

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

It's Not Too Late! Plan Your Fall Foliage Trips Now Through FallinPA.com

Planning a fall foliage roadtrip? Check out Pennsylvania's www.FallinPA.com, it's one of the nation's most complete fall foliage websites with roadtrip itineraries, live interactive webcams and features to help plan a getaway.

Weekly fall foliage reports will be added to the site in early September to provide visitors with updates on peak viewing times.

Known for its stunning fall landscapes and three distinct foliage zones, Pennsylvania offers one of the longest windows of opportunity to view fall foliage in the Northeast, leaving more time to take a roadtrip across the state and watch the leaves change. Each foliage zone is highlighted on the site with several customized itineraries covering a variety of interests.

Fall is also an opportune time to check out one of Pennsylvania's unique fall festivals, like the 42nd Annual Apple Harvest Festival in Arendtsville (just 20 minutes from Gettysburg) October 7, 8, 14 and 15. The festival features apple products, live country music, arts and crafts, antique autos, steam engines, orchard tours and plenty of food.

For more information about fall in Pennsylvania, including all of its fairs and festivals, go to www.VisitPA.com or call 800-VISITPA.

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session October 3. After next week, the Senate and House do

not return to session until October 16. (The break is for Columbus Day, and campaigning.)

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- PA Center for Environmental Education at National Children & Nature Conference
- \$11.7 Million in Recreation and Conservation Projects Funded by DCNR
- PPL Signs Agreement to Purchase Additional Wind Power
- PUC Seeks Recommendations on Increasing Energy Efficiency, Conservation
- Clients of SBDC Environmental Assistance Program Win Energy Awards
- DOE Conducts Industrial Energy Assessment in Pennsylvania
- Penn State Environmental Sustainability Curriculum Receives NSF Grant
- EPA Will Recognize Community Development Improvements for Older Adults
- Grants Now Available for Diesel Emission Reduction Projects
- Abington Eco Art Fest Set for October 15 in Jenkintown
- National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebrates Sportsmen and Sportswomen
- Help Wanted: Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, Western PA Conservancy

See & Hear

- Congressional Action on Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds Urged
- Alternative Practices for Highway Stormwater Management Webcasts
- Pennsylvania Capitol Turns 100, See Special Online Tour

Follow A Leader

- Skyline Pittsburgh-Exhibit Place Wins Award for Energy Efficiency, So Can You!

Opinion

- House Bill 2878 – Resource Enhancement and Protection Act, *By, Rep. Jerry Stern, Before the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, September 19, 2006*

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On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

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The Senate and House plan to consider several environmental bills this week. Here's the rundown...

In the House, the **Environmental Resources and Energy Committee** meets to consider [House Bill 1249](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing uniform environmental covenants provisions, [House Resolution 692](#) (Ross-R-Chester) directing the Committee to study and report on the methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, [House Bill 936](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) providing for a review and update of state, county and local flood maps, [House Bill 6](#) (Tigue-D-Lackawanna) increasing fees on nuclear power plant facilities; the **Game and Fisheries Committee** meets to consider [House Bill 2918](#) (B.Smith-R-York) authorizing the collection of transaction costs associated with the PA Automated Licensing Service.

On the House Calendar: [Senate Bill 940](#) (Waugh-R-York) would set aside up to \$200,000 per year from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund to reimburse Land Trusts for expenses incurred in acquiring agricultural conservation easements.

In the Senate, Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet to consider [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) that would increase penalties for water pollution under the Clean Streams Law.

On the Senate Calendar: [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) extending the \$2/ton Recycling Fee sunset date through 2012; [House Resolution 795](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) designating December 19 as “Coal Miner’s Day;” [House Bill 236](#) (Pickett-R-Bradford) requiring the review of regulations for their impact on small business by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Senate/House Actions/Bills Introduced

This Senate and House took action on these bills this week, along with introducing several bills of interest. Here's the rundown...

In the Senate...

Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools: [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) establishing the Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools Program was passed by the Senate and now moves to the House.

Children’s Environmental Health: [Senate Resolution 351](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) designating October as “Children’s Environmental Health Month” was adopted by the Senate.

Recycling Fee Extension: [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) extending the \$2/ton Recycling Fee was amended to extend the sunset date through 2012 and reported from the

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Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Emergency Services Grants: Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee amended and reported out [Senate Bill 1236](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) creating a grant program for volunteer emergency services organizations and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Coal Miner’s Day: [House Resolution 795](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) designating December 19 as “Coal Miner’s Day” was amended and reported out of the Senate Rules Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Infrastructure Disclosure: [House Bill 854](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing the Terrorism Infrastructure Disclosure Protection Act prohibiting the release of certain infrastructure records was amended and reported from Senate State Government Committee and re-referred to Senate Appropriations.

Small Business Impacts: [House Bill 236](#) (Pickett-R-Bradford) requiring the review of regulations for their impact on small business by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission was reported from the Senate State Government Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

In the House...

Rail Accident Preparedness: [House Resolution 824](#) (Gannon-R-Delaware) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of rail transportation preparedness in the event of a natural disaster, terrorist attack or hazardous materials incident was amended and reported from the House Transportation Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

Mine Families First: [House Bill 2619](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) establishing the Mine Families First Program was reported from House Rules Committee and was tabled.

Bills Introduced

Automated Licensing Service: [House Bill 2918](#) (B.Smith-R-York) authorizing the collection of transaction costs associated with the PA Automated Licensing Service. The bill is on the House Game and Fisheries Committee agenda for this week.

Senate Committee Approves Recycling Fee Extension Two Years Early

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The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week approved [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) that extends the sunset date for the Recycling Fee from 2009 to 2012.

The \$2/ton Recycling Fee was set to expire on January 1, 2009, but under an amendment approved by the Committee, the fee was extended until January 1, 2012. The fee supports the Commonwealth's county and municipal recycling programs. House Bill 1902 also modifies the current performance incentive grant provisions of the recycling program.

House Bill 1902 now goes to the full Senate for action. As passed by the House, the bill had eliminated the sunset date for the fee entirely.

The Committee is chaired by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

Senate Passes Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Bill

The Senate has unanimously approved legislation this week that will promote Pennsylvania agricultural products in the Commonwealth's schools, providing the opportunity to educate students about PA agriculture and the importance of a healthier diet, according to Sen. Waugh (R-York).

[Senate Bill 1209](#), introduced by Waugh and Sen. Shirley Kitchen (D-Philadelphia), would create the Healthy Farms and Healthy Schools initiative, a program to deliver locally-grown farm products to school students.

"Our young people are bombarded by advertising for unhealthy snacks that can lead to a wide range of health problems later in life," said Sen. Waugh, who chairs the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. "This program would help reduce the frequency of childhood obesity and ensure that our young students learn the value of a healthy diet as well as the agricultural community."

The legislation would help students choose healthy alternatives such as fruits and vegetables over snacks that are high in salt, sugar, and fats. In addition, the program will provide educators with greater resources for educating students about nutrition and the importance of agriculture in Pennsylvania through methods such as field trips to nearby farms. Parents, caregivers and community groups would also be given the opportunity to participate in the program.

"Of course we couldn't make this initiative possible without the many local farmers we have throughout the Commonwealth," said Sen. Waugh. "I am pleased that the program will not only benefit our young students but also our agricultural producers."

Sen. Kitchen became involved in the legislation due to a Healthy Farms and Healthy Schools pilot program in several Philadelphia Schools conducted by Food Trust. Currently, the program serves 900 students in 11 schools in the Philadelphia area with plans to expand to a total of 14 schools this fall.

Senate Bill 1209 is part of the Farmers First Agenda, a comprehensive package of legislation to promote agriculture in Pennsylvania announced by Waugh and Senator Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster) in 2005. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

House Committee to Consider Climate Change, Covenant, Nuclear Plant Fees

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The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to meet to consider four bills next week—

- [House Bill 6](#) (Tigue-D-Lackawanna) increasing fees on nuclear power plant facilities and fees for escorting nuclear materials;
- [House Bill 1249](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing uniform environmental covenants provisions;
- [House Resolution 692](#) (Ross-R-Chester) directing the Committee to study and report on the methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- [House Bill 936](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) providing for a review and update of state, county and local flood maps.

