



PA Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

October 11, 2004

Green Ribbon Commission Sets First Meeting

The 26-member Green Ribbon Commission will begin its work next week to shape an environmental funding proposal that will pass the Senate, House and meet the objectives of the Rendell Administration. *(See the article below for more details.)*

Fall Voting Schedule

The House returns to voting session October 18. The Senate has adjourned to the call of the President Pro Tempore, but we're told that means November 8. The General Assembly must adjourn by November 30 and all bills cine die.

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On the Hill

Green Ribbon Commission Set to Meet Next Week

The 26-member Green Ribbon Commission is set to meet for the first time October 13 to begin discussions on an environmental funding proposal. The Commission is made up of members of the Senate, House and the Rendell Administration. Senator Mary Jo White and Rep. Bill Adolph will chair the meeting.

The July 4 letter from Senate Majority Leader David J. Brightbill (R-Lebanon) and House Majority Sam Smith (R-Jefferson) to Gov. Rendell setting up the Commission outlined its charge like this—

“The Commission, working with the Administration, will study state programs impacting the environment, as well as various proposals for enhanced funding to address environmental problems, preserving farmland and open space, reducing abandoned mines, and cleaning hazardous sites.

“This Commission will develop recommendations for possible program consolidation and improvements, along with possible legislation and the identification of necessary funding for environmental initiatives. Along with consideration of a dedicated funding source, the Commission will evaluate the benefits of a bond issuance and other funding vehicles.”

“This initial meeting will consist of members more clearly defining the parameters of the commission’s goals,” said Sen. White. “I expect a quality discussion among the members that will help determine our agenda. Once we establish our objectives we can begin to gather information from all interested parties and take a comprehensive look at how we can best improve our state’s environmental future.”

“The commission provides an excellent opportunity for legislators from all four caucuses as well as the administration to get together and discuss how we can better focus state funding on worthwhile programs that will make a difference in the environment in Pennsylvania,” said Rep. Adolph.

Here’s a recap of the membership....

Senate Republicans- 5: Senate Majority Leader David J. Brightbill named Sen. Mary Jo White (Venango), Majority Chair Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and Senators Wenger (Lancaster), Madigan (Lycoming), Thompson (Chester), and Erickson (Delaware). Brightbill is an ex-officio member.

Senate Democrats- 6: Senate Minority Leader Robert Mellow named Sen. Ray Musto (Luzerne), Democratic Chair Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and Senators Kasunic (Somerset), Kukovich (Westmoreland), Kitchen (Philadelphia), Connie Williams (Montgomery), and Ferlo (Allegheny).

House Republicans- 8: House Majority Leader Sam Smith named Rep. William Adolph (R-Delaware), Majority Chair House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, and Representatives Argall (Schuylkill/Berks), Rubley (Chester), Hutchinson (Venango), Ross (Chester), Miller (York), Harper (Montgomery), and Richard Stevenson (Mercer). Smith is an ex-officio member.

House Democrats- 4: House Minority Leader Bill DeWeese named Rep. Bud George (Clearfield), the Democratic Chairman of the House Environmental Resources and

Energy Committee, Representatives Surra (Elk), Leach (Montgomery) and Levdansky (Allegheny).

Rendell Administration- 3: Kathleen McGinty, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection; Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and Roy Kienitz, deputy chief of staff to the governor.

NewsClip: [After the Election, Environment Gets Green Light](#)

Bill Extending Multi-Municipal Land Use Planning Goes to Governor

The Senate this week gave final approval to [House Bill 796](#) (Marsico-D-Dauphin) which extends multi-municipal land use planning to municipalities that are not contiguous, but are contained within one school district.

Multi-municipal land use planning is one tool communities can use to help manage their growth under the state’s Municipalities Planning Code. With this technique, not all uses of land must be within one municipality as courts required prior to adoption of general provisions authorizing multi-municipal planning in 2000.

