps:** [House Bill 1320](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) establishing a program within the Department of Environmental Protection for the safe disposal of home-generated medical sharps.

**Storage Tanks:** [House Bill 1331](#) (Carroll-D-Monroe) further providing for storage tank environmental cleanup and for pollution prevention programs.

**Emission Inspection Fee Cap:** [Senate Bill 871](#) (LaValle-D-Beaver) providing for a fee cap for vehicles exempt from emission inspection due to mileage.

**Emission Tax Exemption:** [Senate Bill 873](#) (LaValle-D-Beaver) providing a Sales Tax exemption for repairs needed to meet vehicle emission inspection requirements.

**Emission Test Equipment Exemption:** [Senate Bill 874](#) (LaValle-D-Beaver) providing a Sales Tax exemption for vehicle emission test equipment.

**Emission Fee Tax Credit:** [Senate Bill 875](#) (LaValle-D-Beaver) providing a tax credit of up to \$25 for emission inspection fee.

### Energy Efficiency, Hybrid Vehicles on House Committee Agenda

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets May 23 to consider legislation on energy efficiency, hybrid vehicles and mercury. The bills include:

- [House Bill 543](#) (Watson-R-Bucks) establishing an energy-efficient home assistance program in the PA Housing Finance Agency;
- [House Resolution 106](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) urging automakers to develop plug-in hybrid, electric vehicles; and
- [House Resolution 136](#) (Josephs-D-Philadelphia) urging the President and Congress to ban exportation of elemental mercury.

The Committee has also scheduled a May 30 hearing in York to hear testimony on the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative and [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York).

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

## Other News

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### Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces 2007 Grant Awards



The [Coldwater Heritage Partnership](#) recently announced that over \$35,000 in grants have been awarded to local organizations to protect and conserve Pennsylvania’s coldwater stream habitats.

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership is a cooperative initiative among Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program.

“Pennsylvania Trout is excited to award grants to worthy organizations for the conservation and protection of their local streams,” said Ken Undercoffer, President of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited.

Funded organizations will be responsible for creating a Coldwater Conservation plan that: gathers existing data about the coldwater ecosystem; identifies potential impacts, threats, problems and opportunities to our coldwater streams; formulates a plan of action for proposed conservation and protection strategies; and, builds community awareness and support for the conservation of our coldwater streams.

Grants have been made to the following organizations:

- \$5,000 to the [Schuylkill County Conservation District](#) to develop a conservation management plan to maintain access and preserve the water quality of Cold Run;
- \$3,860 to Milesburg Borough, on behalf of the Bald Eagle Watershed Association, to assess Wallace Run in Centre County and create a conservation plan for the watershed;
- \$5,000 to the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy on behalf of the [Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team](#) to create a conservation plan to lay guidelines and recommendations for the restoration and protection of the Tubmill Creek basin in Westmoreland County;
- \$4,400 to the Cameron County Conservation District to conduct an assessment and evaluation on Canoe Run, including water quality analysis, habitat analysis, rapid bioassessment, rod and reel survey and an evaluation of problems such as AMD, acid deposition, erosion and lack of riparian vegetation;
- \$5,000 to the [Bushkill Stream Conservancy](#) to create a conservation plan, assess the coldwater resources, and determine the feasibility of upgrading sections of the Upper Bushkill Creek to Class A wild trout;
- \$4,650 to the Blair County Chapter of Trout Unlimited on behalf of the Blair County Conservation District to expand upon existing watershed studies and identify restoration project locations on Plum Creek;

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- \$4,300 to the [Watershed Alliance of Adams County](#) to create a baseline assessment of Middle Creek, including macroinvertebrate surveys, water chemistry collection, and a habitat assessment;
- \$5,000 to [Northampton County Conservation District](#) to document baseline data for Fry’s Run that will serve as a foundation for water resource protection through prioritized recommendations and an increase in community awareness; and
- \$4,800 to the Columbia County Conservation District on behalf of the [Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association](#) to conduct physical stream assessments and collect biological and chemical data to create a conservation plan for future activities.

Besides offering grants, the Coldwater Heritage Partnership works to provide technical and educational assistance to organizations interested in protecting coldwater ecosystems.

For additional information, please contact the Partnership’s Coldwater Resource Specialist Deborah Nardone at 814-359-5233, or visit the [Coldwater Heritage website](#).

### 2007 Lehigh River of the Year Poster Now Available

The Lehigh has been named the Pennsylvania’s “2007 River of the Year” by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and to help celebrate that even a full color poster of the river is available.

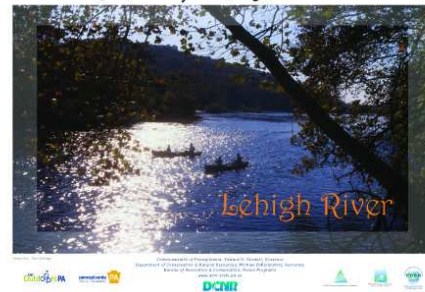
The free poster is a high quality 15” (h) x 22” (w) full color poster depicting canoers on the scenic Lehigh.

The river is 103 miles in length, beginning in the Pocono Region and flowing through the Lehigh Valley, before ending at the Delaware River in the City of Easton. In 1982, the reach of the river from the Francis E. Walter Dam to Jim Thorpe was designated a Pennsylvania Scenic River.

To order your free poster, visit the [2007 River of the Year webpage](#) and fill out the order form. Telephone orders are also accepted by calling Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers 717-234-7910.

[Previous River of the Year Posters can be viewed online.](#)

2007 River of the Year



### USDA Accepting Bids for Stream Restoration Work in Northeast

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service announced it will advertise and bid federal contracts for emergency stream restoration work in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The work will be done to repair damage to homes, businesses, or utilities along streams that have been affected by the June 2006 flooding.

Projects involve reshaping stream banks, installing large rock riprap, stacking rock walls and seeding disturbed areas. The primary areas where work will be done include the counties of Luzerne, Wyoming, Susquehanna, Wayne, Lackawanna, Bradford, and Columbia.

Federal funds from NRCS will finance 75 percent of the cost. The remaining 25 percent will be funded by the state of Pennsylvania, and Columbia, Wyoming, Sullivan,



and Lackawanna County governments. Eligible sites have been identified by NRCS and local municipalities.

All projects are sponsored by local units of government who obtain permission from landowners to do the work and agree to maintain the project when completed. Construction is expected to continue into the fall of 2007. Between NRCS and local sources, there is nearly \$8 million available to perform eligible stream work.

NRCS funding is made available through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. The EWP program provides technical and financial assistance to safeguard people and property following natural disasters.

All projects will be competitively bid using federal bidding procedures outlined in Title 48 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 14 and 36. Information about specific projects, including construction drawings, specifications and contract requirements is available at the [Federal Business Opportunity webpage](#).

Contractors must meet certain requirements in order to be qualified for award of federal contracts. Any contractors who are interested in this work will need to go to the [USDA Procurement webpage](#) and follow the directions there.

### **New Month by Month Landowner Guide to Buffer Success Now Available**

A new [Landowner Guide to Buffer Success](#) is now available on how to plant, maintain and enhance the effectiveness of forested stream buffers to improve water quality.

Made available through Pennsylvania's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and DEP's Growing Greener Program, the new Guide provides month by month activities to ensure the success of a buffer, tips to save time and improve outcomes, invasive species removal, blank areas for making notes for the future, example photos, a summary of how forested buffers help streams and a list of additional resources.



Forested stream buffers not only remove 200 to 800 percent more nitrogen pollution from water than a grass-only buffer, they increase the quality of stream bottom habitat, provide streamside habitat for birds and other wildlife and reduce stream temperatures.

[A copy of the Guide is available online.](#) (it's a large PDF file)

For more information, visit the [CREP website](#) or call 1-800-941-CREP.

## **Feature**

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**Farmer's Conservation Efforts Pay Dividends: Healthier Soil and Cleaner Streams**  
**By Kelly Donaldson**  
**Chesapeake Bay Foundation**

"I try to save the soil. If you don't have soil, you're not going to grow anything!"

