

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 12, 2005

Take Time to Checkout How You Can Save on Home/Business Heating Costs

With Fall here and winter's colder weather not far behind, now is the time to think about what you can do to reduce the cost of heating and energy use in your home or business.

And if you need more incentive, federal and state utility agencies are also telling us this winter's heating fuel costs (heating oil and natural gas) may be as much as one-third higher than last year.

Here are a sampling of tools and tips you can use to identify your heating and energy use costs and then do something to reduce them. Also included is a link to the LIHEAP Program that helps low-income residents pay energy bills.

If you have tips, resources and ideas for reducing heating costs that you'd like to pass along to others, just send them to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com and we'll spread them to others!

- [EnergyStar Home Energy/Heating Management Tools](#)
- [EnergyStar Business Energy Management Tools](#)
- [Pennsylvania Resources Council Energy Conservation Tips](#)
- [Home Heating Cost Reduction Tips From DEP](#)
- [Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Tips to Reduce High Natural Gas Costs](#)
- [PUC Home Heating Safety Tips](#)
- [Low-Income Energy Assistance Program to Help Pay Heating Bills](#)
- **Energy Buying Cooperatives** –
[Philadelphia Energy Cooperative](#) (*Do you know of others?*)

NewsClip: [Oil Dealers – Conservation Key to Saving this Winter](#)

Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session on September 19, the House on September 26.

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*Design selected for Flight 93 Memorial.
See story in this Digest.*

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On the Hill

Senate, House Committees Hold Meetings on Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy

The Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees have scheduled meetings to hear an overview and comments on the [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy](#) proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The Strategy presents a menu of programs for meeting the commitments made in 2000 to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Senate will hold its hearing on September 20 with the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The House Committee will have an informational meeting on September 21.

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The Committees are expected to hear comments from the Department of Environmental Protection, environmental groups, county conservation districts, the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, local governments, farm groups and builders.

(See also the story in this Digest on new federal legislation to bring more accountability to meeting Chesapeake Bay Agreement pollution reduction goals.)

House Sets Informational Meetings on Forest Management Plan, Green Buildings

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold informational meetings on high performance green buildings and Pennsylvania's State Forest Management Plan.

The meeting on high performance green buildings will be held on September 13 with DEP, the Green Building Alliance and the Green Building Alliance of Central Pennsylvania among those expected to offer comments.

The informational meeting on the State Forest Management Plan will be held on September 20 and will feature DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis talking about issues ranging from the Forest Plan, ATV and recreational trails, oil and gas leasing and forestland beautification.

House Policy Committee Gathers Information on Motor Fuel Price Hikes

The House Republican Policy Committee heard from a variety of witnesses this week on the causes and steps to deal with the spike in motor fuel prices caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The Committee heard comments from representatives of Associated Petroleum Industries, service stations and distributors, Sheetz, the Motor Truck Association, Contractors and the Attorney General's Office.

Among the issues and suggestions highlighted during the hearing were—

- Should there be one formulation of gasoline in the state rather than the three now required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Protection to make gasoline distribution easier;
- Should only one price change per day be allowed by service stations like a New Jersey law requires;
- Should there be a single wholesale price for gasoline in the state;
- Should service stations/distributors pay for gasoline when it's sold rather than within 24 hours of being delivered;
- Hawaii just capped gasoline prices, should that be something Pennsylvania considers; and
- Should there be additional enforcement of weight/measures so a gallon is a gallon;

The Attorney General's Office recommended adopting a specific price gouging statute to give it additional tools to investigate and punish those who take advantage of shortages and emergencies. More than 1,000 complaints came into the Attorney General's Office since prices began to increase sharply.

Chairman Civera said the Committee would be making recommendations to the Republican Caucus on legislative steps it can take to deal with this issue.

NewsClips: [PA Fields 1,000+ Price Gouging Complaints](#)

Rep. George Asks Gov. Rendell for Special Session on Energy

Rep. George (D-Clearfield), Democratic chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, this week called on Gov. Rendell to convene a special legislative session on Pennsylvania's energy needs.

"Pennsylvania has been lurching toward a meltdown on energy prices, assistance and availability for many years," said Rep. George. "This could be our last, best chance to avoid an energy catastrophe."