“Controlling sprawl and improving an overall quality of life are just two of the many benefits of multi-municipal planning, and clearly, communities around Lower Dauphin have similar goals. They should be better able to work together to achieve those goals,” said Sen. Jeff Piccola (R-Dauphin) who was an advocate for the bill in the Senate.

“Government should never stand in the way of communities with a common interest working together. I am pleased we were able to get this measure to the governor’s desk to clear the way for a formal joint planning process in Lower Dauphin,” added Rep. Marsico. “Our area has much to offer people and families, and planning is key to ensuring that these valuable resources and attractions are protected and retained.”

For more on land use planning tools, visit [PA Growing Smarter webpage](#).

Commonwealth Court Upholds Governor’s Veto of Farm Bill

Commonwealth Court unanimously ruled this week [House Bill 1222](#) dealing with exempting large farming operations from certain local regulations was properly vetoed by Gov. Rendell in the waning days of 2003. Press reports say the decision will be appealed.

The Court’s action was the result of a lawsuit brought by Senate and House Republicans who thought the Governor did not follow proper procedure in vetoing the bill.

NewsClip: [Governor’s Veto of Farm Bill Upheld](#)

Quick Updates

Bay Education Program: The House Appropriations Committee reported out [House Bill 2775](#) (Zug-R-Lebanon) that would create a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Program to provide grants to schools to promote the teaching of watershed education and afford students the opportunity to participate in meaningful bay or outdoor stream experiences. The bill was amended to remove the appropriation from the bill as is the practice of the Committee.

Clean and Green: The Senate Agriculture Committee reported out [House Bill 657](#) (Major-R-Susquehanna) that amends the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act by deleting "farmstead land" from the definition of "forest reserve" land use categories. Farmstead land would continue to receive preferential assessment under the "agricultural use" land use category and land considered for the agricultural reserve and forest reserve land use categories of Clean and Green would be included in determining the minimum total area of acreage required for preferential assessment.

The bill was amended in three ways: clarifies how land will be treated when the application places it in more than one category, requires a county assessor to report to the appropriate taxing bodies and to the state the number of acres in each land use category, and adds language from [Senate Bill 834](#) (Scarnati-R-Warren) which clarifies that a fee may be charged for recreational activity on the land, provided that the activity does not interfere with producing an agricultural commodity.

GIS Planning: A House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee met to consider [House Resolution 882](#) (McIlhinney-R-Chester) which encourages the Governor and the State Geospatial Technologies Director to engage in strategic planning of geospatial technologies. The full Committee is scheduled to consider the legislation October 19.

Emission Test Fees: The Joint Budget & Finance Committee released their [report on emission test fees](#) this week that concluded the current market-driven fees charged by service station dealers was based legitimately on their cost of labor, equipment and overhead to do the state-required tests. The Committee report also found that a \$13.76 "break-even" fee calculated early on in the program was not based on all the costs service stations had to include in their pricing.

[House Bill 2696](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) providing for sales tax exemption for emission testing and posting signs was scheduled, but not considered by the House Transportation Committee this week.

Bills Introduced

"Sin" Taxes Fund Flood Relief: Rep. Cawley (D-Lackawanna) introduced a series of bills this week to increase tobacco ([House Bill 2878](#)) and liquor ([House Bill 2879](#)) taxes for a new Flood Protection & Mitigation Fund to finance flood recovery and prevention.

NewsClip: [Sin taxes could fund flood cleanup](#)

===== **FYI** =====



[PA Fall Foliage Webcams](#)



[Watch Raptors Migrate](#)



[PA Wilds](#)

Infrastructure Security: [House Bill 2860](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) gives the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority the authority to provide loans to small water companies to make their systems more secure. Referred to House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.

[House Bill 2861](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) gives the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority the authority to provide loans to water and wastewater treatment systems to make them more secure. Referred to House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.

In Other News

New York City Proposing Major Changes to Disposing of Its Trash

New York City Mayor Bloomberg unveiled a 20-year plan for handling the City's 50,000 tons of daily trash that shifts from using trucks to barges and railcars, eliminating a major source of complaints inside and outside the New York about the City's waste management program.