The Herr family farm began in 1912, when Dale Herr's grandfather bought his first farm near Kirkwood, Lancaster County. He purchased two additional farms in 1932 and 1937, for a total of 301 acres. Today, Dale Sr., and his son, Dale Jr., are third and fourth generation farmers on this land. They grow beans, corn, hay and wheat, and do everything they can to keep their soil from eroding into their local stream and the Chesapeake Bay.



Fay and Dale Herr

Their creek, the Octoraro, runs right through the farm on its way to the Susquehanna River. When Dale Sr. was young, he was frustrated by the gullies and other signs of erosion on his farm. Initially, he says, he began implementing conservation practices to save the soil on his property, but he also realized that those actions have a much bigger impact. By keeping the soil on his property, he's keeping it out of the Octoraro and out of the Bay. Herr says it's a commitment to do things right.

Dale started implementing conservation practices on his farm in 1975 when he began to contour the land. He added terraces and waterways in 1977. Although he has a few heifers on the property, they can't wade through the Octoraro. They're completely fenced out of the stream, and have been for over 20 years. Herr uses a spring house to provide the cattle with water.

With help from various Farm Bill programs, plus a significant investment of his own time and money, Herr has installed 1.4 acres of waterways, 1,700 feet of diversions, 3,900 feet of underground outlets, 12,000 feet of pipe outlet terraces, 220 acres of conservation crop rotations, and 8.1 acres of forested riparian buffers. He says that the conservation practices have improved the soil and organic matter, so that his farm is now able to yield 200 bushels of corn per acre.

Dale has also committed to protecting the Octoraro and to improving its water quality by planting trees along its banks. This streambank buffer will help prevent further soil erosion, remove pollutants from the water, and keep the water temperatures cooler for fish and macroinvertebrates.

In November 2005, CBF and 21 students from Smith Middle School were invited to the Herr property to plant 150 trees along the Octoraro, and to study its water quality. The students found that the water quality in that stretch was very good, supporting a variety of aquatic life. Herr's conservation and cow-fencing efforts are the cause.

A total of 1,000 trees were planted on the Herr property along the Octoraro. Most of the trees planted by CBF and the students are so healthy that they are already growing above their protective "tree tubes." When the meadow flooded last fall, some of the tree tubes had to be straightened, but overall Herr has a 99.4 percent survival rate.

Herr and his wife Fay believe it's important to leave their farm in better condition for future generations. He notes that sometimes it takes trial and error to learn what works best on a property, but he feels good knowing that his farm is in much better shape since he has made changes that affect water quality.

**Links:** [Learn More About REAP a New Proposal to Help Fund Farm Conservation PA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#)

## Good Maintenance, Monitoring Key to Passive Mine Drainage Treatment Systems

The [Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition](#) performs routine maintenance and monitoring activities on 18 passive acid mine drainage treatment systems in their watershed.

Recently Tom Grote and Kyle Durrett did routine maintenance at the [De Sale Phase III](#) treatment system in Venango Township, Butler County that was installed in 2002 with funding provided by DEP’s Growing Greener Program, Butler County Commissioners and the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program.



Tom Grote doing field water sampling.

The system treats over 13.2 million gallons of water a year removing over 25,700 pounds of iron a year, 18,400 pounds of manganese, 2,700 pounds of aluminum and 97,700 pounds of acidity.

Routine maintenance on the day that Tom and Kyle visited consisted of removing vegetation and iron solids that had clogged a spillway from the vertical flow pond. During their visit, they also conducted field water quality testing to ensure the system was working properly.

With the generous support of landowners and routine maintenance and testing, the passive system should remain functioning for years resulting in improvements in stream water quality and aquatic habitat.

For more information, visit the [Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition website](#).

## DEP Issues Final TMDL for Bernhart Creek, Berks County

The Department of Environmental Protection [published a notice \(PaB 2348\)](#) this week on the availability of the final Total Maximum Daily Load Plan for Bernhart Creek, Berks County.

For a copy of the TMDL, visit [DEP’s TMDL webpage](#).

## Walnut Creek Watershed Study Available For Public Review May 23

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public information session on the comprehensive Walnut Creek Watershed assessment on May 23 in Erie.

The meeting will begin at 3 p.m., on May 23, in Room 112 of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr., Erie. The public is invited to review the watershed report from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., listen to a DEP presentation from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., and participate in an open discussion from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Walnut Creek is home to one of the foremost steelhead fisheries in the Great Lakes region. It is a tributary to Lake Erie, and contributes to the source of drinking water for the entire Erie region. It supports recreational opportunities for local residents and tourists, and provides habitat for threatened and endangered species.

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DEP scientists performed the evaluation to determine if the environmental conditions in the watershed are supporting public health and safety, economic stability, and quality of life for Erie County residents.

As part of the watershed study, DEP scientists evaluated: public water supplies and source water protection activities; groundwater quality and sustainability; biological health and diversity; pollution control programs; education and conservation initiatives; and Land use and planning activities.

As a result of the study, DEP developed recommendations that will direct resources and efforts that help improve and protect the watershed's health.

The assessment will be published on DEP's Northwest Regional Office, [Community Involvement webpage](#).

For more information, contact Ron Lybrook at 814-332-6984 or send email to: [rlybrook@state.pa.us](mailto:rlybrook@state.pa.us) .

### **Free Stormwater Management Workshops Set in Lackawanna County**

Two free seminars entitled, "Stormwater Management – Building Sustainable Communities," will be held June 5 in Clarks Summit and June 20 at the Lackawanna College Environmental Institute Building.

The June 5 program will feature Dr. Robert Traver, Director of Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership talking about DEP's new Stormwater Management Best Practices Manual and Vincent Cotrone, Cooperative Extension Urban Forest, on landscaping for a healthy environment.

The June 20 program will feature Ernest Keller and Alana Roberts from the Lackawanna County Conservation District talking about local approaches to stormwater management and Vincent Cotrone, Cooperative Extension Urban Forest, on landscaping for a healthy environment.

The programs are sponsored by grants from the Scranton Area Foundation and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.

For more information, contact Joyce Hatala at 570-504-7939 or send email to: [hatalaj@lackawanna.edu](mailto:hatalaj@lackawanna.edu) .

### **Dr. Edward Chun Named to Senior Environment Corps, Wins Recognition**

The Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement announced this week the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#) has strengthened its volunteer technical and training leadership by contracting with Dr. Edward Chun, an original volunteer with the Center in the Park Senior Environment Corps.

It was also announced this week Dr. Chun is a Silver Awardee of the MetLife Foundation 2007 Older Volunteers Enrich America Awards.

Dr. Chun will provide statewide technical and training coordination for the PaSEC water quality monitoring program on a part-time basis, drawing on his experience throughout his life and especially with the PaSEC program.

Edward Chun spent the first two decades of his life in Hawaii. His home town of Wahiawa, Oahu was surrounded by pineapple plantations. In this rural area with lush tropical vegetation, Edward grew appreciative of Nature's bounty.

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In 1990 Edward married Florence Lewis. Shortly after, the couple both retired. They spent several years as docents at Maxwell Mansion, an 1859 Victorian mansion. The couple enjoyed gardening at home until Florence's passing two and a half years ago. Edward joined the Center in the Park PaSEC in 1997. He is a designated trainer for the colorimeter and the digital titrator and a Volunteer Technical Coordinator for the PaSEC statewide program.

Dr. Chun plans to be available about 30 hours a month, generally on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings, by telephone 215-500-8309 or send email to: [CHFLOED@aol.com](mailto:CHFLOED@aol.com) , and at other times for meetings and workshops.

PaSEC volunteers, designated trainers and site directors are encouraged to contact him for training and technical support.

**Link:** [Video Blog – the Senior Environment Corps in Action](#)

### Fish for Free Days Set for May 26, June 3 By Fish and Boat Commission



Have a little free time on your hands? Grab a friend or family member and try some free fishing. Thanks to the Fish and Boat Commission the only thing you'll have to spend is some quality time together.

