

—PA— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

August 25, 2008

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Coalition: Budget Leaves Farmers Behind, Nutrient Trading Vital – Video Blog



Chairs Hanna, Hershey

While the budget adopted by the state in July included major new funding to improve wastewater infrastructure, it did little to address the needs of farmers required to meet state and federal clean water mandates or to create a Nutrient Credit Trading Bank that would lower the cost of meeting the mandates, according to the [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition](#).

Representatives of the Coalition, including the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, presented testimony today to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee during a public hearing on farm conservation funding needs at [Ag Progress Days](#) near State College.

Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Clinton) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester) serves as Minority Chair.

Video Blog: [Reps. Hanna and Hershey Introduce Hearing](#)

“Federal and state clean water mandates require both wastewater plants and farmers to reduce nutrient pollution running in Pennsylvania’s rivers and streams,” said Matthew Ehrhart, Pennsylvania Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. “While we were pleased the Fair Share Coalition was able to secure funds for infrastructure upgrades, we were very disappointed the Governor and General Assembly did not provide any new help for Pennsylvania’s family farmers, especially given the fact that agriculture is one of the largest sources of impairment to local rivers and streams.”

“Farmers have been hard at work reducing nutrient runoff over the last 25 years,” said Ehrhart. “When it comes to agriculture, we’re dealing with thousands of small business with limited resources. But we cannot afford to let other priorities continue to overshadow the needs of the farm community that faces a daunting challenge.”

Video Blog: [Matt Ehrhart Supports Farm Conservation Funding](#). ([Printed Testimony](#).)

The Department of Environmental Protection has estimated it will cost farmers over \$600 million for the Susquehanna River Watershed alone to meet clean water mandates.

“For many farm families, the problem is not that they don’t know what needs to be done to make environmental improvements on their farms,” said Joel Rotz, Governmental Affairs Director for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. “The problem is having the technical and financial resources to implement the environmental improvements that are needed.

“The financial impact on individual farmers in the Bay Watershed will be far greater than the estimated doubling or tripling of sewage rates on ratepayers that would have occurred without state assistance,” concluded Rotz.

Video Blog: [Joel Rotz Provides Comments To Committee](#). (*Printed Testimony*)

Conservation districts, which deliver key farm and environmental programs at the local level, have only seen a 1 percent funding increase since 2005. As costs continue to escalate, many conservation districts will be faced with the difficult decision of which programs to reduce or discontinue in order to keep their doors open.

"Conservation districts deliver not just state conservation programs, but federal programs as well," said Susan F. Marquart, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. "The federal government has expanded the new Farm Bill to help farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed meet water quality mandates. It would be a shame if the higher conservation funding levels within the new Farm Bill are underutilized because there are too few technical people in the field to help farmers qualify for the very programs the federal government has expanded."

Video Blog: [Brenda Shambaugh Outlines Value Of Conservation Districts](#). (*Printed Testimony*)

The General Assembly and Gov. Rendell did approve water infrastructure funding that will potentially reach \$1.2 billion in statewide grants and loans for water-related projects, if a \$400 million bond issue referendum is approved in November.

“While we are pleased that additional funding was approved for wastewater plant upgrades that will begin to address Pennsylvania’s \$20 billion in water infrastructure needs, however, agricultural operations must also be given the technical and financial resources necessary to allow them to achieve compliance with clean water mandates,” said John Brosious Deputy Director for the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association. “PMAA is a strong supporter of the REAP tax credit program and other farm conservation funding which provides incentives to farmers to implement best management practices and produce nutrient reduction credits.”

Video Blog: [John Brosious On Why Authorities Support Conservation Funding](#). (*Printed Testimony*)

The Coalition has also recommended changes to the state's nutrient credit trading program, but these have not yet been addressed.

Grant Gulibon, Regulatory Specialist with the Pennsylvania Builders Association, explained the economic and environmental benefits of increasing agricultural conservation funding and reforming the nutrient credit trading program, which has not been perceived as a viable option to date by either possible credit users or generators.

“State government must use the limited funds available for Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts in a manner that delivers the largest possible environmental improvements at the lowest possible cost,” said Gulibon. “For those efforts to reach their full potential while at the same time protecting future economic growth, increased agricultural conservation funding and reform of the nutrient credit trading program developed by the state Department of Environmental Protection must also be approved by the General

Assembly and the governor. These two initiatives, in tandem, will also increase the effectiveness of the new state funding available for sewage treatment plant upgrades.”

Gulibon thanked Committee Chair Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Clinton) for introducing [House Bill 2654](#), which contains a nutrient credit trading bank. He also noted the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committees [will hold a hearing](#) on September 17 to take comments on [Senate Bill 1493](#), introduced by Senator Pat Vance (R-Cumberland), which contains a nutrient credit trading bank and additional reforms intended to improve the viability of the trading program

Video Blog: [Grant Gulibon Tells Committee Nutrient Trading Critical](#). (*Printed Testimony*)

Department of Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff provided the Committee with an update on farm conservation funding and other issues.

Video Blog: [Secretary Wolff Updates Committee On Conservation Funding](#)

The Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition supports these additional steps needed to help ratepayers and farm families comply with clean water mandates—

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

The Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition will also be working actively in the fall to promote voter approval of the \$400 million bond issue referendum passed as part of the wastewater infrastructure funding package.

More than 40 farm, business, environmental and sportsmen’s groups are part of the Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition.

For more information, visit the [REAP Program webpage](#) or contact program administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or by sending email to: mabender@state.pa.us.

NewsClips: [Pushing For Farm Conservation Funding](#)
[Rendell Highlights Renewable Energy, Health Care Reform](#)

Link: [First Come, First Serve REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
[Fair Share Coalition Fight for Clean Water Funding](#)

Rendell Names Hanger for DEP Secretary, Cawley PUC Chairman – Online Video

Gov. Rendell this week announced the nomination of John Hanger to be Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection and the appointment of James Cawley to be Chairman of the Public Utility Commission.

Online Video: [Rendell Nominates John Hanger](#)

The Governor also announced that Cawley will ask his fellow PUC commissioners to support Tyrone Christy as vice-chairman of the commission.



PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Hanger has served as the president and chief executive officer of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, or PennFuture, for the past 10 years.

Cawley has served as a member of the PUC from 1979 to 1985 and from 2005 until the present. He was made vice-chairman in 2005.

"John Hanger has been at the forefront of nearly all environmental policy discussions in Pennsylvania for the past two decades," said Gov. Rendell. "He has been working to keep our energy costs down and increase our access to clean, renewable, fuels for our cars and energy for our homes in one way or another since 1988.

"While John has been an ardent champion for the environment, he's also been a pragmatist who recognizes the economic opportunities we can gain while protecting our natural resources. He understands that businesses looking to grow and create jobs in Pennsylvania need DEP to be responsive and reasonable in conducting their regulatory duties. As secretary, he will build upon our efforts to ensure businesses can operate in the commonwealth without unnecessary regulations, but can do so while complying with the state's environmental laws."

Hanger was an instrumental figure who helped to shape many of the state's prominent policy discussions while leading PennFuture, including the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004, the Governor's Growing Greener II initiative in 2005, Pennsylvania's clean vehicles program and the recently signed legislation creating alternative energy and alternative fuels investment funds.

"We've made tremendous progress over the past six years to improve our environment, encourage economic development, and build a new energy economy, but we still have challenges before us," said the Governor, who cited the need to protect electricity consumers against at least \$4 billion in higher bills address the state's aging and deteriorating water and wastewater systems balance the economic opportunities of natural gas exploration in the Marcellus Shale against the environmental threats, and develop an effective climate change strategy as the commonwealth's most pressing issues.

"John has, in some way, been involved with each of our accomplishments and he understands the challenges we're facing," said the Governor. "His reputation as one of the state's leading environmental voices and his experience and relationships here in Harrisburg with legislators, stakeholders and the administration will prove to be a valuable asset as we work to make a better, cleaner and healthier Pennsylvania for our 12.4 million residents. I urge the Senate to act promptly and confirm his nomination."

"I want to thank the Governor for his leadership on the environment and energy issues," said Hanger. "I look forward to working with the dedicated and talented staff at DEP to serve the people of Pennsylvania."

Prior to his time with PennFuture, Hanger was a member of the Public Utility Commission from 1993 until 1998. As a commissioner, he served on the electricity and consumer affairs committees, and advocated for competition among the electric, gas and telephone companies, for policies that help low-income families, as well as practices that benefit the environment, such as net metering, energy conservation and renewable energy development.

Before becoming commissioner, Hanger served as legal counsel to PUC Commissioner Joseph Rhodes from 1988 to 1993. Prior to that, he worked at Community Legal Services Inc. of Philadelphia, serving as public advocate and representing 500,000 municipal customers of the City of Philadelphia's municipal gas, water and sewer utilities.

He is a 1979 graduate of Duke University and a 1984 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. Hanger resides in Dauphin County.

James Cawley

Gov. Rendell also praised the skills, experience and vision of Jim Cawley as he commented on his appointment as PUC chairman.

