

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

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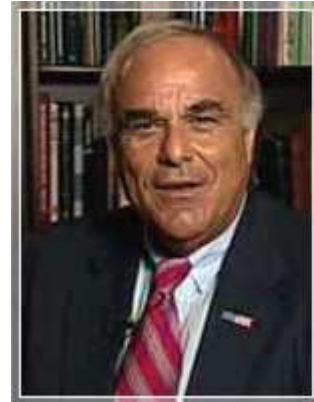
June 9, 2008

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

PA Fair Share Coalition Asks Gov. Rendell to Keep Commitment on Bay Cleanup

In a letter this week to Gov. Rendell, the PA Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition asked the Governor to keep his commitment to help sewer system ratepayers and farmers finance improvements needed to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution going to the Chesapeake Bay by supporting the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#).

The PA Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition includes the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and a growing list of 26 other environmental, business and local government groups.



“Last December Gov. Rendell made a commitment to the Chesapeake Executive Council to convince the General Assembly to provide state funding to meet nutrient reduction requirements when the federal government provided funding,” said Matthew Ehrhart, Pennsylvania Executive Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. “Congress has now acted by passing the federal Farm Bill which provides Bay states with \$440 million to help comply with these mandates and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency just increased Pennsylvania’s funding for clean water projects by \$20 million.”

“Pennsylvania’s entire Congressional Delegation was involved in the Farm Bill effort, but we would especially like to thank U.S. Senator Bob Casey and Congressmen Tim Holden for their leadership on this issue,” said Ehrhart. “Now we hope Gov. Rendell will keep his commitment by supporting the Fair Share for Clean Water Plan and working with the General Assembly to provide this much needed funding.”

"Farmers welcome the help included in the new Farm Bill, but it is nowhere near enough to cover the \$600 million cost the Department of Environmental Protection estimates farmers will have to invest in conservation practices," said Joel Rotz, State Governmental Relations Director for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. "Farmers are more than willing to do their fair share in meeting federal and state regulations, but they cannot do it alone. State funding is urgently needed as farmers face the potentially crippling costs of meeting these new state and federal mandates."

“For the last several years we’ve seen cuts in the state budget for vital programs that help farmers install conservation practices,” said Susan Marquart, Executive Director of the PA Association of Conservation Districts. “Without technical assistance provided

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by county conservation districts, Pennsylvania agriculture cannot meet its mandated nutrient reduction goals.”

The Department of Environmental Protection has already issued new permits to the first 63 of over 184 wastewater treatment plants that will have to meet the new nutrient reduction mandates in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The cost of the improvements needed at the plants to comply is estimated to be over \$1 billion.

“Mandated nutrient reductions under the state Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy for sewage treatment plants impose a heavy financial burden on communities and ratepayers that could see a doubling or tripling of sewer rates if no help is provided by state government,” said John Brosious, PMAA Deputy Director. “Unlike Virginia and Maryland, Pennsylvania has provided no significant funding to meet these mandates.”

The Coalition pointed to the need for the Commonwealth to improve the existing Nutrient Credit Trading Program to help farmers, wastewater plants, future homeowners and businesses meet the federal and state mandates.

“A functioning, viable nutrient credit trading program, combined with a funding plan that targets money where it can make the greatest environmental impact, can provide sewage treatment plants with a stable, economically feasible alternative to costly capital upgrades and protect future economic opportunity,” said Robert J. Fisher, president of R. J. Fisher and Associates representing the Pennsylvania Builders Association. “But, without help from state government, economic growth and development in large portions of Pennsylvania will be severely curtailed.”

The [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) would invest \$170 million in 2008-09 in several ways to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers and farms:

- \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements;
- \$50 million in direct cost share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (\$35 for REAP farm tax credits and \$15 million in cost share grants);
- \$10 million to county conservation district to expand technical assistance to farmers;
- \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture budget in farm programs; and
- Proposes reforms to the state’s nutrient credit trading program that will help to make it a viable alternative to provide for both environmental improvements to the Bay and sufficient future sewage capacity for new development.

Over the course of seven years the Fair Share for Clean Water Plan will invest up to \$890 million in upgrades to sewage treatment plants and agricultural practices for nutrient reduction efforts for the Chesapeake Bay and cleaning up streams statewide.

(The text of the letter to Gov. Rendell follows)

Dear Governor Rendell,

Millions of wastewater system ratepayers and thousands of farmers, future homeowners and businesses need your immediate help to deal with the financial cost of meeting new nutrient reduction limits being imposed now by the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a result of federal Clean Water Act mandates.

These new nutrient limits are now in place in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that covers over half the Commonwealth, but already wastewater plants in Southeast and Western Pennsylvania have been given these new standards by EPA as well.

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For the first time a broad coalition of interests involved in water quality cleanup, including the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and many other supporting groups, have put together a plan that asks state government to be a partner in these efforts.

The Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan proposes to invest \$500 million to help finance the upgrades needed by wastewater plants to meet the new nutrient reduction standards and \$390 million to help farmers install conservation practices over seven years. In both cases, local wastewater system ratepayers and farmers would shoulder half the costs of the upgrades and practices.

The proposal also calls for improvements to the state's Nutrient Credit Trading Program that will help reduce the costs of complying with these new limits by promoting wastewater plant-farmer cooperation on projects to reduce nutrients and allow for future growth and development.

In the Chesapeake Bay Watershed alone, Pennsylvania wastewater system ratepayers will be asked in the next seven years to pay up to \$1 billion for treatment plant upgrades to meet these new standards. The Department of Environmental Protection has estimated the cost to farmers, who cannot pass along these costs, will be \$600 million. We note that Maryland and Virginia have already committed over \$1.6 billion to help their wastewater plants meet these new mandates.

We appreciate your efforts in convening the Governor's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force to develop a long range plan for funding infrastructure improvements across the state. However, the specific permit deadlines imposed by the DEP require wastewater plants to make design and project financing decisions now on how they are going to comply with their new nutrient limits and achieve the necessary reductions.

Over the last few months wastewater system ratepayers have received letters from their local system operators saying they will see their sewer rates double and triple over the next few years to meet these mandates and are loudly expressing their concerns about the devastating impact such rate increases will have on homeowners and businesses.

Ratepayers and farmers are not asking for a "bailout." They will do their share to finance these improvements-- but they are asking state government to be a partner in meeting these requirements as it has been since the 1970s.

At last December's Chesapeake Executive Council meeting, you said you would work with the General Assembly to provide additional state funding to help comply with the nutrient reduction mandates, if the federal government provided more funding.

Congress has now acted. In the new federal Farm Bill passed by Congress, over \$440 million is provided to the Chesapeake Bay states to help farmers install conservation practices. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency increased funding for clean water projects in Pennsylvania by \$20 million.

The coalition proposing the Fair Share Plan asks for your support and leadership in helping to resolve this time-sensitive issue and to keep the commitment you made last December.

Thank you for your past leadership on environmental issues and we look forward to working with you to help state government to again be a partner in taking the next step in cleaning up Pennsylvania's rivers and streams.

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Sincerely, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

Other supporting groups include: Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, County Commissioners Association of PA, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, Pennsylvania Association of Realtors, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmens Clubs, American Farmland Trust, Environmental Defense Fund, Middletown Township Land Conservancy, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Northumberland County Conservation District, Lancaster Farmland Trust, Brubaker Farms, Juniata Valley Audubon, PA Landscape and Nursery Association, Tioga County Conservation District, Chester County Economic Development Council, Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee, Inc., PA No-Till Alliance, PA State Grange, PA Project Grass, GreenTreks Network, Inc., Warwick Township Municipal Authority, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Cedar Meadow Farm, Somerset County Conservation District, and Dover Township

For more information on the PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan, visit www.PaFairSharePlan.org.

NewsClips: [Williamsport Sanitary Authority – Worst Case No State Funding Farm Bill Includes Influx of Funds for Chesapeake Bay Watershed Bill Would Help Farmers, Municipalities Pay For Bay Cleanup](#)
[Chambersburg Seek Relief in Court from Bay Cleanup Burden](#)

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

Video Blog: [Sen. Brubaker’s Remarks on Fair Share Plan](#)

Links: [Coalition Proposes Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan, Original Announcement](#)
[16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding](#)
[CBF, Other Groups Ask State to Be a Partner in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan](#)
[40,000 More Acres of Corn, Soybeans Increase Conservation Needs](#)
[Brubaker, Musto Say Senate Infrastructure Bill Should Be Expanded](#)
[New Federal Farm Bill Promises Aid, But PA Farmers Need \\$600 M for Cleanup](#)
[Rep. Perry, 37 Co-Sponsors Introduce Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Plan](#)
[New House Bill Opens Debate on How to Fund Nutrient Pollution Cleanup](#)
[Support for PA Fair Share For Clean Water Plan Grows, New Website Open](#)
[Task Force Hears Support for Fair Share Clean Water Plan – Video Blog](#)

Senate Committees to Consider Water Infrastructure Bills, Great Lakes Compact

The Senate Appropriations and Environmental Resources and Energy Committees are set to consider legislation on June 9 and 10 that would provide funding for water infrastructure upgrades.

On June 9 the Senate Appropriations Committee will consider [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earl-R-Erie) that would provide \$750 million from the Gaming Fund for drinking water, wastewater, flood control and high hazard dam projects. Action on the legislation was postponed from last week while changes were being considered to the bill.

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On June 10 the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will consider [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) that asks voters to approve a \$1 billion bond issue to help pay for wastewater plant upgrades.

The Environmental Committee will also consider legislation adopting the Great Lakes Compact and other bills including:

- [Senate Bill 1408](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) and [Senate Bill 1409](#) (Wozniak) authorizing the use of nonstructural alternatives to address flooding problems;
- [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact; and
- [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts.

Part of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to reduce nutrients from wastewater treatment plants and farms calls for \$500 million in funding for treatment plants over the next seven years to help them meet this federal Clean Water Act mandate imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

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

New REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Accepted in August

Pennsylvania farmers now have a second opportunity to apply for the next round of [Resource Enhancement and Protection Program \(REAP\)](#) tax credits that rewards farmers for installing conservation practices that reduce erosion and sedimentation.

