

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

July 18, 2005

Growing Greener, Environment Ed, Help for Watershed Groups

Gov. Rendell this week signed the legislation into law laying out how the \$625 million environmental bond issue approved by voters in May will be spent. The legislation also reallocates funds to different programs from the original Growing Greener Program.

Want good role models for your students interested in the environment? Check out three different examples of how students took positive action to either cleanup or educate others about the environment.

Watershed groups and others interested in doing projects related to abandoned mine reclamation can get help with those efforts from a new Trout Unlimited Program funded by Growing Greener.

Session Schedule

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The House returns on September 26.

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On the Hill

Bills on Governor’s Desk

The last of the environmental bills on the Governor’s desk were signed into law this week...

Scenic Byway: [Senate Bill 721](#) (Lemmond-R-Luzerne) designating a portion of Route 6 in Wyoming County and Route 92 in Susquehanna County a scenic byway was signed into law as Act 35.

Growing Greener Bond: [House Bill 3](#) (Quigley-R-Montgomery) implementing legislation for the \$625 million environmental bond issue and reallocating funding from the Environmental Stewardship Fund was signed into law as Act 45. (*See separate article in this Digest.*)

Project Hold Harmless: [House Bill 86](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) providing for a hold harmless on Corps of Engineers projects was signed into law as Act 47.

Infrastructure Security Projects: [House Bill 612](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizing funding for water and sewage system security projects was signed into law as Act 51.

Bills Introduced

Land Conservation Tax Breaks: [House Bill 1895](#) (Fairchild-R-Union) Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania providing for special tax provisions relating to land conservation. *(text not yet available online)*

In Other News

Environmental Bond, Spending Restructuring Bill Signed Into Law

Gov. Rendell this week signed into law the legislation to implement the \$625 million environmental bond issue voters passed in May. The legislation also reallocates existing environmental spending from Growing Greener's Environmental Stewardship Fund to other programs.

"Securing this investment today will keep Pennsylvania 'growing greener' well into the future," Gov. Rendell said. "We are entrusted as the stewards of our environment, and have a moral obligation to leave our soil, water and air in better condition than we found it for future generations. Growing Greener II embraces the priorities that all of us share in Pennsylvania.

"Voters made their support absolutely clear when they approved the bond referendum May 17, and the legislature acted quickly to put in place a plan that will achieve the highest standards of environmental protection while creating the jobs we critically need."

On hand for the bill signing in Montgomery County were a bipartisan group of legislators, state agencies, local officials and members of environmental groups.

"What was started by Gov. Tom Ridge has blossomed into a long-term strategy to improve and preserve Pennsylvania's environment," said Rep. Quigley (R-Montgomery) prime sponsor of the legislation. "Continuation of the Growing Greener program is vital to protect Pennsylvania's open spaces and improve our water, air, and land for our children and their children."

"We praise Gov. Rendell, as well as the General Assembly, for helping our agency address infrastructure problems that hinder operational efficiency and reduce or eliminate services to hunters and trappers, other wildlife conservationists and our state's wildlife resources," said Vernon Ross, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. "Most of these problems stem from an inability to modernize facilities or repair damages caused by storms. In addition, this funding will help finance environmental improvements - such as wetlands development and stream-bank protection



Indian Head Passive Mine Drainage Treatment System in Frailey Township, Schuylkill County.

- that will further increase the appeal of State Game Lands and cooperating private landowner properties to wildlife.”

“By passing Growing Greener II and signing it into law, the Legislature and Governor Rendell are making a strong statement about the future of the Commonwealth. Our lawmakers and policy setters are showing they understand what anglers and boaters have long known: that the quality of life in Pennsylvania is directly linked to the health of its environment and natural resources,” said Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Douglas Austen.

A detailed summary of the legislation is available in [last week's Digest](#).

NewsClips: [State Getting Greener](#)

[Growing Greener Grants Could Prevent Landslides](#)

[State Sets Growing Greener Distribution](#)

[Ready to Seed Green Initiatives](#)

[Rendell Signs Green Bill](#)

[Growing Greener Takes Root in Montco](#)

[Montgomery County Recognized for Role in Growing Greener](#)

Technical Help Available for Abandoned Mine Drainage Projects



Trout Unlimited in Pennsylvania is offering [technical assistance to watershed and other groups](#) involved in abandoned mine drainage projects throughout Pennsylvania funded by a Growing Greener grant.

Using the successful [Kettle Creek](#) model of applied research, on-the-ground restoration, and community outreach, Trout Unlimited is expanding its existing network of partnerships to work on AMD issues beyond northcentral Pennsylvania and is now able to reach out to offer technical assistance to other groups throughout Pennsylvania to address the effects of pollution from abandoned mine drainage.

The types of free technical assistance being offered includes--

- Rapid characterization of mine drainage;
- Rapid watershed assessment;
- Conceptual design of passive treatment systems;
- Construction oversight;
- Existing treatment system evaluation and recommendations; and
- Other, as treated on a case-by-case basis

In order to provide top-quality technical assistance, Trout Unlimited has partnered with Hedin Environmental, Inc., one of the leading consulting firms that specialize in the assessment and treatment of AMD pollution.