The City plans to build four marine transfer stations for \$340 million that will be completed by 2007.

In a special report, [No Room to Move](#), City officials said, in part, unfavorable market forces and changing governmental regulations will dramatically force the price of managing the City's waste upward.

The report notes two states—Pennsylvania and Virginia—absorb 70 percent of the City's trash, but changing public policies will likely have an impact on the ability of the City to send their trash there.

“Both states have adopted a number of regulatory measures to address the negative impacts associated with large landfills that call into question the continuing ability of New York City to rely on these two states to meet its disposal needs. Further, a review of several mid-western and southern states found no large waste importing landfill with excess permitted capacities that could reliably meet New York City's long-term disposal needs. For New York City to meet its disposal needs, it will likely have to access landfills that are not currently accepting large volumes of out-of-state waste.”

In addition, the report said the city's waste-disposal costs have already jumped to \$75 per ton in 2002 from \$54 per ton in 1997.

The reported noted steps taken by Pennsylvania in the last few years have had a significant impact on their waste exports.

“Regulatory changes adopted since the announced closure of the Fresh Kills landfill in Pennsylvania have given local communities new avenues to oppose the expansion of existing landfills, imposed increased fees on waste disposed of in landfills, and created stricter safety standards on waste trucks. These standards have been used to impound and fine non-conforming vehicles. PADEP's efforts have reduced waste imports into Pennsylvania by more than 2 million tons per year between 2001 and 2003.”

Among the recommendations made in the report were:

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- “New York City should aggressively pursue the development of publicly controlled disposal capacity. As long as New York City is wholly reliant on a small number of firms for the disposal of its waste, it will have only limited control over its short- or long-term costs.
- “To quickly increase in-state disposal capacity, New York City should consider purchasing access to, or the development rights of, existing landfills in upstate New York. Under DEC’s regulations, solid waste management facilities may increase their capacity by 49.9% without having to seek a major modification of their permit.
- “New York City should evaluate purchasing permitted but significantly underutilized landfills in other parts of the country, near appropriate rail and/or water transportation infrastructure that could provide long-term disposal capacity for its waste. Landfills in Ohio and Illinois were mentioned.
- “New York City must reduce the amount of waste that is exported to other jurisdictions for final disposal. In the long run, the most cost competitive waste management solution will likely be a fully-integrated recycling and waste prevention program in which New York City takes an active role in creating viable markets for recycled products.”

NewsClips: [NYC 20-Year Plan for Trash Features Renovating Barge Facilities](#)
[NYC trash plan forgoes trucks, favoring barges](#)
[NYC Recycling plan centers on organic waste](#)
[NYC Waste Plan: No Room to Move](#)

Farmland Preservation Board Preserves 3,098 More Acres

Pennsylvania’s Farmland Preservation Board voted this week to include an additional 30 farms, totaling 3,098 acres, in the Farmland Preservation Program. These farms join the more than 2,400 other farms already preserved in perpetuity through the program.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the total number of farms and total acres preserved for agriculture.

To learn more, visit [Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Program webpage](#).

Chesapeake Bay Group Says Livestock Feeding Rules Fall Short

Recently [proposed Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation](#) (CAFO) regulations to curb pollution from livestock production in Pennsylvania fall far short of both the goal and federal requirements, according to comments being filed by the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (CBF) with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

"The proposed regulations are inadequate to minimize pollution and protect water quality in Pennsylvania’s rivers and streams, and the Chesapeake Bay," said Matthew Ehrhart, CBF’s Pennsylvania Executive Director. "The proposed regulations only apply to large livestock operations. The federal Clean Water Act also clearly requires Pennsylvania to adopt regulations covering all medium-sized livestock operations which directly discharge pollution into our waterways."

