

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

June 12, 2006

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## DEP Says It Lacks Link From Power Plant Mercury Emissions to Deposition Areas

The Department of Environmental Protection told a Senate Committee this week it has no studies showing a link between mercury emissions from local power plants and so-called mercury “hotspots” or studies documenting direct health impacts on Pennsylvania citizens caused by mercury emissions from power plants.

The comments were made by DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty appearing before the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

The Committee is holding hearings on the issue of reducing mercury emissions from power plants under competing plans, one a bipartisan Senate/House legislative proposal ([Senate Bill 1201](#) and [House Bill 2610](#)) that would adopt the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule supported by a coalition of labor, business and the coal industry, and a Pennsylvania-only mercury rule proposed by DEP.

Last week [in a press release](#) DEP made the allegation that high mercury readings from a monitoring station in Cresson, Cambria County, were caused by nearby coal-fired power plants, including Homer City, Keystone, Seward and Conemaugh, and was used by DEP as evidence of an alleged mercury “hotspot.”

DEP had contended that a primary reason for its Pennsylvania-only rule that did not incorporate a cap and trade program was that mercury emissions fell close to power plants and a system that trades credits regionally and across state lines would create so-called “hotspots” of mercury around plants.

However looking more closely at DEP’s information, three of those plants – Homer City, Keystone and Seward—had installed state-of-the-art pollution control or combustion equipment that reduced their mercury emissions by 47 percent, yet there was no change in the amount of mercury seen at DEP’s Cresson monitoring site. Therefore no link between the power plants and the mercury monitored at Cresson could actually be demonstrated.



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*(In the case of Conemaugh, that advanced equipment was installed in 1994 and 1995 before DEP began monitoring for mercury.)*

Studies by [Brookhaven National Laboratory](#), the U.S. EPA in Steubenville, OH and others have shown that mercury emissions travel hundreds of miles from their sources covering regional and multi-state areas.

In addition, Dr. James A. Lynch, from Pennsylvania State University who runs DEP's Mercury Monitoring Network, told DEP's Mercury Rule Work Group last October that information from the Network alone that DEP used for its press release could not be used to determine the source of mercury emissions being deposited in Pennsylvania. *(See [page 52 of Dr. Lynch's comments.](#))*

Dr. Lynch has recommended DEP do what is called a "source/receptor" study to pinpoint the source of mercury emissions for the last several years, but DEP did not respond to the suggestion.

In comments to the Committee, Secretary McGinty acknowledged that DEP had in fact not done a causality study that would have pinpointed where emissions were coming from that were measured by the Cresson site. She did not provide an explanation of why a 47 percent reduction in mercury emissions from the nearby power plants did not register on the Cresson monitoring site.

Statewide, there has already been a 33 percent reduction in mercury emissions from Pennsylvania power plants from 9,958 pounds in 1999 to 6,640 pounds in 2004, according to official reports by the U.S. EPA and the federal Toxics Release Inventory. And, there has been no corresponding significant drop in mercury emissions measured by DEP's Mercury Monitoring Network statewide.

Mercury emission reductions at those specific plants and around Pennsylvania are a co-benefit of the installation of advanced air pollution control equipment to reduce air pollutants causing acid rain and ground level ozone pollution.

Secretary McGinty also acknowledged that DEP did not have any studies that show how mercury emissions from power plants have a direct health impact on citizens in Pennsylvania. They cannot "connect bullet to gun," the Secretary said.

Comments to the Committee by state [Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson](#) and staff from the Health Department confirmed Secretary McGinty's testimony that his agency could not find studies that established a link between mercury emissions from power plants, fish and human health effects.

Secretaries McGinty and Johnson both said the health threat from mercury emissions was not from breathing in mercury from the ambient air, but in eating fish which may contain mercury ingested up through the food chain.

[Dr. Gail Charnley](#), a toxicologist from HealthRisk Strategies, told the Committee, "Any claims that Pennsylvania's state-specific proposed rule will protect high consumers of Pennsylvania fish any better than will the federal rule are not scientifically supportable."

"Shutting down all the coal-fired generation in Pennsylvania tomorrow will have no impact on most people's methylmercury exposure, which comes primarily from ocean fish, especially canned tuna, not from fish caught in Pennsylvania.

"While it seems logical to assume that reducing power plant or other mercury emissions will lead to reductions in local fish methylmercury levels, available data do not provide much support for that conclusion.

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“The relationship between mercury emissions and fish methylmercury levels appears to be highly site-specific, so it is likely that reducing power plant mercury emissions could lead to lower fish methylmercury levels in some places and not in others. Predicting where changes might occur is not yet possible.

“It certainly will not be possible to distinguish between the effects of the Governor’s 90 percent reduction (in mercury) and EPA’s 86 percent reduction in terms of its impact on public health, even if it were possible to achieve one earlier than the other....”

The Committee also explored the question of the constitutionality of the Pennsylvania-only mercury rule DEP had proposed.

In earlier testimony before the Committee, Eugene Trisko, representing the United Mine Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, expressed a concern that DEP’s proposed rule, which provides a preference for bituminous coal would be struck down by federal courts as unconstitutional.

DEP Secretary McGinty told the Committee this week that her agency looked at that question and was comfortable that by setting the same emission limits on all types of coal, the rule would withstand legal challenge. In addition, Secretary McGinty said she would recommend that a severability clause be added to the rule so that in the event the rule was declared unconstitutional the remainder of the rule would stand.

In comments following Secretary McGinty, Eugene Trisko said her recommendation of a severability clause was confirmation of the constitutional weakness in the proposed rule.

Trisko said DEP had “candy coated” the proposed rule with provisions that appeared to benefit Pennsylvania coal, however, if the only provisions of the rule that are designed to benefit mine and power plant workers are eliminated, he said his clients would be left with a rule that would encourage power plants to switch to burning coal from out-of-state.

“The choice is simple under the rule that’s left—spend \$200 million on scrubbers to burn Pennsylvania bituminous coal or spend \$5 million to install carbon injection systems to control mercury and burn western sub-bituminous coal,” said Trisko.

Attorney General Tom Corbett is now considering the constitutionality of DEP’s proposed Pennsylvania-only mercury rule. His office must sign off on the form and legality of any regulation before it is published for public comment.

After the hearing, Committee Majority Chair [Sen. Mary Jo White \(R-Venango\)](#) said:

“We know that mercury reductions from power plants will occur in Pennsylvania; in fact, they are already down 33 percent from 1999. We also know that under the federal Clean Air Interstate Rule, over 90 percent of our generating capacity will have advanced pollution controls in place by 2015.

”The argument that we will not see significant reductions under Senate Bill 1201 is over. This is about providing flexibility to some of our smaller generating plants, while providing incentives to our larger plants to over-comply, and reduce mercury emissions in a cost-effective way that protects the public health. We cannot afford to lose any of our generating capacity, especially given the lack of any commensurate health benefit under DEP’s plan.

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“Make no mistake – every member of this Committee is supportive of reducing mercury emissions. But we must be smart about it,” said Sen.White.

Senate Bill 1201 is set to be considered by the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on June 13.

A [coalition of labor, business and the coal industry](#) support the bipartisan Senate and House bills that will reduce mercury emissions from power plants by 86 percent.

For more information on the hearings on reducing mercury emissions, including video of the hearings and copies of testimony, visit the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

**NewsClips:** [Sen. White Responds to DEP Letter in Post-Gazette](#)  
[DEP Data Shows Mercury Emissions Don't Cause Local Hotspots](#)  
[Four Out of Five Prefer State Mercury Plan](#)

### Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session on June 12.