Additionally, for technical assistance requiring coldwater fisheries and habitat restoration assessments, Trout Unlimited offers the expert services of its Stream Restoration Specialist, Jim MacCartney, who works on river restoration throughout the nation.

Since 1998, Trout Unlimited has been working through its national [Home Rivers Initiative](#) with a local watershed association and a host of other state, federal, and private partners to address AMD issues in the Kettle Creek watershed in northcentral PA.

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How can you get started? Easy, just contact Amy Wolfe of Trout Unlimited at awolfe@tu.org or 570-726-3118. You can also simply fill out a [request form online](#).

Information on abandoned mine drainage problems throughout Appalachia is available in a new report by Trout Unlimited—[Restoring the Wealth of the Mountains, Cleaning Up Appalachia’s Abandoned Mines](#).

Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Awarded

Over \$1.1 million in grants were awarded this week through the [Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant Program](#) administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Chesapeake Bay Program Office provides primary funding for the program along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment.

A list of grant awardees is available as part of the [Small Watershed Grants announcement](#).

Porous Payment Parking Lot, Stream Work Continues in Erie County

Northeast Borough in Erie County is now home to a new porous pavement parking lot, thanks in part to a \$150,000 Growing Greener grant.

The Baker Creek Watershed Association received the grant to create 320 feet of new streamside buffer, nearly 8,000 square feet of green space, 340 square yards of infiltration galley and 1,350 square yards of pervious parking service in the center of the downtown. In addition, roof runoff from surrounding business building was captured and redirected into infiltration galleys to eliminate the surface flushing effect.

Baker Creek Watershed Association Chairman John Hallenburg said, “We took a situation where 100 percent of the downtown urban runoff in this area was being discharged directly into Baker Creek --- both at point and nonpoint sources. This project enables us to capture nearly all of it, drastically reducing peak storm discharges and urban nonpoint pollution.”

In addition to the permeable surface that will allow precipitation to be filtered as it percolates into the ground, native plants and a bioretention area are being installed to further improve the ecological functioning of the area.

Growing Greener has helped to develop five porous pavement parking lots in Erie County-- Asbury Woods Trail Head, the Erie County Conservation District, Unitarian Church and Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies.

In addition to the Growing Greener grant, North East Borough, the North East Chamber of Commerce, the Northeast Shade Tree Commission, the North East Garden Club and downtown North East businesses contributed funds and in-kind services.

Other contributions included the Great Lakes Commission \$98,000 under its program to control erosion and sedimentation within the Great Lakes Basin, the DEP Coastal Zone Management Program provided \$10,640 for parking lot planning and design and the Environmental Fund for Pennsylvania offered \$5,000 for riparian buffer vegetation.

NewsClip: [Eco-Friendly Municipal Parking Lot Debuts in Downtown Northeast](#)

Conservation Plan Meetings Set for Red Bank Creek

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in cooperation with Sandy Lick Conservation Initiative, [North Fork Watershed Association](#), local municipalities, agencies, and individuals have scheduled public meetings on the Watershed Conservation Plan for Red Bank Creek and its tributaries in Clearfield, Jefferson, Armstrong, and Clarion counties.

The watershed conservation plan is developed through a locally driven planning process, which creates a vision for the watershed community. The plan addresses natural resources (land, water, and biological), cultural resources (historical and recreational), and the socio-economics of the region, including population trends, utilities and infrastructure, and the economy and major sources of employment.

The Plan is partially funded by a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Informational public meetings will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations--

- July 19 – VFW, 114 Fuller Street, DuBois;
- July 21 – Community Room at the Public Library, New Bethlehem; and
- July 27 – Meeting Room at the Brookville Borough Complex, Brookville.

The steering committee, composed of local community representatives, are actively engaging the watershed community to increase recreational opportunities, address water quality concerns, promote planning, and protect cultural and historical resources.

All area residents are encouraged to attend a public meeting and provide ideas to help guide the future of the watershed. Local support is critical to the success of the project.

For more information please contact Carla Ruddock at the [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Watershed Assistance Center](#) 724-59-0953 ext. 107.

2004 Mine Reclamation Report to General Assembly Now Available

This week the Department of Environmental Protection provided the Senate and House environmental committees with copies of the [2004 Remining Incentives Report](#) which details how programs like financial guarantees, bond credits, mine operator assistance, government-financed reclamation contracts and other initiatives have promoted the remining and reclamation of abandoned mine areas.

Since 1996 more than 2,924 acres of abandoned mine land have been reclaimed under these incentive programs by mine operators. Reclamation of these areas would have cost state taxpayers more than \$17.5 million if DEP had to complete the work.

As an additional incentive to remining, DEP recommended in the report amending state law to allow “lands eligible for remining” to be released from further reclamation liability two years after they last reclamation activity to be consistent with federal law.