The PFBC has designated May 26, and June 3, as Fish For Free Days in the Commonwealth. Fish For Free Days allow anyone-- not just license holders or youth under the age of 16-- to legally fish in Pennsylvania.

From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on both days, no fishing license is needed to fish in Pennsylvania's waterways. Fish For Free Days provide an opportunity for active anglers to introduce a friend or relative to the lifelong sport of fishing. Best of all, it's a good time and a fun way to spend a

day with the entire family.

The May 26 Fish For Free Day was specifically designated to coincide with the Memorial Day weekend, a traditional time for families to gather, and the unofficial start of many outdoor recreational activities in the state. The June 3 date is part of the observation of National Fishing and Boating Week, June 2-10.

"No other activities can bond a family together quite like fishing and boating. It's a great way for families to have fun, create new memories and spend quality time together. We invite young and old alike to Fish For Free and discover just how much fun it can be. Fish For Free Days provide the perfect chances to get started," said PFBC Executive Director Douglas Austen.

To make it even easier to get started, or restarted, in fishing visit the PFBC's website at [Fishing Fundamentals](#).

There, you can find a list of Family Fishing Programs that provide fun, friendly hands-on instruction for anglers of all ages. Or you delve further into the website to learn more about basic fishing equipment (including a list of sites where you can borrow fishing tackle free of charge), locate fishing destinations nearby and information on the types of fish you may catch.

While license requirements are waived for these special days, all other regulations such as fishing seasons, the minimum sizes for keeping certain fish, and the limit on the number you may take still apply.

### **Audubon PA Urges Landowners to Use DMAP Program to Balance Deer/Habitat**

[Audubon Pennsylvania](#) is encouraging landowners to take advantage of the Game Commission's [Deer Management Assistance Program \(DMAP\)](#) to help control deer herds on their property and restore and maintain the health of Pennsylvania's forests.



“We are encouraging landowners to take advantage of the DMAP Program that allows landowners to give out permits authorizing hunters to harvest extra antlerless deer during hunting season,” explained Timothy D. Schaeffer, PhD, Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania, a state office of the National Audubon Society. “This is a win-win situation for landowners and hunters. Landowners reduce the potential for forest, crop and ornamental damage from deer and hunters get to take an extra deer.”

“Audubon Pennsylvania strongly supports recreational hunting and other means to bring overabundant deer populations under control,” said Dr. Schaeffer. “Over-browsing by deer eliminates thousands of acres of habitat for song birds and other wildlife and is the largest single threat to bird habitat in many parts of the Commonwealth.”

A study released in March by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources concluded that fewer than 25 percent of the 41,650 state forest plots they surveyed showed desirable forest regeneration and almost 45 percent lacked any new, woody growth because of deer over-browsing.

“According to the Department of Agriculture, our farmers and landowners suffer \$90 million in crop loss and \$73 million in forest products damage every year. Pennsylvania also leads the nation in deer/car collisions, over 39,000 every year, and is second in the incidence of Lyme disease, a debilitating and sometimes fatal disease carried by deer ticks,” said Dr. Schaeffer.

“Audubon would welcome the chance to work with individuals enrolled in the DMAP program to help monitor habitat conditions, particularly on one of Pennsylvania's 84 Important Bird Areas,” said Dr. Schaeffer. “We now have regional staff who are beginning to advise landowners on how to assess the health of their forests and make recommendations on how to improve those habitats.”

For more information on the DMAP program, visit the [Game Commission website](#) or call any regional office of the Game Commission from listings in your local phone book.

Audubon Pennsylvania represents over 30,000 members concerned about the impact deer are having on forest ecosystems and bird and wildlife habitat. According to a recent survey, Audubon Pennsylvania members are 53 percent more likely than the general public to be hunters.

For more information, visit the [Audubon Pennsylvania website](#) or call 717-213-6880.

**NewsClip:** [Man Killed Checking Dead Deer He Struck Hunting License Sales in Decline](#)

**Game Commission Advises Motorists to Watch for Deer**

Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe urged motorists to stay alert and slow down when driving after dusk and before dawn to reduce their risk of colliding with a white-tailed deer.

**NewsClip:** [Man Killed Checking Dead Deer He Struck](#)

"Each spring, deer congregate on the grassy areas along the state's busy highways, and cover greater distances in search of food," Roe said. "This activity makes vehicle collisions with deer all but inevitable.

"For the sake of public safety, the Game Commission is asking motorists to watch for deer and to drive defensively after dark and before sunrise, which is when deer are most active. Your efforts can help to keep accidents to a minimum, which, in turn, will reduce or eliminate hardships to your family and other Pennsylvanians."

Roe noted that being more knowledgeable about deer can help Pennsylvanians steer clear of a deer-vehicle collision. For instance, in spring, young deer - last year's fawns - are on the move as does chase them away to prepare for the next fawn cycle. Young bucks typically disperse to set up their own home range. Yearling does usually travel no farther than necessary and will often later reunite with the doe after her new fawns begin traveling with her.

"Unfortunately, these young deer make tragic mistakes when crossing roads in spring and moving through areas unfamiliar to them," said Roe. "They're no longer following the leader, they're moving independently. And that increases the potential for an accident, especially in areas harboring large deer populations."

If a deer steps onto a road, Roe said, motorists should slow down and come to a controlled stop as soon as possible, and turn on their hazard flashers. Stopping may not be an option on busy highways, unless the driver can reach the shoulder of the road.

"Don't risk trying to drive around a deer," Roe said. "Since deer usually move in single file, more deer may be following, so you should stop, or at least slow down, to make sure all deer have passed.

"Also, deer sometimes abruptly reverse their direction right after crossing a road. This is a defensive mechanism that often kicks in when deer are startled, and they retrace their footsteps to other deer they're traveling with or return to an area they've already checked for danger."

Deer in northern counties spend a good deal of time in spring feeding on the tender shoots in grassy areas alongside busy highways. Motorists should slow down immediately whenever they see grazing deer along roads. While deer dining next to busy highways and interstates are often not bothered by the traffic, deer along rural roads seem less tolerant and are more edgy.

"The only thing predictable about whitetails is that they're definitely unpredictable," Roe said. "The moment you think you have them figured out, they start showing you something new.

"However, we also know that deer are creatures of habit. If you see a deer-crossing sign posted along a road you're traveling, it's a good idea to slow down especially around

dawn and dusk. These signs are placed in areas where deer have been crossing roads for years. Ignoring these signs is asking for trouble."

Drivers who hit a deer are not required to report the accident to the Game Commission. If the deer dies, only Pennsylvania residents may claim the carcass. To do so, they must call the Game Commission for a permit number within 24 hours of taking possession of the deer.

The permit number issued by the agency lets meat processors and law enforcement officials know that possession of the deer is legal, and not the result of poaching. Antlers from bucks killed in vehicle collisions must be turned over to the Game Commission.

If a deer is struck by a vehicle, but not killed, drivers are urged to stay their distance because some deer may recover and move on. However, if a deer does not move on, or poses a public safety risk, drivers are encouraged to report the incident to a Game Commission regional office or other local law enforcement agency. If the deer must be put down, the Game Commission will direct the proper person to do so.

Other tips for motorists:

- Stay alert and don't count on deer whistles or deer fences to deter deer from crossing roads in front of you. Deer can't hear ultrasonic frequencies and there is no scientific evidence that deer whistles are effective;
- Watch for the reflection of deer eyes and for deer silhouettes on the shoulders of roads. If anything looks slightly suspicious, slow down;
- Slow down in areas known to have a large deer population; where deer-crossing signs are posted; places where deer commonly cross roads or are struck by motorists; areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forests; and whenever in forested areas between dusk and dawn; and
- Deer do unpredictable things. Sometimes they stop in the middle of the road when crossing. Sometimes they cross and quickly re-cross back from where they came. Sometimes they move toward an approaching vehicle. Assume nothing. Slow down, blow your horn to urge the deer to leave the road. Stop if a deer stays on the road; don't try to go around it.