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- Watershed Groups Can Find Free Technical Help from the Consortium
- Funding for Watershed Conservation and Research Projects Available
- June Issue of EPA's Watershed News Is Now Online
- DEP Extends Deadline for Comments on Stormwater Manual/Model Ordinance
- Game Commission Mining Lease Helps Flight 93 Memorial, Wildlife
- 4,989 More Acres of Farmland Permanently Preserved
- Advisory Committees on Deer Management Endorsed by Game Commission
- Williamsport Company Honored for Environmental Excellence Award
- Fill'er Up Soon at Air Product's Hydrogen Fueling Station at Penn State
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- IRS Issues Guidance on Tax Benefits for Energy-Efficiency Improvements
- Roger Fickes Retires as State Parks Director
- DCNR Appoints Marylander as New Director of State Parks

### See & Hear

- Influencing Behaviors Using Social Marketing In Your Watershed Webcast June 28

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

## On the Hill

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### On the Senate, House Agenda

Here's what will be on the Senate and House agenda when they return to session on June 12.

### Calendars

The House will start with these bills of interest on its June 12 Calendar-- [House Bill 1588](#) providing for the fluoridation of public water, [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment, [Senate Bill 868](#) increasing the forest land in-lieu of tax payment, and [Senate Bill 940](#) which would set aside up to \$200,000 per year from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund to reimburse Land Trusts for expenses incurred in acquiring agricultural conservation easements.

The Senate will start the week with these bills: [Senate Bill 1209](#) establishing the Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools Program.

### Committees

**In the House**, the Labor Relations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1905](#) defining members of a community emergency response team as an employee under the Workers' Compensation Act.

**In the Senate**, the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1201](#) the Clean Air Mercury Compliance Act, [Senate Bill 855](#) authorizing municipalities to expend public funds to repair or replace private sewer laterals and [House Bill 1108](#) establishing a program within PennVEST to repair or replace private sewer laterals.

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum – Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) “Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania.”

## House Committee Hears Game Commission Funding Needs



Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe told the House Game and Fisheries Committee this week that uncontrollable parts of his budget will mean revenue shortfalls in the coming year without an increase in revenue.

"Working to keep our expenditures in line with revenues, we have been forced to cut millions of dollars from our operating budgets," said Roe. "We have cut back on purchasing new equipment, reduced program and project budgets, allowed vacant positions to go unfilled and, in some cases, eliminated services altogether. For example, simple conveniences, such as toll-free numbers for those seeking to contact our region offices and free subscriptions to our Game News magazine to landowners enrolled in our public access programs and to schools and libraries have been suspended.

"However, there are some line items in our budget that we do not control. For example, with the new fiscal year comes an increase in personnel costs provided for under the state employee contract. This will amount to a \$2.8 million increase, which we can only control by not filling vacancies, which means fewer people to provide the services that the public has come to expect from the agency. Additionally, we just received a bill for the Integrated Enterprise System, better known as SAP, which is the automated business operating system for the state. This was previously paid for by the administration. That cost now is being passed to the agencies. Our portion of the cost is a little more than \$500,000.

"Also, the House of Representatives has before it [Senate Bill 868](#), which, if enacted, would triple the agency's current payment in lieu of taxes on State Game Lands. We currently pay \$1.7 million annually to counties, school districts and municipalities. If Senate Bill 868 becomes law, we would be forced to pay \$5.1 million, an additional \$3.4 million that currently is not budgeted. This basically means that hunters are paying twice. They pay the total share for the Game Commission and their tax dollars go to assist in paying other agencies share. They foot the entire bill for the Game Commission and yet the entire public has access to State Game Lands.

"And, just like every Pennsylvania family, we are forced to pay higher costs for everyday items, such as utilities and gasoline. Gasoline alone has caused a more than \$1,000,000 jump in our annual expenditures from the last license fee increase in 1999, when gas cost about \$1 per gallon. To maintain a flat level in this item, we would have to drastically cut patrols and call outs by our conservation officers and wildlife biologists, as well as the habitat improvement work of our food and cover crews.

"Our current estimated Game Fund balance, as of June 30, 2006, is expected to be approximately \$24 million. However, as our license year begins concurrent with our fiscal year on July 1, we must maintain approximately \$14.2 million in that fund in order to cover expenses to run the agency for two months, which is when we anticipate receiving monies from issuing agents.

"Also, depending on the Legislature's action regarding Senate Bill 868, we must have between \$1.7 million and \$5.1 million available to make our payment in lieu of taxes, which must be paid annually prior to September 1. This would move the necessary funds from \$14.2 million to \$17.6 that would need to be available on July 1.

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"As noted in its reports of 2003 and 2006, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee stated that the Game Commission's ability to implement important programs and projects outlined in our Strategic Plan are stymied by a lack of sufficient revenue.

"Without any annual stream of revenue from the state's taxpayers to support our operating budget, the inflationary affect on the revenues generated by the current license fee structure has impacted our ability to maintain the status quo, let alone move forward.

"Wildlife needs your support and we, at the Pennsylvania Game Commission, remain committed to seeing that those funds entrusted to us by our license buyers are used on behalf of all Pennsylvanians, in responsible stewardship of managing all 465 species of wild birds and mammals."

[A complete copy of Roe's statement is available online.](#)

**NewsClips:** [Hunting License Fee Hike Possible](#)  
[Sportsmen's Groups Back Costlier Hunting Fees](#)  
[Hunting Groups Support Increased Fees](#)

### Senate/House Bills Moving/Introduced

Several environmental bills moved this week. Here's the rundown....

#### House

**Storage Tanks:** [House Bill 1195](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) that makes changes to the program to help underground tank owners upgrade tanks was passed by the House and sent to the Senate.

**Land Trust Reimbursements:** [Senate Bill 940](#) (Waugh-R-York) which would set aside up to \$200,000 per year from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund to reimburse Land Trusts for expenses incurred in acquiring agricultural conservation easements was reported from House Appropriations Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

**Flood Insurance:** [House Bill 243](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) to provide premium assistance for property owners eligible for federal flood insurance was referred to House Appropriations.

**Inheritance Tax:** [House Bill 906](#) (S.Miller-R-Berks) would eliminate the inheritance tax was amended and reported from House Finance Committee and re-referred to House Rules Committee.

#### Senate

**Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools:** [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) establishing the Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools Program was reported from Senate Agriculture Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

## Bills Introduced

**Oil and Gas:** [House Bill 2702](#) (Causar-R-Cameron) removes the ability of EQB to adjust the bond amount every two years.

**Keystone Fund:** [House Bill 2710](#) (Surra-D-Elk) would amend the Keystone Parks, Recreation and Conservation Fund to allow the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to spend Keystone Funds on deferred maintenance and make an allocation to the Department of Community and Economic Development for land trusts and other grants.

**Electric Deregulation:** [House Resolution 783](#) (George-D-Clearfield) would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study on the effect of electric utility deregulation on the Commonwealth.

## Opportunities for Native Plants Topic of Next Environmental Issues Forum



The [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#), invites members of the General Assembly and the public to “Going Native,” a presentation on the many opportunities to use native plants in stream buffers, roadside plantings and other projects, at the next Environmental Issues Forum on June 12 in Harrisburg.

Jim MacKenzie, President and Operations Manager for [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) in Kirkwood, Chester County, will be the speaker for the Forum, which begins at noon in Room 205 of the Ryan Office Building.