In a letter, Rep. George urged Gov. Rendell to convene a special session so legislation could be tendered to address the following:

- Record motor and heating fuel prices;
- Skyrocketing utility terminations;
- An ineffective and under-funded safety net compounded by stagnant medium incomes and rising poverty rates;
- Mass transit and road/bridge construction funding and Pennsylvania's motor-fuels taxes;
- In-state diesel/heating oil reserves; and
- Resurrecting the Pennsylvania Energy Office as the lead agency over energy concerns.

Rep. George also noted that Pennsylvanians face another double-digit increase in heating oil and energy prices as well as flat heating assistance funding from the federal government and a zero state supplement to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

"Reacting piecemeal every time energy prices spike, shortages occur or the weather turns severe is neither efficient nor compassionate government," Rep. George said. "Unheeded warnings led to a catastrophe in New Orleans, and a special session is needed to reduce Pennsylvania's vulnerability on energy."

Under Pennsylvania's Constitution, a special session of the Legislation can be called by the governor in the public interest or by petition to the governor of a majority of the General Assembly. When convened in special session, the Legislature can only consider bills dealing with subjects designated in the proclamation.

In Other News

Soy Energy, Inc. Becomes Part of Agriculture's PA Preferred Program

Soy Energy, Inc. of New Oxford, Adams County, that turns soybeans into soy oil used in a diesel biofuel, this week joined the Department of Agriculture's PA Preferred Program

"With the dramatic increase in fuel costs, companies are aggressively seeking new technologies to help them lower their dependence on fossil fuels," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "Soy Energy is one example of a Pennsylvania firm working to meet this objective, while recognizing the need to protect the environment."

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The work of Soy Energy is of particular interest to Pennsylvania's soybean growers. The company buys, sells or trades almost 1.5 million bushels of soybeans each year. Of this total, 89 percent comes from Pennsylvania growers.

"This soybean mixture is cheaper than straight diesel," said Rep. Armstrong (R-Lancaster). "And using bio-fuel is a step away from dependency on foreign oil that will also benefit our farming community."

"The Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council is extremely pleased to be an important connective element between energy and agriculture," said Rosemary McAvoy, AFREC CEO. "Since its inception, we have believed that our council members' products would be a catalyst for a resurgence in manufacturing in Pennsylvania. We look forward to working with the Department of Agriculture to discover more energy resources from by-products. We are excited about the opportunity to help launch new companies and products that have the potential to boost the state's economy."

The [Penn State Energy Institute](#) estimates that the state's farmers will receive an additional 27 cents per bushel given Soy Energy's impact on the market.

The company was recognized during a meeting of the [Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council](#), along with another PA Preferred member, Sysco Food Systems. Sysco has incorporated Soy Energy's oil as a fuel extender, helping the company to manage escalating diesel fuel prices.

The Department of Agriculture launched the PA Preferred brand to encourage the sale of the state's products and reassure consumers that stringent quality standards have been met. The program provides Pennsylvania producers with marketing resources to boost product exposure and build market share. Soy Energy is the first energy company to carry the brand.

PA Professional Geologists' Symposium to Address Diminishing Resources

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists [will present a symposium](#) in Carlisle on October 31 and November 1 to address energy, water and land resources and the availability and production needs of Pennsylvania's earth resources for the next decade.

Gasoline prices are at record highs and show no signs of stopping. Americans are in competition with China, India and other burgeoning economies for the earth's remaining oil and gas reserves. The vast majority of experts agree that production of oil and gas worldwide will reach its peak within the very near future.

As these trends continue, Pennsylvania's oil, gas and coal reserves will be called upon more than ever to help fill the "energy gap." How can Pennsylvania do its part while maintaining the environmental integrity and beauty of our Commonwealth?

Other speakers will discuss emerging alternate fuel technology, such as coal-to-fuel, biodiesel fuel from soybeans and coal-bed methane production.

Also to be discussed is the availability of water, which has begun to play a major role in geothermal energy and is crucial in the production of future alternate forms of energy.

For additional information on the symposium, visit the [Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists website](#) or send email to: info@pcpg.org .

Juniata Watershed Survey Shows Streams in Good Health, But Problems Remain

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission just completed a [survey of 101 sites](#) in the Juniata River Watershed and found streams to be generally in “good health.” At the same time, sample results showed three-quarters of the sites have a least one parameter above a level of concern.

Of the 101 sites SRBC sampled, twelve sites demonstrated the best overall conditions in each of the three categories with higher water quality, non-impaired macroinvertebrates, and excellent habitat.