"Jim is an expert in utility regulation and utility law and he shares my commitment to promoting and expanding our use of alternative energy and conservation measures to reduce demand," said the Governor. "It may be the most challenging time in our recent history to chair the PUC, but I am convinced that, with his experience, Jim is capable of stepping forward and leading the Commission."

At the press conference, Gov. Rendell said he asked Cawley to list his priorities as PUC chair. They were: make Pennsylvania a top-five alternative energy state, make Pennsylvania a top-five state for conservation, mitigate the utility rate increase, expand low income energy assistance programs and reinvigorate the PUC and its staff

Cawley is a 1967 graduate of St. Bonaventure University and a 1970 graduate of Notre Dame Law School. He began his legal career as one of the seven original law clerks serving the Commonwealth Court judges.

He went on to serve as majority counsel to the state Senate Consumer Affairs Committee, where he drafted several major amendments to Pennsylvania's public utility laws. In 1977, he was appointed chief counsel to the Senate majority floor leader.

Cawley has twice been nominated and confirmed as a member of the PUC, serving from 1979 until 1985. On April 25, 2005, Gov. Rendell nominated him to return to the commission—a position to which he was confirmed on June 9, 2005. He resides in Cumberland County.

"I am honored to have the Governor's confidence in my ability to serve in this position, especially at a time when energy prices are rising and people need to know what can be done to manage higher utility bills," said Cawley. "I look forward to working with the administration to protect consumers, especially through expanded energy conservation and efficiency programs and programs that aid low-income families."

The Governor said Cawley intends to ask the commission to support Commissioner Tyrone J. Christy as vice-chair of the PUC. Gov. Rendell nominated Christy in June 2007 and he won confirmation from the Senate later that month.

Gov. Rendell said Hanger's experience and commitment to environmental issues and Cawley's leadership at the PUC will better position Pennsylvania to emerge as a leader in renewable energy development and energy conservation.

"John has known Jim for a long time and I expect that their relationship will help us find a way to help consumers reduce their electricity demand and save money, while also expanding the amount of alternative energy generated and purchased in this state," said Gov. Rendell. "I continue to believe that Pennsylvania can, and must, be the national leader when it comes to energy. Whether it's research, generation or making the components that make alternative energy and fuels or conservation possible, we must lead the pack.

"The sticker shock that we feel from high gas and utility prices today will be nothing compared to what will occur over the next decade if our nation doesn't develop and take advantage of more alternative and renewable options," the Governor said.

With the Senate this week cutting two days from its voting schedule in the fall—now only nine-- and no lame duck session scheduled for after the November election, the timing of Senate action on the Hanger nomination is uncertain at this time.

NewsClips: [Rendell Picks Environment Advocate To Lead DEP](#)
[Derry Twp. Man Picked By Rendell To Lead DEP](#)
[Rendell Chooses PennFuture Leader To Head DEP](#)
[Rendell Picks New DEP Chief](#)
[Rendell Names Environmental Leader](#)
[New PUC Chairman To Focus On Higher Costs, Conservation](#)
[Rendell Names Two To Key PA Government Posts](#)
[State Business Leaders Wary of DEP Nominee](#)

Online Podcast Feature

EPA Environment Matters Podcast: A Revolution In York County

With the help of the EPA's Office of Brownfields and Revitalization, the [York Revolution](#) baseball team has a new home on the site of a former manufacturing plant.

With the help of EPA, private funders, property owners and other government partners, the site for the stadium along Codorus Creek in York City finally received the redevelopment it desperately needed.

The once deteriorated industrial site is now home to the Sovereign Bank Stadium, a new landmark of York.

[Listen to the podcast now.](#)



Link: [In York, The Revolution Has Begun!](#)

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars are listed here--

Session Schedule

The Senate revised its voting schedule eliminating October 1 and 2 and added October 8. Here is the fall voting schedule—

House

September 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24

October 6, 7, and 8

November 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 24, and 25

Senate

September 16, 17, (18-Back On), 22, 23, 24

October [1, 2 - Cancelled] 6, 7, 8 (New)

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The Senate will not be in session after the November election.
You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars as they left them for summer recess--

Calendars

House (September 15): [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) banning the sale, installation and unsafe disposal of mercury thermostats; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices;; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

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

Senate: All bills on the Calendar were tabled before the summer break.

Bills Introduced

Weatherization: [Senate Bill 1537](#) (A.Williams-D-Philadelphia) creating a Home Energy Assistance Reserve Account to supplement federal home weatherization funding.

Heritage Areas: [Senate Bill 1538](#) (Orie-R-Allegheny) amending the Heritage Area program to identify, protect, enhance and promote recreational, natural, cultural and scenic resources.

Oil & Gas Drilling: [House Bill 2741](#) (Quinn-R-Bucks) increasing the bonding amounts for oil and gas wells.

Joint Conservation Committee Newsletter Highlights Prescribed Fire Bill

The [August issue](#) of the Environmental Synopsis newsletter published by the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee highlights proposed legislation regulating prescribed fires as a conservation practice.

Other articles in the newsletter cover: clean energy markets, wind energy, dirty beaches (but not Presque Isle) and carbon reduction technologies.

Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) is Chair of the [Joint Conservation Committee](#) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) is Vice-Chair.

Link: [Prescribed Fire Helps Restore Oak and Pitch Pine Forests in PA](#)

Other News

Watershed Groups Eligible For \$3,000 In Grants At Ohio Watershed Celebration

Recognizing that many watershed groups operate on shoe-string budgets, the organizations sponsoring the September 25 [Ohio River Watershed Celebration](#) announced watershed groups attending the cruise will be eligible for \$3,000 in grants to use to further the objectives of their organizations.

There will be four \$500.00 awards and four \$250.00 awards.

The awards will be based on poster displays created by the groups participating in the cruise.

The award categories include: community outreach and education, most innovative and cutting-edge projects, best overall display and best example of partnership group

To be eligible, watershed groups must be from the Ohio River Watershed. Work, be a formal or informal association, alliance, conservancy, hunting or fishing club, school group, environmental group, FFA, 4H, or other like-minded group and not be a local, state or federal agency or private consulting firm.

[Online registration is available](#) for the Celebration or for questions, please call 724-776-0150. Don't forget to check the box when registering that you will be bringing a display.

For more information on the Ohio River Celebration, see "[Double The Fun Of Last Year!](#)"



Video Blog: [2007 Ohio River Celebration](#)

Proposals Wanted for Sinnemahoning and Portage Creek Watershed Projects

Applications are now being accepted for \$200,000 in the first round of the Sinnemahoning Watershed Grant Program.

Applications will be accepted starting September 1 through November 30.

Settlement monies from the June 30, 2006 Norfolk Southern train derailment that caused a serious fish kill in Big Fill Run, Sinnemahoning Portage Creek and the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek are being administered by the Headwaters RC&D Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee to fund successful applications.



PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

This program offers funding to watershed and conservation groups with incorporation status, counties and municipalities, county conservation districts, council of governments, state agencies, or any other authorized organizations involved in research, restoration, rehabilitation, planning, acquisition, development, education or other activities, which further the protection, enhancement, conservation, preservation or enjoyment of Pennsylvania's environmental, conservation, recreation or similar resources.

All projects must be located within the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed. Hard copy applications may be obtained at the Cameron and McKean County Conservation District Offices or electronically at mckeancountypa.org.

For more information please contact Todd Deluccia at 814-486-9354 or send email to: cameron.water@yahoo.com.

Proposals Sought for Reducing Nutrient, Sediments in Chesapeake Bay Region

The [Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund](#) is accepting pre-proposals for innovative nutrient and sediment reduction projects.

Proposals are due October 31.

Grants between \$200,000 and \$1 million will be awarded to support the demonstration of innovative approaches to expand the collective knowledge about the most cost effective and sustainable approaches to dramatically reduce or eliminate nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Up to \$12.9 million will be awarded through this solicitation for projects that: Accelerate implementation of proven technologies, conservation practices and Best Management Practices by demonstrating strategies that overcome barriers to adoption.

Maximize nutrient and sediment reductions through the strategic combinations of BMPs and technologies based upon specific landscape characteristics and land use objectives.

Dramatically decrease or eliminate nutrient and sediment runoff and/or improve cost-effectiveness when compared to a practice-by-practice approach.

Scale up promising new technologies and practices that have shown improved performance in reducing nutrient and sediment pollution over traditional approaches in controlled demonstrations.

Priorities for funding include:

- Demonstrations of stormwater management strategies that approach or achieve no runoff. Projects should assess the cost-effectiveness of the approach for reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the Chesapeake Bay, as well as feasibility of widescale adoption. Projects may attempt to prove this concept at three different scales: 1) the site (e.g., housing unit, building); 2) the community or neighborhood scale; and 3) the small watershed or sewershed scale and may include new development, redevelopment or retrofit projects.
- Demonstrations that dramatically reduce or eliminated nutrient and/or sediment runoff through the implementation of strategic combinations of agricultural conservation practices at a whole farm or small watershed scale. Projects may use a nutrient budget or mass balance approach to target implementation of conservation practices and reduce the importation of nutrients from outside the watershed.
- Demonstrations that use social marketing strategies and incentives to motivate changes in human behaviors to stop behaviors that generate nutrient and sediment pollution, and

to accelerate adoption of behaviors that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution. Projects should identify specific target audiences and behaviors, should track actual behavior changes and assess progress toward desired behavior becoming a social norm, and should measure environmental results associated with the project.