“The movement to restore stream buffers, forests, wetlands and floodplains to their natural functions in the last 10 years has increased demand for native plant materials to fulfill this need,” said MacKenzie. “At the same time we now have a better understanding of how invasive and exotic species like Purple Loosestrife and Japanese knotweed have destroyed productive habitats in Pennsylvania.”

“Yet, with all this growth and understanding, many watershed groups, local governments and even state agencies are not aware of the options they now have available to use native plants,” said MacKenzie. “Even homeowners can now use native plants for small projects like rain gardens that have environmental benefits.”

MacKenzie will describe initiatives in Pennsylvania and other states to promote the use of native plants for restoration of stream buffers, roadside highway and street planting projects and how native plants can contribute to carbon sequestration initiatives to combat global climate change.

Octoraro Nursery was founded in 1990 and specializes in raising container grown mid-Atlantic and Eastern regional native trees and shrubs.

In addition to being President of Octoraro Nursery, MacKenzie serves on the board of the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association and is a member of the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals and serves as Vice-Chair of the Department of Environmental Protection’s State Water Planning Advisory Committee.



For more information on the Environmental Issues Forum contact the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) at 717-787-7570 or send email to: Craig D. Brooks, Executive Director, [cbrooks@jcc.legis.state.pa.us](mailto:cbrooks@jcc.legis.state.pa.us) .

Jim MacKenzie may be contacted at 717-529-3160 ext. 11, by sending email to: [jim@octoraro.com](mailto:jim@octoraro.com) or by visiting the [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery website](#).

## **In Other News**

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### **Fish Commission Awards Youth Fishing Education Grants**

Youth sport fishing and aquatic resource education programs received a boost this week with the awarding of \$50,000 in grants from the Fish and Boat Commission.

Fourteen organizations received [Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grants](#) from the PFBC to develop or expand programs that teach fishing skills or educate participants about waterways and the organisms that live within them. A total of 60 applications were received from sportsman's clubs, school districts, community groups and county agencies, requesting more than \$225,000.

“Research shows that good, well-structured education programs lead to kids increasing their interest in fishing more, improving their skills, and helping them build a greater sense of aquatic stewardship and outdoor ethics,” said PFBC Executive Director Doug Austen. “The volume and quality of grant applications we received shows there’s clearly a demand for this type of programming in Pennsylvania. The challenge is to provide the resources necessary to re-engage youth in outdoor activities. Succeeding in this effort is critical to the future of sportfishing and building a more environmentally connected citizenry.”

The grants were awarded to:

- **Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Erie County**, Fishing & Learning Youth (FLY)- \$2,025. This program will work with community groups in Erie serving inner city youth as well as Presque Isle State Park. FLY will introduce youth to the art of fly fishing and aquatic entomology while gaining knowledge and skills they can use in the continuation of a life-long recreational activity.
- **Seneca Valley Senior High School, Butler County**, Aquatic Ecology Experience - \$4,540. Funding will enable the school to purchase equipment for an interdisciplinary program integrating aquatic ecology and sportfishing. The fishing segment of the program is designed to assist students with skills, techniques, fish biology and etiquette and follows the curriculum of the Commission’s SMART Angler Program.
- **Jersey Shore Senior High School, Lycoming County**, Boating/Fishing Club - \$4,979. Funding will be used to equip a fishing and boating club in the high school. The club will provide an opportunity for high school students to develop skills in boating and fishing.
- **Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, Dauphin County**, Aquatic Resource Stewardship Education Program - \$3,490. The Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art will use the funding to purchase equipment and materials for the Aquatic Resource Stewardship Education Program; designed to introduce K-12 students from the tri-county region to studies of watersheds, stream and river ecosystems.

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- **PA Council of Trout Unlimited, Statewide, Trout in the Classroom & First Cast** - \$5,000. The grant provides PATU with funding to administer a grant program to individual chapters. PATU is requiring 50% match, thereby doubling the amount invested in these education efforts. Funds will be used by local TU Chapters to establish six Trout in the Classroom programs and six First Cast youth fishing clubs.
- **Cowanessque Valley High School, Tioga County, Fishing for a Healthier Environment** - \$3,085. This program will purchase equipment and materials for a school-based fishing and aquatic resource club. The club will also be involved in public angler education programming offered in cooperation with Hills Creek State Park. Equipment will also be used in a variety of other educational programs as well as by the Tiadaghton Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
- **Indiana Area School District Horace Mann Elementary School, Indiana County, Fishing and Boating for ALL** - \$2,881. Funding will enable the district to equip a program designed to introduce and promote an enjoyment of the outdoors for students of all ages within its physical education curriculum. Boating and water safety will also be taught. The program will provide hands-on experiences to learn skills, understanding, knowledge of fishing and boating as well as developing leadership skills.
- **East Stroudsburg High School, Monroe County, Fishing the Delaware** - \$1,700. The school will use the funding to equip, develop and deliver an interdisciplinary educational unit taught to approximately 150 students in grades 10-12. The unit will provide aquatic ecology, sportfishing and boat handling training, while showing the connection between aquatic resources and the recreational opportunities provided.
- **City of Erie School District Irving Elementary, Erie County, Irving Fishing Program** - \$2,092. The district will design a program to expose inner-city students in third through fifth grade to fishing. These students will also participate in a weekly science course offering interdisciplinary lessons integrating and relating biology, chemistry, ecology, geology and math skills, while building their reading and literacy skills.
- **Schuylkill County Conservation District, Schuylkill County, Sweet Arrow Lake Park Fishing & Boating Skills** - \$5,000. Funding will enable the County to purchase equipment for fishing and boating programs at the Park. As a result, County staff will provide on-the-water training on sport fishing. The County will also conduct boating safety programming, using PFBC boating safety education programs, as well as teaching paddling skills. Fishing and boating equipment will also be made available through a loaner program at the lake.
- **Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Luzerne County, From City Streets to Valley Streams: Exploring the Wyoming Valley's Aquatic Resources** - \$3,300. Funding will support a new cooperative program with the Luzerne County Conservation District and Wyoming Valley's low-income housing authorities. The program will introduce sportfishing to nearly 200 of the Wyoming Valley's urban city youth who live in 10 different housing apartment complexes. Involved in the partnership are the Luzerne County Housing Authority, City of Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority and the City of Nanticoke Housing Authority.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation Wheelin' Sportsmen, Statewide, I Can Fish 2!** - \$3,390. The NWTf will develop and deliver additional angler education programming

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for children with disabilities. Also includes leader training and support. The program will be done in cooperation with and at PFBC barrier-free access areas.

- **West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association, Chester County**, Downingtown East Fishing Club - \$3,525. Grant funds will assist the club in developing a fishing club in Downingtown East High School. The club includes interdisciplinary instruction in science as well as ecology. Programming will be offered in-school as well as out of school.
- **Center Area School District Education Adventure & Exploration Club (EAE), Beaver County**, Center Middle School Aquatic Exploration - \$4,992.78. Funding will enable the district to expand its Education Adventure and Exploration Club (EAE). Equipment and materials will be purchased to provide members with exposure to stream conservation techniques, recreational boating and water safety, and aquatic resource education.

The Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grants program expands on the Commission long-standing commitment to youth education. The Commission spends about \$450,000 annually on such efforts.

Currently 45,000 children receive the [Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth \(PLAY\)](#) newsletter from the PFBC four times a year; 8,000 Pennsylvania school teachers have been trained and use the PFBC's aquatic education curriculum; and more than 400 PFBC fishing skills instructors teach thousands of children in angling basics annually. In addition, the Commission provides equipment and support for 39 free tackle loaner sites statewide.

