

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 26, 2005

September Is Emergency Preparedness Month – Are You Prepared?

Hurricane Katrina and now Hurricane Rita are bringing into sharp focus the need for individuals, communities and businesses to be prepared in the event of both natural and manmade disaster emergencies.

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month, a time set aside every year to encourage citizens to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies.

Lots of resources are available to help you prepare. The www.Ready.gov website has information and checklists for everything from preparing family emergency kits to the questions businesses should ask in planning for continuing operations in the face of a disaster.

In Pennsylvania, the most common disasters occur from flooding. If you live in an area susceptible to flooding, your regular homeowners or business insurance policies do not cover damages caused by flooding.

To find out how to buy a policy or renew an existing one, visit the [National Flood Insurance webpage](#). There is a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.

The most frequent cause of deaths during flooding is from people trying to drive vehicles through flood-covered roads. Go to [Turn Around Don't Drown](#) to find out more.

Review the [Floods and Flash Floods fact sheet](#) from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to learn about how flood warnings are issued, what emergency supplies to keep at hand and how to develop a family communications plan in case of separation.

Information on how to recover from a flood is available on the Department of Environmental Protection's [Flood Recovery Information webpage](#).

Checkout PEMA's other [emergency fact sheets](#) for tips on dealing with other kinds of emergencies. And review the [Family Disaster Supplies Kit](#) to be prepared for a variety of emergencies.

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Do you know this river? It's the largest subbasin of the Allegheny River.
*Answer in Stories Invited. Photo by
Karen Hohman.*

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PEMA also has other [preparedness guides](#) available for all types of facilities and schools in the publications section of their website.

Communities can also use a variety of planning tools to help reduce the threat from flooding by restoring floodplains, better managing stormwater and even moving homes and businesses out of the way to prevent damage.

[Better Models for Development in Pennsylvania](#) presents tools and concepts communities can use to grow and redevelop. Checkout the [Land Use webpage](#) on DCED's website for more information.

[Growing Greener-Conservation By Design](#) by the Natural Lands Trust is also an excellent resource along with the [Smart Communities Network webpage](#).

Of course some communities are having the opposite problem now, lack of water with some water systems in the central part of the state running short.

[A composite map](#) of current surface and groundwater conditions over the last 90 days is available online if you want to keep track. [Stream level charts](#) covering the last 30 days that are updated daily are also available. More information is available at the [Pennsylvania Drought Condition Monitoring webpage](#).

Get prepared now, before it begins to rain! (Or doesn't.)

Session Schedule

The Senate and House both return to session September 26.

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On the Hill

House, Senate Hold Hearings on Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy

Hearings in the Senate and House this week focused on DEP's [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy](#) designed to meet the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement to reduce nutrients and sediments coming from Pennsylvania to the Bay.

In the Senate, the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, chaired by Senators Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and the Agriculture Committee chaired by Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York) and Sen. Michael

O'Pake (D-Berks) held a hearing Tuesday. The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee chaired by Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) held a hearing Wednesday.

At the hearings, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council each announced the latest steps in creating a nutrient credit trading program that all sides agree is a key to cost-effective implementation of the Bay Strategy.

As a result of the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreements, Pennsylvania is faced with reducing nutrient loads by 38 million pounds between now and 2010 and sediment loads by 116,000 tons. The Bay Strategy provides a menu of programs to achieve those goals.

Representatives of the [PA Municipal Authorities Association](#), the [agriculture community](#), [builders](#), and [conservation districts](#) expressed concern at the rapid implementation of the Bay Strategy by DEP without what they considered to be adequate involvement in its creation. They did acknowledge that very recent meetings with DEP were productive.

These groups also raised questions about where the resources would come from to finance what DEP's Strategy estimates to be a \$8.2 billion price tag for implementing all the nutrient and sediment reduction programs in the Strategy by wastewater treatment plants, farmers, land developers and county conservation districts.

They also said key programs, like the nutrient credit trading program that would allow wastewater plants to meet their nutrient reduction goals by paying for the installation of cost-effective best management practices on farms, were not yet up and running in final form, even though decisions have to be made in the near future about how facilities are to meet the new requirements.

