

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

May 28, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

York County Team Wins State Envirothon Competition

The team from Northern High School in York County is the winner of the 24th annual [Pennsylvania State Envirothon](#) held May 21-22 at Penn State University in Centre County.

Members of Northern York's winning team include: Ben Mummert, Chris Jacobs, Morgan Deluca, Ben Spalding, and Hannah Richwine. Team advisors are: Kim Holmes and Barb Lathrop.

The team from Penncrest High School in Delaware County finished second followed by Warren Area High School in Warren County; Northeast Bradford High School in Bradford County; and East Lebanon County High School in Lebanon County.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon awarded scholarships to the first, second, and third place teams. The scholarships were sponsored by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission.

Teams from 65 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event that tests students' knowledge of environmental resources and their connection to each other and human activities.

The 2007 Pennsylvania Envirothon champions will represent the Commonwealth at the 20th Canon Envirothon North American competition to be held July 29–August 3 at the Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York.

Pennsylvania teams have won the North American event in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2005.

More than 48 states and eight Canadian provinces have initiated Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

The students are challenged in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil/land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. The 2007 current environmental issue was alternative/renewable energy.



left to right: Coach Kim Holmes, Chris Jacobs, Hannah Richwine, Ben Mummert, Ben Spalding, Morgan Deluca, and Coach Barb Lathrop.

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Teams participating represent the best and the brightest of the thousands of high school teens who have competed in county Envirothon competitions sponsored by conservation districts across the state.

At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's 66 conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. The program is managed by a board of directors representing those sponsors. Technical expertise is provided by the following agency partners: DEP, DCNR, the Game Commission, the Fish & Boat Commission, and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Financial sponsors of the 2007 Envirothon are Air Products and Chemicals, PPL Corp., Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association, Nestle Water North America, Haines and Kibblehouse, the Fish and Boat Commission, DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, PennAg Industries Association, and the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Program. The Hershey Co., Dwight Lewis Lumber, Lewis Lumber Products, and Cargill are "Corporate Station Sponsors."

An oral component event was held on the Monday before the testing event. The oral component consists of a team presentation to a panel of judges taking part in a question/answer session based on the current issue theme.

A timed event, the competition tests a team's ability to consider an environmental issue, discuss its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, and then make a presentation before a group of judges and answer their questions.

This year's oral component scenario was based on alternative/renewable energy.

Participation was mandatory but was not included in the overall competition score. Listed below are the top five teams in the oral component:

First Place – Penncrest High School, Delaware County; Second Place – Warren Area High School, Warren County; Third Place – Future Hope Homelearners, Snyder County; Fourth Place – East Lebanon County High School, Lebanon County; and Fifth Place – Great Valley High School, Chester County.

For more information, visit the [Envirothon Program website](#), contact your local conservation district or contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon by phone 814-623-7900 ext. 111, or send email to: paenvirothon@pennswoods.net

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is also seeking information from Envirothon alumni. Visit the [Envirothon webpage](#) to comment on how the Envirothon program helped you!



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This Memorial Day!**

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session June 4 and will be in session through June.

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Feature

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On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

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The Senate and Senate return to voting session June 4. Here's what's on the agenda this week--

House

Calendar: [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 Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development; [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) petitioning the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; [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 holds a 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 in York.

Other Meetings: the Public Utility Commission holds a briefing on electric reliability

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

Clean Fuels: [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) providing for the sale of transportation fuels containing clean, renewable or alternative fuel content.

State Energy Office: [House Bill 1207](#) (King-D-Bucks) creating a State Energy Office.

DEP Fee Increases: [House Bill 1206](#) (Surra-D-Elk) a series of permit and application fee increases for the Department of Environmental Protection to implement Gov. Rendell's proposed 2007-08 budget.

Free Parking: [House Bill 1293](#) (McGeehan-D-Philadelphia) would mandate free parking for hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles.

Transfer Funds. [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) transferring the entire amount of the Realty Transfer Tax to the State System of Higher Education for fiscal year 2006-07. The DCNR's portion earmarked to the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was already transferred to the General Fund for this fiscal year 2006-07.

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Sales Tax Exemption: [House Bill 1296](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) excluding compact fluorescent bulbs from Sales Tax.

Animal Waste Recycling: [House Bill 1306](#) (Caltagirone-D-Berks) providing tax credits to animal waste recycling facilities and exempting the purchase of certain items from Sales Tax.

Alternative Energy Tax Credit: [House Bill 1315](#) (DePasquale-D-York) providing a tax credit to any taxpayer using alternative energy sources for at least 50 percent of their property energy supply.

Solar Energy Tax Credits: [House Bill 1316](#) (DePasquale-D-York) providing a Sales Tax exemption for the purchase of solar energy systems.

Flood Control Funding: [House Bill 1355](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing a \$150 million bond to fund flood control projects.

Open Space/Flood Mitigation Funding: [House Bill 1363](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) authorizing a \$150 million bond issue for preservation of open space and for flood hazard mitigation.

Flood Hazard Mitigation: [House Bill 1364](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) provide for the acquisition of property to mitigate flood hazards.

Agricultural Waste: [House Bill 1380](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) prohibiting the release of untreated agricultural waste containing arsenic or arsenic derivatives.

Transmission Lines: [House Resolution 297](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) expressing opposition to the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors.

Agriculture Security Law: [Senate Bill 863](#) (Waugh-R-York) amending the Agricultural Area Security Law requiring proceeds from the sale of Commonwealth owned property be credited to the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund.

Senate/House Bills Moving

These Senate and House bills were moving this week....

Senate

Storage Tanks: [Senate Bill 815](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) that would amend the Storage Tank Act to extend the sunset dates on certain programs was passed by the Senate and now goes to the House for action.

Nuclear Plant Fees: [Senate Bill 782](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transport escorts was amended, passed by the Senate and sent to the House for its consideration.

House

Open Lands: [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) limiting liability of landowners in connection with opening their lands for hunting and recreation was passed by the House and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Preservation Month: [House Resolution 271](#) (Clymer-R-Bucks) designating May as “National Preservation Month” was adopted by the House.

Game Commission Board: [House Bill 1214](#) (Surra-D-Elk) changing the terms of Game Commissioners from eight years to four years was amended on the floor of the House to limit Board members to serving a total of eight years and to require Senate approval after the initial four years and referred to House Appropriations Committee.

Mine Safety: [House Bill 483](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) creating the Mine Families First Program to provide assistance to families involved in mine rescue incidents was reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

Climate Change: [House Bill 110](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) providing for a registry and inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, authorizing a stakeholder process and a report on global warming impacts and economic opportunities was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Uniform Covenants: [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) creating a uniform covenants for brownfield redevelopment was referred to House Appropriations Committee.

State Energy Office: [House Bill 366](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing a State Energy Office within the Department of Environmental Protection was referred to House Appropriations Committee.

Tracking Illness: [House Bill 1015](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) establishing the Illness Monitoring and Investigation Unit within the Department of Health in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection was referred to House Appropriations Committee.

Elk Damage Fund: [House Bill 1078](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) increase funding for deterrent fencing for wild animals and establish an elk damage compensation fund was referred to House Appropriations Committee.

Neighborhood Development: The House Local Government Committee reported out [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development and is now on the House Calendar for action.

Main Street Program: [House Bill 420](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) revising the definition of “downtown” under the Main Street Program to include mixed uses was reported from the House Local Government Committee.

Geospatial Council: [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Montour) establishing the PA Geospatial Coordinating Council was referred to the Information Technology Subcommittee of the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

LIHEAP Program: The House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee reported out [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) petitioning the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and is now on the House Calendar for action.

House Uses “Winner Takes All” Approach to Passing State Budget

Based on an agreement between House Democratic and Republican Leaders, 240+ individual budget bill amendments were withdrawn this week in favor of voting on one Republican amendment and then the House Democratic version of the Governor’s budget in [House Bill 1286](#).

This was truly a dramatic departure from the way the House usually does budgeting at this stage and as part of separate future negotiations.

Both amendments cover only the General Fund budget and do not deal with issues like funding mass transit/highway, health care, the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program or the Governor’s energy initiative. Those have to be dealt with in separate vehicles.