- Demonstrations of market-based tools and approaches that provide economic incentives for farmers, developers, local governments, businesses and homeowners to accelerate reductions of nutrient and sediment runoff. Such incentives may include demonstrations of cost-savings associated with conservation approaches, demonstrations of Bay-friendly goods and services that increase market share or receive premium pricing, innovative markets for water quality and other environmental credits, etc. These projects should strive to demonstrate the annual reduced costs and/or increased revenue as a result of conservation.
- Demonstrations of practical, low cost tools and procedures for on-site verification of water quality offsets/credits and other tradable ecosystem service credits.
- Eligible applicants include: non-profit groups, universities, and local or state governments including counties, townships, cities, boroughs, conservation districts, planning districts, utility districts, drainage districts or other units of local government.

For additional information or to apply online, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund website](#) or contact Amanda Bassow at 202-857-0166 or send email to: amanda.bassow@nfwf.org .

Nominations for Lehigh Valley Charles H. Nehf, Sr. Conservation Leadership Award

Nominations are being accepted for [Wildlands Conservancy's](#) Charles H. Nehf, Sr. Conservation Leadership Award.

Nominations are due October 3.

The award honors an individual or couple who have made a long-standing commitment to environmental education, preservation of wildlife habitats or land conservation efforts in the greater Lehigh Valley region.

Charles H. Nehf Sr. was instrumental in the preservation of thousands of acres of woodlands, special eco-systems and other wild places in eastern Pennsylvania. As a volunteer, Nehf headed the Wildlands Trust Fund of Wildlands Conservancy for nearly 15 years. He was an avid hunter, angler, and served as the *Morning Call* newspaper's outdoor columnist, an Allentown School District teacher and administrator and board member of Wildlands Conservancy.

Nominations can be submitted by a one-page summary of the nominee's accomplishments and justification for receiving the award. Contact information of the nominee and the group or individual making the nomination should be included.

The award will be given at Wildlands Conservancy's annual Green Gala, which will be held November 21 at the Brookside Country Club.

Past recipients include Bob and Ardie Rodale; Gloria Pool and the late Leonard Parker Pool.

Send nominations to: Nomination Committee c/o Wildlands Conservancy, 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, PA 18049.

NewsClip: [Bethlehem Formally Turns Over Land To Wildlands Conservancy](#)

Darby Cobbs Watershed Partnership Map Project Aims to Help Restoration

Participants at a recent [Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership](#) meeting heard from representatives of the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about an innovative web-based project that will undoubtedly be a great resource to stewards of Darby and Cobbs creeks.



In the Fall of 2006, a group of agencies visited the Darby-Cobbs watershed examining areas representative of its range of conditions, making observations and taking photos.

In 2007, the Corps compiled historic and recent reports written by agencies and watershed groups that contained data from the Darby Cobbs watershed. These reports, some dating back 35 years, were digitized and have been organized in a database by contents, data type and location.

The Corps plans to create a GIS-based interactive mapping website that will make these digitized reports and images publicly available. The goal is to bring greater access to information for those living along vulnerable areas within the watershed.

For example, image layers on a map will show the various watershed conditions such as erosion and deposition. Other layers, such as the location of best management practices and the location of the 100-year floodplain will also be added to the map.

When additional funds are available, data will be extracted from the reports and used to compare past and present conditions of the watershed and to create a model that will help identify future restoration projects.

For more information on this project, contact: Heather Jensen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Philadelphia District, at 215 656 6586 or send email to: Heather.N.Jensen@usace.army.mil or Dan Kost at 215 656 6584 or send email to: Daniel.E.Kost@usace.army.mil.

For information on the Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership, which the Pennsylvania Environmental Council helps convene with the [Philadelphia Water Department](#), contact: Khiet Luong, PEC, at 215.592.7020 x107 or send email to: kluong@pecpa.org.

Submit DEP Coastal Zone Grant Applications Now Through October 20

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for [2009 Coastal Zone Grants](#).

Applications are due October 20.

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions, authorities, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions located within the defined coastal zone geographic areas along Lake Erie and the Delaware Estuary.

Proposals must support the Coastal Zone Management Program's mission to protect and enhance this Commonwealth's coastal resources.

Pending congressional funding approval, grants will be available for projects that commence on or after October 1, 2009. These Federal grants require a match (cash or in-kind services) on a one-to-one basis by the applicants.

For more information, visit the [2009 Coastal Zone Grants webpage](#) or contact the Department of Environmental Protection, Water Planning Office, 2nd Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, P. O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063, 717-772-4785, fax 717-783-4690.

SRBC Releases TMDL Watershed Plan for Conestoga River

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission this week released a report, [Conestoga River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Loads Development Interim Report](#), on the sources and quantities of nutrient pollutants – nitrogen and phosphorus – in the Conestoga River Watershed during low flow periods.

SRBC cited nutrient discharges from point sources, including wastewater treatment plants, as the dominant influence on water quality in the watershed during low flow periods, when streams are often fed largely by groundwater – a condition known as base flow.

SRBC will combine these base flow findings with results it obtains from water quality samples taken during normal and high flow periods to develop a total maximum daily load for the entire Conestoga River Watershed.

SRBC is evaluating the Conestoga River Watershed by the following six study areas: the mainstem Conestoga River and the Little Conestoga Creek, Mill Creek, Muddy Creek, Cocalico Creek and Lititz Run subwatersheds.

“On average, the Conestoga River Watershed contributes nearly 30,000 pounds of nitrogen and 1,900 pounds of phosphorus each day from point and nonpoint sources into the Susquehanna River,” said SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz. “While discharges from point sources proved dominant under base flow conditions, this is by no means a final conclusion of overall conditions. It is very likely that results will vary when samples are taken for normal and higher flows, and those differences will be accounted for in the final TMDL.”

States are required to develop TMDLs for impaired waterways not meeting the federal standards that call for all waters to be “fishable” and “swimmable.” About 330 miles of waterway in the Conestoga River Watershed are listed as impaired.

A TMDL is used to calculate the maximum amount of a particular pollutant a waterbody can receive and still meet the federal water quality standards, and it is used to allocate or identify the amount of pollutant being contributed from specific sources, whether point or nonpoint sources.

The Department of Environmental Protection contracted SRBC to develop the TMDL for the 475-square-mile Conestoga River Watershed that encompasses much of Lancaster County and small portions of Chester, Lebanon and Berks Counties, Pennsylvania.

Under base flow conditions, SRBC determined the contribution of total nitrogen and total phosphorus from each of the six study areas. Nearly 50 percent of the total nitrogen originates in the mainstem Conestoga River; however, the highest concentrations of total nitrogen are found in the Lititz Run Watershed.

Total phosphorus loadings range from less than seven pounds per day (Muddy Creek Watershed) to more than 245 pounds per day (Conestoga River mainstem). The highest phosphorus concentrations are located in the Mill Creek Watershed near New Holland.

The primary sources of nutrients in the watershed during these flow conditions include the more than 50 permitted nutrient point source discharges and nonpoint sources. The Conestoga River Watershed includes various land uses, with growth and development an ever-present challenge.

Agriculture, however, remains the watershed's dominant land, accounting for 60 percent of the watershed's land use. Nonpoint sources contribute predominantly during storm events and include urban, agricultural, and small residential runoff.

At present, contributions from these sources during storm events are the focus of monitoring efforts.

The Conestoga River Watershed [TMDL is available online](#). Hard copies are also available by sending email to: srbc@srbc.net or calling 717-238-0423, ext. 302.

Celebrate the Landing of the Trout August 30 In Stroudsburg



The [Sherman Theatre](#) will host a party for the Stroudsburg community on August 30, with decadent desserts, prizes, a cash bar and the “Catch and Keep” auction of fifteen five-foot tall trout

The trout, each one embellished by a local artist, have been on display at public locations throughout the summer as part of [Trout Trails and Tales](#) public art project.

They will line the streets of Stroudsburg during StroudFest on August 30 and be gathered on stage for one last time at the Sherman Theatre starting at 6:00 p.m.

“Come join us for a really special evening of community spirit at the Sherman,” said Rick Berkowitz, manager of the Sherman Theatre. “If you haven’t seen all these eye-popping trout in one place yet, here is your last chance. We’ll provide great desserts, and whether you are a bidder in the auction or just an observer, the auction promises to be a lively and memorable event.”

Trout were sponsored by Monroe County Conservation District, Monroe County Commissioners, Shawnee Inn, PPL Electric Utilities, Northampton Community College, ESU, Friends of Brodhead Greenway, Stroud Township, and Paradise Valley Fishing Friends.

Hosts for trout over the summer were Paradise Brook Trout Hatchery, Barrett Paradise Friendly Library, Brodhead Creek Regional Authority, Dunklebergers Sports Outfitters, Delaware Water Gap Borough, Borough of Mt. Pocono, Eastern Monroe Public Library, First United Methodist Church on Main Street, Old Mill in Sciota, as well as Monroe County Conservation District, Monroe County Commissioners, Shawnee Inn, Northampton Community College, ESU, and Stroud Township.

