

— PA — Environment Digest

An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

August 23, 2004

We have reached the true “dog days” of summer in Harrisburg. The Capitol is almost empty. Fortunately, lots of good work is going on in the “real world” out there where you live!

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On the Hill

You won't see this too often, but it was absolutely quiet in the Capitol this week. Next week two committees will hold hearings--

- **August 25** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on timber theft. Franklin.
- **August 26** – [Joint Conservation Committee](#) meeting of Forestry Task Force. State College.

In Other News

Registration Information Now Available for 2004 Watershed Conference

The agenda for the 2004 Pennsylvania Watershed Conference and Youth Track in Emmaus is packed with tours and sessions of interest to anyone working to improve their watershed.

Early bird registration deadline is September 1 for the Conference which will run from September 30 to October 2.

The Conference theme is “Watersheds: the Air, Land and Water Connection,” and features four tracks – Land Use/Smart Growth, Air Connection, Urban Watersheds, BMP Implementation and Stream Restoration.

Again this year the Conference will include a Youth Track for students ages 13-18 with adult chaperones. The activities for youth not only include educational programs, but also a session on careers in watershed and environmental protection.

Four field trips are planned for the first day of the Conference—a canoe and bike ride on the Lehigh River, a tour through Bushkill Creek Watershed, an abandoned mine drainage tour and a brownfields tour.

Plenary session speakers are scheduled to include: Kathleen McGinty, Secretary for Environmental Protection, Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary for Conservation and Natural Resources and Dr. Douglas Austen, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Go to the [2004 Watershed Conference webpage](#) for more information and to print out a registration form.



Ohio River Watershed Celebration Features Educational Tour of River, and Fun!

The [Ohio River Watershed Celebration](#) set for September 16 will feature not only a four hour tour of the Ohio River near Pittsburgh, but also presentations, educational displays.... and good food!

[Last year's cruise](#) attracted over 450—watershed groups, state and local officials and agency folks, companies involved in watershed restoration and students from all over the region.

There is still time to [register for the celebration!](#)

\$5 million Announced for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced \$5 million in Growing Greener funds would be used to help farmers install stream buffers and fences under the [Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#).

DEP last year expanded the program to include both the Ohio and Susquehanna River watersheds in 59 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture partners with states to provide 50 percent of the funds necessary to install conservation measures through CREP.

So far, CREP has infused \$36 million in federal money into Pennsylvania's agricultural economy, offering an economic boost to agricultural communities. That amount will grow to \$400 million once all 265,000 acres of stream conservation measures are installed.

With its announcement this week of \$5 million of Growing Greener funds for the Crop Reserve Enhancement Program, DEP has now allocated \$12 million of the \$31.5 million in Growing Greener funds it has available for fiscal year 2004-05-- \$3.9 million for conservation district watershed specialists; \$5 million for CREP and \$3.1 million set aside for innovative water and sewer projects— leaving about \$19.5 million to allocate to pay for ongoing projects, DEP sponsored projects and general watershed grants. *(See the full story below.)*

PennAg Industries – DEP Sign Memorandum of Understanding

(See also article on nutrient management rule meetings below.)

Grant Applications Due to Coastal Zone Program October 25

Applications for [2005 Coastal Zone grants](#) will be accepted by the Department of Environmental Protection through October 25.

Pennsylvania has eligible coastline areas along Lake Erie and the Delaware Estuary.

Grants are available for planning, design, engineering and research projects as authorized by the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act. Grants are also available for certain construction and acquisition projects as authorized by section 306A of the act and for various Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program projects.

Fish Commission Seeking Comment on Designation Changes to 5 Waterways

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is soliciting public comment on proposed designation changes for five waterways.

The Commission will consider the potential changes at its fall meeting, October 4-5. If adopted individually at that time, the new designations would become effective January 1, 2005:

Young Womans Creek, Clinton County: The Commission will consider removing a 5.5-mile section of Young Womans Creek, Clinton County (from Beechwood Trail downstream to the Sproul State Forest Property line) from the Selective Harvest Program. Additionally, the Commission will consider regulating that stream section as

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part of the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) regulations. The Commission may also consider designating this section as a Catch and Release Area or applying general statewide trout regulations to this section.