Farms discharging pollution include operations with livestock in streams where they may deposit manure directly, as well as farms with polluted stormwater flowing from manure management facilities. The proposed regulation has a clause including "any

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agricultural operation with a discharge to surface waters that is authorized by Department permit limits and conditions," but it does not include unauthorized discharges that are polluting local waterways. Without a change in the proposed regulations, agricultural operations polluting local waterways without permits could refuse to get a permit and avoid regulation as a CAFO.

In Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, agricultural operations are the largest source of nitrogen and phosphorous pollution. While many large animal operations have been subject to CAFO permit and nutrient management planning requirements, many medium sized agricultural operations have operated under the regulatory radar.

"Including medium sized farms with polluting discharges under CAFO regulations can reduce pollution without putting a heavy burden on these farmers," said Ehrhart. "The regulations could create an extended period of time to come into compliance, during which farms could take advantage of voluntary programs that provide financial and technical assistance to eliminate the pollution. Once the pollution is stopped, the farm would not need to be regulated as a CAFO."

Additional CBF concerns with the proposed regulations include:

- Inadequate enforcement of the Clean Streams Law. The regulation states that DEP has the authority to enforce violations, but it has had this authority for many years without using it effectively. The regulations should state that DEP shall take enforcement action against any agricultural operation in violation of this law and require it to develop and implement a nutrient management plan.
- A requirement for "appropriate vegetated buffers and setbacks" from streams and other water bodies for land application of manure. "Appropriate vegetated buffers and setbacks" should be defined according to standards to provide the greatest environmental benefit.

The Environmental Quality Board will hold public hearings on the proposed regulation on October 13 in Mechanicsburg and October 14 in Dubois. Check the [PA Bulletin Notice](#) for times and locations.

NewsClip: [Record downpours decrease water clarity in Bay](#)

Pennsylvania Celebrates Earth Science Week with 'PA Rock Hound' Kits.

As teachers and students across the country celebrate this year's Earth Science Week from October 10-16, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is once again offering "Pennsylvania Rock Hound" kits for a nominal fee to schools and students across the Commonwealth.

These kits include rocks and other educational materials designed specifically for the state. More than 300 kits already have been distributed to the Philadelphia School District through a partnership among DCNR, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Aggregates and Concrete Association.

Kits are also being offered to teachers who attend workshops sponsored by the PDE and DCNR. Seventy-five teachers will participate in a seminar at DCNR's Middletown offices October 16. Teachers will learn about the kits, develop lesson plans and take a local geological study field trip. In addition, they will be given materials to assemble 30 classroom boxes for students.

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Parent Teacher Associations may purchase classroom kits, which require assembly, for \$30. Complete, pre-made kits also are available to the public for \$19.95 by mail.

This year's Earth Science Week theme, "Living on Restless Earth," will focus on developing a new understanding of earth science and its impact on the state's economy and society. The week is part of the American Geological Institute's (AGI) yearly focus on geology and related subjects. National Earth Science Week is a national initiative.

For more information on DCNR's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey, Earth Science Week or to inquire about a "Pennsylvania Rock Hound" kit, call (717) 702-2047, or visit the [Pennsylvania Geological Survey webpage](#).

Gov. Rendell Convenes Task Force on Pennsylvania Wilds

Gov. Rendell and members of his Task Force on the Pennsylvania Wilds this week outlined a new vision for encouraging growth in tourism and related businesses throughout Northcentral Pennsylvania by spotlighting the unique outdoor experiences available on the 2 million acres of public lands in the region.

The Wilds includes all or portions of Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga and Warren counties. The region contains more than 2 million acres of public lands: 27 state parks; the Allegheny National Forest; the Pine Creek Gorge; the largest elk herd in the Northeast; hundreds of miles of backpacking trails, bike paths and trout-fishing streams; and the darkest skies in the East at Cherry Springs State Park.

Gov. Rendell formed a Cabinet-level task force on the Pennsylvania Wilds in 2003 to examine how the public lands in the Wilds can boost the region's economy. Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis is the lead Cabinet official coordinating the work of the Task Force, which also includes the PA Tourism Office, PennDOT, Department of Environmental Protection, Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, area legislators and regional organizations.