Saying the Tributary Strategy was not a "menu of mandates," [DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty announced](#) DEP will publish an [interim final policy](#) and [appendix](#)



White area is Chesapeake Bay drainage

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outlining the structure and operation of the nutrient credit trading program in the October 1 PA Bulletin to provide an outline of how the system will work. ([Secretary's Testimony](#))

Secretary McGinty also said DEP was working to make financial resources available to help with implementing the Strategy and trying to work more closely with stakeholders involved in meeting Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay commitments.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council [announced the results of their first "reverse auction"](#) of nutrient reduction projects in the Conestoga River, Lancaster County as part of the effort to develop a trading program that will help reduce the cost of implementing the Bay Strategy.

Under this initiative, the first seven projects were funded that will reduce nutrients by over 4,300 pounds and sediment by 4,580 tons over the life of the best management practices installed on participating farms.

Noting the cost of reducing a pound of nutrients from a wastewater plant may be as high as \$90 per pound, [Andrew McElwaine](#), President & CEO of PEC, said 4,200 pounds of the 4,300 pounds of phosphorus removed cost less than \$13 per pound in the auction.

McElwaine said the auction was made possible by many partners, like the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lancaster County Conservation District and [NutrientNet](#), an online tool for analyzing the nutrient and sediment reduction value of projects on specific farms, it helped customize with the World Resources Institute. NutrientNet is key to assigning value to nutrient credits in a trading system.

A number of witnesses noted the need to document the impact that streambank erosion and "legacy sediments" – sediments left over from hundreds of old mill dams—are having on nutrient and sediment loadings to the Bay.

[Mark Gutshall](#), from LandStudies, Inc. of Lancaster County, said research by Franklin and Marshall College, the University of Louisville and their own watershed assessments have documented that 50 to 80 percent of sediment comes from eroding streambanks, not overland flows across farm fields or forests as previously thought. Sediment and nutrients from this source are being significantly under estimated in the models used for assessing watersheds.

Gutshall noted the success they've had with a technique known as floodplain restoration in eliminating streambank erosion and controlling stormwater and flooding. PEC, LandStudies, DEP and Pfizer worked on a project to restore the floodplain to 750 feet of New Street Ecological Park in Lititz that resulted in the first nutrient trade in Pennsylvania.

[Matthew Ehrhart](#) of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation supported the Tributary Strategy, and said key provisions, like the credit trading program "are poised to be a national leader," but the details still need to be worked out and resources have not been identified to implement the Strategy on the ground.

CBF also supported the "Farmers First Agenda" proposed by Senators Waugh and Wenger (R-Lancaster) that would preserve farmland and put programs in place to preserve farmers as well as the land they farm. (*See separate Digest story on new Vital Signs report on health of farming in the Chesapeake Bay drainage area.*)

CBF noted Pennsylvania needs to get more of a share of the 2007 Federal Farm Bill funding for conservation practices and is working with a variety of groups to achieve that goal.

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No specific next steps were announced by the Committees although members said they would continue to monitor DEP's implementation of the Strategy closely.

Others presenting testimony at the hearings included: the [Department of Agriculture](#), [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#), [PennAg Industries Association](#) and the [Ag Coalition](#).

Senate Adds Equine Operations to Ag Preservation Program

The Senate this week passed [House Bill 619](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) that adds commercial equine operations under the Agricultural Security Law. The bill now returns to the House for a concurrence vote.

House Committee Hears Update on State Forest Management Plan

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held an informational meeting this week to hear an update from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis on the state's [forest management plan](#).

Secretary DiBerardinis said Pennsylvania's forest ecosystems are generally in good shape providing clean water, recreational opportunities and plant and animal habitat as well as sought-after wood products. However, regeneration of the forests is an issue since they are under pressure from deer overbrowsing and acid rain.

Another major issue is safely providing opportunities for ATV and snowmobile trails in ways that do not damage the forests. DCNR is working to develop ATV riding areas on lower value land, like strip mines, to accommodate this need.

The Secretary touted the success of the [Forest Land Beautification Program](#) saying that volunteers spent over 11,000 hours cleaning up 264 illegal dumpsites in 15 State Parks and 16 State Forests since the program began.

Visit the state [Forest Management Plan webpage](#) for more information.

House Environmental Committee to Hold Hearings on PA Energy Blueprint

Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware), chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, this week announced the Committee will focus on discussing issues involved in finding a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for Pennsylvania.

"In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, with the nation facing increased gas prices and anticipated high winter heating bills, Pennsylvania needs to take a hard look at how it uses energy, its opportunities for conservation, and its overall energy resources to create both short- and long-term energy policies," said Adolph. "I will be leading the committee in a series of hearings with the help of the best and brightest experts Pennsylvania has to offer to develop these policies. Pennsylvania is home to cutting-edge energy industries, academic institutions conducting world-class research and development along with some of the most progressive energy policies in the nation. We must build upon these successes and expertise to create a smart energy future for Pennsylvania."