Meadow Run, Fayette County: The Commission is also soliciting input on a proposed 0.5-mile extension of DHALO regulations on Meadow Run, Fayette County. If approved, the new section limits would become from the mouth of Meadow Run at the Youghiogheny River upstream to the State Route 2011 Bridge on Dinner Bell Road adjacent to the Ohiopyle State Park office, a distance of 2.2 miles.

McMichaels Creek, Monroe County: Also under consideration is a proposed addition of a 1.74-mile section of McMichaels Creek, Monroe County to the DHALO program. If approved, the special regulations would be applied to an area 130 yards downstream of the bridge on Turkey Hill Road (T-416) downstream to the upstream boundary of the Glen Brook Golf Course.

East/West Basin Pond, Erie County: The Commission will also consider adding East Basin Pond and West Basin Pond in Erie County to the list of waters regulated and managed under the Select Trout Stocked Lake Program.

Persons with comments, objections or suggestions concerning any of the designations and re-designations are invited to submit comments in writing to: Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.

Comments also may be submitted electronically at "ra-pfbcregs@state.pa.us ." A subject heading of the proposal and a return name and address must be included in each transmission. In addition, all electronic comments must be contained in the text of the transmission, not in an attachment. If an acknowledgment of electronic comments is not received by the sender within 2 working days, the comments should be retransmitted to ensure receipt.

Commonwealth Invests in Sustainable Lodging Project in Venango County

This week the Department of Community and Economic Development announced a grant for \$1 million to support the development of “The Treehouse Village” at [Two-Mile Run Park in Venango County](#).

The “Treehouse Village” project -- a unique hotel experience consisting of 30 "treehouse" units for both business and recreational use. Designed by Robert Kobet of Sustainaissance International in Pittsburgh, these unique overnight accommodations are designed with environmentally sensitive "green building" techniques. Treehouse Village is the cornerstone to a master plan that will create a sustainable future for Two-Mile Run.

The park is pursuing U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for this project. The design phase was funded through Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Oil Heritage Region funds. In addition, 20 percent of the "hotel units in the sky" will be accessible to people with disabilities.

Funding for the project came from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program passed by the General Assembly before they adjourned for the summer.

Sustainable Buildings Council Seeks Nominees for Best Practices, Aug. 31 Deadline

The Sustainable Buildings Industry Council is seeking nominations for its annual [Best Sustainable Practices Award](#) for 2004.

The deadline is August 31.

Awards are given out in several categories: sustainable policy & program initiatives; research, development, construction process and demonstration activities; education; and stimulating customer awareness of sustainable practices.

Previous winners of this award include Gilbert Architects for the [Radnor Elementary School](#)

To learn more about green building resources and activities in Pennsylvania, contact: [Delaware Valley Green Building Council](#), [Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania](#), [Green Building Alliance – Pittsburgh](#).

To see and hear how green building works, visit the [Building Green a webpage](#) by GreenTreks.

To learn more about green building resources and activities in Pennsylvania, contact: [Delaware Valley Green Building Council](#), [Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania](#), [Green Building Alliance – Pittsburgh](#).

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New Report Says Building Green Doesn't Add Significantly to Cost

A new report by Lisa Fay Matthiessen and Peter Morris of Davis Langdon Adamson (DLA) offers compelling evidence that if there is any premium associated with building green, it is far less significant than a range of other factors that affect building cost.

The paper, "[Costing Green: A Comprehensive Cost Database and Budgeting Methodology](#)," draws on DLA's extensive database of cost information for both LEED and non-LEED projects to compare their costs while normalizing for building type, location, and other factors. DLA, a member of Davis Langdon Seah International, specializes in cost estimating and cost management in construction, with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Seattle, and New York.

Check out the [Greener Buildings website](#) for more information.

[Northampton Community College Electrotechnology Center Solutions Hailed](#)

EPA Evaluates Impacts of Diesel Emissions in Philadelphia

As part of the Philadelphia Air Toxics Project, EPA Region 3 and EPA headquarters evaluated the economic impact of diesel particulate matter (PM) in the five county Philadelphia metropolitan area.

The evaluation estimates that in 1999 diesel PM caused 260 deaths at a cost of \$1.4 billion; 450 non-fatal heart attacks at a cost of \$37 million; 32,000 missed days of work at a cost of \$11 million in wages; and 3,700 asthma attacks at a cost of \$160,000. EPA developed an economic analysis software for fine particulate matter called BenMAP.