Commenting on the report, DEP’s [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) made several recommendations—

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- DEP apply concepts used in the Land Recycling Program to redevelop brownfields to remining and mine reclamation projects;
- Remining projects should receive priority funding under the Growing Greener Program;
- Legislation should be enacted to provide a tax credit to mine operators for each ton of coal from remining projects; and
- Agreed with the agency's recommendation to provide liability release on remining project consistent with federal law.

The entire [2004 Remining Incentives Report](#) is available online.

NewsClip: [DEP Awards No Cost Reclamation Contract](#)

Funds Help Reuse Abandoned Coal Land for Motorized Recreation

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week presented a \$1,025,000 grant to the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority to start development of the Rock Run Recreation Area, a 6,000- acre tract offering improved riding opportunities for owners of all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.

DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said acquisition and development of the former K&J Coal Co. site in Chest Township, Cambria County, and Chest Township, Clearfield County, to create a multi-use, motorized recreation area represents the "embodiment of the Snowmobile/ATV Fund -- and that is partnerships."

"The Department of Environmental Protection worked closely with owners and the bonding agent to guarantee long-term operation and maintenance of on-site waste treatment," DiBerardinis said. "Add to that, the untiring efforts of local lawmakers to see this beautiful, reclaimed site utilized as an ATV magnet, drawing riders, other visitors and their economic stimulus to an area that needs it. To achieve these ends, we worked closely with the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority, its Rock Run Advisory Board and the Allegheny Ridge Corp."

DEP Introduces Online Training Center for Water Plant Operators



The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced it has launched [EarthWise Academy](#), an online training and information center for certified water and wastewater system operators.

Under the Water and Wastewater Systems Operators Act, all certified operators are required to take continuing education courses. The EarthWise Academy allows operators to register and take courses online through a special catalog and maintain their personal educational transcripts.

Ten courses are currently available covering all aspects of the Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule, water filtration, coagulation and biosolids.

Topics under development include the Total Coliform Rule, the Lead and Copper Rule, Radionuclides Rule, jar testing, biological nutrient removal and more courses on the DBP rule and biosolids.

Course length ranges anywhere from about one hour to four hours, and the cost is \$30 per contact hour.

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All certified water and wastewater operators automatically have an account in EarthWise Academy. They simply have to follow the on-screen instructions to view continuing education transcripts or to enroll in a DEP web-based course.

Individuals other than certified operators may take a DEP web-based course, but currently the number of EarthWise Academy accounts is limited. Anyone other than certified operators will have to contact DEP to request an account.

For more information, [EarthWise Academy online](#) or contact Barry Greenawald at 717-772-4018.

NewsClip: [DEP Introduces EarthWise Online Training Academy](#)

Participate in New Diversity in Environmental Ed. in Higher Education Initiative

The [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#) and the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) are partners in a new initiative to [increase diversity in environmental education](#) and environmental content at institutions of higher education.

They have issued an invitation to join the effort and to be part of a conference call to be held on July 18 at 9:00 a.m. for higher education faculty, administrators and staff. During the call, the overall initiative will be discussed along with possible Pennsylvania representation at a "Diversity in the Environmental Field Summit" and the "Environmental Education and Diversity Facilitator Workshop." (see below)

The goal of this new initiative is to "Develop a plan to increasing diversity in environmental education and environmental content at higher education institutions by identifying existing initiatives, models and opportunities and by partnering with other institutions/organizations."

The initiative is also partly in response to agency, business and non-profit organization interest in increasing diversity in their environmental workforce.

The partners are reaching out to the higher education community to identify individuals and programs that are interested in working toward this goal.

If your academic program, department, college or institution are interested, send email to either [Howard Greenberg](#) of the PCIEP or [Paulette Johnson](#) of the PCEE.

[Click here for more information](#) on the Summit on Diversity in the Environmental Field to be held in Michigan August 28-30 and the Environmental Education and Diversity Facilitator Workshop to be held in Austin, Texas on September 7 to 11.

PA Center for Environment Ed EE Connections Newsletter Now Available

Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education



Service Education Research

The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education's July newsletter, [EE Connections](#), is now available online.