The Republican amendment is basically the 2006-07 budget, plus a 2 percent increase. They bill their proposal as a true no tax increase budget without shifting administrative costs to special funds like the Lottery Fund.

The House Democratic version of the budget includes the Governor’s General Fund spending priorities, but also does not call for any tax increases. They fund the priorities by counting on increased revenue projections and dipping into the Rainy Day Fund. It also makes the Governor’s cuts to “legislative initiatives” and other pet legislative line items.

The House Democratic budget does include environmental funding cuts for county conservation districts, scrap tire cleanup projects and Chesapeake Bay Education Program (among others) and increases in flood and stormwater planning, mine safety and State Parks funding requested by the Governor.

The Republican amendment went down by a vote of 96 to 102.

The following day, the Governor’s General Fund budget passed the House by an almost identical vote, only in reverse – 102 to 97—without amendments.

Over in the Senate, President Pro Tem Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson) said, “It is our intent to pass this budget looking at a two-year projection with no new taxes.”

Sen. Scarnati told the Pennsylvania Press Club on Monday how he felt about new taxes and fees, “I’m connected with my district and I can tell you that Joe and Mary Smith – a family of four out there, low to moderate income – they can’t take another bill in the mailbox. They can’t pay another bill. We can’t do this.”

Speaking about Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Initiative specifically, Sen. Scarnati said, “When we look at what the voters said in the May Primary, they said they

get it. They get it. They don't want tax increase. They don't want changes, shifting taxes, because it is the same, whether it's out of the left pocket or the right one.

“And when I look at the governor's initiative on energy – adding a fee to everyone's electric bill – it might be a small fee, but I can tell you, I can tell you, that those people across Pennsylvania that are going to benefit from a \$850 million bond issue to buy energy efficient appliances and solar panels aren't going to be the Joe and Mary Smiths of Pennsylvania. I know. People don't normally go out and replace their refrigerators, because they can afford to, or replace an air conditioner because they can afford to. They replace it when it's broken down, and that's after they probably fixed it twice.

“So another \$850 million out there for that, I have to question it. I look back the utility company that put a surcharge on, they attempted to put a surcharge on their rate users. That utility will go unnamed because I see many of them here. But it was just a small, small amount. I can tell you there was outrage. There was outrage because people don't and can't take another bill. They can't do it.”

NewsClips: [Vital Environmental Cleanup Program Needs Dedicated Funding](#)
[Leading Manufacturers Endorse Energy Independence Strategy](#)
[House Advances Rendell's Budget Plan](#)
[House Takes First Step on Budget](#)
[House Takes The First Step, OKs Budget](#)
[House Moves to Expedite Budget Negotiations](#)
[Rendell Health Plan Unlikely To Be Voted Before Fall](#)
[Groups Rally in Harrisburg to Back Rendell Health Plan](#)

Energy Efficiency, Hybrid Vehicles Bills Reported From House Committee

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out 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). *(See separate story)*

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

Senate Hears Testimony on Issues Surrounding Coal Bed Methane Wells

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week held a public hearing on the issue of surface and mineral rights ownership surrounding coal bed methane wells now used as a source of energy.

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The Committee heard testimony from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association, farmers from Cambria and Indiana counties, the Pennsylvania Coal Association, the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association and the Independent Oil and Gas Association of Pennsylvania.

[Joel Rotz](#), Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, expressed concerns about a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling which said the owners of the coal reserves beneath a property also own the right to the coal bed methane and have the ability to access that resource independent of any permission from the surface rights owner.

Under Pennsylvania law, mineral rights can and have been for many years sold separately from surface property rights.

[Betty Reefer](#), Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association, said it was only recently that coal bed methane became an economically viable resource to collect. It now supplies about 8 percent of total U.S. natural gas production. She suggested new legislation that would regulate coal bed methane drilling on farmlands by requiring verification of mineral rights ownership and to deal with concerns about interfering with farming operations.

[George Ellis](#), Pennsylvania Coal Association, said the Pennsylvania Supreme Court settled the issue of coal bed methane ownership and the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee conducted a year-long study of allegations and found that property rights law is “well established and strikes an appropriate balance” among the rights of landowners, coal owner and coal bed methane driller.

[Stephen Rhoads and Craig Mayer](#), Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association and Independent Oil and Gas Association of Pennsylvania, said mineral owners are required to act reasonably within the confines of their rights to develop their mineral rights. They emphasized that coal bed methane wells are regulated under the state Oil and Gas Act and must comply with those requirements.

Representatives of the farm, coal and oil and gas interests said they would be talking together about how issues between surface and mineral rights could best be handled.

“This issue is very important to me,” Sen. Wozniak (D-Cambria) said. “There are many farmers and lots of farmland in my district and it is my duty and responsibility to see that the rights of these farmers are not trampled on and at the same time ensure that the methane owners can adequately extract their gas and leave the owners’ property intact.”

The Senator’s legislation, [Senate Bill 61](#), would allow property owners surface rights of first refusal of the purchase of the coal bed methane rights under their property.

[A video of the hearing is available online.](#)

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

House Environmental Committee Energy Hearing Set for May 30 in York

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

The hearing will be held at the North York Borough Building, 350 E. Sixth Ave, in York starting at 10:00.a.m.

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Rep. Eugene DePasquale will serve as host for the hearing which is expected to hear testimony from:

- Ben Wootton of Keystone BioFuels;
- Steve Brawley of the Ben Franklin Tech Partners;
- Thomas Balderston of the Mid-Atlantic Capital Alliance;
- Dan Desmond, deputy secretary for the Department of Environmental Protection Office of Energy and Technology Deployment; and
- Rebecca Bagley, deputy secretary for the state Department of Community and Economic Development Office of Technology.

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

Other News

Chemsweep Program Wins 2007 Karl Mason Environmental Award

The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals announced it awarded the 2007 [Karl Mason Award](#) to the Department of Agriculture's [Chemsweep Program](#). Secretary of Agriculture, Dennis Wolf, accepted the award on behalf of the Program.

The Chemsweep Program removes hundreds of thousands of tons of dangerous chemicals from storage places (many causing actual or potential groundwater pollution) and disposes them in an environmentally safe manner. Pennsylvania's program has received national recognition and has been copied by many states.

The Department of Agriculture and Penn State University cooperatively administer the program.

Chemsweep has grown from the collection of a modest 30,000 pounds of pesticides from six counties in 1993, to a program that has served over 4,500 Pennsylvanians and collected and safely disposed over 1.5 million pounds of waste pesticides.

The Chemsweep waste pesticide collection program is designed to provide all citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a means to dispose of cancelled, suspended, or unwanted pesticide products. The program reduces environmental liability and serious actual or potential pollution of waters of the Commonwealth.

Each year, many pesticide products are cancelled by the manufacturer or phased out of operations, leaving growers and applicators with quantities of potentially dangerous and toxic materials. In addition, many commercial establishments, farmers and homeowners have unwanted and/or unusable pesticides.



John Tacosky, Chief, Division of Health & Safety; Dennis C Wolff, Secretary of Agriculture; Donald Gilbert, Environmental Program Specialist.

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Approximately 90 percent of the waste pesticides collected are burned in EPA approved incinerators. The remaining pesticides are either offered for recycling or are treated and placed in hazardous waste landfills permitted by EPA.

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

The general framework established by Karl serves as the foundation for Pennsylvania's environmental protection programs to this day.

Karl believed and put into practice the notion that environmental protection is primarily the business of professionals who have the skills by virtue of their scientific training to manage the technical and scientific complexities of maintaining a safe, healthy and clean environment. He was committed to the belief that continuing education was an essential part of the career of every environmental professional.

For more information about PAEP, Conservation Heritage, and Karl Mason visit the [PAEP website](#).

If you are interested in assisting in promoting research and dissemination of information about the Commonwealth's rich conservation heritage, you can contact, Wayne Kober, Chair of the PAEP Conservation Heritage Committee at wwkpa@hughes.net.

GreenTreks Network's Natural Heroes Series Receives Regional Emmy



[Natural Heroes](#), the series of independent films focused on people making a difference for the environment, was recognized for outstanding achievement in Public/Current Affairs Programming at the Northern California Emmy Awards held on May 12 at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

Natural Heroes was one of 80 entries to receive an Emmy statuette from among a record 930 submissions. The 13-part series was created by [GreenTreks Network](#) and KRCB-TV as a way for filmmakers to reach the public with inspiring stories that show the power of individuals in changing the world.