The Energy Information Agency of the U.S. Department of Energy noted that in 2002-03 the average price of a gallon of heating oil was \$1.34, and an average bill for a

heating season was \$993. It projects the price for a gallon of heating oil for the 2005-06 heating season to be \$2.26, and an average heating bill estimated to reach \$1,486.

"By developing a comprehensive energy plan, we can lessen the Commonwealth's reliance on foreign oil by reducing our own energy consumption and advance our own indigenous resources while protecting the environment," said Adolph.

Global demand for oil was 79 million barrels a day in 2002, 82.5 million barrels a day in 2003 and 84 million barrels a day in 2004--an increase of about 2 million barrels per day each year.

Adolph said the Committee will be holding hearings beginning in October on topics such as energy efficiency, renewable fuels and renewable energy technologies, overall energy supply and demand, and bolstering research and development efforts.

"The lack of any strategic energy plan is a dangerous proposition in today's fuel-centered society. I look forward to coming out of these hearings with concrete information that can lead to real legislative energy reforms and proposals," said Adolph.

Ross Introduces Alternative Energy Tax Credit Legislation

[Rep. Chris Ross](#) (R-Chester) this week announced the introduction of [House Bill 1964](#), the Alternative Energy Investment Bill, that creates a tax credit in-state businesses could use to offset investments into their capital equipment costs for producing alternative fuels, alternative fueled vehicles, and alternative energy equipment.

The Renewable Energy Tax Credit would allow eligible businesses a tax credit equal to 15 percent of the cost of capital equipment directly related to their trade. Once qualified by the state's Department of Revenue, a business would have the option of applying the tax credit to any of the taxes that may be due under Article III (Personal Income Tax), Article IV (Corporate Net Income Tax), or Article VI (Capital Stock and Franchise Tax).

The total amount of tax credit that any company could claim in any fiscal year is \$15 million.

The legislation directs the Department of Revenue to establish specific guidelines for the application of the tax credit and requires the Department of Environmental Protection to establish eligibility criteria for businesses.

In 2004, Ross authored legislation in the House signed into law that mandates 18 percent of energy sold by electric energy suppliers in Pennsylvania will be from alternative energy sources in 15 years.

In Other News

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces Opening of Grant Program



The [Coldwater Heritage Partnership](#) announced it is now accepting applications for the Coldwater Conservation Grants Program to protect and conserve the health of Pennsylvania's coldwater ecosystems.

Applications for grants up to \$5,000 will be accepted through December 16.

The CHP Program is a cooperative effort of Pennsylvania

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Council of Trout Unlimited, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Fish and Boat Commission.

Watershed groups, conservation districts, municipalities and local chapters of Trout Unlimited are eligible to apply.

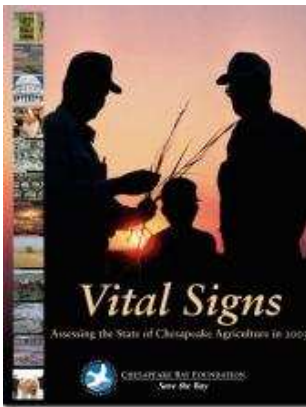
The grants are designed to help develop conservation plans that identify the values and threats to the health of coldwater ecosystems that have naturally reproducing trout. The collected information can be used as a catalyst for more comprehensive planning or for development of watershed improvements projects.

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership was formed to provide technical assistance and funding support for the evaluation, conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams. The partnership will award grants of up to \$5,000 to organizations to outline strategies that best conserve and protect our coldwater fisheries.

Besides offering grants, CHP works to: foster greater public understanding of watershed characteristics and how they affect coldwater ecosystems; identify special areas of concern, such as areas with exceptional water quality and high potential for impacts; and provide technical assistance and financial opportunities to organizations dedicated to protecting our coldwater ecosystems.

For more information, contact Deborah Nardone, PATU Coldwater Resource Specialist, at 814-359-5233, or visit the [Coldwater Heritage Partnership website](#).

Farms In Chesapeake Bay Watershed In Precarious Position



The Chesapeake Bay Foundation this week released a new report entitled, "[Vital Signs: Assessing the State of Chesapeake Agriculture in 2005.](#)" The report found that the region's farms are facing mounting threats, with 10 of the 12 indicators rated weak or unhealthy.