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

Senate Committee to Consider Bill to Increase Water Pollution Penalties

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet next week to consider [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) that would increase penalties for water pollution under the Clean Streams Law.

Environmental Synopsis Features E-Cycling, Ethanol, Vehicle Fuel Economy

The [September issue of the Environmental Synopsis](#) published by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) is now available online.

This month's issue features articles on climate change, vehicle fuel economy, ethanol, e-cycling and recent Committee activities.

The Joint Committee is chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

In Other News

Over 100 Attend Upper Susquehanna River Conference at Bucknell

Bucknell University and the [Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition](#) hosted the "From the Branches to the Confluence" Conference last week that attracted over 100 active watershed volunteers, water quality researchers, local officials and state and federal agency representatives.

H.W. "Skip" Wieder, Geisinger Health System, said the three goals of the conference were to get a better understanding of the initiatives and research going on in the West and North Branches of the Susquehanna, provide a forum for networking and developing new partnership opportunities and develop an action plan for future projects and goals for the Upper Susquehanna.

- *PaED Video Blog: [Watch Wieder's overview of the Conference.](#)*

William C. Baker, President of the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), gave one of two keynote addresses to the Conference outlining the critical links between work going on in the Upper Susquehanna and the cleanup of the Bay.

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“Ask the right questions,” Baker urged participants. “For example, we never thought there was a link between the reclamation of mine discharges and cleaning up the Bay, but research at Bucknell and by Stroud Water Research Center shows there may be a link between reduced capacity of a stream to assimilate nutrients traveling to the Bay caused by mine drainage.”

Baker also urged conference participants to support bipartisan legislation - House Bill 2878 and Senate Bill 1286- that would offer farmers tax credits for installing best management practices to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to the Bay called the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\)](#).

- *PaED Video Blog: [Watch Baker’s comments about the Conference](#).*

Ann Pesire Swanson, Executive Director of the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#), provided the other keynote address and a status report on Bay cleanup efforts.

Swanson noted that 80 percent of the nutrients that pollute the Bay come from non-point sources of pollution, not from wastewater treatment plants and industry, and that 96 percent of the water quality impaired streams in Pennsylvania are impaired by non-point sources.

She highlighted the importance of the work the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition and watershed groups were doing in the Bay watershed to deal with these problems.

- *PaED Video Blog: [Watch Swanson’s comments on cleanup efforts](#).*

Amy G. Wolfe, Director of National Trout Unlimited’s [Abandoned Mine Reclamation Programs](#) and a guiding force behind the [Kettle Creek Watershed Association](#), noted watershed cleanup efforts in the Upper Susquehanna River should not only focus on the water quality value of the cleanups themselves, but also on the economic value of those cleanups to the communities and the region.

- *PaED Video Blog: [Watch Wolfe’s update on West Branch cleanup efforts](#).*

John Dawes, [Western PA Watershed Program](#), provided participants with an outline of what private watershed project funding programs like his look for from applicants.

Dawes also provided an update on efforts by the PA AML Coalition to get legislation passed in Congress to reauthorize the federal fee that supports the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. He urged everyone to contact their U.S. Senate and House representatives and urge them to act before Congress adjourns for their election recess.

- *PaED Video Blog: [Watch Dawes’ comments on AML Fund reauthorization](#).*

Members of the Susquehanna River and Heartland Coalition will be reviewing the comments and recommendations made at the Conference to layout “next steps.”

“We hope this is just the first of annual conferences we hope to have to focus attention on the work that needs to be done to restore the Upper Susquehanna,” said Skip Wieder.

*Enjoy these **Video Blog** extras from the Conference—*

- *[Dr. Carl S. Kirby, Bucknell University](#), explains why he painted his 1982 VW bus with paint made from mine drainage treatment leftovers.*
- *[Michael Hewitt, Eastern Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#), tells how he first got interested in doing watershed restoration work in the Northeast.*

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- [PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

NewsClips: [River's Health Improving – Upper Susquehanna Conference To Save the Bay, A Fresh Funding Stream](#)
[PA Farmers Could REAP Tax Benefits Under Proposed Bill](#)
[Nutrient Trading – Helping the Chesapeake Bay](#)
[Chesapeake Watershed States Agree to Slash Fertilizer Pollution](#)
[State of Chesapeake Bay Forests](#)
[Help Forest Owners See Green for Their Bay Forest Efforts](#)
[Strategies for Chesapeake Bay Forests](#)
[Gathering Examines River's Importance](#)
[Save a Farm and Save the Bay](#)

\$5 Million in Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grants Now Available

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the availability of over \$5 million in grant funding through the [Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watersheds Grant Program](#) for projects that reduce nutrient runoff to the Bay and its tributaries.

Pre-proposal applications are due November 17. It is anticipated that awards will be announced in late April of 2007.

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in a [free half-day workshop](#) on October 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Washington, D.C. Interested parties are invited to participate in person or via webcast.

In this second year of the program, the foundation will award over \$5 million to support projects that expand the collective knowledge on the most innovative, sustainable and cost-effective strategies - including market-based approaches - for reducing excess nutrient loads within specific tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay.

The program is funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Targeted Watersheds Grants Program, and is administered by the Foundation in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The program will award grants ranging from \$400,000 to \$1 million on a competitive basis to projects that target and reflect the diverse conditions (e.g., urban, rural, suburban) and sources of nutrients (e.g., agricultural, stormwater, other non-point sources) existing throughout the Chesapeake watershed.

Priorities for funding include:

- Field-scale demonstrations of innovative technologies, conservation practices and Best Management Practices with potential to significantly reduce excess nutrient loads;
- Demonstrations, within targeted small watersheds, of the most effective and efficient strategies for implementing nutrient load reductions contained in state Tributary Strategies;
- Water quality trading demonstrations (including point source to non-point source) and other market-based strategies to reduce nutrient loads to the Bay and its tributaries; and
- Demonstrations of strategies that overcome barriers to adoption of the most effective and efficient BMPs and conservation practices for reducing excess nutrient loads.

Nonprofit organizations, universities, local or state governments are eligible for the program.

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For more information, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watersheds Grant Program webpage](#).

PA Conservation Corps Grants Available From Labor & Industry

The Department of Labor and Industry announced it is now accepting applications for [PA Conservation Corps](#) grants for conservation, recreation, graffiti removal, historic preservation and other projects.

The deadline for applications is January 5. Eligible applicants include political subdivisions.

The PCC program is designed to provide work experience and educational opportunities to unemployed young adults as they undertake projects on public lands.

Funds can be used to purchase construction materials and to contract for services. Political subdivisions are required to have a 25 percent cash match.

Applications are available online and questions should be directed to the [PA Conservation Corps webpage](#), 717-783-6385 or by sending email to: pcc@state.pa.us.

Guidelines Published for Nominating, Designating Critical Water Planning Areas

The Department this week published final guidelines for nominating proposed Critical Water Planning Areas where existing or future demands for water exceeds or threatens to exceed the safe yield of water available.

Nominations for CWPAs can be made by any person or organization or may be initiated by DEP or a member of a regional or the statewide water resources planning committee.

The new guidelines outline the criteria DEP and the committees will use in reviewing CWPA nominations, including: size of the area, time horizon, existing and future demand for water, population projections, withdrawal and non-withdrawal uses, safe yield from available resources and others.

The guidelines specify the information required to be submitted and the steps in the nomination process.

Ultimately the Secretary of DEP makes the designation based on recommendations by the statewide water resources planning committee.

After a CWPA is designated, a detailed process is begun to do a Critical Water Area Plan to catalogue the demand for water and options available to meet that demand and a special advisory committee will be set up to help guide planning efforts.