The Task Force's goals are to encourage the growth of outdoor and heritage tourism, promote the growth of private accommodations and service providers and accelerate the implementation of the Elk Watching and Nature Tourism Plan. This recently completed plan, which focuses on the five counties that comprise the elk range, is a model for the broader mission of the Task Force.

The Commonwealth already has completed a few projects to facilitate visitor navigation through the region such as signing the Elk Scenic Drive and building viewing areas for people to view elk and other wildlife along the route. Other initiatives under study by the Task Force include a gateway visitor and interpretive center near I-80; a wildlife-viewing center at Sinnemahoning State Park; and an elk-viewing center near Benezette.

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

Pennsylvania Receives Wetland Monitoring, Assessment Grant

Pennsylvania received a \$260,000 grant from EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds to develop a comprehensive wetlands monitoring protocol for the state.

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The initial phase will be part of a five-year effort to develop a baseline inventory of wetlands conditions across Pennsylvania.

The funding increases Pennsylvania's capacity to monitor and assess the causes, effects, and extent of wetlands degradation and loss as well as its ability to prevent, reduce and eliminate wetland degradation by improving its ability to monitor and assess wetlands conditions.

Green Power Partnership Grows to 500 Members + PA Award Winner

EPA announced this week the [Green Power Partnership](#) has grown to include 500 Partner organizations, collectively purchasing almost two billion kilowatt-hours each year of renewable electricity.

EPA's Green Power Partnership is a voluntary government-industry program, first launched in July 2001, working to mainstream the purchasing of green power electricity generated by renewable energy sources including solar, wind, water (hydro), geothermal, biomass (combustion of organic materials) and biogas (combustion of naturally-produced methane).

To become a partner, organizations agree to switch to green power for a specified portion of their electricity needs within one year of joining the program. The partnership includes Fortune 500 companies, states and federal agencies.

Also this week, EPA honored 19 partners as [Green Power Leadership Award](#) winners at the 9th National Green Power Marketing Conference in Albany, N.Y. The winners are selected for the amount of green power they purchase and their outreach activities.

Among the winners was [The Energy Cooperative of Pennsylvania](#). The Energy Cooperative is a nonprofit, member-owned cooperative that purchases heating oil and electricity from renewable energy resources for over 6,500 member households in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

NewsClip: [Energy Cooperative Recognized for Renewable Energy Buys](#)

EPA Promotes October as Children's Health Month

During October, EPA has joined with the [President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children](#) to celebrate [Children's Health Month](#) to help educate the public, parents and teachers about how to protect children from environmental health risks.

EPA Reaches Out to Physicians: Pediatricians and general practitioners in Pennsylvania will receive information from EPA Region 3 during October in recognition of Children's Health Month.

They will be introduced to the [Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment](#) (MACCHE) as a regional resource to increase the knowledge and awareness of children's health issues among pediatricians and other health care providers and to provide clinical consultation and evaluation of children with health problems that may be related to their environment.



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There will be an invitation to view the Powerpoint presentations from MACCHE's 2nd Annual Children's Environmental Health Conference as part of the region's effort to educate physicians.

New Awards Program: Applications are now being accepted for EPA's first Children's Environmental Health Awards which will recognize individuals, organizations and businesses on an annual basis that are engaged in activities to protect children from environmental health risks. Applications are due December 15.

There are two levels of the Children's Environmental Health Awards. The Recognition Award (level one) is designed for groups or individuals who have demonstrated commitment to protect children from environmental health risks. The Excellence Award (level two) recognizes applicants who have demonstrated leadership and a track record in the protection of children from environmental health risks.

Applicants must show that they have initiated outreach, education or intervention activities and have a track record of results.

Award winners will be invited to an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., in the Spring of 2005. They will also receive use of the children's environmental health awards logo and recognition on EPA's Children's Health Web site.