The report, prepared with input from farmers and other agricultural experts, reviewed as much as 50 years of data on 12 key indicators in three categories, Community, Economics, and Environment.

The report found sharp declines in the number of farms and total acreage of farmland as well as a steep decline in the share of consumer food dollars received by farmers. In addition, Bay watershed farmers do not receive their fair share of federal agriculture dollars.

In Pennsylvania, CBF is calling for passage of the "Farmers First Initiative," sponsored by Sen. Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster) and Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York). The legislation will provide additional state funding for agricultural preservation, tax relief for farmers, and supports the development of alternative uses for excess manure.

According to the federal Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, agriculture in the lower Susquehanna region alone produces more than 286,000 tons of excess manure each year. CBF expects to work with Senators Wenger and Waugh to find funding to support development of alternative uses that benefit both farmers and the environment.

"While manure is an important and valuable source of nutrients essential to healthy ecosystems and crop production, excess manure on the landscape is threatening

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the quality of our local rivers and streams, as well as the Chesapeake Bay,” said CBF Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart. “Developing alternative uses for excess manure that create value for the region’s farmers is vital to the health of agriculture in the Commonwealth.”

Well-managed agricultural land provides many more environmental benefits than developed land. However, farm families are being squeezed, with expenses rising faster than income. Techniques and technologies that reduce pollution from agriculture have been demonstrated to be effective, but farmers cannot shoulder the costs of implementation alone.

The Vital Signs report was developed to highlight the importance of agriculture in the region, identify trends, and begin to focus discussion on actions that are necessary to reduce pollution and improve profitability.

The report ranked indicators as ‘healthy,’ ‘good,’ ‘fair,’ ‘weak,’ and ‘unhealthy.’ No indicator merited a healthy rating, and only one was rated as good and one was rated fair. Seven were rated weak and four were rated unhealthy.

Across the watershed, the report recommends:

- Building on commitments to protect farmland, especially prime farmland;
- Ensuring that Bay region farmers get an equitable share of federal Farm Bill payments, and increasing federal and state payments that support conservation practices;
- Increasing the economic viability of farming by promoting direct sales and creating incentives for farmers to adopt conservation practices; and
- Investing in new technologies to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution and develop alternative uses for excess manure.

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

(See separate Digest story on Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy)

NewsClips: [Farms, Bay Still Need Improvement](#)

Registration Extended for Stormwater Management Symposium October 12-13

Late registration has been extended for the [2005 PA Stormwater Management Symposium](#) to be held October 12-13 at Villanova University.

A pre-symposium municipal workshop will be held October 11 titled Municipal Stormwater Management – Strategies for Success.

The title of this year’s conference is “Stormwater Management Implementation - Are We Getting It Right?” The purpose of the symposium is to advance the knowledge and understanding of comprehensive stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of land development planning, design and implementation and regulatory compliance.

Engineers, planners, water resource professionals, regional, state and local government representatives, land development professionals and watershed and conservation groups are encouraged to attend.

On October 12, Barry Newman of DEP will provide an overview of changes in the Act 167 Program followed by multiple sessions of papers presented by professionals on many stormwater topics.

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The formal portion of the first day concludes with two concurrent panels "Think Ahead Of The Machine During Any Earth Moving Activity With Scheduling and E&S Strategies," and "State, Local and Citizen Enforcement of Storm Water Laws." An informal reception ends the day.

The second day kicks off with a session on the new Pennsylvania BMP Manual, followed by an address by DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty. After her presentation, more workshop sessions are scheduled and a "Stormwater Town Meeting" on research needs will be held. The symposium concludes with several optional tours.

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

Looking for Ways to Save Gas? Try This New Commuter Services Website

[Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania](#) has unveiled a new website that helps people find commuting alternatives in the Central Pennsylvania area.

The site serves employers and the more than 700,000 commuters in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties.

Commuter Services – launched late in 2004 by the region's chambers, transit agencies and metropolitan planning organizations – is a coordinated outreach also supported by PennDOT, the Federal Highway Administration and the Department of Environmental Protection.

The PaCommuterServices.com calculator helps commuters determine the cost of driving alone to work. Site visitors can learn about the options and join a confidential database to help identify ridesharing opportunities, including carpools, transit or vanpools.

The Employer Services page details free assistance to employers, such as on-site visits, and tax benefits and options to influence worker commuting choices or increase labor pools.