Applications will be accepted starting August 4 with postmarks after July 30.

"Pennsylvania is committed to helping farmers maintain viable businesses, and to improving conservation practices that protect water quality," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "Farmers need support in this time of rising production and energy costs, and programs like REAP provide a win-win for everyone."

Part of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to reduce nutrients from wastewater treatment plants and farms calls for an increase in the REAP tax credit from \$10 to \$35 million to help them meet this federal Clean Water Act mandate imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

REAP is administered by the State Conservation Commission and encourages farmers to use conservation best management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation impacting Pennsylvania's streams and watersheds.

Farmers can receive tax credits of up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation for 50 or 75 percent of the total cost of a conservation project, depending on the best management practice implemented. Farmers may also qualify for a 50 percent tax credit to purchase no-till planting equipment.

Applicants are encouraged to work with local county conservation districts or the Natural Resources Conservation Service before applying to ensure current plans are in place for each farming operation, including conservation, agricultural erosion and sedimentation control, and nutrient management plans, if required.

Guidelines and applications for the 2008-09 Resource Enhancement and Protection tax credit program are now [available now online](#). For those without Internet access, the commission can mail an application.

For more information about the program, contact Program Administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or send email to: mabender@state.pa.us

Ozone Action Days Forecast for Berks/Lehigh, Susquehanna Valley, Philadelphia

The Department of Environmental Protection and its regional air quality partnerships announced air quality action days are forecast for Saturday in the Philadelphia region and Monday in the Berks/Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna Valley regions.

The Air Quality Partnership of the Delaware Valley has issued a code RED forecast for Saturday for Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties, and anticipates unhealthy levels of ozone to continue through the weekend. Action days may also be announced for Sunday and Monday.

- The air quality forecast says Monday will be code ORANGE for ozone in the Berks/Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna Valley areas.
- The Berks/Lehigh Valley region includes Berks, Lehigh and Northampton counties; and
- The Susquehanna Valley region includes Cumberland, Lebanon, Dauphin, Lancaster and York counties.

[More details of the announcement are available online.](#)

Visit the [PA Air Quality Partnership webpage](#) for more background on Air Quality Action Days.

Online Video Features

Appalachian Reforestation Initiative Showcased at Jennings Environmental Center

The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative is a coalition of citizen groups, the coal industry, and government, dedicated to restoring forests on coal mined lands in the Eastern United States.

Recently, The Jennings Environmental Education Center in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed near Butler, Pa hosted a dedication and tree planting ceremony for an ARRI demonstration site located on the grounds of their facility.

This [Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Video Diary](#) takes you to the Jennings Environmental Education Center to learn how ARRI is gaining momentum in Pennsylvania.

Video Diaries are produced by Andy McAllister, Watershed Coordinator with WPCAMR, and are available on the [Abandoned Mine Posts webpage](#).

[Online Video Diary on Reforestation](#)

Link: [Jennings EE Center Demonstrates New Approach to Hardwood Reforestation](#)

Student Fish Art Inspires Watershed Awareness in Monroe County

Students in the East Stroudsburg University Student Art Association test out the proposed spot for a trout sculpture that will soon be joined by 14 other sculptures on display throughout Monroe County from June to September.

The goal of the project is to draw attention to protecting streams in Monroe County, the Broadhead Watershed in particular.

[Online video story courtesy of the Pocono Record.](#)

Link: [Fish Art is Raising Awareness of Pocono Watershed Issues](#)

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Bills Introduced

Here's what's coming up on the Senate and House agenda for next week, as well as the voting session schedule through June 30.

Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session on June 9.

House 2008 Session Days—

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

Senate 2008 Session Days--

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

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

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House published committee schedules for next week and floor Calendars for June 9--

Calendars

House (June 9): [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices; [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding; [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax; [Special Session House Resolution 6](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) designating November 15 as "Pennsylvania GIS Day" and the week of November 11-17 as "National Geography Awareness Week."

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Senate (June 9): [Senate Bill 352](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) providing for a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program allocation of funds; [Senate Resolution 283](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) recognizing the accomplishments of Franklin & Marshall Professors Robert Walter and Dorothy Merritts on their research into legacy sediments.

Committees

House: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Centre) authorizing nonstructural alternatives to control flooding, [House Bill 2549](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs; the Game and Fisheries Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2575](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) that authorizing elk deterrent fences and reimbursement for certain damages; the Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2266](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) updating and expanding stormwater/watershed planning requirements.

Senate: the Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie) H2O Water Infrastructure Funding Program, [Senate Bill 1050](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) providing funding for waste tire removal and recycling; the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$1 billion bond issue voter referendum for water, wastewater and stormwater projects, [Senate Bill 1408](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) and [Senate Bill 1409](#) (Wozniak) authorizing the use of nonstructural alternatives to address flooding problems, [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact; and [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts.

Bills Introduced

The following legislation of interest was introduced this week—

Horizontal Wells: [House Bill 2453](#) (Major-R-Susquehanna) amending the Oil and Gas Conservation Law providing that horizontal wells drilled into the Marcellus Shale horizon are subject to the requirements of the act.

Hybrid Tax Exemption: [House Bill 2587](#) (DePasquale-D-York) excluding the purchase price of hybrid and fuel-efficient vehicles from Sales Tax.

Hybrid Rebates: [House Bill 2588](#) (DePasquale-D-York) amending the Alternative Fuels Incentive Act to increase hybrid, bi-fuel or dual-fuel rebates to at least \$1,000.

On the Governor's Desk

[House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to protect the Appalachian Trail was given final approval by the House and now goes to the Governor for his action.

Senate/House Bills Moving

These bills of interest saw action in the House and Senate this week—

Senate

Energy Assistance: [Senate Bill 352](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) providing for a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program allocation of funds was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Game Commission Board: [House Bill 1214](#) (Surra-D-Elk) changing the term of office for Game Commission board members was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

House

Adopt-A-River: [House Bill 328](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) establishing the Adopt-A-River Program within DCNR was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

Flood Assistance: [House Bill 1989](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) establishing the PA Flood Grant and Assistance Program was reported from the House Appropriations Committee on a party line vote and is now on the House Calendar for action. Republicans voted against the bill because it included a tax on property insurance policies.

House Committee Reports Out Adopt-A-River Bill

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week reported out legislation to create an Adopt-A-River Program, but withheld action on bills to prohibit the sale of mercury thermostats and establish an Office of Environmental Advocate. The bills include:

- [House Bill 328](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) establishing the Adopt-A-River Program within DCNR; and
- [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale of mercury thermostats (withdrawn to be considered at a future meeting); and
- [House Bill 454](#) (Frankel-D-Allegheny) establishing the Office of Environmental Advocate.(formally tabled).

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

Rep. Freeman's Appalachian Trail Protection Measure Sent to Governor

The House this week concurred in amendments the Senate made to [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) that would require local governments to better protect the Appalachian Trail sending the bill to the Governor for his action.

The legislation would require municipalities that contain portions of the Appalachian Trail to adopt, implement and enforce zoning ordinances as part of their responsibility to protect the trail.

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Rep. Freeman's bill strengthens a 1978 law that was intended to protect the trail as a state scenic, historic and aesthetic treasure. The original law did not mandate the zoning required in Freeman's bill, which is critical to protecting the trail from inappropriate development.

"My legislation would protect the Appalachian Trail from inappropriate forms of development that could detract from the trail's natural beauty," Rep. Freeman said. "The Appalachian Trail is one of Pennsylvania's great natural assets, and this bill will guarantee it is protected for present and future generations to enjoy in its pristine state."

Rep. Freeman said the legislation was suggested by Easton environmental attorney Charles Elliot and was the result of a situation in Monroe County where a developer purchased land near the Appalachian Trail with the intent of constructing a private automobile racing club. Since the township where this development was proposed had no zoning in place at the time, there was little that could be done to block the inappropriate use.

"Once my legislation is signed into law by the governor, municipalities will have to put in place zoning ordinances that will protect the trail from similar types of development that would mar the trail and its surrounding environment," Rep. Freeman said.

House Committee to Consider Bills on Flooding, Dam Repair Funding

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets June 11 to consider legislation promoting nonstructural alternatives to control flooding and authorize PENNVEST to fund high hazard dam repair projects. The bills include:

- [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Centre) authorizing nonstructural alternatives to control flooding; and
- [House Bill 2549](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs.

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

Other News

SRBC Notifies 23 Companies of Water Use Rules for Natural Gas Well Development

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission this week notified 23 natural gas operators currently using or planning to use water to develop wells in the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations in the Susquehanna watershed that they [must have approval from SRBC](#).

The process of developing natural gas wells in the two shale formations includes using water for drilling, for storage in on-site impoundments and subsurface rock fracturing known as hydrofracing.

Companies operating without prior water use approval for those and other water-related activities will be considered in willful noncompliance if they continue to operate after receiving SRBC's notice.

More than 72 percent of the tri-state Susquehanna watershed, covering portions of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, fall within the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations. Advancements in technology for capturing natural gas in those two shale

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formations require operators to inject large amounts of water underground to break up deep rock formations.

“Given the nature of this technology for developing wells and its rapid application within the Susquehanna basin, the Commission is exercising its regulatory authority with regard to the natural gas industry,” said SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz.

“Companies meeting the Commission’s regulatory threshold for consumptive water use and water withdrawals will need prior approval.”

Swartz said, “With mounting concern over well development practices in the Susquehanna watershed, SRBC’s industry-wide notification will serve as a critical step as we work to achieve environmental protection and compliance while supporting the development of a potentially viable energy source.”