## **Parks and Recreation Foundation Award Winners Honored**

The [Parks and Recreation Foundation](#) held their first annual awards program to honor individuals, groups and organizations doing outstanding work to support Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests.

The Awards program mcee was Sen. Rob Wonderling (R-Montgomery). The winners included:

### **Keystone Legacy Award: members of the Civilian Conservation Corps who served in Pennsylvania.**

Pennsylvania's park and forest system would not be what it is today if it weren't for the hard work and dedication of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC "boys" were young men who joined the Corps, a program created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide a much-needed boost to a depression economy.

The "boys" provided the work force needed to reclaim the Pennsylvania's ravaged lands from 1933-1942. They spent their days building roads and trails; planting trees; building dams, cabins, swimming pools and picnic pavilions; and making many



improvements to our park and forest system. By the end of the program, 194,500 Pennsylvania citizens served in the CCC nationwide.

**Government Award: Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary for Conservation and Natural Resources:** Secretary DiBerardinis has helped the agency look beyond its traditional mission as the stewards of our public lands, to one of advocacy and leadership on broad environmental issues around land and water.

Under his leadership, DCNR has undertaken such initiatives as the Pennsylvania Wilds, a nature tourism effort in the northcentral part of the state and TreeVitalize, a public-private partnership that has planted over 10,000 trees to restore tree cover in southeastern Pennsylvania.

He has also lead efforts to promote statewide land conservation, build sustainable communities and create outdoor connections for citizens and visitors. His far-reaching action plan, Shaping a Sustainable Pennsylvania, included widespread public input from thousands of people across the Commonwealth.

**Park of the Year: Pymatuning State Park:** [Pymatuning State Park](#) was selected as this year's Park of the Year for its exemplary and diverse programming, outstanding facilities and for the many recreational and educational opportunities offered to the public. The park has over 253 environmental education programs throughout the year. In 2006, they launched a new seven week Jr. Park Ranger program. They also host the annual Crawford County Joint Envirothon.

**Forest of the Year: Forbes State Forest:** In 1909, the Bureau of Forestry made the first purchase of state forest in the Ohio River Watershed—this land formed the beginning of the [Forbes State Forest](#). Recreational users will find trails for hiking and snowshoeing (270 miles), cross-country skiing (160), equestrian riding (185), mountain biking (240), and snowmobiling (116). Hunters, fishermen, backpackers, picnickers, sightseers and a host of other recreational users take advantage of this unique large area of land in the heart of the Laurel Highlands.

Staff within the district have been recognized in 2004 & 2005 Service Foresters of the Year (Bureau award). They utilize many volunteers to help maintain the Forbes through the formation of the Laurel Mountain Volunteer Group which serves to increase communication among groups and the forest district; and they helped to form the first friends group to support a state forest— The Friends of Linn Run and Forbes State Forest.

**Friends Group Volunteerism Award: Friends of Codorus State Park:** The Friends of [Codorus State Park](#), which formed in early 2006, were selected to receive this award because of the outstanding job they have done engaging volunteers to support the park's many activities. The following are just a few highlights of their achievements over the past year:

- Formed committees to help manage volunteers in a number of important areas including membership, newsletter, volunteer recognition and history;
- Engaged volunteers in numerous park activities during the year including four park cleanup days, wood splitting, wood and ice sales and various annual events including the annual Cordorus Blast;

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- Developed a volunteer recognition program to recognize service beginning at 50 service hours and held a volunteer recognition luncheon;
- Worked with outside volunteer groups to enhance the park including, Lincoln Intermediate Unit special needs students and supervisors, local Bass Casters and veteran's groups;
- Recruited 38 new members to add to their 116 "charter members;" and
- Conducted 10 significant events in 2006 utilizing over 50 volunteers and 4,724 volunteer hours.

**Friends Group Improvement Award: Miller Family, Greenwood Furnace State Park:** The Robert E. Miller Jr. family was chosen to receive this award because of their outstanding contribution to the infrastructure and character of [Greenwood Furnace State Park](#).

From January 2006 to August 2006 the Miller family donated their time, skills and materials to the reconstruction of a pavilion that was slated for demolition at a nearby retirement complex. The Miller family, including Bob who owns a welding business in State College, and his brother Terry who is in home construction in New York State, contributed over 700 hours and \$10,000 in new materials to this project. With his strong ties to the local community, Bob Miller enlisted the volunteer help of local construction and landscape companies to assist with specialized project tasks.

**Friends Group Education Award: Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund:** [Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund](#) was chosen to receive this award for their efforts in raising public awareness about light pollution and the night sky educational programs. These efforts have helped to protect the night sky resource at Cherry Springs from light threats beyond the border of the park as well as helped educate visitors and local residents.

Examples of their extensive efforts include:

- Produced four articles about Cherry Springs for publication in local news media and created an informational brochure about the Fund; presented formal programs;
- Planned and organized public star gazing programs at the Cherry Springs and Black Forest Star Parties; presented local astronomy programs for the Potter County Education Council;
- Organized and planned the "Cherry Springs Dark Sky Work-Bee" volunteer work day. To date, volunteers have planted over 150 white spruce trees to shield the observation field from headlights; constructed six concrete telescope pads; landscaped turf areas and painted buildings; and installed over 600 feet of split rail fence;
- Distributed "Hubble Sky Cap" shields to area residents to direct light downward to the ground; and
- Provided guidance to the Galeton Center Town Park and Main Street Committee to assist them with the selection of shielded dark sky street light fixtures.

Sponsors of the awards program include: InfoSpherix, Woolrich, PPL Corporation, Aqua America, PA Recreation and Park Society, Delta Development Group, Mr. Joseph Ibberson and an anonymous donation in honor of William C. Forrey.

For information on the [Parks and Recreation Foundation](#), call 717-236-7644 or send email to Marcy Mowery, PA Parks and Forests Foundation, at [mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net)

### **Wildlife for Everyone Foundation Saves Critical Waterfowl Habitat at Pymatuning**

Many wetlands impoundments at the Game Commission's [Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area](#) were constructed in the early 1960s, and have served wildlife well for over 45 years.

Today, however, many of them are succumbing to age, and are losing their value as important wildlife habitat. Working together with the [Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation](#) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Jerry Bish, Land Manager at Pymatuning, came up with a solution to rehabilitate one of the impoundments.

The dam, locally known as Pond 3, failed completely last June, and Bish and his crew were forced to completely drain the impoundment. Situated in the heart of the Controlled Hunting Area, this impoundment was a key resting area for Canada geese and ducks, and was heavily used by numerous other wetland birds and eagles. Once the habitat was gone, so were the greater and lesser yellowlegs, dunlins, snapping and painted turtles, and others that used the impoundment at some stage of life or time of year.

According to Bish, "In the current fiscal climate, it's impossible to stretch funding far enough, but we simply had to adjust our priorities and fund the reconstruction of this important wetlands. We allocated the necessary funds and ordered the water control structure in June. However, because the manufacturer failed to complete the structure by the end of our fiscal year, the funding expired and the order was cancelled. We were unable to make the purchase in the new fiscal year, so the drained impoundment sat idle."

Bish began looking for outside help to try to assemble the necessary funding. Many conservation groups were approached with no success.

Finally, Bish contacted the Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation. Bish stated "I'm pleased to say that Wildlife for Everyone funded the entire purchase of the 60 - foot long aluminum water control structure. Thanks to them, a project (and its habitat) that was dead on its feet is being completed."

Once the banks become stabilized, the Game Commission will begin to refill the impoundment. Newly re-filled impoundments are regularly used by numerous species, and since this impoundment is partially visible from the road, it should become a planned destination for many birders.

It will take a full year for the vegetation to become established. Afterwards, the water level will be regulated as needed to produce a plant community that provides optimal food and cover for wildlife.

The Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation was established in 2004 to provide permanent private support for wildlife habitat enhancement, wildlife research and education, land preservation, and for the establishment of a Wildlife Research and Education Center.