Site pages describe carpooling, transit, vanpools, teleworking, biking, walking and other options.

Employers and commuters can contact Commuter Services at 1-866-579-RIDE (1-866-579-7433) to receive information as well as by visiting the [PA Commuter Services website](#).

U.S. DOE Seeks Applications for New Energy Conservation Technology

The U.S. Department of Energy's is soliciting applications for the Inventions and Innovation Program designed to fund projects that reduce energy consumption and have a future commercial market.

Pre-applications are due October 11.

Eligible projects include: Biomass Program; Building Technologies Program; Distributed Energy & Electric Reliability Program; FreedomCAR & Vehicle Technologies Program; Geothermal Technologies Program; Hydrogen, Fuel Cells, & Infrastructure Technologies Program; Industrial Technologies Program ; Solar Energy Technology Program; Wind & Hydropower Technologies Program.

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The I&I Program is seeking applications for the conceptual (Category 1) and developmental (Category 2) stages of development. Category 1 awards may cover a project period of up to one year. Category 2 awards will be approximately two years.

The I&I Program will require pre-applications. Prior to submitting a pre-application, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to do self-assessment using the optional "[Pre-Application Self-Assessment](#)" tool located on the I&I website. The tool is helpful in assessing whether or not an innovation is a good candidate for I&I funding.

For a full description of the funding opportunity, visit the [I&I webpage](#).

Children's Environmental Health Conference October 1

Registration is underway for the 3rd Annual [Children's Environmental Health Conference](#) on October 1 sponsored by Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Conference is a collaboration with the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment, and the Maryland Department of Health to be held in Baltimore Md.

Conference attendees will examine the relationship between important issues in children's health and the environment, and cover such topics as urban asthma, second hand smoke, autism, integrated pest management and healthy school environments.

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

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.

Lake Erie's Seaway Trail Becomes Latest National Scenic Byway, First in PA



[Lake Erie's Seaway Trail](#), a 64-mile corridor along Lake Erie became Pennsylvania's first officially designated [National Scenic Byway](#) this week.

The Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway includes: Pennsylvania Route 5; Route 5A; Presque Isle State Park and the Bayfront Parkway. The Pennsylvania portion of the new national byway connects with the newly designated Lake Erie Coastal Trail in Ohio and the Seaway Trail in New York. With the addition of the Pennsylvania and Ohio portions, the entire, three-state corridor stretches for nearly 800

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miles along the shores of Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Attractions along the Pennsylvania portion of the trail include: Erie Bluffs State Park; Battle Museum of Rural Life; Presque Isle State Park and the Tom Ridge Environmental Center; the Perry Monument; Millionaire's Row; Port of Erie on Presque Isle Bay; various ship wrecks in Lake Erie; Erie Maritime Museum and the U.S. Brig Niagara; Erie History Center; Lake Erie Wineries and Grape Growing Region; and the North East Borough Historic District.

For more information, visit the [National Scenic Byways website](#), or download the [Lake Erie's Scenic Byway brochure](#).

DCNR Seeks Recommendations on Tourism/Recreation in Pine Creek

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is inviting the public to two public meetings in November to seek comments on proposed future plans for the Pine Creek Valley in Tioga and Lycoming counties.

The meetings will be held on November 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wheeland Center on the corner of Locust and Cemetery streets in Jersey Shore, and on November 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pennsylvania College of Technology campus on Route 6 in Wellsboro.



Pennsylvania Grand Canyon

Pine Creek Valley extends from Ansonia at U.S. Route 6 to Jersey Shore, where the creek empties into the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. In this 68-mile section of Pine Creek, a majority of the land is publicly owned and managed by DCNR and the Game Commission.

The first 17 miles of Pine Creek Valley is commonly referred to as the "Pennsylvania Grand Canyon."

- Included in the recommendations prepared by contractor Fermata, Inc. are:
- DCNR should work with Jersey Shore and Wellsboro planners to extend the trail to their downtown areas and focus development of accommodations and services in these trail towns rather than in the Pine Creek Valley;
 - Promote all DCNR facilities in and near Pine Creek as a package of outdoor recreation experiences, and improve connections for the visitor from the Pine Creek Trail to them, to better distribute visitation and encourage longer stays in the region;
 - Improve informational and interpretive signing on DCNR lands in the Valley, in part to communicate the history of the region's forests, its lumber days and the rebirth of the modern day forest in the region;
 - Target market the valley and its many resources to specific outdoor recreation segments that should provide a low-impact, high economic yield for the area; and
 - Develop a DCNR revenue strategy for Pine Creek and watershed facilities.