“The environment is riding a wave of popularity with the media at the moment,” said Maria Erades, Executive Director of GreenTreks Network, “and I think that’s great. This Emmy underscores the growing public interest and the quality of programming on the topic out there. Most importantly, it expresses an appreciation for the people who are working for our planet’s future, whether they’re cleaning up and greening abandoned urban lots, fighting to preserve oceans and wetlands, or going to extraordinary lengths to protect species that are critical to the balance of the natural world.”

GreenTreks has been celebrating the people who are making a difference for the environment since the first episode of its groundbreaking [GreenWorks series](#) began airing on Pennsylvania community cable stations in 1997. *GreenWorks* was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

This is GreenTreks' second regional Emmy: the first was awarded by the mid-Atlantic Chapter for GreenWorks in the Outstanding Public Information Series category in 2000. GreenTreks other programs include [Life on the Delaware](#) (currently in national public television distribution by APT), [Wired: A Day in the Life of Energy](#); [Think Globally, Eat Locally](#); and [Raycing the Sun](#).

"This recognition comes at a good time," emphasized Ms. Erades, "because we're in the process of finalizing the submissions for Season Three of Natural Heroes. This year, we have reviewed more films than ever before and have put together a really eclectic lineup of excellent episodes. We expect more stations to pick up the series for airing in the coming year and hope that an increase in viewership translates into even more people becoming 'natural heroes' themselves..."

The producers are delighted to welcome General Hydroponics back as a major underwriter—the innovator in the field of hydroponics technology worldwide has supported the series from the start—and are pleased that The Sierra Club, America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, has also signed on to support Season Three, which is scheduled for release this fall. Natural Heroes is available free of charge to public television stations across the country.

Season three films include:

- **Powershift.** Hosted and narrated by Cameron Diaz, this film circles the globe to document how energy intersects with our daily lives and some of the alternatives available today.
- **South Central Farm.** This Sheila Laffey production follows a diverse group of Los Angeles residents (including Daryl Hannah, Joan Baez, and a host of other Hollywood insiders) in their united effort to protect the destruction of a community farm.
- **Wings Over the Wild.** Travel the world with volunteer pilots who spend their spare time supporting international animal conservation efforts.
- **Texas Gold.** The award-winning story of a fourth-generation fisherwoman who took on industrial giants when she learned that her home, Calhoun County, Texas had been named one of the most toxic places in America.
- **Birdsong and Coffee.** An intimate look at the connections between the coffee we drink, biodiversity, and quality of life in other parts of the world.

More information can be found at the [Natural Heroes website](#).

2007 Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation Set for July 20-21

Make plans to attend Pennsylvania's premier [conference on abandoned mine reclamation and acid mine drainage cleanup](#) to be held on State College on July 20-21.

Last year over 200 people gathered to learn more about the science, policy and new tools available to deal with Pennsylvania's number one water quality problem.

This year's conference focuses on the following topics:

- Highlights of the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund reauthorization, draft regulations and roundtable discussions;
- Operation, Maintenance and Replacement for AMD treatment systems specifics;
- Permitting Considerations for AML/AMD Projects; and
- Presentations from the makers of new and proven treatment technologies.

For more information, visit the [2007 Pennsylvania Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation website](#).

Save the Date! 6th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration September 20



Enjoy interesting speakers, informative displays, hands-on tables with activities for kids at the 2007 [Ohio River Watershed Celebration](#).

Hundreds of individuals from watershed groups, state and local government agencies, teachers, environmental professionals, local business and industry representatives, students, interested citizens and others will be on-hand to share information and discuss issues critical to the Pennsylvania watersheds.

Come and have fun sailing on the Three Rivers aboard the Majestic on a 3-hour, narrated cruise.

Registration will soon be available on the [Stream Restoration, Inc. website](#).

“Celebrating Native American Culture” Theme of Delaware River Sojourn



The [2007 Delaware River Sojourn](#), an annual event that combines canoeing, kayaking, camping, educational programs, and more, will be held June 24-30.

The theme for this year's event is “Celebrating Native American Culture,” which recognizes the river’s first settlers. Programs to be offered will teach participants about the history of different native cultures and efforts to keep that history alive today.

In addition to paddling almost 50 miles on the mainstem Delaware River, sojourners will have the opportunity to experience stretches of two tributaries -- the Lackawaxen River in northeastern Pa., renowned for its Class I and II+ whitewater, and the tidal Rancocas Creek in Burlington County, N.J.

The sojourn is suitable for people with varying paddling skills. Sojourners may sign up for the entire seven-day trip or for the day(s) of their choice. Distances paddled will range from eight to 13 miles daily

This year an early bird daily fee of \$55 (\$40 for non-paddling children age 12 and under riding in the parents’ canoe) is being offered for those who register prior to June 1; after June 1, the registration fee is \$65 per person per day (\$45 for non-paddling children).

Registration fees cover the guided river trip, canoe/kayak/raft rental, shuttle transportation, educational programs, certain meals, a souvenir T-shirt, and optional overnight camping sites. In addition to the daily fee, a one-time \$5 per person insurance fee will be charged to non-members of the American Canoe Association, which sanctions the event. Participants may bring their own river-worthy boat, but aluminum canoes are not recommended. Additional requirements will apply on June 25 when paddling the Lackawaxen River.

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Space is limited each day, so please register early! A limited number of scholarships are available for first-time paddlers and K-12 teachers.

Detailed information, including registration materials and a daily overview, are available on the [sojourn website](#) hosted by the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Registration and scholarship-related questions may be directed to Flo Mauro at the Pocono Environmental Education Center by phone 570-828-2319 or by sending e-mail to: fmauro@peec.org.

The purpose of the sojourn is to heighten awareness of, and appreciation for, the ecological, historical, recreational, and economic significance of the Delaware River, which is the longest un-dammed river east of the Mississippi. The Delaware stretches 330 miles from the confluence of its East and West branches in Hancock, N.Y. to the mouth of the Delaware Bay where it meets the Atlantic Ocean.

The non-profit, annual event is organized by a steering committee representing various organizations and government agencies in the Delaware River Basin. This year's committee is chaired by a representative from Pennsylvania's Delaware Canal State Park.

For a list of all river sojourns across the state, visit the [PA River Sojourns webpage](#).

Feature - Restoration Projects Helping Pennypack Creek Thrive



Residents of Philadelphia now have a scenic, thriving oasis right in their own backyards, thanks to years of hard work by partners in both the public and private sectors.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are being invested to transform [Pennypack Creek](#) from a waterway fragmented by a series of obsolete dams to a living, thriving river that is becoming a centerpiece of the community.

“The Pennypack Restoration project is a textbook example of what can go right when public and private entities work together to benefit everyone,” says Rep. Michael McGeehan. “I’m thrilled that together we’ve been able to restore this treasure in our own backyards.”

Since 2005, three dams have been removed from Pennypack Creek, a fourth removal is slated for this year, as well as a rock-ramp fishway at a fifth barrier, and the remaining two dams are being studied for fish passage alternatives. A free-flowing stream is being reborn from this former series of stagnant pools.

“A healthy river makes for a thriving community,” says American Rivers’ President Rebecca Wodder. “The joy of a free flowing Pennypack Creek is not only benefiting fish and wildlife, but it’s also becoming a hub for outdoor fun.”

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty says she is thrilled to see her hometown creek rebounding. “I grew up in Pennypack Park, and spent countless hours splashing around in Pennypack Creek, it is with special joy that I join this celebration today,” she said. “I am proud our efforts have restored this creek so today's children and future generations can share the wonder I discovered here as a young girl.”

But not just humans are benefiting. The construction of the Frankford Avenue dam circa 1697 cut off migratory fish from their historic spawning areas in Pennypack Creek. More than 300 years later, migratory fish coming up from the Delaware River can access

to this habitat thanks to many restoration efforts promoted by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and other project partners.

“This collaborative approach to restoring Pennypack Creek exemplifies the type of effective, locally-driven project that the NOAA Restoration Center seeks to support,” says NOAA’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Tim Keeney. “The project improves community safety, enhances recreational opportunities and promises to restore populations of American shad, blueback herring, hickory shad and striped bass.”