The specific regulatory authorities SRBC referenced in the notice are:

- 18 CFR, Section 806.4 – Consumptive water use of 20,000 gallons per day (gpd) or more during any consecutive 30-day period. Consumptive use is defined by SRBC as water that is used in a way it is not returned to the basin, including through evaporation, irrigation, use in products, injection of water or wastewater into a subsurface formation when it would not be reasonably available for future use, and diversions out of the Susquehanna watershed;
- 18 CFR, Section 806.4(a)(2) – Water withdrawals of 100,000 gpd or more during any consecutive 30-day period; and
- 18 CFR, Section 806.4(a)(2)(iii) – Consumptive water use that involves surface water or groundwater withdrawals.

SRBC also informed companies that it has the authority to make an across-the-board determination that well development activities in the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations may require approval regardless of the amount of water used. SRBC can exercise this broad authority if it determines the water-using activities may affect interstate water quality, may have a significant effect on SRBC’s Comprehensive Plan, or may have an adverse, cumulative, or interstate effect on the basin’s water resources.

SRBC’s regulations are intended to protect the environment and existing water users from unapproved water use and to help avoid water use conflicts.

SRBC is actively engaged with the environmental, conservation and fisheries agencies in New York and Pennsylvania to ensure good coordination during the inspection of existing and pending sites and during the review of applications.

Swartz said, “While SRBC anticipates enhanced compliance within the natural gas industry, the enforcement orders issued separately by SRBC and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on May 30 against two companies hopefully served as notice to other potential violators.”

State resource agencies from Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland are also concerned about the sources of water some of the companies are targeting. With some of the most productive natural gas sources being in the upper reaches of smaller watersheds, companies are at times targeting water sources in the smaller headwater streams.

Headwater streams generally do not provide large volumes of water and they are critical for downstream aquatic habitat and for other water uses – making large volume water needs for well development incompatible. SRBC is coordinating its activities with these state agencies and is fully engaged in outreach with the industry to facilitate compliance.

Information on [water use requirements is available online](#).

Natural Gas Industry Expected to Abide by State Environmental Laws, Regulations

Department of Environmental Protection this week advised oil and gas industry officials this week that developing the natural gas resources found in the Marcellus Shale formation must be done in accordance with the [state's environmental laws and regulations](#).

DEP has mobilized its oil and gas inspectors and has begun inspecting each site currently permitted to drill into the Marcellus Shale.

“While a great deal of economic opportunity is expected to come from the development of the Marcellus Shale formation, our department will ensure that Pennsylvania’s natural resources are not sacrificed,” said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. “Over the past week, our inspections have uncovered a number of serious violations that will adversely impact nearby water resources. These violations need to be addressed immediately.”

Violations observed by inspectors during the past five days included poorly constructed and over-topping impoundments, inadequate erosion and sediment controls, improper waste and fluid disposal, and an inability on the part of site operators to identify the source of water in some impoundments.

DEP and other state agencies and commissions will continue to conduct site inspections to review procedures and regulations with operators and land-owners. If violations are found, the agency will issue orders and suspend operations.

Well operators will be required to present the following information to the department before well drilling permits will be issued in Pennsylvania:

- Well type, either vertical or lateral with topographical maps showing location of wells, laterals and property lines;
- Size and type of earth disturbances and locations of roads and pipelines;
- Preparedness, prevention and contingency plans;
- Anticipated water withdrawals, locations of withdrawal points, water management plans to protect surface and groundwater, and appropriate permits from the Susquehanna or Delaware river basin commissions if required.
- Name, location and permit number for treatment facilities where all waste water including water used for hydro-fracturing, or fracking as it is more commonly known, will be taken for treatment or disposal; and
- Water obstruction and encroachment permits where well construction, excavation or operation will affect a stream, wetland or other body of water.

More information on [oil and gas drilling regulations is available online](#).

Gas Operators Invited to Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale Summit June 13

Current and prospective gas operators of the Marcellus Shale are invited to attend a Summit meeting on June 13 in Harrisburg to discuss Pennsylvania’s environmental rules and regulations and the future of the gas and oil industry in the Commonwealth.

The summit will be hosted by the Department of Environmental Protection along with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission, Pennsylvania’s county conservation districts and others.

The Summit will be start at 10:30 a.m. and will be held in the VIP Lounge at the [Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex](#) in Harrisburg. The VIP Lounge is located on the third

level of the Northeast Hall near the large arena. Parking is available behind the Farm Show Complex by the Equine Arena and can be accessed from Wildwood Park Drive.

For more information, contact John Stefanko at DEP at 717-787-4092 or send email to: jstefanko@state.pa.us.

Game Commission Uses Remining to Reclaim Site in Cambria County

To demonstrate how current mining practices can be used to fix problems caused by past mining practices for the betterment of wildlife, officials from the Game Commission and E.P. Bender Coal Company Inc., of Carrolltown, this week showcased completed wildlife habitat enhancement and abandoned mine reclamation projects on State Game Land 108 in Dean Township, Cambria County.

The project began with the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners approving, on June 22, 2004, a surface mining coal lease for a 60-acre parcel of SGL 120, which is comprised of 7,541 acres in Cambria and Clearfield counties. As part of the lease, which was executed on May 16, 2005, E.P. Bender could remove 390,000 tons of coal.

On SGL 108 in Dean Township, Cambria County, E.P. Bender Coal Co. worked with the Game Commission to enhance wildlife habitat and improve water quality in the Clearfield Creek watershed.

The plan involved the reclamation of abandoned coal refuse piles and stabilization of severely eroded channels that were dumping deep mine discharges into an unnamed tributary of Clearfield Creek.

Clearfield Creek and the unnamed tributary are both listed as impaired streams in the Department of Environmental Protection's 2008 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. In both cases, the impairment is based on water quality degradation resulting from abandoned mine drainage.

The planned reclamation and habitat improvement project involved the reclamation of two abandoned coal refuse piles totaling 3.5 acres, stabilization of about 1,600 linear feet of two deep mine discharge channels, and the liming, seeding and fertilizing of all disturbed areas to create more than 3.5 acres of herbaceous food plots for wildlife.

"This project, now completed, exceeded what was originally proposed," said Nate Havens, Game Commission Water Pollution Biologist with Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection Division of the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management. "As completed, the project stabilized more than 1,700 linear feet of deep mine discharge channels and created more than 4 acres of herbaceous food plots. Additional wildlife habitat enhancements have been provided through improved riparian corridors along the stabilized channels and numerous brush piles constructed from material that remained onsite following the pre-reclamation timber harvest that was conducted by the Game Commission.

"Now that the coal refuse has been properly graded to a more stable slope, covered with soil and vegetated, coal fines and sediment washing into the unnamed tributary, and ultimately into Clearfield Creek will be significantly reduced. Similarly, the stabilization of the deep mine discharge channels also will result in substantial reductions in sediment loads originating in the channels themselves. Over time, as additional vegetative cover is established, less precipitation will come into contact with the underlying coal refuse,

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resulting in decreased acidity and metals loading to the unnamed tributary and Clearfield Creek."

As testament to its commitment to this project and the improvement of water quality in the Clearfield Creek watershed, E.P. Bender Coal Company returned to the site to add another 200 linear feet of limestone riprap to the stabilized channels in an effort to raise the pH-level and reduce the concentration of dissolved metals in the deep mine discharges.

"This limestone was not required as part of the reclamation plan approved under the lease," Havens said. "However, acting as a good corporate citizen, E.P. Bender willingly exceeded what was originally agreed to in the lease.

"Although these reclamation efforts are not likely to result in non-impairment status for the unnamed tributary, it is an important step toward abating the abandoned mine discharges in this tributary to Clearfield Creek and will hopefully facilitate future efforts toward that goal."

In addition to the work on SGL 108, E.P. Bender Coal Co., as part of the overall lease agreement, has been actively working with the Game Commission to construct deer enclosure fencing, and to apply herbicide and lime to several designated areas on SGLs 120 and 158 in an effort to enhance forest regeneration and wildlife habitat diversity. Early results from these ongoing projects are showing a favorable response by the vegetative communities.

Also as part of the lease, and in addition to the habitat enhancements and mine reclamation projects, E.P. Bender Coal Company acquired about 12 tracts of land totaling 1,100 acres for the Game Commission. These 12 tracts became parts of SGLs 60, 120, 174 and 276.

"This project is just one of many cooperative projects that the Game Commission has facilitated with private industry through our Oil/Gas and Mineral Development Program," said William Capouillez, Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management director. "Although both the Game Commission and industry receive revenue as a result of our leasing actions, it is important to recognize the environmental improvements that are often incorporated into our leases and willingly implemented by operators such as E.P. Bender Coal Company.

"The wildlife habitat enhancement and abandoned mine reclamation projects that E.P. Bender Coal Company implemented on SGLs 108, 120 and 158 were valued at more than \$200,000 at the time the plan was developed. This \$200,000 is in addition to the coal royalties that are being paid to the Game Commission in the form of land and direct monetary compensation."

Group to Hold Public Meeting on Proposed Dam Repairs June 26 in Beaver County

The [Hereford Manor Lakes Conservancy and Watershed Group](#) will hold a public meeting June 26 to discuss the most cost effective measures to repair and rehabilitate area dams in Beaver County.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the Zelenople Municipal Airport in Beaver County at the junction of Routes 288 and 588.

The meeting will review a feasibility study commissioned by the group and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to determine and recommend to the Fish and Boat Commission the best way to repair the dams.

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According to the PFBC, the dams appear to have been constructed in conjunction with strip mining operations prior to 1958. Hereford Manor Lakes have been listed by the PFBC as a high hazard dam built at the end of a strip mining operation.

For more information, visit the [HMLC&WG website](#).

Rep. Sturla Invites Volunteers to Conestoga River Cleanup June 14

Rep. Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster) is inviting community volunteers to help him and local organizations clean up the Conestoga River from 8:30 a.m. to noon June 14.

Volunteers will meet at the bridge to the Barnes Hall Detention Center off of South Broad Street in Lancaster city, and should wear long pants and bring their own work gloves.

“We urge people of all ages to volunteer whatever time they can to help keep the Conestoga River beautiful and healthy,” Rep. Sturla said. “With everyone’s help, we can have another successful cleanup.”

