

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 11, 2006

Nominations Sought for Abele and Mahon Awards by Fish & Boat Commission

The Fish and Boat Commission is seeking nominations for two awards it presents in recognition of those making outstanding contributions to furthering conservation or facilitating recreational access to the state's waterways.

Nominations should be postmarked no later than October 14.

The [Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award](#) is the highest recognition the PFBC confers. The PFBC established the Abele Award to recognize citizens of Pennsylvania who have made outstanding contributions to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the aquatic resources of the Commonwealth.

The award serves as a memorial to Ralph Abele, longtime Commission Executive Director, for his steadfast and courageous work in protecting and conserving our natural resources.



The Abele Award is presented to a Pennsylvanian who has dedicated his or her time and energy to the conservation of the state's natural resources, specifically the aquatic resources, through one or more of the following accomplishments:

- Personally invested heavily in the long-term education of Pennsylvania's youth on conservation issues vital to an improved aquatic environment;
- Put at risk their person and livelihood to undertake public activities and positions on behalf of improving and protecting the aquatic resources of Pennsylvania;
- Led a regional or statewide environmental effort that has been recognized for its duration and success in protecting and enhancing the aquatic resources of Pennsylvania;
- Played a leading role in reclaiming and enhancing a major significant natural water resource within the Commonwealth;
- Led an effort to pass major environmental legislation for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment of Pennsylvania; and
- Brought national recognition to Pennsylvania through personal activities, actions and contributions to the aquatic resources.

The **Paul J. Mahon Access for All Award Program** was created earlier this year to recognize the outstanding efforts of former Commissioner Paul Mahon to ensure accessibility to the state's waterways for all individuals interested in fishing and boating, regardless of physical ability.



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The award is intended to recognize Pennsylvania citizens or organizations who have made outstanding contributions, above and beyond legal requirements, to improving fishing and boat access to the resource for the disabled.

Nominees should meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Been personally involved in the provision of angling or boating activities that directly support the recreational needs of the disabled;
- Led a regional or statewide effort to improve access to angling and boating resources by the disabled;
- Played a lead role in the development and construction of a major facility for disabled anglers and/or boaters;
- Significantly improved or enhanced the quality of the angling and boating experience in ways that make a substantial difference for persons with a disability; and
- Worked passionately and selflessly, over an extended period of time, to improve recreational use of Pennsylvania waters on behalf of the disabled angler and boater.

The nominations for either award should describe, in a maximum of three typewritten pages, the following: biographical information, how the nominee meets the categories for recognition, specific accomplishments of the nominee, affiliations of the nominee and additional information to warrant award of this honor.

Submission of letters supporting the nomination or other endorsements of a nominee is not part of the nomination process for either award.

Employees and active Commissioners of the Fish and Boat Commission are not eligible for this award, but they are encouraged to submit nominations.

Nominations should be submitted to Executive Office, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, PO Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.

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Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session September 19 and the House on September 25.

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Feature

- Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan Praised, *By Joe Kosack, Game Commission*

We Remember – September 11, 2001

- DEP Responds to National Tragedy

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Action This Week

Several committee meetings are scheduled for next week, here's the rundown...

In the House, the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has scheduled an informational meeting on reducing mercury emissions from power plants

The Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee holds the first meeting of the Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force pursuant to [House Resolution 88](#).

Action in Senate/House

In a rare summer committee action, the House Local Government Committee this week reported out [House Bill 2063](#) (Boyd-R-Lancaster) that provides for multi-municipal Planning Code implementation agreements to deal with a local issue.

House Environmental Committee Information Meeting on Mercury Emissions Set

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The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold an informational meeting on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants on September 12.

This is the second hearing held on this issue by the Committee and the fifth on the issue by the House and Senate environmental committees.

Those expected to present comments include: the Electric Power Generation Association and representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The House Environmental Committee is chaired by Rep. Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. George (D-Clearfield).

House Agriculture to Hold Information Meeting on Conservation Tax Credit Bill

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will hold an informational meeting September 19 on [House Bill 2878](#) (Stern-R-Blair, Hershey-R-Chester, Daley-D-Washington) that would create the Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Program.

The Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Program (REAP) would provide farmers and landowners with business or personal state tax credits to cover their cost for installing best management practices that will reduce nutrients and sediments going into rivers and streams.

Tax credits of between 25 and 75 percent, up to a total of \$150,000, would be provided to clean up barnyards, plant forested buffers, install stream bank fencing and remove legacy sediments from floodplains.

The program would allow the tax credits to be sold and transferred to others or rolled ahead for up to 15 years.

Also included is a sponsorship program that allows businesses to finance projects on farms and receive a tax credit for their investment.

The [Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee](#) held a public hearing that included the Senate companion bill – [Senate Bill 1286](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster, Waugh-R-York, O’Pake-D-Berks) -- last week.

The House Agriculture Committee is chaired by Rep. Hershey (R-Chester) and Rep. Daley (D-Washington).

In Other News

Projects to Protect Non-Game Species, Habitats Funded

The Fish and Boat Commission this week announced that \$365,000 from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s [State Wildlife Grants Program](#) will be used to fund six projects to study and manage rare or declining species and their habitats.

“These grants are a vital part of our ability to conserve the fish, mussels, turtles and other non-game species managed by the Commission,” said Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Doug Austen. “Non-game species comprise nearly 90 percent of the species managed by the Fish and Boat Commission and these species serve as important indicators of the overall health of the environment. Thus, the condition of these animals and their habitats is often an early indicator of disease and pollution which affect

us all. Conserving species before they become threatened or endangered is money well-spent as preservation is less costly than restoration.”

Dr. Austen noted that maintaining and improving the health of Pennsylvania’s waterways is vital to protecting aquatic life. “Increasing our understanding of these complex systems will help us more efficiently and effectively protect these waters for future generations,” Dr. Austen said.

The Fish and Boat Commission will be awarding grants to facilitate four of the projects, including:

Fishes of the Ohio River: The deep waters of the Ohio River will be sampled using a variety of study techniques to more fully understand the distribution of fish species and their habitats. The survey methods will help collect smaller, and potentially little known fish species which are not easily detected in these deeper habitats. With this intensive sampling the Commission will be better able to determine if these species should be considered for designation as threatened or endangered in Pennsylvania.