Go to the [Children's Environmental Health Awards application webpage](#) for more information or call the Office of Children's Health main number at 202-564-2188.

Upper Darby School District Gets Clean Bus Grant: EPA this week announced that Upper Darby School District, the largest school district in Delaware County, will receive a \$485,000 grant to reduce pollution in approximately 61 diesel-powered school buses.

The new pollution-control equipment to be installed will reduce the exposure of school children to diesel exhaust by substantially reducing soot and other pollutants emitted from school buses.

The retrofit project is among 20 proposals selected by the EPA for funding from more than 120 applications nationwide under EPA's [Clean School Bus USA Program](#).

"The Upper Darby School District deserves a standing ovation for putting together a project that will help eliminate air pollution from diesel-powered school buses in Delaware County," said Donald S. Welsh, regional administrator of EPA's mid-Atlantic region. "With childhood asthma rates increasing across the country, projects like this will help provide our children with cleaner air to breathe and healthier learning environments. It is part of our goal to protect children where they live and learn."

The grant will be used to install particulate matter filters on 61 buses and to fuel its entire fleet of 115 buses with cleaner diesel fuel. The equipment, in combination with cleaner fuel, will reduce pollutant emissions from the diesel buses by 60 to 90 percent.

In October, 2003, 17 clean school bus projects totaling \$4.7 million were funded, including two in Pennsylvania: North Allegheny School District and Erie's General McLane School District.

Children's Hospital Receives Asthma Grant: EPA Region 3 Administrator Donald S. Welsh presented a large, symbolic \$248,500 check to the Philadelphia Children's Hospital, for its community asthma prevention program (CAPP). The primary goal of CAPP is to increase knowledge and understanding of asthma and asthma management.

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CAPP has added environmental tobacco smoke (ETS/Second hand smoke) to their asthma prevention program and will work with parents of asthmatics to eradicate ETS/Second-hand smoke from the child's environment. This component complements EPA's nationwide Smoke-free Home (SfH) pledge campaign which encourages parents and caregivers to take the SfH pledge to abstain from smoking in home and car.

EPA Works With Maryland on Health Schools Education: EPA Region 3 is piloting an integrated strategy for schools to reduce and prevent potential health and environmental hazards to students and school personnel, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland State Department of Education.

As part of the program EPA developed a workbook and CD for Maryland schools, including information on how schools can come into compliance with environmental regulations.

In addition to the workbook, the Maryland State Department of Education requested four half-day training sessions for administrators, teachers and facility maintenance personnel that would focus on requirements to comply with AHERA, and mold in schools.

This week, the training sessions were presented in Baltimore and Hagerstown, Md. There will be two additional training sessions next week at two other locations.

EPA Recognizes Achievements in Water Treatment and Pollution Reduction

This week EPA announced the 29 first and second place winners of the 2004 National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards during the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exposition and Conference in New Orleans, La.

This is the 19th year EPA recognized municipalities and industries for demonstrating outstanding water quality achievements for projects and programs in five award categories: operations and maintenance, biosolids management, pretreatment, storm water management and combined sewer overflow control programs.

Among the award winners was the Borough of Catasauqua in Lehigh County in the category for wastewater pretreatment programs.

The presentation of these awards helps to raise public awareness of the pollution reduction efforts that wastewater treatment plants make to improve the nation's waters. The awards program provides national recognition and encourages public support of programs that protect the public's health and safety and the nation's water quality. State water pollution control agencies and EPA regional offices make recommendations to headquarters for the national awards.

A listing of the [2004 National awards winners](#) is available online.

Game Commission Essay Contest, 2005 Calendar, Recipes, Bird Song Identifier

Young hunters ages 12 to 18 from throughout Pennsylvania are reminded all entries for the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Youth Essay Contest must be postmarked no later than October 31.

The theme for the contest is: "Why I'm the future of hunting!" The prize list features grand-prize winners in the junior (ages 12-15) and senior (ages 16-18) divisions taking expense-paid trips to Texas and Wyoming, respectively.