Rep. Sturla is co-sponsoring his annual cleanup with the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, the city of Lancaster, Franklin and Marshall College, and Lancaster Laboratory.

Rep. Sturla introduced [House Bill 328](#) that would establish a state Adopt-A-River program to help restore Pennsylvania’s rivers, spark interest in volunteerism and conserve natural resources. The Department of Environmental Protection would administer the program and provide trash bags, safety information and assistance to volunteer groups.

The bill was approved by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week.

“I thank the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for approving my bill, and I hope the House can quickly act on it to help Pennsylvania’s rivers remain healthy,” Rep. Sturla said.

To sign up, contact Pat Coller in Sturla’s district office at 717-295-3157 or send email to: pcoller@pahouse.net .

Fish & Boat Commission Celebrates Shad With Stocking, Fish Fry Events in June

The Fish and Boat Commission will hold a shad stocking event and fish fry on June 11 on Bald Eagle Creek near Lock Haven in Clinton County starting at 1:00 and on June 20 on the Schuylkill River in Reading.

American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) were once the most important freshwater commercial and sport fish in the eastern U.S. and it is estimated that once the large game fish is fully restored and self-sustaining in the West Branch Susquehanna River, activities related to their annual spring migration could generate an estimated \$50 million a year.

Regionally these annual release events have stocked over 6,836,050 fry including the 1.6 million fry released in Williamsport last week. In Clinton County, 986,000 shad fry have been released in the last four years. The long-term goal, for the Susquehanna River Basin restoration plan, is for two million adult American shad returning to spawn by 2025.

Highlighting the local June 11 shad fry stocking event, Fish and Boat Commission Fisheries biologists will present an on-site informative short program on American shad

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history, life cycle, and current and future restoration efforts on the West Branch Susquehanna River.

At the closing of the presentation adventurous adults and youth will have an historical opportunity to step into the Bald Eagle Creek to lend a hand in releasing 125,000 shad fry.

This hour long American shad release event will begin at 1 p.m. at the Castanea Township. Bald Eagle Creek boat access park. From Lock Haven travel south on Paul Mack Blvd., turn right onto Upper Creek Road and a second right into the park.

The June 20 event, which begins at noon at Kerper's Landing on the Schuylkill River along Riverfront Drive in Reading, will also feature a question and answer session by Fish and Boat Commission biologists on shad behavior and agency plans for a restored shad fishery.

For more information on the June 11 event contact the Elisabeth L. Lynch at 570-893-4123 or send email to: elynch@clintoncountypa.com. For more information on the June 20 contact Chari Towne, Delaware Riverkeeper Network at 215-369-1188 ext. 109 or send email to: chari@delawareriverkeeper.org.

PUC Calls PJM's Reliability Pricing Model Unjust and Unreasonable

The [Public Utility Commission](#) this week announced it has joined the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Delaware Public Service Commission and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, state consumer advocates and a large group of wholesale and retail electricity customers in filing a complaint against [PJM Interconnection](#), LLC, a public utility regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The PUC and the complainants ask FERC to hold that PJM's Reliability Pricing Model, as implemented through the "transitional" Base Residual Auctions, has produced unjust and unreasonable capacity prices in the region.

For Pennsylvania, that equals \$5 billion and unless FERC acts decisively, PJM will impose these unjust rates on electricity customers from June 1, 2008, through May 31, 2011.

The complainants urge FERC to recognize that the transitional period auctions have produced excessive capacity prices, have failed to prevent generation suppliers from exercising market power, and did not produce benefits commensurate with their costs. FERC has an ongoing duty to ensure that implementation of RPM and the results of the capacity auctions are just and reasonable.

"Together with other states in the PJM region, Pennsylvania continues to participate in federal market structure issues to ensure that Pennsylvania's ratepayers are protected and wholesale electricity markets function consistent with the public interest," said Wendell F. Holland, PUC Chairman and founding President of the Organization of PJM States. "This filing is one of many ongoing efforts our Commission has taken to advance the interests of Pennsylvania's electric ratepayers. We will continue to move forward in this proceeding as well as others to make certain that Pennsylvania's interests are protected in the federal arena."

The following elements are listed in the complaint as producing unlawful rates: the transition period auctions lacked an essential element necessary to assure just and reasonable market-based capacity rates – competition from new resources, including demand response and new transmission, that could discipline conduct and prices;

the administrative apparatus that is RPM's hallmark has proven inadequate during the transition to restrain the exercise of market power by the withholding of capacity to increase prices; and RPM's highly touted locational component created additional opportunities for sellers to raise prices while serving no legitimate function during the transition.

There is no deadline for FERC to act on the complaint, but the complainants have asked the federal agency to act swiftly.

NewsClip: [Electricity Said to Be Too Costly](#)
[PA, Mid-Atlantic States Say Electric Prices Unfair](#)
[States Fight High Electricity Prices](#)

PA Gas Association Launches Campaign to Improve Natural Gas Infrastructure

The Pennsylvania Gas Association, a subsidiary of the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, this week launched a public and legislative informational campaign focused on [infrastructure replacement for the natural gas industry](#).

The campaign will draw attention to and seek solutions for the states' aging natural gas infrastructure, a concern to many in the Commonwealth.

"For too long now, this issue has been 'out of sight and out of mind'," says J. Michael Love, president, Pennsylvania Gas Association. "Aging gas pipelines have served us well, but we need to ensure that the gas infrastructure going forward remains safe and reliable. In addition, as the costs of the natural gas commodity increases for our member companies, we want to make sure the delivery to homes and businesses is as efficient as possible protecting both investments and the environment."

Some 46,000 miles of underground natural gas pipeline are currently in place in Pennsylvania. This system is a critical part of our community infrastructure which most of us cannot see or touch, so it clearly does not receive attention from the community on a regular basis.

Replacing aging natural gas infrastructure will not only help to keep Pennsylvania economically competitive, but the replacement work itself is a huge economic stimulus.

Natural gas utilities across the state are investing billions of dollars into the economy to replace their delivery systems as they reach the end of their useful operating life and that work only stands to increase in the coming years. Replacing this infrastructure creates a large demand in various job markets from engineering and construction to agricultural and hospitality jobs and many more.

The campaign, Pennsylvanians for Renewed Natural Gas Infrastructure, will educate consumers and promote legislation ensuring that Pennsylvania's natural gas distribution companies continue to have infrastructure that meets current standards for delivering safe and reliable natural gas service. Natural gas is delivered to some 231,000 businesses and approximately 6,000,000 residents in Pennsylvania twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

"Pennsylvanians for Renewed Natural Gas Infrastructure will focus on how to deal with our aging natural gas delivery systems in the most efficient and effective manner," adds Love. "The campaign will work to educate the public and legislators on the needs for natural gas infrastructure improvements in Pennsylvania. Many existing regulatory and cost allocation policies were put into place decades ago and must be re-examined to ensure continued reliability of one of our most precious energy sources."

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Current supporters of Pennsylvanians for Renewed Natural Gas Infrastructure include Northern Pipeline, Columbia Gas of Pa., Dominion Peoples, UGI Penn Natural Gas, Inc., UGI Utilities, Inc., Equitable Gas Co., Utility Workers Union of America, Locals 475 and 479, United Steelworkers of America, Locals 1852-17, 7139-03 and 13836-14, Banks Gas Services, and National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp.

Other supporters include various chambers including those in Washington County and serving Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania Business Council is also participating. Says Love, "We're pleased that these business organizations are seeing the long-term benefits of taking action now."

The campaign was developed following the first-ever Pennsylvania Infrastructure Summit held in Harrisburg in April, in which the pressing need to address natural gas infrastructure was raised. During the day-long event, senior executives from numerous infrastructure-related industries, and state and nonprofit agencies, outlined the needs of their industry and how these needs could be met.

In addition, some companies discussed planned capital improvements that are either in process or will be accomplished over the next several years. "We realize the key to our 20-year, \$1.4 billion infrastructure upgrade is completing the work with the least impact on our customers, and coordinating construction schedules with the community is a big part of that," said Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania President Terrence J. Murphy. "By working together not only can we reduce construction in a community, but we can help reduce municipal and our own expenses by sharing costs."

Love pointed to the cooperative efforts underway in York, Pa. Columbia Gas and local government officials are working diligently to coordinate construction, often in city streets, to minimize the impact on residents and businesses while maximizing pipeline replacement.

"The condition of our infrastructure is directly linked to our quality of life and our economic growth, and the fact that infrastructure has a useful life and will need to be replaced was a key component of the discussion at the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Summit," said Love. "We must develop a solution now in order to appropriately maintain our state's natural gas distribution system.

"By investing in infrastructure development and replacement we add family sustaining jobs, infuse tens of million of dollars into the state's economy while ensuring safe and reliable utility services for residents and businesses for years to come," Love added.

In April, western Rep. Tim Solobay (D-Washington) introduced House Bill 2448, to facilitate in the prompt and timely replacement of natural gas facilities as they reach the end of their useful operating life.

The proposed bill will evenly spread replacement costs over several years, rather than continue the burdensome practice of price spikes at the conclusion of lengthy and expensive rate cases.

"A similar measure is already law in Pennsylvania for water utilities and is considered a best practice within the water industry nationally," Love underscores.

"The bill is important for all business -- from large utilities and engineering firms to contractors like me," said Tom Banks, owner of Banks Gas Services in North Versailles, Pennsylvania. "We do a lot of work for gas distribution companies and I believe this is proof of what I heard one Presidential candidate say, 'investment in infrastructure is an investment in the economy'."

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvanians for Renewed Natural Gas Infrastructure website](#).

NewsClip: [Consumer Advocate Opposes Natural Gas Pipeline DISC Proposal](#)

Carnegie Mellon Names 'Green' Dorm in Honor of Its Fifth President

Carnegie Mellon has named its “green” first-year residence hall in honor of H. Guyford Stever, the university's fifth president. At the school's 1967 commencement, it was Stever who announced the formation of Carnegie Mellon University as a result of a merger between the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the Mellon Institute of Research.