This two-year study will be conducted by The Pennsylvania State University. A \$99,000 SWG grant will help fund the \$132,000 project.

Fishes of the Allegheny River: In addition to the above-mentioned project, another will sample fishes in the lower 62 miles of the Allegheny River. It is known that this river provides habitat for many species of fishes, yet little current information is available to help evaluate the conditions. The lower Allegheny River is an important waterway for commercial and recreational navigation as well as sand and gravel extraction.

Understanding the distribution of fish species and their habitats will help us to protect the critical areas. This two-year, \$125,500 study is being conducted by California University of Pennsylvania, using \$62,800 in SWG funding.

Effects of Dams on the American Eel in Delaware River Tributaries: In the eastern part of the state, another study is focusing on the American eel. Once a popular commercial and sport fish, in general along the east coast of the United States, the population of the American eel has declined significantly in recent years. The exact causes are not known, but loss of habitat for young eels to mature is considered to be important. Dams, which do not allow fish to pass upstream, are considered one cause of this habitat loss.

As an extension of current work on the distribution of this species in Delaware River tributaries, this study will evaluate characteristics of dams, effects of fishways, as well as dam removal, on the abundance of eels. This study, to be conducted by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, will help provide information for management actions to protect and recover this species.

A \$45,750 SWG grant will offset the bulk of the \$61,000, two-year study.

Range determination and population assessment of Red-bellied Turtles and the invasive Red-eared Slider: Populations of the native red-bellied turtle are under increasing pressure from habitat loss and competition from the invasive red-eared slider. This study, will determine the historical and current range of the state-threatened red-bellied turtle, as well as the distribution and population of the invasive red-eared slider, in

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southeastern Pennsylvania. Work on this three-year project will be conducted jointly by Drexel University and the Fish and Boat Commission.

The \$101,000 project will be funded primarily by a \$76,000 SWG grant.

The Fish and Boat Commission will also be using SWG funding for two other critical projects:

Non-game Species Conservation, Planning and Recovery: This project will assess the effects of permit activities and develop recovery plans for aquatic species, with an emphasis on non-game fish such as rare darters and minnows. These animals serve as important indicators of environmental health, and thus are valuable to understanding the conditions of the habitats. This project, to be conducted by the Fish and Boat Commission, is an extension of an existing project collaboratively funded by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Wild Resources Conservation Fund and will provide much-needed support to protect and manage these important species.

Habitat Protection, Restoration and Enhancement: The Fish and Boat Commission, to help protect and manage the broad array of species under its jurisdiction, has established a Division of Habitat Management. The emphasis of this project will encompass a variety of aquatic species and habitats. Activities funded through the State Wildlife Grant Program will be directed to the protection and management of non-game species and will include such tasks as surveys to determine occurrence of species, pre-project conditions, designing and overseeing the construction of habitat restoration projects, post-project assessments and other related functions.

The State Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered; and, according to the report, titled, "[State Wildlife Grants Five-Year Accomplishment Report](#)," is a model for conservation success.

[Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan](#) is available online.

Bat Hibernating Sites Off-limits to Forbes State Forest Visitors

In its ongoing effort to protect Pennsylvania's varied and valuable bat populations, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources next month will begin limiting public access to three caves in Fayette and Westmoreland counties where bats hibernate in large numbers.

The caves, harboring some of the largest and most vulnerable bat populations in the state, will be closed to all visitors, beginning October 1, 2006 through May 30, 2007.

Specially-constructed locking gates are being installed at Coon and Lemon Hole caves, southeast of Blairsville, Westmoreland County, and Barton Cave, near Uniontown, Fayette County.

The three caves, all on state forestland within the [Forbes State Forest District](#), serve as the winter home for bat species that include the big brown, little brown and Eastern pipistrelle. Hibernating numbers are estimated at more than 1,000 at Lemon Hole and Coon caves, and several hundred over-winter at the Barton site.

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Known and valued for their enormous appetite for mosquitoes and other flying insects, bats have benefited from similar controls at other major hibernating sites. Each state forest site will be posted with the closing dates, and gates will be open and exploration permitted between June and September 2007.

Conforming to guidelines set by the American Cave Conservation Association/Bat Conservation International Standards, the hibernacula gates will exclude people but allow unobstructed airflow and bat movement. Also, because of remote locations, they are vulnerable to vandalism.

In addition to its ranger patrols and cooperation of the Game Commission, DCNR is enlisting the voluntary aid of organized caving groups to observe and report any potential damage or illegal intrusions at the gated caves.

Links: [Indiana Bats, Wild Resource Conservation Fund](#)
[Season of the Bat – GreenTreks Network](#)

Wild Resource Conservation Fund's New Keystone Wild! Notes Now Online



The latest issue of [Keystone Wild! Notes](#) is now online from the Wild Resource Conservation Fund. This issue's highlights include:

[Poachers, Developers Close in on Bog Turtles](#)

[Dams on Susquehanna May Doom Some Mussels](#)

[Allegheny Mound Ants: Be Prepared to Step On It!](#)

[Weed It and Reap](#)

[Public Participation Sought for Ginseng Studies](#)

[2006 PA Wild Resource Festival](#)

[Notes From the Field](#) by Sara Nicholas, Executive Director

The [Wild Resource Conservation Fund](#) directs resources from a [state income tax checkoff and donations](#) toward endangered and threatened species—both plants and animals—and educates both children and adults on how to help recognize and preserve some of Pennsylvania's most sensitive flora and fauna.

The chairman of the Fund for 2006 is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

PA Invasive Species Council Again Seeks Input on Developing Management Plan

The [Governor's Invasive Species Council](#) is in the process of developing an aquatic invasive species management plan and is again asking for input into shaping the potential contents of the plan, according to Sarah N. Whitney, Chair of the Council's AIS Management Plan Committee.

The goal of the plan is to minimize the harmful ecological, economic and human health impacts of AIS through the prevention and management of their introduction, expansion and dispersal into, within and from Pennsylvania.