Re-engaging youth in fishing and conservation is a major point of emphasis for the PFBC. Statistics from the National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Recreation show that in 1980, 26 percent of the Pennsylvania kids aged 6-15 fished. In 1995, that number climbed to 41 percent, but dropped to 35 percent in 2000.

For more information, visit the [Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grants program](#).

### DCNR Hosting Environmental Careers Camps for Students

The first of two summer residential camps for high school students interested in pursuing environmental careers will begin June 18, at Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center near Carlisle, Cumberland County.

The expanded Environmental Careers Outdoors, or ECO, Camp program is available in the south central and northeastern sections of the state and will be held--

- June 18: Orientation, team building, noon to 5 p.m., at Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center, near Carlisle, Cumberland County;
- June 19: K-9 search and rescue, watershed introduction, aquatic skills, introduction to recreational fishing, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Gardners, Cumberland County;
- June 20: Aquatic studies, turtle basking structure, introduction to birds of prey, historic buildings, fossils, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Little Buffalo State Park, Newport, Perry County, and Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, Petersburg, Huntingdon County;

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- June 21: Aquatic studies, introduction to trout hatchery operations, orienteering, K-9 search and rescue, geology and astronomy, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Huntsdale Fish Hatchery and Kings Gap;
- June 22: Timbering activities, introduction to forestry practices, sawmill operations and camping, lifeguard demonstration, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Pennsylvania State University Mont Alto Campus, Mont Alto, Franklin County and Caledonia State Park, Fayetteville, Franklin County;
- June 23: Career counseling, canoeing, fishing; 10:15 a.m. to 8 p.m., Kings Gap and Gifford Pinchot State Park, Lewisberry, York County; and
- June 24: 11 a.m. to noon, closing ceremonies, Kings Gap.

“When students leave these camps they have a keen awareness of the outdoor world and the many careers found there,” Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. “After spending a day with attendees last summer, I know they already have the interest and intelligence to become tomorrow’s stewards of the natural world.”

Instruction will be offered to selected students in grades 9-12, June 18, through, June 24, at Kings Gap. A second camp will be held, July 16, through, July 22, at the Kirby Episcopal House and Chapel, Glen Summit, Luzerne County.

The ultimate goal of the camps is to introduce students to conservation and environmental careers, and to encourage them to pursue their interests. From stream sampling of fish and aquatic life, to forestry skills, daily activities are planned to get students out in the field to meet and observe environmental professionals.

Participants will take part in activities exposing them to a wide range of career experiences, including water quality assessments, geology field studies and overnight camping experiences. There will be opportunities to meet conservation professionals to learn about career opportunities.

Offered without charge, the instruction and daily activities will be overseen by specialists and officials of DCNR’s bureaus of state parks, forestry, and topographic and geologic survey. After the camps, attendees will have a chance to seek internships, and mentoring and job-shadowing positions, and return as future camp leaders.

For ECO Camp information or to register, contact Blue Knob State Park, near Imler, Bedford County, at 814-276-3576.

### PA CleanWays Holds Teacher Environmental Education Workshop June 24



PA CleanWays is holding an [Environment and Ecology Curriculum for Intermediate Students Workshop for teachers](#) on June 24 at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA.

The workshop will be multi-disciplined series of activities designed to encourage students, grades 4-6, to become more aware of their world, understand the impact of individual choices and actions, and to encourage them to implement change.

All activities address state Environment and Ecology Standards and promote stewardship by engaging the youth in interactive, problem solving, and hands-on learning.

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Through this workshop, PA CleanWays will provide teachers of grades 4-6 with training, materials, technical assistance, and the on-going collaboration and follow-up needed to successfully integrate our educational materials into existing curriculum.

For more information contact Stephanie Larson by sending email to: [slarson@pacleansways.org](mailto:slarson@pacleansways.org) or call 724-836-4121 or visit the [Environment and Ecology Curriculum for Intermediate Students Workshop for teachers webpage](#).

### DEP Soliciting Proposals for Recycling Market Development Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection is [soliciting proposals](#) for [Recycling Markets Infrastructure Development grants](#) for equipment associated with increasing the use of recycled content in products.

The deadline for applications is August 31.

For more information, visit the [Recycling Grants webpage](#) or contact Jeff Bednar, DEP, 717-787-7382 or send email to: [jbednar@state.pa.us](mailto:jbednar@state.pa.us).

### Falcon Watch and Rescue Program to Begin Next Week



Volunteers and online viewers can keep a close eye on the [Peregrine falcon nest](#) located on the 15th floor ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg next week as five resident young nestlings make their first attempt at free flight.

These first flights are typically precarious at best. The young birds will often land on a parking garage or street and be put in harms way. When this happens, the watch and rescue crews notify Department of Environmental Protection education staff and the fledglings will be captured, examined and placed on the roof of the 16 floor building to regain strength and courage to make their next attempt at airborne freedom.

Although subsequent attempts are usually more successful, the watch and rescue crews will continue to track the whereabouts of each fledgling to ensure their safety.

Within a week's time all five of the fledglings should have gained the skill and strength necessary to return to the ledge. The word peregrine comes from the Latin adjective peregrinus, meaning wanderer.

By summer's end, these young birds will do just that; they'll travel hundreds of miles in unknown directions. By this time next year, the surviving juveniles will seek out a mate and establish their own breeding territories.

Visit the [Peregrine falcon nest webpage](#) for more information.

### Monongahela River Basin Recovery Featured At Next Rachel Carson Forum

The next Rachel Carson Forum on the Future of the Environment on June 15 will feature a program on the restoration of the Monongahela River fish community of southwestern Pennsylvania. The forum will take place at noon in the Rachel Carson building auditorium, 400 Market St., Harrisburg.

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The speaker will be Dr. David Argent, Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences at California University of Pennsylvania. He and his colleague, Dr. William Kimmel, are attempting to document the biological recovery of the Monongahela River and its tributaries within Pennsylvania.

Over the past 100 years, the Monongahela River Valley has been impacted by thousands of abandoned coal mines, as well as agricultural and urban run-off. During surveys conducted in the mid-1950s, researchers found the River largely devoid of aquatic life.

However, recent surveys by researchers and students at California University of Pennsylvania are finding a wide variety of fishes, including some rare and endangered species. Perhaps most encouraging is the variety of size classes and overall health of all collected specimens.

Dr. Argent is a life member of the American Fisheries Society and will soon take over as President of the Pennsylvania AFS Chapter. His presentation will focus on recent surveys of the Monongahela River Valley and its tributaries, documenting the variety of aquatic life present today, the challenges of sampling a big river system, and the future direction of his research.

Questions about the Forum can be directed to Don Brown at [brownd@state.pa.us](mailto:brownd@state.pa.us).

### **Adams County Watershed Academy Holds Stormwater Workshop June 21**

A free workshop entitled, “Better Stormwater Management Through Site Design” will be held by the Adams County Watershed Academy on June 21 at the Adams County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center in Gettysburg.

The workshop participants will discuss: hydrology, impact of development, new stormwater regulations, overview of best management practices, ordinance concepts, the new DEP Stormwater Management Manual, municipal roles in stormwater management, and project examples.

Participants will get hands-on experience through case study work, will be provided a ‘checklist’ for design review, and will work together to evaluate an actual site design. A light supper will be provided.

Workshop sponsors include the Department of Environmental Protection Watershed Academy, Adams County Conservation District, Adams County Office of Planning and Development, the Land Conservancy of Adams County, Watershed Alliance of Adams County, Cooperative Extension Service, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and Cahill Associates.