The meeting will include a presentation about the recommendations, followed by the opportunity for attendees to make comments. Written comments can be submitted

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until November 23 to Joe Fiedor, DCNR, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 8676, Harrisburg, PA 17105, or by email to jfiedor@state.pa.us .

For more information on the Pine Creek and the Pennsylvania Wilds portion of Pennsylvania, visit the [PA Wilds website](#)

Lukas Petre PA CleanWays Sue Wiseman Scholarship Winner

Lukas Petre of Lewisburg has been named recipient of the 2005 Sue Wiseman Scholarship by [PA CleanWays](#). Applications for the 2006 Scholarship are now being accepted.

The Sue Wiseman Scholarship, an annual \$1,000 award, honors youth who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to reducing littering and illegal dumping.

Lukas received the award for his efforts to initiate a recycling center in White Deer Township, Union County. Recognizing the need for proper disposal options, Lukas worked closely with municipal officials, the county planning director, Kellyites 4-H, Boy Scouts, and local residents to make the center a reality. Although Lukas is attending Virginia Tech, he is still involved in the recycling efforts during summer months and holiday breaks. The recycling center has been in operation since 2002.

PA CleanWays is currently accepting scholarship applications. The Sue Wiseman Scholarship is open to Pennsylvania youth, ages 16-21, who have initiated and carried out personal project(s) that address littering, illegal dumping, recycling, proper disposal, beautification, or education. An education project must address one of the other topics listed.

Applications and project requirements are due May 1, 2006. Application forms are available electronically at the [PA CleanWays website](#).

The scholarship is named for Sue Wiseman, whose own commitment and dedication to a cleaner environment led to the founding of PA CleanWays, is a statewide nonprofit organization that helps people who are ready to take action against littering and illegal dumping in their communities.

Since 1990, PA CleanWays has been dedicated to empowering people to resolve and prevent these destructive problems. PA CleanWays community-based approach has resulted in the removal of over 520 illegal dump sites statewide, involving more than 28,000 volunteers, the collection of thousands of tires and appliances for recycling, and the planting of 22,189 trees in public areas throughout Pennsylvania.

National Public Lands Day Celebration September 24

This week [Gov. Rendell proclaimed](#) September 24 as [National Public Lands Day](#) to help celebrate the beauty and contributions public lands make to recreation and environmental protection.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2004, nearly 90,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants.

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Twelve state parks and two environmental education centers are hosting volunteer groups. They are: Benjamin Rush, Philadelphia; Black Moshannon, Centre County; Colonel Denning, Cumberland County; Cook Forest, Clarion County; Frances Slocum, Luzerne County; Gifford Pinchot, York County; Jennings Environmental Education Center, Butler County; Keystone, Westmoreland County; Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center, Cumberland County; Laurel Hill, Somerset County; Lackawanna, Lackawanna County; McConnells Mill, Lawrence County; Nescopeck, Luzerne County; and Pymatuning, Crawford County.

Interested participants should call participating park offices before Saturday to pre-register and inquire about possible inclement weather, starting times, meetings places and other details.

Pennsylvania volunteers will join a workforce across the country that is committed to carrying on the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "tree army" that exemplified land stewardship from 1933-1942 by preserving and protecting America's natural heritage.

National Public Lands Day is a public-private partnership involving DCNR and many other state, federal, and local land and conservation agencies. The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation manages, coordinates, and generates financial support for the program.

For information about volunteering in Pennsylvania's state parks and forestlands, the [Department of Conservation and Natural Resources website](#).

Game Commission Offers Solutions to Wildlife Nuisance Problems

With each passing year, wildlife problems and conflicts appear to be increasing in the Commonwealth, according to the Game Commission, and not just in the country.

More and more, wildlife is getting into trouble in urban and suburban areas. In fact, wildlife nuisance control work has become a thriving business in most cities and suburban areas.

Opossums, raccoons, skunks, groundhogs, deer, bears, squirrels, coyotes, bats, beavers, geese and even mink have found backyards and local ponds and developed areas increasingly attractive as habitats.

The Game Commission this week offered some tips on how homeowners can deal with many of these wild critters. Read the [Guide to Wildlife Nuisance Problems](#) posted on their website.