More information, visit the [Wildlife for Everyone Foundation website](#).

### **Game Commission Provides Wildlife Workshops for Teachers in June**

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

The two programs, both of which are Act 48 approved for educators, are WILD About Endangered and Threatened Species and WILD About Owls.

Theresa Alberici, Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Education specialist, facilitates and administers Project WILD, which is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among educators of students from kindergarten through 12th grades.

These workshops, which are part of the series of Advanced WILD and PA Songbird workshops provided by the Game Commission, will be held at the Game Commission's Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area along Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, Lebanon County.

Following is a summary of the programs, both of which are free of charge.

**WILD About Endangered and Threatened Species:** On June 13, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Join the Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for this hands-on session addressing the Environment and Ecology Standard: Threatened, Endangered and Extinct Species.

Why are some species endangered while others are flourishing? Through indoor and outdoor activities, participants will explore the concepts and issues surrounding threatened and endangered species, investigate "how" and "why" species become endangered and threatened, examine laws affecting these species and explore methods biologists are using to help restore these species.

Participants will use a variety of materials and resources and receive a Threatened and Endangered Species Background Information and Activity booklets for use with their students. Please bring a bag lunch and binoculars. Dress is casual for indoor and outdoor activities. A small morning snack will be provided.

To register, contact Theresa Alberici at [talberici@state.pa.us](mailto:talberici@state.pa.us) or at 717-783-4872.

**WILD About Owls:** On June 29, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Join Game Commission educators and biologists to explore the world of owls.

This workshop will include natural history, adaptations and habits of Pennsylvania owls, hands-on activities to address state Environment and Ecology Standards and an update on research and monitoring that is occurring in our state.

As a special workshop feature, participants will join biologists and bird banders at a barn owl nest site to be part of the banding of young barn owlets. Participants will receive a Project WILD guide and specialized resource information on owls. Please bring a bag lunch and binoculars. Dress is casual for indoor and outdoor activities. A small morning snack will be provided.

To register, contact the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area at (717) 733-1512.

**Link:** [PA Center for Environmental Education Online Calendar](#)

**Reminder: Students Invited to Apply for Wildlife Leadership Adventure Programs**

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The [Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education](#) will hold two [Wildlife Leadership Adventure Programs](#) on deer and grouse this July for students 14 – 17.

This cooperative educational initiative begins with an intensive summer residential field camp, training high school youth in a curriculum emphasizing wildlife biology, habitat, and ecosystem management in Pennsylvania. The programs will be held--

- July 9-13: Pennsylvania Bucktails (deer camp) at Raystown Field Station; and
- July 16-20: Pennsylvania Drummers (grouse camp) at Raystown Field Station.

Students will learn through hands-on field studies combined with classroom activities and labs taught by leading wildlife biologists and professionals in the state, representing agencies and organizations such as Audubon, Ruffed Grouse Society, Quality Deer Management Assoc., PGC, DCNR, PDA, PSU, Juniata College, Dickinson College, and more.

Following the summer field experience, PICE continues to mentor the youth throughout the year, as they engage in public outreach and service projects on wildlife and conservation issues. Students create record books, documenting their achievements and qualifying them for rewards such as outdoor trips, scholarships to return to the next field camp as an assistant leader, and college scholarships.

For more information on the program visit the [Wildlife Leadership Adventure webpage](#).

For each camp, PICE is also looking to involve four adult leaders who learn right alongside the youth, and act as the primary mentors and motivators to the youth as you all experience the program together. The Institute can provide Act 48 credits for participation.

To learn more about the Adult Leader role, please contact Gail Farmer by sending email to: [gfarmer@piceweb.org](mailto:gfarmer@piceweb.org) or calling 610-756-3194.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

**Link:** [PA Center for Environmental Education Online Calendar](#)

### **Wildlands Conservancy Holds Workshop on Tax Incentives for Preserving Land**

The Wildlands Conservancy will host a Tax Incentive Workshop May 23 on the limited-time tax incentives now available to landowners who preserve their property during 2007.

The workshop will be held at the Monroe County Conservation District, 8050 Running Valley Road, in Monroe County on May 23 from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

The lead speaker at the workshop is Attorney Michael Henry of Gross, McGinley, and LaBarre & Eaton. Attorney Henry specializes in local, state and federal taxation, tax and estate planning, and real estate law. Diane Matthews-Gehringer, Land Preservation Manager for Wildlands Conservancy, will also speak to attendees about preservation options.

The workshop is funded in part by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

To register for the workshop or for more information about the workshops of Wildlands Conservancy, please contact Debra Lermite at 610-965-4397, ext. 11.

According to the 2003 report by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources entitled Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Wild Places – Our Outdoor Heritage in Peril, Pennsylvania is losing approximately 350 acres per day to development.

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Pennsylvania has the fifth highest amount of acreage lost to development but was ranked 48th lowest among all states in population growth during the 1990s.

The landscape of Penn's Woods is dramatically changing from undeveloped valleys and ridges to residential subdivisions, housing the area's moving population.

The report continues to say "as private forests and farmland are being converted for housing, the pressures on existing public lands will increase while undeveloped landscapes and open spaces will face increased peril. Wildlife, streams, natural areas, threatened species, recreational opportunities, community vitality, economic health, and our general connections with the outdoors are likely to be adversely affected by the consequences of these mounting pressures on Pennsylvania's natural land base."

Several tools exist for the preservation of open space. Among the most equitable are conservation easements, which allow a property owner to limit certain uses on all or a portion of a property for conservation purposes while the owner retains possession and control of the land.

In most cases, owners can either receive cash for the sale of the right to develop (with certain state and local programs) or receive credit for donation of development rights. The sale or donation of development rights permanently preserves a piece of property and is binding upon current and future owners. Added incentives for 2007 provide much larger benefits than ever before for those who donate development rights.

Congress added tax incentives for landowners choosing to permanently preserve their land in 2006. Among these changes are provisions raising the income tax deduction allowed a landowner for donating a conservation easement from 30 percent of their adjusted gross income in the year of the donation plus 5 more years, to 50 percent in the year of the donation plus 15 more years.

It also allows qualifying farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to deduct up to 100 percent of their taxable income, e.g., pay no federal income tax, for the year of the donation plus 15 more years.

These added incentives are available only until the end of 2007.

### **Take a Hike! June 2 at Hickory Run State Park**

Get out on the trail to celebrate National Trails Day and PA Hiking Week by participating in the June 2 Hickory Run State Park hike in Carbon County.

A smorgasbord of hikes will be offered through the combined efforts of the Keystone Trails Association, PA Parks & Forests Foundation, the Friends of Hickory Run, the Pocono Outdoors Club, and the staff of Hickory Run State Park.

Hikes will be offered throughout the day and will vary in length and difficulty. Interested hikers should stop by the pavilion at Sand Spring Lake to check out the list of hikes and learn more about our partner organizations.

The hikes will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call: 570-443-0400.

Find out about dozens of other hikes going on May 26 to June 3 through the special [DCNR Hiking Week webpage](#).

**NewsClips:** [Get Out! For Great Outdoors Week](#)  
[Great Outdoors Week](#)  
[Are Kids Suffering From Nature Deficit Disorder?](#)

## DCNR Celebrates Opening of Rock Run ATV, Snowmobile Site on Former Mine

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week helped open the [Rock Run Recreation Area](#) in Cambria and Clearfield counties as the future direction of ATV and snowmobile trails in Pennsylvania.

Rock Run is a 6,000-acre, multi-use, motorized recreation site in Chest Township, Cambria County, and Chest Township, Clearfield County, on land formerly owned by the K&J Coal Co.

“We are excited about the new possibilities this site will open for off-road enthusiasts,” DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said at a dedication ceremony at the site. “Rock Run will be an economic engine for the region, and it also will serve to take the pressure off of state forestlands, where we only have a limited ability to accommodate ATVs. Facilities like this will serve as a model for other such sites across the state.”