Seventy-eight sites had at least one parameter that exceeded a level of concern, including nitrogen (possibly due to agriculture), aluminum (in some cases, due to abandoned mine drainage), and phosphorus (potentially wastewater and agricultural sources).

“Our findings show that, in general, the waterways in the Juniata Subbasin are in good health,” said Paul Swartz, Executive Director of the SRBC. “Which means that even the impaired streams have the potential to improve. Agricultural best management practices, acid mine drainage remediation technologies, low impact development, and more groundwater recharge area allowances could go a long way toward facilitating water quality improvements.”

The Little Juniata River Watershed is described in the report as an example of a watershed that has improved dramatically from a history of industrial and wastewater pollution prior to the 1970s to become a premier trout fishery today.

Some of the most degraded watersheds listed in the report were Burgoon Run, Beaverdam Branch, Shoups Run, Sixmile Run, and the Morrison Cove Area. The Frankstown Branch was the section with the most impairment overall, and the Raystown Branch had isolated sections of impairment.

SRBC conducted the sampling work for the Juniata River Subbasin Survey from June to November 2004. This report, which represents the first of a two-phase study, is referred to as the Year-1 report. It covers the major tributaries and areas of interest throughout the approximately 3,400 square miles of the Juniata Subbasin, including all or parts of Bedford, Blair, Fulton, Huntingdon, Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties.

The Year-2 survey will be a more intensive study in the Morrison Cove area, which has been identified as a highly agricultural and potentially stressed groundwater area. Previous surveys of the Juniata Subbasin were conducted by SRBC in 1985 and 1995, and a comparison of the 1995 data and the 2004 results are included in the Year-1 report.

“SRBC has been conducting water quality and biological studies of the six major subbasins in the Susquehanna watershed on a rotating basis since the mid-1980s. This report is the third one for the Juniata Subbasin. By comparing the data from the three Juniata reports, SRBC staff and others can identify possible water quality trends within the subbasin, as well as recommend streams that need to be restored or protected,” said Swartz.

The findings in the Year-1 report provide the results of point-in-time sampling for 101 sites throughout the Juniata Subbasin based on three indicators: (1) water quality; (2) aquatic insects (known as macroinvertebrates); and (3) habitat. The conditions of each sampling site were ranked, based on the indicators. They were ranked as higher

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quality, middle quality, or lower quality for the water quality indicator, and as nonimpaired, slightly impaired, moderately impaired, and severely impaired for macroinvertebrates.

Last September, the remnants of hurricanes Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne caused near-record streamflows, which may have impacted the biological and habitat ratings of streams sampled after those flooding events. Reoccurring high flow conditions prevented SRBC from sampling for macroinvertebrates at numerous stations, which reduced the information available for many streams.

SRBC receives funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct studies of the six major subbasins in the Susquehanna River Basin: West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin, Middle Susquehanna Subbasin, Lower Susquehanna Subbasin, Juniata Subbasin, Upper Susquehanna Subbasin, and Chemung Subbasin. SRBC studies each subbasin on a rotating schedule, sampling one subbasin approximately every six years.

The 20-page Year-1 report is available on the [SRBC website](#), or in hard copy by contacting Patricia Adams, SRBC at 717-238-0423, ext. 302 or by e-mail to srbc@srbc.net.

Federal Bills Would Improve Accountability in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup

A five-bill package of legislation introduced in Congress that would require the EPA and the Chesapeake Bay states to establish a cleanup timeline, complete with specific annual nutrient and sediment reduction goals—along with estimated annual costs—has been introduced by senators from the Bay region, including Pennsylvania's U.S. Senator Rick Santorum.

The legislation would also reauthorize the operation of the EPA's Bay Program Office and step up federal participation in the Chesapeake's restoration.

The Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Environmental Accountability Act would require the EPA to complete a plan to achieve nutrient and sediment reductions. The plan would include annual nutrient and sediment reduction goals as well as estimated annual costs of meeting those goals.

To learn more, visit the [September Chesapeake Bay Journal](#).

PA Agricultural Producers Can Shape Federal Farm Bill Conservation Practices

Pennsylvania agricultural producers will have an opportunity to share their perspective of what changes should take place in the 2007 Farm Bill—as well as which conservation-related practices should be funded by the state—at [11 listening sessions](#) scheduled across the state.