President Names PA's Stickler Head of Federal Mine Safety Program

President Bush announced he intends to nominate Richard Stickler, former Director of DEP's Bureau of Deep Mine Safety, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

Mr. Stickler served as Director of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Deep Mine Safety during the 2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue. Earlier in his career, he worked for Beth Energy Mines, Inc. for thirty years. During that time, Mr. Stickler held a number of positions including Manager, Superintendent and Shift Foreman. He received his bachelor's degree from Fairmont State College.

Reisinger Named Director of DEP's Bureau of Waste Management

DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty this week announced the appointment of Ken Reisinger as Director of the Bureau of Waste Management.

Reisinger served as Chief of the Division of Waterways, Wetlands and Erosion Control in the Bureau of Watershed Management where he was responsible for management of the Commonwealth's waterways, wetlands and erosion control programs.

Prior to this, he has held numerous management positions within the department including the Chief of the Division of Wetlands Protection, Chief of the Education and Technical Assistance Section and as an Environmental Planner. Ken also brings many years of experience in the private sector while working as the Executive Director of the LeTort Regional Authority and a supervisor at Rockwell International.

Reisinger served in the United States Air Force where he was involved in communications and intelligence collection missions.

He holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies from Shippensburg University and a Bachelor's degree in Social, Cultural, and Economic Geography from Shippensburg University.

Governor's Council Seeks Candidates for Game Commission Director

The Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation is looking for a qualified candidate to serve on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's board of directors representing District Six, comprised of Snyder, Mifflin, Juniata, Franklin, Perry, Cumberland, Adams, Dauphin, York, Lebanon and Lancaster counties.

Stephen L. Mohr of Bainbridge, Lancaster County, currently represents District Six; his term expires December 9.

Commissioners serve without compensation, but do receive travel reimbursement. The length of term is eight years and commissioners are not eligible for reappointment. Candidates will first interview with the Game and Wildlife Subcommittee of the advisory council and will be rated not only on responses, but also on professional and volunteer experience with wildlife conservation, youth recruitment and hunter retention, land conservation and other similar activities. The Governor will select the final candidate. His nominee must be confirmed by the Senate.

Applications will be accepted until October 28.

Individuals interested in applying should send a resume and detailed cover letter to Robb Miller, Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., 7th Floor, P.O. Box 8767, Harrisburg, Pa., 17106-8767.

HELP WANTED: Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania

The Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania is seeking one full time or two part time individuals to fill an [administrative assistant position](#) within the organization.

Duties will include: production of the organization's publications, oversight of PRO's recycling technical assistance projects, public relations and promotions,

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membership recruitment and retention, proposal preparation and other fundraising and database management.

PROP is a non-profit organization serving Pennsylvania's recycling and composting professionals and is headquartered in Bellwood, PA.

For more on the position and the organization, [visit the PROP website](#).

PHMC Seeks Researcher to Work on PA Conservation Leaders Project

The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the support of the [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals](#), is initiating a project to document leaders in the field of conservation and environmentalism in Pennsylvania.

PHMC seeks an experienced researcher to undertake the initial work of the project: documenting the career of [Karl Mason](#), an official in the Pennsylvania Department of Health (1952-66) regarded as Pennsylvania's first environmental administrator, through both archival research and oral history interviews with Mason family members and one or more colleagues.

Graduate level work in environmental history or a related field and excellent skills in oral and written communication are required. The ideal candidate will have broad understanding of the field of environmental history, knowledge of 20th century environmental history in Pennsylvania, and experience with oral history. Project deliverables include a series of interviews suitable for archiving (including interview summaries and transcripts); a short (c. 1500 word) article on Mason's life and work, suitable for publication in Pennsylvania Heritage, PHMC's quarterly magazine; a presentation at the PAEP 2006 annual meeting, to be held May 17-19, in State College, Pennsylvania; a 5-10 page document outlining the state of environmentalism in Pennsylvania at the mid 20th century; and a list of photographs, documents, and artifacts relating to Mason's career.

The fee for services is negotiable, and depends on the researcher's background and experience, as well as the number of interviews to be conducted. Separate funds are available for travel expenses, as are funds for transcribing the interviews, although the researcher is expected to audit check the transcripts.

Work will start on or about October 15, 2005 and will conclude on or about May 31, 2006.

Send a resume and cover letter, outlining background, experience, and usual daily rates to: Linda Shopes, Bureau of Archives and History, Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street – PL, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0053.