The live “Catch and Keep” auction begins at 7:30. Tickets to this community event are free, but must be reserved in advance by calling the Pocono Arts Council at 570 476-4460. Proceeds of the auction benefit the [Brodhead Watershed Association](#) and Pocono Arts Council.

To see all the trout or for more information, visit the [Trout Trails & Tales website](#).

Before the Storms: A Southwestern PA Stormwater Conference August 28

The [3 Rivers Wet Weather Project](#), the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and other partners will hold a conference for local officials entitled, “[Before the Storms: A Southwestern PA Stormwater Conference](#), on August 28 in Oakdale, near Pittsburgh.

Many presenters at the Conference will be local officials who will share their experiences and successes dealing with this critical issue.

Stormwater management is typically a popular topic after the storms, when communities are cleaning up and recovering from the latest flood. This workshop is designed to give municipalities the information on the latest developments and tools that can be used to address stormwater issues before the storms take their toll on our communities.

The [Pittsburgh Technical Institute](#), North Fayette Campus in Oakdale, will host the event which will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is a \$25 registration fee.

The Conference is sponsored by 3 Rivers Wet Weather in partnership with Allegheny County Conservation District, Department of Environmental Protection, and [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#).

For more information or to register, visit the [Before The Storms webpage](#).

Third Annual Susquehanna River Symposium September 12, 13

The [Bucknell University Environmental Center](#), along with other partners, will again host the annual [Susquehanna River Symposium](#) on September 12 and 13.

The focus of this year's event will be "The Susquehanna River and Agriculture."

The goal of the Symposium is to bring farmers, scientists, and the public together for community-wide discussions about the complex environmental issues facing agriculture and the Susquehanna River. The presentations and discussions are designed to deepen our understanding, stimulate new insights, and provide direction for the future.

Special guests will include regional and national leaders in agricultural policy and the environment, notably Secretary of Agriculture Dennis Wolff, U.S. Congressman Chris Carney, Susquehanna River Basin Commission Director Paul Swartz and Rep. Russ Fairchild (R-Mifflin).

Presentations will also be made by Allen Ard of Ard's Farm Market, Jim Brubaker of the PA Farm Bureau, and Union County Commissioner Preston Boop. Cathleen Curran Myers, Deputy Secretary for Water Management at DEP, will moderate Saturday morning's events.

The event is open to both the community and the entire Bucknell campus.

Capacity is limited and registration is required the day of the event.

For more information, contact Ben Hayes, the Environmental Center's Susquehanna River Coordinator, by sending email to: benjamin.hayes@bucknell.edu.

Register Now for the Chesapeake Watershed Forum October 2-5

Registration is now open for the third annual [Chesapeake Watershed Forum](#) to be held October 2-5 in Shepherdstown, WV.

The Chesapeake Watershed Forum is an annual conference for watershed organizations and local government officials from around the multi-state Chesapeake Bay region.

It is an opportunity to learn the latest scientific techniques in bay restoration and protection, address specific organizational capacity building needs, focus on regional and watershed-wide needs, network with other watershed organizations, and enjoy the beauty of the watershed.

New to the Forum this year is a pre-conference workshop entitled, "Financing Green Initiatives." This workshop will begin the afternoon of October 2. Registration is limited to the first 35 workshop registrants.

To register or for more information, visit the [2008 Chesapeake Watershed Forum webpage](#).

DEP Changes Marcellus Shale Drilling Permit To Expedite Reviews

The Department of Environmental Protection unveiled a streamlined process this week to make it easier for the agency to review permit applications by companies seeking to develop the 50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas believed to be stored in the Marcellus Shale geologic formation.

Deputy Secretary for Water Management Cathleen Curran Myers said the revised permit application guidelines could allow natural gas developers to begin operations sooner if the department can ensure Pennsylvania's water resources are not threatened by drilling.

"There has been considerable interest in developing the natural gas resources contained in the Marcellus Shale—interests that could yield a substantial economic boom for the commonwealth," said Myers. "DEP has been working in cooperation with the Susquehanna and Delaware river basin commissions to create a consistent, streamlined process for evaluating water usage and disposal in all areas of the state because this type of drilling requires significant amounts of water. In the course of reviewing any gas well permit, we need to have a thorough understanding of proposed water withdrawals, as well as disposal and treatment plans.

"This addendum to the permit application requiring a water management plan will reduce administrative delays for the drilling industry while helping us to determine what demands will be placed on our natural water resources."

Under the new application process, gas well operators seeking to extract resources from the Marcellus Shale formation must provide the following information to DEP when applying for a permit to drill a gas well:

- Type of well with proposed location plotted on a U.S. Geological Survey topographical map showing property lines and horizontal bores;
- Acreage to be disturbed by drilling and operations;
- Sources and locations of water to be used in the drilling process, the impacts of drilling on water resources, and proof that the water withdrawals have been approved by the appropriate river basin commission;
- Location(s) of treatment facilities where drilling and fracturing fluids will be taken for treatment and disposal; and
- Size and locations of proposed dams and water impoundments

The permit application addendum applies only to wells being drilled into the Marcellus Shale formation and was created following meetings with industry and regulators.

The Susquehanna and Delaware river basin commissions oversee water usage and require all gas drillers to obtain approval prior to beginning water withdrawals or use. DEP's permit application addendum for Marcellus Shale wells creates similar processes for drilling-related water use in Pennsylvania's other major watersheds, which include the Ohio, Potomac and Genesee rivers and Lake Erie.

Pennsylvania and other northeast states have seen a substantial increase in drilling activity associated with the vast Marcellus Shale. The geologic formation underlies much of the commonwealth at a depth of 5,000 to 6,000 feet.

Until recently those natural gas deposits were inaccessible and cost-prohibitive to extract, but higher energy costs and new drilling techniques have sparked exploration and drilling in previously untapped formations.

"There is the potential for significant economic opportunity for the citizens of the commonwealth with the development of the Marcellus Shale formation, but this resource must be extracted in a manner that is consistent with state and federal laws that protect our water resources," said DEP's Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources Management J. Scott Roberts. "The drilling industry has been cooperative with this effort, and DEP regional staff has been trained on the new procedures so that permit applications can be reviewed and processed in a timely manner."

Companies that have already completed drilling permit applications or received permits may submit the new information to the department for review in a narrative form. Beginning in October, all drilling permit applications must use the new format.

In May and June, routine DEP inspections uncovered violations at Marcellus Shale drilling operations including poorly constructed water impoundments, inadequate erosion and sediment controls, improper waste and fluid disposal and unregistered and unapproved water withdrawals from streams. The violations threatened the state's water resources.

In response, DEP, along with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fish and Boat Commission, the Susquehanna and Delaware river basin commissions, and the state's county conservation districts hosted a summit with current and prospective gas exploration companies to review permit application requirements for water management plans.

DEP regulates oil and gas exploration and drilling under the state oil and gas laws, the Clean Streams Law, the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, the Solid Waste Management Act, and the Water Resources Planning Act.

For more information, visit DEP's [Oil and Gas webpage](#).

PA Fly Fishing Museum Celebrates 10th Anniversary With Dinner, Auction Oct. 4

The [Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association](#) will celebrate its 10th anniversary on October 4 with a [special dinner and auction](#) at the [Allenberry Playhouse and Resort](#) in Boiling Springs, Pa.

This year the Association will be honoring fly fishing legend, George Harvey. Harvey, who passed away this year. A special tribute during dinner will be led by Joe Humphreys.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

All attendees will receive a Commemorative Fly to thank you for your support. This year the featured fly is the Comparadun created by Al Caucci from the Delaware Valley. Al Caucci is scheduled to attend the festivities as our special guest.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour, scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, live music and the opening of the silent auction. After an incredible full course meal prepared by the Allenberry chef, the silent auction will end and the live auction will begin as the grand finale of the evening.

Items for sale will be distinctive, unique, or rare that have appeal for everyone, angler or not. They also include guided services and items such as jewelry, artwork, handcrafted items, certificates for bed and breakfasts and restaurants, flyfishing paraphernalia and much, much more.

For more information or to register (or just make a donation to the Museum), visit the [PFFMA Dinner and Auction webpage](#) or call 717-599-8645.

Lycoming Agri-Business Recognized for Sustainable Farming

Susquehanna Smart Fuel, a Lycoming County company that promotes sustainable farming of canola seed for biodiesel, was honored this week by the Department of Agriculture as a pioneer in agricultural entrepreneurship and transition at Ag Progress Days.

Susquehanna Smart Fuel received the PAgrows and Center for Farm Transitions Value-Added Excellence Award for providing Pennsylvania farmers an opportunity to diversify their operations with a value-added crop. The company remains diverse itself through multiple uses of the final processed product.

Part of the economic development team at the Department of Agriculture, the Center for Farm Transitions provides resources, including consultations, information and referrals to knowledgeable and experienced professionals, that will serve farmers as they look to transition into agriculture, new agricultural enterprises and to the next generation of farmers.