This month's issue includes—

General EE News: PCEE is Adding Energy Resources to PEER, Making Outdoor Programs Accessible, States Assess Environmental Education, Children, Youth and Environments On-line Journal, Environmental Education in Armstrong County, Conservation Careers Diversity Project Survey

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K-12 News: Ecology Camp for Teenagers, Schools Recognized for Radon Detection Program, President's Environmental Youth Awards, Teens for Planet Earth, EstuaryLive in Schools, Fish of The Great Lakes

Higher Education: The Castle Rock Institute Travel Opportunities, The Canadian Environmental Literacy Project

Professional Development: Invitation to Participate in Diversity in EE and EC for Higher Education, Environmental Education and Diversity Facilitator Workshop, Summit on Diversity in the Environmental Field, ANCA Annual Summit, Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation On-line Class, Energy Star Workshop, Nature and Wildlife Photography in Elk Country, Watershed Stewardship Toolbox Workshop, WETMAAP: Wetland Education Through Maps and Aerial Photography

Grants: Anheuser-Busch Environmental Excellence Awards, Brimstone Awards for Applied Storytelling, Captain Planet Foundation, "Do Something" Grants for Youth Community Projects, GreenWorks! Grants, NAAEE Student Scholarships

Awards: Higher Education Scholarships Awarded, Carnegie Science Center Awards for Excellence Presented, Protect Our Watershed Art Contest Winners Announced

The PCEE wishes to thank all the organizations, agencies and individuals which provide EE services and share EE information from across Pennsylvania. If you would like to contribute to future EE Connections issues, please submit your article before the 15th of the month. Articles are to be of statewide interest. Inclusion in the newsletter is subject to space availability.

If you know anyone who would benefit from receiving EE Connections, please complete the [on-line form](#), send email to pcee@sru.edu or call 724-738-4555.

Applications For President's Environmental Youth Award Due July 31



July 31 is the deadline for submission of projects for the [2005 President's Environmental Youth Awards](#) sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards are designed to promote awareness of our natural resources, encourage positive community involvement and to recognize young Americans for protecting our nation's air, water, land, and ecology.

Each year the PEYA program honors a wide variety of environmental projects developed by young individuals, school classes (kindergarten through high school), summer camps, public interest groups, and youth organizations to promote environmental awareness.

For more information, visit the [2005 President's Environmental Youth Awards](#) webpage.

Environmental Educators Conference March 24-26 in Ligonier

Start planning now to attend the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators [conference March 24-26 in Ligonier](#). The theme of the conference is “Pennsylvania’s Harmony – Celebrate the Wonder of Pennsylvania’s Environment.

Noted children’s author [Jean Craighead George](#) will be one of the featured speakers, along with workshops, exhibits and entertainment by [David Stokes](#).

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



EPGA 2005 Power Generation Conference September 7 & 8

The Electric Power Generation Association will hold its annual conference on September 7 and 8 in Hershey. This year’s theme is “Achieving Operational Excellence and Environmental Compliance.”

The agenda includes presentations on a variety of topics, including the latest on Clean Air Act requirements, mercury controls, the PJM expansion and market integration, emissions trading and other issues.

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

Pennsylvania Litter Summit Set for October 5 in Harrisburg



[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#), its [member organizations](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection have scheduled a Litter Summit for October 5 in Harrisburg.

The Summit will feature a series of workshops and presentations by in-state and out-of-state experts on dealing with the many different aspects of the litter issue—education, enforcement, volunteer programs, rural dumping and community initiatives.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is also looking for sponsors for the one day summit.

For more information contact Julia Marano, Executive Director, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful at 717-214-7901, send email to: marano@keppabeautiful.org or visit the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful website](#).

Fish & Boat Commission’s Austen Leads National Fish Habitat Effort



Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Douglas Austen has been selected to chair the [National Fish Habitat Initiative](#), a national workgroup developing a strategy to protect aquatic habitats and fisheries across the country.

Much like the highly successful [North American Waterfowl Management Plan](#) in the 1980s that forged partnerships for restoration or protection of millions of acres of wetland breeding areas for waterfowl, the National Fish Habitat Initiative is a collaborative effort to focus

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attention on common priorities for fish habitat across the country.

“Destruction of habitat is a principal culprit in many of the challenges fisheries managers face. Habitat alteration is a contributing factor to 75 percent of all fish extinctions during the past 75 years and 91 percent of fish listings under the Endangered Species Act,” Austen pointed out. “Our goal is to substantially increase the level of activity by state and federal agencies and conservation organizations in addressing aquatic habitat issues. Ultimately, the NFHI will produce geographically-focused, locally-driven, scientifically-based partnerships to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitats across the nation.”

The development of the NFHI is one of six priority areas the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identified in its Fisheries Program for the Future vision document in 2002. The USFWS then asked the state natural resources agencies, through the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, to develop a formal NFHI plan and begin its implementation.

The NFHI project is now in the midst of a series of workgroup and support team meetings to develop the NFHI plan, acquire more partners, and begin implementation. The workgroup is developing compilations of existing habitat restoration efforts, habitat monitoring programs, research projects and databases from across the nation that will be useful in developing NFHI objectives.

The group is also actively looking to build the list of partners in the effort. In addition to state and federal agencies, sponsors of the NFHI now include conservation organizations like the American Fisheries Society, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Trout Unlimited, many BASS federation chapters including the Pennsylvania Chapter, as well as industry partners such as Bass Pro Shops, Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and BASS/ESPN Outdoors.

Interested groups can become a member of the NFHI Partners Coalition by signing on through the [NFHI website](#).

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has long been considered a national leader in addressing fish habitat, so tapping its Executive Director for a national effort is only logical.