For more information, visit the [Water Resources Planning webpage](#) and for questions contact Susan Weaver, DEP, 717-783-8055 or send email to: suweaver@state.pa.us and follow the links to the final guidance documents and the law here--

Links: [Critical Water Planning Areas Guidance](#)
[Critical Water Planning Areas Guidance Summary](#)
[Act 220 Water Resources Planning Act](#)

DEP Requests Comments on Proposed TMDLs in 5 Counties

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The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting comments on five proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plans for watersheds in Armstrong, Butler, Jefferson, Somerset and Venango counties--

Pine Run Watershed, Armstrong & Jefferson counties: A public meeting will be held on October 4 at the Jefferson County Conservation District Office, Brookville starting at 3:00 p.m. Comments due: November 29. Contact: Ely Heferle, 814-797-1191 or by sending email to: ehferle@state.pa.us .

North Branch Bear Creek Watershed, Butler County: A public meeting will be held on October 11 at 2:00 at the USDA Service Center Building in Butler. Comments due: November 29. Contact: Contact: Ely Heferle, 814-797-1191 or by sending email to: ehferle@state.pa.us .

Little Scrubgrass Creek, Butler & Venango counties: A public meeting will be held October 11 at 2:00 p.m. USDA Service Center Building in Butler. Comments due: November 29. Contact: Contact: Ely Heferle, 814-797-1191 or by sending email to: ehferle@state.pa.us .

Foundry Run, Jefferson County: A public meeting will be held on October 4 at the Jefferson County Conservation District Office, Brookville starting at 3:00 p.m. Comments due: November 29. Contact: Ely Heferle, 814-797-1191 or by sending email to: ehferle@state.pa.us .

Glades Creek, Somerset County: A public meeting will be held on October 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Somerset REC Building, 223 Industrial Park Road, Somerset to take questions and comments. Comments due November 13. Contact: Joe Boyland by sending email to: joboylan@state.pa.us .

For a copy of the proposed TMDLs and more information, visit [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

Pittsburgh Voyager Now RiverQuest, New Flagship On the Way



RiverQuest

Pittsburgh Voyager, the river-based environmental education organization that provides school programs and private charters aboard its fleet, will operate under its new name [RiverQuest](#).

At the same time, the organization revealed that it has named its new flagship vessel Explorer. The new boat, which is regarded as one of the first "green" passenger vessels in the world, was engineered and designed to be environmentally friendly. It includes a state-of-the-art hybrid propulsion system and a range of technologies and alternative energy sources.

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According to RiverQuest Executive Director Karl Thomas, the new boat's name captures the essence of the organization's mission and fits thematically with the names of the other vessels in the fleet.

"The name 'Explorer' truly represents what we are all about," said Thomas. "It's meant to capture the excitement of what we do through our Sustainability Education Program and reflects the 'leading edge' –nature of our mission. No one else anywhere does quite what we do; no one has a vessel quite like Explorer; and no one will have the extraordinary onboard technology that we have to support exploration and learning.

"Our name change reflects the increase in programming that we are delivering beyond Pittsburgh," added Thomas. "We are now serving schools in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland counties in Pennsylvania, and our expansion plans in the next year take us into Ohio and West Virginia. We feel strongly that 'RiverQuest' is a name that all of our constituents will relate to very well and, like the name for the new boat, embraces all that we do," he concluded.

The name changes were made in conjunction with the opening of RiverQuest's fall programming for area schools, and more than 100 students from Colfax Upper Elementary School in the Allegheny Valley School District were in attendance, having participated in onboard school programming during the day.

Thomas described the intensive activities underway to prepare for the boat's arrival in October, and detailed the boat's 16-day journey "upriver" from its Florida shipyard.

"The past several months have truly been transformational for the organization," said Thomas. "The new boat ushers in an exciting new era for our organization and for our programming as we create new Sustainability Education Programs involving the issues and principles of sustainability," he added.

Thomas said the new 90' x 25' 150-passenger flagship vessel will provide a platform for the education programs, expanding students' understanding of sustainability, natural resource use, and the importance of energy efficiency.

"It's also a teaching tool in its own right," said Thomas. "The new boat is more than just a mode of transportation to get us out on the rivers: it will actually be a part of the learning experience for everyone who comes onboard. It will serve as a demonstration of important environmental, sustainability principles and alternative energy resources."

Board Chair Howard S. "Chip" Berger expressed his appreciation to those who have provided support to the ongoing campaign to fund the vessel. "We are most appreciative of the support we have received from the philanthropic community, as well as corporations, the state and federal government, and private individuals. We still have a ways to go before we reach our goal and we're confident that community-wide support will help put us over the top," said Berger.

The Heinz Endowments provided lead funding for the boat, and numerous other private and corporate foundations, as well as government sources, have followed The Endowments' lead. These include: Alcoa, Inc.; ALCOSAN; Eden Hall Foundation; Equitable Resources Foundation; The Charles A. Brooks and Anna Cloyde Brooks Foundation through the PNC Advisors Charitable Trust Committee; The Fisher Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation; Giant Eagle Foundation; H.J. Heinz Company Foundation; Hillman Foundation; Howard & Nell E. Miller Foundation; Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation; Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Department of

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Environmental Protection; Richard King Mellon Foundation; Robert and Mary Weisbrod Foundation; William V. and Catherine A. McKinney Foundation; and donors that wish to remain anonymous.

Since launching its programming in 1995 RiverQuest has served more than 55,000 middle and high school students through its experiential river-based learning programs. These students represent 227 schools from 65 school districts in 11 counties in western Pennsylvania. Along with students, more than 2,500 teachers and college students, and 15,000 members of the general public have participated in RiverQuest programs.

For more information call 412-231-2712 or visit [RiverQuest's website](#).

Link: [Watch the launch of the new RiverQuest Boat](#).

Westmoreland County Conservation District Plants First Green Roof

The nursery industry's contention that "Fall is for planting" took a new twist September 30 as staff members of the [Westmoreland Conservation District](#) and volunteers from local conservation organizations take to the roof of the GreenForge building on Donohoe Road in Greensburg to plant more than 6,000 sedums.

The effort will officially create Westmoreland County's first-ever green roof.

GreenForge, a 25-year-old building once used as a commercial business incubator, is being rehabilitated with green materials, energy-conserving technologies, and best management practices.

The Conservation District plans to use the 23,000-square-foot building in its education and outreach program as a way to encourage regional builders, designers, and architects to use low-environmental-impact, and sustainable technologies in their buildings.

One of the leading-edge technologies to be demonstrated at GreenForge is green-roof technology. Two of GreenForge's flat roofs, which have a combined surface area of 9,000 square feet, have been specially designed to be covered with living, green plants.

A green roof is a natural way to moderate building temperature (and so reduce the amount of energy needed to heat and cool the building), reduce stormwater runoff (and so alleviate pressure on the local sewer system), enhance air quality by absorbing and converting carbon dioxide and producing oxygen, insulate sound, and improve aesthetics.

In Allegheny County, Carnegie-Mellon University and Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens are among the places to have buildings with green roofs.

The team that is working to design, install, and guarantee GreenForge's green roof includes TMR Roofing (Tuscano-Maher Roofing Inc.), the W.P. Hickman Company, and Green Roof Service LLC – all which worked on Carnegie-Mellon University's Hammerschlag Hall green roof project.

GreenForge's green roof began last spring with a brand new traditional roof system. This structural reinforcing was necessary because, in general, green roofs must support more load per square foot than conventional flat roofs. GreenForge's green roof will weigh about 20 pounds per square foot.

Next, a 1/4"-thick, 100 percent recycled filter fabric was laid down on the roof, and topped with waffled, 50 percent-recycled plastic sheets called drainage plates. Water is

retained within the pockets on the upper sides of the drainage plates; excess water spills over the edges and is carried off the roof.