NewsClip: [Vegetable Oil May Soon Fuel Farms](#)

Westmoreland County Sponsors Forestry Workshop September 27

The [Westmoreland County Conservation District](#) is sponsoring an introductory Forestry Workshop for landowners interested in sustainable management of trees, woodlots and forests.

The workshop will be held on September 27, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Westmoreland Conservation District on Donohoe Road in Greensburg and in the adjacent, natural wooded area of Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

Westmoreland Conservation District Forester Tony Quadro will introduce participants to basic tree identification, common forestry terms, and methods for measuring timber. No prior experience or knowledge of forestry is necessary.

This workshop is sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District and the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association. Cost of the workshop is \$10. A reduced rate of \$5 is offered for members of the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association. Registration by September 25 is required.

For more information, contact the Westmoreland Conservation District at 724-837-5271, ext. 210 or send email to: christie@wcdpa.com.

2009 Schuylkill Watershed Congress Call for Presenters

The [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#) this week issued a Call for Presenters for the 2009 Schuylkill Watershed Congress which will be held on March 7 at the Montgomery County Community College, West Campus, Pottstown, Pa.

Submissions are due by September 30.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for the Watershed Congress.

Since 1998, the Schuylkill Watershed Congress has been providing watershed groups, municipalities, concerned citizens and others with the latest information on progressive watershed planning, model projects, and innovative watershed protection.

Are you ready to share what you know with an audience eager to learn? The Schuylkill Watershed Congress Organizers invite you to share your knowledge with a concurrent or poster session.

Topics requested by participants include: Climate Change in the Schuylkill River Watershed; Influencing Policy; Best Management Practices For Homeowners Associations; Biodiversity; Macroinvertebrate ID; Volunteer Recruiting Strategies; Natural Channel Design; Bridging the Gap Between Science and Stories; Invasive Species Management; Composting Best Management Practices; Alternative Wastewater Treatment; Working With Local Governments; Forestry Conservation; Abandoned Mine Drainage Issues; Recreational Use of Rivers; Agency Permitting Procedures; Habitat Enhancement Via Stream Restoration; Drinking Water Protection; Model Ordinances; Overfishing; Visual Assessments; Headwaters Protection; Sustainable Agriculture; Water Sensitive Landscape Design for Homeowners; Community Outreach; Fluvial Geomorphology; Enforcing Stormwater Management; Using Monitoring Data; Messaging and Communications

Hands-on, interactive presentations are encouraged. All presentations must include a question and answer component.

Poster and concurrent session proposals should include: Presentation Title (please limit to 10 words); Presenter(s), Affiliation(s), Address(es); Email Address(es); Daytime Telephone Number(s); Presenter Bio(s) (should not exceed 100 words); Preferred Format for Presentation (concurrent or poster session); Preferred Length of Presentation (specify 30 or 60 minutes); Level (e.g., Introductory, Intermediate, Advanced; Advanced sessions are encouraged); One Sentence Presentation Summary; Abstract Body (should not exceed 200 words).

Submission of a proposal does not guarantee inclusion in the Congress program. The number of proposals received often exceeds session availability. Following the proposal format provided will greatly aid the Congress Program Committee in the tough decision-making process.

Submit presentation proposals or questions about the Schuylkill Watershed Congress by sending email to: chari@delawareriverkeeper.org.

For more information, call 215-369-1188, ext. 109 or send email to: chari@delawareriverkeeper.org.

DEP to Hold Meetings, Hearings on State Water Resources Plan

The Department of Environmental Protection and the Statewide and Regional Water Resources Committees this week [posted more information](#) on public meetings/hearings on the draft Pennsylvania State Water Plan.

The meetings and hearings are set for:

- Ohio Region - September 8, Seven Fields Borough Community Center, 380 Castle Creek Drive, Seven Fields, Pa;
- Great Lakes Region - September 9, Erie County Conservation District, 1927 Wager Road, Erie;
- Delaware Region - September 11, Northampton Community College, Fowler Family Southside Center Room 605, 511 East Third St, Bethlehem;
- Lower Susquehanna Region - September 15, Radisson Inn, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill;
- Upper/Middle Susquehanna Region - September 17, Holiday Inn, 100 Pine St., Williamsport; and
- Potomac Region - September 18, Penn State Mont Alto, Multi-Purpose Center, One Campus Dr., Mont Alto, Pa.

The meetings and hearings are an opportunity for citizens to provide input on drafts of the updated State Water Plan.

For more information, visit the [PA State Water Plan – Act 220 webpage](#) or contact Leslie Sarvis, DEP at 717-772-5634 or send email to: lsarvis@state.pa.us.

Penn State Documentary on Deteriorating Water Infrastructure to Air Nationally

[Penn State Public Broadcasting](#) (WPSU-TV) is set to premiere nationally a documentary on the looming crisis with the water infrastructure underneath our feet and how communities are trying to meet this challenge.

"[Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water Infrastructure](#)," tells of America's distressed essential infrastructure systems: drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

These complex and aging systems -- some in the ground for more than 150 years -- are critical components for basic sanitation, health, public safety, economic development, and a host of other necessities of life.

A four-minute trailer is available for viewing [now at the website](#).

"The goal of this public service media project is to stimulate community discussion and bring this issue into the public consciousness using television as a catalyst," said executive producer of the documentary, Tom Keiter. "We want 'Liquid Assets' to be more than just a broadcast."

The documentary explores major water, sewage, and stormwater infrastructure issues facing communities across the country, including: Atlanta, Boston, Herminie, Pa, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

Accompanying the documentary is an online companion toolkit, intended to help facilitate discussions that extend beyond the broadcast. [The community toolkit](#) includes an outreach guide and other resources to complement the documentary.

"Liquid Assets" is a production of WPSU, Penn State Public Broadcasting. Executive Producer: Tom Keiter. Project Director: Melanie Doeblen. Producer: Stephanie

Ayanian. Writers/Directors: Stephanie Ayanian and Mark Cooper. Project Manager: Elaine Brzycki. Director of Photography: Ryan Witt. Editor: Greg Feinberg.

Major funding for the "Liquid Assets" documentary was provided by the Colcom Foundation, with additional funding from the Associated General Contractors of America, the American Society of Civil Engineers and its Environmental & Water Resources Institute, Insituform Technologies, and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Support for community outreach efforts was provided by National Association of Water Companies, Water Environment Federation, Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association, 3 Rivers Wet Weather, American Public Works Association, American Water Works Association, CH2M HILL, Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association, Gannett Fleming, National Association of Sewer Service Companies, National Utility Contractors Association, Northwest Pipe Company, and Plastics Pipe Institute.

The 90-minute documentary will be available nationwide to all public broadcasting stations beginning October 1.

"Liquid Assets" will also be available on DVD on through [Penn State Media Sales](#) for \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. It can be ordered by calling 1-800-770-2111.

For more information on the airing of "Liquid Assets," contact Jill Filby, Penn State Public Broadcasting, by sending email to: jillfilby@psu.edu or calling 814-863-9912.

2008 Survey Shows Most Stores Complying with Lead Solder Ban

The Department of Environmental Protection recently [completed its annual survey](#) of hardware stores and home centers that sell solder and found 91 percent were in compliance with the Pennsylvania Plumbing System Lead Ban and Notification Act.

Under the act, materials not meeting the definition of "lead-free" are banned from sale or use in all plumbing systems in Pennsylvania in an effort to reduce lead in drinking water.

Specifically, the act prohibits the sale or use of 50/50 or 85/15 tin-lead acid core or solid wire solders or any leaded solder that does not contain a warning statement on the label and to restrict the use of all other leaded solders to non-plumbing use only.

Each summer, DEP inspects hardware stores and home centers to ensure that banned solder is not sold and that restricted solder is not sold in the plumbing section.

This summer, 322 stores were surveyed, including re-inspections at 28 stores. Of these, 248 stores sold solder. Most of the 248 stores sold lead-free solder and 48 percent sell only lead-free solder.

However, 9 percent of the stores selling solder were in violation of the Lead Ban Act: 4 percent were selling banned solder and 5 percent were selling restricted solder in the plumbing section. All of the stores that were re-inspected were in compliance with the Lead Ban Act.

The majority of the stores in violation were first-time offenders. Also, since 2005, surveillance activities have been expanded to routinely include the non-hardware types of facilities, such as auto parts, electronics and craft stores.

Most facilities were not aware of the act or were not aware that the act applies to them. DEP plans to continue routine and follow-up surveillance activities in 2009 to ensure these facilities remain in compliance.

To view the final report for 2008, visit [DEP's Drinking Water webpage](#) or contact Dawn Hissner, at 717-787-0130 or send email to: dhissner@state.pa.us .

Nature Conservancy Publishes New Invasive Plant Species Brochure

The Nature Conservancy has published a [new invasive plants brochure](#) for the mid-Atlantic Region

The brochure is an 11x17 inch folded into half twice to form a booklet/poster.

It was put together by [The Nature Conservancy](#) and National Park Service with support from the U.S. Botanic Gardens and Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Thanks To Clicking A Mouse, You Planted 19,000 Trees in PA State Parks

The [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#) this week announced over 19,000 trees were planted in Pennsylvania's State Parks courtesy of the [Odwalla juice company](#) of Dinuba, California. All with just a click of a mouse.