Since March 2004, DCNR has provided \$5 million in grants to the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority for the project. The grants were awarded through the Snowmobile/ATV grant program that is supported by registration fees and fines collected from riders.

“More and more people are seeking places to ride their motorized recreational vehicles,” Secretary DiBerardinis said. “But because our state forest lands cannot accommodate the volume of trails desired, we are looking to community and private partnerships, such as Rock Run, to meet that need.

“Rock Run will provide a great outdoor experience to riders, a message about environmental stewardship and care of our resources, and is a great example of the treatment and reuse of abandoned mine land,” Secretary DiBerardinis said.

There are more than 50 miles of trails at the site, with terrain suited to match all skill levels. Development at the site includes a welcome center, entrance road, and parking and support facilities. Future plans include a total of 150 miles of trails and a campground. Rock Run is open to ATVs, snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles, equestrians, hikers and mountain bikers. The park is open to public hunting.

“The stellar efforts of many agencies and individuals are making this recreation dream a reality, but the true winners are the men and women who enjoy riding ATVs and snowmobiles across the state,” said Secretary DiBerardinis.

Pennsylvania currently has 236,275 registered ATV owners and 43,497 snowmobile owners.

“The efforts of many local and state officials and organizations helped us reclaim this site as an ATV magnet to draw riders and other visitors to stimulate the economy,” said Secretary DiBerardinis.

The site includes four passive treatment systems that provide perpetual treatment of polluted discharges from this former mine site.

Additional support for the project was provided by the state departments of Environmental Protection for acquisition and the treatment systems, and Community and Economic Development for community planning in the surrounding area.

DCNR’s snowmobile/ATV grant program can help to buy land; develop plans and surveys; construct and maintain ATV and snowmobile trails; buy equipment; and conduct training relating to ATV and snowmobile use.

For more information, visit the [Rock Run Recreation Area website](#)  
**NewsClip:** [Park Opens for Off-Road Enthusiasts](#)

[Full Throttle – Rock Run Opens With Much Fanfare](#)

**Link:** [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Council](#)

**Westmoreland’s GreenForge Building to Become Even Greener**

On May 19, members of the [Westmoreland Conservation District](#), the [Botanical Society of Westmoreland County](#), and other conservation-minded volunteers will be planting a large variety of Pennsylvania- native plants around Westmoreland County’s premier rehabilitated green building, [GreenForge](#).

The group hopes to have more than 250 woody ornamental shrubs, ground covers, and perennials established in their new locations outside the unique fiberglass-domed entrance to the building and along a 100-foot-wide slope facing that entrance that has been uniquely designed to minimize erosion.

Pennsylvania-native plants – technically defined as those that occurred within the state before settlement by Europeans – are a good choice for this application and for home landscapes as well because they are perfectly adapted for our region’s soil, climate, and conditions. They tend to be vigorous and healthy, so they don’t need a lot of fertilizer or pest controls, and they don’t need to be watered as often as non-native species.

Pennsylvania has approximately 2,100 native plants, for all kinds of conditions – everything from a dry-site-loving cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*, Prickly pear) to the wet area Pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*).

For GreenForge, native species of rhododendron, hydrangea, potentilla, viburnum, bayberry, holly, and low bush blueberry have been selected to provide a variety of textures, spring blooms, and seasonal interest around the building’s foundation and on the facing slope.

Although not as pretty as plants, the slope itself is interesting in the unique way it was created and is being retained. Instead of digging the standard 10 feet into this hillside and installing anchoring material to hold the retaining wall in place, the Westmoreland Conservation District staff chose to anchor part of this slope with 11, 12-foot, galvanized-steel rods drilled into the hillside, much the way companies anchor home-basement walls.

This approach required digging only two feet into the slope and so reduced the amount of soil that was disturbed.

“We prevented about 300 cubic yards of soil from being disturbed and that’s important because less disturbance means less chance of erosion and more chance for rainwater to infiltrate into the ground instead of just running off the surface,” explained Kathy Hamilton, registered landscape architect and stormwater technical assistant for the conservation district.

The other half of the slope is faced with a series of heavy, concrete “pockets” into which low-growing and spreading plants will be tucked. The 110-pound weight of these pockets keeps them in place and helps to retain the hillside. Once the plants are established, the pockets will become less visible.

GreenForge is the latest building to be added to a growing “conservation campus” along the Donohoe Road in Greensburg that includes Donohoe Center, the Westmoreland County Public Works building, and the headquarters of the Westmoreland Conservation District.



GreenForge was originally built in the 1980s and had been vacant for three years when the Westmoreland Conservation District and a group of partners began to bring it back to useable space by installing green building practices and sustainable energy technologies. Last fall, the building partners and volunteers planted two of GreenForge's roofs with living green plants to create the first green roof in Westmoreland County.

GreenForge's purpose is to demonstrate conservation approaches and to provide low-cost office space for conservation, agricultural, and rural development organizations.

The first tenants moved in late last year and include the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency, which works to maintain infrastructure in rural areas; the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, which works to clean up land and water damaged by past coal-mining practices in 24 counties in western Pennsylvania; and Westmoreland Cleanways, an organization that fights litter and illegal dumping and promotes recycling.

**Link:** [Westmoreland Conservation Campus Expanding to Include GreenForge](#)

### **Sustainable Energy Fund Helps Borough Save Energy with LED Traffic Signals**

An innovative turnkey energy partnership between the [Borough of Hamburg](#), Berks County and [The Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania](#) will save the municipality 30,600 Kw hours of electricity, or approximately \$2,700 a year.

Light emitting diodes, or LED traffic lights were installed at 5 intersections throughout Hamburg. The Sustainable Energy Fund managed the entire installation program, and helped the municipality fund the improvement costs.

The energy savings generated over five years will enable the municipality to pay for the cost of installation, save energy, and require no out-of-pocket costs.

"This project was a natural fit with The SEF's mission of promoting renewable, clean energy technologies and energy conservation," explains Jennifer Hopkins, President of The SEF. "Projects like these illustrate how municipalities throughout the Commonwealth can make a huge difference in reducing energy consumption and lower costs - one LED at a time. The SEF is delighted to contribute to the growth of these technologies through investment in innovation."

Lynda Albright, Borough of Hamburg's Manager, stated: "This project was ideal and represented a simple way to save a municipality money and reduce capital outlays. Energy savings is an awareness thing....you get so caught up in day-to-day planning, you don't realize how a simple investment can lead to substantial savings."

"Unlike traditional light bulbs, LED's use semiconductors (computer chips) to convert electrical energy into light", according to John Forsyth, SEF Project Manager. According to Lynda Albright, Borough Manager "not only are we saving taxpayer dollars, but we are doing our part in becoming more environmentally educated."

Installation of LED's can provide up to 90 percent savings on lighting electricity bills, increase signal life up to 10 times over incandescent bulbs, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

Because LED modules have a guaranteed life expectancy of at least five years – and can often last as long as ten years – they also eliminate the need for manpower and related costs for manually changing light bulbs. LEDs produce light using a

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semiconductor, or “chip,” and can provide an average of 100,000 hours of illumination as compared to only 8,000 hours for an incandescent bulb.

The SEF offers attractive funding opportunities for projects that offer a strong fit with its mission. For more information or to apply, visit the [The Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania](#) website.

### **Reminder: Energy Efficiency Workshop for Local Officials Set for May 24**

Local officials are invited to a May 24 Energy Efficiency Workshop at the [Westmoreland County Conservation District Education Center](#) in Greensburg.

The free workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will feature presentations on guaranteed energy savings contracting, energy conservation at sewage and drinking water plants, benefits of biodiesel for local governments, lighting efficiencies, windmills and solar panels and much more.

For more information send email to: Christie Sebek at: [Christie@wcdpa.com](mailto:Christie@wcdpa.com) or call 724-837-5271.

### **Dr. Song Named Director of Penn State's Energy Institute**

Dr. Chunshan Song, professor of fuel science, department of energy and geo-environmental engineering, has been appointed director of [Penn State's Energy Institute](#) effective immediately.