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Philadelphia is the first test case of the local-scale version of the software. It works by matching changes in particulate matter with known health impacts and the cost of those impacts. This study investigated the diesel on-road and non-road contribution to PM. The costs of diesel PM were calculated by subtracting the diesel PM from the overall PM concentration - the diesel difference.

Health impacts were based on peer-reviewed epidemiological studies. Costs were calculated using willingness to pay, cost of illness, and lost wages in year 2000.

Philadelphia High School Benefits from EPA Urban Initiative Grant

In July, an EPA Region 3 urban initiative grant of \$60,000 was awarded to Pennsylvania State University for the *Education for Prevention of Pesticide Misuse: Philadelphia School and Community Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Project*.

The Shaw Middle School in West Philadelphia was chosen as the location of this initial community project. Shaw students will create projects that will serve as a model for implementation of IPM in schools and communities throughout the School District of Philadelphia and other urban areas across the region.

IPM is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks.

EPA: Back to School with Clean Air

School buses in your community and across the country travel a lot of miles. And that can mean a lot of air pollution.

Fortunately, we have the opportunity to significantly reduce pollution from buses and better protect the health of all those who ride them. The program, called Clean School Bus USA, further protects the quality of the air by using new technology to make exhaust from school buses much cleaner and also by eliminating unnecessary idling.

Since school buses are the safest way to transport kids to school, we also want to make them the healthiest way to get to school. By replacing or retrofitting older, dirty buses with new, cleaner buses, we can accomplish exactly that. This means cleaner air in our communities and healthier students in our schools.

Of course, replacing older buses with clean buses and clean technology isn't easy and it isn't cheap. That's why EPA, in partnership with numerous organizations from the environmental, health, and business communities, along with many state and local officials, launched our Clean School Bus USA initiative.

An important part of the program is to reduce the amount of time buses are idling. There's no reason to let buses sit in the parking lot running when they're not in use. That just pollutes the air and wastes fuel. That's why EPA has set the goal of reducing school bus idling by an average of 30 minutes per bus per day by next year. That will not only reduce a lot of pollution, it will save 17 million gallons of diesel fuel a year.

Working together, using all the tools available to us, can really make a difference for the environment, and more importantly, for the students who ride these buses.

◇ For more information visit the [Clean School Bus USA](#) webpage.

(By Donald S. Welsh, U.S. EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator)

Conservationists Rally for Kiwanis Lake Wading Birds

Efforts are underway by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, hunters and local wildlife enthusiasts in this Susquehanna River valley city to safeguard and heighten interest in one of Pennsylvania's most unique heron and egret nesting colonies.

Nestled in a grove of conifers overlooking a small manmade lake a few hundred yards from one of York's busy neighborhoods, is one of the state's largest heron and egret colonies. It also has the distinction of being the only colony in the Commonwealth where black-crowned night herons, yellow-crowned night herons and great egrets nest together. In fact, it's currently the only known nesting site for yellow-crowns in Pennsylvania.

A recent survey of the nesting colony recorded 40 black-crowned night heron nests, three great egret nests, and one yellow-crowned night heron nest. The state's largest heron and egret rookery is Wade Island, about 20 miles north of York on a three-acre Susquehanna River island near Harrisburg. A survey of Wade Island this spring turned up 171 great egret and 128 black-crown nests.

Statewide, there were 228 black-crown nests at four known sites in 2004. Great egret nests totaled 174 at two sites; and yellow-crowns had one nest at one site.

Wade Island currently is threatened by a growing nesting population of double-crested cormorants and well as shoreline erosion, which are combining to limit nesting opportunities to the established Wade colony. And it is the uncertainty associated with those problems that makes Kiwanis Lake more important than ever.

The York County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has agreed to establish an account to fund the signage initiative and to raise money for Deckard to build a flight cage for rehabilitating injured herons and egrets, or those that leave the nest too early. The Pennsylvania Ornithological Society has agreed to donate \$200. In addition, several local outdoors clubs and national conservation organizations have pledged donations in various amounts to ensure the project's success.

Click on [information and photos](#) for more on this story.

Take Advantage of “Elk-citing” Wildlife Opportunity in September

The 4th Annual Elk Expo will be held this year on September 25 & 26 in Benezette, Elk County, sponsored by the [Northwest PA Great Outdoors](#) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

One highlight of the Expo is the elk watching shuttle buses to Benezette where visitors to the region are always awed at the site of the majestic, wild, free-roaming elk. This year's event will offer new exhibitions, demonstrations, and an opportunity to meet various artists and experts in an outdoor setting. In addition, elk and turkey calling contests will be held for children and adults.