The second closest state in the Odwalla program was Florida with 11,000.

Odwalla, worked with the [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#), to donate up to five trees per person who visit the special [Odwalla plant a tree website](#).

Marci Mowery, President of PPFF, thanked everyone who participated for helping in this tree planting campaign.

DCNR Strategic Plan Focus Of Statewide Public Meetings Starting Next Week

A series of six regional meetings will be held to seek public input on how the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is carrying out the goals and actions contained in its strategic plan, [Shaping a Sustainable Pennsylvania](#) - DCNR's Blueprint for Action, and what the agency's priorities should be for the future.

The sessions will be hosted by the [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#).

All meetings are scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. and will end by 5 p.m. The meeting dates and locations are:

- August 26, Four Seasons Ski Lodge, Boyce Park, Monroeville, Allegheny County;
- September 9, PPL Lake Wallenpaupack EE Center, Hawley, Monroe County;
- September 23, Susquehanna Room B, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg;
- October 7, Room 112, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Erie;
- October 20, Horticultural Center, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia; and
- November 5, Bald Eagle State Park Environmental Education Center, Howard Borough, Centre County

"DCNR leadership traveled throughout the state five years ago to gather ideas from nearly 2,000 Pennsylvanians to help develop a course for the agency's future," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "That feedback helped to create our strategic plan and now we'd like to know from citizens how they think we are doing as we work to carry out the goals that we outlined."

The meetings will be held Aug. 26 through Nov. 5 throughout the state. They also will provide a forum to collect citizen and stakeholder input on recreation as DCNR develops Pennsylvania's statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan this year.

"We look forward to receiving valuable input from the citizens of Pennsylvania. We are pleased to work with the secretary and the staff of DCNR," said Advisory Council Chairman Cliff David.

The Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council, which consists of 18 citizens from across the commonwealth, provides informed advice to the department, legislature and governor on matters relating to conservation of the state's natural resources.

The four broad goals of the strategic plan are: improve stewardship and management of state parks and forests; promote statewide land conservation; build and maintain sustainable and attractive communities; and create outdoor connections for citizens and visitors.

Written comments are due November 5. Comments can be sent by email to: jdupes@state.pa.us.

For more information, visit the [Shaping DCNR's Future webpage](#).

Pittsburgh's Friends Of The Riverfront Solicits Community Trails Proposals

[Friends of the Riverfront](#) is soliciting Requests for Proposals for the Community Trails Initiative; a public/private multi-municipal project to complete a feasibility study and trail development plan encompassing 17 municipalities.

The municipalities include: the City of Pittsburgh, Millvale, Shaler, Etna, Sharpsburg, Aspinwall, Fox Chapel, O'Hara Township, Blawnox, Harmar, Cheswick, Springdale, Springdale Township, Frazer, Tarentum, Brackenridge and Harrison) along the right bank of the Allegheny River.

The main purpose of this connection is to link the existing Three Rivers Heritage Trail with the Armstrong Trail. This connection is an important part of the Allegheny County Riverfronts Project, the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Network and also the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway.

The project is made possible through a partnership between Allegheny County, [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and Friends of the Riverfront. The Township of O'Hara and the Fox Chapel District Association are also key partners assisting with community outreach and fiscal responsibilities.

The Community Trails Initiative's goal is to play a role in the successful expansion of the current Three Rivers Heritage Trail along the Allegheny Riverfront, create community connections, and provide public access to recreational opportunities along the riverfronts.

The project is funded through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Allegheny County, Allegheny Rivertown Enterprise Zone, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Friends of the Riverfront and through generous financial support from the 17 riverfront municipalities within the corridor.

This study will show several sets of information upon its completion, including general demographics of potential trail users based on existing Three Rivers Heritage Trail, potential demand and use of the trail, it will identify and evaluate potential trail linkages/connectors including possible connections to neighboring developments, and compatibility of trail development with adjacent land uses.

Agencies interested in participating in the Community Trails Initiative should contact Thomas Baxter with [Friends of the Riverfront](#) for a copy of the Request for

Proposal. He can be contacted by sending email to: Thomas@friendsoftheriverfront.org or by calling 412-488-0212 ext. 3.

PA Parks and Forests Foundation Issues 2007 Annual Report

The PA Parks and Forests Foundation this week published its [2007 annual report](#) outlining the steps it took last year to enhance Pennsylvania's parks and forests and support conservation and environmental education programs.

For more information on how you can help, receive regular email updates and more, visit the [PA Parks and Forests Foundation website](#).

EPA Awards Two Student Scholarships

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [mid-Atlantic regional office](#) awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two Philadelphia students for their academic and community service achievements.

Amada G. Felix, a graduate of the Franklin Learning Center High School, will use the scholarship as she prepares to start her freshman year at Clark Atlanta University in the fall. She intends to pursue studies towards becoming a criminal justice lawyer.

"Becoming a lawyer would give me the ability to make criminals think twice before committing a crime," Felix said. "Most importantly, I would be able to say to myself every day, 'I made a difference.'"

Kenneth E. Booker, a graduate of Parkway West High School, also received a scholarship which will help him as he begins engineering studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

"Engineering is about thinking and creativity," said Booker. "In my eyes, my major is the best there is and I will not let anyone stop me from achieving my dream."

Through funds raised by EPA's Black Employment Program Advisory Council, the agency awards a scholarship each year to a Philadelphia high school graduating male and female bound for college.

USA Gypsum Drywall Recycling Exceeds 10 Million Pounds in Philadelphia Area

In the last year, [USA Gypsum](#) has recycled over 10 million pounds of drywall scraps from the Philadelphia metropolitan area; the equivalent to drywall scrap from 5,000 single family homes or over 900 roll off waste trucks diverted from landfill.

USA Gypsum has provided drywall recycling services for several large construction projects in Philadelphia including the Microsoft School of the Future, which featured a green building and the Comcast Center building. The waste from the Comcast Center was removed co-mingled with other construction waste by the Richard C Burns Company.

The mixed waste was transported to Burns facility in Philadelphia, separated, and the drywall from the waste stream was forwarded to them for recycling.

There are several benefits contractors can receive from utilizing USA Gypsum drywall recycling services.

First, it is cost effective and affordable, allowing contractors to save money on waste removal or have more removed for their dollar. Second, sending drywall scrap to

them for recycling is quick, easy, and alleviates the need for extra dumpsters that take up space on the work site.

USA Gypsum has developed multiple services for the Philadelphia area including scrap removal and pick up service, roll off containers, and several drop off points. These choices offer convenience for a variety of construction types.

They not only service the Philadelphia area but they offer service throughout the Northeast ranging from New York City to Pittsburgh to Washington D.C.

USA Gypsum recycles 100 percent of drywall received into agricultural products.

For ten years, USA Gypsum has been revolutionizing the recycling business, even before the boom in the green industry. There are so many benefits to be had through this process like conserving natural gypsum resources, reducing deforestation, reducing landfill waste, and reducing energy costs by eliminating the need to import gypsum to the northeast from Canada, Mexico and Spain.

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

PA Recycling Markets Center Hosts Recycled Products Program In September

The [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) will sponsor a Recycled Content Products Sustainable Growth Program on September 19 in Harrisburg.

The Program will provide information to understand the Green Building Industry locally and nationally; past, present and future. The main focus will be to address issues that can help advance recycled content green building product manufacturers in this emerging industry.

The Program will include a discussion of how to address specification issues related to “Green” Building Products both during design and during the bidding process.

The Program will be held from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, 4751 Lindle Rd., Harrisburg.

For registration or for additional information, contact the RMC at 717-948-6660 or send email to: info@parmc.org.

PUC to Hold Special Hearing On Energy Prices September 11

The Public Utility Commission will hold a public hearing on September 11 in Harrisburg to increase consumer awareness on rising energy prices, explore ways to reduce energy usage and discuss potential policies and strategies, consistent with the Commission's "Prepare Now" campaign, to help consumers prepare for rising energy prices.

This marks the sixth winter in which the Commission is urging consumers to "[Prepare Now](#)." The message is simple: "Prepare Now" for higher energy costs this winter. Learn about changes in the law related to utility shut-offs and know your rights. Save money by learning how to conserve energy. Heat your home safely.

The five PUC Commissioners will conduct the en banc hearing to solicit comments from interested parties, including the PUC Consumer Advisory Council, consumer advocates, other government agencies and utilities.

Comments on the expected price of electric and natural gas service and how those increases may affect Pennsylvania consumers will be received by the Commissioners. As part of the informal en banc hearing process, the Commissioners will pose questions to the speakers after their testimony.

The hearing will be held at 12:30 p.m. in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg. It is open to the public.

Consumer Energy Education Plans OK'd For Duquesne, FirstEnergy Companies

The Public Utility Commission this week gave final approval to [consumer-education plans](#) for Duquesne Light Co. and the FirstEnergy Companies of Met-Ed, Penelec and Penn Power, related to rising electric prices and resources to help consumers, such as energy conservation, low-income programs and choice.