The plates were topped with another, thinner layer of recycled filter fabric and about three inches of planting media – a blend of inorganic and organic soil components. The filter fabrics, drainage plates, and planting media all were manufactured according to strict German FLL standards, which are equivalent to the US ASTM standards, and installed in the past week. Green roofs have been extensively used in Germany for more than 25 years.

The final step in creating the green roof is installing the living plants. Nine types of sedums, one species of delosperma and one species of talinum will be planted. The 6,000 total individual plants were grown specifically for the GreenForge building by a greenhouse in Maryland.

The planting will be done by Westmoreland Conservation staff and volunteers, including members of the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County.

GreenForge is located on the Donohoe Road in Greensburg, about one mile from Westmoreland Mall. Partial funding for the green roof has been provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Energy Harvest Grant Program, and the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund.

Link: [Westmoreland County's Conservation Campus Expands to GreenForge](#)

Park the Plow No-Till Program Taking Applications in Central PA

If you're in the South Central PA Region and are looking for ways to cut down on your diesel fuel bill or wish you could find some extra time to get things done ...we may have the answer, because no-till farming can do both as well as keep soil where it belongs- on the field.

“Park the Plow for Profit” is a new no-till assistance program that is now taking applications from farmers in the South Central PA region.

The objective of the program is to encourage the adoption of continuous no-till cropping systems in the lower Susquehanna Valley, specifically Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties. This is the area covered by the [Capital Resource Conservation and Development Area Council](#), administrators of the project.

Park the Plow for Profit was designed to address some of the barriers to no-till adoption such as equipment costs as well as education and technical information. The need for technical knowledge to make the transition to no-till successful will be included in the form of a landowner payment for the services of a Certified Crop Adviser, to develop a “transition plan” for the acreage enrolled in the program. A fundamental principle of the program is that no-till farming has to be done by managing a total cropping system in order to be successful.

According to John Rowehl, Extension Educator in Agronomy, “Decisions about crop varieties, manure and fertilizer application, pest control tactics, crop rotations and the use of cover crops all need to be done in recognition that no-till systems are not simply the same as tilled systems without the tillage.”

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To help address the issue of the costs to convert to no-till, there will be a per acre payment made available for technical services throughout the transition period, as well as a payment for the practice, if so desired by the farmer. Many farmers who are successful in no-till have expressed that no-till works best when it is continuous no-till. Consequently, continuous no-till is the ultimate goal of this program and participation in it means that a grower will need to commit the acreage to no-till for three to five years.

No-till cropping is a very cost effective soil erosion control practice. It is also a way to significantly reduce fuel use. Now, more than ever, we face tighter and more expensive supplies of petroleum as world consumption continues to grow. There has never been a better time to conserve. No-till: Save fuel.....Save time.....Save soil.

The Capital RC&D Council has partnered with the Department of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Penn State Cooperative Extension and participating county conservation districts to develop the program.

For more information or your county's contacts for the program, call the [Capital RC&D Council](#) office at 717-948-6633.

Sustainable Agriculture Grants Now Available, Apply in November, December

The [Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program](#) offers four different grant programs to explore innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture, all with application deadlines are in the late fall and early winter.

Several different types of grants are available—

Sustainable Community Grants are for projects that connect farming and economic development. Projects can address issues like land use, nutrition, employment, markets, education, public policy, and other facets of rural development. Applicants must be affiliated with an organization such as a community nonprofit, Cooperative Extension, local government, an educational institution, a planning board, farming cooperative, or an incorporated citizens group. This grant is offered in partnership with the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development. Awards are capped at \$10,000, and the application deadline is November 28.

This year, Northeast SARE will also offer the **Appalachian Initiative** as part of its Sustainable Community program. Applicants in West Virginia and selected counties in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York can seek funds for innovative farm-based renewable energy projects and for adding value to farm products. This grant is offered in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission. Awards are capped at \$25,000, and the deadline is November 28.

Partnership Grants are for Cooperative Extension, NRCS, and other service providers who work directly with farmers. Partnership Grants support on-farm research and demonstration projects in sustainable agriculture, and funds can be used to pay for personnel, materials, sampling, supplies, testing, and to compensate cooperating farmers for their time. Awards are capped at \$10,000 and the deadline is December 5.

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Farmer Grants are for commercial farmers who would like to test a sustainable new practice, often by conducting an experiment, trial, or on-farm demonstration. Projects can explore a wide range of topics such as pest management, soil health, renewable energy, adding value, marketing, or new production techniques, and funds can be used for materials and to pay farmers for their time. The application is straightforward and comes with a how-to guide that gives examples from past applications. Awards are capped at \$10,000 and the deadline is December 22.

For more information, visit the [Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program webpage](#) or call 802-656-0471. (*courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York County](#)*)

Nutrient Management Update Meeting Offered to Dauphin County Farmers

The Dauphin County Conservation District will host a free informational meeting October 18 about changes to Pennsylvania's nutrient management law (Act 38) as it pertains to local farmers.

The meeting will be held at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resource Center in Dauphin.

Act 38 (formerly Act 6) regulations will take effect October 1, and will apply to farmers, manure haulers and brokers, and some equine operations. This meeting will cover nutrient management grants and plan updates, regulations for Concentrated Animal Operations and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, odor management, and the Agri-Link program.

Representatives from the State Conservation Commission, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the conservation district will be available to answer participants' questions.

Light refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is required. Please call 717-921-8100 for pre-registration and directions.

National 4-H Youth Action Grant Applications Due October 20

The National 4-H Council and Cumberland Farms, Inc. are sponsoring the [2007 Youth in Action Grants](#) is to implement youth-led service learning projects that address a community need and incorporate the Essential Elements of 4-H.

Applications are due October 20.

The goal of the Grantees must reach a minimum of 100 youth and 30 adult and teen volunteer leaders for each \$1,400 grant awarded. Only 4-H/Extension Programs within Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Vermont are eligible to apply.

All proposals must be emailed by the State 4-H Youth Development Program Leader or University Extension Administrator as appropriate for the 1862, 1890 and 1994 land-grant institution. It is the responsibility of the applicant to facilitate this process so that the application arrives by the deadline.

For more information, visit the [2007 Youth in Action Grants webpage](#) or if you have any questions, please email agustafson@fourhcouncil.edu .

PA Center for Environmental Education at National Children & Nature Conference

In an effort to create stronger connections between children and the outdoors and to address the disturbing increase in children's health issues, including obesity, diabetes and attention disorders, Kathleen Paul, Director of the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#), joined with 350 educators, developers, health professionals and conservationists at the [National Children and Nature Conference](#).

National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia to discuss the problems associated with what journalist and best-selling author Richard Louv has dubbed "nature deficit disorder."

The conference, convened by the Conservation Fund, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Louv, was the nation's largest gathering on children and nature.

Louv is the author of *Last Child in the Woods*, which has been a catalyst for discussions among educators, health professionals, pop culture experts, developers and conservationists. Among the attendees at the symposium were Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall, The Conservation Fund's President Larry Selzer, Executive Director of the North American Montessori Teachers' Association David Kahn and Yale University's Stephen Kellert.

Paul was one of four Pennsylvanians invited to participate in the symposium.

"The PCEE is dedicated to making environmental education resources available to every Pennsylvanian," she commented. "And while it's important to ensure that every child receives a basic understanding of the environment as mandated by the Department of Education's Standards, the research brought to light by this symposium shows that it's also critical that every child has opportunities to play in a natural setting. We're committed to working with our partners across the commonwealth to make that possible."

"For eons, human beings spent most of their formative years in nature, but within the space of a few decades, the way children in many Western countries understand and experience nature has changed radically, with profound implications for mental and physical health, cognitive development, creativity, and for the future of nature itself," said Louv.

Together, some of the nation's most influential and inspirational minds - business leaders, high-ranking elected officials, foundation presidents, medical professionals and educators - focused on identifying key disconnects between children and nature within four areas: health, media and culture, education and the urban and built environment.