Some 41 years later, Carnegie Mellon President Jared Cohon told the Class of 2008 that New House, the nation's first "green" dormitory, would become Stever House.

"Carnegie Mellon and the nation owe President Stever an enormous debt of gratitude," Cohon said, referencing Stever's accomplishments in both science and academics. "President Stever oversaw the complex transition to Carnegie Mellon University with his characteristic thoughtfulness and effectiveness, setting the stage for the university's growth and achievement ever since."

Stever also led the creation of the Department (now School) of Computer Science and the School of Urban and Public Affairs (now the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management), two programs significant to Carnegie Mellon's core.

Stever House is notable for being the first dormitory in the nation to be certified for its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED from the U.S. Green Building Council). It has a "silver" LEED designation because of its low environmental impact in both construction and function.

"It is fitting to associate Dad's service with a living experience such as Stever House," Stever's son, Roy said. The relationship is twofold, Roy Stever explained; his father is passionate about environmental change, and he is enthusiastic about the university's success in community-oriented dorms like Stever House.

"The late 1960s and early 1970s were not comfortable times for college presidents, nor faculty and students," Roy Stever continued. "The commitment to listen to all voices has clearly flourished at Carnegie Mellon over the years."

"The naming of Stever House came as a huge surprise to me and my family. It is a tremendous honor and something we are all very proud to be a part of," said Kasey Stever, who accepted the honor on behalf of her grandfather and their family during commencement on May 18. A member of Carnegie Mellon's Class of 2008, Kasey Stever earned an industrial design degree.

PA Recycling Markets Center is Founding Reporter of The Climate Registry

The [PA Recycling Markets Center](#) has become a Founding Reporter of [The Climate Registry](#) by being the 71st member to join the organization.

The Climate Registry is a non-profit organization established to measure and publicly report greenhouse gas emissions in a common, accurate and transparent manner consistent across industry sectors and borders.

Thirty-nine U.S. states, six Canadian provinces, three Native American tribes, two Mexican states and the District of Columbia are the other founders of the organization.

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“The RMC has demonstrated exemplary environmental leadership by courageously stepping forward to support The Climate Registry in its preliminary stages. We are deeply grateful for its integral support in helping to address the challenge of climate change,” said Gina McCarthy, chair of The Climate Registry.

A forerunner in recycling markets development and expansion, the RMC has demonstrated environmental stewardship on several fronts by voluntarily committing to measure, independently verify, and publicly report its greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis utilizing [The Climate Registry General Reporting Protocol](#). The protocol is based on the internationally recognized GHG measurement standards of the World Resources Institute and World Business Council on Sustainability.

For more information visit the [PA Recycling Markets Center](#) and [The Climate Registry](#) websites.

Commerce Bank Encourages Greater Philadelphia to Pledge to Go Green June 8

Commerce Bank is encouraging Greater Philadelphia residents to "go green" during the final leg of the [Commerce Bank Triple Crown of Cycling](#), the Philadelphia International Championship, on June 8.

Commerce will donate \$1, up to \$10,000, for every person that pledges to reduce their carbon footprint to the Fairmount Park Conservancy to benefit Fairmount Park's environmental education programs.

Throughout the day on June 8, anyone can visit the 100-foot-long banner, made of Earth-friendly paper, on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and leave their green signature as a pledge to be more environmentally friendly. Commerce will also be handing out backpacks made from recycled materials.

"At Commerce we want to tell people it's WOW! to be green," said Mike Carbone, metro Philadelphia president, Commerce Bank. "Many people want to, and already do, make environmentally friendly choices, and this is a cool way to show it and encourage others to do the same."

DEP Soliciting Coastal Land Acquisition Proposals, Applications Due July 7

The [Coastal Zone Management Program](#) of the Department of Environmental Protection is soliciting land acquisition grant proposals to submit to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

Proposals are due to DEP by July 7.

The CELCP places an emphasis on "ecologically valuable" lands. The geographic areas covered by the CELCP are the designated Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone Watershed and the Lake Erie Coastal Zone Watershed.

Grant applications may be made for the purchase of land acquisitions or interests; these may be in fee-simple title or as conservation easements. A major condition of the CELCP Program is that the title or easement must be held by a governmental/public entity.



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Grant awards must be matched dollar-for-dollar (may include in-kind match but not other Federal funds) and are capped at \$3 million each (Federal share). Land trusts may hold sub-easements for management and stewardship on CELCP-funded properties and may assist in the development of proposals, but they may not hold title to any property acquired with the CELCP funds.

More background is available online in the [PA Bulletin Notice](#).

For more information, visit DEP's [Coastal Zone Management webpage](#) or contact Chris Linn at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, 215-238-2873 or send email to: clinn@dvrpc.org; or Julia McConnaughey at the Erie County Planning Department, 814-451-6018 or send email to: jmcconnaughey@eriecountygov.org; or Jeff Dewey DEP's Water Planning Office, 717-772-5619 or send email to: jdewey@state.pa.us

Young Peregrine Falcons Prepare to Take Their First Flights in Harrisburg



The four [young Peregrine falcons](#) living in a nest on the 15th floor ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg are progressing normally and should be ready to take their first flights next week.

Volunteers will keep tabs on the “fledglings” to help keep them out of harm’s way. The falcons’ first flights are precarious at best, and they often land on the street below or in other places such as nearby parking garages. When they do, volunteers radio DEP’s education staff who come to their rescue.

After a quick examination, they’re placed back on the roof of the building to try again.

Over the next eight weeks, the young Peregrines will get flight and hunting lessons from the adults before they leave the nest, often traveling hundreds of miles in unknown directions to see out a mate and establish their own breeding territories.

During the banding of the falcons that took place May 22, officials determined three of the four young falcons are females. The sex of the fourth young falcon could not be determined.

Visit the DEP [Falcon webcam webpage](#) for more information. You can also watch an [online video of the 2008 banding](#) of the falcons.

NewsClips: [Perfect Birth Rate for Peregrine Falcons Atop PPL Plant](#)
[Falcons Nesting Above Penn Square Reading](#)
[Peregrine Falcons Nest in Wilds of Union County](#)

Pennsylvania's Unique Wildfire Camp Marks 25th Year of Training Volunteers

Because of Pennsylvania's Wildlands Firefighters Camp, thousands of Pennsylvania wildfire fighters are among the best-trained in the country.

The camp has been operated by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources since 1983. More than 300 firefighters and Bureau of Forestry employees from across the state completed the 25th annual training on June 1.

"There is a reason Pennsylvania's volunteer wildfire fighters continue to get the call when the going gets rough with forest and brush fires across the country," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "This intensive weekend training program complements

the spirit of these brave men and women and produces firefighters who are well-received on assignments throughout the country."

The Pennsylvania Wildlands Firefighters Camp at the Boy Scouts of America's Camp Karoondinha, near Glen Iron, Union County, offers beginner and advanced instruction, and plenty of hands-on activities and day-to-day assignments simulating actual wildfire duties.

Over the years, Pennsylvania has provided crews and highly specialized individuals to wildfires in many eastern states and every state west of the Mississippi. Most assignments require firefighters to travel as part of a 20-person crew.

"One has only to watch the evening news to realize that other parts of our country have wildfires on an entirely different scale than found in Pennsylvania," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "Different fuel types, weather conditions and terrain allow fires to grow into community-threatening monsters that require great effort to control. Pennsylvania wildfire fighters regularly receive high reviews for their training, attitude and knowledge."

A detailed training regimen has evolved at the Union County camp: firefighters march to and from classes; receive instructions for the upcoming weekend; and attend classes in pump or chain saw operation, wildfire behavior, and specialized positions. Squad and crew bosses, and others learn to work smoothly as part of an incident command system to determine just how each wildfire is fought.

All firefighters function as a part of a "crew" for the weekend, just as if they were on a large fire out West. They sleep in tents, march to classes and meals, and carry bag-lunches to their field training.

"After training and their out-of-state assignments, these Pennsylvania firefighters bring home more than the satisfaction of giving 100 percent," said Secretary DiBerardinis. "They bring back first-hand knowledge to help them fight large fires in our woodlands. They know how to work as a team in the face of impending disasters.

"There is a strong underlying 'You help me, I'll help you' approach to the cooperative effort to help other states fight fires," Secretary DiBerardinis added. "If we ever face a major wildfire in Pennsylvania, we know help is just a phone call away."

The first fire training camp was offered at Denton Hill State Park, Potter County, for 60 trainees in 1983. This year's attendees represent all of the state's 20 state forest districts.

For more information, visit the DCNR [Forest Fire Protection webpage](#).

Link: [Specialized Training Camps Hone Skills of Volunteer Forest Fire Fighters](#)

DCNR's Geologic Survey GISers Receive Awards

DCNR's [Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey](#) swept both awards at the 2008 Pennsylvania GIS Conference in May for maps prepared by their Geographic Information Systems staff.

Stuart Reese won the award for best analytical use of GIS for his map displaying the results from the analysis of the tree cover density in urban areas of Pennsylvania. The map was one in a series that Stuart prepared to assist DCNR's new statewide TreeVitalize grant program.

Tom Whitfield won top honors for cartographic presentation with his map of the surficial geology of the Harvey's Lake 7.5 minute quadrangle. The Harvey's Lake map is

one in a series of publications describing the geology of the glacial sediments in northeastern Pennsylvania. In this case, the geologic story was enhanced significantly by Tom's use of a shaded-relief basemap derived from the new PaMap lidar data.

For more information on GIS, visit the [Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey's webpage](#).

Spraying to Help Control the West Nile Virus Is Now Underway

The West Nile Virus Control Program has begun its annual surveillance and spraying program to help control the spread of the West Nile virus and protect vulnerable Pennsylvanians.

For a spraying schedule, how to report dead birds that may harbor the virus and information on how you can help control mosquitoes, visit the [West Nile Virus Surveillance Program website](#).