One component of the AISMP will be a section of management actions to address the most immediate and pressing problems. The Council is seeking input to help identify prioritize the specific strategies and tasks that will make up this section.

Proposed action items were developed based on input during the first round of development and [are available online](#). Specifically, the Council wants suggested rankings based on this procedure:

1) Each reviewer has 100 imaginary points. Allocate these points among all of the tasks as you see appropriate to best address AIS issues in Pennsylvania. You may give all of your percentage points to one task, give 1 point each to 100 tasks, give 50 points to two tasks, or some combination in between.

2) List the five strategies that you feel MUST be addressed to accomplish the AIS management plan's goal.

3) Indicate what percent of funding you would ideally allocate to each category (totaling 100 percent).

Please submit your prioritization to Sarah Whitney, who is with the Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program, by email to: swhitney@psu.edu or call 610-304-8753 by September 14.

NewsClip: [Invasive Plants May Not Be So Bad After All](#)

Group Monitors the Affects of Tropical Storm Ernesto on Local Streams

While most people were concerned about what impact tropical storm Ernesto would have on Penn State's first home game, one group worried about the impacts the storm would have on the local streams.

The [Spring Creek Watershed Community Group](#), equipped with automated samplers and water level recorders, took water samples every two hours beginning Friday, September 1 at noon until mid-day Sunday, September 3. The suite of samples covered stream conditions before Ernesto began dumping rain on the area, during the storm's height, and after conditions improved.

"The Water Resources Monitoring Project initiated storm-water monitoring in 2005. We realized the importance of measuring the local effects of storms, specifically on the urban influenced Thompson Run and Slab Cabin Run which flow into Spring Creek a renowned trout fishery," said project manager Becky Dunlap.

The Water Resources Monitoring Project partnered with Trout Unlimited to install storm-water sampling equipment above and below the Millbrook Marsh to collect data before a consortium of partners construct in-stream structures that will cause storm water to slow down and flood the wetlands adjacent to the stream channel. As the water infiltrates the wetland, pollutants are removed naturally by the plants and soils.

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“We are trying to determine what and how much potentially damaging material is entering the streams as a result of runoff,” remarked Dunlap. “We have been collecting data for more than a year and results conclusively show that higher concentrations of pollutants are found in storm water than are found during normal conditions.”

The forecasted use of this type of data is predicted to be high since Department of Environmental Protection released the Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Strategy in 2002. The state’s goal is to reduce all nutrient and sediment impairments to the Bay by 2010.

“Our data will help to determine the quantity of pollutants being delivered to the Bay from the Spring Creek Watershed.” Dunlap continued that “our project is very unique. We operate almost entirely with pledges from local municipalities, authorities, and organizations. Our storm water efforts are funded through grants but the remainder of our activities which include the continuous collection of water quality and quantity data and outreach are supported by pledges. This speaks volumes about the commitment our local governments and organizations to ensure clean and healthy water in the Spring Creek Watershed.”

To find out more about the WRMP visit the [Spring Creek Watershed Community website](#) or contact Becky Dunlap at 814-237-0400.

(Courtesy [Watershed Weekly](#) from the [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

Abandoned Mine Posts Newsletter Now Available to Watershed Groups

The [Western Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#) has revived its “Abandoned Mine Posts” electronic newsletter and is distributing it free to interesting groups and individuals.

The goal is to provide interesting articles and timely notices on issues of concern about abandoned mine drainage and abandoned mine reclamation. The newsletter will be emailed week.

This week’s article is, “AMD, Fish and the Dog Days of Summer.”

To subscribe to Abandoned Mine Posts, visit the [Subscription webpage](#).

Lots of information on the similar topics is available for anthracite areas by using the resources of the [Eastern Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation website](#).

4 Wonders of Wetlands Workshops Planned in Lancaster, Philadelphia

Four [Wonders of Wetlands](#) teacher education workshops are scheduled for Lancaster and Philadelphia in November and December.

The Wonders of Wetlands workshops provide a resourceful and creative collection of wetland activities, information and ideas for teachers including over 50 hands-on multidisciplinary activities in lesson plan format, extensive background information on wetlands, ideas for student action projects and a wetlands resource guide.

Workshops will be held—

- November 2: [Lancaster County Environmental Center](#), call 717-295-2055;
- November 3 – Lancaster County Environmental Center Planning of Wetlands;
- December 1 – [John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge](#), Philadelphia; and
- December 2 – John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Philadelphia (Spanish Language)

For more information or to register, visit the [Wetlands.org Workshop webpage](#).

Visions of the Susquehanna Art Exhibit to Be Featured October 12-December 31



Artist: Lloyd Mifflin

The [Susquehanna Art Museum](#) in downtown Harrisburg will be the latest stop for a traveling exhibit of more than 40 paintings spanning 250 years called, “[Visions of the Susquehanna](#)” from October 12 to December 31.

In the four centuries that have passed since John Smith first entered the mouth of the Susquehanna in 1608, this extraordinary river has captured the intrigue and imagination of many of this nation’s most significant artists.

While not as dramatically picturesque as many of the other scenic American rivers which flow through deep mountainous gorges or over thunderous waterfalls, the Susquehanna has had a different type of allure.

Its quiet meandering nature and fertile valleys made it ideal for human habitation and settlement and thus it became a major entry point and incubator for the nation’s earliest inland settlements. Its level shores and access to the rich bounty of coal, timber and farm produce upriver enabled it to become a prime corridor for transportation and commerce.

For this reason, many of the artists who have been drawn to its shores to paint have been primarily interested in chronicling and interpreting the changing nature of this relationship between the river valley landscape and its human inhabitants, especially as this dynamic unfolded through the growth of settlements, towns, cities, canals, bridges, railroads and industry along the river’s shores over time.

As metaphors for change and progress, all of these manifestations of human habitation became reoccurring themes in their work and continue to attract the attention of today’s artists.

Comprised of approximately 40 major paintings spanning nearly 250 years, this exhibit will include two groups of work. The first is a cross section of the many important images of the river created in the mid 18th century through the early 20th century, with requested works by such prominent American painters as Benjamin West, William Trost Richards, Jasper Francis Cropsey, Sanford Robinson Gifford, Louis Reigmy Mignot, George Inness, Thomas Moran, Charles Demuth, Stephen Etnier and others.