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The junior division grand-prize recipient will attend Safari Club International's (SCI) Apprentice Hunter Camp at the YO Ranch in Texas. The senior division grand-prize winner will receive a scholarship to SCI's American Wilderness Leadership School in Jackson, Wyoming. Both prizes are being sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chapters of Safari Club International.

First prize in both the junior and senior divisions will be .50 caliber muzzleloader rifle from Knight.

Prizes for entries finishing in second through fourth place in both divisions will include: Magellan SporTrak GPS Unit for second place; a Sightron 3x9 rifle scope; and a Buck Knives limited-edition knife. All entries receive a Game Commission "Working Together for Wildlife" embroidered patch.

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

2005 Calendar: As Pennsylvanians plan for the holiday gift-giving season, the Pennsylvania Game Commission unveiled its 2005 calendar featuring a year's worth of dramatic wildlife photos taken by agency employees: Hal Korber, wildlife education specialist at the Harrisburg headquarters; Rob Criswell, Southcentral Region Land Management Supervisor in Huntingdon; Billie Cromwell, retired Food and Cover Crew foreman in Fulton County; Timothy C. Flanigan, Wildlife Conservation Officer in Bedford County; and John Wasserman, Wildlife Conservation Officer in Clinton County.

In the Kitchen: In cooperation with "Wild Harvest Videos," the Pennsylvania Game Commission is offering six outstanding videos designed to help hunters get the most from their wild game harvests. Produced by Jerry Chiappetta and featuring Certified Master Chef Milos Cihelka, these videos show step-by-step the best care for game animals from the field to the table.

Song Bird Identifier: To assist beginning bird watchers, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has added a bird song audio "identiflyer" to its list of merchandise. The device, which sells for \$35.50, comes with two audio cards, an earphone for in-the-field use, a bird-watching guide booklet and three AAA batteries already inserted. The cards that come with the Identiflyer are the Yard Bird series.

Items can be purchased from the Pennsylvania Game Commission online by going to their [Outdoor Shop webpage](#).

Quick Clips

[Open-space grant program expanded to cover entire Chester county](#)

[DEP "Worms" Its Way Into School](#)

[Invasive species all around us](#)

[Debate About Fishing License Increases](#)

[Allegheny College Considers Going Green for Project](#)

[Green energy fails to lure investors](#)

[Allentown recycling budget slashed](#)

[Hawks and falcons pass in splendor at rocky PA perch](#)

Taking Positive Action



There's an old saying: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. When it comes to environmental threats to our children's health, prevention makes a considerable amount of sense.

Problems like lead poisoning, which are virtually untreatable, are also 100% preventable. While the causes of asthma aren't entirely agreed upon, many triggers of asthma attacks can be recognized and removed. Problems stemming from everyday toxins, like bus exhaust and pesticides, can also be prevented by embracing healthier alternatives.

The [GreenTreks Network "Children's Health" webpage](#) is all about prevention. It is focused in Philadelphia, because problems like asthma and lead poisoning are particularly prevalent in urban areas -- the home to 50 million of America's kids. Still, cases of asthma and lead poisoning are unarguably found everywhere, and threats to our children's health like diesel exhaust, arsenic-treated wood and pesticide use can be even more widespread.

Every parent, grandparent and educator should educate themselves on steps that can be taken to help prevent damage to our children's health. Please visit the links within this site to learn more.