Since 2000, the [Commission’s Adopt a Stream program](#) has overseen the construction and placement, with the assistance of volunteer cooperators, of over 1,000 fish habitat structures in streams throughout the Commonwealth. More than 4,000 manmade fish habitat structures have been placed in 50 different reservoirs, lakes and ponds as part of the agency’s Adopt a Lake program.

Over the same period, the Commission has played a key role in 110 dam removals and the design and construction of 12 fish passages to open habitat to migratory and resident fish species.

Dr. Austen sees an increasing role for the Fish and Boat Commission to be involved in habitat restoration and will be committing more staff in the future to such work.

“The restoration and protection of aquatic habitat needs to be a core component of what we do as an agency with our many conservation partners. We can create fishing opportunities, restore species, and increase the quality of the environment through these efforts and it will be an important part of the future of the Fish and Boat Commission,” said Austen.

Art and Nature Mingle in Upcoming Shows at Ned Smith Center, Middle Creek

If you enjoy wildlife art, make plans to attend one or both of the upcoming festivals and shows at the Ned Smith Center and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Ned Smith Center

The [Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art](#) will host its 12th annual Nature and Arts Festival on July 29 – 30 in and around Millersburg in Dauphin County.

View exhibits and take part in more than 40 programs, workshops, and demonstrations for the entire family. Join a recognized faculty honoring Ned and Marie Smith to learn about insects, owls, hawks, edible plants, nature photography, fly-tying, Native American artifacts, the Susquehanna River and much, much more. Children will be able to build their own blue bird box and participate in hands-on activities at the Youth Pavilion. All events are free of charge.

Visit the [Festival webpage](#) for more information.

Middle Creek

The 20th annual Wildlife Art Show at the Pennsylvania Game Commission's [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) in Lebanon County will be held August 5-7.

Each year the Show features the work of wildlife artists from all over Pennsylvania and the United States

In addition to the artists' sales, the art show will sell tickets for \$2 each or 3 for \$5 for a drawing that will be held at 4 p.m. on August 7. Four prizes will be awarded.

Proceeds from the drawing will benefit The Wildlands Preservation Fund land acquisition program.

For more information visit the [Middle Creek Management Area webpage](#).

Wildlife Art Available from PA Game Commission



Wildlife enthusiasts can enjoy owning wildlife art and help support programs that benefit Pennsylvania's wildlife at the same time by purchasing any of the wildlife prints and patches offered by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

All of the products are available at the Game Commission's Harrisburg headquarters and through "[The Outdoor Shop](#)" on the agency's website.

The Game Commission's 2005 Working Together for Wildlife fine-art print, "[Hemlock Hare](#)," is by Pennsylvania wildlife artist Patrick Sharbaugh. The print features a snowshoe hare next to a hemlock sapling in a winter landscape.

This year's Working Together for Wildlife patch, designed by Bob Sopchick, also features a snowshoe hare.

Founded in 1980, the Working Together for Wildlife program has raised more than \$2 million to support research and reintroduction of non-game wildlife species native to Pennsylvania, including the bald eagle, osprey, river otter and fisher.

Also, the second in a series of patches recognizing the "[Field Notes](#)" section of Pennsylvania Game News is on sale.

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Pennsylvania's 2005 voluntary waterfowl management stamp and print feature a pair of [red-breasted mergansers](#) by Gerald W. Putt, the only person to win the contest six times (1991, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2005).

In addition to placing orders online or visiting one of the agency's offices, customers may call toll-free 1-888-888-3459, or write Pennsylvania Game Commission, Dept. MS, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797. Pennsylvania residents should add six percent sales tax to all items.

All proceeds augment the wildlife management and protection and habitat conservation programs of the Game Commission, which does not receive any general fund taxpayer dollars.

DCNR Announces Improvements to State Park Reservation System

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced this week it will be expanding its state park reservation to include a web-based reservation system for the first time. Visitors will also be able to charge reservations to their credit cards.

DCNR awarded a 5-year contract to Spherix Inc. to operate its central parks reservation system and build and host the state's web-based reservation system. A 21 percent annual operating cost savings is expected.

Internet reservations are expected to be available in the first half of 2006.

Spherix will operate the Pennsylvania call center at its facility in Cumberland, Md., where it currently employs 26 Pennsylvania residents, and expects to be able to recruit additional Pennsylvanians as reservation agents in part through the state's CareerLink program.

The toll-free number for making reservations will remain 1-888-PA-PARKS.

For more information on Pennsylvania's State Parks, [visit them online](#).

DEP Publishes New Public Participation Policy for Permit Reviews

The Department of Environmental Protection is implementing a new policy that provides enhanced forums for meaningful participation by any and all of the parties involved in DEP permitting decisions and ensures an especially high level of involvement by residents interested in projects proposed for their communities.

The final "[Policy on Public Participation in the Permit Application Review Process](#)," attempts to ensure public involvement happens as early in the review process as possible --- prior to any major substantive review or resolution --- and establishes a design for participation events to ensure the public's needs and interests are met.