The progress on the Pennypack has been made possible by combining hundreds of thousands of dollars in public and private funds.

In all, more than \$500,000 dollars has been invested by American Rivers Department of Environmental Protection, NOAA Restoration Center, Fish and Boat Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, FishAmerica Foundation, Philadelphia Water Department, Fairmount Parks Commission, and AquaPenn.

In addition to the projects on Pennypack Creek, American Rivers and the Fish and Boat Commission have helped remove nearly 50 obsolete and unsafe dams statewide and restored historic fishery access to more than 315 miles of rivers. These projects were made possible by a \$767,000 grant to American Rivers from the Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener grant program.

The funding established the “Free-Flowing Pennsylvania” grant program which has leveraged over \$3 million in additional funding to support river restoration projects throughout Pennsylvania.

"Removing these obsolete dams is a smart move that protects the environment, and promotes economic development," Secretary McGinty adds. "The Commonwealth's strategic investments in dam removal projects help streams return to their free-flowing, natural state, restore the natural ecology of those waterways, and support growing fish populations. Healthy streams with abundant life attract tourists and fisherman and add to the quality of life in Pennsylvania."

Pennsylvania is not alone when it comes to investing in river restoration and dam removal. The President's FY08 budget, released in early February, offers hope for increased funding for river restoration projects in the coming year.

The Open Rivers Initiative, which funds dam removal and repairs that improve dams' environmental performance, would be funded at \$12 million, divided equally between NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“The story of America is one told with water. Find your river, and reconnect with it, learn its story, and help write a new chapter,” adds Wodder. “The dream of a thriving river and a thriving community doesn’t have to be a fairy tale; every river story deserves a happy ending.” (*Reprinted from the DEP Update*)

New Agriculture and Environmental Science and Policy Center Established

In an effort to better address the environmental issues related to agriculture, an Agriculture and Environment Science and Policy Center has been created in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Falling under the college's [Environment and Natural Resources Institute](#), the center will be a focal point for cross-disciplinary research and outreach on air and water quality,

soil conservation, invasive species, climate change and other environmental issues of consequence to agriculture.

"Historically, we have treasured agriculture for many reasons beyond its role in providing food for our tables -- its contributions to the economic and social fabric of rural communities, scenic countrysides, and our heritage," said Jim Shortle, director of the college's Environment and Natural Resources Institute. "Increasingly, we also see the tremendous value of agriculture's contributions to the functioning of ecosystems, and the crucial importance of maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services from agriculture, such as carbon sequestration.

"But paradoxically, agriculture can be a significant cause of degradation of air, water, land and climate. The impacts of livestock agriculture are of particular concern. Agriculture is both an agent of environmental change, and affected by environmental change."

Shortle, distinguished professor of agricultural and environmental economics, points out that worldwide, agriculture has more effects on the environment than perhaps any other human activity. "The creation of the environmental institute was an expression of how Penn State thinks the environmental implications of agriculture are critically important," he said. "The influence of agriculture -- both good and otherwise -- cannot be downplayed."

Perhaps the most critical issue facing the new agricultural and environmental policy center is Pennsylvania's nutrient-management challenge and nutrient imbalance, as it relates to the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay, according to Shortle.

"Agriculture is increasingly an important target of environmental-protection policies in Pennsylvania," he said. "At the same time, environmental goals are increasingly important in agricultural policies in this state. This evolution is occurring for many reasons, but chief among them is recognition that agriculture has enormous impacts on the environment, both positive and negative.

"From the standpoint of agricultural stakeholders, profitability is increasingly related to environmental concerns," he says. "Farmers are being asked to adopt environmentally friendly practices. We must help them, and society, find ways that will achieve and harmonize our goals for agriculture and for the environment."

New Agreement Protects Additional Watershed Lands in Lackawanna County

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced Lackawanna County and The Nature Conservancy have received the deed for about 5,000 acres of prime watershed and forestland in the county.

"By conserving this land, we are protecting much more than trees," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said at a ceremony today at the site and against a backdrop of expansive woodlands. "These 5,000 acres will help protect our air, clean water, numerous species and provide opportunities for tremendous outdoor experiences for our citizens."

To buy the land from the Theta Lands Corp., the state invested \$1.2 million of Growing Greener II funding and Lackawanna County provided \$4 million from its 2006 capital budget. The Conservation Fund facilitated the purchase and The Nature Conservancy also provided funding for some buffer lands adjacent to a parcel it owns on Moosic Mountain.

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About 656 acres will be managed by Lackawanna County for outdoor recreation and trail development, 264 acres by The Nature Conservancy for protection of rare and unique habitats; the remainder will be added to Lackawanna State Forest.

“The natural heritage of this area is amazing,” said Secretary DiBerardinis. “These parcels protect highly diverse ecological habitats, including extensive wetlands in the Frytown section, riparian habitats along Roaring Brook and barrens habitat on Moosic Mountain. They also connect to state game lands and protected land on Moosic Mountain and Tobyhanna and Goldsboro state parks.”

The land is located in eastern Lackawanna County, near the Wayne County border, and stretches north to south from near Carbondale to near Frytown. The largest parcels are about 1,500 acres in the Frytown and Moosic areas. The land purchase is made up of contiguous and non-contiguous parcels.

“This is a terrific example of state and county governments and non-profit organizations working together to conserve something of great value to nearby communities, and we thank county officials, The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy for their hard work and support on this project,” Secretary DiBerardinis said.

These 5,000 acres are part of prime watershed land in the region owned by Theta Lands. In 2004 the commonwealth, Luzerne County and The Conservation Fund purchased several parcels of Theta land covering more than 10,000 acres in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties. The majority of that is being managed today as part of DCNR’s Lackawanna State Forest.

With this recent addition, Lackawanna State Forest encompasses more than 19,000 acres in Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming counties.

NewsClip: [Deal Will Protect 5,000 Acres from Development](#)
[\\$5.2 Million Deal Safeguards 5,000 Acres](#)
[Editorial: Land Acquisition Smart Policy](#)

Workshop on Tax Incentives for Preserving Land Set for Palmerton

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) will host another in its series of Tax Incentive Workshops June 6 on the limited-time tax incentives now available to landowners who preserve their property during 2007.

The workshop will be held at Palmerton’s Borough Hall, 443 Delaware Ave. in Carbon County from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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.

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.

EPA Seeking Nominations for Community Development and Active Aging Awards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the [Excellence in Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging awards](#). The awards recognize outstanding community planning and strategies that support active aging.

The deadline for nominations is October 19.

EPA presents the awards to communities that demonstrate the best and most inclusive overall approach to implementing smart growth and active aging at the neighborhood, tribe, municipality, county, and/or regional levels.

Two types of awards will be made -- the Commitment Award and the Achievement Award. The Commitment Award recognizes communities that have developed and begun to initiate a specific plan to implement smart growth and active aging principles. The Achievement Award will be given for overall excellence in building healthy communities for active aging.

Active aging refers to maintaining regular physical activity after age 50. Communities can promote active aging by implementing an array of accessible physical-activity programs, and helping to make more accessible self-directed physical-activity opportunities for those 50 years and older.

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Smart growth development practices support national environmental goals by preserving open spaces and parkland and protecting critical habitat; improving transportation choices, including walking, bicycling, and transit, which reduce automobile emissions; promoting brownfield redevelopment; and reducing impervious surfaces, which improves water quality.

Applicants must be public-sector entities in the United States and coordinate with their local Area Agency on Aging. Public-sector entities include all levels of elected governments, from city councils to state legislatures and their subdivisions such as planning departments and other executive branch divisions.

Application, award guidelines and entry rules visit the [Awards webpage](#).

PA CleanWays Grant From Mellon Foundation Supports Cleanup Initiatives



[PA CleanWays, Inc.](#) has recently accepted a generous grant award of \$300,000 from the Richard King Mellon Foundation in support of its Statewide Illegal Dump Survey and Cleanup Campaign. The funds will be earmarked for western Pennsylvania.