If you may have any questions or would like to register, please contact Cynthia O’Malley, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, at [comalley@pecpa.org](mailto:comalley@pecpa.org) or call 717-230-8044, ext. 10.

### **Volunteers Wanted for June 17 Conestoga River Cleanup**

Rep. Sturla (D-Lancaster) this week invited community volunteers to help local environmental organizations clean up the Conestoga River from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 17.

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Volunteers will meet at Reigart's Landing, Lancaster County Park, Chesapeake and Strawberry streets. Helpers must bring their own work gloves. To sign up, call Pat Coller in Sturla's district office at 717-295-3157 or e-mail her at [pcoller@pahouse.net](mailto:pcoller@pahouse.net).

"With the summer weather finally here, my Conestoga River cleanup is a great opportunity for people to enjoy the warm sunshine while bettering our environment," Rep. Sturla said. "I look forward to another successful cleanup and urge everyone to spare some time to help out."

Rep. Sturla is co-sponsoring his traditional cleanup with the Lancaster County Parks Department, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, the Lancaster County Conservancy, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Employees from Lancaster Laboratories and the community will be volunteering. A free lunch will be provided by Subway and Turkey Hill.

The cleanup will target an area of the Conestoga River that has been designated a prototype of the Greenway Project. The project is a proposed network of protected areas near the waterways of Lancaster County that will be used for recreational and ecological events for local residents.

Rep. Sturla has introduced [House Bill 1051](#) this session that would establish a state "Adopt-A-River" program to help restore Pennsylvania's rivers, spark interest in volunteerism and conserve natural resources. The state Department of Environmental Protection would administer the program and provide trash bags, safety information and assistance to volunteer groups.

Rep. Sturla's bill was favorably reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and currently awaits consideration by the full House.

### **Northwest River Sojourn Highlights Wild and Scenic Allegheny River**

The 42-mile stretch of the Wild and Scenic Allegheny River from Tionesta to Kennerdell will be the site of this year's annual River Sojourn in northwestern Pennsylvania, from July 6 through July 8.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council's [French Creek Project](#) is hosting this year's Sojourn to highlight the unique nature of this portion of the designated National Wild and Scenic River.

Designated on April 20, 1992, the [Allegheny River is an official "Wild and Scenic River"](#) for 86.6 miles in Pennsylvania from the Kinzua Dam downstream to the southern end of Alcorn Island at Oil City, and then from Franklin to Emlenton.

Named "Ohi:YO" by the Native Americans and "la Belle Riviere" by French explorers, this stretch of the Allegheny flows through areas of narrow forest valleys, wilderness islands, and broad, rural landscapes rich with the early history and culture of the region.

Good public access and few hazards make this an ideal river for novice and family canoeing. Fishing for muskie, walleye, rainbow trout, and smallmouth bass is popular in this stretch of the River.

Other partners helping to host the 2006 Sojourn include the U.S. Forest Service, which helps to manage the Wild and Scenic portion of the River, The Nature Conservancy, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, French Creek Valley Conservancy, Allegheny Valley

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Conservancy, Allegheny Valley Trails Association, American Canoe Association, and Venture Outdoors.

Partial funding for the Sojourn is made available by a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, provided through the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers.

The Sojourn is open to the public. Participants can float for one, two, or all three days. Packages and discounts available, starting at \$80 per day for a single boater and \$200 per day for families of three or four (\$30 extra for each additional child). Each package includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack each day, camping, presentations, entertainment and a canoe and shuttle service. Campsites are part of the Sojourn package, but participants will need to bring their own camping gear.

Advanced reservations are required no later than June 30. Reservations can be made by calling the French Creek Project at 1-888-920-8699 or 814-332-2946 or visiting their website at: <http://frenchcreek.allegheny.edu>.

### Millmont Dam on Penns Creek to be Removed

Work began this week on a project to remove the Millmont Dam on the Penns Creek near the village of Millmont in Union County. The work is being done by Lycoming Supply Inc. of Williamsport at a cost of \$25,984.

The Millmont Dam is a low-head, or run-of-the-river, dam that spans the Penns Creek, blocking migration of fish and other aquatic organisms along this high quality trout stream.

Removal of the dam will open over nine miles of Penns Creek to fish passage, will restore of one mile of riparian habitat, and reduce the occurrence and severity of flooding on upstream properties.

The Department of Environmental Protection and the Fish and Boat Commission share regulatory authority over approximately 250 low-head dams in Pennsylvania. Thousands of low-head dams were built throughout the state to provide power to mills or to create impoundments for navigation.

In addition to affecting aquatic habitat, low-head dams have proven to be a danger to boaters and swimmers. A loose coalition of state and federal agencies, and environmental and sporting groups are working to remove dams that are unsafe or no longer needed.

The Millmont Dam will be the 11th low-head dam breached in Pennsylvania during 2006, and the sixth dam breached in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

### Audenreid Tunnel Treatment System Dedication June 17

The Catawissa Creek Restoration Association, Columbia and Schuylkill Conservation Districts and many partners are inviting the public to join them in celebrating the completion of the [Audenreid Mine Tunnel Acid Mine Drainage Treatment System](#) June 17, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.





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This system passively treats up to 14,000 gallons per minute of acidic mine water discharging from the Audenreid Tunnel. In terms of amount of water treated it is the largest passive AMD treatment system ever built in Pennsylvania and perhaps anywhere.

Treatment of the Audenreid discharge has improved the water quality of approximately 25 miles of the Catawissa Creek, a stream that will soon be a “World Class Trout Fishery”.

The system is located on private property and this will probably be the only time that the public will be able to visit and see first hand what public and private partnerships can do in order to restore our environment.

Shuttle busses will be running from the Brandonville Fire Company parking lot located at the intersection of state Routes 339 and 940. The busses will leave at 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. Walking tours will be provided for all of our guests.

For more information, please contact the Schuylkill Conservation District 570-622.3742 ext. 120) or the Columbia County Conservation District 570-784.1310 ext. 102.

Link: [Audenreid Treatment Project Will Clean Up 36 Miles of Catawissa Creek](#)

### **Watershed Groups Can Find Free Technical Help from the Consortium**

Are you a watershed group looking for free help? The [Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watershed program](#) is available to provide free technical assistance.

The Consortium has a team of specialists who can provide eligible watershed groups or local project sponsors management and scientific technical assistance through the Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener Watershed Assistance Program.

To find out more, visit the [Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watershed Program website](#).

### **Funding for Watershed Conservation and Research Projects Available**

The [Fish America Foundation](#) offers grants of up to \$15,000 to nonprofit organizations for projects that directly enhance water quality, habitat, and sport fish populations that have regional or national implications.

The deadline for applications is July 31.

For more information, visit the [Fish American conservation grants webpage](#).

### **June Issue of EPA’s Watershed News Is Now Online**

The [June issue of EPA’s Watershed News](#) is chock full of great information of value to watershed groups. Here’s a sampling of this month’s contents—

- Army Corps of Engineers and EPA Extend Public Comment Period for Compensatory Mitigation Rule
- EPA Unveils First-Ever Assessment of U.S. Wadeable Streams
- 2006 Great North American Secchi Dip-In
- Storm Water Toolbox Now Available

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- Pennsylvania helping to fund solutions to acid mine drainage
- Center for Watershed Protection Announces the Smart Watershed Benchmarking Tool
- Copies of "After the Storm" Video Available
- EPA's Watershed Academy Sponsors Webcast on the Principles of Social Marketing
- Izaak Walton League to host Stormwater Management Webcasts
- The Conservation Leadership Network Hosts On-line Course on The Practice of Environmentally-Sensitive Development
- Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas' KTVT launches Envirocast
- River Network's River Rally 2006 Has Record Attendance
- Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

The [June issue of EPA's Watershed News](#) is available online.