Spotlight

National Get Outdoors Day Celebration Highlights Month-Long Observance

It's not hard to step outside and enjoy the great outdoors when you live in a state blessed with 117 state parks and 2.1 million acres of state forestland. Still, many people are working very hard to make that experience even easier.

Gov. Rendell gave the effort strong momentum in late May when he joined President Bush, more than 20 other state governors, and 50 national organizations in proclaiming June [Outdoors Day](#).

DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis pitched in by issuing an even stronger standing invitation to state residents, urging them to visit their area state parks and state forestlands and see what they have been missing on an upcoming special day geared to first-time visitors.

And the Bureau of State Parks picked up the ball, selecting three of its facilities to host a special celebration of events marking National Get Outdoors Day. If you live close to Chapman State Park in Warren County; Keystone, Westmoreland County; or Nockamixon, Bucks, you'll want to mark Saturday, June 14, on your calendar.

All three state parks are showcasing what Pennsylvania's world of the outdoors have to offer, while, at the same time, embracing the philosophy of the American Recreation Coalition, an extensive network of outdoors-oriented, governmental agencies, conservation groups, and related businesses, committed to bucking a very disturbing trend -- a trend highlighted by Gov. Rendell in his proclamation:

"Great Outdoors Month is a significant opportunity to help reconnect our children to nature and reverse the troubling nationwide trends of children spending half as much time outside as they did 20 years ago and spending six and a half hours each day 'plugged into' electronic media," the Governor said. "Outdoor recreation is vital to the economy of the Commonwealth, and the health and well-being of its residents; and this worthy pursuit will be showcased Saturday, June 14, in National Get Outdoors Day events at Chapman, Keystone and Nockamixon state parks."

Increased involvement in outdoors-based activities was the driving force that drew hundreds to the 2007 Governor's Outdoor Conference, and has been the impetus of

ongoing, high-level state planning and strategy sessions to reverse what has become a national trend.

“The ‘welcome mat’ always is out at all our 117 state parks, but these three ‘Get Outdoors Day’ participants have many, many special events geared to capture the interests of the young, their parents and grandparents,” said Secretary DiBerardinis. “Just one visit to a special waterfall, or lofty state forest overlook is often all that’s needed to show first-timers that the ‘Great Outdoors’ is just that -- great!

“We actively have been reaching out to generate this type interest in our Get Outdoors PA program, under way since 2003 and now offered at 40 state parks across the state.”

Caroline Mica, speaking for the Washington-, D.C., based American Recreation Coalition, noted the increasing disconnect from the outside world must be addressed at a nationwide level. Great Outdoors Month and its Get Outdoors Day observance is a needed effort that’s gathering strong momentum.

“Our work to reconnect children to nature and have them enjoying the benefits of a healthy active outdoor lifestyle is extremely important,” Mica said. “We see elected officials recognizing that outdoor recreation is vital to the health and well-being of their state’s residents and showcasing National Get Outdoors Day.”

Mica applauded the Governor for his proclamation recognizing “the Great Outdoors as a means for combating the troubling nationwide trends of a sedentary lifestyle.”

Fishing derbies, birds-of-prey exhibits, hiking and biking, special tips for first-time campers—the lists of “Get Outdoors Day” activities at the three state parks go on and on.

For more information, visit the [National Outdoors Day website](#).

Opinion

Green Collar Jobs in Pennsylvania

By Dr. Arthur M. Holst

Philadelphia Water Department

The movement to go green has exploded enormously throughout the United States. Many states, including Pennsylvania, have made great advances in advancing ways to protect the environment. Protecting the environment requires new technology and new infrastructure. This requirement is resulting in huge growth within the green industry, which is expected to expand dramatically and change the way the business world works.

In order to produce and create the required technology and infrastructure, the green industry is going to need millions of green collar employees. Workers are needed for many green initiatives, including installing solar panels, producing hybrid cars, constructing wind turbines, and producing biofuels.

Green collar jobs are generally described as blue collar jobs in the green industry.

Both the state government of Pennsylvania and the city government of Philadelphia have been deeply involved in the development of green collar jobs. The United States has lost approximately 400,000 manufacturing jobs in recent history, many due to overseas outsourcing. Fortunately, the majority of green collar jobs are manufacturing jobs, and they

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will be able to eliminate a significant percentage of current unemployment in the manufacturing sector. Green collar jobs cannot be easily outsourced.

The infrastructure is large and must be built and installed on site. Green collar jobs require similar skills and education levels with those used for the lost manufacturing jobs. Not only are green collar jobs seen as replacement jobs and jobs crucial to fighting climate change, they are being seen as a way out of poverty for many citizens. Although some green collar jobs require more education and expertise, the majority can be filled by those with little skill.

In order to grow the pool of green collar jobs, Pennsylvania is going to need funding, job training, available employers, and community interest. The Pennsylvania state government has already passed numerous bills that will help achieve green collar jobs. [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks), which would make changes to Pennsylvania's Alternative Fuels Incentive Fund, was passed by the Senate. Among other benefits, this bill will result in reduced air pollution and reduced dependency on foreign oil. The bill also includes a biodiesel production incentive program. Special Session Senate Bill 22 offers up to seventy-five cents per gallon incentive for the production of biodiesel. [Special Session Senate Bill 36](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango), or the Biodiesel Study and Production Incentive Act, was also passed. This bill involves mandates for the use of biodiesel based on production capacity. Now in the House, both Special Session Senate Bill 22 and Special Session Senate Bill 36 have been referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for consideration.

Pennsylvania currently has two important bills waiting for a hearing in the State Senate: [House Bill 2200](#) (George-D-Clearfield) and [Special Session House Bill 1](#) (DePasquale-D-York). The House of Representatives has passed the bills. Both bills have many different pieces, some of the more important ones including conservation programs, reductions in peak demands of electricity, smart meters for all customers, electricity pricing plans, funding for solar power, green buildings, and wind energy, and consumer rebates to those who replace old appliances with energy efficient ones. House Bill 2200 has been referred to the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, while Special Session House Bill 1 has been referred to the Energy Policies Committee.

The Senate has passed [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango), which is a compromise bill to Special Session House Bill 1. It authorizes \$650 million over the course of ten years for investments in alternative energy and bio-fuels. The bill establishes funding projects for residents and organizations to install alternative energy systems. These projects include funding for direct financial assistance and for tax credits. Special Session Senate Bill 1 also includes grants to help poor families afford heat and electricity, and it gives \$15 million to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority for investment and growth. These are only a few provisions of the bill. The plan does not include a few provisions originally proposed by Gov. Rendell. These include a \$70 million annual tax on electric users and the ability to borrow \$850 million for investments. The \$650 million authorized in Special Session Senate Bill 1 allows only \$250 million to be borrowed from the Commonwealth Financing Authority. Governor Rendell has criticized the bill passed by the Senate, arguing it is progress, but not enough.

Other important bills waiting for a hearing in the State Senate include [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) and [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery). House Bill 1200 would provide \$850 million for alternative fuels investment, but the bill lacks a funding source. The bill was referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy

Committee. House Bill 1202 would require that transportation fields have renewable content. This bill was also referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

In Philadelphia, the Nutter administration has pledged itself to make Philadelphia a great, green city. Recently, numerous organizations such as the American City Foundation and PennFuture have been working closely with the administration to create a greener Philadelphia.

These two organizations, along with numerous others, have created a task force and testified in front of City Council on a resolution calling on the Committee on the Environment and the Committee of Commerce and Economic Development to adopt a Green Job Corps that would help Philadelphia become a city that supports green businesses and jobs.

City Council has also been looking into the possibility of green zoning, which would require that a business or organization meet certain environmental standards before permits or licenses are granted.

Philadelphia has been working hard to show the rest of the world that the city is working to attract green businesses and jobs. The newly constructed Comcast Tower has been honored as a green building, particularly for the waterless urinals that will save thousands of gallons of water each year.

The Philadelphia Water Department has been spreading knowledge about green roofs, and solar panels have been placed on numerous buildings throughout center city. Philadelphia has been granted funding by the Department of Energy to expand its solar energy program. Pennsylvania and Philadelphia have been able to attract companies such as Gamesa, a Spanish wind turbine company. Employing 1,300 workers, Gamesa has two factories in Pennsylvania, and the headquarters are located in Philadelphia.

If business leaders, the labor community, and advocates work together, there is great profit to be made from the growing green industry. The [Sustainable Business Network](#) claims that twenty sectors of the economy can supply green collar jobs. If Pennsylvania continues to make advances and attract green businesses and their employees, the future will be profitable and green.

Dr. Arthur Holst is Government Affairs Manager for the Philadelphia Water Department. He can be reached at 215-685-6143 or by sending email to: Arthur.Holst@phila.gov .

Feature

Land Deal Will Allow Wild Stretch of Susquehanna to Stay That Way By Cindy Ross

Amazingly, the stretch of the Susquehanna River from Holtwood Dam to the Conowingo Dam looks nearly as wild as it did when Native Americans paddled these waters in hollowed-out wooden canoes. Half a dozen bald eagles soar and fish its waters. It is undeveloped, with very little wastewater discharge.

Upstream and downstream, it is a different story, but this 21.5-mile section of the mainstem of the Susquehanna River is exquisite.

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Historical and recreational components sites highlight this stretch. Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve, Otter Creek, Lock 12 Historic Area, two campgrounds, two boat launches and multiple picnic areas have been used by the public for decades. Yet few realize that these valuable lands are not permanently protected.

But that is all about to change. When one of the region's largest land deals is completed, it will transfer 3,500 acres of open space from the Pennsylvania Power & Light Corp. to the [Lancaster County Nature Conservancy](#).

"As a corporation, PPL has a strong commitment to the environment and to the communities where we do business," said William Spence, PPL's executive vice president and chief operating officer. "We're pleased to play a key role in making sure this beautiful land will be preserved and will always be available for public use and enjoyment."

The land transaction, in a single stroke, will nearly double the holdings of the Lancaster County Conservancy, which was started 39 years ago by a group of hunters and anglers who were worried about development encroaching on the county's remaining wild lands.