These sessions are designed to help producers discuss conservation-related issues as well as their relevance in Pennsylvania.

The object is to help U.S. officials involved with the 2007 Farm Bill to better understand which conservation tools it should include.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania officials will learn which Best Management Practices are most preferred by the state's producers.

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Agronomist Michael Brubaker will facilitate the listening sessions. Snacks and beverages will be available.

Except where noted, meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. The schedule of sessions is:

- September 12: Lebanon Valley Expo Center.
- September 15: York County Extension Pleasant Acres Complex.
- September 21: Chambersburg – Kauffman Community Center.
- September 26: Bedford – Arena Restaurant on Route. 220.
- September 28: Quarryville – Hoffman Building.
- September 29: Lewisburg – Best Western Country Cupboard Inn on Route 15.
- October 10: Towanda Country Club on Route 6.
- October 17: Mill Hall, Centre County
- October 21: West Middlesex, Mercer County
- October 25: Doylestown, Delaware Valley College. Note: This listening session meets at 6 p.m.
- November 1: Lancaster Farm & Home Center.

More than 30 organizations and companies are supporting this outreach effort.

To RSVP, call 717-627-7119 or visit the [Farm Listen webpage](#).

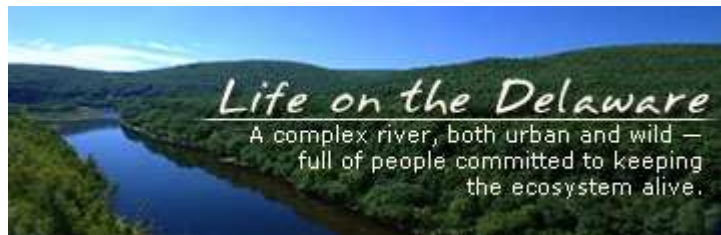
www.farmlisten.com. Changes in the schedule will also be posted on the website.

For information, contact Michael Brubaker at <mailto:mike@mwbrubaker.com> or 717-627-0440.

(From the [September Chesapeake Bay Journal](#).)

Life on the Delaware Documentary Distributed Nationally on PBS Stations

“[Life on the Delaware](#),” a documentary about the Delaware River from its headwaters to the Delaware Estuary, has been accepted by American Public Television for distribution and airing by all Public Broadcasting Stations in the United States.



The documentary was produced by the [GreenTreks Network, Inc.](#) and funded in part by a Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant and supported by private sponsors.

A DVD version of the documentary that includes an educational study guide and an accompanying website is also available through GreenTreks.

For more information visit the “[Life on the Delaware](#)” [webpage](#) and check your local PBS station listings for when the documentary is airing.

3 Regional Stormwater & Wetlands Policy Workshops Set

Engineering, construction and landscape architect associations are sponsoring a series of three regional Stormwater and Wetlands Policy Workshops in October to review the latest techniques and policies in those programs.

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The programs will review DEP's Stormwater Management Manual, federal encroachment and wetland permitting requirements and tools like the Natural Resources Conservation Service hydrologic evaluation model.

The workshops will be held on October 5 in Monroeville, October 6 in New Cumberland and October 7 in Malvern.

For more information, [download a Workshop Brochure](#).

Sewage Facilities and Land Use Focus of October Conference

A statewide conference entitled "[Sewage Facilities and Land Use: Collaborating for a Sustainable Future](#)" will be held on October 24 in Harrisburg.

The event will include two newly released studies on Pennsylvania sewer and land use policies by the National Research Council and by 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, and panels on investments, aging infrastructure, and multi-municipal cooperation.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss these issues with expert panelists, and help identify state and local strategies to support sound land use, sustainable development, and economic efficiency in Pennsylvania.

The Conference is sponsored by 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, the Environmental Law Institute, and the Environment and Natural Resources Institute at Penn State University, and supported by the Heinz Endowments and the William Penn Foundation.

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

Pennsylvania Hosts Land Recycling Conference September 28-29

The Department of Environmental Protection announced a "Pennsylvania's Brownfields 2005 – Putting the Deal Together" Conference for September 28-29 in Harrisburg.

The deadline to register is September 16.

"Our Commonwealth already has a significant track record of making environmental protection work for businesses and employees, and Governor Rendell is working hard to put in place new approaches to hasten the redevelopment of abandoned industrial sites to rejuvenate our boroughs and cities," said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty.