Elk once roamed throughout Pennsylvania, but rapid settlement and exploitation by early immigrants destroyed the herds. By 1867, elk had been completely eliminated from the state. Unregulated hunting and habitat loss were the biggest factors leading to their demise. Pennsylvania Game Commission introduced Rocky Mountain elk into the state from 1913 through 1926. 177 elk were trapped and transferred from Yellowstone National Park, and a private reserve in Monroe County and released in central and

northeastern Pennsylvania. Only the north-central releases were successful. The herd now numbers more than 800.

Nominations Invited for Abele Conservation Heritage Award

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is seeking nominations for the 2004 [Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award](#).

Nominations should be postmarked no later than October 1.

The Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award is the highest recognition the PFBC can confer on persons who distinguish themselves in the cause of conservation. The PFBC established the Abele Award to recognize citizens of Pennsylvania who have made outstanding contributions to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the aquatic resources of the Commonwealth.

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

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

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

Past Abele Award winners include notables such as [Ken Sink](#), [Dr. Maurice Goddard](#), [Lenny Green](#), [Dr. William Kodrich](#), [Robert W. McCullough, Jr.](#), [Peter Duncan](#), [James L. Myers](#), [Larry J. Schweiger](#), [Enoch S. \("Inky"\) Moore](#), [Robert P. Ging, Jr.](#), [Raymond Savel](#), [Dr. Ed Bellis](#) and [Edward Kissell](#).

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

Submission of letters supporting the nomination or other endorsements of a nominee is not part of the nomination process. Only the nomination letters (maximum of three typewritten pages) will be submitted to the review committee.

In addition to the Abele Conservation Heritage Award, Ralph Abele is remembered by a special [Conservation Scholarship Program](#) for college students studying conservation and wildlife.

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

State Museum Presents J. Horace McFarland Exhibit in Harrisburg

The [State Museum of Pennsylvania](#) presents an exhibition on the work of [J. Horace McFarland \(1859–1948\)](#), a pioneering environmentalist and early twentieth century Harrisburg civic leader.

J. Horace McFarland's Harrisburg, which opens on Sunday, September 12, features approximately thirty photos from the State Archives' J. Horace McFarland Collection depicting Harrisburg city from approximately 1900 – 1915.

Included with these images is a dramatization of “The Crusade Against Ugliness,” a slide show lecture typical of those McFarland gave on his national tours, showing images from cities all across America. It will be illustrated with the same slides used on these tours by McFarland himself, and narrated with the original text.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Harrisburg, like many cities, was still in the nineteenth. Major streets were unpaved; sewers were open and uncovered; the Susquehanna River's banks were used as garbage dumps; and its drinking water unfiltered, leading to outbreaks of typhoid and cholera.

Along with the city's other civic leaders, McFarland conducted a successful campaign in 1902 for a voting referendum for taxable bonds to be raised in the city's treasury to correct this situation and additionally create parks and other beneficial improvements.

This “Harrisburg Plan,” as it became known, carried by McFarland across the nation in the form of lantern slide lectures, became a model for other cities' “City Beautiful” projects. McFarland estimated that by 1911 he had given his lecture in over 400 cities across America.

McFarland, who later became known as the “Father of the National Park Service,” is celebrated this year by a number of Harrisburg organizations, including an exhibit and lecture series at the Historical Society of Dauphin County, and a “City Beautiful” show of artwork at the Art Association of Harrisburg.

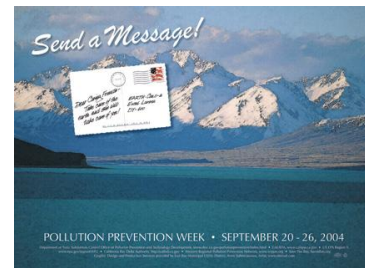
The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission published a biography of J. Horace McFarland called, *A Thorn for Beauty* by Ernest Morrison in 1995.

Taking Positive Action

What Are You Doing for Pollution Prevention Week?

National Pollution Prevention Week is September 20-26 this year. It's a time when businesses, environmental groups and citizens can join forces for a common cause.

By sharing information about pollution prevention (P2), businesses can become more competitive, businesses and government can realize cost savings, and environmental quality can be enhanced.