“We can’t thank the trustees enough for their support of this very important initiative. Our grassroots network of volunteer chapters and affiliates have been actively engaged in cleanup and abatement of illegal dumping for nearly two decades. The Richard King Mellon Foundation’s support of this initiative is a tribute to each and every PA CleanWays volunteer and their commitment to our shared mission,” said Shannon Reiter, President of PA CleanWays.

Since 1990, the PA CleanWays growing grassroots network has completed nearly 700 illegal dump cleanups, more than 500 special collection events for hard-to-dispose of items, and properly disposed of more than 9,000 tons of trash, 1,300 tons of scrap metal, and more than 320,000 tires from Pennsylvania’s landscape.

PA CleanWays has engaged more than 31,000 volunteers in more than 148,000 volunteer hours. Additionally, PA CleanWays has raised nearly \$1,100,000 million dollars in in-kind support for its program.

“In an effort to develop a comprehensive and strategic plan for cleanup and abatement of illegal dumping in Pennsylvania, PA CleanWays recognized the need for a statewide illegal dump survey to document the extent of the problem,” said Reiter.

Each county-based survey includes not only detailed characteristics of individual dumpsites, but also GIS maps of the sites by municipality, population density, and watershed.

PA CleanWays has received strong support from the Department of Environmental Protection for the Illegal Dump Survey program. This support has enabled PA CleanWays to build and strengthen additional support from the private sector.

PA CleanWays has completed 14 county-based surveys and identified 1675 illegal dumpsites. Of those, 775 were in or within 100 feet of water. Some counties had as many as 217 illegal dumpsites. In just the 14 counties completed thus far, there is an estimated 7741 tons of illegally discarded waste.

[Illegal dump surveys are available online.](#)

“It is our goal” explains Jim Bendel, Board Chair of PA CleanWays, “that these surveys will not only provide PA CleanWays, grassroots organizations, conservation

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districts, and watershed groups the information needed to plan for cleanup and abatement of these sites, but also provide local, county, and state government officials the hard data needed to develop appropriate abatement strategies and gain additional support for existing and new programs for proper handling of waste.”

To volunteer or for more information, visit the [PA CleanWays website](#).

PA Roadside Aesthetics Workshop to Launch “Sponsor-A-Landscape” Program

The [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance](#) and PennDOT are sponsoring a one-day Pennsylvania Roadside Aesthetics Workshop on June 28 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center, New Cumberland.

The focus of the workshop will be the new “Sponsor-A-Landscape” program similar to PennDOT’s successful [Sponsor-A-Highway](#) program currently in place in Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

The KPB Alliance has proposed a concept of engaging corporations to sponsor the installation and/or maintenance of aesthetically and environmentally appropriate landscaping at key gateways into the Commonwealth. In exchange for their participation in this endeavor, these corporate sponsors receive signage with their corporate name and logo.

KPB would work closely with appropriate PennDOT personnel to further the following program concepts: site selection, design criteria, contractor qualifications, installation and maintenance operations and safety, available funding options for plant and material purchase and installation, sponsor recognition options.

In one program segment, representatives of PennDOT will discuss current PennDOT projects directly related to roadside aesthetics. In other segments, discussion will center on the Sponsor-A-Landscape concept as well as other roadside aesthetics ideas and issues.

For more information, contact Dick Ebeling, Manager, Highway Beautification Programs, Bureau of Maintenance and Operations, at 717-705-1552 or send email to: rebeling@state.pa.us .

Penn State Trash to Treasure Sale Set for May 26

Penn State's sixth annual [Trash to Treasure sale](#), a charity event built on the philanthropic goodwill of the student population, will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 26, at Beaver Stadium, University Park.

The annual sale consists of donated items from students that they do not care to transport home. The event's mission is threefold: prevent usable items from winding up in a landfill; save the University the cost of disposing of the material; and give students an opportunity to develop a sense of philanthropy. All proceeds from the sale benefit the 39 human service agencies funded by the Centre County United Way, and the event kicks off the 2007 United Way campaign.

As in past years, early birds pay \$5 admission from 7:30 to 9 a.m. for the privilege of cherry-picking the sale. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., admission is free. Bargain hunters enter the stadium at Gate B and exit at Gate C. Inside the stadium, nearly of mile of tables filled

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with merchandise will be set up under the stands. Outside, a concession stand will be selling food and an informational tent will be set up.

Last year, the sale raised \$49,870 for the Centre County United Way. Since its inception, the sale has raised a cumulative \$210,000 for charity and has kept 357 tons of solid waste out of the landfills, according to Al Matyasovsky, Central Support Services supervisor of labor and equipment for the Office of Physical Plant and chair of this year's event.

Matyasovsky is expecting some 7,000 to 10,000 bargain hunters to line up at the stadium in advance of the sale. In past years, many people have tailgated in the parking lot before the gates open for the sale.

By sale day, Penn State's Office of Physical Plant will have collected between 65 and 70 tons of donated items, including three to four tons of food that will be donated to area food banks. It takes about 200 man hours of OPP time from when the department starts collecting items from residence halls until the sale is ready to go.

In addition, some 50 Penn State volunteer employees help with sorting, pricing, organizing and unloading the material, according to Carolyn Lambert, associate professor in the School of Hospitality Management and volunteer coordinator. On the community side, nearly 200 volunteers work with Centre County United Way helping with the sale for a total of about 2,200 hours. Volunteers do everything from sorting and pricing to working on sale day as cashiers and crowd control.

On a recent Friday, 75 students from State College Area High School were working at the stadium rolling rugs and sorting and pricing merchandise. They were there to gain community service credit required by the school district. "The kids love this activity," said Melanie Lynch, who teaches health education and is a volunteer coordinator at State High. "It is a huge event. They can see instantly how much impact they have and how they're needed."

This year's sale runs the gamut of the student experience at Penn State, from brand-name jeans and outer clothing to athletic apparel, shoes, appliances, furniture, sports equipment and electronics. A walk along the stadium concourse reveals a wonderland of merchandise. Phalanxes of floor fans three deep are lined along an elevated walkway.

Oodles of office chairs stand guard outside an enclosure full of furniture -- futons, coffee table, chairs and bookshelves. Lava lamps and goose-necked lamps crowd a table while floor lamps with colorful shades stand in a bunch like a post-modern flock of flamingoes.

Elsewhere at the stadium, areas are devoted to the students' domestic experience. An army of vacuums and Dust Busters, priced from \$2 to \$5, stand in mute testimony to moms who wanted their kids to have clean rooms. Whole tables are filled with laundry detergents and cleaning supplies, while nearby steam irons, toasters, blenders, rice cookers and other small kitchen appliances populate several tables.

In the clothing areas, Eddie Bauer and Aeropostole jeans are priced to sell at \$4 each, while sweaters cost \$2 and young women can buy tops for 50 cents each. In the accessory area, fashion belts are coiled like colorful snakes, while handbags, hats and chic sunglasses are organized by color and style.

Electronics are well represented, too. The Jordan Center has donated a number of digital cameras, iPods and binoculars that have been languishing unclaimed for quite some time in lost-and-found, according to Lambert. Students also have donated a number of televisions, phones, computers, monitors, stereos, speakers and electronic games.

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Merchandise is priced to get it out the door. "We try to price them as fairly as possible with the idea that we want as many pieces to leave the venue in the hands of as many people who can use the goods as possible," said Pam Stellabotte, United Way's communications director. "T-shirts are \$1, jeans are \$2 and \$4 depending on the brand. Almost everything is priced very modestly."

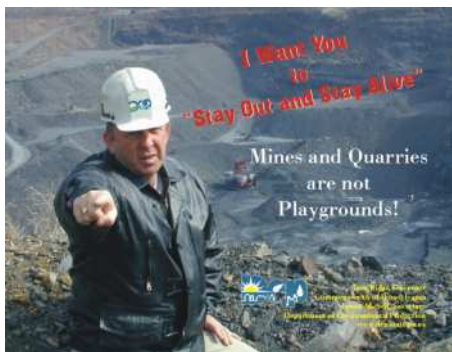
The success of the Trash to Treasure sale has sparked interest from other facilities. This year, Penn State Altoona is collecting student material for a sale on June 9. Elsewhere, the University of Missouri is planning its own Tiger Treasure Sale based on what they learned at University Park last year, Matyasovsky said.