"Spending time outdoors, fishing and just playing around in the woods, was an important part of my childhood," said H. Dale Hall, director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. "Our kids need to have chances to tromp through a woodlot or muck around in a creek. That's the foundation of a healthy relationship with the outdoors and a way to spark a conservation ethic."

The [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) was created by Executive Order of the Governor in 1997 to "provide an avenue for increased participation of educators, local officials, citizen and non-profit groups, business and industry as partners in the implementation of quality environmental education on a state-wide basis."

Administered by the PA State System of Higher Education, PCEE is housed at Slippery Rock University.

\$11.7 Million in Recreation and Conservation Projects Funded by DCNR

Recreation, greenway and rivers conservation projects in 25 counties will benefit from more than \$11.7 million in grants announced this week by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Statewide, the grants will fund a variety of projects including the acquisition of land or conservation easements for 3,732 acres, and 17 planning projects for regional parks, greenways and rivers conservation.

These grants also will continue the popular river sojourns that increase public awareness about rivers and watersheds and provide training and education to municipalities about Conservation by Design planning concepts.

The largest grants are \$1 million to Berks County for acquisition of 560 acres including Antietam Lake in Lower Alsace Township, Berks County, and to the Natural Lands Trust for the protection of three properties totaling 261 acres in Newlin Township, Chester County.

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

PPL Signs Agreement to Purchase Additional Wind Power

The energy marketing subsidiary of PPL Corporation has signed a power purchase agreement for wind power that will add more renewable energy to the company's diverse generation portfolio.

PPL EnergyPlus has signed the agreement with Locust Ridge Wind Farm, LLC. The agreement calls for PPL EnergyPlus to purchase energy, capacity and renewable attributes from the Locust Ridge Wind Farm Project for 20 years once the project achieves commercial operation, which is expected to occur in the first quarter of 2007.

Locust Ridge will be located in Mahanoy City, Schuylkill County, Pa., and is expected to have a capability, when running to maximum capacity, to produce 26 megawatts of electricity, which is enough electricity to power about 20,000 homes.

The project is being developed by Community Energy, Inc., which is owned by IBERDROLA, of Spain. Gamesa Corp., also of Spain, is the manufacturer of the turbines for the project. Gamesa has a manufacturing plant in western Pennsylvania.

"PPL is increasing the amount of renewable energy in its generation portfolio, and the Locust Ridge agreement represents an attractive addition to PPL's portfolio," said Clarence J. Hopf Jr., president of PPL EnergyPlus. Hopf said that about 10 percent of the energy PPL markets comes from renewable sources such as wind power, hydroelectric generation, solar, fuel cells and landfill methane gas generation.

"This agreement with Locust Ridge furthers PPL's commitment to providing energy responsibly and balancing the need for affordable, reliable power with environmental concerns," Hopf said.

NewsClip: [PPL Invests in Wind Power](#)

[PPL Pursues Strategy to Limit Rate Increases Over Next 3 Years](#)

PUC Seeks Recommendations on Increasing Energy Efficiency, Conservation

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The Public Utility Commission this week [began an investigation](#) into cost-effective and reasonable efforts that natural gas and electric utilities can take to help consumers conserve energy or use it more efficiently.

“As we anticipate another winter of high energy prices, there is an acute need to find ways to assist utility customers in dealing with high natural gas and electric bills,” said Commission Vice Chairman James Cawley in the motion initiating the investigation

“Any comprehensive plan must necessarily include efforts to encourage customers to reduce their use of energy through conservation and energy efficiency. The best way to reduce a customer’s energy bill in this environment of intensifying world energy prices is by empowering consumers to take action to be more efficient and continuing to educate customers on how to use less energy and to efficiently use only what is required.”

The Commission voted unanimously to reconvene its Demand Side Response Working Group asking them to provide specific recommendations that will allow the Commission to act on their findings and conclusions before May 15, 2007.

Commissioner Bill Shane offered a [friendly amendment to the motion](#) that asked for further examination of a program offered by Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited, which they call the “10/10 Program.”

“The program focuses on rewarding residential and small commercial customers for achieving specific conservation goals,” Commissioner Shane said. “I have often felt that many believed that demand response programs have been the domain of large commercial and industrial customers. It seemed to me that frequently, the potential for small customers to also participate had been greatly discounted.”

During the course of the investigation, the working group will examine:

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation** by suggesting ways to encourage consumers to reduce usage and increase energy efficiency as partners with utilities and other service providers while doing so in a cost-effective manner.
- **Demand Side Response** by exploring different approaches to create incentives for customers to reduce energy usage during peak cost periods thereby reducing energy bills and simultaneously enhancing overall system reliability.
- **Advanced Metering Infrastructure** by examining more closely the potential benefits and costs for utilities and consumers such as reduced operational costs, improved customer service, quicker emergency response, improved reliability and better capability to participate in demand response programs and retail choice alternatives.
- **Rate Making Mechanisms** by exploring the usefulness and appropriateness of ratemaking mechanisms that remove any disincentives that might presently exist for energy utilities to pursue aggressive energy conservation initiatives.

The goal of the investigation is to permit the Commission to review available evidence of the need for and the costs and benefits of various programs and approaches that will support moving forward with a comprehensive and consistent energy policy.

The Demand Side Response Working Group originally was created following a Demand Side Response Roundtable held in November 2000. The purpose of the meeting was to start the discussion on how electric use could be curtailed during peak demand periods.

Clients of SBDC Environmental Assistance Program Win Energy Awards

What do all six Pennsylvania winners of the [EPA Excellence in Energy Efficiency Awards](#) reported last week have in common? They benefited from the Small Business Development Center's [Environmental Management Assistance Program](#).

In an update to the *Digest* story last week, we learned that these winners were clients of the SBDC's Environmental Management Assistance Program office at Penn State, which performs free and confidential environmental compliance and energy efficiency on-site assessments for small to mid-sized businesses—

- **Recumbent BikeRiders Inc.**, based in State College, requested that EMAP conduct an energy assessment, which found that there was significant heat loss through the store's 20-year-old single-pane windows. After implementing EMAP's recommendations, the store's energy consumption was reduced by 33 percent, for savings estimated at \$860 annually. They were assisted by Penn State SBDC.
- **Music Mart**, based in State College, contacted EMAP for an energy assessment. The assessment found that the business's heavy use of incandescent lighting to showcase musical instruments generated a significant heat load that required the use of air conditioners, even during winter months. After performing the lighting upgrade, the store reduced its electricity consumption and is saving \$1,840 per year. They were assisted by Penn State SBDC.
- **TJ Markets** in Hughesville made several energy efficiency improvements based on EMAP's recommendations -- including upgrading lighting and installing programmable thermostats. The business reduced its energy costs by \$8,600 annually. They were assisted by Lock Haven University SBDC.
- **Tripp's Grill & Six Pack** in North Bend requested an energy assessment to decrease its energy costs and improve its bottom line. One EMAP recommendation was to replace four inefficient beverage coolers with one walk-in cooler. The change resulted in a \$150 savings the first month alone. They were assisted by Lock Haven University SBDC.
- **Susquehanna Fire Equipment Co.** in Dewart sought out EMAP's help in determining how to cut energy costs. Improvements based on EMAP's assessment are saving the company more than \$2,280 annually. Such improvements included adding door seals, installing new insulation and removing unnecessary lighting. They were assisted by Bucknell University SBDC.
- **Gehman & Company of Mechanicsburg** took possession of an outdated supermarket in late 2003 and contacted the Kutztown University SBDC to request an energy audit from EMAP. Remodeling the store was necessary and Gehman was interested in making investments in energy efficiency. As part of the remodel, a new lighting system and energy-efficient HVAC equipment was installed, programmable thermostats and occupancy sensors were added, and unnecessary water heaters were disconnected. The newly remodeled store now saves \$4,700 on energy costs.

For additional information, visit the [EMAP webpage](#).