The other group will consist of paintings of or about the river by a group of nationally prominent contemporary artists (Mark Innerst, Leonard Koscianski, George Sorrels, Debra Bermingham, Randall Exon, Peter Paone, Dozier Bell, Raoul Middleman, Mark Workman, Rob Evans, Matthew Daub, and others), many of whom have agreed to create works specifically for this exhibit.

While linked by the common thread of the Susquehanna, the exhibit will also examine the contrasting points of view between these two very different groups of work: the 18th and 19th century romantic view of the sublime landscape as a metaphor for America's promise versus the current postmodern role of the landscape as an open ended and often detached vehicle for presenting a multitude of perspectives and critiques on

contemporary culture, investigating such issues as environmental decay, nuclear energy, and urban sprawl.

Small Business P2E2 Grants Awarded, Deadline to Apply December 15

The Department of Environmental Protection this week awarded 64 grants totaling \$373,554 to help small businesses enhance energy efficiency and promote pollution prevention.

The grants, awarded under the [Small Business Advantage Grant Program](#), provide a 50 percent match of up to \$7,500 for equipment or processes to reduce energy consumption and promote pollution prevention while increasing profitability.

Since 2004 more than \$2 million has been awarded to almost 450 businesses across the state.

The Small Business Advantage grant program is open to small business owners whose business or facility is located in Pennsylvania. An eligible applicant must be a for-profit business enterprise that is a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, sole proprietorship or other legal entity that has no more than 100 employees and is a separate legal business entity at the time the application is submitted. Applicants may be manufacturers or service providers.

Funding is still available for the program. Grant applications will be accepted through December 15 or until funds are exhausted. The grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

[A full list of grants awarded is available online.](#)

For more information, visit the [Small Business Advantage Grant Program webpage](#).

Municipal Energy Workshop Set for October in Williamsport

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a free municipal energy workshop October 11 at the Genetti Hotel in downtown Williamsport.

“Winter is approaching and energy costs are expected to be high again this season, putting a strain on municipal heating budgets,” DEP Northcentral Regional Director Robert Yowell said. “This workshop will provide energy-saving tips and examine other areas of municipal energy consumption, like indoor and outdoor lighting, that present opportunities for conservation and cost reduction.”

During the workshop, representatives from DEP’s Office of Energy and Technology Deployment, Penn State University and private industry will make presentations related to heating, ventilating and air conditioning; building automation; lighting; traffic signals; wastewater treatment; utility bill analysis; and energy service contracting.

Municipal government officials responsible for purchasing energy-consuming devices or equipment are encouraged to attend the free workshop.

The workshop runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with lunch provided, and requires advanced registration due to limited seating.

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To register, contact DEP's David Shimmel by sending email to: dshimmel@state.pa.us or 570-327-3568, or Dan Vilello send email to: dvilello@state.pa.us or 570-327-3763.

EPA Announces Proposed Plan to Increase Renewable Transportation Fuels

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week announced a propose plan to create a [National Renewable Fuel Standard Program](#) to comply with the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Under the program, EPA proposes to increase the volume of renewable fuel required to be blended into gasoline, starting with 4 billion gallons in calendar year 2006 and nearly doubling to 7.5 billion gallons by 2012.

A national RFS will expand the use of biodiesel and ethanol, creating new markets for farm products and greater energy security. Advanced technologies under development could make it possible to produce renewable ethanol from agricultural and industrial waste at a cost competitive with today's gas prices.

The RFS program proposed by EPA was developed in collaboration with refiners, renewable fuel producers, and many other stakeholders.

Pennsylvania uses about 6.2 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel a year. Under the EPA proposal, the use of renewable fuel additives must increase from 3 to 5.4 percent or about 33.5 million gallons by 2012.

With the switch over to using ethanol fuel mixtures in the Philadelphia area last summer, Pennsylvania is already using 120 million gallons or about 19 percent of the gasoline-diesel transportation fuels.

The Department of Environmental Protection held the second face-to-face meeting of an advisory group that is helping develop a renewable fuels mandate for Pennsylvania—the [PennSecurity Fuels Initiative](#) announced by Gov. Rendell in May.

One topic the group discussed was whether an individual state mandate made sense in light of the proposed plan developed by EPA. They also continued to review a draft legislative proposal creating the mandate and discussed appropriate triggers, compliance points and the development of the transportation, storage and distribution infrastructure needed to make the mandate work.

Alternative Fuels Council Sponsors Business Roundtable Event September 14

The [Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council](#) is sponsoring another in its series of [business roundtable discussions](#) on the National Commitment to Alternative Energies on September 14 at the Turnpike Commission Building in Harrisburg from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Featured panelists include Todd Foley, BP Solar, Joann Milliken, Chief Engineer Hydrogen and Fuel Cells, U.S. Department of Energy, Charles Sullivan and Bill Johnson, CSX, and Tom Scadato, UTC Power and Fuel.

For more information, contact Rosemary McAvoy, CEO of the Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council at 717-920-0527 or send email to: adr@xcelongroup.com .

Green Building Workshop Set for DEP’s Cambria Office September 19

[DEP’s Cambria District Mining Office](#), a Gold LEED-certified building, will host a “Green Buildings and Integrated Design” workshop on September 19.

The program, organized by the Green Building Alliance Laurel Highlands Network, will feature guest speaker John Boecker, AIA, who will explain LEED and how it is transforming the construction industry toward more environmentally conscious, healthier buildings.

The program will also focus on integrated design, the process utilized to produce cost-effective, high-performance LEED buildings.

[An online registration form is available.](#)

Grant to Help Protect Forested Areas Near Pinchot’s Grey Towers

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced the award of a \$3.8 million grant to the [Delaware Highlands Conservancy](#) to help protect the Milford Experimental Forest property, a 1,108-acre forested track in Pike County near the [Grey Towers National Historic Site](#).



The Milford Experimental Forest property has a 2-mile border with Delaware State Forest, 2/3 of a mile border with Forest Service property and is within feet of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Sure Currier, executive director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, said conserving the Milford Experimental Forest property has been a top priority for her organization.