Representatives from Michigan State plan to attend and the city of Aberdeen, Md., is sending its public works staff to observe the sale. Representatives from Indiana University of Pennsylvania already have been to campus to learn more about the program, and folks from OPP plan to make a presentation in July at the University of Arizona.

In addition, Penn State student group Eco-Action has taken the collection campaign to town to encourage students who live in off-campus housing to donate materials to the sale, Matyasovsky said. "The students are the heroes," said Matyasovsky. "Without their generosity, we wouldn't have a sale."

The event is very significant for United Way. "This is a wonderful town-and-gown thing," Stellabotte said. "It's grown into a real community effort. It raises money for the Centre County United Way and at the same time, it really helps Penn State to save materials from going to the landfill. It's become a real green initiative."

Stay Out, Stay Alive, DEP Warns of Dangers in Old Mines, Quarries



With warm weather prompting many people to spend more time outdoors, but the Department of Environmental Protection issued a warning to stay out of abandoned mines and quarries as part of its "[Stay Out, Stay Alive](#)" Program.

"Every year, people — particularly teens and young adults — are injured or killed while trespassing at abandoned mines and quarries," said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. "These tragedies can be avoided. We urge parents to talk to their children about staying

out of these areas."

In Pennsylvania, 27 people have died trespassing in abandoned mines and quarries in 18 counties over the last six years. Nationwide, 30 people died while trespassing at mines and quarries last year alone.

"There are thousands of sites just like this one across Pennsylvania," Secretary McGinty said. "They are not safe for swimming, four-wheeling or exploring. The dangers are real – and too often, deadly."

Pennsylvania has the largest abandoned mine lands problem in the country, with more than 180,000 acres of unmarked shafts, unstable cliffs, waste piles, water-filled pits and abandoned equipment remaining from a time prior to 1977 when mining was largely unregulated. DEP has identified more than 5,500 abandoned mine land problem areas in 43 counties.

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Mine fires are also a concern because of abandoned mine trespassers. Pennsylvania has approximately 40 active mine fires — nearly all of which were started by burning trash. Most abandoned mine sites show evidence of trash dumping, partying and other activities. These fires represent a particular danger because the fire is consuming the coal that supports the surface, making the ground unstable and prone to collapse without warning.

In addition to abandoned mine lands, quarries also pose a danger due to high rocky cliffs and murky water that prevent swimmers from being able to judge the depth.

“People who trespass at these sites put their lives in danger and those of the people who must respond and perform dangerous rescue operations or recoveries,” Secretary McGinty said.

The “Stay Out, Stay Alive” campaign is a partnership among DEP, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, other state agencies, and the active mining industry. In addition to the public service media campaign, DEP visits schools and community groups to discuss environmental and public health hazards.

To broaden the campaign’s reach, DEP distributes information to those receiving licenses from the Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission, and has partnered with the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct outreach at state parks and the department’s regional offices. DCNR also includes information on the program with off-road vehicle and snowmobile registrations.

For more information, visit the [“Stay Out Stay Alive” webpage](#).

NewsClip: [State Stressing Old mine Hazards](#)

Citizen Advisory Committees Influence Deer Management Policies

The Game Commission's efforts to heighten public participation in deer management took a big step forward recently when agency biologists considered [Citizen Advisory Committee](#) recommendations for deer population changes in four of the state's 22 Wildlife Management Units.

Citizen Advisory Committees were first employed in the Game Commission's deer management program in 2006, when a pilot committee - comprised of stakeholders with varying interests in deer - was used in WMU 4B, comprising Perry and parts of Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Snyder counties, to develop a recommendation on how the deer herd should be managed over the next five years.

These groups have helped pioneer a new way to integrate community input into the biological analyses and methodical deliberations that have long defined deer management by assembling residents to identify and arbitrate collectively their local deer management goals in relation to the deer-human conflict measure and to relay that information to the agency's Deer Management Section.

When making a final decision on its recommendations for deer seasons and bag limits, the [Deer Management Section](#) also considers deer herd health and habitat health.

"Citizen Advisory Committees cultivate community outreach, program understanding and a local commitment by the agency to increase regional involvement in deer management decisions," explained Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe. "They provide residents a chance to get involved and to see firsthand the diverse

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interests, concerns and priorities that influence deer management decisions. Most realize quickly this is a complex process that is anything but cut-and-dried."

This year, CACs were used to develop population management recommendations for WMU 1B, comprising Erie County and parts of Crawford, Venango and Warren counties; WMU 3B, comprising Sullivan County and parts of Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lycoming, Luzerne and Tioga counties; WMU 2C, comprising Somerset County and parts of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties; and WMU 5C, comprising parts of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton counties.

While developing their recommendations, CACs consider deer population trend information in their respective WMUs, local deer health and forest habitat, as well as solicited public feedback. They conclude their work by making recommendations to allow deer numbers to increase, decrease or remain the same. Biologists in the agency's Deer Management Section evaluate that input when proposing antlerless deer license allocations to the Board of Game Commissioners, who also receive the results of the CAC process.

The five-year recommendations varied significantly from one committee to the next, illustrating both the differences in WMUs and member interactions and expectations. In WMU 1B, the committee opted for a 15 percent deer population increase. In WMU 5C, the committee recommended a 40 percent population decrease. In WMU 3B, the committee recommended no change. Each of these recommendations were adopted by the deer management staff in developing recommendations for the Board of Game Commissioners.

However, in WMU 2C, the agency's deer biologists chose not to follow the CAC's recommendation, which was to increase the deer population by 25 to 50 percent. The primary reasons for not following the recommendation were that deer health in the unit currently is considered poor, and forest habitat health there only recently has been upgraded to fair. If these measures improve - and the deer and habitat health measures are checked annually - the agency's staff will move to accommodate the CAC's desire to see the herd increase.

"We wish we could go along with the recommendations of every CAC," noted Jeannine Tardiff Fleegle, a biologist with the agency's Deer Management Section. "But, it's not that simple. Deer populations must be balanced with habitat to ensure forest and wildlife diversity, as well as deer herd health. Furthermore, deer numbers should not create undue human conflicts.

"Values and observations have been used by hunters, legislators and other stakeholders to influence the management of Pennsylvania's whitetails for more than 100 years. But there isn't - and has never been - a consensus deer population goal for people who sustain property damage from deer and those who count on the resource for recreation and hunting. And, there likely never will be common ground. Somebody will always want more deer, and others fewer.

"That enduring difference of opinion and the need for Pennsylvanians to learn more about deer management underscore the need for CACs. They are a refinement that can improve community involvement in deer management and increase public awareness of the science being used to manage deer."

Assisting the Game Commission in recruiting CAC teams and facilitating CAC meetings, the Governor's Office of Administration's Bureau of Management Consulting has played a key role in the development of these specialized committees, and will

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continue to do so through 2011. The Bureau's role in the process ensures impartiality and procedural consistency. It also monitors committee member perceptions and positions through surveys, interviews and observations. Game Commission employees were on hand only to answer questions and provide background and technical assistance.

Glenn Florence, a consulting manager with BMC, said CACs are helping the Game Commission reach a broader citizen base and increasing public participation in deer management.

"The Game Commission depends upon the grassroots nature of these committees," Florence said. "Committee members contacted more than 1,100 people in their efforts to represent their particular stakeholder group, and they really opened up in the sessions to say their piece.

"The CAC process provides an opportunity to educate people from diverse backgrounds about deer management and its inherent complexities and intangibles. Members are leaving the CAC process with a greater understanding of what the Game Commission is up against. In fact, 13 of 22 members who replied to our post-session survey said they viewed deer management differently as a result of their involvement in CACs."

CAC member nominations were solicited from agency staff and more than 60 outside organizations, including those representing hunting, agricultural and forestry interests on both a local and statewide level. Each committee was comprised originally of 10 or more members.

The first meeting of a CAC after its formation is to acquaint members with the committee process and deer management. Members also are polled for their thoughts on their WMU's deer population and asked to collect opinions of others in the stakeholder group they represent. At their second meeting, the CAC members present their findings and discuss issues and attempt to achieve a consensus recommendation. The entire process occurs over a six-week period.