Quick Clips

[Pioneering Environmentalist Honored](#)

[Outdoor Learning Center Honors Teacher](#)

[DEP Offers Oil Tank Inspection Tips](#)

[Habitat Homes to Cut Bills](#)

[PNC Bank – Inside It's All Green](#)

[Northern Tier SW Authority Greenlights Greenhouse](#)

[PA Highlights Energy Conservation During Pollution Prevention Week](#)

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[Festival for Alternative Energy Starts Friday in Reading](#)
[Fill'er Up with Cooking Oil](#)
[High Energy Prices Cutting Into Profits](#)
[Two PA Farms Receive Renewable Energy Project Grants](#)
[Editorial: Wind Farms Generate Debate](#)
[Forum: Future Could Be Now for Hydrogen](#)
[Monitor Maintains Safety on Montour Trail](#)
[500 Take Part in Schuylkill Clean Up](#)
[Volunteers Needed to Clean Up Illegal Dump in Northumberland](#)
[Harrisburg's Allison Hill Benefits from Brownfields Project](#)
[Forum: Construction Junction We Like Your Function](#)
[\\$5.2 Million in Recycling Performance Grants Announced](#)
[Bucks County to Buy More Open Space](#)
[\\$1.2 Million for Open Space Preservation](#)
[Sprawl Is A Matter of Choice](#)
[Franklin Mills Brownfield Site Shows Potential](#)
[Satellites Track Barn Owls](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Neshaminy Creek Stream Cleanup a Success](#)
[Volunteers Cleanup Watershed](#)
[American Water Resources Group Kicks Off New Lunch Meeting Series](#)
[All Can Share in Stormwater Management](#)
[Map Maker Plots Communities' Redevelopment](#)
[Too Much Rain There, Too Little Here](#)
[SRBC Releases Northern Lancaster Groundwater Recommendations](#)
[Emergency Watershed Projects Set to Go](#)
[SE DEP Roundtable Will Meet on Water Issues](#)

Regulations

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission published comments on the Department of Agriculture's [CHEMSWEEP proposed regulations](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 24, 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 of two final and one draft guidance documents](#) related to the Storage Tank Program.

Draft: DEP ID: 383-2125-109. Modified Minor Permit Amendment for Repainting the Interior of a Potable Water Storage Tank. This draft technical guidance document establishes procedures for public water supply systems to follow if they wish to obtain a modified minor permit amendment to repaint the interior of a potable water storage tank. Comments due October 24.

Final: DEP ID: 257-3120-002. Storage Tank Program Internal Policy on Inspections and On-Site Visits. This document establishes uniform procedures for Storage Tank Program inspections.

Final: DEP ID: 255-4000-001. Guidelines for the Storage Tank Cleanup Program-- Identifying, Tracking and Resolving Violations for Storage Tanks (Corrective Action Process for Owners and Operators of Storage Tanks and Storage Tank Facilities and other Responsible Parties).

[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](#)

- [DEP-City of Philadelphia Announce Composting Workshops](#)
- **September 26** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#) – update on basin water plan implementation, sedimentology of the Delaware River, response to Martins Creek ash spill.
- **September 26** – [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board Attainment Subcommittee conference call](#). Observers can go to one of DEP’s six regional offices to be part of the call.
- **September 27** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on [House Bill 1249](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) Uniform Environmental Covenants.
- **September 28** – House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 46](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) establishing a first responder building mapping system for publicly owned buildings.
- **September 28** – DCNR Citizens Advisory Council meeting.
- **October 4** – [Clean Energy Executive Summit](#) by PECO, Community Energy, Inc. and PennFuture. Philadelphia.

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- **October 4** – [PA Energy Development Authority Board meeting](#). Harrisburg.
- **October 5** – [DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting](#). (change from Oct. 12)
- **October 8** – Dauphin County Community Recycling Collection. 9 to 1:00 at HACC Parking Lot.
- **October 18** – CANCELLED - [DEP Diesel-Powered Equipment Advisory Committee](#)
- **October 24** – Environmental Issues Forum – Joint Senate-House Conservation Committee presentation by PA Recreation & Parks Society and DCNR on implementing the State Recreation Plan.
- **November 2** – [DEP/PennVEST public hearing](#) on drinking water project priority list. Harrisburg.
- **November 4-5** – [Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference](#). West Virginia.
- **November 17** – House Health & Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 1369](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) relating to powers and responsibilities during a public health emergency.

[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 .

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Photo Answer: the [Kiskiminetas River](#) Explore the entire Allegheny River Watershed using the [Watershed Atlas](#).

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