"The population of Pike County is expected to triple in the next 25 years, and developers are looking over every large parcel of land, making the timing of protection of important parcels critical," Currier said. "This land has high conservation value for its forest cover, biodiversity and as a key birthplace for scientific forestry and the ideas of the conservation movement."

Grey Towers is operated by the USDA Forest Service and draws 25,000 visitors annually for house and garden tours, conference facilities, environmental education programs and concerts and other recreational activities such as short hiking trails.

"Grey Towers has played such a vital role in the histories of Pennsylvania and the Forest Service that it is especially fitting that we have collaborated on a project that we can both be proud of, and will help our conservation futures as well," Grey Towers Director Richard Patterson said.

For more information, visit the [Delaware Highlands Conservancy](#) and [Grey Towers National Historic Site](#) websites.

NewsClip: [Agency Awards Monroe Area Grants Toward Open Space DCNR Recreation, Land Conservation Grants in Monroe County](#)

Teachers, Students - Look for Environmental Question of the Week!

The [Question of the Week](#), produced by the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education, returns this month!

Every Monday morning a new question dealing with Pennsylvania environmental issues will be posted along with links for further activities and research. Each question is framed and researched according to the Pennsylvania State Environment and Ecology Standards.

The questions are geared toward upper elementary to middle school students, although the questions are used successfully by teachers in higher grades.

Students who correctly answer questions will have their names posted on the answer page each Friday. Students who answer six questions correctly from now until the end of November may receive an award.

For more information, visit [PCEE's Question of the Week webpage](#).

Game Commission Youth Essay Contest Deadline October 31

Young hunters ages 12 to 16 are reminded all entries for the Game Commission's [Hunter Education Youth Essay Contest](#) must be postmarked no later than October 31.

The theme for the contest is: "What will hunting be like in the future?" The grand-prize winner will receive a scholarship to the Safari Club International's Apprentice Hunter Program at the Indianhead Ranch in Del Rio, Texas, during the summer of 2007. The scholarship is provided by the Pennsylvania chapters of [Safari Club International](#).

The grand-prize winning essay also will be published in the agency's Pennsylvania Game News magazine. Previous grand-prize winners will not be eligible for this year's grand prize.

The first-prize winner will receive a .50 caliber Pursuit muzzleloading rifle from Traditions, and the second-prize winner will receive a Garman "etrex" global positioning system, provided by Grice Gun Shop in Clearfield, Clearfield County. The third-prize winner will receive a Buck Knives limited-edition knife, and a Sightron 10x42 binocular will be presented to the fourth-prize winner. All entries receive a Game Commission "Working Together for Wildlife" embroidered patch.

Entrants must be Pennsylvania residents, have successfully completed an accredited hunter-trapper education course and possess a current hunting or furtaker license.

Entries must include: full name; mailing address with zip code; telephone number and area code; year, state and county where hunter-trapper education course was successfully completed; current hunting or furtaker license number; and age and date of birth.

Essays must be printed or typed, double-spaced and contain no more than 300 words. Mail entries directly to: Pennsylvania Game Commission, Hunter Education Youth Essay Contest, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.

NewsClips: [Game Commission Stocks 16,700 Pheasants for Youth-Only Season](#)

Melissa Reynolds Hired as Education Program Coordinator at PCEE



The [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) announced this week Melissa Reynolds has been hired as the new Education Programs Coordinator.

Along with a strong background in environmental education and training in a variety of non-formal and professional settings, she brings experience and expertise in the arenas of for-profit business and sustainable agriculture.

Melissa will be responsible for the educational components of upcoming and current initiatives, including the development of outreach materials, the virtual EE resource library and the educational portions of PCEE's new website.

Melissa's educational credentials include a bachelor's in Environmental Forest Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York, and a master's degree in Environmental Education from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.

Her past positions include teaching outdoor education at YMCA Camp Kern near Cincinnati, Ohio, conservation education at the Oglebay Good Zoo in Wheeling, West Virginia and environmental education with Lutherlyn's EE Program in Prospect, Pa.

Melissa has worked with at-risk high school students in the environmental science portion of the R. Benjamin Wiley Partnership Program at Slippery Rock University, and Special Olympics athletes at Lutherlyn. Melissa has also received training in numerous educational materials, including a variety of Pennsylvania-specific curricula.

A member of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education and the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture, Melissa is personally invested in living as sustainably and lightly as possible on the earth. She is realizing her dream of homesteading while still living in town, including raising heritage-breed chickens, expanding the organic vegetable garden, and adding two sheep over the next few years.

September Issue of EE Connections Newsletter Available from PCEE

The September issue of [EE Connections newsletter](#) from the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online. The highlights from this month's issue include—

PCEE News: PCEE Hires New Education Coordinator, Question of the Week

General News: First PA Ethanol Plant Coming to Clearfield County, Investment in Allegheny County Recreation, Conservation Announced, DCNR Convenes Carbon Group to Address Global Warming, Hard to Recycle Collection Event in Pittsburgh, New Computer Recycling Program Available in Southwest Pa, CBF Offers Free Native Trees Distinguished Speaker Series, Clean Up the World, "Children and Youth Gardening"

K-12 News: DCNR Watershed Education, UNEP Children's Painting Competition

Higher Education: Wilderness Management Planning Course ~ Online, Environmental Education Station

Professional Development: Society of American Foresters National Conference, 2006 "The Future of Water in PA" Water Resources Symposium, 2006 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit, Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference, Wildlife Habitat Council Symposium

Grants/Awards: Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant, Organic School Garden Awards Excellence in Environmental Journalism Awards, EPA Invites States to Apply for Targeted Watershed Grants

To get your own copy, send an email to: info@pcee.org or visit the [EE Connections sign-up webpage](#).

PA Student Wins National Take A Walk Butterfly Drawing Contest



Josemaria Heil (age 8) of Camp Hill, Pa, was the winner in her age group of the Take A Walk Books and the National Gardening Association "[Take A Walk Butterfly Drawing Contest](#)."

In June the organizations invited kids 8 through 10 to submit drawings of butterflies for the chance to win nature-themed prizes.