The two-day conference will provide current information on the state's innovative brownfields program, facilitate networking among those interested in new opportunities, and stimulate interest in a new wave of redevelopment projects across Pennsylvania.

For more information and to register, visit the [DEP Land Recycling webpage](#).



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

30+ Tons of Debris Removed Through Greenways Cleanup Program

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced that more than 30 tons of trash and scrap metals was removed during just four cleanups as part of the Greenways Cleanup Program.

[PA CleanWays](#), DCNR's cleanup partner in the program, organized volunteers to perform all of the cleanups. For the year, 209 volunteers spent 1,016 hours removing tires, scrap metal, household trash and other debris from four sites.



The sites involved are:

- Hazelwood Greenway, Allegheny County: More than 10 tons of trash, six tons of scrap metal and 72 tires were removed from an illegal dumpsite along the south section of the Hazelwood Greenway. Volunteers also planted 110 native trees and a native plant species garden around the base of a new greenways sign.
- Mahoning Shadow Rail Trail, Jefferson County: almost five tons of trash was removed from a 12-mile stretch of the Mahoning Shadow Trail.
- North Country Trail, Lawrence County: More than four tons of trash and four tons of scrap metal were removed from a heavily vegetated area along a 1.3-mile stretch of the trail.
- Romascavage/West End Regional Park, Monroe County: More than one ton of trash and 53 tires were removed from this illegal dumpsite in the park.

Many volunteers also monitor cleaned sites to ensure that dumping does not reoccur.

Through [Pa CleanWays' Adoption Program](#), individuals and groups can become stewards of greenways. Caring for places such as hiking and biking trails, water trails, parks or other areas can help increase community pride, make communities more attractive and remove dangers to people, animals and equipment.

In Jefferson County, more than 12 miles of the Mahoning Shadow Trails have been adopted by individuals, families and community groups. Adoptions are being pursued in other recent cleanup areas.

For more information about greenways and trails visit the [PA Greenways Clearinghouse website](#).

PROP to Hold Workshops on Using Compost for Erosion & Sediment Control

The [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania](#) Certification Training Program is offering three workshops across the state to demonstrate [how to use compost for erosion, sediment and stormwater controls](#).

The workshops will be presented by Nora Goldstein of [Biocycle Magazine](#) and Michael Broili of [Living Systems Design](#).

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Topics include best management practices, regulations, sustainable systems for stormwater management and a field trip to a demonstration site.

The workshops are being held on September 19 at the Schuylkill Ag Center in Pottsville, September 20 at the Lancaster Ag Center and September 21 at the Shippensburg Fire Hall.

These workshops are co-sponsored with the Conservation Districts of Berks, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster and Schuylkill counties and the Soil and Water Quality Alliance.

To register for the workshop, [download the workshop](#) or call 814-742-7777.

2005 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit October 4 & 5



The 2005 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit will be held on October 4 and 5 and offer participants the opportunity to learn about local, state and regional anti-litter, beautification and enforcement projects from around the state.

This year's Summit is co-sponsored by the Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Featured speakers will include DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Bill Heenan, Steel Recycling Institute, co-chairs of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and Rep. Scott Hutchinson, Chair of the Joint Conservation Committee.

For more information see the [2005 Keep PA Beautiful Summit Flyer](#) or call KPB at 717-214-7901 or send email to info@KeepPaBeautiful.org.

Look to PENNSERVE Grants to Fund Local Volunteer Programs

Looking to fund volunteer efforts to fulfill community needs in the environment, education, homeland security and public safety? PENNSERVE has a number of [grant programs available](#).

September 27 grant applications are due to PENNSERVE for a challenge grant program for nonprofits that encourages baby boomer volunteers.

November 1 PENNSERVE AmeriCorps grant applications are due. Applicants should include activities that build capacity to address community needs in the areas of education, environment, homeland security, public safety and other unmet human service needs. Priority will be given to agencies that focus on education and mentoring.

Planning/capacity building grants will fund program development rather than actual programs, but will help prepare organizations to compete for AmeriCorps operating grants that will fund their proposed program.

For more information, visit the [PENNSERVE Grant Opportunities webpage](#).