"The PP&L land deal is taking a relatively small organization and transforming them into one of the 'big players,'" said the Lancaster County Conservancy's president, Ralph Goodno.

Since the conservancy acquired its first property in 1973, it has protected 25 preserves totaling 3,340 acres. The conservancy also manages 800 acres in 23 conservation easements on privately owned land.

Including the PPL lands, Goodno said the conservancy expects to save more than 4,000 acres this year-properties worth a total of about \$9 million.

The crown jewel is the PPL lands near Holtwood Dam, which were assessed at \$20 million but are being sold for \$5 million. Under the terms of the deal, the funds will come from the Community Conservation Partnerships grant program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as from York and Lancaster counties and other partners.

After management changes hands, though, PPL will donate the \$5 million back. It will be used by the conservancy as an endowment fund to maintain and enhance the land for public enjoyment-and possibly buy more land for protection. PPL will also contribute an additional \$200,000 annually to the fund for 22 years.

This is significant for both the conservancy and the public as all of the partners are looking at how they can expand recreational uses on the land as well as develop heritage sites. Because PP&L is in the energy distribution business not the land recreational business, the conservancy is in a much better position to manage the wild lands and provide recreational opportunities.

Lancaster Conservancy and other partners are looking beyond the PPL deal to the whole river corridor. A land management plan is in the works where they are identifying other large tracts of land that could also be secured and protected in the future. The deregulation of electric utilities has led many companies to reduce costs by selling land they don't need for power production.

Just last year, for instance, the [Safe Harbor Water Power Corp.](#) gave about 1,000 acres of undeveloped land along the Susquehanna to The Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit conservation organization.

One potential acquisition could be the wild lands that are connected to the Conowingo Dam, the next dam downriver. It is scheduled to be re-licensed by the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission in 2014 and its owners may also be in the market to unload a chunk of prime, riverfront land.

The Lancaster County Conservancy hopes to be in a financial position to be able to secure and protect yet another gorgeous stretch of the Susquehanna River corridor.

"This recent land deal in building the Susquehanna Greenway is just the start of protecting the Susquehanna River corridor," Goodno said. "It is the beginning of great things for our river."

The Susquehanna land purchase is not the only significant area the conservancy has preserved.

Tucquan Glen Preserve in Martic Township, which lies in the River Hills, is the site of uncharacteristically steep and wild glens, where streams cut their way through the Wissahickon Schist, then tumble to the river. Tucquan, one of 10 such glens, is the conservancy's flagship property and is considered the most pristine and scenic of the ravines.

The upper glen contains stands of old growth. The lower glen is rugged and crowded with pounding waterfalls and jumbled, mammoth boulders. About one mile from the Susquehanna is Devil's Hole-a streamside spot for sitting amongst gorgeous stands of mountain laurel.

Ferncliff Nature Preserve, in Drumore Township, Pa, has been recognized as a National Natural Landmark because of the exceptional old growth forest that has been maintained there. The mile-long dirt road that intersects the wooded ravine of Barnes Run and takes visitors past giant beech, hemlocks and white oak. Profuse amounts of ferns and spring wildflowers that carpet this natural cathedral.

Henry Huffnagle, a Lancaster urologist, spent his summers at Ferncliff while he was growing up. Owned by his family since the 1940s, his father used the 75-acre property to teach young Henry all of the common and Latin names of the plants, flowers and trees found there. This made a huge impact on Huffnagle's life and fostered his appreciation of wild places, particularly the Susquehanna River hills. When his father died, Huffnagle wanted to preserve the property and decided to donate it to the Lancaster County Conservancy. It has been under the group's care since the 1970s.

Huffnagle is the process of donating two more plots, equaling 70 acres, to the conservancy, in the Fishing Creek watershed.

"It is a pleasure to know someone is taking care of this land," Huffnagle said. "There are great educational benefits to be found on the property and I want the youth to be able to go there and enjoy it like I did."

The conservancy is also engaged in outreach to build appreciation for the wild lands.

It offers a program to area schools that uses the preserves as outdoor classrooms. Hands-on activities teach students about the water cycle, watershed functions and the relationship between humans, animals and natural surroundings, as well as how to protect the environment from pollution. College students are invited to use the preserves to conduct research projects.

A suburban stewardship program is being developed to help landowners manage their land for habitat.

As open space everywhere is paved over to create malls and shopping centers and forests are cut down to create developments, construction in southern Lancaster County is taking place at an especially rapid rate. Since the Norman Wood Bridge was built across

the Susquehanna River three decades ago, housing developers and country estates are gobbling up land in the river hills.

Absentee landowners who have purchased the open space for investment are timbering the forests for quick money according to Christine and Jeffery Stauffer, who have a 5-acre parcel in a conservation easement with the conservancy.

On many properties, "all that is growing up is choking honeysuckle, poison ivy and multiflora rose, she said. "In my opinion, the conservancy can't protect the land fast enough. I only wish I had more land to put into the program."

The Stauffer's land remains under their deed, but there are stipulations in managing it. The public is free to enjoy the land, which is forever protected.

In addition to easements, the conservancy also acquires land by donation. Donated property with no natural qualities is sold, and the money used to purchase wild tracts. Most of their preserves, however, are purchased, including some that are considered "bargain sales."

"The conservancy does have fairly strict criteria for acquiring land," Goodno said. "It can't be a building lot in the middle of a development, unless it has critical environmental aspects. We once targeted a 1-acre parcel that contained a black night heron rookery. But we aim for parcels large enough that can support wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for the public."

The conservancy has a rating system and typically looks for 40-50 acre parcels unless they are adjacent to already created preserves or other protected lands. The conservancy offers guidance to property owners who are considering contributing their land.

"Seven generations" is the thought behind protecting preserving these natural areas. Native Americans believed that all generations are connected, and one must take them into account when deciding how to protect and manage the land.

Less than 19 percent of land in Lancaster County is still in woodlands and other natural habitat, and hundreds of acres are lost every year. The need to protect wildlife habitat and improve the streams and rivers, along with providing valuable recreational opportunities demands that the conservancy move faster and more intelligently to secure these lands.

One of the Lancaster County Conservancy's goals is to create a network of wild preserves so that every resident will live within an easy distance to one. An impressive goal...for the next seven generations.

To contact or learn more about the [Lancaster County Conservancy](#), call 717-392-7891.

Cindy Ross lives in Pennsylvania and unlike some children today, has a hard time coming indoors. She has written six books about it; her latest, from McGraw-Hill, is "Scraping Heaven: A Family's Journey Along the Continental Divide." She fears she has inflicted her children with the same addiction to fun in the outdoors.

Reprinted with permission from the June issue of the [Chesapeake Bay Journal](#).

State's Third Known Cliff Nest Buys Peregrine Falcon Expansion From Cities

By Joe Kosack

Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist
Game Commission

Game Commission officials have confirmed a pair of state-endangered peregrine falcons has successfully nested near this confluence community. It's the third known wild nest that peregrines have established in Pennsylvania in half a century.

"Crippled reproductively by the pesticide DDT, peregrine falcons stopped nesting in Pennsylvania in the late 1950s," explained Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "With the banning of DDT in the early '70s and reintroduction efforts in several northeastern states - including Pennsylvania - through the '80s and '90s, peregrines slowly began to reclaim their nesting range throughout the Northeast."



But there were obstacles along the way. One of the most notable was the great horned owl, which readily preyed on young falcons that were being reintroduced on the cliffs peregrines had nested upon for centuries. Wildlife managers, however, pulled an end-around on the owls: they began reintroducing falcons in urban environments, at elevations where great-horns aren't as much of a threat. The falcons responded in a big way.

"Since the early 1990s, peregrines have established about two dozen nests in Pennsylvania, mostly on buildings and bridges in the state's larger cities," Roe said. "But, in 2003, a pair of peregrines nested successfully on a cliff in Lycoming County. It signaled a new era for Pennsylvania's peregrines; the birds were finally transitioning to the more than 40 cliffs they had previously nested on."

In five years, falcons have established three productive "wild" nests in Pennsylvania. Their comeback - considering the number of Commonwealth nests - qualifies as a legitimate success story. But from a clinical perspective, it's still not enough of a recovery to prompt the Game Commission to remove them from the state Endangered Species List. To achieve such action would take about 20 cliff nests.

"We are thrilled that peregrines continue to prosper in Pennsylvania," noted Dan Brauning, the agency's Wildlife Diversity Section supervisor. "Each new nest strengthens their recovery. But we'd like to see peregrines continuing to return to the cliffs on which they used to nest. This ongoing - and hopefully increasing - natural expansion from urban areas, coupled with the reduction in threats that cliffs offer - will solidify their future and restore one of the state's most exciting predators to the wild areas they once thrived in."

Although cities provided peregrines that vital boost needed to launch their recolonization of the Northeast, they also are home to a variety of mortality factors that greatly exceed the troubles great horned owls may cause wild nests. Windows, traffic and swift river waters are widow-makers and chick-takers for peregrines in urban areas. Conversely, wild nests usually are not located directly over rivers or highways, and glass windows are not as much a part of the rural, wild landscape. In addition, adult peregrines now protect fledgling falcons in the wild.

During peregrine reintroductions, young falcons were released into the wild when they could fly from artificial nest sites, or "hack boxes." They immediately fended for

themselves, but were no match for great horned owls, which snapped them up from outcroppings after dark. Today, as the Northeast's peregrines continue to move outward from cities into the wide-open cliff country that neighbors rivers, they're doing so as mature birds. And an adult peregrine takes a backseat to no other bird when it comes to brutish aggressiveness.

Approaching a peregrine nest is like inching out on a tightrope a couple hundred feet up to take a closer look at a nest of angry hornets. Falcons defend their nests with unrelenting ferocity and in-your-face hostility. Pairs regularly dive-bomb - and occasionally strike - Game Commission officials who approach nests to band the chicks.