The First Place Winners will each receive a signed copy of Jane Kirkland's award-winning book *Take A Walk With Butterflies and Dragonflies* along with *The Butterfly Game* from NGA. Jane Kirkland will send every child who entered the contest a post card reproduction of his or her drawing.

"We're delighted with the results of this contest," said Ms. Kirkland. "The drawings all exemplified how attuned these kids are to nature."

Scholars to Address Latest Climate Change Science October 5

The [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#) and the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) will sponsor a presentation on October 5 by Dr. Richard B. Alley and Dr. Michael Mann, two pre-eminent scholars on the latest trends in climate change.

The event will be held the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg starting at 7:30 p.m.

"We are fortunate to have access to such qualified speakers," noted Dr. Richard Bowden, Associate Professor of Environmental Science at Allegheny College and chair of the Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy. "The goal of the event is to stimulate greater awareness of the problem of climate change in the Harrisburg region."

"The Pennsylvania Environmental Council is pleased to co-sponsor this event because we are interested in advancing the conversation about climate change in our region," said Brian J. Hill, President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

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“These two scientists will bring a great deal of knowledge that we hope to begin applying in a practical way in the coming year.”

Both Brown and Hill hoped the event is the beginning of an ongoing conversation about this issue, and that input from those attending is essential for addressing climate change issues in the future.

Dr. Richard B. Alley is the Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences & Associate of the Earth and Environmental Systems Initiatives at Penn State University.

His recent book, *The Two-Mile Time Machine: Ice Cores, Abrupt Climate Change and Our Future*, addresses his key findings on climate changes surprises and the potential for rapid non-linear responses of the climate system. He has chaired the National Research Council panel on abrupt climate change, and is a frequently quoted expert on these issues.

Dr. Michael Mann is most noted for his articles supporting the trend of rising temperature trends – recently dubbed the “hockey stick graph.” Mann is the Director of System Science Center and Associate Professor in the Departments of Meteorology and Geosciences at Penn State University. He has authored the article “Climate Variability and Change” for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Scientific Assessment Report in 2001.

Both speakers will address the latest scientific findings followed by an opportunity for questions and answers. Additionally, Dr Rich Bowden, chair of PCIEP, and Brian Hill will provide an overview of the ways their organizations are addressing this issue.

There is no charge for the program which is open to the public. Those interested in attending should call 717-787-9368 before September 29.

Casting Call: Explore PA TV Show Seeks Real People to Star in Travel Series

[Explore PA](#), the travel series seen on Pennsylvania Public Television Network stations across the Commonwealth is seeking real life families, couples and friends with diverse backgrounds and lifestyles to star in upcoming episodes.

Travelers will be sent on a 3 to 5 day getaway to explore Pennsylvania’s rich heritage, unique small towns, electrifying cities plus beautiful landscapes and action-packed outdoor fun.

Explore PA is a new way of looking at Pennsylvania--a travel series for television that lets viewers explore the state through the eyes of “real” Pennsylvanians. Based on real vacations taken by real travelers at real locations throughout the Commonwealth, armchair travelers discover the state's deep cultural and heritage resources and spectacular outdoor experiences.

The program, produced by WITF-TV in Harrisburg, was made possible through development grants from two Pennsylvania state agencies: The Department of Community and Economic Development and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Funding for Explore PA was also provided by the Pennsylvania Public Television Network, the statewide system of Public Television Stations that will air the series.

Interested persons should send a short description of themselves, family or friends, with photos and telephone number to: explorep@witf.org . Entries may also be mailed to Explore PA, P.O. Box 2954, Harrisburg, PA 17105

Visit the [Explore PA website](#) for more information.

Help Wanted: Audubon Seeks Associates for Several Positions

The Audubon Pennsylvania is seeking candidates to fill four positions in Pennsylvania, including:

[Director of Conservation](#), Harrisburg, Pa.

[Center Associate](#), John James Audubon Center, Mill Grove, Pa.

[Southeastern PA Important Bird Area Coordinator](#), Mill Grove, Pa.

[Northwestern PA Important Bird Area Coordinator](#), Meadville, Pa.

Details about this and other Audubon employment opportunities are available on [Audubon’s Employment webpage](#).

Transition: Joseph J. Ellam Passes

Joe Ellam, former Director of DEP’s Bureau of Dams and Waterway Management, passed away this week. He was 69.

A Registered Professional Engineer, Joe retired from the Department of Environmental Protection after nearly 40 years of public service and even after retirement provided his expertise on projects all over Pennsylvania and throughout the United States.

He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the U.S. Society of Dams and was the first president of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. He also served on the Peer review Teams for the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Alaska.

He was also founder and recipient of the Man of the Year Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Club of Harrisburg.

“Joe was the epitome of what it means to be a public servant and a true professional,” said David E. Hess, former Secretary of DEP. “His knowledge of engineering for dams and flood control were unequalled and he had an encyclopedic memory of dams and flood control structures all over the state. His expertise and quiet confidence will be missed.”

Links: [Joseph J. Ellam](#), Add Your Remembrances

We Remember -- September 11, 2001

DEP Responds to National Tragedy

We will all remember where we were and what we were doing on September 11, 2001, but Betsy Mallison, Community Relations Coordinator from DEP's Southwest Regional Office in Pittsburgh, will remember it more vividly than most.

Betsy was heading to Harrisburg on the Turnpike when news of the attacks in New York broke and word came that there might still be planes left in the air ready to hit other targets.

Calling reporter friends in a Pittsburgh newsroom or two, Betsy found out that a plane had crashed in Somerset County, just as she was coming up on the Somerset Exit.

Somehow she found the crash site and relayed details of the site and its condition via cell phone into the Emergency Operations Center at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and to DEP.

She stayed on site to help local responders, federal and state agencies and DEP's own Emergency Response Team set up and deal with the crash site and the hundreds of reporters that descended there. The site became a small city literally overnight.

She continued on duty for the next few days and weeks as the families of the victims of Flight 93 came to visit the site.

Betsy and Freda Tarbell from DEP's Northwest Office also took time to help the Red Cross and Salvation Army make red, white and blue ribbons for emergency workers on site.