### **DEP Extends Deadline for Comments on Stormwater Manual/Model Ordinance**

The Department of Environmental Protection extended the deadline for comments on its draft Stormwater Management Manual and Model Ordinance until June 27.

Written statements should be sent to: Chief, NPDES Construction and Erosion Control, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Watershed Management, Division of Waterways, Wetlands and Stormwater Management, P.O. Box 8775, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8775. Comments may also be sent electronically to: [epstormwatermanual@state.pa.us](mailto:epstormwatermanual@state.pa.us) .

Copies of the draft Stormwater Manual are posted in the "[Announcements](#)" section of its Stormwater webpage.

### **Game Commission Mining Lease Helps Flight 93 Memorial, Wildlife**

Game Commissioners this week approved a deep mining support lease with the Amfire Mining Company of Latrobe that will help buffer the national memorial to those Americans who perished on Flight 93 near Shanksville on September 11, 2001, and benefit wildlife.

The lease accommodates a request from Amfire Mining to use 8.6 acres of existing roads on State Game Lands 79 in Buffington Township, Indiana County, to haul coal and support its Gilhouser Run deep mine complex. No mining will occur on SGL 79.

In exchange for this 10-year lease, Amfire will pay the Game Commission a wheelage rate based on the market value of each ton of coal mined or 25 cents per ton - whichever is greater - for each ton of coal mined and hauled from the complex over SGL 79.

Amfire has agreed to provide the Game Commission two advanced royalty payments - \$60,000 each - as part of the lease. The first payment is due when the lease is executed; the second, within one year of the lease's execution.

The \$120,000 will be used by the Game Commission to acquire about 300 acres of new State Game Lands located immediately north of the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, as well as other properties that are acceptable to the agency in the immediate future.

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The purchase of this and other area properties is part of an ongoing cooperative effort involving the Game Commission, The Conservation Fund and the National Park Service, including its partners the Flight 93 Advisory Committee, Flight 93 Memorial Task Force and the Families of Flight 93 Inc.

Four years ago, Congress passed the Flight 93 Memorial Act, which called for the creation of a new national park to honor the courageous members of Flight 93 who thwarted a terrorist threat to attack Washington, D.C., with a hijacked commercial aircraft.

"The new State Game Lands created by this land acquisition will be designated SGL 93 in honor of Flight 93's passengers and crew," explained agency Executive Director Carl G. Roe. "The Game Commission is proud to have a role in this important national project and to help commemorate the bravery and ultimate sacrifice made by those who comprised Flight 93. God bless their souls and families, and may their actions inspire generations of Americans."

All royalty payments in excess of the initial advanced payments will be made monthly and deposited into the agency's Game Fund. Based on current market conditions and coal recovery projections, the lease has the potential total value of \$725,000 to the Game Commission. The agency also will receive double-stumpage payment for any timber impacted by Amfire activities.

Mining support activities will be regulated by the state's mining regulations and the agency's standard coal mining lease agreement. Amfire also will post a \$10,000 performance bond. The lease also will include the agency's standard wildlife and environmental protection measures.

**NewsClip:** [Mining Lease to Pay for Buffer Zone Around Flight 93 Memorial](#)

### **4,989 More Acres of Farmland Permanently Preserved**

The Farmland Preservation Board this week added 49 farms and 4,989 acres to the roll of farmland permanently preserved in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres preserved with 2,883 farms and 328,355 acres since the program began in 1988.

The latest preserved farms – in Berks, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Columbia, Dauphin, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill, Tioga, Union, Westmoreland and York counties – consist of cropping, livestock and replacement heifer operations, dairies, an orchard and a layer poultry facility.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed 18 years ago to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements (also called development rights) from owners of quality farmland.

Pennsylvania has 7.7 million acres of farmland, representing 27 percent of the state's land base.

For more information, visit the [Farmland Preservation Programs webpage](#).

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

## Advisory Committees on Deer Management Endorsed by Game Commission

The Board of the Game Commission this week directed that Citizens Advisory Committees be formed at the Wildlife Management Unit level around the state to obtain stakeholder input on deer management goals.

The Board's action follows endorsement of the pilot [Citizen Advisory Committee in the mid-state's Wildlife Management Unit \(WMU\) 4B](#) because it demonstrated that this grassroots approach can give a voice in deer management to stakeholders and arbitrate the varied concerns of the social, economic and political forces that routinely influence deer management decisions.

The Bureau of Wildlife Management set a goal of holding four or five CACs in different WMUs each year, so that each WMU will have at least one CAC during a five-year period. Those WMUs identified for using CACs in the coming year are WMUs 1B, 2C, 3B and 5C.

The process will begin later this year to ensure the CACs have input into the Deer Management Section's preparation for antlerless license allocations for the 2007-08 seasons, which are slated to be set next April.

While CACs will have input into the overall process, the final decision for setting antlerless deer license allocations - the agency's primary tool for managing deer populations - will continue to rest with the Board of Game Commissioners.

The Game Commission is pursuing the Citizen Advisory Committee approach because it provides people whose lives are influenced by deer direct input into deliberations that will ultimately lead to establishing deer population goals for the WMU in which they live and/or hunt. Additionally, these CACs will help educate stakeholders about the complexities and importance of proper deer management, as well as provide a means to improve communication and interaction among stakeholders and the agency.

In 2002, the Game Commission took its first formal step at integrating public values into deer management by assembling and convening a statewide stakeholder group to identify deer management goals and objectives. This group recommended the use of CACs to gather local stakeholder input for consideration in WMU-level deer management decisions. The first CAC used to pilot test this process was for WMU 4B.

The eight members of the pilot CAC concluded that WMU 4B's deer population should increase by 10 to 20 percent; one other member recommended a slight increase. This decision was reached after two meetings, both of which were facilitated by officials from the Bureau of Management Consulting in the Governor's Office of Administration.

On the whole, CAC members considered serving on the pilot committee a rare opportunity and welcomed the chance it provided to become more familiar with the intricacies of deer management and the concerns of other stakeholders.

CAC members came from all walks of life. The interests they represented included agriculture, business, forest industry, highway safety, homeowner, municipal government, public landowner and sportsmen.

Establishing a pilot CAC was an objective of the Game Commission's Deer Management Plan, which was adopted in 2003. Since it has rendered its recommendation, the experimental CAC has been disbanded.

For more information, visit the Game Commission's [Deer Management Program webpage](#).

## **Williamsport Company Honored for Environmental Excellence Award**

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty this week honored Wirerope Works Inc. in Lycoming County for a project that eliminated 100 percent of the company's lead emissions.

The project has helped the company reduce its hazardous waste disposal costs while saving as much as \$50,000 in annual maintenance costs.

Wirerope Works manufactures a complete line of Bethlehem Wirerope for a wide variety of uses, including elevators, ocean cables, oil fields, ski resorts, and the mining and logging industries.

The traditional production method used in this industry to produce high-quality wire rope is the double-lead patenting process, which creates numerous environmental issues.

In early 2004, Wirerope enrolled in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Partnership for Environmental Priorities and made a commitment to reduce its lead emissions from 27,000 pounds annually to zero.

This goal was achieved through several different equipment changes, including the use of a direct-fired furnace with a molten salt bath cooling, a transfer hood and a salt rinse system. Company engineers also redesigned the quench tank and improved the furnace burner system.