"I am confident that Dr. Song will provide excellent leadership for the Institute, which will position it and the College to be at the forefront of energy research at Penn State," said Robert Crane, interim dean of Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

Song is currently the leader of the Clean Fuels and Catalysis Program at the Energy Institute. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Dalian University of Technology in Dalian, China, and a master's and a Ph.D. in applied chemistry from Osaka University in Japan. He worked for the Research Center of Osaka Gas Company in 1989 prior to joining Penn State as a research associate. He was appointed an assistant professor in 1994, an associate professor in 1997, and a full professor in 2003.

The Energy Institute, formed in 1993, began as the Penn State Combustion Laboratory in 1949. Located within the university's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, the institute is committed to research and development to diversify the nation's energy production, improve energy use and generation efficiencies and expand the use of limited domestic resources while relying less on foreign sources of energy.

In November 2006, the Energy Institute became affiliated with the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment which unites the areas of energy and environmental science and engineering across campus.

For more information, visit the [Penn State Energy Institute website](#).

### **EPA Awards Brownfields Grants, Including 6 in Pennsylvania**

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded over \$71 million in [brownfields grants](#) to help revitalize former industrial and commercial sites, including six grants for Pennsylvania projects.

The [Pennsylvania projects](#) include:

- **Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority, \$1 million:** The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority will provide loans to support cleanup activities for sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Grant funds will be used entirely to fund qualified loans;
- **Borough of Central City, \$200,000:** Grant funds will be used to perform environmental assessments at prioritized sites and support community outreach activities;
- **Johnstown Redevelopment Authority, \$200,000:** Grant funds will be used to identify and collect data through targeted assessments and conduct community outreach activities throughout the Greater Johnstown community;
- **Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp., \$200,000:** grant funds will be used to expand LVEDC's inventory of brownfield sites and to conduct about six Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to implement community outreach activities;
- **North Side Industrial Development Corp, Allegheny County, \$400,000:** Hazardous substances grant funds (\$200,000) will be used to solicit community input, inventory brownfields, and conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments in the seven Allegheny River Towns Enterprise Zone communities. Funds also will be used for community outreach activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks for sites with potential petroleum contamination; and
- **Steeltown, Dauphin County, \$200,000:** Grant funds will be used to identify and prioritize brownfields sites, and conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments at up to five sites. Grant funds also will be used to conduct a human health-based risk assessment, and support community outreach activities.

For more information, visit EPA's [brownfields grants webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [EPA Gives Johnstown \\$1.2 Million to Cleanup Hazardous Substances](#)

### DEP's Updated Air Monitoring Network Plan Available for Comment

The Department of Environmental Protection's updated [Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan](#) is now available for public comment.

Comments are due June 18.

The ambient monitoring network plan will assist DEP in its ongoing efforts to improve public health protection and better inform the public about air quality in their communities.

### EPA Sponsors Waste-Free Lunch at Mechanicsburg Middle School

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sponsored a [waste-free lunch](#) at the Mechanicsburg Middle School in Cumberland County where students prepared a lunch using reusable lunch bags, reusable containers and recyclable bottles.

After the lunch, students separated the remaining waste into recyclables, trash and food waste. The waste free lunch resulted in the collection of one bag of trash, one bag of

recyclables, and half-a-bag of food waste instead of 13-15 bags of trash collected before the program.

To learn more about the initiative, visit the [waste-free lunch webpage](#).

### **DEP Seeks Members for Environmental Justice Advisory Board in Northeast**

Individuals from northeastern Pennsylvania who want to make sure that the state's environmental decisions are made without the influence of race, color, national origin or income are invited to become a candidate for the [Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#) under the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Environmental Advocate.

"We are seeking applicants who want to work with us in developing programs, policies and procedures that equally benefit and protect all of our communities," DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty said. "Such participation is crucial to ensuring that all voices are heard when making decisions that affect Pennsylvania's health and the environment."

Members of the advisory board conduct fact-finding probes, develop protocols and make recommendations to DEP with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Potential candidates should be from one of the following counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne or Wyoming. In addition, they should have an interest in environmental justice issues and a background in one of the following: environmental justice, industry, an environmental field, and community financing or community activism.

Interested candidates should send their resumes to Ayanna King, director of the [Office of Environmental Advocate](#), via e-mail to [ayking@state.pa.us](mailto:ayking@state.pa.us) ; or by fax to 717-772-5996

### **Help Wanted -- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

The [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) seeks a qualified person to coordinate the [Chesapeake Bay Program Local Government Advisory Committee](#) and to provide education, outreach, and coordination of stormwater management, low impact development and habitat restoration activities.

Candidates must possess a general knowledge of local governments, their interaction with state and federal environmental agencies and environmental issues facing local governments. Experience and demonstrated skills in public outreach and event planning, meeting facilitation, and training are required. Candidates must have program management skills and experience, including working in the non-profit sector.

This position involves working with staff of Chesapeake Bay region local governments, elected officials, regional non-profits, scientists, and state and federal agency personnel and requires excellent writing and presentation skills.

This position will be based in the Alliance's Pennsylvania office, located in Camp Hill. Salary range is \$42,000-\$45,000 with competitive benefits package.

Send letter of interest and resume to [mail@acb-online.org](mailto:mail@acb-online.org) with "Senior Program Coordinator" in the Subject line by June 4. No phone inquiries please.

### **Spotlight**

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## Electric Transmission Line Siting Highlighted at Land Conservation Conference

The 5th Annual Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference attracted 320 attendees from across the Commonwealth and focused on some very serious issues impacting conservation.

The [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association](#) welcomed Christopher G. Miller, President of the Piedmont Environmental Council in Virginia, who addressed the new use of federal eminent domain to site high-voltage electric transmission lines across up to fifty Pennsylvania counties.

Miller said federal condemnation threatens landowners, scenic, historic, and natural landscapes; air quality (due to increased coal burning in the mid-west); and the implementation of sensible energy alternatives.

Under the 2005 Energy Policy Act, Congress has paved the way for new electric transmission lines across the Commonwealth by overriding some state-level authority, impact assessment requirements and planning for other alternatives. Decisions will be made shortly that will affect Pennsylvania for generations to come.

Miller said the threat to Pennsylvania is significant: two-thirds of the Commonwealth has been designated as part of the Mid-Atlantic National Electric Transmission Corridor. A Department of Energy map showing the 50 Pennsylvania counties included in the corridor is available on a [special PLTA webpage](#), issued by the

The Keynote Address entitled “A Good Planet is Hard to Find” was delivered by Larry Schweiger, President/CEO of the National Wildlife Federation and focused on climate change and what can be done on the local level.

Larry became President and Chief Executive Officer for the NWF in March 2004 with a commitment to confront global warming and to protect wildlife for our children’s future. Before that, Larry served for eight years as President and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, working to save the most special places in Pennsylvania.

The conference also offered a comprehensive assortment of critical conservation and related topics for conservation and farmland preservation professionals, board members, landowners, planners and volunteers from all across the Commonwealth.

The Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference was held May 10-12 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College. This event is Pennsylvania’s annual training, networking and inspirational event for those involved with private and public land conservation.

For more information, visit the [PLTA website](#).

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## Feature



### **The Spotted Sandpiper** By Patrick McShea Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Along the wave-washed margins of Pittsburgh’s rivers a four-inch high bird presents important lessons about nature’s ingenuity. Between late April and early September, small numbers of Spotted Sandpipers inhabit the beach-like zones

between river bank vegetation and the water's edge.

On first acquaintance, these seasonal residents are remarkable for their seeming perfect physical adaptation to the narrow ribbons of mud, sand, rocks, and tree roots that fluctuating river levels alternatively inundate and expose. A sandpiper's grayish-brown back and brown-flecked white breast serve as excellent camouflage within this earth-toned habitat, a protection enhanced in places where wind and flowing water account for lots of background movement, by the bird's incessant motion.