Flight 93 crashed on a reclaimed surface coal mine so DEP staff knew the geology of the area well and helped guide the FBI and federal agencies investigating the site. Investigators literally sifted the crash site down to a depth of 45 feet, but nothing much remained of the plane that was larger than a person's fist.

Even though most of the fuel was consumed in the initial crash and ball of flame, some remained and posed a potential threat to investigators working at the site. DEP staff, along with local fire company personnel, helped organize decontamination procedures to keep investigators safe.



Top: Crash Site
Middle: Investigating Crash Site
Bottom: Emergency Response City

It was tough duty working in and around the crash site knowing what happened to the people on that flight, but everyone did their job.

Two DEP staffers walking back through the site happened to pick up a piece of paper lying on the ground. It didn't seem too special because there were small pieces of paper all over the site. Then they realized it was a note one of the passengers wrote to their loved ones.

In all, 74 agencies totaling 1,100 people responded to the crash scene in the weeks following September 11.

Little did Betsy and other DEP staff know that just 10 months later they would be back in Somerset County to deal with another event that captured the world's attention—the Queecreek Mine Rescue.

Betsy is just one of thousands of public servants doing her job that day in the face of unspeakable evil.

Visit the [DEP Responds to National Tragedy webpage](#) for more background on how DEP and Pennsylvania responded on September 11.

NewsClips: [Memories of Flight 93 Crash Still Fresh at 5-Year Anniversary](#)
[Flight 93 Crash Site Returns to Nature](#)
[Crash Site Cleanup Cost \\$850,000](#)
[Latest Disaster Reminiscent of September 11](#)
[“Moments Frozen In Time”](#)

Feature

Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan Praised

By Joe Kosack

Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist
Pennsylvania Game Commission

The federal government has praised Pennsylvania for assembling a [comprehensive Wildlife Action Plan](#) that will expand and strengthen the state's management of fish and wildlife resources, particularly species of greatest conservation need.

Partnering with the Fish and Boat Commission, the Game Commission coordinated development of this Wildlife Action Plan. Contributing technical expertise to this progressive and ambitious wildlife conservation plan were the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, several universities and a cadre of the Commonwealth's brightest and best biologists and ecologists.

"We appreciate your hard work, the work of your sister agency, and that of your partners, and congratulate you on this important achievement," wrote U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall in a letter commending the Game Commission for its thorough planning document. "We are confident that your efforts will yield great benefits in the conservation of Pennsylvania's wildlife."

Developed in response to a federal mandate that required each state to put together a Wildlife Action Plan to guarantee future State Wildlife Grants appropriations, the plan provides Pennsylvania with an unprecedented opportunity to focus its management and increase its understanding of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, as well as invertebrates. Research projects in Pennsylvania currently being financed jointly by a

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SWG and state funding include studies of declining or endangered species such as the northern flying squirrel, Atlantic sturgeon, the eastern massasauga rattlesnake and the state's second Breeding Bird Atlas.

Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan promotes and champions residents, businesses, organizations and government working together to attain sustainable wildlife populations, communities and ecosystems. Its goals are to: improve the scientific basis for making conservation decisions; conserve the state's biodiversity; cultivate a knowledgeable citizenry that supports and participates in wildlife conservation; ensure resources are available to conserve wildlife; and expand and improve the coordination of public agencies and other partners in wildlife conservation planning and implementation.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asked Pennsylvania and every other state for a comprehensive wildlife action plan, an effort that required us and our conservation partners to think strategically about our individual and coordinated stewardship efforts," noted Game Commission Executive Director Carl G Roe. "What evolved from this extraordinary undertaking is a plan of action that defines where and how Pennsylvania should focus its resources and energy to more progressively and adequately manage the myriad members of Pennsylvania's diverse wildlife community."

Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Doug Austen noted, "Our Wildlife Action Plan will dovetail with the work of other states to ensure nationwide consistency in the management of species of greatest conservation need, particularly those creatures with an overwhelming majority of their global range concentrated in Pennsylvania.

"The shorthead garter snake, for example, has robust populations in some locations in Pennsylvania," Dr. Austen said. "However, 90 percent of its global range occurs in the Commonwealth, so Pennsylvania has a high responsibility for the species' long-term survival. If we lose it here, it will likely be gone everywhere."

Although Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan focuses management attention primarily on species of greatest conservation need, its theme is to monitor and manage all fish and wildlife proactively, instead of waiting until declining species require crisis care to resuscitate their populations. The ecology-rooted plan also strives to create a conservation consciousness that will better protect Pennsylvania's vast wildlife community and the varied habitats it is dependent upon.

But the unfortunate reality is that many species currently are under the radar of Pennsylvania's ongoing fish and wildlife management programs. Their population densities and range - as well as threats they face - are mostly unverified, and predominantly unknown.

An infusion of state funding or new revenue streams is needed to cover the currently unmanaged or under-managed species identified in the Wildlife Action Plan, particularly as declining hunting and fishing license sales continue to impact the programs of the Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission.

Managing the state's fish and wildlife resources properly has always been a bigger job than what could be financed through selling hunting and fishing licenses. Over the past 20 years, declining license sales and increasing management responsibilities have contributed to further distance many species from the management attention they require, or likely never received in the first place.

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"Our two agencies have always had limited resources to direct toward species that are not hunted, trapped or fished, and yet that is where some of our greatest conservation challenges lie," Dr. Austen pointed out. "A long-term, dedicated revenue stream is needed in Pennsylvania to address unmet needs and to match potential future funding from others sources, such as federal monies."

"We have defined and mapped out the future of fish and wildlife management for the Commonwealth by developing a Wildlife Action Plan, but the plan won't be effective if we don't have adequate and stable funding to support it," Roe emphasized. "Pennsylvania is fast approaching a conservation crossroads. The future of this state's fish and wildlife resources will be shaped as much by funding as it will by our Wildlife Action Plan. A plan, alone, will not get it done."

Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan covers the diverse species that inhabit the state's physiographic mosaic, a melting pot of rolling hills, plateaus and ridges, and valleys, lowlands and river basins. Accented with estuaries, Lake Erie shoreline, glaciated potholes and the Appalachian and Allegheny mountains, Pennsylvania's topographic composition creates incredible landform diversity and an ecological paradise for Pennsylvania's vast wildlife community. Maintaining this biodiversity requires composite and coordinated management with varying degrees of specialized species conservation actions.