Grant Deadlines Coming Fast for DCNR, PennVEST, DEP, Fish & Boat

Deadlines for no less than seven grant programs are coming up the end of September and the beginning of October. Check the [Events Calendar](#) for deadlines, but here's a quick rundown—

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September 17 – [Acres for America Land Preservation](#)
September 28 – [PennVEST sewer, water, stormwater grants and loans](#)
September 30 – [DCNR Conservation Partnership Grants](#)
September 30 – [DEP Recycling Performance Grants](#)
October 1 – [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
October 1 – [Environmental Leadership Program Grants](#)
October 24 – [DEP Coastal Zone Management Grants](#)

Radon Outreach and Education Grant Awarded to DEP

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it has again this year helped fund the radon outreach and education program of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. with an estimated 20,000 deaths per year.

Through a combination of a special webpage, a hotline to answer questions and a certification program for radon testing and mitigation firms, DEP has one of the most comprehensive radon programs in the nation. Radon was first [discovered in Pennsylvania as a health problem affecting the general public in 1984](#).

As we approach the heating season and spend more time indoors, it's a good time to check to see if radon is a problem in your home, business or school.

For more information, visit DEP's [radon webpage](#).

DEP Publishes Updated List of Available Emission Reduction Credits

The Department of Environmental Protection this week published a notice of availability of emission reduction credits, by company, in the state's Emission Credit Registry and a summary of recent transactions ([September 10 PaB 5043](#)).

Included in the Registry are credits for nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur oxides and particulate matter.

Credits in the Registry can be used to satisfy new source review requirements and to trade and sell to companies that need them or have an excess.

For more information contact Virendra Trivedi, Bureau of Air Quality, 717-787-4325 or go to DEP's [Emissions Credit Registry background paper](#).

Take Me Fishing Programs Offered by Fish & Boat Commission

There may be no more beautiful season in Pennsylvania than Fall and no better way to enjoy the Commonwealth's autumnal beauty than time spent fishing with your family.

The Fish and Boat Commission is offering a number of fishing programs this fall, designed especially for families.

The programs will include instruction on the types of fish found in Pennsylvania, fish habitats, safety, equipment, outdoor manners and protecting our water resources. Participants will learn basic fishing skills and get to put those skills to use. Fish and Boat Commission family fishing programs will be held:

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September 10 - 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Tionesta dam outflow area, Forest County PFBC's Joe Arnett: 814-683-5126	September 10 -9 am - noon Rose Valley Lake, Lycoming County PFBC's Laurel Garlicki: 814-359-5193, lgarlicki@state.pa.us
September 18 - 9 am - noon McDanel's Fishing Pier at Moraine State Park, Butler County PFBC: 814-336-2426, or Moraine State Park: 724-368-8811	September 18 - 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Lake Chillisquaque, Montour County PFBC's Laurel Garlicki: 814-359-5193, lgarlicki@state.pa.us
September 24 - 7 am - 10:30 am Blue Marsh Lake, Berks County Blue Marsh Lake Ranger Station: 610-376-6337	September 25 - 1 pm - 5 pm Little Buffalo State Park Pavilion 2, Perry County PFBC's Alice Stitt: 717-705-7850, astitt@state.pa.us or Little Buffalo State Park: 717-567-9255
September 25 - 9 am – 1 pm Frances Slocum State Park, Luzerne County Frances Slocum State Park: 570-696-9105	September 25 - 8 am – noon Fairmount Park, Philadelphia Tiffany Ledesma: 215-266-8626
October 15 - 9 am - noon John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Philadelphia Erika Scarborough: 215-265-3118	October 16 - 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Cloe Lake, Jefferson County PFBC's Laurel Garlicki: 814-359-5193, lgarlicki@state.pa.us
October 16 - 1 pm – 5 pm Gifford Pinchot State Park Pavilion 4, York County PFBC's Alice Stitt: 717-705-7850, astitt@state.pa.us or Gifford Pinchot State Park: 717-432-5011	

Game Commission Seeks Information on Barn Owl Sightings



Game Commission officials this week said they are seeking information on barn owl sightings in the Southeast and Southcentral parts of Pennsylvania.

Barn owls, which have been in decline for several decades, are a species of concern that have great management and recovery potential.

The Game Commission has developed a [Barn Owl Conservation Initiative](#) to help in the conservation and potential

[Western PA Conservancy](#)

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recovery of this species. The initiative's goal is to compile existing information on barn owl locations, including nest sites and incidental occurrences, as well as document new sites and sightings.