DOE Conducts Industrial Energy Assessment in Pennsylvania

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The U.S. Department of Energy announced it is conducting a three-day Industrial Energy Saving Assessments at the General Dynamics facility in Red Lion, York County.

The no-cost assessment is part of a comprehensive national energy efficiency initiative with major manufacturing facilities to identify energy- and money-saving opportunities, primarily by focusing on steam and process heating systems.

General Dynamics has leading market positions in mission-critical information systems and technologies; land and expeditionary combat systems, armaments and munitions; shipbuilding and marine systems; and business aviation.

Companies interested in accessing DOE energy saving resources can get more details at the [Save Energy Now webpage](#) and request brochures detailing “15 Tips to Help Your Plant Save Energy.”

For tips on easy, inexpensive steps consumers can take to reduce their energy bills, please visit the [Energy Savers webpage](#) or call DOE’s Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Hotline at 1-877-337-3463.

Penn State Environmental Sustainability Curriculum Receives NSF Grant

The National Science Foundation has awarded Penn State a three-year, \$400,000 grant for integrating sustainability in the curriculum.

The grant will fund "Teaching Sustainability in Engineering Through Public Scholarship." The principal investigators on the grant are David Riley, associate professor of architectural engineering and director of the Center for Sustainability, and Carol Colbeck, director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education.

Riley stated that the grant will help foster project-based learning and service to the environment and communities.

"Many universities are looking at how to integrate sustainability in the curriculum." Riley said. "This project will explore how projects in green design and sustainability can make a difference to both students and communities."

The project will focus on existing project-based courses and ways to help faculty introduce environmental context, foster the notion of service and develop action skills. Riley added that the grant would be used to develop a tool to help faculty integrate and demonstrate sustainability to their courses.

The basis for the project was formed through the American Indian Housing Initiative, a research program and popular course series in which Penn State students help to design and build green buildings on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

EPA Will Recognize Community Development Improvements for Older Adults

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and partner agencies have announced the "[Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging](#)" program to recognize communities that factor into community planning, environmental considerations and the need for older adults to be physically active.

The goal of the program is to raise awareness about the importance of linking Smart Growth with the need for and desire by older adults to be physically active.

Smart Growth is characterized by development patterns that create attractive, distinctive, walkable communities that give people of varying age, wealth, and physical

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ability a range of safe, affordable, convenient choices where they live and how they get around. Growing smart also ensures that existing resources are used efficiently and that lands and buildings that shape communities are preserved.

The program will recognize community planning and development that improves quality of life for older adults in U.S. counties, cities and towns, including American Indian communities. Active Aging calls attention to the need for older adults to regularly participate in a variety of structured and unstructured physical activities. Communities can promote active aging by implementing a diverse selection of accessible physical activity programs, and by helping to make self-directed physical activity opportunities for those 60-plus more accessible.

The EPA's Aging Initiative program will spearhead this multi-agency effort, which was developed in partnership with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Council on Aging's Center for Healthy Aging, and the National Blueprint Office.

Additionally, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, through its Active for Life program, will support a Healthy Communities for Active Aging Learning Network for participating communities and American Indian tribes.

Visit [Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging online](#) to learn more.

Grants Now Available for Diesel Emission Reduction Projects

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3's [Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative](#) has announced the availability of \$300,000 in grant funds for projects to reduce diesel emissions in the region.

Proposals are due by October 31.

EPA Region 3 will fund diesel emission-reduction projects in the freight, urban fleet, construction and ports sectors. The Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative is a voluntary partnership of federal, state and local agencies, communities, non-profit organizations and private companies working together to reduce emissions from diesel engines in the Mid-Atlantic region.

For more information and an application, visit the [Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative webpage](#).

Abington Eco Art Fest Set for October 15 in Jenkintown

The open space at [Abington Art Center](#) will take center stage at the [first Eco Art Fest](#), an event that celebrates the environmental focus of the Sculpture Park. Visitors will be able to experience the birds, trees and artwork found in the park first-hand through talks and tours with experts.

Partnering organizations include: Delaware Estuary Partners, Birding with Ruth, Morris Arboretum's Mark O'Brien, Pennypack Farms Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, and Penn State's Cooperative Extension.

Visitors to Eco Art Fest can treat themselves to give-aways from Whole Foods Market and chair massages from Pierre & Carlo. Abington Art Center's Gallery Shop will have a Garden Marketplace with unique gift items for the nature lover and gardener.

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Native plants, birdseed and seasonal produce will be available for purchase and finally, visitors can sign-up for a chance to win a rain barrel.

"Art can reach across disciplines and help bridge the gap between art and life by raising awareness and appreciation of our natural resources," said curator Amy Lipton, "artworks can reflect our relationship with the larger, living eco-system."

The Center's gallery exhibitions and Sculpture Park often have an environmental focus and Eco Art Fest will include Sculpture Park Tours with curator Amy Lipton. On site that day will be sculpture park artists Chysanne Stathacos and Brandon Ballengée. Brandon will be actively working on his woodland sculpture-in-progress. Also gallery artist Stacy Levy will be giving an illustrated talk about how art can translate natural processes.

Eco Art Fest - Abington Art Center, will be held from 12 to 4pm RAIN or SHINE. An afternoon of art, environmental tours and workshops in Abington Art Center's Sculpture Park. FREE Admission; donations accepted. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather.

[Download the Eco Art Fest brochure](#) or contact Heather Rutledge, Abington Art Center, 215-887-4882 x207 for more information.

National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebrates Sportsmen and Sportswomen

As part of the National Hunting and Fishing Day celebrations, officials from the [Game Commission](#), [Fish and Boat Commission](#) and the [Governor's Youth Hunting, Fishing and Conservation Council](#) were joined by several respected statewide sportsmen's organizations to highlight the various benefits that Pennsylvanians receive from hunting, trapping and fishing.

Those sportsmen's clubs participating in the event were: the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania, the Ruffed Grouse Society and the Pennsylvania Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

"It has been said many times that sportsmen and sportswomen were America's first conservationists," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "It was the hunters, trappers and anglers who were the first to raise their voices about the need for conservation."

Roe noted that, in the late 1800s, hunters, trappers and anglers were the ones who first decried the losses afield from the commercialization of wildlife and the destruction of wildlife habitat.

"Sportsmen were some of the first Americans to recognize the toll of pollution on fish and wildlife, and the need to preserve our wild spaces," Roe said. "Names like Roosevelt, Hornaday, Leopold and Audubon, were hunters first before they became names that are revered today.

"And, even to this day, hunters, trappers and anglers continue to almost solely fund fish and wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania, as well as managing Pennsylvania's wildlife through hunting and trapping. There is no question that sportsmen and sportswomen play a vital role in supporting the state economy, as well as the economic well-being of many rural areas of the Commonwealth."

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Roe noted that, according to a 1998 Center for Rural Pennsylvania study, hunting, trapping and fishing have a \$9.6 billion annual economic impact on the state and support some 88,000 jobs.

Dr. Douglas Austen, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission executive director, said that Pennsylvania also has played an historical role in these activities.

"Pennsylvania has been the birthplace of many fishing firsts," Dr. Austen said. "The country's first fishing club was formed in Philadelphia in 1732, the nation's first fishing magazine and first fishing book were published here and, throughout history, the Keystone state has been home to many important angling innovators who popularized the sport across the country.

"Today, Pennsylvania remains a top fishing destination for anglers who travel here to sample our famous trout streams and world-class bass fisheries."

Each year, nearly two million people, including about 500,000 children, go fishing in Pennsylvania. Residents and visitors combine to take some 18 million fishing trips in the Commonwealth annually. But, anglers aren't the only ones making a prize catch; fishing is a real trophy for Pennsylvania's economy.

Austen noted that several studies have documented the economic contributions from sportfishing in Pennsylvania. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Sportfishing Association estimate fishing and fishing-related activities generate more than \$1.6 billion for Pennsylvania's economy each year. The Center for Rural Pennsylvania projects the positive economic impact at \$4.7 billion annually.