Game Commission biologist Lisa Williams was primarily responsible for moving Pennsylvania's unfolding Wildlife Action Plan from myriad drawing boards scattered across the state to a computerized clearinghouse, where she worked long hours to standardize and authenticate plan components. She also developed an innovative system of prioritizing species and conservation actions that address federal plan requirements and will direct future action toward meeting the state's strategic conservation goals.

"Lisa Williams' dedication to and directing of this unprecedented task in wildlife conservation were critical in shaping this multi-dimensional wildlife management plan for Pennsylvania," noted Cal DuBrock, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife management director. "She didn't just get it done, she did it right. Pennsylvania now has a wildlife conservation strategy that can address the varied needs of the state's exceptional biodiversity."

Since 2001, annual federal appropriations have provided more than \$10 million in funding for the Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission through the State Wildlife Grants Program. To date, SWG funding has been used for a variety of fish and wildlife projects that further the conservation of species of greatest conservation need in the Commonwealth.

The Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission currently receive between \$1.5 million and \$2 million annually from the federal SWG program to be used to conserve low and declining species. Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan now guides the Commissions in how to spend future SWG funds.

The plan provides information on the location and general condition of habitats used by wildlife in Pennsylvania; threats to these habitats and the species that use them; conservation actions, and research, survey and monitoring efforts needed to address these threats; priorities for implementing these conservation needs; and distribution and abundance of species of greatest conservation need in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, the plan identifies the necessity for cooperation between agencies, businesses, organizations and individuals interested in Pennsylvania's wildlife diversity.

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Congress expressed two driving interests when creating the State Wildlife Grants program and the Wildlife Action Plan requirement: a focus on "endangered species prevention" and "keeping common species common."

Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan addresses these concerns by including low and declining species that are in great need of proactive conservation, by focusing on more abundant species for which Pennsylvania bears a special responsibility in their long-term conservation, and by emphasizing habitat-level management rather than case-by-case, species-specific intervention.

[Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan](#) is available online.

Quick Clips

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

[Op-Ed: Virginia Expected to Overtake PA in Waste Imports](#)

[Brownfields Assessment Project Elicits Big Response](#)

[Energy Official: Coal to be Key for Power](#)

[Hydrogen Cell Job](#)

[Op-Ed: Biofuels Can Reduce Need for Oil](#)

[Op-Ed: The Other Green Energy – Nuclear Power](#)

[Allentown Business Installs Solar Wall System](#)

[Editorial: Green School of the Future](#)

[Grant to Help Cut Pollution From Buses](#)

[Editorial: Green Energy](#)

[Invasive Plants May Not Be So Bad After All](#)

[Upgrades Offer Comfort for Elk-Viewing Visitors](#)

[Grants Help Improve Parks in Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler](#)

[DCNR Announces Recreation, Land Conservation Grants in Monroe County](#)

[Lackawanna Audubon Dedicate Trail](#)

[Perkiomen Trail Connection on Hold by Bog Turtle](#)

[Soaring Natural Gas Prices Spur Widespread Drilling](#)

[Panel Affirms DEP Policy on Longwall Mining Case](#)

[Bush Renominates Stickler for Mine Safety Agency](#)

[Editorial: Mine Safety Awaits](#)

[Editorial: Foot-Dragging on Coal Mine Safety Must Cease](#)

[Mine Safety Agency Publishes Rules Raising Fines](#)

[PA Transportation System in Crisis](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Hundreds of Paddlers Make Splash in Ohiopyle Falls Festival](#)

[State's Water Trails Touted](#)

[York Water Availability Raising Concerns](#)

[Lake Conservancy Angles for Cash](#)

[Franklin County Helps to Keep the Potomac Clean and Green](#)
[George M. Aiken: Inspired Founder of Fly Fishing Club](#)
[Pike Conservation District Staff Pinpoints Future Issues](#)
[Lycoming Buys Out Flood-Prone Property](#)
[High Hazard Dam Owners Could Face Fines](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 9, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection this week published a proposed manual for water and wastewater system operators.

DRAFT: DEP ID: 383-2300-002. Training Provider Manual for the Pennsylvania Water and Wastewater System Operator Training Program. This guidance provides instructions to private training providers on how to apply to become an approved provider (sponsor) of water and wastewater training in this Commonwealth and how to obtain approval of training courses taught to water and wastewater operators in this Commonwealth. Comments due: October 10.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **September 11** – [DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting on mercury emissions reduction rule. DEP Southcentral Regional Office. 9:00.
- **September 11 - CANCELLED.** House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee holds an informational meeting on [House Bill 2871](#) (Fairchild-R-Union) creating a PA Geospatial Coordinating Council. 205 Ryan Building. 1:00.

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- **September 12** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee informational meeting on reducing mercury emissions from power plants. Room 205 Ryan Building. 11:00.
- **September 12** – Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee first meeting of the Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force pursuant to House Resolution 88. Empire A Room, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. 12:30.
- **September 12** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is December 12.
- **September 13** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 15** - DEP [Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) work group meeting on emergency notification. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **September 19** – House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee informational meeting on [House Bill 2878](#) (Stern-R-Blair) Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Act. 205 Ryan Building. 1:00.
- **September 19** – Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **September 19** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting on mercury emissions reduction rule. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **September 19-20** – [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#). 10th Floor Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 and 8:30 respectively.
- **September 20** – Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee public hearing on [Senate Bill 1270](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) providing additional funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:00.
- **September 28** – Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee meeting of Legislative Forestry Task Force. Senate Room, Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **October 13** - [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **October 17** –**RESCHEDULED to a Conference Call**. [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators](#).
- **October 19** – **RESCHEDULED**. [DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#) meeting was changed to this date from November 2. Rachel Carson Building. 9:15. Contact: Ayanna King, 717-783-5630.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.
- **November 20** – Environmental Issues Forum, Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featuring J. Kent Crawford, USGS, to discuss the emerging contaminants project. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **December 12** – **CANCELLED**. [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#).
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#). 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#) (courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)
(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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