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Sponsoring activities is a great way to promote P2 while showing off your environmental activities. Inexpensive and effective events can be planned including prevention as a component of current operations, a regularly scheduled event, or a newly coordinated activity with others.

Here are some ideas for successful events from the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable:

- Distributing promotional materials on your current activities
- Distributing industry specific P2 fact sheets.
- Organizing a "clean shop" tour.
- Hosting a bring-your-own lunch or breakfast seminar on P2.
- Providing on-site prevention audits or technical assistance.
- Telling other businesses or clients about your P2 activities.
- Evaluating existing waste practices and P2 options.
- Conducting in-house training on P2.
- Visiting local schools and educate kids on P2 concepts they can do at home.
- Providing assistance to teachers on P2 curricula.

For more ideas, visit the [National Pollution Prevention Roundtable P2 Week webpage](#).

Watershed NewsClips

[Conewago Creek Now a Healthier Stream](#)

[SRBC, PPL Award Grants for Streamside Cleanups](#)

[Wells Creek Watershed Group Finds Landowner Assistance Vital to Watersheds](#)

[2004 Statewide Watershed Conference](#)

[East Manchester Township Joins York Watershed Alliance](#)

[Game Lands Logged for Good of Wildlife](#)

[Mussels Move Into Rivers](#)

[Darby Creek Continues to Provide Heartache to Flood Victims](#)

[Ag Progress Research Tours Cover Lots of Ground](#)

[Working Together to Build a Bright Future](#)

[PA Stream Cleanups Get Federal Support](#)

[Authority Making Progress on Harvey's Lake](#)

Regulations

[Agriculture Adopts Final Rules on Applying Contaminated Soil to Farmlands](#)

EQB Approves Water Quality Rule with Changes, Other Agenda Items

On August 17 the Environmental Quality Board gave its approval to the Final - Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards; Proposed - Environmental Laboratory Accreditation; and Final - Small NOx, Stationary Internal Combustion Engines and Cement Kilns regulations.

The Board did amend the Triennial review regulation to clarify the scope of the regulation to make sure it did not give DEP the authority to go beyond its existing

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statutory authority to protect water quality by regulating water pollution or water withdrawals. The change was a bipartisan initiative of Senators Mary Jo White and Raphael Musto, Majority and Minority chairs of the Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and was not opposed by DEP.

Copies of the regulations as presented to the Board are available on the [EQB meeting page](#).

Public Meetings on Changes to Nutrient Management Rules Announced

The State Conservation Commission announced this week the dates of two public meetings on [proposed changes to nutrient management regulations](#).

The meetings will be on Monday, September 13 at the Holiday Inn in Mechanicsburg, and Thursday, September 16 at the Ramada Inn in Dubois at 6:30 p.m.

These meetings are in addition to public hearings set for October 13 at the Holiday Inn, 5401 Carlisle Pike Mechanicsburg, and on October 14, at the Ramada Inn, Dubois. These hearings will begin at 6 p.m. Persons wishing to present testimony at a public hearing should contact Douglas Goodlander, (717) 787-8821 at least one week in advance of the hearing.

The major changes in the regulations include: Including phosphorus in nutrient management plans along with nitrogen; Additional requirements for manure exported from regulated farms; Inclusion of non-production animals (like boarded horses); Conservation plan requirements; Approved nutrient management plans for high-density animal operations; Additional requirements for manure applications on bare ground; Provisions to expand the cost share of nutrient management plans for participating farmers; Provide funding for alternative use of manure applications to address new regulations; Requirements for an emergency response plan; Increased regulatory requirements for the temporary field storage of manure on farms.

Comments may be sent to the State Conservation Commission, Agriculture Building, Room 405, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 by October 6. Interested persons may also submit a one page summary of their comments to the Commission.

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[Comment Deadlines Open](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

[DEP Proposes Changes in Stormwater NPDES Construction Permit Application](#)

[General NPDES Permit Covering Hydrostatic Testing of Tanks, Pipelines Available](#)

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **August 25** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on timber theft. Franklin.
- **August 26** – [Joint Conservation Committee](#) meeting of Forestry Task Force. State College.
- **Sept. 8** - Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on incentives for using coal waste. Burgettstown.
- **Sept. 17 & 18** – [Wildlands Conservancy's Fall Native Plant Sale](#). Emmaus
- **Sept. 30 – Oct. 2** – [Statewide Watershed Conference](#). Lehigh Valley

[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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