Besides eliminating 27,000 pounds of lead pollution annually, Wirerope Works also recycled more than 80,000 pounds of lead that was used in the old process, which helped fund the conversion.

The new process has reduced maintenance costs by more than \$50,000 annually, and the economic payback was less than two years.

For more information, visit the [2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [Wirerope Works Earns Award for Going Lead-Free](#)

## **Fill'er Up Soon at Air Product's Hydrogen Fueling Station at Penn State**

The only hydrogen fueling station currently located in Pennsylvania is on Penn State's University Park campus where efforts are also underway to develop a mixed vehicle fleet, including two cars, a bus and vans, to demonstrate the potential of the new "gas."

Dr. Joel Anstrom, director of Penn State's Hybrid and Hydrogen Vehicle Research Center (HHVRC), says, "We're evaluating multiple vehicle technologies as well as testing the hydrogen fueling infrastructure in a real world environment, under real world loads."

By the end of the summer, Anstrom and his partners expect to have a transit bus and a University maintenance van operating on a hydrogen/natural gas blend along with a fuel cell car operating on pure hydrogen. Residents will be able to ride the bus, #85 on the Loop and Link routes, and observe the van and car which will all be marked for identification.

Development and deployment of the hydrogen vehicle fleet involves the collaboration of Penn State's Pennsylvania Transportation Institute, of which the Hybrid and Hydrogen Vehicle Research Center is a part, the University's Office of Physical Plant, the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) and Collier Technologies of Reno,

Nevada. Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., developed the hydrogen fueling station which produces hydrogen by steam reforming of natural gas and fills the need for a practical and cost effective hydrogen fueling infrastructure to support early deployment of hydrogen vehicles.

Anstrom points out that the buses operated by CATA are already powered by natural gas, which is a mixture of gases that includes about two percent hydrogen. Collier Technologies has outfitted Bus #85 with an engine that can burn mixtures with up to 50 percent hydrogen. While natural gas is already clean burning, they expect Bus #85 to offer a significantly improved tailpipe emissions profile. Penn State engineers will perform emissions testing on the bus burning a 30 percent hydrogen/natural gas mixture, which they expect to meet the more stringent 2007 heavy-duty engine emission levels without any tailpipe after treatment.

Vans from the Office of Physical Plant will also be modified by Collier Technologies to run on the same hydrogen/natural gas mixture. While one van is complete and scheduled to be in service at summer's end, Anstrom expects a total of six to seven hydrogen/natural gas-burning vans to eventually join the fleet.

The Air Products hydrogen fueling station currently offers the option of 30 percent hydrogen/natural gas mixtures or pure hydrogen. HHVRC researchers have also fitted an electric car, donated by General Motors, with a commercially-available hydrogen proton exchange membrane fuel cell that will enable it to run on pure hydrogen. Called the HyLion, the car will demonstrate the fueling process, features, and performance of initial fuel cell vehicles, Anstrom notes.

In addition, HHVC researchers and Collier Technologies are working to adapt the gasoline engine in a hybrid electric vehicle to run on pure hydrogen.

In addition to fueling the fleet, the hydrogen station, which produces hydrogen on site from natural gas, will be used by other Penn State researchers who need hydrogen. These researchers could include chemists, biochemists and molecular biologists as well as engineers studying hydrogen production, storage, conversion and standards issues.

By the end of summer, Anstrom expects the hydrogen fueling station demand to be about 40 kg of hydrogen per day to supply the bus, vans and car, as well as researchers. The bus, for example, will require about 26 kg of hydrogen per fill and will be able to roll all day from 4 a.m. to midnight, about 300 miles, on one fill up. When the additional vans are added to the fleet, production can be ramped up to 100 kg per day.

Anstrom adds, "When used as a fuel, hydrogen produces no harmful emissions, just water. This station can produce hydrogen from domestic or biomass-derived natural gas. We expect that once a demand for hydrogen as a vehicle fuel is created, renewable sources, such as biomass fermentation, even wastewater, will be tapped to produce hydrogen directly."

The project is supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Community and Economic Development.

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

## Philadelphia Building Named to 2006 Top 10 Green Projects List

The American Institute of Architects has again selected a Pennsylvania building – the Philadelphia Forensic Science Center-- as one of its [top 10 examples of sustainable architecture](#) and green design solutions.

Pennsylvania buildings on previous lists include: The Barn at Fallingwater, Mill Run, Pa. (2005) and the Cusano Environmental Education Center, Philadelphia (2003).

The 2006 Top Ten Green Projects selected by AIA’s Committee on the Environment (COTE) make a positive contribution to their communities, improve comfort for building occupants, and reduce environmental impacts through strategies such as reuse of existing structures, connection to transit systems, low-impact site development, energy and water conservation, use of sustainable or renewable construction materials, and design that improves indoor air quality.

For more information, visit the winners’ page of the [top 10 examples of sustainable architecture](#).

## IRS Issues Guidance on Tax Benefits for Energy-Efficiency Improvements

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service issued [guidance on how commercial building owners or leaseholders](#) can qualify for a federal tax benefit by making their buildings more energy efficient.

Experts cited by the National Lighting Bureau predict that the energy efficiency provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 will generate energy savings equivalent to the output of more than 60 conventional, coal-fired power plants.

The commercial building deduction, which was enacted in the, allows taxpayers to accelerate the depreciation deduction for the cost of energy-efficient property installed in commercial buildings. The accelerated deduction may be as much as \$1.80 per square foot of building floor area for buildings that cut their energy use by half. Buildings that fall below that target can still earn a deduction of 60 cents per square foot if they at least cut their energy use by one-sixth.

Owners would take their accelerated deductions in the year in which the property is “placed in service”; i.e., the time at which the property is ready for its intended use. The owners would then be able to depreciate any remaining costs over the customary number of years.

Before claiming the accelerated deduction, the taxpayer must obtain a certification that the required energy savings will be achieved, and the IRS notice describes how to obtain that certification. To support this effort, the U.S. Department Of Energy will create and maintain a public list of software that must be used to calculate energy savings for purposes of providing the certification.

For more information, visit the [federal Energy Act information webpage](#).

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

## Roger Fickes Retires as State Parks Director



Roger Fickes, who has been Director of the Bureau of State Parks since 1992, will retire this year after a life-time of service to the Commonwealth.

Roger was born in Everett, Pennsylvania, a small farming community in Bedford County. After high school and during college, Mr. Fickes worked as a field supervisor for the state Department of Agriculture.

While attending Pennsylvania State University, Mr. Fickes was an intern for the Bureau of State Parks.

In 1969, Mr. Fickes received his Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from the Pennsylvania State University.

While attending Utah State University, Mr. Fickes was an instructor of landscape architecture while earning his Master of Landscape Architecture.

In 1973, Mr. Fickes returned to Pennsylvania and took a position as a landscape architect for the Bureau of State Parks. Many of his early assignments dealt with regional recreation planning, information for the State Recreation Plan, and conducting use and user surveys.

In 1976, Mr. Fickes was appointed Chief of the State and Local Coordination Section in the Bureau of Resources Programming. During his tenure as section chief, he was Chairman of the Pennsylvania Wild and Scenic Rivers Task Force, and a member of the State Recreation Plan Advisory Committee and the Forest Resource Plan Advisory Committee.

In 1988, Mr. Fickes was appointed Chief of the Division of Rivers and Wetlands Conservation and supervised the study, designation and implementation of management guidelines for designated scenic rivers. He also was responsible for the implementation of the department's Wetlands Protection Action Plan.