The new policy establishes a framework for public participation in the permit application review process and applies to all permit or plan approval applications reviewed by DEP when there is a public comment process associated with that application.

It does not apply to Notices of Intent for coverage under a general permit or any permit by rule.

An important goal of the policy is designing and executing public participation events that give residents the information they need. At these events, DEP will present details of the permit review process for the specific application and address the timeline

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established for review and public participation. The applicant will present information regarding the specifics of the project, how it will meet the regulations or go beyond compliance, and its impacts to the community.

The public will be encouraged to participate, and DEP and the applicant, respectively, will answer questions according to their roles and the information they can provide. A trained facilitator will foster participation, keep the meeting focused and on time, and handle tension/conflict if it arises.

To ensure further effective involvement of the public, the new policy also sets up consistent guidelines for responding to comments received during the permit or application review process. These guidelines ensure that DEP responds appropriately and in a timely manner to all relevant comments.

The guidance also defines when additional public participation may be needed if a project changes substantially.

Nothing in the policies or procedures changes existing regulatory requirements. Instead, the procedures outlined in this new guidance are intended to supplement those requirements.

NewsClip: [DEP Publishes New Public Participation Policy](#)

DEP's Citizens Advisory Council Welcomes Three New Members

The Department of Environmental Protection's [Citizens Advisory Council](#) Chair Walter N. Heine this week announced the appointment of three new members to council-- Gail Conner, Joyce Hatala and Curtis Kratz.

Gail Conner, from Newtown Square in Delaware County, was appointed by Gov. Rendell and replaces Maggie Powell. She is the founder and president of G & C Environmental Services Inc., an environmental engineering/consulting firm. Conner has more than 20 years of environmental experience, including regulatory compliance, and previously served in several environmental roles for the state of Wisconsin.

Joyce Hatala, from Fleetville in Lackawanna County, is a Senate appointment and replaces Mike Washo. She is director of the Environmental Institute at Lackawanna College, and was previously the Recycling/Solid Waste Coordinator for Lackawanna County. Hatala also serves on DEP's Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.

Curtis Kratz, from Souderton in Montgomery County, is a Senate appointment and replaces Paul Hess. He is a Franconia Township Supervisor. Kratz is also chair of the Montgomery County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and vice-chair of the Montgomery County Conservation District Board.

The DEP Citizens Advisory Council is a nonpartisan group of 18 citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

For more information visit the [CAC website](#) or contact Stephanie Mioff at 717-787-4527 or send email to: smioff@state.pa.us .

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

Taking Positive Action

Spring Creek Phase II Restoration Completed In Dauphin County

Restoration of an additional 2,200 feet of Harrisburg's Spring Creek was completed in June, utilizing natural channel design (Rosgen) methodology to improve stream flow and provide additional habitat for the stream's wild brown trout population.



The work was completed under a \$150,000 Growing Greener Grant received from the Department of Environmental Protection in 2004.

All told, approximately 3,000 feet of stream corridor has now been restored, beginning just below Paxton Street and extending down through the 5 Senses Garden to S.R. 441.

During the early stages of the restoration work, residents living approximately a mile upstream from the start of the project site reported smelling noxious fuel odors emanating from an unnamed tributary of Spring Creek.

DEP's Emergency Response team was called in to investigate, and after drilling a number of test borings determined that the source of the groundwater contamination was one or more leaking fuel storage tanks at the Mobil service station on 29th Street.

DEP said tests confirmed that up to 9,000 gallons of unleaded fuel had found its way into the groundwater, but prompt action by their cleanup contractor resulted in recapturing more than 5,000 gallons of the leaking fuel. When the storage tanks were unearthed, it was determined that the bottom of one or more of the tanks had been penetrated by the metering stick used by the service station operator to measure fuel levels.

Subsequent stream testing by a DEP biologist showed a general lack of macroinvertebrate life in the tributary immediately below the fuel leakage site, but the overall prognosis was that quick response from their agency averted any serious long-term damage to aquatic life downstream in the main stem. It was further stated that natural reproduction combined with normal drift (repopulation from upstream) should repopulate this section within a relatively short time frame.

During the following weeks when our restoration contractor was on site, no fish kills or oil slicks were observed in the project area downstream. DEP has also installed several monitoring wells in the area of the tributary to sample and extract any residual fuel from the groundwater.

The stream restoration work by Aquatic Resource Restoration Company included about a dozen cross vane and J-hook in-stream structures constructed of either massive rock or rock/log combinations. Some of the individual limestone rocks used in building these structures weighed as much as 4 or 5 tons.

These structures serve the dual purpose of channeling the stream flow for improved sediment transport and better erosion control, as well as creating additional habitat for the aquatic life of the stream. Other work on the project included placement

of additional rock and/or log fish habitat structures, and grading of high stream banks to disperse stream flows to the adjoining floodplain during high water events.