"Sportfishing in Pennsylvania supports 14,000 jobs and generates \$53 million in annual revenue for the state's general fund through sales and income taxes," Austen said. Roe and Austen pointed out that, in 1970, the first to suggest an official day of thanks to sportsmen was Ira Joffe, owner of Joffe's Gun Shop in Upper Darby, Delaware County. Then Gov. Raymond Shafer adopted Joffe's idea and created "Outdoor Sportsman's Day" in the state.

With determined prompting from various sportsmen, the concept soon emerged on the national level when, in early 1972, Congress unanimously passed legislation authorizing a National Hunting and Fishing Day. On May 2, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the first proclamation of National Hunting and Fishing Day, and soon after, all 50 governors and more than 600 mayors had joined in by proclaiming state and local versions of National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Help Wanted: Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, Western PA Conservancy

Keep Philadelphia Beautiful and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy are looking for individuals to fill these two positions....

Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, an organization dedicated to anti-litter and beautification projects in the City of Philadelphia, is looking for a new executive director.

The position's responsibilities include: prepare, review and submit reports concerning activities, expenses, budget and other items affecting business or program services, consults with staff and others in government, business and private organizations to discuss issues, coordinate activities and resolve problems, implement corrective action plan to solve problems and make presentations, deliver speeches, write articles and present

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information for organization at meetings to promote services, exchange ideas and accomplish objectives.

Inquiries and resumes should be directed to: Mr. Carlton Williams, Deputy Streets Commissioner, City of Philadelphia, 1401 JFK. Blvd, Municipal Ser. Bldg, Rm. 780, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1664 or sent by email to: Carlton Williams at: carlton.williams@phila.gov and Frank Leo at: Frank.Leo@phila.gov .

The [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) has an opening for an experienced Aquatic Science Director who will lead aquatic science elements in all aspects of WPC's conservation strategies and projects.

The position is responsible for supporting and increasing science capacity in the Freshwater Conservation Program and across the organization. The director will help improve WPC's ability to conserve, protect and restore regional biodiversity by providing aquatic conservation science expertise during analysis, planning and implementation activities. Position can be located either in Pittsburgh or Blairsville.

The successful candidate will have an advanced degree in aquatic ecosystem topic and minimum ten years experience in conservation biology-related fields with expertise in freshwater systems. Thesis based degrees preferred.

5-7 years experience with hands-on projects to remediate watershed problems as well as experience completing watershed assessments, protection plans, restoration plans, and monitoring plans is required. Familiarity with watershed assessment and planning required. Research experience desirable.

This is a full time position offering a competitive salary and excellent benefits. If you are interested please send a letter, resume and salary requirements to: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Senior Director, Human Resources, Box R, Mill Run, PA 15464 or send email to: nbassett@paconserve.org .

See and Hear

Congressional Action on Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds Urged

John Dawes, [Western PA Watershed Program](#), provided participants in the Upper Susquehanna River Conference last week with an update on efforts by the PA AML Coalition to get legislation passed in Congress to reauthorize the federal fee that supports the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. He urged everyone to contact their U.S. Senate and House representatives and urge them to act before Congress adjourns for their election recess. [Watch Dawes' comments on AML Fund reauthorization on the PaED Video Blog.](#)

NewsClips: [Op-Ed: Congress, Senate Must Cleanup Abandoned Mines](#)
[Editorial: Mine Reclamation Aid Deserves a Separate Vote](#)
[Op-Ed: Abandoned Mine Funds Deserve to be Released](#)

Alternative Practices for Highway Stormwater Management Webcasts

Be sure to tune in for the last two programs of the [Izaak Walton League's four-part Webcast series](#) Alternative Practices for Highway Stormwater Management on October 26 and December 7.

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The series addresses the latest techniques available to help transportation agencies save money, comply with water regulations, and improve water quality with context-sensitive stormwater management and low impact development techniques.

The two programs are Design, Construction and Maintenance Part One October 26, 1-2:30 p.m. EDT and Part Two December 7, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Please note that the program scheduled for September 21 was postponed to December 7.

Both programs will include detailed case studies of successful projects and will provide valuable information about how to design, construct and maintain stormwater management techniques that use existing rights of way immediately adjacent to the roadway.

You can view archived versions of the first two programs: Introduction to Alternative Practices to Manage Highway Runoff and Planning Highway Projects Using Alternative Practices for Stormwater Management.

DVD copies are available for group viewings by request to awm@iwla.org .

This on-line training series is made possible with support from the Center for Transportation and the Environment, the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Visit the [Izaak Walton League's four-part Webcast series webpage](#) to register and to see archived program.

Pennsylvania Capitol Turns 100, See Special Online Tour



Pennsylvania's Capitol Building officially turns 100 years old next week and to mark the event, what this special behind the scenes tour of the building through this online video.

This special [Focus on Pennsylvania video](#) was produced by the Senate Republican Communications Office.

Follow A Leader

Skyline Pittsburgh-Exhibit Place Wins Award for Energy Efficiency, So Can You!

The Department of Environmental Protection this week honored Skyline Pittsburgh – Exhibit Place Inc. for implementing energy efficiency improvements that nearly cut the small business's annual energy costs in half and helped to fuel its expansion into a new facility in McKees Rocks, Allegheny County.

These initiatives won the company the [2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) and you can now apply for the [2007 Governor's Award Program](#).

Exhibit Place, a tradeshow exhibit and design consulting firm, conducted an on-site assessment in April 2003 to identify cost-saving opportunities in its newly acquired building.

As a result of the assessment, the company replaced 6,000 square feet of roof and put in energy-saving foam insulation; installed double-pane windows; switched to less

energy intensive lighting, replaced one heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit and added two additional units for zoned temperature control; and added exhaust fans and ceiling fans in the warehouse and production areas to keep cool air circulating in the warmer months and warm air down in the cooler months.

The company estimates annual energy usage to drop by 17,595 kilowatt hours, a 40 percent reduction, for a savings of about \$12,800 per year. These savings alone will cover the cost of the energy efficiency project in less than five years. The reduced energy consumption also will help to cut harmful air emissions by 10.9 tons each year, an amount equal to cutting out 35,000 miles of driving.

The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence honors Pennsylvania businesses and organizations that put projects in place that take on environmental problems in ways that build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in their communities.

Here's a tip - Skyline Pittsburgh – Exhibit Place Inc. was assisted in their energy efficiency projects by the Small Business Development Center's [Environmental Management Assistance Program](#).

For more information on how you can apply, visit the [2007 Governor's Award Program webpage](#).

Opinion

House Bill 2878 – Resource Enhancement and Protection Act

Remarks By
Rep. Jerry Stern
Before the
House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
September 19, 2006



Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make a few brief comments about House Bill 2878 and the proposed REAP program before the invited panel of speakers begins.

As the Representative from a district where there is a large and viable agricultural sector dominated by family farms, I am very aware that the vast majority of these farmers put a high priority on managing their farm operations in an environmentally friendly manner. They have already voluntarily adopted many best management practices that are proven to be effective in managing nutrients appropriately and reducing nutrient and sediment loss.

Nonetheless, I believe we can document that there is considerable unmet demand from agricultural producers for financial assistance to support the adoption of additional conservation practices.

In addition to this existing demand, more and more farms are being subjected to environmental regulations as a result of recent changes to the Nutrient Management law, revisions to the CAFO regs, and to meet agriculture's obligation under the state Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

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All of this points to a critical need for new and innovative programs to assist farmers in their efforts to implement effective management practices on their farms --- practices that will ultimately benefit all citizens of the state.

Because of the desire to address this need and provide farms with the financial assistance they need to adopt additional conservation practices, I was very excited when approached by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation folks about the PA Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Tax Credit Program.

In brief, as outlined in House Bill 2878 and as you will hear more today, this program will provide tax credits for private investment in the implementation of a variety of proven and cost-effective best management practices including improvements to barnyards, pastures and riparian corridors, development and implementation of nutrient management plans, remediation of legacy sediments and other approved practices.