In 1992, Mr. Fickes was appointed Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks. Mr. Fickes manages and guides one of the nation's largest state park system, and is the past president of the Northeastern State Park Directors Association.

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/rogerbio.aspx>

## DCNR Appoints Marylander as New Director of State Parks

A veteran of Maryland's State Forest and Park Service has been appointed director of Pennsylvania's Bureau of State Parks.

John W. Norbeck, who worked for 29 years in Maryland, succeeds Roger Fickes, who will retire June 23 after directing Pennsylvania's park system of 117 facilities and almost 300,000 acres since 1992. Norbeck begins his new job on June 12.

Norbeck, 50, takes over the reins of a park system where nationally-recognized environmental education, diverse natural resources and wide-ranging outdoor recreation combined to draw almost 40 million visitors in 2005. From the sandy beaches of Lake Erie and Presque Isle to 60 miles of historic canal and river shoreline at Delaware Canal, most Pennsylvanians have a state park within 25 miles of their home.



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Presently living in Woodbine, Carroll County, Md., Norbeck plans to purchase a home in the Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, area.

He has served in a variety of public land management positions since starting employment in 1977 with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources State Forest and Park Service. He has worked in field, regional, and central office roles as a ranger, assistant park manager, law enforcement chief, field operations director, and, for the past 10 years, as park regional administrator.

Norbeck graduated from Roanoke College, Va., with a bachelor's degree in biology. He is a 1987 graduate of the FBI National Academy, Quantico, Va.

### See & Hear

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#### **Influencing Behaviors Using Social Marketing In Your Watershed Webcast June 28**

EPA's Watershed Academy will hold another of its online webcasts on June 28 entitled, "[Influencing Behaviors Using Social Marketing](#)" from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Watershed practitioners are increasingly relying on nontraditional approaches to encourage people to alter their everyday behaviors to help protect and improve our waters.

These approaches include social marketing techniques, which apply traditional commercial marketing approaches to address social issues.

Charlie MacPherson, from Tetra Tech, Inc. and Christopher Conner, Chesapeake Bay Program, will provide an overview of social marketing principles and then move through the steps needed to make audiences aware of an issue, recognize audiences' underlying motivations and encourage behavior change.

The social marketing principles used to change behaviors in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed will be a case study.

For more information, visit the [Influencing Behaviors Using Social Marketing](#)" webpage.

### Quick Clips

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

[Urban Deer Plan Unveiled](#)

[Another Deer Management Debate Identified](#)

[State Agency to Take Deer Control Steps](#)

[\\$3.7 Million in Recycling Performance Grants Announced](#)

[Lancaster Recycling More Than Ever](#)

[Growing Greener Funds Composting Center in Blair County](#)

[Trash Talk: Volunteers Remove Tons of Debris](#)

[Extolling Nature and Artisans – Hawk Mountain](#)

[Bugs on Windshield Can Tell Volumes About Our Environment](#)

[Wind Power Still Promising](#)

[Wind Industry Sails Into Headwinds](#)

[Wind Energy Advocates Urge Consistency in Policies](#)

[Editorial: Wind Power Gains Popularity, Caution in Order](#)

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[ELCO School District Eyes Wind Power](#)  
[Benefits of Energy Conservation Initiative Seen](#)  
[DOE Awards \\$1.4 Million Grant to PA for Energy Efficiency Program](#)  
[Chester Dentist Saves \\$30,000 in Waste Costs](#)  
[Bright, 21st Century Future for Anthracite](#)  
[From Coal to Jet Fuel](#)  
[Community Environmental Award Winners Announced](#)  
[Sen. Santorum Not Conceding the Environment](#)  
[For Santorum, An Unfriendly Environment](#)  
[PA Senate Race Gets Unfriendly Environmentally](#)  
[How Would Global Climate Change Affect Us?](#)

### Watershed NewsClips

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

[Recent Rains Fail to Move State Out of Drought Watch](#)  
[DEP Extends Comment Deadline for Stormwater Manual](#)  
[Volunteers Help Park's Stream Run Clear Again](#)  
[Stream Protection Plan Stirs Interest](#)  
[Sojourn Down Schuylkill Makes Annual Stop in Pottstown](#)  
[For Sojourners, On River View Gives New Perspective](#)  
[Susquehanna River Sojourn Begins June 14](#)  
[Coatesville Riverwalk Grant Approved](#)  
[Mine Drainage Treatment Project Receives \\$1.3 Million in Clinton County](#)  
[Grant Will Reclaim Abandoned Mine Where Fatality Occurred](#)  
[Mine Drainage Project Advances](#)  
[Fixing the Quittie Will Be Costly](#)  
[Shad Release Latest Effort to Enhance River](#)  
[DEP Reminds Pool Owners to Handle Waste Water Safely](#)  
[Groups Seek Tougher Watershed Measure](#)

### Regulations

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The Department of Environmental Protection, Fish and Boat Commission and Independent Regulatory Review Commission all published notices related to environmental regulations. Here's the rundown...

DEP published a [notice extending the General Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations](#).

The Fish and Game Commission is proposing to [add a Somerset County stream](#) to its Wild Trout Waters list and [other general changes to the list](#).

The [Independent Regulatory Review Commission submitted comments](#) to the Public Utility Commission on the proposed Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 10, 2006](#)

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

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published a new Radon Certification guidance document](#) for comment this week and [extended the comment period for the Stormwater Manual and Model Ordinance](#) to July 14.

Draft: DEP ID: 294-2309-001. Radon Certification Policy. This document contains guidelines used by the Bureau of Radiation Protection to administer a radon certification program for persons conducting radon gas and radon progeny testing and laboratory analysis and mitigation of radon contamination in buildings. Comments due: July 10.

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

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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

- **June 12** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum – Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) “Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania.” Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **June 12** – House Labor Relations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1905](#) (DiGiroland-R-Bucks) defining members of a community emergency response team as an employee under the Workers’ Compensation Act. Room 205 Ryan Building. Off the Floor.
- **June 13** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1201](#) (M.J.White-R-Venango) the Clean Air Mercury Compliance Act, [Senate Bill 855](#) (Pippy-R-Allegheny) authorizing municipalities to expend public funds to repair or replace private sewer laterals, [House Bill 1108](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing a program within PennVEST to repair or replace private sewer laterals. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:30.
- **June 13** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Sewage Advisory Committee Regulations Subcommittee](#) meeting.

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- **June 14** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Sewage Advisory Committee](#) meeting.
- **June 19** – USDA – U.S. Senator Rick Santorum [Renewable Energy Conference](#). Farm Show Complex, 2nd Floor VIP Room 9:00-3:00. Contact Vince Murphy, 717-237-2181 or send email to: [Vincent.Murphy@pa.usda.gov](mailto:Vincent.Murphy@pa.usda.gov) .
- **June 20** – **CANCELLED** – Environmental Quality Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting is July 18.
- **June 20** – **CANCELLED** – DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting.
- **June 26-27** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting](#). Best Western University Inn, Indiana, PA. 7 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. respectively.
- **June 26** – Governor’s Renewable Agriculture Energy Council meeting. Room 309 Agriculture Building. 10:00.
- **July 5-6** – **CANCELLED** – DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting.
- **July 12** – DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting](#). DEP California District Mining Office, California, PA. 1:30.
- **July 19** – Governor’s Invasive Species Council meeting. Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

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

#### [Watershed Events](#)

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

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

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

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

### **Helpful Web Links**

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

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

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

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

### **Stories Invited**

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

## **PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci**

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

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