To reach the Union County nest overlooking this community, Lycoming County Wildlife Conservation Officer Jonathan Wyant descended about 150 feet to remove one chick from a nest scrape. Brauning followed to assist. Wyant, who stayed near the nest, was buzzed and verbally assaulted incessantly by the falcons. If he were a great horned owl, he'd have left!

The two-hour operation revealed both parents were not banded, and led to the successful banding and health check of the chick, which was quickly returned to the nest. "From a regional standpoint, it's a little unusual to have two unbanded adults in a nest, because most northeastern states band all young falcons," Brauning said. "We hope it means there are more falcons out there than we can account for currently, and that there are more nests for us to find."

Local birders can be a big help in locating peregrine nests. Allen Schweinsberg, of Lewisburg, was responsible for finding this Union County nest.

"I knew the cliff was a historic site, so I decided to check it while I was doing fieldwork for the [Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas](#) in April two years ago," Schweinsberg said. "Within three or four minutes after I began watching from the opposite shore, a peregrine flew over me toward the cliff. I revisited several times and eventually saw a pair of immatures in May."

Schweinsberg, who authored the "Birds of Central Susquehanna Valley," has followed the falcons regularly since that time. Last spring, he noticed one of the birds disappeared for about a month in the spring, and eventually concluded she was sitting on eggs. But things apparently didn't work out for the birds that year.

When Game Commission employees visited the site to band the hoped-for young, they found three nest scrapes on two ledges, but no nestlings or eggs. This year, the birds were active around the cliff since early February, and Schweinsberg eventually uncovered a nest with one chick in it.

"Allen Schweinsberg's discovery was an important find for us, because it confirms we have another active peregrine cliff nest, which is great news in itself," Brauning said. "But his find also has led to the discovery that neither of the adult birds had been banded. That finding provides hope Pennsylvania's - and perhaps the Northeast's - peregrine recovery is further along than we presume. With a little more time and continuing assistance from the public, we should know more."

Nothing, of course, is certain when it comes to trying to assess the progress of peregrines. Take, for instance, the nest-hopping performed by a pair in Luzerne County over the past several years. The pair took up residence on a bridge. After three years, they moved to a historic cliff ledge. After two years, they returned to the bridge and have stayed there the past two years.

"There may be reasons why this pair has behaved this way, and there may not be," Brauning said. "There may have been disturbances, or simply something that made the birds uncomfortable at the cliff site. Maybe they'll return to the cliff some day. At times, what we consider to be best for the birds may not be. There can be a big difference sometimes between observing what seems to be right and living it."

Pennsylvania's other two known active cliff nests are in Luzerne and Lycoming counties. Falcons also have 22 nests established in cities throughout the state. The skylines and massive bridges of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh maintain the largest concentrations. Peregrines, once commonly called "duck hawks," are bird-eaters that specialize on pigeon-sized quarries, including flickers, cuckoos, jays and robins. They will prey upon waterfowl, shorebirds and small wading birds, too. Females are larger than males. They can live more than 20 years.

The peregrine's DDT-induced decline was so devastating that the birds were no longer found east of the Mississippi River by the early 1960s. The insecticide caused falcons and many other birds to lay eggs that were often so fragile they broke when sat upon. Their ongoing comeback is one of the most widely followed stories in wildlife management in the twenty-first century.

For more information, visit the Game Commission's [Peregrine Falcon webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Perfect Birth Rate for Peregrine Falcons Atop PPL Plant](#)
[Falcons Nesting Above Penn Square Reading](#)
[Peregrine Falcons Nest in Wilds of Union County](#)

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **June 13**— [EPA Clean Diesel Program Grants](#)
- **June 13**— [Game Commission State Wildlife Grants](#)
- **June 15**— [Merck Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Grants](#)
- **June 15**— [EPA Region 3 Environmental Achievement Awards](#)
- **June 15**— [Northeast Environmental Partners Environmental Awards](#)
- **June 16**— [Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP PA Energy Harvest Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP Biofuels Subsidy Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [PEDA Innovative, Advanced Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [PEDA Duquesne Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 30**— [DEP Energy Use Reduction Grants](#)
- **June 30**— [Dept. of Agriculture Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Grants](#)
- **June 30**— [DCNR Wild Resources Conservation Grants](#)
- **June 30**— [Appalachian Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **July 7**— **NEW.** [DEP Coastal Zone Land Acquisition Grant Proposal](#)
- **July 18**— [DEP Composting Infrastructure Development Grants](#)

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- **August 4**—**NEW**. [Start Submitting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
- **August 29**—[DEP Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants](#)
- **September 20**—[Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 24**—[Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Barbara Yeaman Receives Ralph W. Abele Conservation Award](#)

[Student Nature Study](#)

[Lower Dauphin's Green Grads](#)

[Monroe Students Show Off Creative Recycling Abilities](#)

[Going Green to Max – Elementary Students Pick Up Litter](#)

[St. Luke's Hospital to Turn 500 Acres Into Green Giant](#)

[Environmental Advisory Council Presents Green Building Ordinance](#)

[Mechanicsburg Argues Over Global Warming in Resolution](#)

[Editorial: Carbon Footprint Heavy in Harrisburg-Carlisle](#)

[Op-Ed: Environmental Consequences of Energy Use, Climate Change](#)

[State High Court to Hear Case on Drilling Restrictions](#)

[Editorial: PA Must Act Now On Energy Solution](#)

[Editorial: \\$4 Gas Makes Drilling More Likely](#)

[Op-Ed: Is There a Perfect Source of Electricity?](#)

[Op-Ed: Higher Fuel Prices Will Hurt LVIA](#)

[Ethanol Hits Lean Times in Western PA](#)

[Op-Ed: When the Oil Runs Out](#)

[Editorial: Needed, Clean, Affordable Method of Getting Around](#)

[Rallygoers Push Renewable Energy Jobs](#)

[Op-Ed: How the State is Saving on Energy Use](#)

[Backyard Gardens Flourish as Gas, Food Prices Rise](#)

[Panel Recommends Privatizing Philadelphia Sewage Recycling](#)

[McKean County Municipalities Survey Recycling, Waste Priorities](#)

[Municipalities Consider Parking Space Tax](#)

[Urban Blight is Plaguing Cities, Legislators Told](#)

[Bike Trail to Pittsburgh Airport Could be Reality](#)

[Pike Open Space, Recreation Plan Ready](#)

[Bill to Protect Appalachian Trail Advances](#)

[Op-Ed: Appalachian Trail in Danger From Growth](#)

[Conservancy Recognizes Land Preservation Efforts](#)

[DCNR Dedicates New Park Along Stonycreek River in Cambria](#)

[Perfect Birth Rate for Peregrine Falcons Atop PPL Plant](#)

[Falcons Nesting Above Penn Square Reading](#)

[Peregrine Falcons Nest in Wilds of Union County](#)
[Game Commission Completes Gypsy Moth Spraying](#)
[Groups Join to Build Bat Condo](#)
[DCNR Closes Fayette County Cave to Monitor Bats for White Nose Syndrome](#)
[Outdoors: Register for Capitol Area Sportsmen Youth Field Day](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Fish Art is Raising Awareness of Pocono Watershed Issues – Video Clip](#)
[Kayaking Finding Home On a Working, Urban River](#)
[State Adopts Trout Management Agenda Similar to Deer Plan](#)
[Coalition of Susquehanna River Art Sought for York County](#)
[Group Works to Cleanup Clearfield Creek Watershed](#)
[Susquehanna Basin Groups Wants Public Input on Updating Plan](#)
[Exelon Seeks to Increase Coal Mine Water in Schuylkill](#)
[Captive Mussels Experience Baby Boom](#)
[Williamsport Sanitary Authority – Worst Case No State Funding](#)
[Farm Bill Includes Huge Influx of Funds for Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)
[Bill Would Help Franklin County Farmers, Municipalities Pay For Bay Cleanup](#)
[Chambersburg, Other Municipalities Seek Relief in Court from Bay Cleanup Burden](#)
[Riverkeeper Keeps Eye on the Potomac](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 7, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Governor's Office of Administration published revised organizational charts for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fish and Boat Commission and Game Commission, ([Pa Bulletin starting on page 2663](#)).

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [DEP Announces No-Cost Remediation Training Courses](#)
- **NEW**. [Revised Schedule of meetings for DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.](#)
- **June 9**—**NEW**. Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie) H2O Water Infrastructure Funding Program, [Senate Bill 1050](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) providing funding for waste tire removal and recycling. Room 461. 12:30.
- **June 10**—**NEW**. Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$1 billion bond issue voter referendum for water, wastewater and stormwater projects, [Senate Bill 1408](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) and [Senate Bill 1409](#) (Wozniak) authorizing the use of nonstructural alternatives to address flooding problems, [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact; and [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:30.
- **June 10**—**NEW**. House Game and Fisheries Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2575](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) that authorizing elk deterrent fences and reimbursement for certain damages. Room 302 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **June 10**—**NEW**. [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **June 10**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 10th Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 11**—**NEW**. House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Centre) authorizing nonstructural alternatives to control flooding, [House Bill 2549](#) (Siproth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **June 11**—**NEW**. House Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2266](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) updating and expanding stormwater/watershed planning requirements. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:15.
- **June 12**—[Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) meeting to consider water resources projects. Holiday Inn Elmira-Riverview. 8:30. (*meeting notice*)
- **June 12**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting. Rescheduled to July 9.
- **June 16**—Environmental Issues Forum, hosted by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#), presents a program on the services provided by the [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program](#) (PennTAP). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **June 17**—[Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

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- **June 18**—**CANCELLED**. DEP [Agricultural Advisory Board](#) meeting. Next schedule meeting is August 27.
- **June 24**—DEP [Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **July 9**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Water Resource Advisory Committee meeting. Rescheduled for July 22.
- **July 9**—**NEW**. DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **July 15**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on the Clean and Green Program. G-50 Irvis Building. 1:00.
- **July 22**—**NEW**. [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **July 22**—DEP [Water Resource Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.
- **August 7**—**NEW**. [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 3**—**NEW**. [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 18**—Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 23**—**NEW**. [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

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

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 .

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