I introduced House Bill 2878 because I firmly believe that this new and innovative approach to encouraging the implementation of best management practices merits serious discussion by all stakeholders. But I also realize that, since it is a new approach, it will generate many questions and that it is important for committee members to gain a full understanding of the proposal before acting on House Bill 2878.

That's why I asked the chairman to convene this informational meeting and I look forward to the discussions today. I encourage all our panelists and the committee members to engage in open debate and dialogue and raise whatever issues and questions you may have.

For instance, I already am aware of concerns about the amount of money proposed in the bill, both for individual projects and as annual total tax credits, and welcome further discussion of this aspect as well as any other.

Finally, if input received today means language in the bill needs to be amended in response, then I welcome that result since it means we will have a better final product at the end.

Again, thank you Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to this afternoon's discussions.

Rep. Jerry Stern represents Blair County and can be contacted by sending email to: jstern@pahousegop.com or 717-787-9020

NewsClip: [To Save the Bay, A Fresh Funding Stream](#)
[PA Farmers Could REAP Tax Benefits Under Proposed Bill](#)
[Chesapeake Watershed States Agree to Slash Fertilizer Pollution](#)
[Save a Farm and Save the Bay](#)

Quick Clips

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

[Tunkhannock Twp. Erects Windmill](#)
[Wind Energy Gathers Speed in State](#)
[Editorial: Energy Future May Be in Wind](#)
[Energy Festival Shows People Options](#)
[Lower Makefield Joins Campaign for Clean Energy](#)

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[DEP Leader Praises Wilson College Students on Energy Light Bulb Switch is a Bright Idea](#)
[Hydrogen May Be Critical to Fueling Future Cars](#)
[Landfill Gas Use Supported by DEP, PENNDOT](#)
[Op-Ed: The Green Fleet Initiative](#)
[PPL Pursues Strategy to Limit Rate Increases Over Next 3 Years](#)
[See Rail Trail as Part of Much Bigger Picture](#)
[Yellow Breeches Water Trail Progresses Well in 2006](#)
[Volunteers to Assess South Side Graffiti](#)
[Green Space Plan Proposed for City of Pittsburgh](#)
[Editorial: We're Not Buying California Car Emissions Plan](#)
[Environmentalists Say Safe Food Options on Local Farms](#)
[\\$3.1 Million in Recycling Grants Announced](#)
[Towns Rewarded for Recycling](#)
[US Gypsum Plant Construction Begins Soon at PPL Power Plant](#)
[Editorial: Recycling Habits Pay Dividends](#)
[DEP Seeks to Redesignate Tioga County to Air Quality Attainment](#)
[Exelon Study Shows No New Tritium Leaks at Nuclear Plants](#)
[Nature Conservancy Moves PA Office to Harrisburg](#)
[Game Commission Advises Motorists to Watch for Deer](#)
[How to Avoid Bear Conflicts](#)
[From Seeds to Trees, Native Plants Take Root in Fulton County](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[High School Students Study in Stream, Not Classroom](#)
[A Watershed Event in York County](#)
[River's Health Improving – Upper Susquehanna Conference](#)
[To Save the Bay, A Fresh Funding Stream](#)
[PA Farmers Could REAP Tax Benefits Under Proposed Bill](#)
[Nutrient Trading – Helping the Chesapeake Bay](#)
[Chesapeake Watershed States Agree to Slash Fertilizer Pollution](#)
[State of Chesapeake Bay Forests](#)
[Help Forest Owners See Green for Their Bay Forest Efforts](#)
[Strategies for Chesapeake Bay Forests](#)
[New Signs Identify Area Streams](#)
[Global Cleanup Comes Home to Darby Creek](#)
[Clarion County Lists Growing Greener Grants](#)
[Gathering Examines River's Importance](#)
[Save a Farm and Save the Bay](#)
[In the Water's Way](#)
[Model Solutions Let Builders See What Can Be Done](#)
[Where Fools Rush In, They Might Foot the Bill for Flood Repairs](#)
[Office Park Tests Nature – Again](#)

[Program Offers Flood-Prone Residents Options](#)
[Drinking Water Pipes Also Spring Leaks](#)
[Delaware River Commission Approves Flood Plan](#)
[Wet Weather Woes in Pittsburgh](#)
[Can Changes Rescue Federal Flood Program?](#)
[Treatment Plants Recognized for Ensuring Safe Drinking Water](#)
[Final Phase of Mine Project Set to Begin](#)
[Ground Broken for Mine Water Treatment System](#)
[Op-Ed: Congress, Senate Must Cleanup Abandoned Mines](#)
[Editorial: Mine Reclamation Aid Deserves a Separate Vote](#)
[Op-Ed: Abandoned Mine Funds Deserve to be Released](#)
[Onorato: Team Effort Needed on Fixing Sewer Problems](#)
[State's Fisher Population Appears on an Upswing](#)
[Fish & Boat Commission Acts to Improve Fishing Access in Erie](#)
[Wildlife Waste Major Water Polluter, Studies Say](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board published [notice it had accepted a petition](#) to redesignate Bear Run in Indiana County. The Public Utility Commission published its [final policy statement on acquisitions of water and wastewater systems](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 30, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

Guidelines Published for Nominating, Designating Critical Water Planning Areas

The Department this week published final guidelines for nominating proposed Critical Water Planning Areas where existing or future demands for water exceed or threaten to exceed the safe yield of water available. (*See more detailed article in this Digest.*)

For more information, visit the [Water Resources Planning webpage](#) and for questions contact Susan Weaver, DEP, 717-783-8055 or send email to: suweaver@state.pa.us and follow the links to the final guidance documents and the law here--

Links: [Critical Water Planning Areas Guidance](#)
[Critical Water Planning Areas Guidance Summary](#)
[Act 220 Water Resources Planning Act](#)

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **October 3** – Renewable Agriculture Energy Council meeting. Penn State University. Pasquerilla Center. 10:00.
- **October 3** – House Game and Fisheries Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2918](#) (B.Smith-R-York) authorizing the collection of transaction costs associated with the PA Automated Licensing Service. Room 302 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **October 3** - Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet to consider [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) that would increase penalties for water pollution under the Clean Streams Law. Room 8E-A East Wing. 1:30.
- **October 3** – DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work Group. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **October 4** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1249](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing uniform environmental covenants provisions, [House Resolution 692](#) (Ross-R-Chester) directing the Committee to study and report on the methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, [House Bill 936](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) providing for a review and update of state, county and local flood maps, [House Bill 6](#) (Tigue-D-Lackawanna) increasing fees on nuclear power plant facilities. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:00.
- **October 5** – [PA Energy Development Authority](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 5** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee informational meeting on asbestos materials at the Bo-Rit site in Ambler Borough. Upper Dublin Township Municipal Building, Fort Washington. 11:30.
- **October 10** – [DEP Stormwater Manual Oversight Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 11** – House Finance Committee hearing to discuss new diesel technology tax credit. MACK Headquarters, 2100 MACK Blvd., Allentown. 9:00.
- **October 11** – **CANCELLED**. DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting. The next scheduled meeting is March 21, 2007.
- **October 13** - [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **October 16** – [Joint Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum featuring a presentation by Alison Shuler, Coordinator of the Environmental Training Center at Penn State’s Middletown Campus which houses

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DEP's Small Public Water Systems Technology Center. Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.

- **October 17** – **RESCHEDULED to a Conference Call**. [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators](#).
- **October 19** – **RESCHEDULED**. [DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#) meeting was changed to this date from November 2. Rachel Carson Building. 9:15. Contact: Ayanna King, 717-783-5630.
- **October 19** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Forestry Task Force meeting. Penn Stater Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.
- **November 20** – Environmental Issues Forum, [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) featuring J. Kent Crawford, USGS, to discuss the emerging contaminants project. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **December 12** – **CANCELLED**. [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#).
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#). 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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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