"Our objective is to focus on habitat issues by assessing the foraging, nesting and roosting habitats where known barn owls exist or have existed in the past," states Jamie Zambo, Game Commission Southeast Region Wildlife Diversity Biologist. "We are looking for cooperation and participation in this important effort."

After initial data is compiled, biologists will be able to determine where conservation initiatives should be directed. Those initiatives may include erecting nest boxes in suitable habitat and documenting productivity. Education and outreach also would be included to inform farmers, other landowners and the general public about the importance and benefits of this species.

Barn owls stand about 10-15 inches tall and have a wingspan of 41-47 inches. Their distinctive long heart-shaped facial disk has caused this owl to be referred to as the "monkey-faced owl." They have a nearly pure-white to dusky breast with small spots, small dark eyes, and has hissing or scream-like vocalization. They are found in agricultural fields, grasslands, and other open areas.

They nest in cavities of large dead trees, but more often in barns, silos, and man-made nest boxes. Because barn owls feed primarily on rodents, they are beneficial to farmers. An average family of barn owls can consume up to 3,000 rodents during the course of the breeding season.

If you are aware of any barn owls in your area, are interested in helping construct barn owl nest boxes, or would like more information on barn owls, please contact the following:

Southeast: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill and York counties - RWD Biologist Jamie Zambo at 610-589-4913. Zambo also can be reached through the Pennsylvania Game Commission Southeast Region Office by calling 610-926-3136 or mailing to 448 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605.

Southcentral: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry and Snyder counties - RWD Biologist Dan Mummert at 814-542-8759. Mummert also can be reached through the Pennsylvania Game Commission Southcentral Region Office by calling 814-643-1831 or mailing to 8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Northeast Environmental Partners Annual Award Dinner October 20

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Northeast Environmental Partners annual award and dinner program will be held on October 20 in Wilkes-Barre.

The annual dinner and program honors Environmental Partnership award recipients and the winner of the 11th annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award.

This year's speakers include George D. Carpenter, director of corporate sustainable development, Procter & Gamble Co., and the evening's program will be chaired by Dr. Edward G. Boehm, Jr., president, Keystone College.

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Award recipients of the Environmental Partnership Awards include: Annual Northeast Regional Contractors/Engineers workshop in Wyoming County; Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Ernest Keller of Lackawanna County; Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority in Monroe County; Northern Tier Coalition in Susquehanna County; Pike Conservation Partnership in Pike County; Paul W. Snyder of Skytop; and Wyoming Valley Wellness Trails Partnership in Luzerne County.

The recipient of the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award is: William D. Lange of Clarks Summit.

The Northeast Environmental Partners include representatives of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Northeast Office, Wilkes University, Northeast PA Alliance, PPL, Procter & Gamble Paper Products Co., DEP and DCNR.

For more information or reservation information, contact PEC at 570-718-6507 or e-mail vitkoski@pecenpa.org.

Feature

Design for Flight 93 Memorial Selected From 1,000 Entries



This week the [Flight 93 National Memorial](#) partner organizations selected a design for the memorial to the 40 men and women who perished when Flight 93 crashed into a reclaimed strip mine in Somerset County. The design is entitled, "[Crescent of Embrace.](#)"

The design was selected by a 15-member committee comprised of design professionals, community leaders and family members and has the support of the Families of Flight 93 and the National Park Service.

Also involved in the selection process was a community outreach and design concepts project by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and Ball State University.

The selected Memorial was designed by Paul Murdoch Architects of Los Angeles, California with Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Here are three views of the Memorial – [the Entrance](#), [the Bowl](#), and [Sacred Ground](#). A [detailed PowerPoint presentation](#) of the design is available online.

For background on the environmental response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001 in Pennsylvania, go to the [DEP Responds to National Tragedy webpage](#).

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NewsClips: [Flight 93 Memorial Design Chosen](#)
[Crescent of Embrace Chosen for Flight 93 Memorial](#)
[Design Chosen for Flight 93 Memorial](#)