In May 17, 2007 the Commission directed all electric distribution companies to prepare and file a consumer-education plan by December 31, 2007, for Commission review and approval. The plans were required to include eight specific Energy Education Standards and propose appropriate budget levels and cost recovery mechanism.

The intention is to prepare Pennsylvanians for electric price increase mitigation and to educate consumers on energy conservation.

On June 5 the Commission tentatively approved the plans, opening up the FirstEnergy plan to a 30-day comment period. The Commission extended the comment period for Duquesne to 45 days and required the company to file a supplement addressing choice education.

Comments were filed on both plans by the PUC's Consumer Advisory Council, the state's Office of Consumer Advocate, the state's Office of Small Business Advocate and the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project. Duquesne and FirstEnergy both filed reply comments.

For more information on these and other company education plans, visit the PUC [Consumer-Education Plans webpage](#)

Solar Mirror Production Facility To Locate In Allegheny County

[Flabeg](#), a global leader in high-tech glass and mirror applications, announced this week it will locate a facility to manufacture parabolic solar mirrors in Allegheny County.

State investments of \$9 million helped a Germany-based company choose Pennsylvania for its first solar mirror production facility in the United States, creating 300 manufacturing jobs. It will be the company's first U.S. facility of this type.

"This was a very competitive project and Flabeg's decision to expand operations here shows that the international community continues to take notice of Pennsylvania's business environment and pioneering clean-energy efforts," Gov. Rendell said. "With international leaders like Gamesa, Iberdrola, and Conergy already doing business in Pennsylvania, it's clear that the Commonwealth has established itself as a leader in the development of clean energy solutions."

"We've already created more than 3,000 jobs in the renewable energy industry and leveraged \$1 billion in private investment and, with solar energy production growing at an incredible pace and markets continuing to expand, it's clear that we've only seen the tip of the iceberg," the Governor said.

Flabeg plans to lease a 20-acre site in the Clinton Commerce Park in Findlay, and build a 209,000-square-foot manufacturing facility. The building will be constructed in two phases, with the first phase starting this fall. The total investment in both phases of the project is expected to be \$30 million.

Flabeg will retain 198 jobs at its other Allegheny County location, in Brackenridge, which manufactures mirror glass for passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

“Without the strategic vision and support from Gov. Rendell, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato and their respective staffs, Flabeg would not have made the decision to build this plant in Pennsylvania,” said Charles Johnson, president of Flabeg Solar US Corporation. “Clearly, the Governor’s commitment to alternative energy solutions has created a business environment attractive to companies leading the drive for energy independence.”

Pennsylvania provided a \$9 million funding offer that included a \$1.2 million opportunity grant, \$3 million from the machinery and equipment loan fund, a \$2 million loan from the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority, \$1.5 million in Infrastructure and Facilities Improvement Program grants, \$900,000 in job creation tax credits, and \$400,000 in job training assistance.

NewsClip: [\\$30 Million Solar Mirror Plant Planned In Findlay](#)

Signs Remind Allegheny County School Bus Drivers to Limit Diesel Idling

The [Allegheny County Health Department](#) is providing local schools with free signs to remind school bus drivers and others that county air quality regulations place a five-minute limit on diesel school bus idling.

The signs have been requested by 15 school districts so far and are already installed at East Allegheny, Moon, Penn Hills, West Allegheny, West Mifflin and the Children’s Institute.

Other schools that have requested signs are Cornell, Deer Lakes, Hampton, Montour, North Allegheny, North Hills, Steel Valley, Woodland Hills, Wightman School, Falk School, and the Environmental Charter School in Regent Square.

The signs, funded by a \$20,100 grant from the County Clean Air Fund, will remain available while supplies last and can be requested by calling the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-ACHD.

The 12-by-18 inch metal signs, which may be installed on school property but not on a public roadway right-of-way, come with eight-foot steel poles and mounting hardware needed for installation.

The five-minute idling limit was adopted in 2004 because of the harmful effects of diesel exhaust on children, who are more sensitive to air pollution because they have a higher respiratory rate and breathe 50 percent more air per pound of bodyweight than adults.

School bus idling violations can be reported to the Health Department and fines can be as high as \$500 for repeated violations.

2008 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Award Recipients Announced

[Preservation Pennsylvania](#), in partnership with the [Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission](#), this week announced the recipients of the 2008 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony held in the House of Representatives Majority Caucus Room in the Pennsylvania Capitol on September 18. The 2008 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony is open to the public. Tickets to the

event and sponsorship opportunities are available at Preservation Pennsylvania's website: www.preservationpa.org.

Since 1979, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards have honored individuals and organizations that exhibited excellence in the field of historic preservation.

"The annual awards program highlights the richness and diversity of Pennsylvania's heritage and recognizes the valuable contribution historic preservation projects make to community vitality," said Rob Kinsley, president of Preservation Pennsylvania.

The F. Otto Haas award, Pennsylvania's highest honor in historic preservation, is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of outstanding contributions and consistent achievement above the standards of the profession.

Other 2008 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards include: Leadership in State Government; Grassroots Advocacy; Initiative Awards; Ralph Modjeski Award for Excellence in Transportation Design, Preservation and Archaeology; PHMC Annual Theme Award; PHMC Visionary in Historic Preservation Award; and Construction Awards.

The award recipients include:

F. Otto Haas Award: Awarded to the [Partners for Sacred Places](#) for providing significant financial and technical assistance, training and educational opportunities to groups that care for religious properties and sites. Partners for Sacred Places is a national, non-secretarian, non-profit organization committed to the preservation of religious properties and sites with regional offices in Texas and Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania office administers the Philadelphia Regional Fund for Sacred Places, a local program that offers technical assistance, training and matching grants of \$25,000 - \$100,000 to help communities preserve historic religious properties.

Leadership in State Government: Awarded to Rep. Thomas Tangretti (D-Westmoreland) for his commitment to promoting historic preservation as a community revitalization tool. Rep. Tangretti has consistently demonstrated leadership in legislative efforts to adopt a statewide incentive program for the rehabilitation of historic residential and commercial properties.

Grassroots Advocacy: Awarded to the [Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia](#) for promoting appreciation and protection of Philadelphia's historic character through advocacy, regional and neighborhood-wide initiatives, easement programs and administration of program funds. Working with regional partners, the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia has led advocacy campaigns to save the historic Boyd Theater and prevent the demolition of the impressive Philadelphia Life Insurance Co. buildings.

Community Involvement:

- Awarded to **Carole A. Briggs** for her outstanding leadership as former Executive Director and Curator for the Jefferson County Historical Society. Working forty-plus hours a week as a volunteer, Ms. Briggs led a capital campaign and raised an excess of half a million dollars to rehabilitate the Nathan Green Edelblute Building and transform the property into the new Jefferson County History Center.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- Awarded to the Lykens Community Development Corporation for guiding the preservation of the Lykens Train Station. The newly rehabilitated Lykens Train Station features interpretive displays to educate about local heritage and serves as a community meeting place. Project Architect: McKissick Associates PC

Communication: Awarded to the Bureau of Design, Department of Transportation for producing a user-friendly and publicly accessible management plan and maintenance manual for stone arch bridges within the PennDOT Engineering District 6-0 -- City of Philadelphia, Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County and Montgomery County. Project Architects/Engineers/Consultants: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Federal Highway Administration; and Skelly and Loy, Inc.

Stewardship:

- Awarded to the [Preservation of Williamsport Foundation, Inc.](#) for funding the acquisition and preservation of the Rowley House located within the Millionaires Row Historic District in Williamsport. The Foundation, comprised exclusively of volunteers from the community, operates the Rowley House as a public museum. Project Architect: Anthony H. Visco Jr, Architects
- Awarded to the [Union League of Philadelphia](#) for guiding the preservation of two historic Philadelphia landmark buildings. Using John Fraser and Horace Trumbauer's original architectural specifications, the Union League of Philadelphia restored the exterior features while rendering the buildings safe and watertight. Project Architects/Engineers/Consultants: DPK&A Architects, LLP; Keast & Hood Co.; Mulhern Consulting Engineers & Associates, Inc; International Consultants, Inc.; and Daniel J. Keating Co.

PHMC Annual Theme Award - 2007 Archaeology: Awarded to the [Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania](#) for devising the plan to build a new enclosure to protect Meadowcroft Rockshelter, a National Historic Landmark and at the same time, allow access for professional interpretation and public education. Project Architect: Pfaffmann + Associates PC Architects

Preservation and Archaeology Award: Awarded to the [Southern Alleghenies Conservancy](#) and the [Somerset County Conservation District](#) for guiding the rehabilitation of Kings Covered Bridge. The Kings Covered Bridge was rehabilitated in place (instead of dismantled) and the existing materials were retained or replaced in-kind to match the original. Project Architects/Consultants: Simone Collins Landscape Architecture; and Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Single Family Residential/House Museum:

- Johnson House, Philadelphia: Awarded to the Johnson House Historic Site for the restoration of the Johnson House and the excavation and stabilization of an outbuilding. Built in 1768, the Johnson House is designated a National Historic Landmark and is recognized as a significant property in a regional network of Underground Railroad sites. Project Architect: Kise Straw & Kolodner, Inc.
- Mary Johnston House, State College (Centre County): Awarded to Yurchak Goodall Real Estate Partnership for rehabilitating the Mary Johnston House with appropriate

modifications to provide easy accessibility. Project Architect: Frederick J. Fernsler, AIA

Commercial/Industrial: Awarded to the Bedford Resort Partners, Ltd. for rehabilitating the expansive [Bedford Springs Hotel](#) and giving new life to the National Historic Landmark by continuing the historic use as a resort location. Project Architect/Engineer/Consultants: Corgan and Associates; 3 North; Sandvick Architects, Inc.; R.T. Reynolds; Atlantic Engineering Services; and Hunt & Joiner, Inc.