Approximately 200 trees of several species were planted along the newly created riparian borders to retain soil, and ultimately provide increased shading of the stream corridor.

Only time will tell if the stream improvement efforts will pay off in terms of increasing a wild trout population which appears to be sustaining itself in spite of encroaching development and the extreme runoff conditions experienced during high water events.

It was encouraging to see that trout had already moved into several of the new structures even before the construction project was completed, including a couple of stream sections where trout had not been previously observed.

With nearly 3,000 feet of stream restoration completed, with an additional 2,000 feet of corridor to be restored below S.R. 441 during 2006 by Aquatic Resource Restoration Company. Funding for this additional work has already been approved under a \$110,000 Growing Greener Grant from DEP.

Anyone wishing to tour the project area should feel free to contact Bob Pennell at 717-236-1360, or by email to rpennell37@comcast.net for additional information. (Contributed by Bob Pennell, [Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited](#))

Attachment: [Spring Creek Restoration Photo Feature – PDF](#)

Students Taking Positive Action

Pittsburgh Youth Action Board Wins Environmental Advocacy Award

By: Ben, Marlon, Marcus, Dianna, Candy, and Michael, Earth Force Youth Action Board members

The [Pittsburgh Youth Action Board](#) described their successful project, which won the William W. Mullins Environmental Advocacy Award:

Since January, we have been involved in Earth Force's Youth Action Board (YAB). In our first year, we focused on a major issue related to transportation: the health effects of diesel exhaust on children. We met and interacted with experts in the field of environmental health, learned about the links between diesel emissions and deaths from cancer and heart attacks, and designed a public awareness campaign to empower others to make a difference.



Our partners for this project were the Pittsburgh Transportation Equity Project/Environmental Justice Institute, GASP, artist and CCI employee Indigo Raffel, and the Allegheny Front, a weekly radio show covering environmental issues in the region.

We spent weeks learning about diesel emissions and their effects on human health. We knew we had to narrow our focus if we really wanted to make an impact on the issue. After the release in February of "Diesel and Health in America: The Lingering

Threat," which had found that 21,000 people die each year from the effects of diesel emissions, we knew we had to do something about it.

We conducted informal surveys and found that many people knew that bus exhaust was not healthy, but they had no idea it could be so harmful. We read more articles and did more research and decided we were ready to develop a public awareness campaign. Rather than design brochures or hold a press conference, we wanted to create an "event" to educate others about the dangers of diesel emissions.

This evolved into a 15x15" canvas that we can take with us to different events where the public will gather to learn about our project. Indigo Raffel, a local artist, came and explained the concept of a labyrinth to us. A labyrinth is a symbol of both a journey and a puzzle. It's like a maze, but it has no dead ends - just one way in and one way out. You think about your problem on the way in, reach the center, turn around and while walking out, you come up with solutions.

Our labyrinth is painted blue and green and has orange cards on the ground as you walk in that introduce bits of information about diesel - why it's harmful, the number of people affected, and how kids are affected the most. After reaching the center, you turn around and read the pink cards - which talk about alternative fuels, anti-idling policies and how people can make a difference. When people leave the labyrinth, we ask them to sign a postcard to DEP Secretary McGinty, asking her to develop a statewide anti-idling regulation for diesel vehicles.

We have only used the labyrinth at one event so far, but the feedback was very positive. Many people said they'd never realized the issue was so serious - and they were quick to sign our postcards. We plan to use it at upcoming events this summer to increase our outreach to the public and ask them to help us convince the DEP to stop idling in Pennsylvania.

The other outreach piece has been the Allegheny Front radio show. As we learned about the issues and developed a project idea, reporters followed our story. Our project was featured in an episode that aired in April 2005 and a second segment will air in June to highlight the public's reactions to our labyrinth.

We as teenagers have been changed by our YAB experience. While some of us have never used public transportation, we have used school buses, or we live in areas with a lot of truck traffic - we are all affected by diesel emissions. It is something we had not thought a lot about before joining the YAB, but now we are able to tell our families and friends about it and we recognize that a group of students can change people's perspectives on a problem. It has inspired us to become more involved in environmental issues in our communities.

NewsClip: [Allegheny County Adopts Anti-Idling Regulation](#)

North Versailles Teen Wins Awards for Air Pollution Experiments

Melissa Meighan, an East Allegheny High School student in Pittsburgh, won a series of awards for her project testing air quality at playgrounds in North Versailles, Wilmerding and Wilkesburg in Allegheny County.

The project intended to prove that air pollutants accumulate more in winter months than during other times of the year. Her results showed that exactly the opposite was true.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Meighan won awards for her work from the Allegheny County Department of Health, Wheelabrator Air Pollution Control, Inc., the William W. Mullins Environmental Advocacy Award and first and second place awards at the local and regional Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competitions.

Meighan also presented her work at the Air Congress sponsored by the [Group Against Smog and Pollution](#) at Carnegie Mellon University.