Quick Clips

[Philadelphia LANDvisions Vacant Lot Project](#)
[Energy Crunch Blowing Wind to Forefront](#)
[\\$50 Million in Investor Financing Backs 2 Wind Energy Projects in PA](#)
[Oil Dealers – Conservation Key to Saving this Winter](#)
[Gamesa Wind Energy Company Starts Hiring](#)
[DOE Awards Energy Grants to Promote Savings](#)
[Perkasie Weighs Power Investing](#)
[Bond Use Could Pit Job Creation Against Cleanup Needs](#)
[Sustainable Pittsburgh – Get Outside!](#)
[Recycling Technical Assistance Program Completes 200th Project](#)
[As Gas Prices Soar, Commuters Ride](#)
[Editorial: Conserve, This Might Be a Long Ride](#)
[PhillyCarShare Announces New Discounted Rate Plans](#)
[A Year After Ivan, Montour Trail is Back](#)
[Environment Is Right for Business](#)
[Editorial: Game Commission Must Justify Fee Increase](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Tom Ridge Environmental Center Opens for Business](#)
[Dam Removal, A Citizens Guide Revisited](#)
[Low River Level Discourages Some Boaters](#)
[Swatara Creek Gets 15 Minutes of Fame](#)
[Federal Legislation Introduced to Improve Accountability in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup](#)
[Bethlehem Mine Opening to Cleanup Discharges](#)
[Mine Drainage Project Proceeds on Catawissa Creek](#)
[Crick Fest in Centre County](#)
[Rooftops Reign as Effort to Curb Urban Runoff](#)
[Fish & Boat Commission Wants Pittsburgh River Center](#)
[Drinking Water Filtration Plants Receive Recognition](#)
[Katrina Reminds Us of Earth's Power](#)
[Brady's Lake Gets a New Dam](#)
[Farmers Could Get Watershed Windfall](#)

Regulations

Several notices about Delaware River Basin Commission, Fish and Boat Commission and Independent Regulatory Review Commission actions on regulations were published this week.

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The Delaware River Basin Commission published a [notice extending](#) the Lower Delaware River Special Protection Water designation through September 30, 2006 and a second notice [announcing a public hearing](#) on the same topic for September 26.

The Fish & Boat Commission [published final regulations](#) adding the eastern spadefoot toad and the eastern pearlshell to the list of endangered species and updated the scientific names of certain listed species.

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission has [approved several Final Environmental Quality Board regulations](#): Lake Designations (7-388), Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (7-391) and Mining Bond Adjustments and Subsidence Control Standards (7-385).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 10, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Regulations \(DEP website\)](#) [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 published notice this week of a [draft change to the Continuous Source Monitoring Manual](#) and the Department of Public Welfare pushed its 2006 LIHEAP energy assistance plan.

DRAFT: DEP ID: 274-3000-003. Continuous Source Monitoring Manual. The Bureau of Air Quality Control of the Department of Environmental Protection is revising its Continuous Source Monitoring Manual. Comments due: October 25.

The Department of Public Welfare published a [notice of availability](#) for the Statewide LIHEAP energy assistance plan.

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

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- **September 12-13** – Franklin & Marshall College [Bonchek Policy Workshop on Legacy Sediments](#). Lancaster.
- **September 13** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on high performance green buildings.
- **September 14** – CANCELLED – Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for November 9.
- **September 14-15** – PA Rural Water Association “[The Professional Office](#)” Conference. Lancaster.
- **September 15** – CANCELLED – Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.
- **September 15** – NEW - Recycling Fund Advisory Committee meeting.
- **September 15** – Plant ID and Stream Buffer Workshop. Lebanon County Conservation District. Contact: 717-272-3908 ext. 4 or send email to: stephanie.harmon@pa.nacdnet.net
- **September 16** – [Statewide Conference call](#) of the Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board Vapor Intrusion Subcommittee. Harrisburg and DEP Regional Offices.
- **September 16** – [Westmoreland County Smart Growth Summit](#)
- **September 20** – CANCELLED – Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- **September 20** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting to discuss Pennsylvania’s Forest Management Plan.
- **September 20** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.
- **September 21** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.
- **September 23** – “[Pigs, Parks & Superstores – A Conference on the Sustainability of York County.](#)”
- **September 27** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on [House Bill 1249](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) Uniform Environmental Covenants.
- **October 4** – [Clean Energy Executive Summit](#) by PECO, Community Energy, Inc. and PennFuture. Philadelphia.
- **October 5** – [Stormwater & Wetlands Policy Review Workshop](#). Monroeville
- **October 6** – [Stormwater & Wetlands Policy Review Workshop](#). Harrisburg
- **October 7** – [Stormwater & Wetlands Policy Review Workshop](#). Malvern
- **November 4-5** – [Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference](#). West Virginia.

DEP Calendar of Events

Watershed Events

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

Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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