In 2008, CACs are scheduled to be held in five WMUs: WMU 2A, comprising Greene County and parts of Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties; WMU 4C, comprising parts of Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties; WMU 4D, comprising parts of Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder and Union counties; WMU 4E, comprising Northumberland and Montour counties and parts of Columbia, Dauphin, Lycoming, Luzerne, Schuylkill, Snyder and Union counties; and WMU 5A, parts of Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and York counties.

For more information, visit the [Deer Management webpage](#).

Doug Scott Speaking in Harrisburg on Protecting Wilderness Areas

Wilderness author and activist Doug Scott will speak at the Dauphin County East Shore Area Library in Harrisburg in support of the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest.

Scott will appear at 7 p.m. on May 31 in the library's Meeting Room A.

The speech is free and open to the public, and is being cosponsored by Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, the Pennsylvania Division Izaak Walton League of America, Audubon Pennsylvania, and the Governor Pinchot Group of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club.

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Scott is the author of [*The Enduring Wilderness: Protecting our National Heritage*](#) through the Wilderness Act, which takes a look at how America has preserved more than 100 million acres of diverse wilderness areas in 44 states as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Scott is currently the policy director for the [Campaign for America's Wilderness](#).

He will speak about the need to permanently protect the remaining wild areas of the Allegheny National Forest for future generations as an important part of the multiple-use regime of the forest. A question and answer session with the audience will follow.

Come learn what you can do to help save the last remaining wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest!

For more information call 814-723-0620 or email alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net.

PPG Industries' Charles E. Bunch to Deliver a Keynote at Air & Waste Conference

The Air & Waste Management Association has added PPG Industries' Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Charles E. Bunch to the keynote agenda for its [100th Annual Conference & Exhibition](#), to be held in Pittsburgh, June 26-29.

"A&WMA is thrilled to add a respected business leader like Charles Bunch to our centennial agenda," said current A&WMA President, Tony van der Vooren. "Having the support of industry at this level re-energizes the commitment our members have made to improving our environment and finding cleaner ways to sustain our world."

In leading PPG, Bunch is establishing conservation and emissions reduction programs, supporting innovative products and technologies, and engaging in the national dialogue on energy policy. He also serves as chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Paint and Coatings Association.

A&WMA's 2007 conference and exhibition will open June 26 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the world's largest green building. Christine Todd Whitman, former administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and one-time governor of New Jersey, and Carnegie Mellon University Professor Lester Lave, internationally renowned expert on the complex relationships between environmental issues and political economies, will also present keynote addresses.

Additionally, the conference agenda includes three days of professional development courses, a comprehensive technical program that looks at the latest on specific regulations, and opportunities to explore new developments, methodologies, and topic areas in the environmental business. Exhibit hall displays will provide a closer look at the world's leading environmental products and services.

For more information, visit the [2007 Annual Conference & Exhibition webpage](#), which includes complete course descriptions, schedules of events, registration forms and exhibitor information.

Saint Francis University to Host 2nd Annual Alternative Energy Fair

The [2nd Annual ECare Fair](#) will be held on June 9 and 10 in the Stokes Center at [Saint Francis University](#), Ebensburg, Cambria County.

The event provides exhibitors, vendors, educators, government officials, businesses, financial institutions and the general public with a gathering place to learn about and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

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The Fair will take place in the Stokes Center on June 9 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and June 10 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.. The entrance fee is free for children under 12, \$2 dollars for students and \$4 dollars for adults. There will be food available for purchase.

This year the event will feature over 20 vendors and exhibitors showing how to save money and protect the environment by making your own biodiesel, putting up your own wind turbine, installing energy efficient furnaces, and insulating your home, business or school.

The Fair is organized by ECARE Fair, a non-profit organization based in Portage, Pennsylvania whose mission is to educate people about renewable energy and energy efficiency.

More information is available on the [ECare Fair website](#) or by contacting ECARE Fair's Director Vince Golden at 814-736-8266 or Erik Foley, Director of the University's Renewable Energy Center at 814-472-2873.

National Environmental Education Award Nominations Due June 30

The National Environmental Education Foundation is now accepting nominations for the [Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award](#) in honor of an individual who devotes his life to conservation and environmental education.

Nominations and letters of support are due June 30.

The Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award will be awarded to an outstanding educator who has successfully integrated environmental education into his or her daily education programs. The award will be given to an educator who is creative, passionate and effective and who can serve as an inspiration and model for other educators.

A \$5,000 cash award will be provided to this outstanding educator for his or her continued work in environmental education.

For more information, go to the [Bartlett Awards webpage](#).

It's a Boy....and a Girl and a Girl and a Boy! Falcons That Is



State wildlife officials who banded the young Peregrine falcons that hatched earlier this month in the nest on the [Rachel Carson State Building](#) in Harrisburg have determined there are two male and two female birds.

The falcons were examined this week during a live Internet webcast in front of an audience of about 175 Central Pennsylvania students.

The sex of the birds is determined mostly by size with the females weighing about a third more than their male siblings. In fact, in the next several weeks, the young falcons will actually outweigh their parents but will lose the extra weight once they begin to fledge or take flight.

The four young falcons were examined and found to be in relatively good health. All four were treated for mites, a common issue with the birds. The two male falcons showed some indication of Trichomoniasis, a condition that can make it difficult for them to swallow, making feeding difficult. Since the case appears to be mild at this time,

officials decided to return the birds to the nest and monitor them. If they were to deteriorate, they would be removed and given a course of antibiotics.

The next several weeks will be the most active and perilous time for the young falcons as they learn to fly. The adults will spend their days teaching the young how to fly and hunt before they leave the nest sometime this summer.

Watch live video of the Harrisburg falcons online at [DEP's Falcon webpage](#).

Links: [Visit the Pittsburgh Falcons online](#)

Feature

Peregrine Falcons Make a Comeback - Birds Continue to Increase Their Use of Natural Nesting Sites

By Joe Kosack

Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist
Game Commission



Game Commission Photo

The peregrine falcon appears poised to follow the bald eagle on the road to recovery in the Commonwealth, according to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which has managed this state-endangered raptor's reintroduction over the past 30 or so years.

But the birds of prey aren't too keen about continuing to participate in the wildlife management program that has prompted their return. In fact, they've become downright inhospitable to Game Commission personnel who annually visit their nests to perform health checks and band their young.

Fortunately, the biggest news on peregrine falcons this spring isn't who got smacked or raked during nest visits. It's about the phenomenal - almost unbelievable - increase in peregrine nests in Pennsylvania. This year there are 24 peregrine nests instate or on bridges on state borders. There were 15 nests statewide last year.

Of course, not every nest is a successful venture, and surely that will be true of some nests this year. But a majority will produce young and further the ongoing peregrine recovery. Thirteen nests were successful last year and led to the fledging of 42 young. Three decades ago, that number would have exceeded America's peregrine population east of the Mississippi River. Today, it serves as a shining example of what good can be accomplished with sound wildlife management and environmental reform.

"Pennsylvania has had 15 peregrine falcon nests for the past two years, which made those years the most productive since DDT was banned in America," explained Dr. F. Arthur McMorris, who oversees the Game Commission's peregrine falcon program. "But this year is really something special, because we've seen the largest increase in nests since our peregrine recovery began. As recently as 1997, there were only eight nests in the state."

Falcons were suffering horribly from the 1940s through the 1960s from the poisonous effects of bio-accumulating DDT in their bodies. The insidious insecticide - banned nationally in 1972 - gradually poisoned the birds and made the shells of the eggs these birds laid so brittle, they broke when sat upon. The same year DDT was banned, peregrines were listed as a federally endangered species. At the time, many thought they'd be extinct by 1980. Now, 35 years later, the birds are back in a big way, having successfully shaken free of the poisonous noose that slowly and silently strangled their once well-established Pennsylvania population, as well as many other species of birds.

"Peregrine falcons have made a remarkable recovery, and we're thrilled with their progress," explained Dan Brauning, who supervises the Game Commission's Wildlife Diversity Section. "But before we consider them secure, we'd like to see them occupy a larger number of historic natural cliff sites. Right now, only three of the 24 nesting pairs are on cliffs.

"So it's fair to say we really haven't achieved our peregrine recovery objective yet, because we still need more birds to reclaim more of Pennsylvania's 44 or so historic cliff nesting sites. But the progress in cities across the state, has been nothing short of incredible. The jump to 24 nests this spring absolutely floors the incremental one- to two-nest increases we've seen over the past 10 years."