NewsClip: [North Versailles Teen Wins Awards for Air Pollution Experiments](#)

Students Take Environmental Message to the Streets in Erie



Earth Force members Miranda Main, Michelle Wehner and Teresa Boucher show off storm drain stencil.

You can be a Solution to Pollution! is the message Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy Advanced Biology students are sending to Erie citizens through their [Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force](#) project.

Using non-traditional methods to get the information out about nonpoint source pollution, the students painted their message via stencils on city storm drains. Collegiate educator, Mrs. Doreen Petri's class hopes to improve the Erie community and the water quality with their project.

In May, students took to the streets and placed their stenciled message, "Pollution=Mistake.....Drains to Lake", on

storm drains on State Street from 26th Street to 38th Street to raise awareness of littering - any litter on streets and sidewalks will wash into sewers untreated, potentially causing pollution as it enters into Lake Erie and other bodies of water that are a part of the Erie watershed.

Students also went door-to-door handing out informational brochures, hung non-point pollution posters provided by the City of Erie, and used a GPS unit provided by PA Sea Grant's Sean Rafferty to map the locations of the storm drains, the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie also partnered with the youth.

Collegiate students hope to convey that Erie citizens all have a stake in protecting our waterways — an important and irreplaceable resource for drinking water, recreation and wildlife habitat. These students hope that others will get involved and stop littering of any kind and protect our water quality and aquatic habitat.

Mrs. Petri's encouragement and guidance was an important factor in the project, "There are no boundaries on pollution, but there are also none on what we can do to prevent it. The students of today have a passion for the environment. They truly care about the human impact on the environment and want to make our community aware of possible pollution and the best ways to prevent it."

Using their Earth Force project to communicate, the Collegiate students are making a difference in the quality of life in Erie....so can YOU!

(Contributed by Susan A. Smith, [Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force](#))

Quick Clips

[South Side Trail Opening Celebrated](#)
[URA Funds Mon Bridge for Bike Trail](#)
[State Plans to Recycle Old Turnpike Sections Into Trail](#)
[Millvale Convent Remodels Dark Dining Room in Earth-Friendly Fashion](#)
[As Landfills Close, Garbage Travels Farther](#)
[Landfill Money Making Its Way to Old Forge](#)
[DEP Announces Recycling Performance Grants](#)
[Luzerne Tire Recycling Project a Success](#)
[Keystone Environmental Education Institute Receives Grant](#)
[Clearwater Conservancy – Going Green for 25 Years](#)
[Drilling to Extinguish Percy Mine Fire Begins](#)
[Authority Gets EPA Brownfields Grant](#)
[Students at Conservation Camp Find Critters in Stream](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[In PA Flood of Dam Busting](#)
[A Plan for Pine Creek](#)
[Zebra Mussels Found in Warren County Creek](#)
[Is the Susquehanna the Nation's Most Endangered River?](#)
[Susquehanna Sojourn – Chenango Tango II](#)
[Conservancy Seeks New Ways to Reduce Flooding](#)
[It's Slow Going on Flooding Fix](#)
[Work to Treat Mine Tunnel Water Proceeds](#)
[US House Funds 04 Flood Area Study](#)
[PA Rural Water Association Announces Meeting Schedule](#)
[Water – The Oil of the 21st Century](#)

Regulations

The Department of Agriculture is proposing to amend regulations establishing the CHEMSWEEP Pesticide Disposal Program.

The Department of Agriculture published notice of a proposed change in the regulations establishing the [CHEMSWEEP Pesticide Disposal Program](#) to include a wider variety of materials regulated by the USDA and USEPA. Comments due: August 15.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – July 16, 2005](#)

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

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice of final changes](#) to three policy documents—public participation in permit review, PA Natural Diversity Inventory and a correction to a prior notice about community water systems.

Final: DEP ID: 012-0900-003. [Policy on Public Participation in the Permit Application Review Process](#). Public participation is an integral part of environmental decision making, and it is the policy of the Department that applications for approval should provide for effective involvement of the public.

Final: DEP ID: 400-0200-001. Policy for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Coordination During Permit Review and Evaluation. This guidance revises the instructions for using the Department's PNDI Coordination system.

Final (Corrected): DEP ID: 383-2125-110. Development of a Replacement Source for a Community Water System. This guidance was developed for a community water system that is replacing an existing groundwater source with a well, spring or infiltration gallery to alleviate lost capacity or water quality problems at their current supply source. (This corrects an error in a previous notice.)

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **July 19** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting](#)
- **July 19** – **CANCELLED** – [Environmental Quality Board meeting](#).
- **July 20** – **CANCELLED** – [Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board](#)
- **July 27** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting.
- **July 29** – [State Planning Board](#) meeting.
- **August 9** – Senate & House Game and Fisheries Committees hearing on the financial condition of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

DEP Calendar of Events

Watershed Events

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

Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Stories Invited

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

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and 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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Photo Answer: *Susquehanna River at Chickies Point, Lancaster County*