As they search for insects and other small prey, sandpipers pace about the river's edge on spindly legs, occasionally bursting into a skittering rush to capture a fleeing bug, or skimming across the channel on stiff-looking wings to forage on the opposite shore. When not in forward motion the birds bob rhythmically, a behavior that in other parts of their extensive North American range has earned them colloquial names such as "teeter-peep" or "teeter snipe."

The species would undoubtedly bear more intriguing nicknames if close observers of river edge fauna were aware of a phenomenon documented by two decades worth of research studies along the shorelines of Minnesota lakes: Spotted Sandpipers reverse many sex roles.

Male Spotted Sandpipers assume an inordinate portion of parental duties, including the 21-day incubation of a clutch of four eggs laid by his mate, and the shepherding of newly-hatched young for several weeks until they are old enough to fend for themselves. The male performs these tasks within a long narrow patch of shoreline claimed and defended by the female, a territory that in some instances is large enough to include one or two additional male mates caring for more eggs and young.

Polyandry is the term used to describe this type of breeding system in which one female mates with more than one male. Less than 2% of the world's 9,000 bird species are polyandrous, and a significant portion of this minority consists of shore birds and wading birds that nest in the high Arctic. There polyandry appears to have evolved as a strategy to maximize the production and care of young during short summers. Females are able to devote enormous amounts of energy to egg production during a brief nesting season because multiple male mates devote enormous amounts of energy to the care of small sets of eggs and the young that hatch from them.

In this context Spotted Sandpipers can be thought of a species that extends this ongoing experiment in biological possibility into temperate regions, a textbook example on the edge of the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio of how nature offers multiple solutions to the challenge of reproduction.

*Patrick McShea* works in the Division of Education at the [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#) and he can be contacted by sending email to: [McSheaP@CarnegieMNH.org](mailto:McSheaP@CarnegieMNH.org) .

**Other Recent Articles by McShea Include:**

[Wood Ducks Spring Spectacle Almost Passes Unnoticed](#)

[Ospreys Call Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Home for the Next Few Weeks](#)

**Links:** [To Lure Birds to Your Yard, Think Like One Luring Hummingbirds](#)  
[Monarchs Welcomed in Garden](#)

## Quick Clips

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

- [To Lure Birds to Your Yard, Think Like One](#)
- [Luring Hummingbirds](#)
- [Monarchs Welcomed in Garden](#)

[Rachel Carson: An Environmental Icon's Unseen Fortitude](#)

[Are Kids Suffering From Nature Deficit Disorder?](#)

[3 Pittsburgh Residents Get Green Thumbs-Up](#)

[The Trees Should Hug Her](#)

[A Greener Planet, One Block at a Time](#)

[A "COALS" Concept to Eliminate Rural Dumping](#)

[Pittsburgh's Botanical Garden To Add Energy Efficient Hall](#)

[Cleanup Wipes Out Dump Near Bloom](#)

[Why Put CO in the Air When You Can Bury It?](#)

[Op-Ed: State-Level CO2 Action Pointless](#)

[Farmer Sees Ethanol's Future in Beets](#)

[Lancaster Agribusiness Creating Renewable Energy Solutions](#)

[Diesel Fuel Sulfur Rules Could Mean Higher Prices](#)

[Bidders Say City Energy Pact Unfair](#)

[Edinboro Goes Green to Save \\$1 Million a Year](#)

[Op-Ed: Power Line Proposal Treads on Our Rights – DeWeese](#)

[Electric Utility Rate Rules Raise Questions](#)

[PPL Electric Rate Aftershock](#)

[Summer Electricity Price Rise is Forecast](#)

[Tire Recycling Plant in the Works](#)

[Editorial: Fairmount Park](#)

[PA Quietly Preserving Pieces of the Highlands](#)

[Montco Putting \\$4 Million Into Saving Open Space](#)

[3 Townships Adopt Open Space Measures](#)

[Pedals Bring Them Back to Pittsburgh for Biking Event](#)

[How To Make An Adams County Bike Trail](#)

[Greenways, Trails Could Enhance Hill District](#)

[West Nile Virus Has Profound Effect on Birds](#)

[Hunting License Sales in Decline](#)

## Watershed NewsClips

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

[Fourth Graders Learn the Importance of a Clean Stream](#)

[Grant Will Fund Manure Composting Projects Along Conestoga](#)

[Great Lakes Commission Pushes for Ballast Water Legislation](#)

[River Panel Takes More time for Flood Plan](#)

[Higher to be Drier](#)

[Op-Ed: Change DEP Rules on Chesapeake Bay Strategy](#)

[Mine Seepage is Pits for Squirrel Hill Neighbors](#)

[Contract to Cleanup Abandoned Masontown Mine](#)

[Op-Ed: McCormack Island Needs to be Preserved](#)

[Talking With.. The Riverlife Task Force's Lisa Schroeder](#)

[State Takes Legal Action Against Consol for Cracked Dam in Greene County](#)

## **Regulations**

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Find links here for the results of the May 16 Environmental Quality Board meeting. The EQB also published [final New Source Review Air Quality regulations](#). The Department of Environmental Protection also published proposed revisions to the Southeast air quality plans. Details below...

The [Environmental Quality Board](#) met May 16 and approved drinking water, mine safety and alternative fuel incentive grant program regulations as well as a petition on idling diesel engines. ([Click here for details.](#))

The Department of Environmental Protection proposed a revision to the [State Air Quality Implementation Plan for Southeastern Pennsylvania](#) for public comment.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 19, 2007](#)

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

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The Department of Environmental Protection [posts pilot plan](#) for Air Quality Permit and Plan Approval Applications goes online.

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

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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



## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **May 21** – Environmental Issues Forum. [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) meets to hear a presentation on the federal Abandoned Mine Land Fund. Hearing Room 2, North Office. 12:00.
- **May 22** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on coal bed methane property rights issues. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:30.
- **May 22** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on dairy pricing. Hearing Room 1, North Office. 9:00.
- **May 22** – House Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.
- **May 22** – House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging the president and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Room 60 East Wing. 9:30.
- **May 22** – House Transportation Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1178](#) (D.Evans-D-Philadelphia) to provide for an Independence National Historic Park license plate. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **May 22** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. EPCAMR Office, Shavertown. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **May 23** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 543](#) (Watson-R-Bucks) establishing an energy-efficient home assistance program in the PA Housing Finance Agency, [House Resolution 106](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) urging automakers to develop plug-in hybrid, electric vehicles, [House Resolution 136](#) (Josephs-D-Philadelphia) urging the President and Congress to ban exportation of elemental mercury. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **May 23** – DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) Applicability and Attainment Subcommittee meeting. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 a.m.
- **May 23** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **May 23** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Schuylkill County Conservatino District Office, Pottsville. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **May 24** – House Game and Fisheries Committee public hearing on [House Bill 251](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) Amending Title 34 related to game feeders. Hearing Room 1, North Office. 9:00.
- **May 24** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Hillside Rod & Gun Club, Blossburg. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **May 30** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative, in particular [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) providing additional authority to the PA Energy Development Authority. North York Borough Building, 350 E. Sixth Ave., York. 10:00.

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **May 30** – DEP meeting on Ozone Transport Commission [MOU on High Energy Demand Days](#). (*formal notice*) 6th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 11:30.
- **May 30** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Robertsdale Fire Hall, Robertsdale. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **May 31** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. DEP Cambria Office, Ebensburg. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **June 5** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure joint committee hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania. Majority Caucus Room. 10:00.
- **June 5** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Jennings Environmental Center, Slippery Rock. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **June 6** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. California University of PA, California. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **June 7** – [DEP Town Hall meetings](#) on setting priorities for investing monies from the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Penn State University, Dubois. 4:00-8:30. ([Click for more information.](#))
- **June 12** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure joint committee hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **June 12** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 11.
- **June 21** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Task Force Meeting. Penn Stater Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **July 21** – **CHANGE**. DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting will be held in a new location – 16th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

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

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

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

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

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

## Helpful Web Links

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### [PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

## Stories Invited

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - [DHess@CrisciAssociates.com](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com).

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