New peregrine nests were established in the following counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montour and Union counties. Overall, more peregrines anywhere in Pennsylvania is a step in the right direction for this raptor's recovery. But seeing more nesting pairs on cliffs, instead of on buildings and bridges would qualify the ongoing recovery as more organically significant.

Peregrines made their big step back to natural nesting sites in Pennsylvania in 2003 when a pair used a cliff in the state's northern tier overlooking the west branch of the Susquehanna River. It was the first time peregrines used cliffs since 1957, when five pairs were nesting at cliff sites instate. Peregrines started nesting in Pennsylvania for the first time since their extirpation in the late 1980s, when they began nesting on bridges in the greater Philadelphia area.

Pennsylvania's three peregrine cliff nests are found in Lycoming, Luzerne and Union counties. The state would have had four cliff nests, but a pair abandoned another Luzerne County cliff nest it had used for two years to return to a bridge nest it had left previously.

"It wasn't exactly the type of behavior we expected to see, and we're at a loss to explain why it happened," McMorris said. "It could be related to disturbances or predators, or maybe nothing more than a move back to a site at which they were more comfortable. We'd have preferred they went to another cliff if they had to move, but then it really wasn't up to us!"

The Game Commission plans to visit at least 15 nests this spring to band and perform health checks on peregrine chicks. A banding occurred May 16 on the Gulf Tower in Pittsburgh, and for the second consecutive year, the adult female behaved aggressively toward Allegheny County Wildlife Conservation Officer Beth Fife and Land Management Group Supervisor Doug Dunkerley who removed the young birds from a ledge nest box about three dozen floors up.

"For the past five years, the female has worked feverishly to protect her young at the nest box, which makes removing them for banding even more of a challenge," said Fife. "Up until last year, she just dove at us. Last year that changed when she landed on the

ledge, raised her wings and came at me. I netted her. This year, she stayed at the nest box and grabbed my gloved hand as I reached for a chick. She wouldn't let go so I had to take her off the ledge and inside to get her out of the way. We released her after the chicks were banded."

This week, Game Commission personnel banded peregrine chicks on the Rachel Carson Building in downtown Harrisburg at a nest-box where the adult female also has grown weary of intrusions to her 15th floor ledge overlooking Market Street. For the past two years, she has body-slammed the hardhat-covered head of an agency employee while either cleaning camera globes or returning chicks to the nest on the ledge.

"It will be surprising if she isn't waiting with her game-face on when we open the window this Thursday," Brauning said. "She's all business and 100 percent wild. But that is, quite frankly, the type of behavior we prefer to see in falcons."

The state Department of Environmental Protection's falcon page (www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon) will carry a live Internet lesson and banding of the falcons, conducted by Brauning and DEP Director of Environmental Education Jack Farster, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, May 24, from the Rachel Carson State Office Building's auditorium in Harrisburg.

Although peregrines were never really common in Pennsylvania, they historically nested at as many as 44 sites, mostly on cliffs. Some of their former nesting areas included cliffs near Dauphin, Huntingdon, Lewistown, Hyner, Palmerton and other riverside communities.

Peregrine falcons, also commonly referred to as "duck hawks," are strong fliers that hunt on the wing, diving from nose-bleed heights at speeds up to 200 miles per hour to snatch flying blue jays, flickers, starlings, pigeons and other like prey. The birds weigh from one-and-a-quarter to about two pounds and females are larger than males.

Links: [Visit the Pittsburgh Falcons online](#)
[Visit the Harrisburg Falcons online](#)

Quick Clips

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

- [Tips to Save Gas, Money This Summer Driving](#)

[Grads Go Green](#)

[Environmentalist John Serrao Selected for Award in Education](#)

[US Senator blocks Honoring Environmentalist Rachel Carson](#)

[Vital Environmental Cleanup Program Needs Dedicated Funding](#)

[Alcosan Consent Decree Best Deal Possible](#)

[Staples Tries to Make Recycling Computers Easy](#)

[Elk County Now Able to Use Landfill Money](#)

[Report Provides Ideas for City Growth](#)

[Editorial: Urban Rebirth](#)

[Big Picture in Sights of Landscapes2 Focus Groups](#)

[Long Pond Land Is Home to Great Open Spaces](#)

[Nature Returns to the Mountain](#)

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[Donation Plants Seed for Dream of Arboretum at Penn State](#)
[Recreation Gets Close Look, Franklin County Looks to Increase Greenways](#)
[Boaters Get Easier Access to Three Rivers](#)
[Hundreds Venture to North Shore for Outdoors Festival](#)
[School Goes Green to Save \\$1 Million a Year](#)
[Retired PECO Worker Tells Audience How to Conserve](#)
[Getting the Green Light](#)
[Editorial: We Can Afford Slight Rate Raise to Fund Energy Savings Program](#)
[Expect Corn-Derived Ethanol to Backfire](#)
[Lawn Area Farmer Goes Solar](#)
[Sunnyside Ethanol Plant Issued Final Permit](#)
[Wind Energy Firm’s Open House Attracts Nearly 200](#)
[Power Line Opponents Urge Protest to PUC](#)
[Allegheny Energy, Landowners in Power Play Over Transmission Line](#)
[Editorial: Cut Your Own Electricity Use, Then Oppose Power Line](#)
[High, Unstable Electricity Costs Lead Manufacturers to Expand Elsewhere](#)
[PUC Chief to Keep Job](#)
[Mountain Lion May Be In Wellsboro](#)
[A Falcon First for Reading](#)
[Falcons, Egrets Battle in Reading](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Editorial: REAP Promises Bountiful Harvest](#)
[Editorial: Draw Clean Water From Farm Bill](#)
[Fourth Graders Make Hance Habitat Flourish](#)
[Editorial: Farm Bill Needs to Do More to Reduce Nitrogen Flow Into Chesapeake](#)
[Natural Stream Design Revives Turtle Creek Tributary](#)
[Jacobs Creek Project Puts Wetlands In the Bank](#)
[Op-Ed: Brook Trout – Fish Out of Clean Water](#)
[Foundation Funds Pond’s Restoration](#)
[Schuylkill County Hoping to Get It’s Fair Share of Federal Mine Cleanup Money](#)
[Acres Await Reclamation in Schuylkill County](#)
[Change in Federal Law Leaves More Money for Mine Reclamation](#)
[Beech Creek Group Makes Plans for Outdoor Path](#)
[Group Wants to Restore Newtown Creek](#)
[Stream Study Doubles as Service](#)
[Century Old Dame Might Be Removed to Make Room for Canoe Launch](#)
[Pike Says DEP Hasn’t Fixed Stormwater Permit System](#)
[Last House Torn Down in Mill Run Floodplain](#)

Regulations

No new regulations published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 26, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published interim final guidance on handling confidential information and a [proposed General Permit for portable electric generators](#). The State Conservation Commission published the annual distributions under the [Dirt and Gravel Roads Program](#). The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has [proposed a land exchange](#) involving 61 acres in Sullivan County for public comment.

Interim Final: DEP ID: 012-0800-001. Confidential Security Information. This document provides interim policy regarding the manner in which the Department will handle confidential security information under the Public Utility Confidential Security Information Disclosure Protection Act (act) (35 P. S. §§ 2141.1--2141.6). Comments due June 25.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **May 30** – Public Utility Commission briefing on electric reliability. Hearing Room 2, Keystone Building. 1:30.
- **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.
- **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.](#))

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- **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 4** – House Consumer Affairs Committee meeting to consider [House Resolution 297](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) expressing opposition to the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors. Room 39. Call of Chair.
- **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 6** – House Game and Fisheries Committee meets to consider House Bill 1116 (Kortz) authorizing vouchers for game licenses, House Bill 1109 (Staback-D-Lackawanna) authorizing vouchers for fishing licences and Senate Bill 580 (Madigan-R-Tioga) use of dogs while hunting wild turkey. Room 60 East Wing. 9:00.
- **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** – House Game and Fisheries Committee public hearing on [House Bill 251](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) Amending Title 34 related to game feeders. 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **June 12** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 11.
- **June 12** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Storage Tank 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

[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

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

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

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