Certificate of Merit: Awarded to [McCaffery Interests](#) for rehabilitating the Armstrong Cork Complex into 297 loft-style apartments. The rehabilitation project included extensive site clean up, masonry restoration and careful replacement of windows to match the originals in appearance and dimensions. Project Architects/Consultants: Antunovich Associates; and Charles Uhl.

Public/Institutional Award: Awarded to the Christ Church Preservation Trust for the preservation of Christ Church, a National Historic Landmark. The preservation project included interior restoration, installation of fire protection systems and exterior restoration work to repair existing water damage and render the structure watertight. Project Architects/Engineers: Frens & Frens LLC; Haverstick Borthwick Company; Dmitri J. Ververelli, Inc.; and Keast & Hood Co.

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

DEP Mine Reclamation Bid Opportunities

The Department of Environmental Protection published two bid opportunity notices for mine reclamation projects in East Keating Township, Clinton County and Perry Township, Jefferson County.

The notices are available in the [Pa Bulletin, page 4679](#).

Grants & Awards

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

- **August 29**—[DEP Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants](#)
- **August 29**—**CLOSED.** [DEP Small Business Advantage Grant Program](#)
- **August 29**—[EPA Water Efficiency Leaders Awards](#)
- **August 29**—[PPL Territory Small Business Lighting Energy Efficiency Rebate](#)
- **August 31**—[PA CleanWays Community Cleaning Award](#)
- **September 5**—[WPC Canoe Access Development Grant](#)
- **September 5**—[Williamsport/Lycoming Greenovation Contest](#)
- **September 9**—[EPA Water Quality Trading Funding Proposals](#)
- **September 12**—[Wildlands Conservancy 2008 Ark Award Nominations](#)

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **September 12**—[Green Building Alliance Product Innovation Grants](#)
- **September 15**—[Vote for Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest Winner](#)
- **September 19**—[EPA Clean Air Excellence Awards](#)
- **September 20**—[Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 21**—[EPA Clean Diesel Emerging Technology Grant](#)
- **September 24**—[Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **September 30**—[DEP Recycling Performance Grants](#)
- **October 1**—[Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Grants](#)
- **October 3**—[NOAA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Grants](#)
- **October 3**—**NEW**. [Lehigh Charles H. Nehf, Sr. Conservation Leadership Award](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 20**—[Westinghouse Brighter Future School Grant Program](#)
- **October 20**—**NEW**. [DEP Coastal Zone Grant Applications](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)
- **October 31**—**NEW**. [Chesapeake Bay Fund Nutrient, Sediment Reduction Grants](#)
- **November 30**—[PPL Green Building Certification Grants](#)
- **November 30**—**NEW**. [Sinnemahoning Watershed Grant Program](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Commuters Are Swapping Car Keys For Bus Fare in Pittsburgh](#)
[Pittsburgh Transit Ridership Rose 6% In July](#)
[Allegheny Energy's \\$1.2 Billion Energy Project Shapes Up](#)
[Electric Bills Might Soar Average 43%](#)
[PUC: Brace For Higher Electric Bill](#)
[School District Enters The Oil Business](#)
[Lancaster School District Going Green](#)
[PECO Unveils Green Building Initiative](#)
[PUC Judge Deal Setback To Proposed Power Line](#)
[Air Products' Foray Into Alternative Energy Powered By Hydrogen](#)
[Turn Switch Grass Into Energy Right On The Farm](#)
[The Power Of Sun...Flower In Richmond Township](#)
[Rendell Says Solar Mirror Facility To Create 300 Jobs](#)
[Editorial: Tax and Dream Strategy On Energy](#)
[High Fuel Costs Stoke Demand For Wood Stoves](#)
[Coal Waste Plant Given Deadline For Pollution Limits Plan](#)
[Towns Join Effort To Reduce Greenhouse Gases](#)
[Editorial: Global Warming Baloney](#)
[PennDOT Tests Soy-Based Road Sealer](#)
[PA's High Tech Trash Pile](#)
[Midstate Grocers Offer Bag Recycling](#)
[Editorial: Handle CFLs With Care](#)

[Northampton County Recycling Program Cuts Waste Composting, Like Nature, Only Faster](#)
[Op-Ed: Don't Accept Myth About Oil Exploration, Gas Pump Prices](#)
[Op-Ed: Remember Fish and Wildlife In The Drilling Stampede](#)
[Bucks, Montco Step Up West Nile Fight](#)
[Going Green? Call The Tree Squad](#)
[Appalachian Trail To Get A First- A PA Underpass](#)
[Greenways Coordinator Picked For Oil Heritage Region](#)
[Moul Wants Natural Gas Royalties, Game Commission Says Not So Fast](#)
[Environmental Assessment of Berks Brownfield Site Completed](#)
[Rendell Announces Montgomery County Brownfields Grant](#)
[Bucks Designates Five More Properties As Open Space](#)
[Bethlehem Formally Turns Over Land To Wildlands Conservancy](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Trout Unlimited Continues To Fight Acid Mine Water Threat](#)
[Conestoga Watershed Needs Major Cleanup](#)
[Study Examines Health of Susquehanna River](#)
[Cleaning Up The Clarion River](#)
[Public Water Is No Given In Rural Areas](#)
[Acid Remediation Helping Restore Mosquito Creek](#)
[Dam Removal Project Gives Native Trout Free Reign](#)
[Groups, Schools Included in Environmental Education Funding](#)
[Fallout Shelter's Fuel Tanks Could Harm Environment](#)
[Wilkes-Barre: WaterFront: Set To Be All The Rage](#)
[Riverwalk Approval Buts Wilkes-Barre Back On Path to Revitalization](#)
[Cabot Seeks To Extract River Water](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection published changes to Marcellus Shale oil and gas drilling requirements and extended the MS4 permits. The Environmental Quality Board published proposed changes to Lake Erie bluff recession requirements. The Game Commission published final field possession of deer regulations. Details below.

The Environmental Quality Board [published proposed changes](#) to the Lake Erie bluff recession and setback requirements for public comment.

The Department of Environmental Protection [published a formal notice](#) extending for one year the current NPDES PAG-13 Stormwater Discharges From MS4 permits that was scheduled to expire on March 9, 2009.

DEP also [published a modification](#) of its oil and gas well permit requiring applicants for Marcellus Shale Gas to submit additional water management information.

The Game Commission [published final](#) deer season, bag limits and field possession of deer requirements.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – August 23, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [published notice](#) of a proposed land exchange in Clay Township, Butler County.

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

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

Calendar of Events

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

- **August 28**—DEP [Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council](#) meeting. DEP Mine Rescue Station, 286 Industrial Park Rd, Ebensburg. 10:00.
- **September 3**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 4**—[DEP Solar Work Group](#) meeting. Second Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **September 4**—[DEP Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board](#) meeting. 8th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 5**—DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact Steve Wilson, 717-783-8411 or send email to: stewilson@state.pa.us.
- **September 9-10**—[DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Best Western Grand Victorian Inn, Sayre.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **September 10**—**NEW**. Joint House Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Game and Fisheries Committee hearing on deer farming. Mountain Ridge Whitetails, 1115 Dartmouth Rd., Hummelstown, Pa. 12:30.
- **September 11**—**NEW**. House Local Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 1753](#) (Argall-R-Schuylkill) providing for grants to encourage inter-municipal cooperation. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **September 11**- **Location Change**. [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#) will now meet on the 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 17**— Joint Senate [Agriculture and Rural Affairs](#) and [Environmental Resources and Energy](#) Committee hearing on nutrient credit trading ([Senate Bill 1493](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland)). Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:15.
- **September 18**—**CANCELLED**. Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 19**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).
- **September 22**—**NEW**. Environmental Issues Forum presentation by U.S.G.S on emerging contaminants in PA Streams sponsored by the [Joint Conservation Committee](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **September 23**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 23**—**NEW**. Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee meeting on [Senate Resolution 195](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) related to a review of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program. Hearing Room 3, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **September 24**— **Location Change**. [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) informational meeting on carbon sequestration. Room 8E-A, East Wing. 9:15.
- **October 2**— [DEP Solar Work Group](#) meeting. Room 105, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **October 18**—[Joint Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **October 23**—[Joint Conservation Committee](#) Legislative Forestry Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

Supporting Member PA Outdoor Writers Assn./PA Trout Unlimited

PA Environment Digest is a supporting member of the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association](#), [Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited](#) and the [Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited](#).