Watershed NewsClips

[Students Celebrate World Water Monitoring Day](#)

[Students Help Cleanup Nine Mile Run](#)

[No Easy Answers for Creek Erosion Problems in Bradford County](#)

[Broadhead Watershed Assn. Celebrates 15 Years](#)

[Carbon County Recognized for Groundwater Protection Efforts](#)

[Third Graders Fishing Around](#)

[Environmental Support Center Offices Funding Assistance](#)

[Photo Essay: Water and Partnerships Connect Us](#)

[Green building going up in Uniontown](#)

[Mine Tunnels Source of River Pollution, Plan In Works](#)

[AML Funding Vital to Shamokin Area](#)

[Ohio River Conditions Improve](#)

[Allentown recycling budget slashed](#)

[Regional Bike-Hike Trail System Grows](#)

[State introduces streams by name](#)

[Rollin' Down the Ohio River on an Environmental Cruise](#)

[Planting the Seed for Stream's Sake in PA](#)

[Dream Comes True on Ned Smith Center](#)

Regulations

The **Environmental Quality Board** will meet on October 19 to consider these items: Deer Creek Stream Redesignation Petition (York County), Little Falls Creek Stream Redesignation Petition (York County), [Final Hazardous Waste Facilities Plan](#), Proposed [changes to Hazardous Waste Regulations](#), an initial recommendation on whether to accept for study a petition to require power plants to reduce mercury emissions and a DOD airfield and municipal waste transfer station petition. Copies of agenda items are available on the [EQB webpage](#) under the October 19 meeting date.

Discussion of the petition on adopting Pennsylvania-specific mercury emission reductions will no doubt prove to be lively.

DEP is recommending the Board accept the petition because they feel it is “complete and appropriate for consideration by the EQB and therefore recommends its acceptance for further study.”

The Pennsylvania Electric Power Generation Association has gone on record urging the members of the Environmental Quality Board not to accept the petition citing ongoing efforts at the federal level to adopt mercury reduction standards, a lack of technology available to meet the mercury level reductions required in the petition and other factors.

Just last week DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and the Pennsylvania Coal Association [joined forces to ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) to change its proposed mercury reduction rule because it requires more stringent reductions of mercury for eastern coals than coal from western states.

The **Independent Regulatory Review Commission** this week approved the Bushy Meadow Creek package of stream redesignations (7-380). To find a copy of the final regulation, go to the [June, 2004 EQB meeting page](#).

The **Independent Regulatory Review Commission** meets November 4 to consider these two Environmental Quality Board regulations: #7-378: Final Small Sources of NO_x, Cement Kilns and Large Internal Combustion Engines; and #7-386: Final Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. For copies visit the [August 2004 Environmental Quality Board webpage](#).

The Delaware River Basin Commission is holding public hearings on two changes to its regulations: [Lower Delaware River Special Protection Waters](#) and [Pollutant Minimization Plan Requirements for Point and Nonpoint Source Discharges of Toxic Pollutants](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 9, 2004](#)

[Comment Deadlines Open](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection invited public comments on one proposed policy change and notice of one final policy this week:

DEP ID: 563-2504-001. Title: Proposed Conventional Bonding for Land Reclamation--Coal. Description: The Department requires coal mining activities to be bonded in an amount that covers the Department's cost to complete the site's reclamation plan. Comments due November 8.

DEP ID: 012-5500-001 Title: Final 2005 Environmental Education Grants Program Manual and Forms. Description: This manual is a guide for eligible organizations interested in applying for the Department's Environmental Education (EE) grants program.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 13** – Green Ribbon Commission meets. Harrisburg.
- **Oct. 13** – Storage Tank Advisory Committee Fees Subcommittee meeting.
- **Oct. 18** – Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution & Conservation Committee meeting on PA Hardwoods Industry. Harrisburg.
- **Oct. 19** – House Agriculture Committee meets to consider: [House Bill 2608](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) Amending the Agricultural Area Security Law further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements and [House Bill 2801](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) Amends the Agricultural Area Security Law further providing for definitions, for limitation on local regulations and for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.
- **Oct. 19** – House Intergovernmental Affairs meeting on [House Resolution 882](#) (McIlhinney-R-Chester) GIS strategic planning . Harrisburg
- **Oct. 19** – House Urban Affairs Committee on [House Bill 970](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) amending the Downtown Relocation Act revising the definition of “downtown.”
- **Oct. 19** – DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Harrisburg.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#) [Watershed Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Contributions Invited

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

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